



IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report

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Birthright Israel and IAJVS



Birthright Israel – a unique partnership between the State of Israel, the United Jewish Communities (UJC), and several other philanthropies – offers a complimentary ten-day educational experience in Israel to young Jewish adults (ages 18-26). Thus far thousands of young women and men have participated in the program.

In order to make the Birthright Israel experience more relevant to the Jewish community, JCSA was asked in mid-November 2000 to coordinate a pilot project designed to secure up to one hundred internships in Jewish agencies for interested members of the January 2001 Birthright Israel “graduating class”.

The request came from persons working close with Birthright Israel, and included a recommendation that the effort be directed to five fields of Jewish communal service: federations (UJC), Jewish centers (JCC Association), vocational service (IAJVS), family service (AJFCA), and Jewish education (JESNA).

Together, we secured 50 internships. The internships descriptions were disseminated at the Birthright Israel Expo in Jerusalem in early January 2001. The internships are also listed on

the Birthright Israel website (www.birthrightisrael.com under “jobs”).

IAJVS appreciates all of its affiliates’ efforts in sending us your internships descriptions with such short notice. Unfortunately, we had to compete with hundreds of other more artistic and expensive booths that prepared for the event months in advance. Few students stopped at our booth, and fewer responded to the internship opportunities. We are still working out the details of how we want to approach the next Birthright Israel class. Please be patient, and once we know our plan of action, we will inform you as to where we stand in regard to future internship opportunities for Birthright Israel graduates.

Agency News



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

Israel Elwyn

In November 2001, Israel Elwyn held a nationwide conference on Aging & Developmental Disabilities. The focus of this one-day seminar was on various aspects of aging and its impact on people with developmental

disabilities, as well as the importance of setting up community support services. Participants included academics and professionals in service-provider positions. The conference was held at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem, Israel, and was made possible by a grant from the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, PA and the Shalem Foundation.

JF&CS Atlanta

JF&CS Atlanta recently received a grant to create a database of relevant information for older workers. The database will include various details about organizations who are interested in recruiting older workers. It will contain information such as work locations, types of positions, benefits, skill requirements, etc. In addition, the database will contain information regarding training organizations and other community resources geared to older workers.

The database will be connected to a system already in use by aging service providers in Georgia. It will be available to the local Workforce Development Centers. The information will also feed into a website and JF & CS will have a staffed hotline telephone number so that older workers and employers can access the information directly.

JVS Cincinnati

This spring Jewish Vocational Service of Cincinnati received a \$15,000 grant from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation to provide computer training for people with disabilities, the elderly, and new Americans.

In November 2000, JVS launched the Computer Training Solutions program in partnership with Jireh Consulting Group (Jireh), a private computer consulting firm. Computer Training Solutions offers courses in computer basics and various MicroSoft applications to individuals, businesses, and nonprofit and community organizations for a fee. Jireh provides the instructors and the course materials. JVS' computer lab has been furnished with six desktop and seven laptop computers, software and furniture, purchased with a \$25,000 grant from the United Way and an LCD projector purchased

with a \$5,000 grant from the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. The lightweight LCD projector and the laptop computers allow JVS and Jireh to provide computer-training classes off-site.

To date, the KnowledgeWorks grant has been used to provide computer training classes for people with mental disabilities at Corwin House, a JVS Clubhouse facility, located in nearby Lebanon, Ohio. This summer, older campers at the Jewish Community Center of Cincinnati (JCC) will serve as "buddies" for JCC seniors in a multi-generational computer class at the JVS main facility. Computer classes for new Americans and classes for seniors from Cedar Village, a Jewish nursing home and retirement community, are currently in the planning stages. The populations served with funding from the United Way and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation are people for whom the computer can provide a wonderful link to relatives, friends, and, via the Internet, to information and interactivity never before so readily available.

JFSA Cleveland

JFSA Cleveland's Administrative offices have relocated. New address/phone/fax are as follows:

JFSA Cleveland
3659 South Green Road
Suite 322
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
Telephone: (216) 504-2600
FAX: (216) 504-0551

JFS Columbus

JFS Columbus received a Microenterprise grant from the Columbus Medical Association to provide business revitalization services to local small businesses in need of stability services. In addition, their Senior Link grant and Caregiver Resource Center grants were both renewed.

JFS Columbus continues to expand their Resettlement Services to meet the continuum of needs to New Americans. Resettlement Services now include: Parent-School Liaison Services, Domestic Violence Outreach and Prevention, Translation and Interpretation, Health Outreach and Education, and Employment Services.

JEVS Philadelphia

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) notes that census data, national polls, and other studies have documented that people with disabilities, as a group, are severely disadvantaged socially, vocationally, economically and educationally. At its second annual public policy forum on March 28, JEVS Philadelphia explored a variety of issues related to disability law and communal responsibility—according to Jewish values and ethics—in helping those with disabilities realize their individual dignity and the value of work. Coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the ADA, JEVS brought together individuals with disabilities—physical and “invisible,” such as mental illness and learning disabilities—their families, agencies, synagogues and employers for the forum, entitled *Overcoming Barriers to Meaningful Life & Work: The Jewish Community & Disabilities*. Each shared information about programs and community resources available to assist persons with disabilities in their struggle for equal rights with regard to employment, public accommodations, education, health services, etc.

With more than 150 people in attendance—representing close to 50 organizations, including staff from JVS Baltimore—the forum featured interactive workshops led by practitioners and policy makers. While some sessions focused on disability laws and policies in the work place, several area rabbis also spoke on Jewish teachings and their role in assisting people in the community. In addition, the forum included workshops aimed at employment solutions, legislation and advocacy.

Funded by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and Patricia and Philip Kind, the forum featured noted radio personality, family therapist, and quadriplegic Dan Gottlieb, Ph.D, host of WHYY Radio’s “Voices in the Family,” as keynote speaker. His personal experiences and wisdom inspired many, as did the participants of the opening plenary session, who shared their personal stories of trials and tribulations while living with disabilities.

The one-day event was co-sponsored by Advocates for the Jewish Mentally Ill, Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, Federation Day Care Services, Jewish Community Centers of Greater Philadelphia, Jewish Community Homes for Adult Independence, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition, and United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism.

JCS of South Florida

Three well-established South Florida nonprofit social service agencies have merged into a new organization, Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc. (JCS). The consolidation is intended to streamline and integrate services and offer an innovative, high quality system of care.

Chairman of the Board Martin Fine said, "Jewish Community Services of South Florida is a private, voluntary social service agency established to provide exemplary social service in South Florida on behalf of the Jewish community to an increasingly changing population. All three agencies have rendered excellent service to the community starting 80 years ago."

JCS includes all the resources and services of Jewish Vocational Service, Inc. of South Florida, Community Council for Jewish Elderly, Inc. and Jewish Family Service of Greater Miami, Inc. The new agency integrates behavioral health services, rehabilitation and employment services, senior adult services, and kosher food services. The three organizations have a combined history of 187 years of service in South Florida.

According to Fine, "The JCS board of directors expects the new organization to be recognized as the leading provider of emerging and innovative social service programs in South Florida."

Programs include addiction counseling, family and individual therapy, adoption and foster care, career guidance, employment services for the homeless and people with disabilities, vocational assessments and training, refugee resettlement, kosher Meals-On-Wheels for seniors, Gourmet Kosher Parties catering service for home and business, adult day care, transportation, home

health care and Holocaust Survivor Support Services.

Accredited by national standard-setting organizations, JCS is a beneficiary agency of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and United Way of Miami-Dade.

Executives of JCS include:

- David B. Saltman, LCSW, President/CEO. For the past 20 years, Saltman has been CEO of Jewish Family Service of Greater Miami, Inc.
- Sylvia L. Goldsmith, M.Ed., Executive Vice-President. With 19 years at Jewish Vocational Service, Inc. of South Florida, Goldsmith has been CEO of that agency since 1996.
- Sondra Reiff, Vice-President, Resource Development. With 38 years as a social service professional, Reiff has been executive director of Community Council for Jewish Elderly, Inc. since 1999.
- Jeffrey Schneider, CPA, MBA, Vice-President, Finance and Administration. Schneider was most recently vice-president for finance of Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, and has more than 25 years' experience in financial and budget management positions.

Grants Update

IAJVS is pleased to partner with Youth Service America on YouthAbility, a two-year program to outreach and recruit young people with disabilities into national service programs. Under the direction of IAJVS, ten affiliates will collaborate to implement this innovative national project that promotes national service among youth in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Washington, DC. The project provides information about national service programs to youth with disabilities, establishes recruitment programs, and helps national service programs adapt their programs to make them more inclusive and accommodating to individuals with disabilities. Recruiters plan to work with

local Youth Service America affiliates in their city to identify existing volunteer opportunities and then recruit youth with disabilities to fill these volunteer positions. The national offices will collaborate to develop a national marketing campaign—that can be adapted for each city—and create a recruitment and training curriculum about national service and working with youth with disabilities.

SAVE THE DATE:



✓ **IAJVS Board of Directors Meeting**

**Executive Forum
December 1st and 2nd
Eden Rock Hotel
Miami Beach, Florida**

How to Contact Us

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.



