



jewish family service...

BARBASH FAMILY VITAL SUPPORT CENTER

take a tour...

Welcome to the Jewish Family Service Barbash Family Vital Support Center! This information sheet will help guide you on a self-directed tour of our magnificent new facility.

Main Entryway and Outer Vestibule: This serves as the primary entrance into the Barbash Family Vital Support Center. Since the 1920s, this building served as a center for recreation for the seminarians who studied at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The ground level, where the Jewish Family Service Barbash Family Vital Support Center resides, was formerly a swimming pool and locker rooms. The upper level (not accessible to the public) was home to a beautiful gymnasium. This building was unused for 20 years, until Jewish Family Service renovated it to house the programs and services offered through our Vital Services Department. Take note of the "before and after" photographs on the wall adjacent to the entryway into our beautiful space.

Donor Recognition Ceiling Art: Between the Vestibule and the Reception Area is a small corridor with a water fountain and bench for sitting. Above you is the Donor Recognition Art Piece, an artistic representation of how the generosity of our community provided this welcoming haven for those in our community who are most vulnerable. The Hebrew letters on the wall translate to "From Strength to Strength," which references the mission of Jewish Family Service to strengthen lives in times of need. Our work involves helping clients use their strength combined with the resources of the community to achieve success.

Reception Area: This is the Welcome Center for our daily activities. Comfortable and warm, it is the initial gathering place for Jewish Family Service Barbash Family Vital Support Center participants upon entering the building. Adjacent to Reception are restroom facilities and private rooms for our professional staff to meet with participants. A key component of our work here is Case Management Services. This is the process where staff work with participants to assess their needs, identify their strengths, and together determine a plan with a goal of self-sufficiency and wellness.

Activity Rooms and Kitchen: Activity programming is the new and expanded service that we offer and was a driver of the space design. The foundation for the activity programming is Wellness Recovery Management (WMR), a best practice model to co-facilitate expression and enactment of the dreams and goals of our community members living with chronic mental illness. A variety of activities will be offered, from art projects to yoga, as well as support groups, Jewish content-based programming, communal meals, cooking and nutrition classes, and more. The room can be divided into two or three smaller areas, making the space flexible to meet many needs.

Food Pantry and Prep Area: Dedicated by the Anne and George Heldman Family, the food pantry will serve anyone from the Jewish community experiencing food insecurity, as well as those who live in the surrounding neighborhood. There is both a general pantry section and a dedicated kosher aisle, depending on the household's dietary needs. Food pantries are designed to be a supplement to a participant's food budget and government food stamps, providing a 5-day supply of food. Quantities are determined by the number of people residing in the household. The prep area, on the other side of the partial wall, offers space for our volunteers to sort our inventory, package groceries for delivery, and maintain inventory. Our food pantry is part of the Freestore Foodbank network and is supported through a Jewish Federation allocation and the generosity of individual community donors. Historically, we have served over 300 households annually in the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry, and when we open the doors to the neighborhood, we expect these numbers to increase.

**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE
PROFESSIONALS
HELP CLIENTS IN OVER
54 OHIO
AND SEVEN N. KY
ZIP CODES
IN GREATER CINCINNATI**

Background and History:

In 2002 Jewish Family Service social workers recognized a gaping hole in services available in our Jewish community. Low income Jewish clients who came to the agency were often unable to afford a need as basic as food. Area food pantries were often in churches or run by Christian-based nonprofits, which made Jewish clients feel uncomfortable or unwelcome.



In 2003 Jewish Family Service Food Pantry opened in donated space in the basement of Golf Manor Synagogue to serve a dozen clients who were poor or who had mental illness.

In 2008 The *Cincinnati Jewish Community Study* identified 1,100 low-income Jewish households in Cincinnati. It also identified 1,625 near-poor Jewish households; with an estimated 2.6 people per household, that's 4,225 Jews in our community who live in a home that is just one car repair, one job layoff, or one health setback from descending into poverty.

By 2012 Jewish Family Service provided an evolutionary path from a place to provide food to hungry people to a fully conceived program addressing the entire spectrum of hardships that accompany hunger and poverty: homelessness, fear, isolation, stress, and despair. Jewish Family Service provided food, emergency financial assistance, and case management to 458 clients.

In 2013 Jewish Family Service opened the doors of its Barbash Family Vital Support Center, which provides a comprehensive approach to promoting wellness for families in need.

Why did we choose the campus of Hebrew Union College?

A year long study determined the factors needed for the best fit and affirmed that the campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion was a great location choice:

- Location: proximate to the over 50 zip codes served by our Vital Services and conveniently located near the services that our clients frequent including health care, behavioral health care, and benefits administration
- Accessibility: our new building has street-level entry
- A discreet entry: we're tucked away in the campus for privacy
- Located on a bus line: Clifton Avenue is served by three bus lines
- Adequate parking: plenty of level parking available
- Minimum square footage: we are housed in over 4,600 square feet of newly renovated space

The HUC location is proximate to the many services that our clients need to access such as health care and benefits offices. For people we serve in our food pantry and who have no ability to travel by car, bus, or otherwise, we will continue to make deliveries as we do currently.

In addition to having met all of the mandatory requirements above, the HUC location also offers incredible potential for synergies, volunteerism, and fit within a Jewish campus environment as opposed to an isolated stand-alone facility. The HUC campus provides an opportunity to connect with rabbinic students, UC students, and Hillel students.



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