



JFS of Metrowest
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IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Outstanding Community Leaders Honored At 25th Annual JFS Seize the Dream Gala

Framingham, MA – May 4, 2015 – Every year, JFS of Metrowest recognizes area leaders and volunteers who have demonstrated an unfailing commitment and personal dedication to supporting vulnerable children, families, and senior adults in the local community.

At this year's 25th annual Seize the Dream gala, held on May 3rd at the Sheraton Hotel in Framingham, over 440 attendees from the Metrowest and Greater Boston areas came together to honor Barbara and Ellis Morris of Natick and Karen and Michael Tichnor of Wayland - individuals who have each made it their life's work to stand up for those left behind.



Barbara and Ellis Morris have focused their activism on Jewish education and their concern about alleviating hunger. Early advocates of JFS nutritional programs at Framingham's Wilson School, they are the founding sponsors and long-time supporters of the Natick Service Council's program that provides Thanksgiving dinners to hundreds of Natick families each year.

Active at the Metrowest Jewish Day School and at the Solomon Schechter Day School, where their daughter Ashley attends sixth grade, they have sponsored a program to bring innovative educational technologies to middle school classrooms.

An Executive Board member and financial officer of Temple Israel of Natick, Ellis is a partner at Morris and Morris, P.C., CPAs, which he co-founded with his brother Michael. Ellis is a former JFS Board member and Barbara is an active volunteer at the Solomon Schechter Day School and at the Metrowest Humane Society.



Karen and Michael Tichnor have been leaders of the Jewish and broader communities in Boston and Metrowest for over thirty years. Ardent supporters of JFS, they care deeply about the agency and its mission and role in the community.

A past President of American Jewish Committee in Boston and current member of its national Executive Council, Michael has also chaired the Wayland Board of Selectmen and served on the boards of the Metrowest Jewish Day School and CJP's Metrowest Committee. He is President of Tichnor Properties, a commercial real estate company based in NH. Karen is an elementary school special educator for the Wayland Public Schools. She has been a Board member of the Bureau of Jewish Education and served on the CJP Commission on Jewish Continuity.

The couple are co-founders of Congregation Or Atid in Wayland. Married for 32 years, they are the parents of three children and recently welcomed two sons-in-law.

These honorees set an inspiring example as they freely give of their time, talents and resources, and their abundant generosity was emulated by the many guests who joined in the celebration and responded to the joyous and emotional themes of the evening.

An elegant affair, guests enjoyed dinner and refreshments provided by 24 local caterers and restaurants and live music by the jazz ensemble DOWSHU. The event also featured an online auction with over 100 unique items ranging from dining and vacation packages to electronics and autographed sports memorabilia.

The next Seize the Dream gala will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel in Framingham.

About JFS of Metrowest

JFS a community-based organization dedicated to standing up for those left behind and provides services to over 4,500 people in need within the Metrowest region each year. The proceeds of Seize the Dream support a wide variety of programs including afterschool tutoring for at-risk children, nutrition assistance for low-income families and support services that enable frail older adults to live independently. To learn more about JFS, visit www.jfsmw.org.

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