

*John and Judy Marx have a relationship with Jewish Family Service that dates back three decades. As volunteers, philanthropists and leaders, they've played an integral role in supporting the agency's growth and service to the community over that time.*



John, a retired orthodontist, recalls receiving a request to join the JFS Board of Directors “sometime in the mid-80s.” From that phone call, he went on to serve as President of the Board. He has donated dental services to resettled refugees and other JFS clients, chaired the agency’s finance committee, and provided generous financial support through a variety of philanthropic efforts.

This deep and prolonged contribution stems from his commitment to the agency’s core work and mission.

“The thing that attracted me to JFS was the breadth of its services and all of the good it did,” John says. “And I look at the scope of services that JFS has now compared to 20 years ago, and I love everything that the agency has done.”

As Communications Director at Adat Shalom, Judy says she can see the impact of JFS from an additional perspective. The synagogue frequently receives calls from community members seeking help, and often, JFS has resources that can help.

The couple also developed an additional tie to the agency through the experience of John's late brother, Louis Marx. Louis spent many years as a regular volunteer at JFS after he retired, in spite of a physical handicap that limited his mobility.

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"When Louis could no longer work, JFS became a place where he could go and do something useful. That was a meaningful experience for him, and for us," Judy said. "Louis was very bright and talented, and here was a place where he could offer what he had to offer."

After Louis passed away, John and Judy started a fund in his memory, and the Louis Marx Volunteer Services Fund continues to support many volunteer-driven initiatives at JFS.

The relationship between JFS and the Marx family has been broad and meaningful for many years, and it continues to provide impactful results for the community.

"JFS really is in our hearts," John said. "And we want so much to continue to see it succeed and grow."