JAFCO COCKTAILS FOR A CAUSE. More than 100 supporters of JAFCO (Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options), gathered recently at the Longport residence of Linda and Don Brodie at the annual Cocktails for a Cause fundraiser at the shore. Above, godparents present at the JAFCO fundraiser gathered for a photo. (Photo by Bonnie Squires)

The video was powerful, making some of the guests gathered for the JAFCO, Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options, fundraiser in Longport last week begin to cry. “Letters to G-d” was the name of the video, and it told the story of Jordie, a beautiful little Jewish girl whose drug-addicted mother could not take proper care of her. Eventually, JAFCO helped Jordie find her Forever Mother.

More than 100 supporters of JAFCO gathered last Thursday night at the Longport residence of Linda and Don Brodie at the annual Cocktails for a Cause fundraiser at the shore.

You've heard of the Bermuda Triangle. Now take a look at the JAFCO Triangle, which includes Sunrise, Florida, the location of the JAFCO Children's Village; the Philadelphia region; and South Jersey shore points. Many of those attending the Longport fundraiser have visited JAFCO's Children's Village and been touched by seeing first-hand the ways in which children's lives are saved.

The goal is to find a way to re-unite families. When that fails, then expediting adoption is the goal, to insure safe and happy lives for the children. In between, caring and effective foster parents are enlisted. And the six group homes on the JAFCO campus are bright and cheerful and filled with children's creativity.

In creating the successful event, Donna Greenberg, Margate, and Carol Sussman, Ventnor, co-chaired a committee which included Cathy Backal, Brie Anne Brodie, Linda Brodie, Sally Feldman, Elaine Friedland, Cindy Gerson, Susan Green, Kris Gross, Linda Rubin, Karen Schwartz, Rachel Schwartz, Elaine Silverstein, Michelle Simon, Bonnie Squires, and Beverly Victor.

Sponsors included Linda Brodie, Debbie Casnoff, Kris Gross, Terry Auerbach, Cathy Backal, Sherry Bell, Sally Feldman, Elaine Friedland, Joan Gedansky, Marlene Goss, Donna Greenberg, Julie Nagorsky, Michelle Simon, Bonnie Squires, Carole Stamps, Carol Sussman, and Beverly Victor.

Gary Rubin, of PCA Industrial Paper and Supplies, generously provided all the paper goods. Circle Liquor Store in Somers Point donated all the wine, and Linda Novelli of RE/Max Platinum Properties picked up the tab for the rentals of all the chairs and tables. Beach Buggy provided some of the guests with transportation. And the hostess, Linda Brodie, paid for the valet service and a lot of other things, in addition to providing the gorgeous setting at her beach house.

Rana Bell, Northeast Development Director, and Kris Gross, co-chair of the Godparent Circle, were able to induct Donna and Lou Greenberg into the "club," and Herb Victor, who, with his wife Phyllis, had become godparents down in Florida, got "pinned" as well. Godparents make a ten-year commitment of $1,800 a year to support a JAFCO child.

The silent auction featured an interior design plan by Susan Green, jewelry by Terry Auerbach, art work, etc. The raffle prize baskets included, among others, items from Paper Chase, Kidrageous, Roberta's restaurant, and Leisure and Lace.

Sarah Franco, the founding director of JAFCO, which is now 21 years old, will be pleased to see how much the Northeast chapter has grown and how successful they have been. In fact, JAFCO is poised to open an office in the Philadelphia region to begin counseling families and children.