The JUF Uptown Cafe is a restaurant-style meals program staffed by volunteer waitpersons. Clients overwhelmingly report that our milieu space is a supportive and safe environment in which they are able to establish community connections while enjoying healthy, balanced meals. Members of the Cafe also have access to comprehensive EZRA programming and task-based case management.
How do people get into the program?
Clients come to EZRA through our weekly screening, and if they express a need for food, they are referred to the Cafe. We review all eligible clients weekly, and those who are accepted meet with a case manager for an intake. When reviewing eligibility, factors such as access to healthy foods and social supports are considered.

Why is there a screening process?
We receive a limited number of catered kosher meals to serve, and we like to know that every client who arrives for a meal will be able to get one. We use screening to ensure that we are meeting the community’s needs.

How can I get involved?
The Tikkun Olam Volunteer Network (TOV) coordinates our Cafe volunteers. You can sign up to serve as a volunteer waitperson in the cafe by visiting their website, www.juf.org/tov, or calling 312.357.4762. For opportunities to volunteer in any of our other programs, contact Allison Lewis at 773.467.3851.

12,594 meals served
85% of Cafe clients receive support coordination services
993 amazing volunteers

“People over at the Cafe are very kind, work with you, don't take you for granted.”