



**International
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Services**

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IAJVS/AJFCA Partner to Assist NJ Residents Post-9/11

A special thank you to everyone who submitted information for this column. If you would like us to print something about your agency in our next quarterly report, please send your news to Bill Lynch (lynchw@iajvs.org)!!

IAJVS Board of Directors Winter Meeting

Dr. Jeffrey Solomon to Be Guest Speaker at Winter Meeting

Annual Conference 2003 in Los Angeles

Grants Update

Agency News



Atlanta

As the job market came to a crashing halt in June of 2001, the growing number of downsizing companies led to increasing unemployment at all levels. Well-established resources existed throughout Atlanta for low-level through mid-management job seekers. However, there were few resources for senior-level management since many organizations opted to purchase outplacement services for these individuals. Executives expected these services to be sufficient to find new career opportunities. In this market, this has not been the case.

Jewish Family & Career Services (JF&CS) Atlanta was seeing an increasing number of clients who were former executives and who were out of work for more than a year. Severance packages were gone, 401K accounts were diminished, houses were in foreclosure, and individuals who never had to ask for resources were getting desperate. The agency did not have enough resources to address this issue one by one, so it searched for a workshop to meet the growing need while using existing resources efficiently.

In October 2001, JF&CS Atlanta established a partnership with Raymond James Financial Services Inc. to deliver a workshop geared to executive job changers. The program had two primary objectives: to deliver job-change strategies and financial information to

transitioning professionals who earned \$50,000 plus per year and to promote the strength of JF&CS' services and the principle of Tzedakah to the general community.

This 3-hour seminar is delivered at local Department of Labor Career Centers. Due to its popularity, it has also been delivered at several private corporations as part of the Department of Labor's Rapid Response program. It is geared to individuals who typically earned \$50,000 or more per year. It is structured as follows:

- Raymond James financial professionals present information in three primary areas:
 1. Managing Cash Shortfall
 2. Replacing the Critical Benefits
 3. Making the Right 401(k) Decisions
- JF&CS Atlanta career professionals present information regarding the following:
 1. Managing Career Transition and Change
 2. Job Search Process
 3. Tools

JF&CS Atlanta currently provides up to seven workshops per month at three different DOL offices. In addition, it has delivered the workshop to private corporations in the process of downsizing. To date, the agency has served over 800 individuals. Almost 10 percent of the workshop participants have become clients.

The program helps all partners meet their organizational goals. Raymond James has an opportunity to assist and form relationships with individuals who are likely to be in need of financial management services. Department of Labor provides the location for a service that embraces professionals and helps them get back on the tax rolls. JF&CS Atlanta has made over 800 new friends and attracted approximately 75 new clients. And, in this day of increasing anti-Semitism, the Jewish community has gotten exposure and had the opportunity to help the general community in an extremely tangible way.

Chicago

What is JVS Chicago doing with ESL in the corporate headquarters of a Fortune 500 company? JVS Chicago's Workplace Education department offers a variety of on-site classes customized to the language of nine companies in the metropolitan area. Primarily these classes focus on fixing the language deficiencies and communication problems and reducing technical errors of line staff. Often these employees reflect a low-level, minority, refugee population. However, Marilou Kessler, Director of JVS Chicago's ESL and Literary program, recognized the opportunity to expand the offering to limited-English speaking professionals and managerial staff. Thanks to JVS MetroWest, a pocket of state funds was identified that serve as an incentive to businesses to underwrite these classes.

The English-as-a-Second-Language program, redesigned and upgraded from the basic skills training program, has been taking place at the Walgreen Company. Many of their IT employees have immigrated from the far east and although technically skilled, their limited-English created difficulties for them and the company. Supported by a Workplace Enhancement Grant from the Illinois Secretary of State, and matched with funds from Walgreens, Effective Speaking gives Walgreens' Information Technology employees the opportunity to clarify their speech using exercises to redirect facial muscles, and modify and change speaking habits to make themselves understood. Other components of the class give IT employees the tools and ability to better understand idioms, write a memo, conduct a meeting, make a presentation, and be comfortable with the company's language and culture. Most of the students who enroll in the eight-week program have Asian, Russian or Hispanic backgrounds.

One of the students best expressed the benefit she received:

"I want to let you know that I really appreciate the pronunciation class I am attending. I have gained the most from this class of all the training classes that I attended here at Walgreens. Many others in the class share the same with me. We all felt that we have been making the effort to improve our pronunciation in many different ways, either by attending ESL classes or working on our own while studying or working in the U.S. This class has been the most effective one in helping us find the problems that we have and makes a difference in our everyday communication at work. At the same time, it is fun! We all really enjoyed it."

For additional information, call Marilou Kessler at (773) 743-5638 or e-mail mariloukessler@jvschicago.org.

Detroit

JVS Detroit was recently approved for a \$166,000 grant by the Detroit Empowerment Zone Development Corporation to provide down payment assistance and homeownership counseling to individuals residing in Detroit's Central Empowerment Zone. Empowerment Zones were created by former President Clinton to create self sustaining, long-term economic development in areas of pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress.

As part of the grant, JVS Detroit will provide \$3,000 to 50 Empowerment residents for the down payment on a home. The agency will also offer homeownership counseling, including a series of classes on home maintenance and financial strategies to balance a household budget, manage bills and recognize predatory lending practices. A key component of the program entails consistent follow-up with homeowners over several years to assist them in avoiding foreclosure on their home, a common problem among low income individuals.

"The Empowerment Zone Grant essentially removes the two major barriers to homeownership: the funds needed for the down payment and the strategies required to maintain a mortgage," said JVS Detroit President and CEO Barbara Nurenberg. It also enables JVS to expand its existing Downpayment Assistance Program and build new partnerships in the community."

Since 2001, JVS Detroit has helped more than 200 families achieve the American dream of homeownership with no money down.



JVS Detroit's Dorothy & Peter Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program, which serves older adults with a dementia disorder, recently received a Media Award for Local Accomplishments from the National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA). The honor recognizes the Brown Program's efforts to educate the community about the benefits of adult day care services through its video, "Adult Day Services: Enriching the Lives of Senior Adults".

The video documents the many life-enhancing services, such as meaningful activities for participants and support services for caregivers, which are provided by the nonsectarian Brown Program. In a unique partnership, the Brown Program is operated by JVS Detroit and Jewish Home & Aging Services, which each oversee a Brown Center.

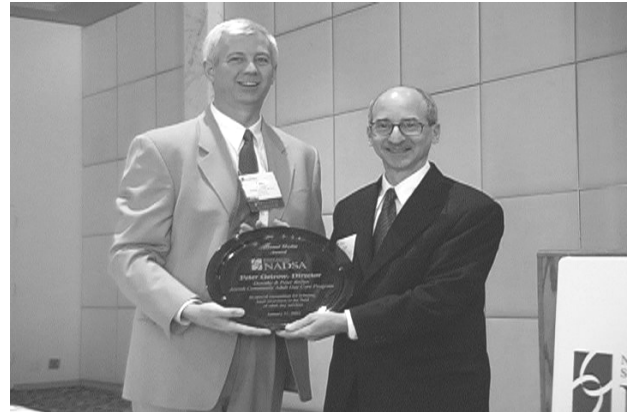
Through vignettes and personal anecdotes by participants and their families, the video demonstrates how adult day care programs extend the quality of life of people with Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders. It also outlines the importance respite has for people caring for an individual with memory loss. The video is being used by adult day care facilities throughout Michigan to educate people about the benefits of adult day care and the type of services available locally.

According to NADSA, the Brown Program was selected for the media award for advancing and positively impacting the field of adult day services. "The video gives a compelling and sensitive look at the benefits of adult day services for people with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Its production and distribution represents a considerable contribution to adult day services on a national level."

The adult day services video was funded by the Area Agency on Aging, Region 1-B, as part of a partnership to communicate the benefits of adult day services. It was produced by Victor/Harder Productions, an Emmy award-winning production company. Peter Ostrow, Brown Program Director, accepted the award on the program's behalf.

Since receiving the NADSA Media Award, the Brown Program has been receiving requests for the video from

all over the United States. For more information on Brown Program services or to purchase a copy of the adult day services video, please contact Peter Ostrow at (248) 559-5000 or postrow@jvsdet.org.



Peter Ostrow (right) of JVS-Detroit was proud to accept a national media award from Terry Stone, Executive Director of the National Adult Day Services Association.

Gulf Coast

Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services (GCJFS) has been awarded two grants by local workforce board in the Tampa Bay, Florida, region. The first grant funds two staff positions who assist hard-to-place individuals who are transitioning from TANF to unsubsidized employment. Many of these individuals have histories of mental illness and substance abuse. The second grant provides \$100,000 for eight months to help individuals who have completed vocational training but who have not found employment. Outcomes will be employment in the areas for which individuals were trained.



GCJFS has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Tampa regional workforce board for job development and placement for the universal one-stop customer.



In collaboration with the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, a network of 19 substance abuse/mental health agencies, GCJFS has been awarded TANF funding to identify individuals who are having difficulty securing or maintaining employment due to mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and to assist in obtaining services that will enable them to become job-ready.



At the request of the state of Florida, GCJFS has developed and opened a 16-bed intensive residential treatment program for seriously mentally ill elders. Funded by a \$1 million allocation, this new long-term treatment program expands the agency's continuum of services for the seriously mentally ill that includes two additional residential treatment centers, 63 therapeutic foster homes for seriously mentally ill adults in nine counties, and mental health overlay services into 25 nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Through direct appropriation by Congress, GCJFS has been awarded \$496,750 to establish a comprehensive program to improve the capacity of the Tampa Bay, Florida, region to identify, access, treat and protect non-English speaking refugees and immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. The agency will also develop the region's first batterer's intervention program for non-English speaking refugees and immigrants.

Through competitive bid, GCJFS is being awarded \$982,000 to be co-lead agency in Pinellas County, Florida (St. Petersburg, Clearwater) for the Community Care for the Elderly Program. Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services will provide case management for 900 frail elders under the Older Americans Act, helping elders with functional impairments receive needed services so they can remain in their own homes.

Louisville

The Career Services (CS) Division and the Multi-Cultural Services (MCS) Division of JFVS Louisville have developed creative and low cost measures of expanding its services to the international population. The CS Division recently arranged with the University of Louisville and its doctoral program in Counseling Psychology to "hire" a full time doctoral level student intern for the 2003 calendar year. Jean Morales, a native of Belize, will assist CS with various projects that relate to the design and development of career assessment tools and techniques for the international population. She will assist MCS in their delivery of group seminars and workshops that are designed to help diverse foreign-born populations explore career options, shape realistic and effective work and career goals, sharpen job search techniques, and enhance their economic self-sufficiency. MCS also recently hired three VISTA/AmeriCorps workers who will supplement services to the international population. These new staff members will enhance JFVS Louisville's functional capacity around volunteer recruitment, training, and coordination as well as curriculum development.

Los Angeles

With more and more Angelenos suffering the financial and emotional ramifications of unemployment, JVS LA has been commissioned by the Los Angeles Board of Rabbis to train area rabbis to assist their congregants regarding issues involving career, employment transition, and dealing with job loss or transition.

CEO Vivian Seigel briefed Jewish communal colleagues nationwide on JVS LA's successful Certified Nurse Assistant training program, at the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly in Philadelphia.

JVS LA's Skills, Aptitudes, Guidance, and Employment (SAGE) program for youth and young adults is reaching out to help Iranian Jewish students prepare for viable careers through career-planning and interest/aptitude

assessment programs at area schools and synagogues. The workshops began in November at Ohr Ha'Emet, a high school in Los Angeles, and Nessah, a synagogue in Beverly Hills.

More than 80 young professionals turned to JVS LA's FasTrak University for coaching and guidance in achieving their ambitions faster and more efficiently in FasTrak University's first series of career-development workshops. The next series will begin in early 2003.

In October, JVS LA debuted its JVS West Hollywood WorkSource Center, the newest WorkSource Center in Southern California. The Center provides training in skills like interviewing techniques, resume makeovers, and job-search strategies, free to anyone in Los Angeles.

JVS LA's innovative WoMentoring program won "Program of the Year" and \$1,000 at the International Career Development Conference of the California Career Development Association. Now in its fifth year, WoMentoring provides one-on-one support, personalized coaching, and encouragement to women moving from welfare-to-work, recent divorcees, budding entrepreneurs, and other women struggling to land a first professional job.

Los Angeles County awarded its two-year certification to the JVS LA's West Hollywood WorkSource Center, qualifying the center for ongoing County and Workforce Investment Act support.

Los Angeles County's Refugee Forum bestowed its Program of the Year award to JVS LA and the Jewish Home for the Aging for the collaborative Certified Nurse Assistant training program. Targeted at welfare recipients, the JVS-JHA program provides complete skills training and certification support enabling C.N.A. graduates to launch sustainable careers in the health care industry, with guaranteed employment.

JVS LA is cheering for a recent CoffeeWorks graduate, who was promoted to shift supervisor at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf.

JVS LA recently won more than \$300,000 in grants, including the following:

\$150,000 from Los Angeles County to expand the Certified Nurse Assistant (C.N.A.) training program, enabling JVS to provide more welfare recipients with the skills and certification required for permanent jobs as C.N.A.s.

\$121,193 from Los Angeles County's Workforce Investment Act funds to provide computer training, career-development and job-search skills training and support) to homeless people, ex-offenders, and people with limited English skills, through the JVS West Hollywood WorkSource Center.

\$15,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation to sustain CoffeeWorks, JVS LA's innovative job training program, which prepares people with disabilities for sustainable careers in the foodservice industry. This is Wells Fargo's second year of funding CoffeeWorks.

\$12,500 from the Liberty Hill Foundation to expand the CoffeeWorks training program to additional people with disabilities in need of sustainable careers.

\$10,000 from the Bruce Ford Bundy & Anne Smith Bundy Foundation to purchase assistive technology for use at the JVS West Hollywood WorkSource Center and at JVS' Santa Monica Assessment Lab, to enable vision- and hearing-impaired JVS LA clients to prepare resumes, conduct on-line job searches, and more.

\$7,500 from Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary to provide mature workers with scholarships toward the cost of computer training to upgrade their skills at JVS LA's state-certified SkillsPlus computer training center.

MetroWest

Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest, NJ, received a \$60,600 literacy skills training grant from the State Department of Labor to implement its new Customer Service & Literacy Skills Distance Learning program for unemployed and incumbent workers. An oversized check was handed to JVS MetroWest Executive Director, Ronald Coun, by the Labor Commissioner's Chief of Staff at a special presentation ceremony to highlight the Governor's commitment to customized training and literacy education for New Jersey's workforce. Over the coming year, 80 participants will engage in the CD-ROM/Internet based course at a local, shopping mall's Retail Skills Training Center. It is anticipated that graduates of the training program will be able to obtain employment or job upgrade in retail, hospitality, healthcare or other industries in which customer service skills are critical for success.

The JVS MetroWest program improves essential literacy skills (reading, writing, listening, communication, and basic computer skills) and teaches customer service and job seeking skills, utilizing specialized courseware that enables students to learn/study at their own pace -- anytime, anywhere. The CD-based content is provided through video lectures, role play scenarios, audio and text, supplemented by assignments and assessments, as well as an innovative Internet interface that enables each student to interact with other learners as well as the instructor through a private chat room and bulletin board. Administrator features enable "virtual instructors" to monitor student progress through the course and allow for the grading and reporting of student assignments and assessments.

The program was developed in consultation with the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) and the National

Retail Federation, and is consistent with standards established by the National Skills Standards Board and NIFL's "Equipped for the Future" framework. The course prepares students for the National Retail Federation's Customer Service Certification exam, which students will be eligible to take at the conclusion of the program.

There are four courses in the series: Customer Service & Communication Skills: an Overview; Customer Service Skills for the Retail Industry; Customer Service Skills for the Healthcare Industry; and Job Seeking Skills, which includes such lessons as "setting career goals," "resume preparation," and "successful interviewing." The courses can be used individually or in combination. Each course takes between 18-24 hours to complete, depending upon the reading level of the student, and not including optional instructor led chat room sessions.

Interested agencies are asked to contact Nancy T. Fisher, Director of Education and Training (ntfisher@jvsnj.org), to request a demo package or for additional information.

Middlesex

A Project of National Significance from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Development Disabilities has been awarded to JFVS Middlesex. The "JFVS One Community Integration Project" assists disenfranchised persons with developmental disabilities, who are committed to their faith, in becoming part of all aspects of community life. The scope of the project over a two-year period includes working with faith-based, non-traditional service providers that have never served persons with disabilities, to serve persons with developmental disabilities of their faith and other faiths.

JFVS Middlesex is partnering with the New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Council and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Adults with developmental disabilities, their family members and the project partners will form an advisory board for this project and assist project staff in reaching out to non-traditional service providers, the faith based community and volunteer organizations to increase integration into the community utilizing natural supports. JFVS Middlesex has a long history of working with persons with developmental disabilities through the B'Atzmi program, a social program for young Jewish adults with developmental challenges. These adults and their families were the impetus of this project because of tier experience with isolation and lack of acceptance from the faith-based community. It is recognized that the faith-based community could be an excellent source of direct service and natural supports.

Projects of National Significance are awarded to "cutting edge" projects for the development of information and referral systems; educating policy makers; federal

interagency initiatives; enhancement of participation of minority and ethnic groups in public and private sector; initiatives in developmental disabilities; and transition of youth with developmental disabilities from school to adult life. Projects are expected to increase community support and services, promote self-determination and productivity, and encourage interaction and collaboration among all sectors of the Developmental Disabilities field.

For further information, please contact Lisa Fiore, 732-777-1940 ext. 129.

Miami

Gourmet Kosher, a department of Jewish Community Services (JCS) of South Florida's Food Division, was the Exclusive Glatt Kosher Caterer for the 7th Festival of the Jewish Music at Sea Cruise. American Express Travel, Chabad Lubavitch of Florida and the American Society for the Advancement of Cantorial Arts co-sponsored the 10-day cruise to the Caribbean. "The Summit" a 5 star ship of the Celebrity Cruise Lines sailed to Philipsburg, St. Maarten -Castries, St. Lucia-Bridgetown, Barbados-Basseterre, St. Kitts and St. Thomas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

JCS of South Florida is hosting a special workshop for parents and teens to learn prevention and intervention dating violence tools. Topics to be covered include understanding the cycle of violence; dealing with peer pressure; the impact of drugs and alcohol on behavior and judgment; aspects of a healthy romantic relationship; communication skills; effective conflict resolution skills; building self-esteem; and strengthening life-affirming values.

The workshops' presenter, Janet Anguerira, LMHC, has lead various seminars in the community on a wide variety of topics, including blended families, body image, parenting children with special needs, helping children cope with divorce, improving parenting skills and dealing with adolescents.

In addition to the workshops, JCS of South Florida also offers a teen dating violence intervention and prevention program for schools, in grades 6 through 10. The school curriculum includes follow-up group therapy for interested students.

For more information about having a workshop or school program to help kids avoid teen dating violence, please contact Melissa Brail, LMFT, JCS of South Florida Program Director of Children's Services, 305-672-8080.

Minneapolis

JVS Minnesota (JVS MN) has received the highest re-accreditation level from CARF, the Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission. Among the highlights of a two-day survey, the JVS MN Vocational Rehabilitation program was commended for innovation, particularly in the area of empowering participants with a strong voice

in the management of the services they receive, as well as using standards as a minimum level to achieve, often moving well beyond them. CARF additionally recognized the excellent staff, management and Board of Directors as integral in achieving the highest level of standards. JVS MN is accredited by CARF and has held the highest level of accreditation since 1984.

JVS MN's Career Development has received re-accreditation from IACS, International Association of Counseling Services. Accreditation from IACS assures the highest level of professionalism in assisting persons looking for career coaching, career counseling, educational counseling, and dislocated worker services. JVS holds the distinction of being the only private agency in Minnesota that is IACS accredited.

JVS MN has compiled cumulative numbers from third quarter results for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services. As important as the strong numbers (106 compared with 81 served during the same period in 2001, 72 individuals served in the third quarter of 2002 compared with 67 in the third quarter of 2001) is the development of a handbook that allows participants to personally track their services. This innovative approach empowers participants by encouraging an active role in planning, implementing, and evaluating the services they receive.

JVS MN is pleased to announce that new brochures for the following services are available: Career Development; Dislocated Worker Services; Employment and Training; Refugee Employment Assistance; Scholarship Programs; Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment. These brochures further the marketing efforts of JVS and ultimately help JVS MN to assist more people in fulfilling their career potential. To receive the new JVS MN brochures please contact JVS MN at 952-591-0300 or email jvs@jvsmn.org.

JVS MN has been awarded a Welfare Innovations and Solutions for Employment (WISE) contract from Hennepin County in Minnesota. This program will facilitate assessments of welfare recipients to determine if the person has a disability such as mental health, learning, low IQ, etc. The WISE program will then assure that appropriate treatment is received. This will enable the welfare recipient to find and maintain employment to help break the cycle of welfare assistance. WISE is a joint venture between JVS MN and JFCS (Jewish Family and Children's Service), the parent agency for JVS MN.

JVS MN has been innovating ways to create new opportunities for employment. To enhance business-to-business communication with employers, JVS MN has created a new position that re-aligns employment services from contract-centered to strategic function-centered.

The charge is to market JVS MN with a whole agency/whole business approach. By taking the time and effort to understand each employer's needs and business goals, JVS MN is not only in a position to meet those needs, but also to identify needs proactively.

As employers get to know JVS MN and as JVS MN comes to understand the business needs of each employer, doors open. This is crucial now- when the economy is problematic. It positions JVS MN to create opportunity that creates savings and benefits employers, and develops cutting-edge opportunities. Work sites, collaborations, training programs, call centers and a long list of other potential services can be developed to fit specific needs and business goals. The bottom line for JVS MN is exciting. By positioning JVS MN as an integral business partner, JVS MN is helping to create opportunity for participants and diversify revenue.

Prior to this new initiative, case managers were handling the relationships between JVS MN and employers. Restructuring how employer relations are handled does three important things. First, it sends a message to business that developing relationships are of primary concern. Second, it allows JVS MN to showcase the depth and breadth of the entire agency rather than simply on a program level. Third, it helps to facilitate the work of case managers, allowing them to optimize outcomes.

Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Refugee Social Services recently awarded Jewish Employment and Vocational Service (JEVS) Philadelphia a contract for \$634,433 (through the Greater Erie Community Action Committee) to lead a collaboration with other refugee agencies to provide services to refugees, asylees, and victims of trafficking in Philadelphia and the surrounding region of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. The program, called the Philadelphia Region Refugee Provider Collaborative (PRRPC), will enable participants to access services within the community, both refugee-specific and mainstream, that lead to long-term, sustained economic growth.

JEVS Philadelphia's role in this innovative collaborative is to provide a holistic, client-centered program that directs and supports the effort of refugees to achieve economic independence in their new homeland. Thus, JEVS Philadelphia will provide clients with integrated employment services, such as computer skills training; English Language Training (ELT); mentoring; and job search, placement, follow-up and upgrades. A new component of the service continuum is case management, which will be provided by one of JEVS Philadelphia's subcontractors, Lutheran Children and Family Services (LCFS). A case manager will work with clients to help them overcome barriers to employment, such as family issues.

This new collaborative comes at a very good time for struggling agencies—with immigration down and communities of refugees finding assistance from neighbors and their local churches. With creative and strategic outreach efforts, the PRRPC hopes to attract these clients and offer them a wealth of experience, invaluable resources, communications and job-seeking skills, and professional knowledge of the local workforce. This will increase refugees' chances of finding quality work and wages, in a job suitable to the individual's background, all at no cost to them.

The PRRPC comprises JEVS Philadelphia, its two sub contractors, LCFS and the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Collaborative (SEAMAAC); and its project collaborations, HIAS and Council Migration Service, Nationalities Service Center and the Targeted Assistance Program (TAP). The Department of Public Welfare County Assistance Offices are also integral and essential parts of the PRRPC.

For more information, please contact Zoya Kravets, JEVS Philadelphia Program Director, at 215-728-4445.

Pittsburgh

Because of its excellent reputation in providing workforce development services since 1984, the Career Development Center (CDC) of JF&CS Pittsburgh was selected by Pittsburgh's CareerLink system leadership to join the network as a Community Center. CDC fills the system's need for services aimed at professionals and adds a physical CareerLink presence in Pittsburgh's East End. Community Center participants receive "core services" at no cost which include: access to the CDC resource library, computers, office equipment, vocational testing, workshops, job marketing and job placement assistance, and referrals to an extensive array of support services. For many individuals, experiences with the CareerLink system have resulted in a return to economic self-sufficiency.

JF&CS Pittsburgh also fills a regional need in providing culturally sensitive employment services and English language training resources to refugees and immigrants from a variety of countries and backgrounds. The United States Department of Justice has approved JF&CS to be a Recognized Immigration Center/Non-Profit Immigration Provider Organization.

The Community Center supports local and regional economic development activities by serving as a community-based extension of the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County workforce delivery system. The Center provides job seekers and employers with universal access to employment information and services as well as access to an extensive social service referral network. Our project partners, the Bureau of Employer and Career Services and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, offer clients services on-site.

San Francisco

JVS San Francisco (JVS SF) is partnering with Levi Strauss & Co. to offer intensive Vocational ESL to dislocated workers. Levi Strauss laid off about 100 garment workers after closing its San Francisco plant in June. Most of these workers are Chinese immigrants with limited English proficiency. Levi Strauss gave JVS SF a \$150,000 grant to develop intensive VESL classes to help these dislocated workers improve their English to qualify for better jobs and additional training. JVS SF leverages state funding to provide job placement assistance to these dislocated workers. In addition, JVS SF is partnering with a family support agency in Chinatown, also funded by Levi Strauss, to offer case management, childcare and other support services to the VESL program participants. The full-time VESL classes will be offered in two cycles – beginning and intermediate levels – over the next eight months. The program builds on over 11 years of providing VESL training, which emphasizes job seeking skills, workplace communication and acculturation.

UJC's GA Comes to Philadelphia

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