



Community Connections

January 2025

Employee Recognition Night

In December, JCL held a heartwarming employee recognition event to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our employees by honoring those who have reached significant milestones in their years of service. The event was a beautiful blend of gratitude, camaraderie, and celebration, with employees who had completed 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and even 30 years of service being acknowledged for their commitment. The night was filled with cheers and applause as each employee's achievements were highlighted, offering a moment to reflect on their contributions and the growth they've experienced over the years.

In addition to celebrating milestone anniversaries, we had the honor of awarding the Denis Geary Bringing Mission to Life Award. The criteria of this award includes creating and maintaining a work environment centered on personal growth and development, acknowledging other's achievements and strengths, and demonstrating participation in the team process, being a champion of advocacy across environments individuals, staff, families, volunteers and community supports, and displays an ability to make others feel heard, acknowledged and valued and offers a true acceptance of others for who they are without judgement. Jackie Foung-Blake, and her 23 years of service is an outstanding example of this criteria and is a worthy recipient of this honor.

Along with the awards and recognition, the event included an opportunity for employees, Board members, family members, and our guys to socialize and share memories. As always, employee recognition night was a fun and meaningful event, reminding everyone at JCL that each milestone reached is a collective success story to be celebrated.



The Geary Family pictured with Jackie Foung-Blake. Front left to right: Kerry Arru, Jackie Foung-Blake, Faith Vos Winkle, and Tori Geary. Back left to right, Conor Geary and Norah Geary.



Five year awardees Paula Snecinski, Dawn Lewin, Maurice King, Melissa Manning, Sarah Winiarski, and Kadeisha Francis.

Not pictured: Ten year awardees, Angela Benjamin and Luis Lorenzo.



Fifteen year awardees Yvonne Gordon, Deidre Reichenbach, Brenda Jervis, and Andria Powell. Not pictured, Susan Harry.



Twenty year awardee, Haydee Goldman.



Thirty year awardees Glen Baglin, Tonya Kellett, and Larry Goldman.



Chanukah Celebration at the JCC



The most well-known part of the Chanukah story involves a miracle: when the Jewish people went to light the Temple's menorah, they found only enough oil to last for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, long enough for them to prepare more oil. The holiday is observed for eight days and nights, commemorating the miracle and the perseverance of the Jewish people. At JCL we celebrated Chanukah with the JCC Special Needs Program by lighting the menorah, playing the dreidel, creating an art and craft project, and enjoying potato pancakes and jelly-filled doughnuts.



Pictured front row: Elliot, JCC participant, Beena, and Mira. Back row: JCL volunteer Lily.



Dani and David enjoying Chanukah festivities.



Jaime, Jordan, Tammy, and Larry with local high school volunteers.

Thank you to our friends at the Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The continued support that we receive from these two community partners ensures that we are able to provide exceptional service to the men and women in our care. These funds also allow us to provide Judaic Programming throughout the year to our residents and the community.



