Our 50+ Employment Expos in Fairfax County, Va. and Montgomery County, Md. were attended by 1900 people, and a record number of employers and resource organizations were there to assist them. The top photo shows some of the many elected official and community leaders that joined job seekers and exhibitors at our Expo of April 15, 2019 in North Bethesda. The expo also was held in Northern Virginia (the bottom photo).

Our Senior Community Service Employment Program provided 44,267 community service hours throughout the work of 83 paid, on-the-job trainers who were age 55 or better and at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty line. We also paved the way for a new program that would prepare interested Program participants for insurance-industry jobs.

The Career Gateway, our multi-day workshops for older job seekers, served 95 mid-life and older job seekers, most of whom found jobs soon after graduating.

In Our 46th Year...

• We presented award-winning actor Louis Gossett Jr., shown at left, with the 26th Annual Sylvia Blajewsky Productive Aging Award, and we honored the Samuel and Grace Gorlitz Foundation with our Humanitarian Award of 2019. Rabbi Jack Luxemburg and Board Member Barbara Etkind chaired the award dinner, which welcomed 400.

• We grew from two to three Gorlitz Kensington Clubs. Now these social day programs for older adults with early-stage memory loss are serving even more members and the members are attending more frequently.

• The Heyman Interages® Center added three programs — a Job/Career Readiness Mentoring program, an intergenerational book club and an intergenerational walking club.

We live in a dynamic period of constant change that includes a rapidly increasing senior population. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said, “We are as great as the challenges we have the courage to undertake.”

While enhancing our broad range of exemplary programs to meet the needs of our diverse senior constituency, we have adopted an ambitious strategic plan that will enable JCA to be on the cutting edge of making the National Capital Region a great place for all of us to age with dignity, independence and vitality. But more than that, we are engaged in a thoughtful evaluation and planning effort to ensure the long-term viability of JCA and its ability to adapt to the evolving needs of our seniors.

We are assessing the fiscal performance of each JCA program while launching a study on ways to control our costs. We are studying and testing ways to diversify and grow our funding sources, so, in addition to expanding our base of supporters on Twitter and LinkedIn. Some 700 people read our LinkedIn posts regularly and 400 people follow us on Twitter.

In collaboration with Washington Jewish Week, we reached thousands of older adults and family caregivers with five Senior Resources Guides covering such topics as vacations, Medicare and the gig economy.

Mary Beckel, shown at right, attends our Thome Kensington Club in Germantown two days a week. Mary is one of 88 seniors who learn, exercise and socialize at our three Kensington Clubs in Montgomery County, Md. — a program that since 2008 has been helping people in the early stages of diagnosed memory loss. In her younger years, Mary loved being a nurse and raising nine children. Now she is happy enjoying her grandchildren, great grandchildren and “BC” friends.

Our Misler Adult Day Center in Rockville, Md. provided compassionate care to 70 participants with physical, cognitive or emotional challenges.

Strength in Numbers

We helped nearly 31,000 older adults and family caregivers this year, and we will continue to grow to serve those who need us.

We welcomed our 5,200th Facebook friend and continued to gain 700 people read our LinkedIn posts regularly and 400 people follow us on Twitter.

In collaboration with Washington Jewish Week, we reached thousands of older adults and family caregivers with five Senior Resources Guides covering such topics as vacations, Medicare and the gig economy.

The population of older adults in the Washington, DC. region will increase 177 percent between 2010 and 2030.
Robert Washington is one of JCA’s 16 bus drivers, and proud of it. He begins his day early and with a smile, getting to the White Oak Senior Center in Silver Spring, Md. by 7:30 a.m. He spends the next two hours picking up seniors on his two routes and then dropping them off for a day filled with socializing, exercising, learning and game playing. Several hours later, he takes his riders home again.

Both Robert and his passengers have established a routine, making the ride as safe and pleasant as possible. Once they are seated with seat belts fastened, they yell out, “Okay, I’m ready, Robert” so he knows that it is safe to start driving again. “I’ve been coming for six years, three days a week,” says Cecile. “I really enjoy being out. I think it’s nice we have this bus.” If not, she declares, “I’d be home just watching television.”

Karen Maxin, acting director and recreational coordinator of the Margaret Schweinfurt Senior Center, also in Silver Spring, helps praise on the JCA Elderbus. “It absolutely helps,” she said, noting that many have no other form of transportation.

Since January 2014, JCA has been helping scores of older passengers travel safely to and from five Montgomery County senior centers, where they participate in a wide range of recreational activities and benefit from important health services. Through a contract with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, the Senior Shuttle transports seniors four days a week who live within a five-mile radius of each center.

Maxin put in a good word about our drivers, too. A few senior center participants receive food packages from Marra Food Center, a local nonprofit that works to end hunger. The JCA bus driver always helps his passengers get all their full-to-the-brim grocery bags onto the bus while providing some extra TLC to one man who uses a walker and has trouble carrying his belongings. “The bus driver takes them for him. He helps him on. He is so kind,” she says.

Taking seniors to their activities is just one thing our buses do. JCA also has a contract with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to provide bus service to and from Tobytown, an historic African-American community near Potomac. The route began in November of 2016, connecting Montgomery County Department of Transportation to provide bus service to and from Tobytown, an historic African-American community near Potomac. The route began in November of 2016, connecting Montgomery County Department of Transportation with the nearest whole percentage points.

The data here are preliminary estimates for Fiscal Year 2019, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, and are unaudited. See our audited financial statement for a full accounting presented according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage point.