



FAMILY MATTERS

JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Summer 2005



Our year in review... It was a wild ride

by Iris Young, Executive Director



Charley. Frances. Jean. Ivan. Super Bowl 39.

Jacksonville experienced a roller coaster ride of events whose impact will be felt long after the year closes. Through this series of carnival-ride ups and downs, JFCS continued to help the community weather the challenges of daily life.

As our community struggled to repair and rebuild after an unprecedented hurricane season, JFCS was there with emergency financial assistance and food. When a tough local business environment brought job loss and layoffs, JFCS was there to bridge the gap during job transition. As government funds were cut and competition increased for dollars, JFCS was challenged to help our most at-risk clients: children in foster care, seniors, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

We weathered the storm through your support. Donations large and small enabled us to do what we do best, and brought out the best in our community. We look forward, with confidence, to what next year brings.

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JFCS Fact Sheet

- Jewish Family & Community Services and Catholic Charities are the two lead agencies in the distribution of FEMA* and SHIP* funds for financial assistance.
- The Feed A Needy Neighbor (FANN) program will feed over 19,000 individuals by June 30.
- The primary goal of the Child Safety Program is to keep families together and out of the court system whenever possible.

FEMA
Federal Emergency Management Agency

SHIP
Safe Housing Initiative Partnership



Turn Your Career Around

Learn about our Career Transition Workshop
Thursday, June 9 • 6:00 p.m.

Are you unhappy in your job, yet reluctant to make a change? Are you at a point in your career where "balancing work and family" is a real goal, not just rhetoric? Do you just need a change? If you answered yes to any of these questions, join us **Thursday, June 9 • 6:00 p.m.** at JFCS for an introductory get together to learn more about our six-week **Career Transition Workshop**, a partnership between JFCS and Certified Career Coach, Marilyn Feldstein. This workshop series, part of our new Career Directions Program, helps you learn what values, motivational styles and career interests you truly have and how you can pursue what matters most to you. The first class in the series will be held on Monday, June 20. Call Peggy at 394-5758 for more information.

Community Service Hours For Summer

JFCS is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Volunteers are always needed in our food pantry to stock shelves and bag groceries. Call Janet at 394-5714 for information.

Night of 1,000 Stories Fundraiser coming in August

★ Thursday, August 18–Sunday, August 28 ★

What is Night of 1,000 Stories?

Night of 1,000 Stories is an annual fundraising event for Jewish Family & Community Services. Volunteers throughout the community host parties to raise funds for JFCS. Party guests hear personal stories from the many people helped by JFCS programs and are asked to make a donation of any amount.

Why a “Stories” party?

The best way to educate the community about JFCS is by raising awareness of its many programs. The best way to raise awareness is through our stories. The best place to tell stories is with friends.

When do the parties happen?

Parties can take place any time from August 18 through August 28.

How do you host a party?

Hosting is simple. JFCS will give you invitations, sign-in sheets and a stories booklet for you and your guests. You just decide on your party.

Last year, themed parties were popular with hosts and guests alike. The themes ranged from the simple, like a BUNCO get-together or backyard barbeque, to the elegant, like a wine tasting and a dinner at the beach. There was even a Suns Baseball event.

WHO? YOU!

Be a host, be a sponsor, or simply be a guest. Just fill out the registration form above and return it to JFCS.

For more information, please call Robin Peters, Director of Development at 394-5727 or Renie Levin, Development Coordinator at 394-5721.

★ Night of 1,000 Stories



Yes!

*I want to support JFCS's
Night of 1,000 Stories Fundraiser*

- I am unable to host a party, but would like to be a sponsor
 ___ \$500 Angel ___ \$250 Gold ___ \$100 Silver
- I would like to host a party
- I would like to participate, please invite me to a party

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ cell: _____

Email: _____

Please return postcard to JFCS.

6261 Dupont Station Court, E. • Jacksonville, FL 32217 Attn: 1,000 Stories



How will my Night of 1,000 Stories party help?

JFCS provides services that support seniors, children, families and the hungry - anyone who has fallen on hard times. Party hosts can direct donations to any of our programs listed on page 3. Or you can simply direct your donations to our general fund. If you're invited to A Night of 1,000 Stories event, don't bring a bottle of wine, bring your donation and help us continue to "change lives for better tomorrows."

Kids “AGING OUT” Need Support



When a child in foster care turns 18, he/she will no longer be supported by the foster care system. They leave foster care with little assistance and very few personal belongings. This life transition is referred to as “Aging Out.” How many 18-year olds who graduate from high school have saved enough money to begin living on their own- paying for rent, food and insurance? This new responsibility can be overwhelming and may force some of these kids to go back to the bad situations that originally put them in the state’s custody.

JFCS and the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) created “Fresh Starts” baskets that are filled with basic items for the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom for teenagers “Aging Out” of foster care.

Jewish Family & Community Services has stepped in to offer assistance through an Independent Living program being developed to train kids with the necessary skills for survival on their own.

In addition, JFCS and the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) are working together to create “Fresh Starts” baskets for teenagers. The baskets are filled with basic items for the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. A little personality is thrown in with pillows, blankets and other creative touches from the NCJW ladies.

These kids will be making difficult financial decisions as they learn to live on their own. With the help of the community, Jewish Family & Community Services will continue to offer services that allow these kids the basic necessities they need to start this new chapter in their life.

What is Dependency and Prevention?



Dependency is the term used when children who have suffered from abuse and/or neglect while living with their family are removed from the home. Once the abuse has been verified, the family court has jurisdiction over these children. The children can be placed in a licensed foster home, with relatives, non-relatives or a non-offending parent. The offending parent(s) must work on a case plan which includes participation in programs on parenting skills, anger management programs and counseling. If this plan is not followed, the children will remain in the state’s custody.

Prevention is for families that are at risk of entering the dependency system. In most situations abuse has been reported but none severe enough to warrant a removal. The school may have noticed the child coming in dirty or hungry. In other cases the police may have been called to investigate a report, but an arrest hasn’t been necessary. Care coordinators work with these families to help them make the changes necessary to keep their children safe and out of the court system. Early intervention programs are critical to many families who are at risk of losing custody.

JFCS Does What?



Adoption

Through our adoption process, adoptive parents and birthparents are matched to create a loving placement that fits the best interest of the child.

Career Directions

JFCS hosts workshops to help people involved in career transitions.

Children’s Programs

The children programs at JFCS, include school-based programs, counseling, suicide prevention and play therapy and personal counseling.

Counseling

A staff of qualified professionals works with individuals, couples, families and children.

Child Safety Programs

JFCS is a provider of safe and nurturing homes for children in the State of Florida’s custody.

Emergency Financial Assistance

JFCS distributes funds to individuals who are having difficulty paying rent, utility bills or security deposits.

Feed A Needy Neighbor (FANN)

JFCS provides groceries to families and individuals experiencing hunger through the Winn-Dixie Emergency Food Pantry.

Life Skills Training

Helps people lead productive, self-sufficient lives by teaching skills such as budgeting, tenant/ landlord rights, job search techniques and more.

Older Adult Services

Geriatric Care Management
The Kosher Nutrition Program
CALL2GO Transportation Program

Jewish Healing Network

Trained volunteers serve the needs of homebound and frail Jewish individuals through friendly visits, meals, phone calls.

Jewish Hospice Connection

Trained professionals offer compassionate end of life care to individuals with Jewish needs.

Ryan White Title II

JFCS is the lead agency for the distribution of Ryan White Title II funds. These funds are used to assist people living with HIV/AIDS.

Support Groups

JFCS offers a variety of support groups including grief, life transitions, aging issues, intermarriage and more.



Changing lives for better tomorrows

Iris Young
Executive Director

Goldie Lansky
Assistant Director/Chief Operating Officer

Brenda Shephard
Controller

Robin Knezich
Human Resource Specialist

Colleen Lloyd
Director of Clinical Services
and Child Safety

Stephanie McDonald
Director of Quality Improvement

Robin Peters
Director of Development

Karen Phillips
Director of Comprehensive Assessments

Mark Rubens
Ryan White Program Director

Beth Shorstein
Director of Older Adult Services

Candi Stanley
Director of Community
Kosher Nutrition Food Services

Kathleen Stevens
Director of Adoptions

The mission of Jewish Family & Community Services is to strengthen the entire community by providing family and individual services, without prejudice, in the Jewish tradition of helping people help themselves.



Call us at: 448-1933

Request a Speaker

If your organization would like a member of the JFCS staff to make a presentation, please contact Robin Peters, Director of Development at 394-5727.

Dated Material: June 1, 2005

Q: Can I still come to your agency for services, even if I am not Jewish?

YES. Our services reach out to every qualified client in the community. JFCS serves people of all religions.

When JFCS was founded in 1917, we provided three types of services: counseling, food, and emergency assistance. Over our long history, the agency has grown. We have added many new programs and the client profile has expanded.

However, one thing has NEVER changed: We are committed to our mission of "helping people help themselves" and serving all persons in a non-discriminatory manner.

How can I become a foster parent?

Prospective foster parents must enroll in MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) classes for certification. These classes will teach how to handle certain behaviors commonly demonstrated by children in care. A homestudy must be completed with fingerprints, background checks and a thorough home inspection. For more information contact: Family Support Services of Northeast Florida, 448-4340 or Melody Jones at JFCS, 394-5757

Your donation helps the community

Here are some of the ways JFCS puts your donation to work. Your dollars go a long way in meeting the needs of the people we serve.

- \$18 buys basic hygiene items for a family of four.
- \$25 buys five cab-rides for a senior citizen.
- \$36 buys 3 days of groceries.
- \$50 buys 30 minutes of counseling.
- \$150 buys basic living items for a young adult leaving foster care to live independently



Changing lives for better tomorrows

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