



2025 Spiritual Care Campaign



Spiritual Care



Support Jewish Spiritual Care in Madison Double Your Impact Today

The JSS Spiritual Care Program touches every corner of Jewish life and is a lifeline of connection, compassion, and continuity. For years, our agency has provided these vital services to anyone who needs support. Now, we are turning to our community to ask you to join us in ensuring the sustainability of this program for generations to come.

What We Do

- One-on-one pastoral care: sharing Jewish wisdom, comfort, and care to people facing illness, grief, and life's most challenging moments
- Life cycle events: officiating at funerals, unveilings, weddings, conversions, and mikvah ceremonies
- Shabbat and holiday services: bringing Jewish life to local retirement communities of Capitol Lakes and Oakwood Village
- Holiday gift bags: delivering holiday treats to isolated Jews across Dane County
- Welcome bags: supporting Jewish seniors in transition to a new living situation
- Recovery work: offering culturally relevant resources to those affected by alcohol or other substance use and addiction
- Madison Jewish Burial Fund: ensuring that every Jew has a dignified Jewish burial
- Yahrzeit letters: marking the anniversary of the death of a loved one
- Grief Group: providing Jewish tools and a space to process loss
- Outreach and training: teaching local service providers how to provide culturally sensitive care to Jewish clients



Fundraising Goal

To keep this vital program strong, we must raise \$110,000.

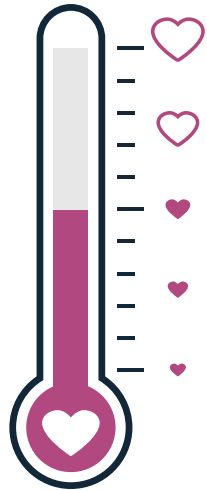
Thanks to the generosity of Kathy and Tim Mazur, every gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$55,000 - doubling your impact.

Your support will ensure that compassionate spiritual care continues to reach those in our community who need it most.

Your contribution ensures that JSS can continue to:

- ✓ Bring Shabbat and Jewish holidays to seniors in care communities
- ✓ Provide Jewish funerals and lifecycle rituals to those in need
- ✓ Offer comfort, counseling, and spiritual guidance to isolated and vulnerable Jews

Together, we can keep Jewish connection alive for every member of our community. **Your support ensures that no one is left without Jewish care. Please join us in this critical effort.**



The Mazur Family's Legacy of Care

Kathy and Tim Mazurs' commitment to JSS began decades ago when their daughter, Lauren, became a song leader for JSS Shabbat services as part of her Bat Mitzvah project. That project grew into five years of song-leading, during which the Mazur family became deeply connected to JSS' mission.

Today, Kathy and Tim continue that legacy by championing the JSS Spiritual Care Program. Their generosity ensures that Rabbi Bauer can be the community's rabbi - a spiritual leader for those without synagogue affiliation and a compassionate presence for all.



From Vision to Reality: A Brief History

The Early Years

In the 1980s and '90s, JSS staff member Francie Smith Saposnik recognized that spiritual care is a vital element of social services and well-being. She began organizing Shabbat gatherings, often in partnership with Hillel and senior living centers.

Growing Demand

As the need expanded and Francie retired, Madison's congregational rabbis encouraged JSS to establish a formal chaplaincy program.

2016: A New Era

Thanks to a seed grant from the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation, and the vision of former Executive Director Dawn Berney, JSS hired Rabbi Renée Bauer to lead the newly launched Chaplaincy Program.

2019 and Beyond

When the seed funding ended, Kathy and Tim Mazur stepped forward to sustain this essential program. Their generosity helped create a framework of care for hundreds of vulnerable Jewish people in our community.



1980s - 1990s



2016



2019





“Every Jew deserves a rabbi.”

... is the simple truth at the heart of the JSS Spiritual Care Program. For many in Dane County, especially the 50% of Jews who are not affiliated with a synagogue, this program provides something they might not otherwise have: a spiritual home, a listening ear, and a connection to Jewish life. Such connections can welcome people back to the Jewish community and lead to future community involvement.



Since its founding in 1978, Jewish Social Services (JSS) has understood that meeting social service needs goes hand-in-hand with nurturing the soul. Today, the Spiritual Care Program ensures that every member of our Jewish community can experience comfort, ritual, and tradition – regardless of affiliation or financial means.



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The Power of Seven

by Rabbi Renée Bauer

This year marks Kathy and Tim Mazurs' seventh year of generous, foundational support for JSS' Spiritual Care Program. Their steadfast commitment has enabled the program to flourish and become a vital part of our work – ensuring that vulnerable members of our community

receive the Jewish spiritual care they deserve. The number seven holds special significance in Jewish tradition. It is the number of wholeness and completeness. Seven days of creation, seven blessings at the wedding ceremony, the seventh year as a sabbatical year, seven days to celebrate Passover and Sukkot, seven weeks of the Omer, and more.

In the Torah, the seventh year, the sabbatical year, is a time to pause and reset. The people are commanded to give the land a rest, neither planting nor sowing in the seventh year, just as people are supposed to rest on the seventh day of each week. Such a pause gives us a chance to appreciate what has grown on the land, what we have accomplished, and how far we have come. After such a rest, we can better reflect on how we want to grow and change.

Now is that time for JSS' Spiritual Care Program. This seventh year of the Mazurs' support is an opportunity for us to pause and express deep gratitude for their support and what we have grown together. We have created a scaffolding in the Madison community that ensures that all Jewish people have access to care, lifecycles, and rabbinic support as they face the challenges of aging, illness, addiction, and grief. In this work we continue to maintain the Jewish essence of Jewish Social Services.



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TESTIMONIALS

“I would like to express my gratitude for the monthly Shabbat services at Oakwood Village arranged by Jewish Social Services. My wife benefits both psychologically and spiritually from being able to attend these services. It is important for her to not only be at the services but also to experience the services with other Jewish people both inside and outside Oakwood. I think the services are now better than they have ever been.”

~ Gary Rosenshield

(Husband of Oakwood resident and Shabbat participant)

“I just cannot say enough about Rabbi Renée. She is a blessing in our community. I truly believe I would not have gotten through my loss without her.”

~Grief Support client

“JSS’ Spiritual Care Program is a vital resource for the Madison Jewish community. By offering spiritual support to everyone, regardless of ability to pay, it meets a critical need – often at life’s most difficult moments when connection and guidance can be deeply meaningful.”

~ Jim Stein, MD





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TESTIMONIALS



“During life’s most difficult moments, many in our community can feel profoundly isolated. This is especially true for Jewish individuals who are living in senior housing or in medical settings, who are struggling with limited mobility, lack of transportation or financial challenges or when events like the pandemic make it increasingly difficult to remain connected to Jewish life. JSS’ Spiritual Care Program provides a source of companionship, dignity, and healing.

This program infuses our social services with the deepest values of our tradition – chesed (compassion), kevod ha’briyot (human dignity), and tzedakah (justice) – and reminds us that every Jew deserves a spiritual home and that no one should have to walk through illness, celebration, or mourning without the comfort of Jewish connection.”

~ Jim Mackman, JSS Director of Philanthropy

“I am grateful for the Spiritual Care Program and I have benefitted from Rabbi Bauer’s counseling. Instead of telling me simply to ‘move on,’ she listened to my story and made me feel as though my parents and I matter.”

~ Spiritual Care client

“Thank you so much for all the kindness you extended to my Dad, and for the honesty in your words about him. I truly believe he was comforted in his final period by knowing you and what you did for him.”

~ Family member





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TESTIMONIALS



“I want to thank you for all the kindness you showed my brother, and me as well. I believe that your interactions with him gave him both purpose and meaning in his life. He was able to return to his Jewish roots which I think were far more important to him than he realized. You got him to use his brilliant mind again. And to see that his thoughts, perceptions, and efforts were so important.”

~ Family member of a client with severe, persistent mental illness

“I am so grateful for Rabbi Bauer’s kind words during the funeral service for my mother. She allowed our family to say goodbye in a way that made us feel at peace.”

~ Lifecycle client

“Thank you, Rabbi Bauer, ever so much for your generous sharing of your holiday traditions. We left with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the meaning underlying them.”

~ Madison-area senior living residence chaplain

“Under Rabbi Renée’s guidance, our group became a source of support and solace to all of us in our different and unique losses.”

~ Grief Group participant







Make your gift today and double your impact.

This campaign represents an excellent way to celebrate the Spiritual Care Program and its place in our community. You can make your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please fill out the form below. Tear off the panel and mail back to JSS with cash, check, or credit card information, and we will earmark your donation exclusively for the Spiritual Care Program.

I want to support Jewish Spiritual Care in Dane County

Name(s) _____

My check payable to Jewish Social Services is enclosed.

Please charge \$ _____ to my:

MC VISA DISCOVER AMEX

Card # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____ Security Code _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Email _____



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to give online



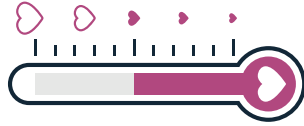


Jewish Social Services
6300 Enterprise Lane
Suite 309
Madison, WI 53719

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C A M P A I G N



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