



IAJVS Executive Quarterly Report

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Genie Cohen Participates in ADA Torch Relay



On July 29, IAJVS participated in the Spirit of the ADA Torch Relay, an Olympic-style event celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the ADA that traversed the United States, stopping in 24 cities. As a national sponsor, I carried the torch, along with 30 other torch bearers, among a group of 200 people with disabilities and their families and friends. It was a moving experience – I could not help but think how many of these people would not have been outside, enjoying the great day without the passage of the ADA ten years earlier.

IAJVS is pleased to announce that the disAbility Employment Initiative was funded for its third program year. During the second program year, JVS affiliates in Boston, Chicago, Gulf Coast, Philadelphia, and San Francisco have trained more than 108 people with disabilities in computer skills. We look forward to a third successful year.

RETAIN, the national welfare-to-work program continues to train and place clients in health care jobs—with more than 400 clients receiving training and 188 placed in employment through June 2000. To see these programs in action, Lucy visited JF&VS of Middlesex County and JEVS Philadelphia in August. The dedication of the staff to ensure that all of the consumers receive the best and most appropriate services was obvious during these site visits!

On September 13 and 14, Marcy Trost and Tom Martin of the U.S. Department of Labor came to Philadelphia to monitor IAJVS' RETAIN welfare-to-work program. After spending a day at IAJVS and a day with JEVS Philadelphia, Marcy and Tom were impressed with our

Grants Update

operations and noted no negative findings.

Marcy was so impressed with JEVS' mentoring component, she's asked Jerry Tapley, RETAIN program manager at JEVS, to speak at the upcoming National Welfare-to-Work conference in Phoenix. Thanks to all of the staff at JEVS for their hard work preparing for this monitoring visit.

Programs for Jewish Teenagers

IAJVS recently surveyed its network regarding programming for Jewish teens. The following is a synopsis of the collected information.

Programs and program content

A large majority of the teen programs run by IAJVS affiliates focus on career planning and college advisement to college bound students (JVS Minneapolis, JVS MetroWest, JVS Miami, FECS New York, JF&VS Louisville, JF&CS Pittsburgh, and JVS Detroit). These programs are designed to create a career action plan and offer lists of recommended colleges. They also focus their programs on fostering continuous Jewish involvement among participants when they enter college campuses by providing them with resources and information about Jewish programs on campus.

JVS Detroit offers a program for refugee youths, called Refugee Youth Employment, which offers jobs readiness, career awareness, and summer and after school employment for 15-21 year-old refugees.

FECS New York runs a large number of workshops to provide school and community-based interactive, education/prevention services in areas related to risk/harm reduction. Topics covered include teen suicide prevention, HIVS/AIDS prevention and education, eating disorders prevention, family violence, substance abuse education, and family advocacy information and referral.

Some of the programs focus on exposing students to the benefits and services offered within the Jewish community and to prepare them for lay leadership positions. For example, JVS Detroit runs a program called JOIN (Jewish Occupational Internship program) which engages college students in an eight-week paid internship in a Jewish agency. Students are involved in the

agency doing meaningful work four days a week. They gather as a group under the lay leadership of JVS staff on Fridays to participate, observe, tour, and learn about the Detroit agencies and services.

Integration of Jewish Values

Jewish values are integrated into these programs in a number of ways. IAJVS agencies help students to choose colleges with large Jewish representation and Jewish life. Furthering one's education and career is a Jewish value and this theme is embedded in the counseling process. FECS is able to address Jewish values in the workshops by helping students examine the impact of their culture, religious beliefs, practices, family traditions, dynamics and behavior.

Outreach and Partnerships

Outreach within the IAJVS agencies is done mostly through Jewish day schools, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish organizations, yeshivas, universities, secular middle and high schools, synagogues, Hebrew schools, Jewish newspapers, Jewish day and sleep-away camps, and word of mouth.

Partnered agencies are primarily local synagogues, Jewish community centers, Jewish Family Services, federations, and Hadassah groups.

Strictly Business Highlights:
Philadelphia



Pictured from left to right; Gail Zukerman, Chief Operating Officer, JEVS; Connie Beresin, Chief Operating Officer, JEVS; Juliet Goodfriend, Founder and CEO, Strategic Marketing Corporation; Howard Scher, Chairman of the Board, JEVS; Jay Spector, CEO and President, JEVS

JEVS' 2nd annual Strictly Business event on September 21, 2000 was a big success. Attended by 500 of Philadelphia's business and non-profit elite, the event raised over \$120,000 for scholarships to JEVS skills training programs. The event featured a powerful keynote address by Ms. Juliet Goodfriend, Founder and CEO, Strategic Marketing Corporation. Ms. Goodfriend is a recognized leader in health care marketing. In her remarks, she urged business leaders to consider the vast, untapped talent pool found within the ranks of the welfare-to-work and disabled populations--a message especially timely as we approach the 10th anniversary of the ADA and 4th anniversary of welfare reform in Pennsylvania.

Strictly Business honored two JEVS program graduates, Frank Gaskill as "Employee of the Year" and Terry Tumolillo with the "Inspiration Award". Frank completed a JEVS vocational rehabilitation program and has received several promotions on his way to his current supervisory position. Terry graduated from the JEVS Court Reporting Institute and operates her own business. The "Business Leadership Award" was given to Wawa, Inc. and the "Business Solutions Award" was presented to Independence Blue Cross. Both businesses were recognized for their commitment to hiring and retaining employees that many businesses overlook, including the disabled and those transitioning from welfare to work.

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 Columbus

JFS Columbus received their first ORR Microenterprise grant. This will allow them to continue to outreach refugees that want to start their own small businesses. They have been receiving funds from their county agency, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services. The program has been running for three years. Over 75 businesses have opened during the past two years.

JFS' Family Outreach Program has instituted a new aspect to their services. They have entered into an agreement with a property manager to rent 17 units to JFS clientele. This allows for the Uniquely Ours program to be instituted. The program enables people who were previously homeless, without employment and an addiction history to live in apartment complex that is designed as a cooperative.

JFS Dallas

Jewish Family Service Dallas purchased its own building in the Spring of 2000 and moved in this fall. The M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation and the Abe Zale Foundation made a generous donation with the intent of naming the building after Edna Zale, a woman who herself gave generously to those in need in the community. The Zale foundations' donations will benefit the Jewish Family Service through the Greater Dallas Jewish Community Capital Campaign for the Twenty-First Century.

JFS Gulf Coast

Pulling for Progress is a \$1.8 million Department of Labor collaborative welfare-to-work grant

between Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, Hillsborough Community College (Tampa, FL) and the Corporation to Develop Communities, a local nonprofit organization. The program provides training and job placement services for 100 hard-to-employ non-custodial parents whose children receive welfare (TANF). Unsubsidized employment is secured for non-custodial parents in the telecommunications industry as assistants to cable installers of voice, data, video and sound. Potential clients are identified and screened by GCJFS, with job training provided by the community college, and secondary support services provided by the Corporation to Develop Communities. GCJFS provides intensive case management, job development and placement, and provides or arranges for ongoing supportive services. Once trained in cabling, individuals with previous histories of poor work and non-support have high potential for significant future earnings that benefits their children and their communities.

Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services' Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program, of which Pulling for Progress is a component, is one of the largest employment programs for non-custodial parents in the country. Since its inception in mid-1996, more than 2,800 participants have been enrolled in the program with 72 percent having obtained unsubsidized employment. Of those employed, 78 percent retained employment for 90 days and 63 percent for 180 days.

JFVS Louisville

JFVS Louisville is in the midst of constructing the Louis and Lee Roth Family Center, which will be their new home, by the time of its November 26 dedication. Every aspect of the building was carefully chosen to convey a message to celebrate life in all its aspects. The red brick facade was chosen to blend with the Eliahu Academy structure that shares its parking lot, and the green copper front corners spell out the word "chai" (Hebrew for life). The eight windows in the front of the building represent a menorah. The architect of the building explained that he equated the symbolism of the menorah at Chanukah, which celebrates a great miracle that happened there, with the fact that JFVS creates great miracles everyday by transforming people's lives.

JVS MetroWest

JVS MetroWest is very excited to report that they received a federal grant to provide customer service training, vocational counseling and job placement services to a low wage/entry level client population throughout New Jersey. The services provided utilize internet-based distance learning and communication technologies. Their proposal was modeled on the approach they presented during the "employer driven services" session at the 2000 IAJVS-AJVSP annual conference in Tampa.

JVS Miami

JVS Miami received a grant to run a Youth Opportunity Center/One-Stop. This is a non-custodial employment program in concert with the Gulf Coast Jewish Family Service. They are also running a new JobLink program funded by the Governor's Commission, the AbleTrust.

JFS North Shore

JFS North Shore began the Post-Employment Vocational Skills Training Program (PEVST) with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants. The goal of the program is to upgrade skills so that their wages can be increased and they can move into jobs that include a benefits package. JFS has begun working with the Business and Professional Division of the Jewish Federation to market the program participants to their membership.

JEVS Philadelphia

Always on the lookout for innovative responses to the welfare-to-work movement, JEVS formed a collaborative with PhilAbundance (a City-wide food pantry/feeding program) and Southern Home Services (a child welfare organization located in North Philadelphia) to create a work experience and training program for women seeking transition from welfare-to-work. Using

unused industrial kitchen space at Southern Home Services, job seekers will be trained and perform meal preparation of food collected by PhilAbundance. PhilAbundance will deliver

prepared food to shelters, food cupboards and emergency kitchens. JEVS provides technical assistance to the kitchen managers on training techniques and facilitated the collaboration by bringing the various partners together. The program has attracted the interest of several local and national funders.

Kristen Rantanen joined the JEVS staff as Director, Communications and Public Affairs in August. Prior to joining JEVS, Kristen was responsible for external communications for Greater Philadelphia Works, the City of Philadelphia's \$52 million welfare-to-work initiative.

JVS San Francisco

JVS San Francisco recently received confirmation of funding from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement. This discretionary grant will support the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) Training Program. The LVN program is a unique and innovative partnership designed to provide entry and career advancement in the health care profession for refugee nurses. Building on the highly successful health care professional training programs at JVS, which have evolved over the last nine years in response to changes in the health care system, the LVN program has two primary goals:

1. To train refugee nurses for licensure and employment as Licensed Vocational Nurses.
2. To prepare refugee nurses for lifelong learning and career advancement in the health care industry.

JVS and City College of San Francisco (CCSF) will provide a customized LVN training program for nurses trained in their country of origin to meet the current demand for LVNs for direct patient care in both acute and non-acute care settings. This program will not only meet the community need for trained, bilingual, bicultural health care professionals, but will also meet the employment needs of refugee nurses by providing them with training for a new, marketable career that will lead to long-term economic self-sufficiency and career advancement.

Keren Vocational Rehabilitation Center, Tel Aviv

In addition to their 16 Vocational Rehabilitation Centers, three branches, and 43 sheltered workshops, Keren Vocational Rehabilitation Center succeeded in opening three KARTEN CTEC (Computer-aided Training Education and Communication) centers in Israel within the last two years.

The centers provide services which consist of computer-aided training, education, and communication to people with a variety of disabilities who are still in the working age group. The disabilities can be physical, cognitive, mental, or sensory.

The centers enable the usage of computers in a friendly environment and improve the accessibility to the computer (hardware, software and devices) including work-station adjustment, assistive technology devices and means for alternative communication.

National News Update



By 2008, Expect 20 Million New Jobs

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, roughly 20 million new jobs will be added to the U.S. workforce by 2008, bringing the total workforce to more than 160 million workers. The report also includes other projections such as:

- Seventy percent of the 30 fastest-growing jobs will require an education beyond the high school level.
- Forty percent of all new jobs will require at least an associate's degree.
- Jobs requiring a high school diploma or less education will remain the most numerous, but the number of jobs requiring postsecondary training will grow the fastest.
- Jobs in the healthcare industry will increase by 2.6 million, and 1.7 million

jobs will be added to the information technology and computer sector.

To view this article online, visit the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Web site at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/1999/11/contents.htm
Printed copies may be obtained by calling the Government printing office at 202-691-5900.

IAJVS Staff on the Move: Part I

On September 21, I attended the annual meeting of JVS Toronto. Meeting staff, talking to board members, and listening to employers and consumers sing the praises of the agency, was an exhilarating experience. I also participated in the senior staff meeting and toured three JVS locations. I was so impressed with their program called youthinc., a Youth Resource Center which provides career preparation and a host of employment services to youth. Located in an upscale shopping mall (what better place for attracting today's youth!), in the heart of Toronto, youthinc. is a partnership between JVS Greater Toronto, the Toronto District School Board, the YMCA, and Human Resources Development Canada. Since its doors opened in the fall of 1999, youthinc. sees hundreds of youth each day, helping them to connect to schools, community resources, and businesses to help them achieve their goals. While I was there, several teenagers were on the computers writing resumes. Others were getting assistance from JVS staff, and several more were checking out the jobs bulletin board. What a positive environment for tomorrow's leaders! Thank you, Karen and staff for a wonderful visit.

IAJVS Staff on the Move: Part II

Lucy Klain represented IAJVS and its members at the Joint Employment Technology and Training Conference (JETT*CON) in Albuquerque, NM in July. As a conference presenter, Lucy showcased the network's disAbility Employment Initiative and shared how the network has replicated a model computer-

training program for people with disabilities in five cities across the U.S.

SAVE THE DATES:

✓ EDC Meeting

November 11 – 12, 2000
Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, IL

✓ IAJVS / AJVSP Conference 2001

June 3 – 6, 2001
DoubleTree Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

If you are interested in volunteering for the 2001 conference program committee, please let us know!

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We welcome your comments and suggestions.

