



IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report

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IAJVS Receives \$735,000 Grant from Corporation for National and Community Service

We did it again! What a way to end 2000! We are delighted that our proposal titled “YouthAbility: A Comprehensive Strategy to Recruit Youth with Disabilities,” was accepted by the Corporation for National and Community Service. This truly is a national collaboration, spanning ten cities in eight states. Participating in this ambitious endeavor are: JVS Baltimore, JVS Boston, JVS Chicago, JFSA Cleveland, JVS Cincinnati, JVS Detroit, JVS Los Angeles, JEVS Philadelphia, MERS St. Louis, and JSSA Washington.

Our national partner, Youth Services America, is an organization of a network of over two hundred youth organizations involved in service. Combining the expertise of two premier organizations – ours in the disability community and theirs in the national service community – we hope to create a model project of outreach and recruitment to youth with disabilities. Through our efforts, this population will be afforded the opportunity to serve, instead of just being served.

Lucy Klain, IAJVS National Projects Director, will be heading up the project, coordinating with

YSA and staff at the local affiliates. We expect a start date of March 1, 2001.

Thank you to all who worked on this proposal. You will be hearing more about this exciting collaboration at the annual conference!!

IAJVS and Bank of America Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Creating national employer partnerships has been one of my many goals in furthering the mission of IAJVS. I am happy to announce that IAJVS and Bank of America have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, forming a partnership to promote workforce development in the communities that we mutually serve. Developing a formal partnership between IAJVS and Bank of America creates new opportunities for each organization to further their respective goal - that of supporting affiliate agencies in helping people move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

As we move into this new collaboration, we will be working with those communities where there is a Bank of America presence and assist you in

developing the local relationship. A special thanks to Abby Snay, without the successful partnership between JVS San Francisco and Bank of America, this national collaboration would not be possible.

ICPA III Conference Explores the Russian-Speaking Voice in the Global Jewish Community

The Third Annual International Conference on Personal Adaptation brought together professionals from the United States, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Netherlands, and Australia. This was the first time the conference was held in the United States. Its purpose was to explore ways to develop and strengthen a global network of Russian-speaking Jewish professionals and community leaders. Being a minority English-speaking participant, it was difficult, and at times, tiring, to listen to, and comprehend the simultaneous translations of the presentations. However, the strategy sessions were thought provoking and energizing as we explored challenges and directions to building community and global relationships. IAJVS was proud to be an official supporter of the conference.

Agency News

Special thanks to everyone who submitted information for this new column. If you would like us to submit something about your agency in our next quarterly report, please send us your news!

JFS Gulf Coast

Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services has been awarded a \$1million grant over 18 months to expand its Noncustodial Parent Employment Program in Hillsborough County, Florida. Funded under the Welfare-to-Work Program, hard-to-place noncustodial parents will be targeted for services. Additionally, special outreach and recruitment efforts will target

voluntary participants through One-Stop and other local employment service providers, the Healthy Families program, the Department of Revenue's Division of Child Support Enforcement, the Department of Children and

Families, churches and faith-based organizations, fatherhood groups, ex-offender support groups, and other similar groups.

Israel Elwyn

The American Friends of Israel Elwyn has signed an agreement with the trustees of the *Jay G. Beresin Charitable Remainder Unitrust* making it the recipient of the remainder of the trust, valued at over six million dollars. The main purposes of the trust funds will include the construction of a new Vocational Training and Prevocational Training Center at Israel Elwyn's residential campus in Jerusalem. Funds will also be used toward the construction of a new Occupational Training Center in Haifa and for site development and landscaping projects.

Israel Elwyn, in cooperation with the National Insurance Institute, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the City of Beer Sheva, has begun job training and placement services in Beer Sheva. This program expansion in the south of the country follows successful implementation of job training and placement services by Israel Elwyn in Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, and the Azata region in Israel.

Margalit Piller, Director of Rehabilitation Services; Shuki Ben-Noun, Director of Community Services; and David B. Marcu, Executive Director of Israel Elwyn, have been informed by the American Association on Mental Retardation that their paper entitled "New Horizons in Supported Employment – A Training Academy for Persons Considered Unlikely To Integrate Into the Job Market" will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the organization to take place in Denver, CO, in May 2001.

JVS Kansas City

JVS Kansas City along with the Helping Hand of Goodwill, the Rehabilitation Institute, the Full Employment Council (WIA One-Stop Fiscal Agent), Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

were awarded a Department of Labor Work Incentive Grant. The project will begin in January 2001.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education awarded JVS Kansas City an English Literacy and Civics Education Grant. The project will begin in early 2001.

Mary Hamer, Manager of JVS Kansas City's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program was recently recognized as the Missouri Rehabilitation Association's "Counselor of the Year." Mary has been with JVS for 10 years and is a Certified Sign-Language Interpreter.

JF & VS Louisville

Jewish Family & Vocational Service Louisville moved into a new home, the first building ever totally dedicated to JFVS, on December 8, 2000. Their new address is:

JF & VS
3587 Dutchmans Lane
Louisville, KY, 40205

The following are still the same:

Phone: 502-452-6341
Fax: 502-452-6718
Website: www.jfvs.com

JFVS of Middlesex County

In an outreach effort to the Jewish community, NOVA, the vocational and employment services department of JFVS Middlesex has been providing career counseling services to unemployed/underemployed Jewish congregants at local synagogues. This program, which began in September 2000, offers individual counseling services to discuss career issues and provides options for career advancement and support for those seeking career changes. Offered monthly at local synagogues, the program encourages congregants to seek career guidance on an individual basis and receive feedback on career choices, resume writing, and interviewing skills.

Also, Lisa Fiore, Coordinator of Vocational Services, was recently appointed to co-chair the Middlesex County Employer Council coordinated by the NJ Department of Labor. This offers JFVS the opportunity to partner with DOL and

provide services and programs to employers throughout the county.

JEVS Philadelphia

JEVS received funding for a pilot phase of its new Customer Service Training Collaborative (CSTC), a model curriculum that prepares individuals for customer service related careers in five industries: banking, hospitality, retail, insurance and call centers. The employer-driven, student-focused curriculum is the result of a collaboration with the National Retail Federation, The Reinvestment Fund and JEVS. This comprehensive training in customer service will enable individuals to develop core skills and standards that are portable and transferable across service industries. The curriculum encompasses five critical work functions: learning about services/products; assessing customer needs; researching facts and gathering information; educating and informing customers; and meeting customer needs and providing ongoing support to the customer and organization.

In its pilot phase, the program will train 76 participants in positions with career potential in the various partner industries. The project is funded locally by the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation and The Reinvestment Fund through a grant provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

JVS San Francisco

JVS San Francisco was recently awarded a grant from the James Irvine Foundation to provide career advancement training in Information Technology. San Francisco is seeking to develop a citywide career ladders system offering unemployed and underemployed residents pathways into high wage, high demand IT careers. This system will be developed through a citywide collaboration of the local Workforce Investment Board and Department of Human Services, community colleges, employers and community-based organizations, including JVS.

As part of this citywide effort, JVS will develop and implement a pilot program and business plan to provide training and certification in UNIX Programming Systems and Cisco Networking Technology. This program will take career

advancement services to a new level at JVS, offering low-income clients the opportunity to prepare for promising careers in IT. JVS expects

the starting salary for those who complete the training program will be between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year.

JVS plans to enroll 15-20 clients in each of the two sessions of the pilot programs. The nine-month programs will be offered evenings and weekends to accommodate clients who work regular weekday hours. JVS will collaborate with Mission Community College, which currently offers Cisco and UNIX training in Silicon Valley, on curriculum design and program development to address both the technical and soft skills required in the IT industry. Several of our clients who have completed our other technology training programs will be ready for this next level of IT training.

National News Update



Career Advancement

According to polls conducted by The Welfare to Work Partnership, companies that hire welfare recipients often offer them training, mentoring, and other supports that lead to promotion. Eighty percent of the companies that offer training report that it leads to improved work performance, and a majority says it improves morale, reduces absenteeism, and can offer cost-savings. Many employers are beginning to realize the benefits of workplace mentoring, as new workers who are assigned to a mentor are more likely to be promoted.

To learn more, visit The Partnerships website at: www.welfaretowork.org.

Welfare Rolls at a New Low

Welfare rolls have fallen by 53 percent since the signing of the welfare reform law in 1996. As of June 2000, there are 5.8 million individuals remaining on welfare. In President Clinton's radio address, he highlighted several provisions in the Fiscal Year 2001 that will support working families.

- ❖ **Child Care:** The Child Care and Development Block Grant was boosted to \$2 billion, an increase from \$817 million

from last year's budget. This will provide childcare subsidies for nearly 150,000 more children.

- ❖ **Transportation:** The Job Access and Reverse Commute program was increased to \$100 million (a \$25 million increase from last year).
- ❖ **Health Care:** The budget extends the current policy of providing a year of Medicaid coverage to individuals leaving welfare for work.

Friends of IAJVS Fundraising Campaign

IAJVS kicked off its annual 2000 friends campaign. Thank you to the following people for your generous donations:

- Mr. Frank Ash
- Mr. Mel Auslander
- Mr. Lee Casper
- Ms. Judith Gall
- Mr. Lewis Jay Gordon
- Mr. Ernest Kahn
- Mr. & Mrs. Ned and Marcia Kaplan
- Mr. Irving Karp
- Mr. Leonard Kulakofsky
- Mr. Roy Lefkoe
- Mr. & Mrs. Irwin and Adele Lipton
- Mr. Benjamin Loewenstein
- Mr. James Maslon
- Mr. Barry Perlis
- Mr. George Polinger
- Mr. Howard Scher
- Mr. Aryeh Sherman
- Mr. & Mrs. Hanan and Carole Sibel
- Mr. Donald Simons
- Mr. Philip Spergel
- Mr. Leon Sunstein
- Ms. Ethel Taft
- Mr. Isadore Wiener
- Mr. Norman Zilber

Your support enables us to continue to provide valuable services and resources to our affiliate agencies.

IAJVS Staff on the Move Part I: Grants Update

IAJVS is pleased to share that the success of IAJVS' disAbility Employment Initiative has resulted in a third program year that will last until September 30, 2001. During this final program year, the five participating agencies—Boston,

Chicago, Gulf Coast, Philadelphia, and San Francisco—will enroll 150 new clients, provide computer-based vocational training to 76 individuals with disabilities, and place 92 individuals in jobs. Thanks to these agencies for continuing their hard work to provide quality programming to DEI clients.

As RETAIN also closes in on its final year, the program continues to reflect the excellent work at the JVS agencies. With 626 participating clients, we have exceeded our enrollment goal by more than 15 percent. Nearly 250 clients have already been placed in health-care related employment and others are participating in job readiness and other vocational training at the agencies. We expect to meet our 70 percent employment goal by the grant's completion. Please keep your eyes open for a series of *Best Practices* reports that IAJVS will publish in the coming months.

IAJVS Staff on the Move Part II: Conferences and Site Visits

This past quarter was a busy one for welfare-to-work staff at IAJVS and participating RETAIN agencies. In October, RETAIN program managers from Boston, Minneapolis, North Shore, and Philadelphia joined Lucy and I in Phoenix at the National Welfare to Work Conference sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor. IAJVS and JVS programs were showcased during two workshops: Lucy presented RETAIN as a successful and replicable welfare-to-work program and Jerry Tapley, RETAIN program manager at JEVs Philadelphia, moderated a session on mentoring and highlighted the agency's *Mentoring Moms* component of RETAIN. Sharing the stage with Jerry was Abby Snay, JVS San Francisco

Executive Director, who spoke about the agency's employer-based mentoring program.

Lucy continued to make the rounds to agencies participating in the two national grant programs. She traveled to Minneapolis and North Shore in November to see the RETAIN programs first-hand and visited MetroWest in December to do the same. At all three agencies, we found exciting programs and satisfied customers. Keep up the good work!

Job Announcements



JVS MetroWest

JVS MetroWest, NJ has an immediate full time opening for a vocational counselor in its Resettlement Center working with refugees and immigrants from all over the world. This position requires MA/MS in Vocational Rehabilitation, Vocational Counseling or related, plus at least two years of counseling and job placement experience (five years of solid experience might be considered in lieu of a Master's Degree). Salary depends on experience. Good benefit package. Contact Mort Schwartz, JVS, 111 Prospect St., East Orange, NJ 07107 or FAX 973-674-7773 or email: mschwartz@jvsnj.org.

JVS Miami

JVS Miami is currently on the search for an Assistant Vice President for Senior Adult Services. The prospective employee would be required to supervise the daily operations of the five million dollar social services division for seniors throughout Dade/Broward, Florida. Leadership, grant writing, budget knowledge, and staff development abilities. A Masters degree is preferred in gerontology, social work, or senior health care; five years of supervisory and ten years of programmatic experience is desired. Fax resume to 305-899-8728.

IAJVS/AJVSP Conference 2001 Highlight

This year's Sunday night reception will be held at the National Liberty Museum. The museum is located in the heart of historic Philadelphia. It was created to help combat America's growing problem with violence and bigotry by celebrating our nation's heritage of freedom and the wonderful diverse society it has produced.

Using exhibits, interactives, videos and art, the Museum pays tribute to over 350 outstanding men and women who have contributed to our democracy. It honors 20th Century Americans; heroes from our ancestral homelands; young people who have reached out to help their schools and communities; and heroes from the Bible whose stories of courage and commitment inspired our founding fathers to create our great nation.

The highlight of the Museum is an extraordinary collection of glass art by sculptors from all over the world. It reminds us that as strong as our democracy is, it is also extremely fragile. If we don't protect the ideal of freedom on which our nation was founded, our democracy could shatter and it would be very difficult to put back together again.

The Museum also includes several special exhibits. Visitors will find two life-size children made entirely of jelly beans; a shredder machine that devours mean words; state-of-the-art polling machines where you can cast your vote on the hottest issue of the

day; and a mechanical tight rope walker that reminds us that democracy is a delicate balance between rights and responsibilities.

We look forward to sharing this wonderful venue with all of you!

How to Contact Us

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

