



(From left) Gregg E. Davidson, JFS CEO, and Richard Thalhimier, VCIC Richmond Chapter Chair.



## JFS honored by Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities honored Jewish Family Services with the Distinguished Merit Citation at the 53rd Humanitarian Awards on Oct. 29. Other honorees included John V. Moeser, Thomas A. Silvestri, Thelma Bland Watson and James R. and Margaret P. Spencer. JFS was recognized based on its long history of promoting humanitarian ideals through service to the greater Richmond community and its collaborations with other organizations in the area.

VCIC is a long-standing organization that promotes understanding and tolerance between different groups to encourage an inclusive and open community. Like the VCIC, JFS strives to make a positive impact in our community by delivering high quality and compassionate care for our clients, regardless of their background.

The Distinguished Merit Citation Award honors local corporations or organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds along with their efforts in making Virginia's communities more inclusive.

The citation was presented to JFS by Katie Fessler, who is senior manager of Diversity and Inclusion at Altria. Fessler put it best, "Society is an ever changing wheel in motion and if nonprofits wish to remain relevant in the community, they



2015 Honorees: (Seated/From left) Margaret P. Spencer, Gregg E. Davidson, CEO of Jewish Family Services; (Standing) Thelma Bland Watson, James R. Spencer, John V. Moeser and Thomas A. Silvestri. Contributed Photo

must devise ways to meet those variations. The needs of the community change and so do expectations." Whether finding families for orphans displaced by the Civil War, working with Jewish Refugees in the aftermath of World War II, or counseling runaway youth and veterans in the 1970s at the Daily Planet, Jewish Family Services has always addressed immediate needs and adapted to the ever-changing Richmond region.

CEO Gregg E. Davidson accepted the award on behalf of JFS, remarking, "The common thread in the 167-year history of JFS is our commitment to helping those in need without prejudice or judgment. At JFS we get it. Let's continue to work together to insure that everyone else does as well."

The 53rd Humanitarian Awards took

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place at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump. The room was filled with JFS trustees, board members, corporate partners and new friends. "We are grateful to our partners, the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, the Weinstein JCC and the Richmond Jewish Foundation for supporting JFS that night," JFS noted.

"JFS is proud to receive this award and is humbled by the community's support. VCIC's mission, achieving success through inclusion, is something JFS continually works to accomplish

every day. Ultimately, our day to day impact can be felt through dedicated service to individuals and families, treating them with care and compassion. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and celebrated the impact JFS is making in the community," said JFS.

For more information on JFS programs and services, call (804) 282-



5644. *Jewish Family Services is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.*

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