

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

THE OFFICIAL INTERACTIVE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF JFSA

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HELP



HOPE



SUPPORT



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YOU DELIVERED HOPE

Welcome to our brand new newsletter proudly named **Unity**.

We believe in the power of Unity in our Community. Las Vegas is primarily known for the glitz and glamour of the Las Vegas Strip. But this year we will be known for something else. It is predicted that we will most likely experience the longest recovery of any city in the United States. The Corona Virus crisis has drastically affected our community and weakened our economy. **During the past year, we have assisted over 25,000 community members.** And we do not plan on stopping. Seemingly overnight, many of our neighbors have lost their jobs and livelihoods. **More people than ever are experiencing hunger-often for the first time.** We continue to feed thousands through our Food Pantry.

Though it will take some time for our great city to recover, you have demonstrated time and again that your hearts are big and you are always ready to lend a helping hand. **It is because of you that our programs continue to save lives.**

Thank you for your continued concern for people in Southern Nevada who are hungry and hurting, and for delivering help, hope, and support during the difficult days ahead.

We Thank You and Please Continue to Give to JFSA.



**AN UPDATE FROM :
DR. KEN MOSKOWITZ
PRESIDENT & CEO
& LAURA SUSSMAN
BOARD CHAIR**



As we continue to recover from the impact of COVID-19 we want to be clear that JFSA has not stopped once during this pandemic. **Our wonderful staff, board, and trusted volunteers continue to put in the hours to assist everyone in our community and we will not stop until each of our members are taken care of.** We know each person reading these words has their own story of 2020. The challenges that gripped our world and pierced our hearts will not be forgotten with the turning of the calendar.

The other indelible part of 2020, however, is the incredible outpouring of goodness in response to human suffering.

As we reflect, we find ourselves amazed at what talent we have at JFSA. **This month we highlight Ann Coleman who is the director of our Open Arms Adoption Agency.** Ann has over 45 years of experience working with families and children and she is one of the most incredible people you will ever meet. Many that have come in contact with her call her a guardian angel and when you read her story (pg.3) you will learn why. **We are very fortunate to have Ann and we appreciate and thank her for all the amazing work she provides to our community and across the country.**

Many images crowd our minds as we replay the year from JFSA. The elderly couple with faces lined with worry, asking where to find help? We offered our **Senior Services. Volunteers unloading food off trucks into our Food Pantry, and our staff loading it into trunks of cars and offering them as much help as needed.** Dedicated JFSA staff leaving their own children each day in the care of others so that other children can eat.

As we embrace a new year with new possibilities, we give thanks for you. **You've given so much without giving up. You've listened, encouraged, cared, & shared. Without you, we could not have handled the increase in demand for each of our services.**

Our **JFSA Board of Directors and Senior Management team** continue to work on an exciting and new **Strategic Planning Process** that will set our agency on a new course. This will ensure JFSA is on the right track for the future and we can't wait to show you all that we have been working on.

Our JFSA team is committed anew to **reaching every single person who worries about their next meal.** JFSA was built for times such as these and we rise to the challenge without hesitation.

For your steadfast support and lifesaving generosity, we continue to rely and give thanks to you.

**Ken Moskowitz, PhD
President & CEO**

**Laura Sussman
Board Chair**



HELP. HOPE. SUPPORT to EVERYONE.

2309 Renaissance Dr. Suite B,
Las Vegas, NV 89119
702.732.0304
JFSALV.ORG



Our Mission

The mission of JFSA is to be the place to go for people of all backgrounds during their time of need. We provide solutions and results to improve the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.

JFSA is registered with the Secretary of State and qualified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, and a member of Guidestar Gold Transparency. Founded in 1977, JFSA has grown to be one of the largest and most respected agencies in the region touching over 25,000 people each year. One life at a time. Your charitable contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



A REAL LIFE GUARDIAN ANGEL: MEET ANN COLEMAN OF OPEN ARMS ADOPTION AGENCY A PROGRAM OF JFSA

Ann Coleman is one of the most incredible people you will ever meet. As the director of **Open Arms Adoption Agency**, Ann has over 45 years of experience working with adults and children and has dedicated her life to building loving families through adoption. Ann feels it is a privilege to work at JFSA and help couples accomplish their dream of starting a family.

The goal of Open Arms Adoption Agency is to provide professional adoption services which assist birth parents and adoptive parents with the loving placement of children and support of their families. Our philosophy and primary purpose is to maintain and strengthen family life and relationships through the provisions of our professional counseling services and education.

During the Corona Virus we had many inquires every month and our work did not stop. We conducted as many telephone and virtual calls as we could and **placed 34 children in loving homes** during the pandemic.

"All of us have been very compassionate and caring with birth parents and adopted parents. During interviews, I try to put them at ease and tell them not to be scared and really guide them through the entire process. **I want adopted families to know that we are there for them.** It's not a matter of empathy it's a matter of understanding their motivation and why they want to adopt," says Ann.

Erin & Chris Patrick were in a difficult situation before coming to JFSA. They now have a beautiful daughter Jameson Rayne Patrick. Erin states, "The only person that would listen to us was Miss Ann and my husband and I agree that she was the only reason why we were able to get through the adoption process. I was so relieved when I met Miss Ann. **We consider Miss Ann our fairy GodMother and are forever grateful to her for everything she has done for us.**"

For Tim & Joel, their experience was nothing but positive. From the moment they met Ann they were treated with nothing but kindness and respect. "They were very welcoming to us and very courteous and professional." Tim continues, "**We just want to say thank you to Ann directly, we feel like she is our guardian angel,** and Baby K. will know when she gets older that Ann was responsible for growing our family. We believe this was meant to be. We are very grateful that Ann and Open Arms Adoption Agency were there to help us and make our dreams a reality."

Thank you Ann for being a part of our family.

Thank you for your dedication and public service and the countless children and families you have helped over the many years. And, just like JFSA, Ann is here to help everyone regardless of their race, religion, or sexual identity. Please contact Ann today if you are interested in adoption.

OpenArmsLV.org or call 702-732-0307

Up Close With Our Volunteers: Because of you, families struggling through this pandemic have the food they need.

One of our amazing **Volunteers at JFSA is Paula** who has over 35 years of experience as a social worker and special education teacher. Paula began in April 2020 and donates her time twice a week serving at the **JFSA Food Pantry**.

"I realize there are many aspects to JFSA, and my current connection has been with the food pantry. I am pleased that the organization can help so many people who are in need of food at this time."

Paula enjoys the friendly staff and volunteers at JFSA and also enjoys the consistency of being able to give back to her community. Paula stated that she feels good contributing while also being physical and able to serve others during the pandemic while social distancing.

Thank you Paula for all of your hard work and dedication.

It is because of volunteers like you that help us give food to our community's most vulnerable. The **JFSA Food Pantry** includes a variety of healthy meals including Kosher foods. We now **proudly serve over 1,000** individuals every month. And, this number is growing every day.

To learn how **you can Volunteer at JFSA** please contact **Sherri Freedman at JFSALV.ORG or call 702.732.0304**

"If it was not for JFSA's food pantry. We would starve and have nothing to eat. We thank you for keeping us alive and for everything that you do. God bless all of you and please keep helping us."

MARY Y.

If Paula's story has inspired you to learn more about how you can help hungry people in our community. Please visit **JFSALV.ORG** or click on the Volunteers sign below. Thank You!



**VOLUNTEERS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SIGN UP TODAY!**

HOW WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY



JFSA is here to serve everyone, all faiths, races, ages, and incomes. All human beings. JFSA staff and volunteer leadership are totally dedicated to helping people in our community face some of life's most difficult and pressing challenges of the day and we do it with compassion, total commitment and with love and care.

Counseling

We are here to listen and provide emotional support through our Counseling program. We offer counseling to children, adolescents, adults, and seniors.

Through individual, couple, family and group counseling; services are provided in a sensitive and caring atmosphere.

Emergency Services

We provide hope, through our Emergency Services programs. JFSA provides emergency financial assistance and food for our community's most vulnerable.

Our food pantry, which includes a variety of healthy meals that satisfies every taste including Kosher foods.

The Center for Assessment & Educational Services

Our Center for Assessment and Educational Services offers comprehensive psycho-educational assessments, and individualized educational recommendations to enhance academic performance at an affordable cost. Every child deserves a chance to have a bright future and we are here to make sure that goal is accomplished.

Senior Services

JFSA has been at the forefront ensuring that our Seniors age with dignity and respect by offering Senior Service Programs. Our care management and Senior Lifeline programs focus on assisting our senior clients with the goal of remaining independent, healthy and in their own homes for as long as possible. Senior companion and Choose Home programs assist older adults and veterans respectively. The Foster Grandparent program and Nevada Care Connection Resource Center help disabled individuals of all ages become aware of their choices, empowering them to make informed decisions and easily access public and private services and programs.

Open Arms Adoption

Open Arms Adoption Agency, which has helped birth parents and adoptive parents with the loving placement of children and support of their families. Our philosophy and purpose are to maintain and strengthen family life and relationships through the provisions of our professional counseling services and education.

If you or someone you know needs our help please contact us today.