April 28, 2020

Picture for a moment an elderly Russian Jewish refugee who does not know how to use the internet, and because of COVID-19, she is afraid to leave her apartment to buy groceries. This woman is just one of our JSS clients.

Jewish Social Services of Madison is responding to the continued concern about COVID-19, as it has now reached our community. Our highest priority is the health and safety of our clients, volunteers, and staff.

In response to concerns surrounding COVID-19, JSS continues to provide services to all of our clients. While JSS now provides services primarily over the telephone, video conference, and email, we continue to support our neighbors in need.

During times like these, JSS services are needed most. You can provide help for our neighbors in need. At this time of extreme caution, financial donations are critical, particularly for programs for seniors and for immigrants in Dane County. Please support us today so we can continue to provide emergency services and maintain our general operations, such as:

- Direct financial assistance for rent, medical and other expenses
- Increased transportation for seniors
- Employment services and counseling
- Additional social programs (via video conferencing) to reduce social isolation while adhering to social distancing.

Right now, people in our community are receiving their stimulus checks from the federal government. For many in our community, the stimulus is a lifeline, but for others the stimulus will not be necessary to meet basic needs. If you are in a position to donate part or all of your stimulus, please consider donating it to JSS.

Our goal is to raise at least $18,000 for our community. This situation is having a significant impact on many of the most vulnerable here in Dane County. Until COVID-19, JSS had a 100% success rate of refugees securing jobs within eight months of arrival. Unfortunately, several of these same clients work in the service and manufacturing industries and have recently been laid off. For those in this situation, your gift to JSS will keep them in their homes, and food on their tables.

The past six weeks have been challenging as will be the coming weeks and months. Together, we can ensure our neighbors have the support that they need in these trying times.

JSS case managers, volunteers and volunteer coordinators will continue to operate full time, on a five days a week schedule. If you are experiencing a crisis, please reach out. We are here to help. Call us at (608)442-4081 or email us at office@jssmadison.org.

We are grateful to everyone who has shown support for our mission so far.

B’shalom,

Dawn Berney
Executive Director

Brad Goldstein
JSS Board President

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER