



2023 in Review



Dear Friends,

Thanks to your generosity, it was a great year for those we serve. This year featured nearly 100 activities and classes, including several opportunities that were brand new to the JARC community.

Hobbies and Hangouts, a program of Making Community Connections, expanded in its second year, with several new series of classes and even more opportunities for those we serve and the larger community to learn new skills together.

The Ellen Labes Festival Series, also in its second year, grew to include five large events, ending with a community carnival featuring a 40' Ferris wheel and welcoming nearly 600 guests.

We developed a new way to engage young adults with developmental disabilities through our Integrative Neighborhoods program, which has identified a group of young adults that are not ready to move out of their parents' homes but are craving a community environment. By inviting them to the array of events that JARC offers, they have had opportunities to comfortably meet people, ask questions, and enjoy time with others. This arrangement has also allowed for their parents to become more comfortable with the idea of them moving out, as they realize the strong sense of friendship and community among those served by JARC. We acknowledge that moving a child out of the house for the first time is not an easy choice, and JARC is determined to continue to create ways to find the best possible solution for each individual and make the transition as smooth as possible.

We are proud to be here for those who need us and we wouldn't be able to do that without your support.

With much gratitude,

Joshua Tobias

Joshua Tobias
Board President

Shaindle Braunstein

Shaindle Braunstein
Chief Executive Officer

Jewish Holidays and Other Celebrations

Holiday celebrations this year included home visits, community events, and of course, food! JARC board members and volunteers made gift packages for Purim and delivered them to our homes. Passover came with five different Seders to accommodate everyone, dinner, and staples for the week such as cereal, pancake mix, matzo, and snacks. Festive meals were provided for Rosh Hashanah and Thanksgiving, and summer welcomed our beloved annual Shabbat cookout sponsored by the Ethel Hyman & Rose Kaplan Foundation.



For Sukkot, there was a celebration with a service, music, games, and a create-your-own caramel apple bar. Additionally, there was a hybrid edible art class, where participants made sukkahs out of graham crackers, frosting, and other treats. To further celebrate the fall season, several members of Integrative Neighborhoods went apple picking. The board of directors hosted a Halloween-themed Bingo night, complete with snacks and costumes. For Hanukkah, the people we serve attended multiple community events, a JARC holiday party, and welcomed community members into JARC homes to light candles together. There was no shortage of celebrations this year!



Ellen Labes Festival Series

With much success in its inaugural year, the Ellen Labes Festival Series continued to grow and flourish this year. The Series kicked off with An Evening with the Symphony, featuring a private concert by members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Movie Night was held at Bowers Farm and screened The Wizard of Oz. JARC Picnic in the Park, a favorite event from last year, featured upbeat music and a drum-along opportunity with Drums Alive. A live Motown concert featured talent by Raw Silk and guests enjoyed singing and dancing along with the performer.



The Series ended with JARC's first-ever community carnival. This event was created to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities were comfortable at an event that would normally be overcrowded and overstimulating. Quiet, sensory-friendly spaces and therapy dogs were inside, giving attendees a chance to relax and regroup before returning to the fun outdoors. The carnival included rides, inflatables, games, airbrush tattoos, music, food trucks, and complimentary snacks. With close to 600 attendees including other group home providers, caregivers, and children and adults with and without disabilities, it was a huge success.



JARC Goes Abroad

For the first time in 30 years, two individuals served by JARC joined Jewish Federation's trip to Israel. With the assistance of two JARC staff, they tried countless new things and pushed their own personal limits in a way that no one, including themselves, expected. Jonathan Arens and Brooke Dunn had no trouble keeping up with the other 140+ travelers. In fact, they often insisted on continuing to walk when everyone else wanted a break.



There were many highlights for each of them during their week abroad. Brooke conquered her life-long fear of heights when she ventured to the top of Masada and explored the peaks with no trouble. She was determined to not let her fears slow her down, and she accomplished that mission to a remarkable degree. For Jonathan, trying new food was an essential part of his travels. Meals were often served buffet-style and he gladly filled his plates with little samples of everything. Typically, it takes Brooke and Jonathan time to get comfortable with new people, but during the weeklong trip they connected with the people on the bus and were laughing with their co-travelers by the end of the trip. They were excited to see their familiar faces in the community since returning.



Hobbies and Hangouts: Year Two

In its second year, Hobbies and Hangouts, a program of Making Community Connections, expanded to offer more than 30 classes, including new opportunities in addition to classes that were enjoyed last year. New classes included musical theater dance, screen printing, Zen and movement, painting, and a boating and gym course at Tamarack Camps. Most classes offered three sessions, progressing from basic to more advanced. This program allowed people with and without disabilities to learn a new skill together, with the goal of enabling friendships to form.





Volunteers in Action

Spring always creates new opportunities to get out of the house, enjoy new things, and spend time with friends. For JARC, this year offered experiences for those we serve and others in the larger community. Flower-a-thon attracted more than 60 volunteers over the course of a week to weed and plant flowers outside of the homes. Several outdoor, themed Bingo events were also hosted, where volunteers called out assisted at the prize table. A new volunteer group called The Brightness Brigade was also formed to visit those served by JARC when they are at hospitals or rehabilitation facilities. Regardless of age or ability, there are a variety of ways to get involved with JARC.





Youth Engagement

While JARC is always proud of our partnerships, our involvement with youth groups this year was significant. "Fun with Finance" was an event hosted by a group of students from West Bloomfield's Frankel Jewish Academy, who are part of a finance club. The students played money-related games with those we serve who were interested in learning about money management. The Tony Richman Teen Action Project volunteered at several JARC events, and hosted their own Play with a Purpose event, where the teens and those served by JARC did recreational therapy activities together.



Farber Hebrew Day School in Southfield partnered with JARC on several projects, including Bingo, a field day, and planting flowers at JARC homes. JARC's long-term partnership with Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills continued, as the 7th grade class led games and activities throughout the school year. And, Repair the World Detroit's Peer Corp Camp volunteered to wash JARC vehicles and do an art project with some of the people we serve. Every time JARC engages with young people, it is an opportunity to normalize disabilities and create friendships, and our community is fortunate to have so many caring and engaged youth.



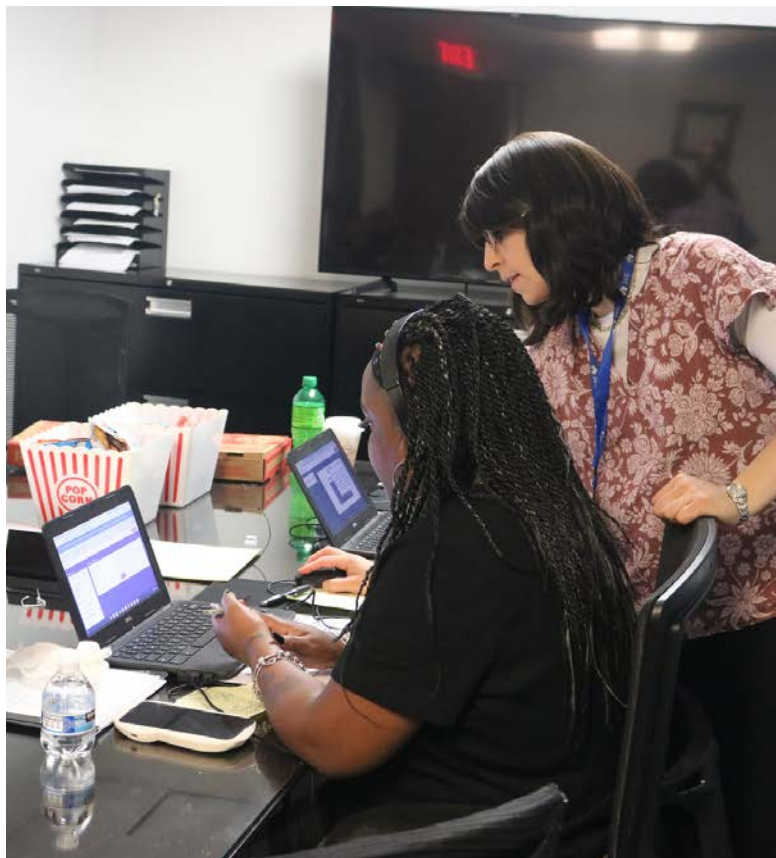
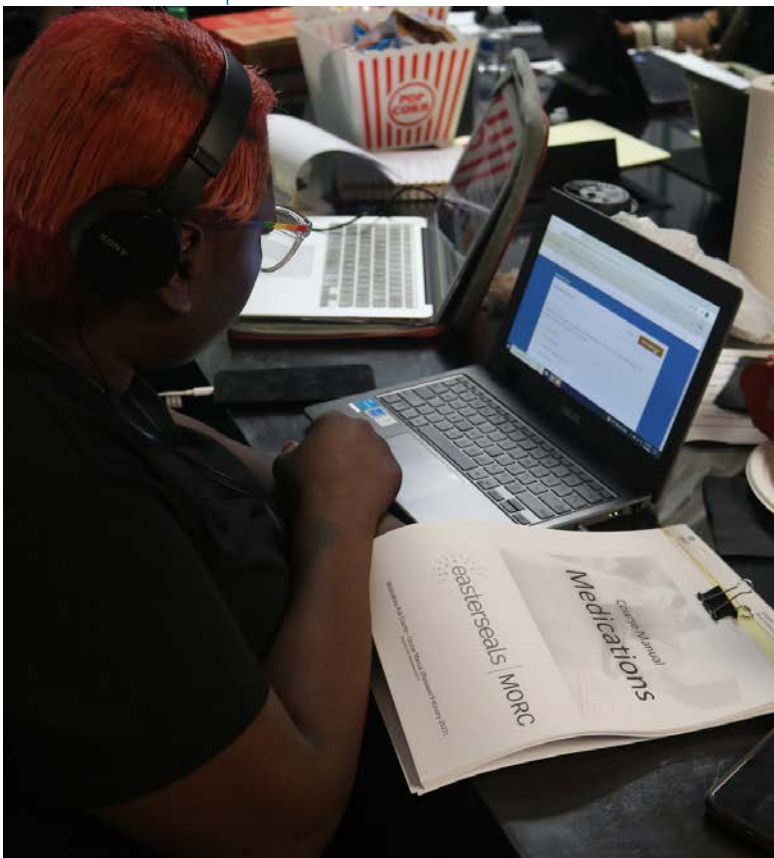
A New Resource

In Detroit alone, there continues to be about 200,000 people without internet access at home. Furthermore, JARC found that we were losing employee prospects during the onboarding process because they needed more technical support to complete the training. The new JARC Employment and Training Room is a space dedicated to current and potential employees for training, assistance, and various resources at JARC. In addition to removing the barrier of accessibility to technology, another goal of the training room is interaction. Some candidates who apply for employment need further assistance than simply being provided with a laptop and internet access, such as needing help navigating the technology. In the training room, applicants and employees can utilize a quiet, private space in which laptops, high-speed Internet, headphones, lunch, snacks, and other resources are provided.



JARC's Employee Support Coordinator is also available to assist with the required new employee online training courses and answer any questions about employment.

Additionally, JARC has a meaningful new partnership with the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, where we have a designated workspace in their building. The Synagogue is located behind the central bus terminal in Detroit, making it convenient for individuals living in the City. At the Downtown Synagogue, prospective employees may complete their training, review their paycheck stubs, or have their questions answered in person by a JARC Human Resources representative. This new partnership has removed even more barriers to employment, and those who have utilized the space are grateful to save a trip to the corporate office in the suburbs for training. These dedicated spaces are some of the many benefits provided to staff to set JARC apart as an exemplary employer of direct service professionals.



Studio 54 Fundraiser

This year's fundraiser was a re-creation of the world-famous New York City dance club of the 1970s, Studio 54. Throughout its history, the club's culture was inclusive, open-minded, and encouraging of self-expression. Celebrating these shared values during our 54th year of service made for a JARC fundraiser like no other! Guests embraced the experience and dressed in Studio 54-style attire, enjoyed dinner, drinks, a collection of surprises, and danced the night away.





Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting, JARC welcomed two new Board members, a new President-Elect, and recounted successes from the previous year. The meeting is always a great opportunity for board members to connect.



Gail Ruby, board member and Gary Ruby



Joshua Tobias, president and Adam Jahnke, president-elect



Newly elected board members
Top: Harry Cohn
Bottom: Rick Herman



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**of blessed memory*

In Memoriam

The JARC community was saddened this year to lose some wonderful people who helped establish JARC's legacy. These generous individuals made it part of their life's work to support those with developmental disabilities served by JARC. We are grateful and humbled to be recipients of their generosity, time, and efforts toward improving the lives of those we serve. In addition to JARC, these individuals were also supportive of many other organizations, and strived to make a difference.



Lois and Paul Katzman

The Katzmans were passionate about JARC's mission, as Lois's brother lived in a JARC home. They helped JARC raise significant dollars for various purposes throughout the years and were the lead donors to our office building on Northwestern Highway. They also donated one of JARC's homes, the Katzman Home. Lois and Paul had a very tangible impact on JARC's growth and their generosity elevated JARC to a new level.



Lillian Kaufman

Lillian always had an affinity for people who needed extra support. So, when a close friend of hers had a son with a developmental disability, she became active in the community. When her friend's son moved into a JARC home, she was thrilled to support JARC. She was especially interested in providing activities and unique opportunities. Lillian's dedication to JARC had a strong impact on those we serve.



Ellen Labes

As a past board member and active volunteer for the past 40 years, Ellen Labes was wholly committed to JARC's work. She felt strongly that those served by JARC deserve warm, beautiful homes and was highly involved in a committee that ensured just that. Ellen's devotion to JARC inspired her family to initiate the Ellen Labes Festival Series, which provides a variety of events for those served by JARC. We are proud to honor Ellen's legacy through the continuation of the Series.



Barbara Nusbaum

Growing up, Barbara was very close with her cousin who had a disability, and this relationship ignited her passion to support others with disabilities. Barbara did this through her involvement with JARC as a past president and active board member, and chairing fundraisers with her late husband, Irving. She and Irving even donated two homes to JARC with the support of their family. Barbara was known for being kind to everyone – a value that JARC shares.

Thank you to our sponsors

We are so grateful to everyone who chooses to support JARC's work.
Your generosity is what keeps JARC alive and thriving!



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Thanks for a great year!



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