



## Dear Friend:

In the children's story *Horton Hears a Who,* an elephant named Horton crosses life paths with Whoville, a community so small it exists on a speck of dust.

In the course of the tale, the other jungle animals persecute Horton for conversing with people they personally can't see or hear. (Horton can hear the Whos because his ears are big enough.) They call him "a fool" for promising his new friends, the Whos, that he will be accountable to them. He will be their lifeline.

Horton commits to this social responsibility, he says: "Because, after all, a person's a person no matter how small."

As you are reading this, there are millions of people in America who need help, but whose voices may be too small to hear. In Erie County alone, with unemployment at 7.7 percent, many parents and children need help adjusting to the significant life challenge of a new economic status.

Many seniors are concerned about how they will afford and access adequate health care, or cope with changes in their family dynamic. And there are communities of individuals of all ages struggling with problem gambling, managing grief or an eating disorder, or working to re-establish daily life in Buffalo and Erie County.

Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County (JFS) offers an objective and unbiased lifeline of hope to people whose voices often get lost in the din of daily striving. With uncompromising integrity, we listen for the smallest voices of need – without regard for ability to pay, age, sexual orientation, race, religious orientation or ethnicity.

*Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss was first published in 1954. But the simple truth of Horton's formula for humanity still stands as a moral compass for real time, compassion-driven action.

The JFS story is as simple as Horton's. We were founded to provide to the smallest voice of need, in real time, a comprehensive lifeline of accountable, caring mental health and social services. We believe that when your life path crosses that of someone in need – and you are in the position to help them – you help them.

The *Horton Hears a Who* happy ending comes when all the other jungle animals finally hear the Whos' voices for themselves. When they do, they also promise to help serve as a lifeline for the people of Whoville: "Because, after all, a person's a person no matter how small."

Thank you for your continued or first-time support of Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County.

David A. Schlein
Chairman of the Board

Marlene A. Schillinger President and CEO

"From sun in the summer.

" From sun in the summer. From rain when it's fall-ish, I'm going to protect them. No matter how small-ish!"