

WONDER WOMEN

Danielle Hartman

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

When someone in the community needs help, their age, background or religion should never stand in the way of receiving it. That's the message Danielle Hartman, CEO of Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (JFS), wants the community to know.

"At JFS, we proudly serve everyone," says Hartman, who's been with the organization for over 16 years.

As the largest provider of social services in South Palm Beach County, JFS offers: food assistance, affordable access to therapies, emergency financial assistance, support to victims of domestic violence, services for individuals with disabilities and care for seniors, including more than 300 Holocaust survivors.

Currently, Hartman is helping bring attention to One Family. Our Future., a comprehensive campaign created after JFS identified more than $25 million in unmet community needs. The campaign's goal is to expand health services, food and life programs, emergency assistance, housing stability initiatives and senior care. Unlike a traditional fundraising drive, it has no fixed finish line; the campaign will evolve as the community's needs change. Hartman shared, "The campaign is off to a great start but still has a long way to go."

Those needs are not always visible in communities such as Boca Raton and Delray Beach. Children still go to bed hungry, families may have to choose between medication and nutritious food, and families with insurance may still be unable to afford mental health care or therapies for a child with disabilities. JFS aims to assist those who might otherwise fall through the cracks. All information about One Family. Our Future. can be found on the official JFS website.

For Hartman, the work is deeply meaningful.

"I like to say that I'm the bridge between people who have the means to help others and then the people who actually need the help," she says. "Together, collectively, because nobody can do it alone, we are helping people every single day."

JFS also relies on hundreds of volunteers each year, with opportunities ranging from visiting homebound seniors, to delivering food, to programs that allow teens to participate.

"At JFS we believe family is not defined by who you're born to," says Hartman. "Family stands with you, and it's family who shows up."

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