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Jewish
Legacy



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DEVOTED TO AMERICAN AND JEWISH IDEALS

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National Council of Jewish Women will honor the contributions of Dr. June Gutterman, who is committed to improving the lives of children and families in the community, at their annual WoMen of Valor luncheon.

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NCJW'S WOMAN OF VALOR

Passionate about helping

By **Bobbie Shkolnik and
Julie Fishman**

June Gutterman is passionate about helping people who are disabled and less fortunate, as well as committed to the prevention of domestic and teen dating violence. This commitment was born from her outrage about these issues which she observes as "an epidemic - with one in three teens experiencing some kind of relationship violence, and one



June Gutterman

in four women who experience intimate partner violence. These are numbers that cannot be ignored. This is changing the face of our society; people we know and love are being victimized, brutalized and tortured."

Gutterman says that all of the resources in the world spent to counsel people to find jobs and get them on their feet won't help if they are being victimized. With the rising incidence of sexualized violence being portrayed in the media, this behavior has become normative.

Gutterman is CEO of Jewish Family Services which recently held its annual Purple Teen Party. This event is part of the agency's Healthy Relationship Initiative that grew out of the organization's desire to make a greater impact on the epidemic of teen dating violence, through prevention and intervention services.

JFS sought the assistance of a partner who could provide an experienced and educated group of volunteers. They naturally turned to National Council of Jewish Women who already had been educating teens in schools for several years through the "Love Shouldn't Hurt" program. Both organizations felt that by collaborating, they could make a greater impact in the lives of teens.

Teens who were surveyed following the Purple Teen

Party commented that they learned about the warning signs of dating violence; the hotline numbers to call if they needed help or someone to talk to; and the different types of organizations that specialize in helping to prevent teen dating abuse. One teen said, "if you're afraid and in a bad relationship, you should stand up for yourself and demand respect!" Parents who attended the event said their eyes had been opened to the troubling epidemic of teen dating violence.

On Wednesday, May 1st at noon, National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Columbus Section, will hold its 6th annual WoMen of Valor Luncheon at the JCC of Columbus, 1125 College Avenue. Each year the organization recognizes outstanding women and men in Central Ohio who have made significant contributions in the community by taking action on issues that align with NCJW's mission, including child welfare, community health, domestic abuse, education and women's rights. This year, NCJW will be hon-

oring Dr. June K. Gutterman.

Prior to her leadership positions at both JFS and as VP of Community Services at

to deny access to people with disabilities or to those with barriers. In the past, these people were hidden away,



The Columbus Jewish Federation, June K. Gutterman, Ed.D. spent her professional career working in the field of Developmental Disability and has been a longtime advocate to improve services for the community. Her passion for this population came from her belief that individuals who do not have access to economic self-sufficiency need assistance. She believes that "it is inherently wrong

condemned to a life of poverty.

"Few people have been as blessed {as I have} to have this kind of career," said Gutterman.

She has always been driven by Hillel's question which is prominently displayed on a plaque on her office wall: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me - If I am only for me, what am I - If not now, when?"

See **GUTTERMAN**, page 21

DON'T HANG UP!

Study seeks input for community's future

"Don't Hang Up!" That's the message being delivered to Jewish households across central Ohio this May and June. Rather than yet another telemarketer, the caller on the line might be one of the dozens of researchers working to interview 800 people as part of the 2013 Columbus Jewish Community Study.

This is the biggest research project the Federation has been involved with collaboratively in years," says Gordon Hecker, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Columbus. "Our most recent data is more than 12 years old. We need to understand the characteristics of our community as we go into the 21st century.

The survey - a cooperative effort between the Jewish Federation of Columbus, the Columbus Jewish Foundation and the Wexner Foundation - will provide valuable information on a vast array of topics: the scope of religious practices in the home; data on membership in synagogues, Jewish Community Center and other Jewish organizations; Jewish education of adults and children; intermarriage rates; familiarity with and perceptions of Jewish agencies; attitudes toward Israel; experiences with anti-Semitism; and, philanthropic attitudes and behaviors.

Responses to questions will be cross tabulated with each other and with demographic variables - such as age, income, and geographic location - to better understand the community's profile, needs and opportunities.

The survey's objective is not just to amass a mountain of data, but to help effectively allocate the \$6 million the Jewish Federation raises and spends annually to fund Jewish education, social services, help for seniors, and programs to strengthen Jewish identity locally, nationally and overseas.

"We've been clear from the beginning," says Hecker. "We believe our community is changing rapidly. The survey will answer questions that can't be answered now. It's necessary to take a look at the community and view our changing needs. We anticipate that this information will be critical to our planning and allocations over the next decade."

The research study is being conducted by the professional research firm Jewish Policy and Action Research (JPAR). JPAR is an alliance between Ukeles Associates, Inc. and Social Science Research Solutions, which together have conducted over 20 similar Jewish community population studies, including recent or current studies in Baltimore, New York and Chicago.

Preliminary results will be available in the fall, with a full report due in 2014.