



JFS of Metrowest
Amanda Coughlin
Director, Program Operations
acoughlin@jfsmw.org
508-875-3100 x340

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

JFS of Metrowest Receives \$10,000 from Foundation for MetroWest

Framingham, MA – February 5, 2019 – **Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFS)** is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the **Foundation for MetroWest** to continue its provision of family assistance services to vulnerable children and families at the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School on the south-side of Framingham.



Photo: Axie Breen



Photo: Sheldon Golder

The neighborhoods surrounding the Wilson School represent some of Framingham's most at-risk and highest-need residents. 75% of Wilson students qualify for free or reduced lunch and 80% mark the number of students for whom English is not their first language. The Wilson School has the lowest income level in the entire city of Framingham; over 55% percent of the school is considered economically disadvantaged.

JFS created the Wilson Family Assistance Program within its Reducing Achievement Gaps initiative. Supported through a JFS multi-lingual Community Resource Specialist, the program provides one-on-one support to families facing challenges, such as not having enough food or clothing. Services include an extended day program at the school that provides academic and social/emotional support to students, access to community food pantries, guidance in navigating the public benefits system, medical and mental health referrals, ESOL classes and legal assistance. During the school year, the program also offers nutritional support through the Healthy Harvest and



Photo: Axie Breen



Weekend Nutrition programs while donation drives provide children with backpacks and supplies to start the school year off right. The JFS Children’s Clothing Closet also provides clothes to Wilson students throughout the year, as well as winter coats and boots to keep them warm. Lastly, an annual Thanksgiving distribution event provides families with turkey dinners so they can enjoy a bountiful holiday.

“Through the Wilson Family Assistance Program, JFS is helping families navigate life’s daily obstacles and challenges,” said Marc Jacobs, JFS CEO. “When struggling parents gain access to resources and services, it bolsters family stability, increasing the likelihood of success. We are grateful to the Foundation for MetroWest for supporting this important service and for the value it adds to the lives of the families.”

To learn more about the Wilson Family Assistance Program of Reducing Achievement Gaps, call 508-875-3100 or visit www.jfsmw.org.



About Foundation for MetroWest:

Established in 1995, the Foundation for MetroWest is the only community foundation serving the 33 cities and towns in the region. We promote philanthropy in the region, help donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serve as a resource for local nonprofits and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Since inception, the Foundation has granted more than \$16 million to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$22 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more, please visit www.foundationformetrowest.org or call 508-647-2260.

About JFS of Metrowest

JFS is a community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works with over 5,000 people within the Metrowest and Greater Boston regions each year, targeting at-risk families, individuals, immigrants, and elders aging in place. Dedicated to standing up for those left behind, JFS is:

- Increasing the ability of frail elders to maximize independence and quality of life as they navigate the challenges that come with aging
- Accelerating academic achievement and pathways to college for low-income and first-generation students
- Providing safety, hope and opportunity for refugees victimized by world conflict
- Advancing equity with comprehensive assistance that empowers immigrant families to succeed
- Reducing poverty in our community with case management, basic needs assistance and employment readiness support
- Building families through adoption

JFS provides the tools to meet life's obstacles to stabilize during a crisis and optimally achieve self-sufficiency, strengthen lives, improve wellbeing, and build a stronger community. JFS' sound fiscal management practices have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. To learn more about JFS,

visit <http://www.jfsmw.org/> or [click to view the 2018 Report to the Community](#).

