



# Jewish Renaissance Foundation

“One People, One Heart”

## 2025 4th Qtr Newsletter

October - December

**OUR MISSION.** The Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization founded by individuals who feel compelled to act upon the teachings of the Jewish faith. **With two federal designations:** as an Anti-Poverty Agency and as a Federally Qualified Health Center, we believe as citizens in a democratic society, we must respond to the needs of our neighbors and share our talents and resources. The JRF is committed to helping individuals/families become healthier and stronger.

We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self-sufficiency, and we succeed by providing individuals, children and families with essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. Our life-improving services extend across all cultures and faiths, regardless of economic status.

### LEADING WITH PURPOSE



*Angelina Alvarado,  
SBU,SP Program Director*

I am the JRF Program Director of the School-Based Youth Services Program, serving students at Perth Amboy High School, where I have dedicated over six years to empowering young people and fostering community growth. With a master’s degree in Mental Health and Counseling, I bring a compassionate and insightful approach to supporting youth development and well-being. My leadership and expertise drive impactful programs that promote resilience, education, and positive change.

I lead with purpose by staying deeply committed to empowering youth, creating supportive environments, and fostering growth both personally and within the community. My decisions are guided by empathy, intentionality, and a clear vision to make a lasting positive impact on the lives I serve. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the School Based Youth Services Program, also known as The Base.

*Each issue shares a closer look at the people of the JRF shaping our work and leading with purpose.*

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### *Celebrating Dr. Zelikson*

A Legacy at the Heart of Our Health Center

Dr. Irina Zelikson joined the JRF in 2016 as Chief Medical Officer of the JRF Community Health Center and has been an integral part of our organization for nearly a decade. Her unwavering commitment to providing compassionate, high-quality care to our patients has been a cornerstone of our mission. She consistently went above and beyond to ensure that every patient felt respected, heard, and cared for. These are the values that define who we are as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Dr. Zelikson's efforts have helped JRF uphold its promise of delivering comprehensive, patient-centered services to those who need them most.



What many of us will remember most is her uplifting personality and the joy she brings to every interaction—whether in the exam room or educating patients and families at community events. For those of you who have had the privilege of being her patient, you have witnessed firsthand the kindness, care, and humor that make her care so special. We are deeply grateful for the time, energy, and passion she has invested in our mission. Dr. Zelikson’s contributions will leave a lasting impact on the patients we serve and the organization as a whole.

Dr. Zelikson will be truly missed, and we wish her continued success and fulfillment in this next chapter of life.





(PAHS). Each student was paired together with a Perth Amboy Police Officers for a day of holiday shopping. Each student received a \$250 stipend funded by the generosity of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program (NRTC) with one simple rule: spend it all!

But the day was about more than gifts—it was about connection, trust, and creating meaningful memories that extend far beyond the holidays.

Thank you to the City of Perth Amboy for continuing to support this impactful event year after year; Chief Lawrence Cattano and all

the Perth Amboy Police Officers for their continued support and engagement; and Mayor Helmin Caba for stopping by to share heartfelt words with the students.

We're also incredibly grateful to Aaron Tam, Owner/Operator of the Woodbridge Center Chick-fil-A for generously providing lunch for both students and officers, and to Jim Breunig, General Manager of Dave & Buster's, for graciously serving as our home base for this special event.

This experience would not be possible without the dedication and support of our JRF programs, including Step Up, AmeriCorps, Perth Amboy Alliance for Community, and the School-Based Youth Services Program, whose teams helped bring a little extra holiday magic to everyone involved!

To view more photos of this impactful event, visit: [SWC LINK](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & TO SERVE



From **November 8–15, 2025**, JRF AmeriCorps members partnered with organizations across New Jersey to support the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) in Union County, one of the state's largest hunger-relief organizations, distributing over 90 million meals annually through more than 800 community partners. Thanks to the collective dedication of NJ AmeriCorps members, 86 volunteer shifts were filled at the CFBNJ Hillside headquarters throughout the week.

JRF AmeriCorps members and Director of AmeriCorps and Academic Services, Tawayna Bailey, proudly worked alongside fellow AmeriCorps members and Program Directors from Zufall Health, NJDEP, Rutgers Co-op Food Waste, and NJCDC. Critical state partners, including the NJ National Guard, the Office of Emergency Management, and the NJ Commission – Governor's Office of Volunteerism, also joined the effort. [Make a Difference!](#)

### **AmeriCorps Service Opportunities**

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities. As an AmeriCorps member at the JRF, you will build a competitive resume and gain leadership skills that will help take your career goals to the next level.



Our current cohort, Cohort 9, includes 30 dedicated students—15 in the English cohort and 15 in the Spanish cohort—who have already begun testing, with others scheduled to test over the coming weeks, bringing them one step closer to new opportunities and a new path forward.

At the same time, excitement is building as **Open Enrollment for Cohort 10 continues**, with the English cohort launching on February 24 and the Spanish cohort beginning on February 21. Looking ahead, the Spring AEI graduation ceremony, anticipated for March 2026, will be a celebration of achievement for all graduates who have tested and passed since the summer graduation held on June 13, 2025, including general testers, Edison Job Corps participants, and AEI students. [Enroll Today!](#)

### **Alternative Education Institute**

The Alternative Education Institute (AEI) program is a comprehensive educational program delivered in a non-traditional learning environment to help youth with parental consent between the ages of 16 – 17 and adults earn their New Jersey State High School Equivalency Diploma. AEI students can choose between two tracks — English or Spanish — and meet virtually or in person each week.



*What An Unforgettable Evening!*

On **Wednesday, November 12, 2025**, at the Park Chateau Estate and Gardens in East Brunswick, NJ, the JRF held it's Annual Gala, celebrating 30 years of service, 25 years of youth empowerment, and 10 years of care. These achievements are possible because of YOU. Together, we've created pathways to opportunity, resilience, and hope for thousands across Middlesex County.



Thank you to every partner, supporter, and friend who joined us at our Annual Gala and continues to stand beside the JRF mission. Your commitment fuels our work to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through health, education, and human services.



Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this foundation with innovative programs, deeper partnerships, and a renewed focus on collective growth and well-being. While these are challenging times for many of our families, JRF remains steadfast in its mission. We will continue working tirelessly to provide health, education, and social services that uplift and strengthen our community.



To our honorees, thank you for the honor of your presence and for allowing us to recognize your achievements and our continued partnership. Thank you for believing in our mission and for being part of this incredible story. Here's to the year ahead—full of promise, progress, and impact!

[Click Here To View Photos](#)

**JOIN OUR TEAM & MEET OUR SUPERSTARS!**

**WE ARE HIRING!**  
**Join Our Amazing Team!**  
**CHECK OUT OUR CURRENT OPENINGS:**  
 • CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER (CMO), FULL-TIME  
 • FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN, PART-TIME

**Company Benefits for Full-time Employees**  
 Eligible after 90 days of employment:  
 • Company-paid employee Medical coverage  
 • Access to Dental, Vision, and supplemental benefits through Aflac;  
 • Access to 403B Retirement Plan  
 • Up to 15 vacation days & 10 choice days  
 • Reimbursement for CME time and Licensing  
 • Paid federal holidays upon hire

**APPLY NOW**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO EXPLORE OUR JOB POSTINGS!

Please submit your resume to:  
[jobs@jrfnj.org](mailto:jobs@jrfnj.org)

(Oct - Dec 2025)  
**Quarterly Superstar**

As a recent addition to the team, Saidy has quickly distinguished herself through exceptional initiative, creativity, and leadership—spearheading the Men's Mentorship Program, expanding Career Readiness opportunities, and building strong relationships with school personnel and community partners. Her ability to engage stakeholders and introduce innovative ideas makes her an invaluable asset and a true superstar.

**Saidy Cedano**  
 Youth Development Specialist  
 School Base Youth Services Program

(Oct - Dec 2025)  
**Quarterly Superstar**

Demonstrated exceptional initiative and value through special projects that go above and beyond regular responsibilities. Jose took the initiative to learn coding to create a PAAC website that helps staff and applicants verify addresses within the PAAC Neighborhood and access lead safety services. Jose is truly a superstar!

**Jose De Mesa**  
 Lead Program Assistant  
 Perth Amboy Alliance for Community (PAAC)



**Programs & Locations**

Serving the Borough of Carteret, the Borough of Metuchen, the Borough of Highland Park, the Borough of Sayreville, the City of Perth Amboy, the City of South Amboy, the Township of Edison, and the Township of Woodbridge.

**Bayside Family Success Center**  
 500 Dobranski Avenue  
 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
 732-638-5063

**JRF Community Health Center**  
 1931 Oak Tree Road, Lower Level  
 Edison, NJ 08820  
 (732)482-9600

**Administrative Offices**  
 1090 King Georges Post Road  
 Building 7, Suite 704  
 Edison, NJ 08837  
 (732) 324-2114

**533 New Brunswick Avenue**  
 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
 The home of AmeriCorps, AEI, T&TC, FAC including My Choice Store, and PAAC.

To learn more about our programs please click on the links below to visit us on:



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