giving every child a place to belong...
To my JAFCO family,

Driving into the JAFCO Children's Village these past few months, I observed myself having what I thought to be a strange reaction to being in a leadership role during a global pandemic. On a personal level of course, I was devasted by the enormous, unprecedented loss of life and suffering happening in our world, and I found myself thinking about that a lot, especially while I drove to work on roads that were visibly empty. But then each and every day, something very odd happened the moment I swiped my access control card on the call box at the JAFCO Children's Village entry gate. One would think that being responsible for three sites in Florida and one in Philadelphia, thousands of children and families, including 28 children living on campus, plus worrying about the health and safety of all of our staff and their families, over $1m in cancelled or re-scheduled fundraising events, our inevitable year-end funding deficit, finding enough masks and hand sanitizer and so much more, you would think that I would feel extremely worried, anxious and stressed. But on the contrary, the moment that I took my seat at my desk in my office and looked out of the window with a beautiful view of the Village, I felt an immediate sense of peace and calm and hopefulness. The pandemic was “gone”. I noticed this and privately I will share with you that I was concerned that maybe I wasn't taking things seriously enough. I had thoroughly read and re-read every email from the CDC and Department of Health and double-checked that we were following every health and safety rule and procedure and had sufficient cleaning supplies and PPE. Everyone was emailing me and saying “things must be so crazy over there”... but they truly weren't. Sure we were busy, the staff were amazing, the kids were 100% healthy and being such great sports, our community families were all so grateful, it was almost as if the crisis was not the same inside of JAFCO as it was everywhere else and for the life of me, I couldn't figure it out. Was there something wrong with me, I wondered.

And then in the midst of literally thousands of emails and videos, jokes and songs that were part of the amazing creativity that emerged from the pandemic, I "accidentally" came across an old letter that Albert Einstein had written to his daughter, and it explained everything. He wrote:

Dear Lise,

There is an extremely powerful force that, so far, science has not found a formal explanation to. It is a force that includes and governs all others, and is even behind any phenomenon operating in the universe and has not yet been identified by us. This universal force is LOVE, this force explains everything and gives meaning to life. To give visibility to love, I made a simple substitution in my most famous equation. If instead of $E = mc^2$, we accept that the energy to heal the world can be obtained through love multiplied by the speed of light squared, we arrive at the conclusion that love is the most powerful force there is, because it has no limits. If we want our species to survive, if we are to find meaning in life, if we want to save the world and every sentient being that inhabits it, love is the one and only answer.”

Your loving father,

Albert

And there it was. To my relief there was nothing wrong with me.

My sense of peace and calm and hopefulness was not an illusion or a figment of my imagination. It was coming from a scientifically proven theory and a very reliable source, that the greatest force in the universe, even greater than a global pandemic, was in fact... love. And JAFCO has been overwhelmed with love over these past few months as hundreds of you reached out to check on the children and the staff, knowing your own challenges of caring for a family of 3 or 4 could only be multiplied as we cared for the 28 children living with us at the Village and Ability Center in addition to the literally hundreds of children and families in the community who we are calling and supporting every day. Your concern, generous financial donations to our emergency fund and gifts of food and toys were so appreciated by all of us, especially the children who saw the packages and the food deliveries arriving every day, and felt safe, and loved and cared for, not just by our amazing JAFCO staff but by the entire community.

While the rest of the world was rediscovering the importance of love and family, we already had known about that long before at JAFCO. The love that exists within the JAFCO family is like no other and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This edition of the JAFCO Journal is dedicated with love from the children to each of you. You are a part of everything we do, together as one loving community we give every child a place to belong.

With gratitude,

Sarah Franco
Executive Director
2019 Financial Performance

JAFCO is so grateful to have been able to serve 3,680 children and 2,683 adults and their families in one or more of our 25 programs at one of our four sites. Total children served to date is 12,666! We imagine a world where children are safer, where families are stronger and where any family in crisis can receive immediate, compassionate and truly helpful services. We are grateful to all of our funders and donors who make our work possible each and every day.

AGENCY REVENUES

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Net Revenues Over Expenses.............. $300,000

89 cents of every dollar you donate goes directly to our children.

Our administrative costs are 11%.

Expenses

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Net Revenues Over Expenses.............. $300,000
Beshert, My Two Bundles of Meant-To-Be

A JAFCO Children’s Village Journey

By Wendy Berkowitz, JAFCO Foster & Adoptive Parent

I always wanted to be somebody’s mother. Since I was six, I would fantasize about holding my baby, dressing her and loving her. I shared so much love and laughter with my own mother, Helen Ruset, that I wanted to have that with my baby. My dream baby was always a girl. We would have matching outfits, me and mini-me.

So when I found myself divorced at 40 with no children, all I could think was, “This is not my plan.”

I began my quest for Mr Right. I looked online, went on singles trips, and allowed myself to be fixed up. I never found him. Clearly, the universe had him going in a different direction.

After six years of looking for him, I decided to adopt a baby.

I had a successful home-based business and a four-bedroom house. It made sense, right? Except I was adopting a baby at 46 and my support system was my 80-year-old mother.

My mother was affiliated with an organization called Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options (JAFCO). I was planning to go straight to a private adoption. But, my mom said to me, “Become a foster mother. Help the child that has no one.” My first foster baby was a beautiful six-pound redhead, Sabrina, who was born with drugs in her system. I loved her. But after 15 months she was reunited with her birth father. That day, I kissed him on the cheek and wished him well. Deep inside, my heart was breaking. But soon after, JAFCO called me about a three-month old girl, Lena, who was found in a crack house with her 17-year old birth mother. God had a much better plan for me and Lena. We both needed each other. I needed to care and love Lena and she needed to be safe and loved. Certainly, we were a match made in heaven.

A few months later, my phone rings and it’s JAFCO. Little Bree was 10 days old, born in the back of a Winnebago. Did I want to take her home? I thought, “These people must be crazy, giving me two babies.” How would I manage? One of the best gifts I ever gave the girls was that they got to live with their bubby in our home until she passed away in 2016.

I was able to adopt Bree in 2011 and Lena in 2012. Those were two of the happiest days of my life. My girls will celebrate their B’not Mitzvah this December. Their theme is Hanukkah and I can’t think of two better miracles. I am kvelling, one proud Jewish mother of two beshert daughters.

CHILDREN’S VILLAGE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

625 Children & 68 Adults Served In 2019

Therapy Program

In 2019, JAFCO provided individual therapy to 41 children living at the Village and those who are also part of our other programs.

JAFCO therapists are trained in best practices and use a Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Approach in working with the children, helping them learn coping skills and resiliency to more effectively manage and overcome the trauma in their lives. Our children participate in individual therapy, group therapy, wellness activities including meditation, mindfulness and yoga, equine therapy, and when medically necessary, medication management provided by JAFCO Medical Director Dr. Daniel Bober.
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Children’s Emergency Shelter

Law enforcement received a call that Joey, a five-year old child was found alone with his twin two-year old siblings in the laundry facilities of the apartment complex where the family resides. 3.5 hours passed while law enforcement made multiple attempts to contact and locate the mother. Law enforcement finally spoke with the mother. She stated to law enforcement that she did not want her children and asked that they take them away. The mother has a history with child protective services and has been known to regularly leave the children alone to go out drinking; she has put wine coolers in the children’s bottles so they would go to sleep, and the children would eat cigarette butts as there was often no food provided and the home was observed to be in deplorable and hazardous conditions. The mother has not responded to the attempts to contact her and has never seen her children again since their placement at JAFCO.

In 2019, safety, was provided to 55 children ages newborn to 12 at the Marsh Children’s Center, the home of the JAFCO Children’s Emergency Shelter, a critical part of the JAFCO model, open 24 hours a day to receive up to 16 children at one time, at any hour of the day or night, 7 days a week. The shelter ensures that there is always a safe place for any child in our community in the event of an emergency and until a foster or adoptive family can be identified for these children including 12 newborn babies, who came to the shelter right from the hospital, completely alone in the world.

Since our JAFCO community allowed us to build and open our beautiful shelter in 2003, over 1,325 precious children have found a safe haven in our arms and have lovingly been provided a clean and warm bed to sleep in, cozy pjs, nutritious, delicious and enough food to fill their bellies, clean clothing, new shoes, medical care, transportation to and from school, help with homework, outings to the movies, the park, Disney on Ice, the beach, fun in the pool, birthday parties, holiday celebrations and anything that can begin to replace the fear, trauma and memories of violence, hunger, and being left home alone.

JAFCO is also unique in that in addition to accepting children from the state child welfare system, we will also accept children privately from a parent who is in crisis and is asking for help to keep their children safe from harm while they seek treatment or take the time to create a safer life for their children. JAFCO proudly and lovingly cares for all children regardless of religion, race or ethnicity but we also are the only agency in the country who provides for the unique needs of Jewish children in crisis offering kosher food, celebration of Shabbat and all holidays, providing Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations and an overall loving Jewish environment for all of our children with equal respect to honoring their cultures of origin.

Our amazing volunteers assist in the shelter with childcare, homework, cooking and organizing. Our donors provide diapers, clothing, school and camp and holiday gifts for the children. Our achieved outcomes for the children are for 100% safety, excellent medical care thanks to our wonderful pro-bono pediatrician Dr. Lisa Sirotta, and all the children showed improvement in school attendance and performance.

MST Program

The JAFCO Multi-Systemic Therapy Program is an intensive four-month in-home research-based therapy program (generously funded by the Children’s Services Council of Broward County) which aims to prevent out-of-home placement for at-risk children ages 10-18 who are struggling with negative pre-teen and teenage challenges such as truancy at school, aggression in the home, and early drug experimentation. JAFCO’s award winning team of therapists has received national recognition by providing intensive family support and teaching parents the skills they need to manage these difficult behaviors within the family setting, avoiding residential or court-ordered juvenile justice placements.

95% of the 90 children served in 2019 were able to remain safely in the home with improved personal functioning and increased family harmony.

Senior Caregiver Program

100% of the 30 children being raised by their grandparents were able to remain at home with their grandparents (or other senior relatives), which is the goal of this program.

Florida is ranked fourth in the nation for the number of children being raised by their grandparents. This program (funded by the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County) provides much needed supportive services to seniors who have taken on the difficult task of raising their grandchildren and keeping them from going into foster care. Services include weekly caregiver support groups, home visits, supervised visitation for the grandchildren and their parents, parenting training and support for the grandparents to understand addiction, mental health and codependency, 24-hour on-call crisis support, respite through after school and summer camp programs, assistance with legal custody, case management and referral for the entire family.
Group Home Program — we are growing up and doing amazing things!

The JAFCO Group Home Program at the JAFCO Jewish Children’s Village provides a home for up to 30 children in a beautiful gated residential setting. In one of the six group homes, each child has their own bedroom and bathroom for privacy and dignity and to increase safety. The Village is the only one of its kind in the Jewish community in the entire country.

Our 2019 outcomes for the 23 children who live at the Children’s Village and the 26 children who were part of our aftercare program are life-changing.

99% improved their functioning at home and school, making honor roll, having their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, celebrating Shabbat, Passover, Chanukah, and all the holidays, enjoying delicious homemade kosher food, playing on the local travelling volleyball, golf, rowing or lacrosse team, taking voice lessons, attending senior prom, getting a driver's license, the excitement of a first birthday party, getting their first job, first girlfriend or boyfriend, going to overnight summer camp, going on the March of the Living and Birthright, having wishes come true for eight nights of Chanukah, learning to cope and to trust again, expressing feelings in therapy, participating in equine therapy, learning independent living skills, choosing a career — all while coming to understand and accept their challenging family situation to the best of their ability.

Unlike the 30% graduation rate for children in foster care nation-wide, at JAFCO we are so proud that 100% of our high school seniors graduate high school and are heading for college, vocational school or a gap year program. Many of our alumni are now seeking post-graduate degrees and are successful professionals in the fields of business, social work, finance, hospitality, nursing and medicine. We have an alumni who has been elected to the JAFCO Board of Trustees and as a police officer he heads up our safety team teaching our staff how to protect themselves and the children in the event of an intruder. Another former child is a major donor in our JAFCO Godparent Circle and also a therapist. One alumni just graduated Wharton Business School and is looking for a career in private equity. One is proudly serving the State of Israel as a soldier in the IDF and one is a Lieutenant in the United States Army and proudly wore his Army Blues under the chuppah. We are so proud of them!

Independent Living Program

The JAFCO Independent Living Program teaches our children all of the skills needed for independent living using life coaching to show them how to budget, take care of their bodies, apply for a job, go on an interview, organize their home and their lives, shop for food, manage relationships and more.

100% of the 37 children served in this program in 2019 demonstrated improved independent living skills and increased confidence in their ability to take care of themselves.

During 2019, the JAFCO Independent Living Program was largely focused around Holistic Wellness and assisting the children to create their own wellness plans that they can sustain for their lifetimes. Throughout the year, various classes and activities were facilitated to provide new opportunities for the children to practice wellness from a mind-body perspective and help them to understand this concept. Such classes and activities included: meditation, yoga, stress management, understanding human trafficking, cognitive coping and the power of affirmations, building mindfulness skills, self-care, and healthy food preparation. The children continued to build their skills in other areas including vocational and career development by participating in a Career Panel event hosted by the Jewish Federation, volunteering at a local homeless shelter, and working closely with the Life Coach on building resumes, identifying employment resources, and interviewing skills.

JAFCO Alumni Austin Katz and his best friend Storm are proud graduates of the UF Fire Safety and Emergency Management Operations program. Congratulations Austin, we are so proud of you and look forward to seeing you change the world with this meaningful degree.
**Foster Care & Adoption Program**

JAFCO foster families make a selfless commitment to bring a child into their home and help a family during a time of crisis, the ultimate mitzvah. Children are referred by family members and friends, judges, community members and professionals, teachers and clergy. With the support of the JAFCO clinical team and the foster parents, about 50% of the children in our foster care program are reunited with their birth families, which is always the first goal of foster care as we move towards permanency for each and every child. About half of the reunifications are successful long term. The children who sadly re-enter the system are either placed with their previous JAFCO foster parents, placed at the Children’s Village, placed with a relative or in a more intensive treatment program if needed. To date, over 500 precious children have been part of the JAFCO Foster Care and Adoption Program which matches children from birth through 18 with incredible families willing to make either a temporary commitment as foster parents or a life-long commitment to adopt a child in need of a loving “forever family”. We are always in need of additional loving foster and/or adoptive families and have a monthly information meeting for prospective parents the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. JAFCO provides case management and 24-hour on-call support to our foster and adoptive families for the entire duration of the placement or until the child turns 18.

The desired outcomes for the 100 children served in our foster care, adoption and post-adoption programs in 2019 are safety, improved school performance, improved emotional functioning and permanency. They were all met at 100% in 2019.

**Family Preservation Program**

In 2019 JAFCO remained committed to increased safety and support for 307 children living at home while their family was experiencing some level of crisis or distress.

A plan is made by building on the family’s strengths and by providing an immediate in-home response comprised of an individualized, detailed, comprehensive plan created with care and concern for each family and implemented with expertise and compassion. Services are free of charge, provided by our JAFCO clinical case management team for as long as needed, often for years depending on the severity of the circumstances. After an initial team meeting at JAFCO with the family, in-home services begin immediately and may include safety planning, parenting and co-parenting support, food, clothing, housing, day care, after school care, summer camp, supervised visitation, therapy, case management and referral services, and support at any legal proceedings.

98% of the families served remained intact, with parenting skills strengthened, increased feelings of safety for the children, decreased isolation for the family from the other family members and from the community.

**Forever Friends Mentoring Program**

"I have been lucky enough to mentor 2 young ladies in the Forever Friends program and the experience has been incredible. I watched as they both grew and matured. JAFCO staff says my impact on their lives has been significant, but I have also been able to see first hand the wondrous work of JAFCO - how JAFCO has truly changed their lives. Working with the girls has also changed me. It has been a win-win experience," says Louise Allen, Forever Friend and Children’s Ability Center President Emeritus.

The Forever Friends program matches children residing in the JAFCO Group Home program with an adult mentor for a long-term meaningful relationship that provides love and support to the child as a result of fun biweekly outings.

100% of the 12 children in this program experienced an increase in self-esteem, improvement in school and in their relationships with other adults.
Services for Parents and Families
• 211 Connections Case Management Program
• Family Preservation and Strengthening
• 24-Hour On-Call Crisis Support
• Support at IEP Meetings
• Moms, Dads, Single Moms Support Groups
• Grandparents & Sibling Support Groups
• Group Home Placement Support Group
• Parent Education & Behavior Training Workshops
• Parents’ Nights Out & Family Fun Days

Enrichment Programs and Fun Activities for Children up to Age 22
• Artists Workshop, Sensory Art, Picasso at Heart
• Buddies and Beats, Drama
• Fun with Fitness, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Yoga
• Hip Hop, Move & Groove, Music Therapy
• Lego Club, STEM, Sensory Play
• Olympics, Here We Come!

Life Skills and Social Skills Classes
• Catering with a Heart
• Life Skills Jr. & Sr.
• Social Skills Jr. & Sr., Social Play

Respite and Camp Programs
• Respite – full day and half day programs on weekends & days off of school
• Date Night Respite – you go on a date, we watch the kids
• Overnight and Weekend Respite
• Extended Respite – available for up to two weeks per year
• Summer Camp Kehilla (Day Camp)
• Camp Kehilla Overnight Camp Experience
• Gap Camps—winter break, spring break, post-summer camp
• Respite House Emergency Shelter Placement

Therapies
• Music, Speech, & Pet Therapy

From Homelessness to Success
A JAFCO Children’s Ability Center Journey

When a single mother raising three children arrived at the JAFCO Children’s Ability Center, she was at the depths of despair. Having previously lost her home in a fire and living through periods of homelessness, this family was in a state of crisis. In addition to caring for her typical children, this mother had a 15-year-old daughter with an intellectual disability. This daughter required constant supervision and suffered with frequent behavioral disruptions with a loss of routine. The mother had persevered, worked hard and was slowly getting back on her feet when her relationship of more than 10 years had ended. Her partner had been a major contributor to their household income, and she was now unable to pay her bills. This took a tremendous toll on the family and was particularly difficult for their daughter who could not fully understand the situation. This concerned mother took pride in both her work and the care she was able to give her daughter. She felt anxious about taking on more shifts at work and putting her family through a lack of stability.

This could not have happened at a worse time. It was the beginning of summer and her daughter would soon be out of school. Fortunately, their JAFCO case manager quickly stepped in. She first helped to stabilize the family by providing services to help them thrive and advocated for a full scholarship to Camp Kehilla. This scholarship included before and aftercare services to offer a safe enjoyable place for the child while allowing the mother an opportunity to earn extra money and supplement her income. Additionally, the case manager arranged for weekend respite services to provide the mother a few days of relief from the stress of supporting her family and providing the intensive care for her daughter.

The case manager, in coordination with the Family Success Center, advocated with the mother’s apartment complex to pay her rent and avoid eviction. After seeing her work hard and still struggle, JAFCO helped to create a realistic, attainable budget while delivering flex funds to bridge the gap until she got back on her feet. The family was connected to a food stamp program and helped with clothing for all the children.

They are now secure in their housing, their mother is steadily employed, and the daughter is receiving all her necessary supportive services!
Starting on the day of diagnosis and continuing throughout childhood until age 22, parents no longer have to face the challenges of navigating the often stormy sea of needs and services alone as they raise a child with a developmental disability. A phone call will connect them with either a JAFCO 211 Connections Program social worker (funded by the Children’s Services Council of Broward County) or a JAFCO Family Preservation Program social worker who will meet with them and be available to them 24 hours a day/7 days a week for whatever support or referrals they might need for JAFCO programs or in the community. There is no charge for this service which touched the lives of 359 children and their families in 2019 thanks to the love and support of our amazing community. The media is filled with tragic stories of parents who were driven to desperate measures because they felt overwhelmed and helpless and had nowhere to turn, sometimes even ashamed or afraid to reach out to their own family and friends for support because things at home had gotten so out of control. That does not have to happen in our community because of the Children’s Ability Center. There is no situation that JAFCO will turn away without offering some support or services. Every family is important to us and working together we know there is hope. 2,175 children in 2019 were exposed to an entire array of child enrichment services including weekend respite, after-school clubs, summer camp, day, overnight and gap camps, music therapy, social skills and life skills training programs as well as speech therapy.

There were also services for their 1,268 family members — parents attending our support groups for moms, dads, siblings, single moms, and parents considering group home placement that meet both day and night allowing parents and 38 grandparents to laugh and cry together this past year in a place that was safe and where everyone understood exactly how they felt. Our Parent Behavior Training gave parents many of the same tools that an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapist uses, helping unveil the mystery behind behavior management and allowing 74 of our amazing parents to truly become behavior experts in a small intimate setting. Our Parent Education Series allowed 151 parents to learn more about their child's diagnosis, introducing them to experts on topics from sexuality in teens to school advocacy to MedWaiver applications and everything in between. On Parents’ Night Out, 91 parents made new friends sharing game night, gourmet meals and more all while knowing their children are safe and having fun at the Ability Center. SibShops are interactive workshops for the typical siblings of children with developmental disabilities. In these groups, siblings ages 6-13 years old have opportunities for peer support within a safe, fun-filled, recreational setting allowing children to feel supported and validated by other typical sibs who truly “get” the good and not-so-good parts of having a brother or sister with special needs. This year our 30 siblings even got to sleep at the Ability Center and totally had a blast, not wanting it to end. And last but not least, Family Fun Days generously sponsored by the Levitetz Family Foundation, occurred 4 times this year providing for 700 participants to spend the afternoon at the Ability Center, allowing their children to run around and have fun within the safety of our gates and enjoying meeting other families while engaging in fun social and sensory activities for an afternoon — without worrying about meltdowns or behavior.

Support Groups for Everyone!

Unless you are raising a child with a developmental disability, it’s unlikely that you will understand the challenges. That’s where a support group can be lifesaving and JAFCO support groups are the best.

In 2019, 252 moms, dads, siblings and grandparents attended these groups led by therapists Linda Sachs and Justin Kohlhagen and received the lifeline they needed. 100% reported feeling less isolated and more connected to their family members, with a deeper understanding of the disability and the challenges that all members of the family are experiencing.
Weekend Respite (aka Hanging Out with Friends on the Weekend)

The Children’s Ability Center is a beautiful facility offering children a gated, clean, state-of-the-art center where they can have fun, make friends, learn social and life skills, enjoy art, music, computers, outdoor play, organic gardening and other activities. While their children are safe and having a blast, parents can also enjoy some adult time with a much-needed break by spending time with friends and family or maybe even relaxing at home...alone. We are ALWAYS available to you! Parents can schedule for an evening to go on a date, a half or full day, a Saturday or Sunday, an overnight or an entire weekend, or even for one or two weeks at a time. JAFCO will adjust our schedule to your needs. Just ask us in advance and we will make your night out happen! Our Boys Night Out and Girls Sleepover Parties in our beautiful six-bedroom, six-bath guest house are so much fun for the children, many of whom are away from home for the first time.

In 2019, 382 children participated in this program and 100% of them demonstrated improvement in their activities of daily living, communication, behavior and social skills.

In 2020-21 two additional overnight respite homes will be constructed allowing us to have 18 children overnight at one time. Our gratitude to the Berman and Lindzon Families for providing $2 million of seed funding to start to build these two additional homes. We know our respite beds have been very full this year and we apologize. The reason is that this past year 4 children who were abandoned in foster care came to live in our respite home on a temporary basis while the state identifies a foster family or permanent group home for the 3 who remain. If not for the Ability Center we’re not sure where they would have gone, let alone thrive from the excellent care and love they are receiving. We realize their placement has reduced the availability of overnight respite beds and appreciate the collective love of our CAC family giving up some overnight respite time in order to allow us to care for these children who do not have a family that can care for them at this time. We are moving our new respite home construction along as fast as we can and hopefully can open in late 2021, despite a small delay caused by global health concerns earlier this year.

After-School and Weekend Affinity and Creative Arts Clubs

In 2019, 769 children attended one or more of our after-school and weekend social clubs, all focusing on making friends while enhancing communication and social skills by allowing the children to participate in an activity they enjoy.

Every child has something that opens their heart, their creativity, or their mind. JAFCO is committed to creating as many clubs as necessary to make that connection with the children, whether through sports and fitness in our Soccer or Fun with Fitness Clubs, through science in our Science, S.T.E.M or Lego Clubs, through food and cooking in our Organic Gardening or Lil Iron Chef Clubs, through art in our Artists Workshop or Picasso at Heart Clubs, or through drama in our Rising Stars and Broadway Here We Come Clubs. Other affinity-based clubs are available and new ones can be created based on child and parent requests and interest.

Social Skills Program

The Social Skills Program at the Children’s Ability Center utilizes research-based methods of teaching social skills, play skills, conversation skills, and perspective-taking skills to increase children’s independence in social settings.

In 2019, 285 children increased their ability to initiate and maintain conversations, play games while demonstrating appropriate sportsmanship, and cooperate to be part of a group activity.

Our Social Hangout, Social Play, Teen Talk and Social Skills and Cooperative Games groups follow a schedule of activities based on an ABA curriculum of an open circle, gross motor play, board games, art activities, and video modeling/role playing. We offer training for parents to encourage their child to generalize the skills learned in the program to further their progress at home, school and in the community.
Camp Kehilla
Day, Overnight and Gap Camp

In 2019, Camp Kehilla provided campers with a fun, safe and exciting summer, while increasing their social and life skills, exposing them to new experiences and allowing them to make friends. Camp groups operate on a 1:1 camper to adult counselor ratio, enhanced by teen mentors. Activities include Life Skills and Safety, Social Skills, Music Therapy, Sports, Sensory Carnival, Petting Zoo, Water Play, Fun with Food, a Talent Show and so much more. Some families are eligible for camp scholarships through the MOST Program Funding provided by the Children’s Services Council of Broward County. Parents wanting their child to experience the fun of a sleep-away camp, without sending them too far away just yet, can enroll their child in a twelve-day session of Kehilla overnight camp. The camp fun continues into the night in our beautiful 4,000 square foot air conditioned “camp cabin” for the six lucky overnight campers who will each enjoy a two-week overnight stay in their own private room and bathroom, with a minimum of two 24-hour awake adult staff to ensure their safety while parents take time alone, their very first trip away together as a couple or spend time with their typical children, friends or family members.


Life Skills

The JAFCO Life Skills Program is for children ages 14-22 years old, teaching them skills to promote independent living and employability, social and functional communication and to collaborate with others. Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) such as visual supports and fading prompt dependency, are used to work with youth who are able to work in a three-to-one child-to-staff ratio to help them develop independent living skills. Home support from our ABA team is available to parents to help reinforce and generalize newly learned skills into the home environment.

In 2019, 100% of the 76 youths in this program increased their skill levels in the areas of culinary, office, and laundry skills as well as leisure skills, communication skills and social skills with their peers both at the center and at home.

Music Therapy and More

Our Music Therapy Program in addition to Buddies and Beats, Hip Hop and Move and Groove offers a dynamic motivating and enjoyable music experience that promotes relatedness, relaxation, learning, and self-expression to allow children to develop a sense of autonomy, identity, and confidence.

In 2019, 206 children attended our music programs and 100% showed improvements in the areas of language skills, social skills and positive behaviors.

Catering with a Heart (and a Cart)

Thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Broward County through the Yetta Sher Solutions Award the Catering with a Heart Program was created to provide catering and employability skills to our high functioning teens and young adults ages 16-22. The teens have already demonstrated their entrepreneurship skills by creating a Catering with a Heart Cart where they sell snacks and homemade treats to the staff and parents at the Ability Center using a rolling cart. Look for a future CAC Café serving cappuccino, ice cream and baked goods! Our graduates will also be working in a variety of tasks at Illuminate, the new event center next door.
By Wendy Jenkins, LCSW, JAFCO Director of Operations and Clinical Services

For this past year, I have had the honor and privilege of helping to create our newest JAFCO site called Eagles’ Haven and watch it grow from an empty storefront space into a beautiful life-saving wellness center. Please come inside and join me for a private glimpse into the heart of Eagles’ Haven...

It begins each and every morning with a special ritual as the center comes to life, with a pristine standard of cleanliness, the tranquil glow of candlelight that gently flickers in every room, aromatherapy and soft spa-like music that permeates throughout the lifelike mountains and forests that stand forever present on the walls, hoping to create the optimal environment for wellness and healing as we welcome in the uncharted, difficult day ahead. The Eagles’ Haven team gathers together to begin each day with a morning meditation of relaxation and tranquility, part of their own necessary wellness practice. We dedicate each day to the 17 amazing human beings who lost their lives at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on 2-14-2018 due to an unspeakable tragedy.

“For it has been said that each of us dies two times. The first time is when we breathe our final breath. The second time is when the last person speaks our name out loud.”

As we set our intention for the day to honor the lives of each victim, we are sure to keep them alive in our hearts by saying their names, one by one, out loud as we are keenly aware of a community shattered by the loss of life, loss of hope and loss of safety. We remember as the world stood still on that fateful day, reeling with pain as we watched the families of the victims grieve; our community stood beside them grieving too, and we still do. For the families of the victims of the MSD shooting and all the mass shootings around the world, life gets harder each and every day. For all of us, life will never be the same. But together we have begun the healing process as we open our doors to all the families of the victims, their friends who live with the guilt of just having survived, and the entire community who carries them within their hearts. No words can truly describe the intense suffering, but also the beautiful healing that occurs every single day as one by one, members of our community, students, teachers, parents, family members and first responders cross over the threshold into the safety and serenity of Eagles’ Haven, providing hope and strength for all who find the courage to enter and take the first step on their journey to healing.

People often ask me what it is that people are feeling and doing inside of Eagles’ Haven beyond the candles and the music and the snacks and cappuccino. What is our treatment approach? The answer is simple, yet complicated to put into words. Lovingly powered by the 27 years of strength and experience from JAFCO’s work in our community with families in crisis, Eagles’ Haven goes deeper than what has been the best practice approach of Trauma Informed...
that is culturally grounded, spirituality centered, and involves civic action and collective healing focused on the restoration of identity. This approach discourages us from viewing trauma solely through the lens of harm and rather encourages us to focus on asset driven, strengths-based approaches that emphasize the possibilities for nurturing our well-being and promote healing. Simply put, this model of care encourages us to focus on our many inner strengths instead of allowing our past trauma to define our future. Additionally, it relies on having a beautiful space to connect with others, one where it feels safe to allow ourselves to be in touch with our feelings and experience the benefit of wellness activities.

At Eagles' Haven, we are heart-focused on promoting healthy social engagement and connection with others as the central core and secret recipe for wellness, one that is validated by research. Our mission has been to help the community rediscover wellness and restore hope. We see every interaction with each person we meet as an opportunity for healing, starting with that first hello, as they take that courageous first step into the center.

As a new day begins, Erica, a concerned mother walks in with her teenage son Bryan who cannot even look at us. Barely making it through the front door, the mother and son cannot take one more step. They are frozen right in their tracks. Immediately Victoria, who runs the center for us at the front desk, is aware just by looking into the eyes of this child, that we have one and only one chance to connect with him and save his life. Victoria says, “please take a seat... you came to the right place... you are not alone... we are here for you and we can help.” as she stands in the hallway, outside the office doors she is already communicating to everyone available from our team of 6 clinicians to come out to the lobby. She calls to see if Rebecca, Halle, Melissa, Greg or Phyllis are free; they can tell by her calm yet concerned tone what is happening, take a deep breath for strength, and smile as they walk out to the lobby, ready to take on whatever is going to happen. Sometimes only one of our staff is available because the center is busy, but if two or more Navigators are available that is our preference as the parent and child typically will need their own private time. We call our staff “Navigators” and not therapists or clinicians for several reasons; the first being that although they need it, most people don’t want therapy after a shooting — it’s simply too scary. And the second is that our Navigators have a different job than a traditional therapist, and although they are trained in therapy, they have the critical task of helping people slowly navigate their way back to life.

As the living room lobby fills with a few smiling faces of our team, comforting offers of snacks and hot tea, hot chocolate and cappuccino are presented as we all settle in and take our seats, right there in the lobby. As she realizes that something is about to happen, Erica, who has been strong for two years as she faced this on her own, is now crying and unable to compose herself. But through the tears of this worried mother, we learn that Bryan has not slept since the shooting and is distancing himself from family and friends. He also refused to go to school this morning and had told his mother at breakfast that he wishes he had died on the day of the shooting. And once again we hear the all too-familiar story that this is a child who was once so full of life; he played varsity football and was a straight-A student destined (on full scholarship) for an Ivy League college with a zillion friends. His mother shares that she is paralyzed with fear as she stands by helplessly watching the eldest of her four children fall deeper into depression with each passing day. And then when she finally found the courage to ask the question that every high school parent is now supposed to ask their children, “do you have thoughts of dying or suicide?” and the answer was “yes”, she knew that she had to do something immediately and so she took a chance on Eagles’ Haven. The Eagles’ Haven Navigators are fully aware of the possible consequences this child and family face, and that this is a moment that could determine the life or death of this child and they have the chance to influence the outcome. They are sure to exude safety and compassion while maintaining composure and continually assessing their words and non-verbal communication, as well as their body posture and even how their hands are placed — looking for just the right moment for a touch or a much-needed hug. The Navigators regulate their own breathing (as they have been trained to do) in order to help someone through a moment of crisis.

Watching his mother fall apart and sensing that he can no longer avoid the pain of dealing with his feelings, Bryan’s eyes also begin to well with tears accompanied by deep sobs coming directly from his soul. He finds the courage to stand in the light of his own truth and share with all of us that he cannot bear to walk into his classroom even one more time as each and every day he re-experiences the sounds of the gunshot and the vision of his classmate and best friend lying lifeless and covered with blood in his arms, just as he did on the day of the shooting. He has lived with this for two years, every single day.

The Navigators remain fully present and available, listening intently and validating every word and feeling, connecting a lifeline...
EAGLES' HAVEN

Eagles' Haven honored the second anniversary of the tragedy with a day of meditation, massage, art and community.

Lovingly powered by JAFCO and compassionately funded by

In 2019, 2,051 unduplicated clients were served in one of our programs and 5,955 (duplicated) participants enjoyed all of our programs offered “8 days a week”.

Crisis Support

84 Children and Adults were in Crisis and received immediate walk-in crisis intervention, safety plans and clinical referrals and over two dozen suicide plans were averted by our clinical team.

Wellness Experiences

571 Children, Teens and Adults participated in Wellness Experiences such as Pet Therapy, Kickboxing, Exercise Classes, Yoga, Tai Chi, Meditation & Mindfulness, Reiki Healing, Blender Bike Smoothie Making, Zumba, Qi Gong, Acupuncture, Aromatherapy, Relaxing with Art, Open Mic Poetry and Singing, Stress Management, Chair Massage, Boot Camp, Photo Journaling, Vision Boards, Cooking, Flower Arranging and Family Game Nights.

Support Groups

Support Groups for 68 Teachers, Students and Parents took place throughout the year and specialized groups for grandparents, alumni, and the families of the victims were also made available.

Trauma & Wellness Education and Workshops

1,097 Participants attended Trauma Information and Education during ongoing workshops on topics such as communication, parenting, understanding trauma, loss and grief, survivors’ guilt, self-care, wellness, the value of therapy, breath work, trial preparation, and more.

Navigating Services/Case Management

168 Clients received Navigation Services/Case Management where our clinicians provided intensive, hands-on, non-acute crisis intervention, clinical case management which includes a comprehensive care and safety plan and appropriate referrals to any and all needed services to assist the individual and family according to their individual needs. Eagles' Haven “navigators” work with the family for as long as necessary to provide ongoing care, ensuring the person or family is receiving and satisfied with the support services that were provided to them.

Thank you
Imagine that your dinner, event, meeting or conference could help change the world by supporting children with developmental disabilities and their families in our community.

Our exquisitely designed ballroom space reflects a tasteful, contemporary backdrop for all of your décor preferences.

As the sun rises or sets during your event, our state-of-the-art lighting system will transform the look and feel of your room creating a unique experience for every guest.

In moments big or small, our Illuminate event venue has the flexibility to enhance:
- An intimate dinner for 100
- Social celebrations for 250
- A business conference for 300

NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS
954.226.9925

For more information contact JAFCO Venue Manager Michael Moran at 954.226.9925 or michael@jafco.org.

Located within The Shirley & Barton Weisman and Family Event Center
JAFCO Children’s Ability Center • 5100 N Nob Hill Road • Sunrise, FL 33351
Dan, a father of four children contacted us for support when he and his family were facing eviction. The parents had been struggling to make ends meet and were extremely overwhelmed. The four children were all sleeping in the same bedroom in a small apartment in the city. The father had recently lost his job and the mother works 12 hours a day in a factory to support the family. Having immigrated to the U.S., they have no family support and minimal resources. Upon receiving the call, our social work team immediately arranged an intake with the father to offer our help and guidance. Before the week was over, we filled their refrigerator with food, gave the children new backpacks and school supplies and gifted them wrapped Chanukah presents. We also helped Dan apply for new jobs and made an arrangement with the landlord to prevent eviction. The family was so grateful for our support and intervention. Dan shared that seeing his kids sneaking over to shake the Chanukah presents to see if they could figure out what was inside was a sight he never thought he would see. He shared the following sentiments with us: “I just wanted to say a big thank you to you all for the beautiful gifts, school supplies and your caring for our family. The children will have a brighter Chanukah thanks to your efforts. We appreciate so much all you do. You are a godsend to our lives. I cannot express how grateful I am.”

Another Family Saved...

Our team of Social Workers in the Northeast has been working with an Orthodox Jewish family who is Spanish speaking, over the last two years, providing personal support as well as access to additional needed services. At the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown, a partner service provider reached back out to us stating that the family, with three young children, was facing heightened challenges, with the loss of the breadwinner’s employment leaving the family unable to pay their rent and in danger of losing their legal status in the United States. The JAFCO Social Workers were able to connect the family to much needed support, finding an organization to cover their rent payment and assisting in finding a new job. In addition to the gratitude expressed by the family to our team, our partner service provider told JAFCO, “YOU did what I didn’t know how or couldn’t do!! THANK YOU!!”

We are so grateful for our Philadelphia Partners

Parenting a special needs child comes with its own unique set of challenges, but with shelter-in-place orders, it has never been harder. JAFCO is committed to sharing resources to help parents during quarantine. We have partnered with Whole Community inclusion, JCHAI, JFCS, and Philly Friendship Circle to provide weekly virtual parent support groups geared toward the specific challenges of parenting special needs children during the pandemic. They help to make parents feel supported from the comfort of their own home.
Family Strengthening Program
The JAFCO Family Strengthening Program provides free, intensive in-home support services to at-risk families in Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. The goal of this program is to strengthen and empower families to overcome challenges.

Our master’s level clinicians:
• Guide and support families through difficult transitions such as divorce, death, illness or incarceration
• Help families navigate difficult systems by linking them to resources and advocating for their needs
• Offer 24-hour availability and support to families in times of crisis
• Can provide services for as long as necessary and as often as necessary

Services include but are not limited to: supportive counseling; family safety planning; parenting support; support for families raising a child with special needs; support for grandparents or other relatives raising their grandchild/relative; information and referral (education, day care, after care, camp, employment/vocational needs, mental health, or addiction treatment); support with legal and custody issues; and homelessness prevention. JAFCO’s social worker is available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week to assist in any emergencies.

Parent and Relative Caregiver Support Groups
These groups provide an opportunity for parents and relative caregivers to share their feelings, fears, and experiences. These groups target parents of children with special needs and grandparent/relative caregivers, providing a safe space for difficult conversations, emotional support, and reflective listening. Topics of discussion include (but are not limited to): self-care, combating isolation, communicating with your support system, educational advocacy, sibling dynamics, and preparing for your child’s future. Sessions also include exercises in mindfulness relaxation.

Support Groups for Siblings of Children with Special Needs
The Sibling Support Group (SibShops) provides typical siblings of children with developmental disabilities a safe space to talk about their feelings with other children who share their experience. This group offers opportunities for siblings to gain support within a safe and fun environment where they can meet new friends who can understand what they are feeling. The group provides activities that will help to identify both the positive and challenging aspects of having a brother or sister with special needs, understand more about disabilities, and learn how they can have a more meaningful relationship with their sibling.

Supervised Visitation Program
JAFCO’s Supervised Visitation program provides scheduled, monitored visits between a child and a non-custodial parent or family member, as ordered by the court or on a private basis. JAFCO provides a safe and structured environment for the visit while working with the family to ensure that all guidelines set by the court or referring agency are followed.
This beautiful Silver Lining experience illustrates how adopting a child can change the world, one child at a time. JAFCO Foster and Adoption Specialist Katie Ginsburg had the privilege of attending an adoption hearing for one of our children, Baby Vivian, who has been in foster care since she was born, and she was finally adopted by her foster parents... via Zoom!

This family visited her every day in the NICU until she was discharged to their home. From that moment on they have cared for her and loved her as if she were their own. Now ten months later, they can finally call her their daughter!

As with all of our foster and adoptive families, we were able to support the foster parents in providing a safe home for this sweet baby and, due to her fragile state, she was also cared for by our loving staff in our shelter during the day while her foster parents were at work. We have watched her grow over these last 10 months into a strong, talkative, and engaging baby who has met all her milestones despite the traumatic way she was brought into this world. This is what the love of foster parents can do when strengthened by the never-ending support of all of you, our incredible JAFCO family.

This truly is an example of a life-changing community endeavor and we would like to acknowledge our entire JAFCO clinical team for the nurturing support they gave this little girl and her family. This is actually the second adoption we facilitated during the pandemic, reminding us that the world will go on because the children that need us, have all of us.

5 Steps To Become a Foster Or Adoptive Parent

1. Contact us
2. Attend an Orientation
3. Attend a Training Program
4. Complete a Home Study
5. Open Your Heart & Home to a Child

Adoptive families make a lifetime, legal commitment to a child. JAFCO participates in both state and private adoption. State adoption implies that the child is in the custody of the state of Florida, typically involving older children. Private adoption implies that the birth parents are voluntarily making the choice to place their child (usually newborns) for adoption.

We provide complete support and case management services to our foster and adoptive families, including monthly support group meetings and 24-hour on-call availability.

If you or someone you know might be interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please contact us! Informational orientations are held once a month at the JAFCO Children's Village in Sunrise and in our Northeast Communities Office.

For more information in South Florida, contact JAFCO Foster & Adoption Specialist Katie Ginsberg at katie@jafco.org or in Pennsylvania, contact JAFCO Site Director Rebecca Salus at rebecca@jafco.org.
Safe at Home at the JAFCO Village

We want you to know that at JAFCO we never considered ourselves to be “stuck at home” but rather we preferred to say we are all “safe at home” and, not only are we safe, we are actually doing well. We are focused on feeling grateful for living in our beautiful homes, we have plenty of food, we have virtual access to our education and lots of fun recreational activities, we are surrounded by people who love and care for us and we are aware that there are those who are not so lucky, and of course those who are ill. We wake up every day and remind ourselves of the words of Abraham Lincoln that… behind the clouds, the sun is still shining.

Neither snow nor rain nor pandemics...

A Philadelphia family with 2 children reached out to JAFCO for help after receiving an eviction notice. They did not have a backup plan or means to move, and at the same time, their daughter was pregnant with a baby due in four weeks. Without hesitation, JAFCO immediately offered support to this family by advocating on their behalf for both legal and financial help. When COVID 19 hit, their eviction was put on hold and they were allowed to remain in their home.

However, the family’s situation became even worse when the husband became emotionally and verbally abusive towards the mother. JAFCO quickly (and virtually) assessed the safety concern in the home and created a safety plan with the mother. During this time, a JAFCO social worker was working quickly to reach out to legal centers and women’s advocacy agencies to get as much information as possible to obtain a Protection from Abuse (PFA) order. The JAFCO social worker supported mom at the domestic violence unit while the PFA was being filed with the courts. The petition was granted, the husband left the home willingly and voluntarily, until the family could receive the needed supports and therapy.

The family was now feeling safer and extremely grateful of the support provided by JAFCO. The mother explained to the social worker that she would not have been able to do any of this without JAFCO’s help and advocacy. JAFCO will continue to check in on the family and offer much needed support and guidance during these times and beyond.

The Kids are Smiling

All of our staff at JAFCO Children’s Ability Center know we are lucky to have the resources to provide unique opportunities to families during these uncertain times for one reason and one reason only. We are aware that none of this would be possible without the support of our entire JAFCO family who collectively and unconditionally loves all of our kids as if they are their own. Our ability to give every child a place to belong even during a global pandemic reflects your continuous love and generous hearts and reminds us that when we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.

Our entire Ability Center team continues to offer daily virtual children’s classes via Zoom including music, yoga, social time, tennis and fitness, as well as SibShops for our typical siblings. We get to see the smiles on all of our kid’s faces... the faces that we all miss so much! It is amazing to experience first-hand the level of happiness that our children have despite all that is going on in the world. We can learn a lot from them.

The best part of each Zoom session is when our instructors begin the class by individually connecting with each one of our children by calling out their names and welcoming them and complimenting them for attending and participating. Our sessions are so powerful because they are not only including the children, but the entire household, including the pets, since we’re all at home together. Additionally, we are so excited to be engaging children who typically have a challenging time participating in structured activities by providing the opportunity to freely enjoy themselves for the entire duration of these sessions — sometimes giving Mom or Dad or Grandma just a few moments to relax.

It is so rewarding to know that these groups, classes and activities are what the kids and families are looking forward to... they say they actually count down the days until we meet again. How awesome is that?

A Whole Lot of Loving — From the Centners!

The biggest thank you to David and Leila Centner for protecting the children from the impact of the pandemic by funding an endless stream of fun new activities and toys for the children at the Village including ping pong, foosball, volleyball, hoverboarding, air hockey, a bounce house for the little guys and so much more! What a brilliant idea to help the children cope with the pandemic with daily surprises just popping up to brighten their day. And also what a beautiful way to let the children know how much you care about them. They definitely felt the LOVE.

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Gale Tucker
Lynne Ulberall
Jessica & Carlos Ushdi
Aaron Vaisman
Melanie & Ronald vanderValk
Daniel Veitia
Beverly & Saul Victor
Phyllis & Herbert Victor
Patricia & Charles Vogel
Andrea & Leonard Volin
Carol & Harlan Waksal
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Wendy & Steven Walin
Haley & Adam Walker
Kathleen Walsh
Penny & Jim Walzer
Erica Wander
Elinor & Mort Wapner
Rebecca Wassermann
Scott Wechsler
Kimberly & Todd Weicholz
Scott Weicholz
Melissa Weidhorn
Doris & Ernste Weilheimer
Lourdes & Jeffery Weiner
Dodie Weinstein
& Robert Goldberg
Jackie & Alan Weinstein
Ruth & William Weinstein
Jennifer & Eric Weinstock
Liz & Irwin Weiser
Gabrielle Weisfeld
Susan & Bradley Weisman
Shelley & Denny Weismar
Amy Weiss
Barbara & Pete Weiss
Lisa Weisser
Regina & Robert Weissler
Sheryl & Mark Weitman
Marilyn Wiener
Cheryl Willner
Nancy Wittenstein
Alix & Jorge Wolf
Vicki & Joel Wolff
Carol & Arnold Wolowitz
Gail Wilson
Susie Wool
Barbara Yolles
Annette Youngentob
Cindy & Marty Zackowitz
Beverly Gordon Zalonis
Barbara & Mark Zand
Kathleen Zanoff
Ruth Zelcer
Randi Zemsky
Amy Zimmerman
Barbara & Paul Zimmerman
Ronnie & Michael Zindorf
Marilyn & David Zinn
Maria Zittle
Elsa & Peter Zoberg
Maribel & David Zoberg
Barbara & Stephen Zohlman
Roxie & Noel Zusmer

Due to space restrictions we have not listed all of the hundreds of generous donors below $1,000, but please know that from the very bottom of our hearts, JAFCO appreciates every dollar and every diaper that is donated.

It is ONLY because of the generosity of our amazing community that the children are so well cared-for and that we can provide the quality programs that we do.

If you cannot find yourself on the donor honor roll, please feel free to call me directly and we will find it together. As a hint, look in a higher category, most of our donors don't realize how their annual donations add up! If we have made any errors, please let me know personally, we can still make changes to the electronic version of the newsletter. I hope you enjoy it.

Warmly, Sarah Franco, Executive Director 954.315.8680

JAFCO's mission is to care for abused and neglected children and those with developmental disabilities in the Jewish community while working in partnership with families in the entire community. JAFCO provides a full continuum of high quality services including foster care, adoption, family preservation, mentoring, independent living and developmental disability programs. The JAFCO Children's Village, consisting of an Emergency Shelter and Six Group Homes, is one of the most unique and innovative programs in the nation. The JAFCO Children's Ability Center supports families raising children with developmental disabilities by providing family enrichment, resources, and respite care all within one state-of-the-art center. The Eagles' Haven Wellness Center is lovingly powered by JAFCO and is made possible with the generous funding of United Way of Broward and Children's Services Council. Our NE Communities Office provides crisis support and family strengthening services to the Greater Philadelphia community. The Illuminate event center directly supports children who have experienced abuse or neglect, trauma, and those with developmental disabilities.
We Love Our Godparents

To be asked to be the Godparent for a child is one of the greatest honors in life. The children of JAFCO are asking you to become their Godparent and spiritually “adopt” all of the children of JAFCO. As a Godparent you welcome the children to experience both the beauty of the world and of Judaism. The Godparent Circle has been created to ensure that each child will have a wonderful life filled with every opportunity that all children should have.

Godparents make a commitment to support the children with a gift of $18,000 or $1,800 a year for ten years, less than $5 a day. Two special 14K gold pins have been created for our Godparents featuring the JAFCO logo which symbolizes our mission — a child swinging joyously on the Tree of Life. Becoming a Godparent is about saving the lives of an entire generation of children who need your protection. Since it is the perfect birthday or anniversary gift, you can become a Godparent at any time of the year and it would be our honor to pin you at one of our events. Your name will join our Wall of Honor at the Jewish Children’s Village.

Our Godparents for Life donors pledge to donate $1,800 a year as long as they are alive and as long as they are able. This commitment offers the children of JAFCO even greater security for their future. They receive two specially commissioned candle holders created exclusively for JAFCO by artist Yaacov Heller as a gift from the children.

Our Recommitted Godparents committed to become Godparents to raise another generation of children at the JAFCO Children’s Village by making a second pledge of a minimum of $18,000 payable in one payment or over the next ten years. They receive a specially commissioned candle holder created exclusively for JAFCO by artist Yaacov Heller as a token of our appreciation.

Our Godparents For Life

Margo & Richard Absher
Richard Allen
Susan & Bruce Arbeiter
Millicent & Benjamin Bauer Estate
Joan & Milton Baxt
Dara & Alan Berger
Joan & Leslie Berman
Nanci & Stephen Beyer
Jacqueline & Robert Brauser
Marny Dixon
Dorinne & Jeffrey Gersting
Mara & Mel Gober
Lori & Lewis Gold
Leslie Goldberg
Sandra & Paul Goldner
Maggie & Stewart Greenberg
Margery & Stephen Greenspan
Ellen & Gerald Greenspoon
Joan & Paul Hauser
Ursula & Leonard Hess
Lois Hollander & Steven Schlosser
Nancy & Fred Katzin
Lois & Stephen Kaufman
Fran & David Krathen
Vanessa Krelstein
Claire & Gerald Manowitz
Miri & David Mazor
Rita Carole Messner
Marjorie & Maurice D. Plough, Jr.
Suzanne & Samuel Pollack
Ellen & Robert Pomerantz
Elise & Derek Repath
Suzanne & Bertram Schild
Roberta Schoenbrun
Sandra & Charles Simon
Lisa Sirota-Weiner & Douglas Weiner
Ethel & Dave Sommer
Linda Stewart
Wendy & Steven Walin
Haley & Adam Walker
Helene & Stephen Weicholz
Kimberly & Todd Weicholz
Marilyn & Jay Weinberg
Donna Weinraub
Rita & Stan Weinstein
Bernice & Edward Wenger

Our Recommitted Godparents

Martha & Melvin Aronson
Rosalyne August
Sherry & Michael Bell
Angela & Louis Birdman
Robin & Kenneth Bresky
Linda & Don Brodie
Marcie & Mark Butters
Erha Cantor
Ruth Citrin
Marcia & Philip Cohen
Natalie & Edward Coleman
Gayle Coleman Rader & Stuart Rader
Deborah & Michael Coslov
Annie & Abraham David
Fern & Alvin Davis
Minerva & David Davis
Wendy & Richard Fenton
Fran & Alan Foont
Marion & Jordan Fox
Vicki & Gary Freed
Elaine & Harold Friedland
Jill & Yori Galel
Marla & David Garfinkle
Sharon & Mark Gilbert
Stephanie & Larry Gilderman
Marion & Ken Golen
Sylvia G. Gordon
Phyllis & Leonard Grand
Inna Gutierrez
Ida & Irwin Haber
Sandra & Leonard Haiken
Cindy Niad Hannah & Steve Mutchnick
Gilda & Mitchell Howell
Barbara & Scot Hunter
Jessica & Harvey Jacobson
Louise Jacowitz Allen
Sylvia Kahana & Arie A. Tayan
Kimberly & Leslie Kaminoff
Linda F. Kaplan
Diana & Steve Kauppinen
Cheryl & Steve Kessner
Janice Klein
Jean Knobel
Jacqueline Kohn
Glenda & Ronald Krongold
Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation
Marsha & Henry Lauffer
Jacqueline & Martin Lederman
Marsha & Alan Levy
Gayle & Charles Lichtenman
Corinne & Michael London
Karyn Luiz
Fern Lentini Manne & Stan Manne
Susan & William Matz
Rhona Mauano
Nancy & Steve Mendelow
Marc & Isadore Mitzen
Tamar & Richard Morgenstern
Lauren & Jeff Morris
Sandi & Robert Morris
June & Monte Nathanson
Deborah & Eric Nemirow
Andrea & James Orleans
Sandi & Max Paul
Julie Peyton
Donna & Willard Poires
Marlyn & Neil Ramo
Barbara & Jules Reich
Brenda & Lawrence Robinson
Marcelle & Andrew Rosen
Beth Salter & John Harris
Lisa & Alex Sandel
Bonnie & Jamie Schaefer
Liza & Michael Schwarzberg
Patti & Larry Share
Deni & Ronald Simon
Michelle & Michael Simon
Fay & Samuel Singer
Joanne & David Singer
Renee Singer
Annette Smith
Sandi & Leonard Solomon
Carole & William Stamps
Irene & Barry Stark
Jackie & Joseph Trobman
Carla & Bruce Weiner
Jill & Jonathan Weiner
Liz & Irwin Weiser
Carol & Stephen Winig
Cindy & Martin Zackowitz
Michelle & Stephen Zilker
Nancy & Joel Zilber
Piper & David Zobel
Rita & Stan Weinstein
Bernice & Edward Wenger

As of April 30, 2020
G-d Could Not Be Everywhere...
GODPARENTS

Deborah & Lawrence Gaslow
Patricia & Brian Garson
Eileen & Harold Garlick
Terri & Benjamin Garfinkle
Donna & Stuart Ganslaw
Renee & Stephen Gans
Dale & Roger Gandall
Wendy & Zigmund Galit
Karen & Todd Galinko
Robin & Leon Galinko
Alex & Tom Fritz
Anne & Lawrence Frisman
Madeline Friedman
Holly & Daniel Friedman
Marianne Friedman
Barbara & Donald Friedman
Sharon & Lawrence Friedman
Allie & Adam Frank
Beth & Marvin Frank
Leah & Edward Frankel
Abby & Alan Freedman
Gertrude & Israel Freedman
Susan & Larry Freshman
Leona Hirschkorn & Marvin Silverman
Helene & T. Donald Hirschfeld
Ellen & Stuart Hirsch
Jeri & Howard Hessan
Susan & Jeffrey Herzfeld
Lisa & Gary Hertzberg
Linda & Lee Hertz
Ilene & Steven Hersh
Maty & Daid Herschthal
Becky & Laurence Herrup
Dorothy S. Hernandez
Minette & Frederick Herman
Rachel & David Herman
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Maty & Daid Herschthal
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Lisa & Gary Hertzberg
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Gloria & Alan Kaufman
Joan & Myron Kaufman
Nancy & Jerry Kaufman
Jennifer & Matthew Kay
Paula Kazerman
Cheryl & Steven Kessner
Harriet & Rick Kimball
Fred Hirt & Joan Fletcher
Cheryl & Neil Hochberg
Bernard Hoffman
乔安娜 & Sebastien Hoffmann
Judy & Ben Hofheimer
Faye Holand
Marissa Hollandier
The Family of Stephanie Hollandier
Betina & Jerome Hollo
Marc & Ronald Holzer
Charlotte Horowitz
Iris & Steven Horowitz
Gilda & Mitchell Howell
Patricia Isenberg
Tami & Perry Isenberg
Celia Jacobson
Jane & Douglas Jacobson
Anne & Norman Jacobson
Jessica & Harvey Jacobson
Suzanne Jacobson
Amanda & Joseph Jaffe
Ingrid & Robert Jaffe
Marianne & Richard Jaffe
Helen Jaffee
David Jay
Julie & Barry Jaye
Betsy & Vinne Joseph
Elaine & Robert Joseph
Eileen & Stewart Kahn
Mona Kahn
Lois Kaliner
Sharon & Paul Kaliner
Eileen & Harvey Kamil
Jody Kaminsky
Marian Kane
Carole & Mel Kantor
Alyne & Abbey Kaplan
Carol & Edward Kaplan
Dr. Linda J. Kaplan
Cathy & Geoffrey Karp
Hilary & Steven Kates
Ann Katz Offit & Saul Offit
Bunnie & Arnie Katz
Elaine & Harmon Katz
Natalie & Loeb Katz
Nicole & Bernard Katz
Peggy & Richard Katz
Roberta & Steven Katz
Sue & Randy Katz
Susan & Robert Katz
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Nancy & Jerry Kaufman
Jennifer & Matthew Kay
Paula Kazerman
Cheryl & Steven Kessner
Harriet & Rick Kimball
G-d Could Not Be Everywhere...
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<th>Godparents</th>
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<td>Susan &amp; Arnold Zweig</td>
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<td>Rebecca &amp; Sergio Zyman</td>
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<td>To join the Godparent Circle, contact JAFCO Development Officer Gail Marlow at 954.661.2762 or <a href="mailto:gail@jafco.org">gail@jafco.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Circle of Hope, Surrounding Our Families With Love

To ensure the financial security and future of the JAFCO Children’s Ability Center, a special and very meaningful giving circle has been created — the Circle of Hope. This group of special individuals will receive a beautiful specially commissioned 14K gold pin featuring the branches of the JAFCO Tree of Life lovingly encircling a parent joyfully pushing her child on a swing. Members of the Circle of Hope make a ten year pledge of $1,800 per year. Our Circle of Hope for Life who pledge to donate $1,800 a year as long as they are alive and as long as they are able receive two specially commissioned candle holders exclusively for JAFCO by artist Yaacov Heller. Our Recommitted Circle of Hope donors making a second pledge of a minimum of $18,000 payable in one payment or over the next ten years receive one specially commissioned candle holder exclusively for JAFCO by artist Yaacov Heller. These critical funds will allow us to operate this vital center and provide respite care, child enrichment activities and therapy for the children as well as support services including parent support groups, counseling, case management and referral, sibling workshops, parent training, and 24-hour crisis support to hundreds of families in the tri-county area who are raising a child with a developmental disability.

Circle of Hope for Life Members
Susan & Mark Auerbach
Lisa Sirotė-Weiner & Douglas Weiner

Recommitted Circle of Hope Members
Elaine & Bernard Roberts

Circle of Hope Members
Rochelle & Arthur Adler
Anonymous
Judi Baker
Jodi & Larry Bank
Melissa & Shawn Barnhardt
Patrice & Edward Barrocas
Dara & Alan Berger
Jessica & Drew Hopkins & Jordan Berger
Joan & Leslie Berman
Nanci & Stephen Beyer
Adele & Samuel Borger
Linda & Don Brodie
Judith & Arthur Caner
Vivian Cardia
Debbie & Alan Casnoff
Barbara & David Cohen
Myra & Barry Cohen
Wendy & Barry Cohn
Eileen & Robert Cooper
Karen & Mark Dern
Judith & David Dines
Jennifer & Kevin Faith
Kim & Sean Fetterman
Rebecca Fischer
Isanne & Sandy Fisher
Joan & Larry Fleischman
Sigg Flicker & Michael Campanella
Sandy & Larry Frankel
Elaine & Harold Friedland
Diane S. Friedman
Andrea & Thomas Gero
Dorinne & Jeffrey Gerstlin
Melissa & Joshua Gerstlin
Magda & Malcolm Ginnis
Sarah Glass Bush
Linda Glottmann
Mara & Mel Gober
Lori & Lewis Gold
Leslie Goldberg
Lisa Goldberg & Stanford Blake
Sandra & Paul Goldner
Patricia & Dr. Charles Goldsmith
Dorothy & Jim Goodman
Jill Goodman
Rosalie & Robert Grass
Donna & Louis Greenberg
Maggie & Stewart Greenberg
Robin & Stephen Greene
Beth & Jack Greenman
Ellen & Gerald Greenspoon
Kenneth Gross
Cynthia & Harold Guttman
Sandra & Leonard Haiken
Cheryl Hassman
Suie & Joshua Herrendorf
Maty & David Herschthal
Ursula & Leonard Hess
Fred Hirt & Joan Fletcher
Dr. Elaine K. Hollandar
& Charles Feingersh
Lois Hollandar & Steven Schlosser
Bernice & Paul Horwitz
Patti & Michael Jacobs
Ruth & Allyn Jacobson
Joan & Arthur Jacowitz
Louise Jacowitz Allen
Amanda & Joseph Jaffe
Fran Jonas
Sylvia Kahana & Arie A. Taykan
Karolina Kaner
Carole & Mel Kantor
Harold Kaplan
Linda F. Kaplan
Dr. Linda J. Kaplan
Susan & Peter Karger
Nancy & Fred Katzin
Linda & Norman Kaufman
Shelly Solomon Koffler
Amie & Steven Kohlshagen
Jacqueline Kohn
Dana & Craig Konhauzer
Kim & Mitchell Konser
Steven & Charlene Konser
Charles & Esther Krieger Charitable Fund
Stacey & Barry Labell
Myrna & Roger Landay
Marcia & Jeffrey Langley
Beth Lebovitz
Carol B. Leeds
Andrea Levine
Joshua Levine Memorial Foundation
Marsha & Alan Levy
Mildred Lidov IMO Howard I. Lidov
Delise Lipton & Arthur Weinstock
Heleen Loew
Olle & Jonathan Louis
Susan & Barry Lyman
Sandra & Arthur Mandell
Sharon Margulis
Caryn & Darren Marsh
Lesley Miller
Sandi & Robert Morris
Ricki Moskow
Avis Lee & Abraham Neiman
Michelle & Samuel Ohef-Zion
Andrea & James Orleans
Susan Pavishkow
Helene & Rick Paul
Lucianna & Jared Perlin
Marjorie & Maurice D. Plough, Jr.
Suzanne & Samuel Pollack
Susan & Jeffrey Postal
Nolyn & Ed Poto
Barbara & Jules Reich
Brenda & Larry Robinson
Ceci & Leo Rosen
Jamie & David Rosenberg
Sandra Rosenow
Hilary & Matthew Rosenthal
Roberta & Fred Sachs
Lori & Steven Sadaka
Ellen R. Sall
Sherri Samuels
Iris & Harold Sand
Phyllis & Harvey Sandler
Marlene & Jerome Scharr
Jessica Schmidt, ScentsAbility
Beryl & Robert Schneider
Andrea & Larry Schnurmacher
Judi & Allan Shuman
Barbara Schwartz
Marla & Leo Schwartz
Sheila & Lawrence Schwartz
Suzanne & Richard Schwartz
Stephanie & Matthew Scupp
Sue & Steve Shaffer
Diane & Steven Shankman
Freida & Lawrence Shetler
Sheryl & Marvin Sherman
Samantha & Ryan Shrouder
Joan & Bruce Silk
Linda & Martin Silver
Marlene & Martin Silver
Sandra & Charles Simon
Deni & Ronald Simon
Fay & Samuel Singer
Gail & Bennett Singer
Myrna & Sam Skurnick
Graziela & Mason Slaine
Robin & Samuel Smith
Shelly & Dan Snyder
Linda & Alan Sohn
Jandy & Robert Spiegelman
Cynthia & Paul Stein
Joyce & Edward Stratvitz
Jayne & Marvin Suskin
Carol & Stanley Sussman
Velia Sweet
Amy & Barry Sylvestky
Julie Sylvestky
Lauren Sylvestky
Sam & Este Sylvestky
Fayette Toren
Lynne Ulberlal
Melanie & Ron van der Valk
Nancy & Mark Voluck
Phyllis & Arthur Wachtel
Gale Wechsler
Helene & Stephen Weicholz
Kimberly & Todd Weicholz
Dona Weinraub
Rachael & Barry Weinstein
Shirley & Barton Weismann
Sharon & Steve Wender
Bernice & Edward Wengler
Randi & David Winter
Max Winter
Susan & Robert Wisan
Bari & Michael Zachalsky
Jennifer & Ben Zevner
Martine & Craig Zinn
Susan & Arnold Zweig

To join the Circle of Hope, contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Randi Winter at 954.552.2519 or randi@jafco.org.
As a Capital Donor, your name will forever be part of our children’s lives.

Be a permanent part of a place where every child in our community has a place to belong. Whether they have experienced abuse or neglect, whether they have a developmental disability or whether their family is going through a difficult time, we have imagined a world where all children are safe and surrounded by a loving community.

We need the support of the entire community to give every child a place to belong.

For more information on giving opportunities, contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Randi Winter at 954-552-2519 or randi@jafco.org.

The JAFCO Children’s Ability Center Capital Naming Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital Naming Opportunities</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Floor Parent Wing</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Therapy Wing</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Training Wing</td>
<td>$540,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane Generator Power Zone</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Arts Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodge Vista Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Staff Think Tank</td>
<td>$108,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Lounge &amp; Art Studio Overlook Balcony</td>
<td>$108,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Lounge &amp; Speech Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overlook Balcony &amp; Therapy Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech Therapy Environment</td>
<td>$72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Therapy Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Observation Gym Overlook</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confidential Records Room</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest House Bedroom (8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest House Laundry Room (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guest House Staff Office/Nurses Station</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability Center IT Headquarters</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Work Stations (6)</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground Chin-Up Bar</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground Epi-Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground Whirl &amp; Twirl Spinning Bowls</td>
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<td>Playground Arch Swing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground Saucer Swing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground Play Gym</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Bottle Filling Station</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Store Supply Room</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Shirley & Barton Weisman and Family Event Center Capital Naming Opportunities

| Ballroom Catering Kitchen | $500,000 |
| Meeting Ballroom Two      | $500,000 |
| Event Center Sound & Lighting Zone | $108,000 |
| Back Stage Dressing & Green Room | $108,000 |
| Ballroom Furnishings      | $72,000 |
| Ballroom Bar (1)          | $54,000 |
| Back of the House         | $54,000 |
| Magic Oven                | $36,000 |
| Soda Machine              | $36,000 |

The JAFCO Jewish Children’s Village Capital Naming Opportunities

| Staff Administrative Wing  | $250,000 |
| Group Home renovations (6) | $250,000 |
| Bedrooms at Village renovations (42) | $36,000 |
| Kitchens in Group Home renovations (6) | $36,000 |
| Dining Room renovations (7) | $36,000 |
| Living Room renovations (7) | $36,000 |

As of April 30, 2020
Anita and Norton Waltuch have always had a nurturing nature and a love for children. They were first introduced to JAFCO by their daughter-in-law, Kim, who was a teacher for the Zale Preschool at the Levis JCC. After visiting the Village and learning about JAFCO’s mission, they became committed to helping our children. One of their first gifts to JAFCO was a much-needed van, previously owned by their son Randy. Randy was the oldest of Anita and Norton’s children. He was married to the love of his life, Kim, for several years before suddenly dying at the age of 50. Randy was described as a sensitive and extremely bright entrepreneur. “He had a wonderful sense of humor and was very benevolent. He had a friend in anyone he met.” They have two sons who are both engaged to be married, Samuel and Jacob. Randy was extremely close to his sister Denise who lives in Tenafly, NJ. Denise is happily married to her husband Boris and they have two children, Fiona and Alex.

Anita and Norton have been happily married since 1956. Their love story began when Anita was 15 years old and a mutual friend set them up on a blind date. After graduating from college, Norton served in the army for two years before they got married. It has been 63 wonderful years of love and adventure. This past January, Anita and Norton decided to make a sizable gift to a charity. They felt at this point in their lives, it was time to do more. Anita and Norton opened their hearts to many other agencies and brought that same generosity to JAFCO. They have lovingly named the lobby at the Children’s Village in memory of their son Randy. The Randall E. Waltuch Children’s Welcome Lobby is filled each day with children going in and out of the shelter and group homes. It is the first point of entry for all who come to the Village. There is a beautiful quote that says..."Every man has two deaths, when he is buried in the ground and the last time someone says his name." — Ernest Hemingway. "This beautiful space named in Randy’s memory, will always remind us of the kindness and generosity of Anita and Norton and their everlasting love of their son Randy," says Randi Winter, JAFCO Philanthropy Director.

We are eternally grateful to Anita and Norton Waltuch and their wonderful family. They have continued to show love and compassion toward the children that JAFCO serves. Randy’s memory is a blessing to the JAFCO family and we will continue to honor his legacy every day.

Howard Greenfield Charitable Foundation: A Legacy that Lives Forever

Howard Greenfield was born in New York City on November 15, 1925. Following high school, he entered the Merchant Marines and moved to Hollywood in the late 1940s. In 1950, he met his beloved partner William Ruben and the couple settled in Ft. Lauderdale. During their 50 years together, they constructed and invested in numerous properties, performed in local theater groups and traveled the world. Although Howard and Bill worked long hours as real estate developers of urban living, shopping and storage spaces, they always made time for their artistic side.

An actor since grammar school, Howard had a long history of supporting the performing arts in South Florida including the Coconut Grove Playhouse, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, the Florida Philharmonic, the Concert Association of Florida where he was a board member, and the Hollywood Playhouse, where he acted and served as past President and board member. Howard and Bill were avid travelers and spent six months of the year in their home in Provincetown, MA, where they shared their love and generous support of the arts and the community. Howard had an extraordinary sense of humor and strong commitment to friends and family. Having no children, Howard sought to create The Howard Greenfield Charitable Foundation that would be supported by his real estate company to fund social service agencies that were doing life-saving work in the community. In the early 90s, Howard hired Mikel Rhodes as an “organizer” who worked one day a week at a card table in his bedroom office. Mikel quickly became his closest confidant and after Howard passed away on March 15, 2009, Mikel took over the foundation and it has become his passion and life’s work to grow it into a major charitable foundation that supports dozens of diverse local charities including reading programs in the tri-county area, Venezuelan refugees, senior LGBTQ programs, SunServe, Hispanic Unity and the Pride center to name just a few. This year Mikel was so happy to hand-deliver a check to JAFCO for double the amount as the previous year, allowing us to care for 50 abused and neglected children at our Children’s Village and to provide them with Equine Therapy. "While I was not fortunate enough to meet Howard Greenfield, I feel like I did know him because his legacy lives on through his friend and the head of his foundation Mikel Rhodes. Mikel’s dedication to improving humanity is awe inspiring.", says Sarah Franco, JAFCO Executive Director.

Thank you Mikel for all you do for our community and we truly appreciate your compassion, love and support of our children and anyone in need.
Honoring The JAFCO Legacy Circle

Gratitude is the memory of the heart

The JAFCO Legacy Circle is dedicated to honor those donors who have included the children of JAFCO in their estate. We will never stop saying their name and so they will live in the hearts of the children and their JAFCO family... forever.

If you have named JAFCO in your estate, we would like to welcome you to the JAFCO Legacy Circle.

Please contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Randi Winter at 954.552.2519 or Randi@jafco.org.

As of April 30, 2020
JAFCO Endowments & Special Purpose Funds

To secure the future of JAFCO, Endowments and Special Purpose Funds were created. All endowments are restricted to the purpose for which they were created and only the earned interest is used, allowing the endowment and your family name in perpetuity to continue saving the lives of children. A minimum gift of $25,000 establishes a restricted or unrestricted (endowed or unendowed) family fund for any of the services offered at the Children’s Village, the Children’s Ability Center or the Northeast Communities Office.

Existing Named Endowments and Special Purpose Funds

The Paul & Sandra Goldner MENSCH Endowment
The Vicki & Steven Stolberg College Scholarship Award
The Barry & Myra Cohen Cultural Arts & Music Endowment
The Lois & Stephen Kaufman College Endowment
The Jonathan E. Cohen Therapy & Wellness Fund
The Gayle Coleman Rader Scholarship Fund
The Clare & Richard Lesser Children of JAFCO Endowment
The Brenda Wallach Forever Friends Endowment
The David Isenberg & Ronni Isenberg Birthright and March of the Living Fund
The Fred Katzin Transportation Fund
The Rona Roth Adoption Fund
The Tami & Perry Isenberg Bar/Bat Mitzvah Endowment
The Norman & Stephanie Altman Cultural Arts Fund
The Alan & Noni Aufzien College Graduation Gift Fund
The Dara & Alan Berger Ability Center Scholarship Fund
The Estelle Berliner Children’s Discretionary Endowment Fund
The Sam & Adele Borger Birthday Fund
The Sam & Rose Riemer Endowment Fund
Chelminskey Family Hebrew School Fund
The Congregation Yemei Teshuva of Boca West CC Bar & Bat Mitzvah Fund
Jesse Diner & Adele Stone New Beginnings Educational Fund
The Gwenn Feldman Fund for Fun
The Marge Flanz Alumni Circle Endowment
Michelle Herman Goldstein Emergency Fund
Jeffrey Gruber Recreational Fund
The Cindy & Harold Guttmann Ability Center Program Fund
The JAAM Emergency Fund
The Gerald Kessner Outdoor Experience Fund
The Krongold Family Jewish Identity Fund
Lederman-Wolfe March of the Living & Birthright Fund
The Rita Carole Messner Endowment Fund
Eric & Debbie Nemiroff Music Education Fund
Roslyn Prevor College Scholarship Fund
Lawrence S. & Helene Price Family Fund
Dr. Abraham & Dorothy Shapiro Family Fund
The Amy & Barry Sylvestsky Village Discretionary Fund
The Stefanie Watkins Memorial Fund for Children with Developmental Disabilities
Two Ziegler Boys Camp Scholarship Fund
Gary Zimmerman Shabbat Fund
The Walter & Leah Ruderfer Art Enrichment Endowment

To discuss creating a family fund or an endowed gift contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Randi Winter at 954.552.2519 or randi@jafco.org.

For a full description of the JAFCO Endowments & Special Purpose Funds please visit jafco.org/endowments-and-funds.
Thank you to our Event Center Capital Donors...

Illuminate Opening Night
The Shirley & Barton Weisman and Family Event Center

Where else in the world could you have your own real Fiddler playing on the Roof?

The room is still glowing from the Grandest Opening Celebration of the Shirley & Barton Weisman and Family Event Center, the first Venue with a Cause in the country! Surrounded by exquisite event decor provided by Donald Braun of Event Services Group, guests were awed by the light demonstration from artist Mads Christensen, entertained by the hysterical comedy of Judy Gold and the great music by Nicolas King, and they enjoyed an unforgettable culinary tasting experience from Michelle Bernstein.
Thank you to our Event Center Capital Donors.

Sylvia Kahana & Arie Taykan

you illuminate our world.

Marcia & Jeff Langley
Sandi Solomon
Sylvia Kahana & Arie Taykan
Diane Gimbel
Suzanne & Sam Pollack
Marilyn & Jay Weinberg
The Gerstin & Winter Family
Brenda & Larry Robinson
All You Need is Love

The JAFCO Gala was truly a night to remember as the Polo Club filled with love to present the Jacob’s Ladder Award for Child Advocacy to Amy & Barry Sylvetsky and Rabbi Amy & Senator Kevin Rader. We congratulate our honorees who are true leaders in our community, committed to making our world a safer place for abused and neglected children and those with developmental disabilities. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented posthumously to our dear friend and Ability Center Board Chair Fred Katzin.

This special Gala of Love was chaired by Helene & Stephen Weicholz and Nanci & Stephen Beyer who, along with their dedicated committee, created an unforgettable evening that touched the hearts of over 375 guests. Through the generous support of our gala honorees, guests and sponsors, including our Emcee, Corporate Presenting Sponsor Keith Singer of Singer Wealth Management, and thanks to an anonymous matching gift of $500,000 from a big-hearted donor, together we raised over $1,041,000 net for the children of JAFCO!
Gala Honorees Rabbi Amy Rader & Senator Kevin Rader

Florida State Senator Kevin Rader and Rabbi Amy Rader are true role models and leaders in our community demonstrating the values of service and philanthropy as a normal part of their everyday life both individually and as a superstar couple. Kevin and Amy, along with their family, have been involved with JAFCO for the past fifteen years. Having visited the JAFCO Children's Village and Ability Center, they were inspired by the love and concern that the staff and leadership show for the children.

Amy has been a conservative Rabbi for over 20 years and she is also the founder of the Neshamah Institute in Boca Raton. Kevin is the owner of CKP Insurance Underwriters. He was elected to the Florida State Senate in 2016 after serving three terms in the Florida House of Representatives. As a Senator, Kevin is involved in many legislative committees and aspects of state government but his greatest passion lies within the area of foster care. He secured a $500,000 legislative appropriation for the JAFCO Children's Ability Center for the past three years with the support of Senator Lauren Book, Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff, Rep. Katie Edwards and Rep. Michael Gottlieb. Amy and Kevin further showed their love for the children of JAFCO through a recent major personal gift of their own.

In addition to their busy careers and philanthropic work, the couple makes time to enjoy traveling with their family. The Raders are the proudest parents of four amazing children: Caleb, 23; Ruby, 21; Ellie, 19; and Ezra, 18.

Gala Honorees Amy & Barry Sylvetsky

Amy attended her first JAFCO event 7 years ago and made her first, very generous donation of $1,000. Soon after, Amy and Barry visited JAFCO and decided to become capital donors, naming the Parents Fitness Zone and the Backstage Wing at the Children's Ability Center. They established an endowment fund at the Children's Village and they are members of the Godparent Circle and Circle of Hope. Amy became a regular weekly volunteer at the Village, assisting in the development office, a job where she claims to be the highest paid volunteer at JAFCO.

Loving the hands-on experience and connecting to the mission, Amy feels she is rewarded in abundance with the fulfillment and love that fills her heart when she realizes how she has been able to connect with the events and the mission of JAFCO. The couple has become JAFCO ambassadors, bringing their family members, friends and neighbors to tour the facility every chance they get. When Amy brought her parents for a tour, Dotty and Jim also became donors and continue to support all of JAFCO's programs.

Amy and Barry have been married for over 40 wonderful years! Barry was originally a CPA and later became a CFO/CEO of an apparel company. Amy was a teacher and became a stay at home mother. They raised their two beautiful daughters Julie and Lauren in the Boston suburbs. While they both enjoy traveling together, Amy enjoys fitness and Barry enjoys golf and tennis. Their love of JAFCO is a huge common passion.

Lifetime Achievement Award - In Loving Memory of Fred Katzin

Fred was a southern gentleman from Winston-Salem, North Carolina who became a Floridian over fifty years ago. He and his wife Nancy were married for over 38 years. Between them they were the proud parents of four children and seven wonderful grandchildren. Fred spent his career as a highly respected CPA. While recently semi-retired, Fred still remained involved with his clients, but he spent the last few years of his life focused on his charitable endeavors and his family.

Fred was introduced to JAFCO by his wife Nancy in 2000, and soon made his first major financial commitment as a Godparent. He joined the JAFCO Village Board of Trustees in 2007. Fred and Nancy became capital donors to the JAFCO Children's Ability Center, naming a hummingbird garden. Fred was also a member of the JAFCO Children's Foundation Board, he was the Chairman of the Board for the Children's Ability Center and a member of the JAFCO NE Communities Board in Philadelphia.

Fred traveled with our Legislative Affairs committee to Tallahassee to help advocate for funding for the Ability Center. He attended and sponsored nearly every JAFCO event including the Gala which he sponsored before his passing. “Fred was the consummate board member — always responsive and available to the needs of the organization while taking his role as the Chairman of the Board very seriously,” said Sarah Franco. “He not only lent us his expertise as a CPA and as a seasoned board member, but also shared with us his very big heart each and every day. We miss you Fred.”
This past year, the In My Shoes Luncheon, co-chaired by Kim Fetterman and Lori Solodkin, raised over $189,000 to benefit the JAFCO Children’s Ability Center. JAFCO honored Sandi Morris and the memory of her late husband Robert, whose love and dedication to JAFCO helped open our first respite home. The event was emceed by longtime JAFCO supporters, Jason Solodkin of FDR Financial and Beth Rosenstein, the Vice President and General Manager of Bloomingdale’s Boca Raton. During the program, guests heard from 20-year-old Anna Crooks, and learned what it’s like to walk in the shoes of a sibling of a child with developmental disabilities. Guests also got to see a musical performance of “I Will Go the Distance” from local teen Sam Artel. The luncheon ended with our signature Ribbon of Hope Ceremony, during which the entire room was emotionally united in support of parents who have the challenging task of raising a child with a developmental disability.
Let the Games Begin at the Polo Club

All 370 attendees were dealt a winning hand at the South Palm Beach/North Broward Chapter’s Luncheon and Game Day last November! Held at the Polo Club of Boca Raton, it was an exciting and fun JAFCO day of shopping, lunch, cards and mah jongg! The winning combination of event chairs Roz Carmiris, Joan Gedansky and Elise Repath, a dedicated committee (above), and our amazing guests’ biggest hearts raised $70,000 for the children! Wow — 120 Hunters Run residents attended and gathered for this huge group photo!

Poker Night: The Men are "All In" For JAFCO

Co-chaired by Ability Center Board Trustees, Perry Isenberg and Jim Orleans, JAFCO’s premier men’s event, a high-stakes poker tournament, raised $25,000 for the Children’s Ability Center. A night of fun was had by all with poker, blackjack, an open bar and great prizes for the winners. Proceeds from this annual event will fund much needed scholarships for children using services at the Ability Center for respite, life and social skills, and afterschool enrichment programming.
A Chanukah Miracle Filled with Faith

This year celebrated the 10th Aventura/North Miami Dade Chapter’s Chanukah Miracles Luncheon, an event that originally started as a small gathering in a restaurant and now attracts over 480 guests. Alexandra Bergman and Sasha Goldsmith co-chaired the event raising over $200,000 and celebrating 15 new members of the Godparent Circle, one recommitted Godparent and one new member of the Circle of Hope.

The luncheon this year honored the Faiths, a family that has exemplified unbending loyalty and commitment. After fleeing from Iraq to Tehran to the UK, the Faith family members were raised early on to be grateful for all they had, while understanding the value of giving back. Their children and grandchildren have carried the torch, and the family motto was one in which they all upheld: never say no to a mitzvah.

Chanukah Miracles Honorees, the Faith Family

**Central Palm Beach Art to Heart**

The Central Palm Beach Chapter hosted its Signature Luncheon at the Kravis Center, this time with a musical twist! Teen sensation Biana Pinchuk, a singer, composer and violinist, had the audience in awe of her incredible talent. The stunning performance was mirrored by the beautiful sentiment in the room. Thanks to the committee, led by Ingrid Jaffe, Nancy Brounstein and Wendy Galit, the luncheon raised $30,000 for the children of JAFCO. We also had four new people commit to be Godparents! Bravo!

**An Evening with Robert Klein**

The room filled with giggles and laughter in Palm Beach Gardens, as 385 guests gathered at Mirasol Country Club to hear the comedy sensation Robert Klein. This was the fourth year in a row that the North Palm Beach Chapter presented an evening dinner show. Co-chaired by Gae & Ron Getlan and Susan & Robert Wisan, with Honorary Chairs Susan & Mark Auerbach, Dara & Alan Berger and Eileen & Bob Cooper, the evening was both hilarious AND an amazing success, raising over $300,000 for the children of JAFCO and welcoming nine new families into the distinguished Godparent Circle.
Double the Love in North Palm Beach

Our children felt twice the love again this year, as the North Palm Beach Chapter held two Have a Heart Luncheons & Card Parties! What started as a small gathering 11 years ago has transformed into two sold-out events, accommodating 745 attendees with ease! The luncheons, held three weeks apart at Mirasol and Admirals Cove, together raised $145,000 to provide love and safety to all of the children JAFCO serves, and welcomed 9 new families into the JAFCO Godparent Circle and Circle of Hope.

Have a Heart Luncheon & Card Party at Admirals Cove

🔹Candle of Hope Donna Greenberg, Barbara Berger, Nina Mann, Barbara Glaser, Dara Berger, Rhonda Levin

🔹Bonnie Gregge, Sandy Haiken and Marci Mitzner

🔹Luncheon co-chairs Beth Robbins and Betsy Rockower

🔹Sandi Paul, Stevie Fischer and Janet Fogelson

🔹Photo blocks hand made by Beth Robbins and her crafty cohorts were used for centerpieces and décor!

🔹Karen Singer, Marlene Goss and Donna Greenberg

🔹Luncheon co-chairs Beth Frank and Audrey Fass

🔹Cammy Farber, Barbara Rothman and Mindy Lorenz

🔹Dale Gandall and Carol Randman

🔹Marlene Shoenfeld and Roz Katcef
Celebrating The Spirit of Life

Magic was in the air as the Weston/West Broward Chapter hosted the 17th annual Michelle Goldstein Spirit of Life Luncheon. Nearly 300 people attended the program that honored former Weston resident Sharon Gilbert, DMD, who provides pro bono orthodontic services to the children of JAFCO. Dr. Gilbert was introduced by Austin, her first JAFCO patient, who is a senior majoring in Emergency Management at the University of Florida.

Thanks to the leadership of co-chairs Ruth Molina and Holly Stracquadaine, Chapter founder Mara Gober and Chapter President Beth Salamone, the luncheon generated over $85,000 after expenses and welcomed 4 members to the Circle of Hope and Godparent Circle. The program concluded with a performance by magician and illusionist Gary Goodman who made it “snow” inside the ballroom.

Strike a Pose

Thanks to a very dedicated group of volunteers from the Palm Aire and Wynmoor Communities, the Strike A Pose event became a reality for 115 guests who enjoyed themselves at this unique luncheon and fashion show. Dining tables featured handmade shoe centerpieces created by Marilyn Singer, a JAFCO Godparent and longtime chapter member from Century Village. A portion of the centerpiece sales were donated to help support the precious children of JAFCO.

Co-chairs Tamara Axelman and Andi Shiroff welcomed guests and thanked their committee members before beginning the fashion show provided by Marina Siegle of Stein Mart in Pompano Beach. The combined efforts of this compassionate group generated over $7,000!

Saks Fashion & Fun

JAFCO partnered with our friends at Saks Fifth Avenue and Jane Siskin of Cinq a Sept for an afternoon of fashion, food and fun to benefit the Children’s Ability Center. The event, co-chaired by Debra Faren and Ronni Roth Levy, included a fashion show of Cinq A Sept’s latest collection for spring as well as an intimate conversation with Jane about her work in the fashion industry.

Thanks to our friends at Saks Fifth Avenue and Jane Siskin of Cinq a Sept for an afternoon of fashion, food and fun to benefit the Children’s Ability Center. The event, co-chaired by Debra Faren and Ronni Roth Levy, included a fashion show of Cinq A Sept’s latest collection for spring as well as an intimate conversation with Jane about her work in the fashion industry.

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Valencia Bay Casino Night

On January 25, Valencia Bay went “all in” as they hosted their first Casino Night! The evening was a huge success thanks to our co-chairs Hillary Silverstein, Lynn Blueweiss and Sherry Paul and their incredible committee. The evening featured a silent auction, raffles, great food, prizes and more! Due to the tireless work of this wonderful community, they were able to raise $18,000 for JAFCO! We definitely hit the jackpot with this event!

Previously, Valencia Bay had held many fundraisers throughout the year — a notable one being their “Welcome Back” Brunch, where they welcomed five new families into the Godparent Circle!

Sherry Paul, Hillary Silverstein, Jandy Spiegelman, Lynn Blueweiss

Valencia Reserve Enjoys Local History

Valencia Reserve took a visit to the Boca Raton Resort & Club for a fascinating tour presented by the Boca Raton Historical Society. The experience was so wonderful that they added a second trip! Valencia Reserve hosts many of these outings and special events throughout the year to benefit the children of JAFCO.

Valencia Cove Shows Us How to “Be A Hero”

Last year, Valencia Cove hosted a campaign, encouraging its members to “Be A Hero” and support JAFCO. The goal was to raise enough money to purchase new furniture for our Emergency Shelter. We are grateful to say that they met their goal by raising over $20,000! This year, they have just launched their new campaign “Soar With the Eagles” to directly benefit Eagles’ Haven. Thank you, Valencia Cove! Each person that committed to be a Hero got a leaf on the Tree of Heroes.

Wycliffe Rugelach Roll Out

JAFCO at Wycliffe held their first annual Rugelach Roll Out on February 20 and it was a hit! The room was filled with joy and laughter as everyone learned how to make rugelach from the Wycliffe chefs. Co-chairs Fayette Toren and Lynn Kanter, along with their fabulous team, led this event to raise thousands of dollars for our children. How “sweet”!

Co-chairs Fayette Toren and Lynn Kanter with JAFCO Wycliffe President Eileen Blau

Ride for the Love of JAFCO

For the second year in a row Ride for the Love of JAFCO raised over $5,000 and had two sold out classes of people who came to support the In My Shoes Luncheon. The morning featured a yoga and spin class at RISE 31 in Delray Beach, with smoothies, a shopping boutique and most importantly raising awareness of JAFCO’s work in the community.

Camille D’Amico, Leslie Greene, Children’s Ability Center Board Chair Lori Konsker, Pam Levine, Ride for the Love of JAFCO chair Lisa Levitt Trattner, and JAFCO Philanthropy Director Randi Winter.
It is in times like these that we gain a new perspective on what is truly important... the health and safety of the ones we love. Sadly, several events could not take place during the Spring and we appreciate your understanding of the cancellations and postponements. We do look forward to sharing these beautiful events with you next season, when we can all hug and kiss and spend quality time with each other.

**Mother’s Day Luncheon**
The Mother’s Day Luncheon was canceled this year, but thankfully our beautiful moms had the chance to enjoy the JAFCO Mother’s Day At-Home Luncheon! We look forward to celebrating mom’s next year at Boca West on May 6 – Save the Date!!

**Kings Point Membership Luncheon**
Vice President Marilyn Shreiar and President Ellen Bernstein are just two of the many dedicated members of Tamarac Kings Point. We look forward to gathering together again at our next luncheon in 2021!

**Valencia Isles’ Central Palm Beach Golf Outing**
This event is rescheduled for November 8, 2020 at the Fountains in Lake Worth. Golf co-chair and Central Palm Beach Chapter President Dave Epstein and co-chair Robbie Gimpel look forward to seeing our registrants and sponsors on the links then!

**Postponed and Canceled Events**

**Live, Laugh, Lunch**
Unfortunately, this Miami event is postponed until September 10, 2020. Our fabulous co-chairs Heather Katzen Sosler and Beth Lazar worked tirelessly to plan and replan this wonderful event!

**Century Village Pembroke Pines**
One of the first communities to support the children of JAFCO was — and still is — Century Village Pembroke Pines. We are grateful for their board members that continuously plan fun and interesting gatherings to raise awareness and funds. Flo Altfield, Phyllis Weisbrot, Ceil Katz, Chapter President Myra Olshansky, Past President Lois Marmelstein, Phyllis Festinger, Carol Mack, Marilyn Singer. (Not pictured Rhoda Heimlich, Debbie Kaliser and Marilyn Sokol.)
The 2019 Annual Spring into Summer Luncheon was a huge success thanks to our honorary event chairs Beverly Victor & Kris Gross and their amazing committee. The event raised over $65,000 and welcomed two new members into the JAFCO Godparent Circle. Shari Techner Smith was our Woman of Valor and the family of Michelle Simon accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award on her behalf.


Family of Michelle Simon accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award on her behalf. Michael Simon, Lisa Simon, Gianna & Marc Simon.

Golf All "Fore" the Kids

Thanks to all the men (and a few women) who joined us and supported our NE Golf Classic at White Manor Country Club. It was a picture perfect day and the weather was spectacular. We would like to send our heartfelt appreciation to our amazing co-chairs David Horowitz and Brian Horowitz, and to all our underwriters and sponsors for supporting this event so generously.
Cherry Hill Ladies Night: Birthday Bash

Ending the 2019 event season was Cherry Hill Ladies Night held at Woodcrest Country Club. Highlights included an amazing fashion show and pop-up shop from Finally the Perfect Gift, along with spectacular raffle baskets. The committee members and JAFCO staff were the gorgeous models and they wowed the guests as they walked the runway with the latest winter fashions. Many thanks to NE Board Member David Levy and his band Friend of a Friend for providing the music. The event was extremely special as we honored Rana Bell with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 18 years of dedicated service to JAFCO and helping those in need.

▼Susan Backal, Cathy Backal, Shari Smith, Phyllis Pearl, Kelly Shore, Nancy Lubars, Mindy Beder, Maxine Amon

City Lights: Light Up the Night for JAFCO

Our Annual City Lights event was chaired by Mark & Michele Taplinger and was held at the Center for Architecture & Design in Philadelphia. Many thanks to NE Board Member David Levy and his band Friend of a Friend for providing the music. The event was extremely special as we honored Rana Bell with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her 18 years of dedicated service to JAFCO. The evening was a huge success as we raised $50,000 and welcomed one new member to the JAFCO Godparent Circle.

▼JAFCO Chairman of the Children's Village Board Maurice D. Plough Jr., JAFCO Executive Director Sarah Franco, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Rana Bell, JAFCO NE Board Chair Linda Brodie

▼City Lights committee with event chairs Mark & Michele Taplinger

▼Michael & Debbie Pollack, Scott & Andi Barsky, Sue Polikoff, Robert Cramer, Jordan, Jace & Kyler Bell

▼Candle of Hope: Susan Backal, Ziva Kantor, Director of NE Development Jill Lapensohn, Mindy Beder, Maxine Amon, Melissa Benn

▼Event chairs: Cathy Backal and Shari Smith
Cocktails at Casa Del Cielo

Cocktails committee with event chairs Carol Sussman and Donna Greenberg and venue host Gary Hill

Cocktails at Casa Del Cielo was a spectacular evening of delicious food, incredible cocktails, entertainment, and silent and live auctions in the most spectacular penthouse. Gary Hill and John Schultz were incredible hosts. Thank you to NBC 10’s Ted Greenberg for serving as the emcee for the evening. Donna & Lou Greenberg and Carol & Stanley Sussman were the amazing event chairs and along with their committee, worked diligently to make sure that everything was perfect. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to all our underwriters and sponsors for their incredible support.

Golden Slipper & JAFCO Name Your Game

Name Your Game, our fundraising partnership with Golden Slipper Camp, was sold out with 350 guests enjoying a day of shopping, lunch, and games at the Golden Nugget Casino in Atlantic City. We were thrilled to welcome one person into the distinguished JAFCO Godparent Circle. The money raised allowed the Camp to provide the necessary scholarships for the children of JAFCO and for JAFCO to provide all the necessities to get the children ready for camp and to transport them back and forth over the summer. This year three Northeast JAFCO children attended Golden Slipper Camp and had a wonderful summer. Many thanks to our incredible co-chairs Terry Auerbach, Beth Fox, and Renee Kiejdan for their hard work, leadership, and generosity.

Main Line Game Day

Our first ever Main Line Game Day at Bala Golf Club was a hit! We had 108 attendees playing Canasta, Mah Jongg and Duplicate Bridge, while also enjoying brunch, shopping and raffles. A special thank you to our co-chairs Celeste Rose and Liz Schneider who made this day possible. We are looking forward to making this an annual event.

Event chairs: Beth Fox, Terry Auerbach, Renee Kiejdan

Barbara Belchatowski, Fran Jonas, Bobbi Caine, Toby Mersky, Caryn Weiss

Director of NE Development Jill Lapensohn with Iris Gross, Pat Ciarocchi, Dawn Jacobson, Mindi Schwartz and Amy Fisher
So Much Fun in the Sun on Long Island

The summer season wouldn’t be complete without the Fun in the Sun luncheon at Glen Head Country Club in Long Island, NY. Over 290 women shopped, ate, and played games while raising over $69,000, with two guests joining the JAFCO Godparent Circle. A huge thank you to Pearl Hagegua and her incredibly dedicated and extraordinary committee, as well as all the sponsors and ladies that made this day possible. It was inspirational to hear from Nikki Tashof as she shared her personal success story and expressed her gratitude to each person in the room. It was a beautiful day filled with lots of hugs and emotion.

Thank You Reception

Linda and Don Brodie were the most spectacular hosts of the Donor Thank You Reception at their magnificent Gladwyne home. It was a beautiful JAFCO evening and everyone had a fabulous time.
Chapter Presidents

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Beth Salamone, P 917.841.2725
Nancy Bauer, VP 954.298.9759

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

Long Island
Pearl Halegua, P 516.319.0769

Have a great idea for an event that you would like to create or work on?

Please contact the JAFCO Chapter President in your area or our JAFCO Development Staff

Everyone is invited to all JAFCO events.
To RSVP please visit www.jafco.org/events

Upcoming 2020-2021 Events: Join us!

FLORIDA EVENTS

Thursday, September 10, 2020
Live, Laugh, Lunch
Jungle Island, Miami

Thursday, October 15, 2020
In My Shoes Luncheon
Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton

Sunday, November 8, 2020
Central Palm Beach Golf Outing
Fountains Country Club, Lake Worth

Thursday, November 19, 2020
Chanukah Miracles Luncheon
Aventura

Saturday, December 12, 2020
Jacob’s Ladder Award Gala
The Polo Club of Boca Raton, Boca Raton

Saturday, January 9, 2021
An Evening with Oz Pearlman
The Club at Ibis, West Palm Beach

Thursday, January 21, 2021
South Palm Beach Luncheon
St. Andrews Country Club, Boca Raton

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Planned Giving Council Breakfast
St. Andrews Country Club, Boca Raton

February 2021
Luncheon & Card Party at Mirasol
The Country Club at Mirasol, Palm Beach Gardens

February 2021
Luncheon & Card Party at Admirals Cove
The Club at Admirals Cove, Jupiter

Thursday, March 4, 2021
All in For Men’s Poker Night
JAFCO Children’s Ability Center, Sunrise

Thursday, April 8, 2021
Michelle Goldstein Spirit of Life Luncheon
Temple Dor Dorim, Weston

Thursday, April 22, 2021
Live, Laugh, Lunch
Jungle Island, Miami

Thursday, May 6, 2021
Mother’s Day Luncheon
Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton

NORTHEAST EVENTS

Thursday, June 18, 2020
Bingo Bash & Boutique
Virtual Event

Monday, July 13, 2020
Golf Classic
The Philadelphia Cricket Club, Flourtown, PA

Wednesday, July 22, 2020
Cocktails for a Cause
Virtual Event

Monday, August 3, 2020
Fun in the Sun
Virtual Event

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Cherry Hill Game Day
Woodcrest Country Club, Cherry Hill, NJ

Monday, October 5, 2020
Main Line Game Day
Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

Thursday, November 5, 2020
City Lights
Center for Architecture & Design, Philadelphia, PA

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Cherry Hill Ladies Night
Beth El Synagogue, Cherry Hill, NJ

Monday, March 22, 2021
Cherry Hill Game Day
Woodcrest Country Club, Cherry Hill, NJ

Thursday, May 6, 2021
Spring into Summer Luncheon
Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

JAFCO Event Staff

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We are so fortunate to be blessed and it is our responsibility to give back — we all need to work together.” These were Pearl Halegua’s immediate thoughts when she first learned about JAFCO through her family member, founding President Ron Simon, she knew she had to do more. “I couldn’t believe there were Jewish children in my community of New York who were abused and neglected and being raised in foster care. I started doing research and even traveled to Brooklyn with Sarah and Wendy, to learn about the needs of the Orthodox too.” Working together with Rana Bell, JAFCO’s former Director of Development, Pearl became the founder and driving force behind the first Northeast Chapter in Long Island, NY. Since that time her dedication has never wavered and Pearl has continued to serve as President for the past 13 years and to this very day.

Pearl began her JAFCO journey by hosting baby showers, parlor meetings, and card parties. Her spirit was so contagious that she transformed a small card party at her home into a sold-out event with over 300 attendees. Pearl and her friends were able to quickly raise awareness and funds to support the Northeast office. “Pearl’s determination and passion has no bounds. She knows how to make things happen and it is so beautiful to see the respect that Pearl has in her community and her circle of friends. It is a true honor and privilege to work with Pearl.” says Jill Lapensohn, Director of NE Development.

Pearl, a former schoolteacher, has a passion for education and the welfare of all children. She has continued to go above and beyond to protect those children in her community. Pearl was the past president of Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn Heights and continues to be an active member co-chairing the inclusion committee. She has served on the Queensborough Community Fund Board for over a decade and actively raises funds for the Kupferberg Holocaust Center. Pearl has also been involved with the Jewish Studies Center at Queens College for many years. She is proud to advocate for those who are less fortunate and has committed her life to giving back.

Pearl and her husband Nathan are proud members of the JAFCO Godparent Circle, spiritually adopting all of the children of JAFCO. They have been happily married for over 40 years and have two children, Joshua and Aaron. Joshua and his wife Carly have two beautiful children, Stella and Jax. When she’s not spending time with family, Pearl enjoys cooking, reading and watching movies. Her favorite pastime, however, continues to be giving back to her community and she believes strongly in the Jewish mission of tikkun olam, repairing the world.

“JAFCO offers children a place to call home and provides them a place and a person to turn to. I am so proud in being part of that mission and helping to offer that voice to those in need.” says Pearl. “We are so grateful to Pearl for her never-ending energy and love and for bringing awareness about JAFCO to Long Island,” says Sarah Franco JAFCO Executive Director. “I look forward to the day where we will have an actual JAFCO office on Long Island and will all have been because of the work of one woman with the help of a lot of very special friends.”
With a Little Love From Our Community

For the second consecutive year, we partnered with Camp Pegasus to offer parent support groups to parents of campers with special needs throughout the summer. Pictured are Camp Pegasus Founder Mike Fogel, JAFCO Clinicians Rebecca Salus and Amy Wagner, and Camp Pegasus Director Aviva Moore.

For her 8th birthday, instead of keeping presents, Tzippy Tyberg donated her gifts to the children of JAFCO. Thank you Tzippy for this great Mitzvah!

The Religious School students at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton made cozy blankets as a mitzvah project for the children of JAFCO... children helping children... what could be better?

Sophie Goldman made the NE playroom super special by whitewashing and decorating two shelving units and supplying much-needed toys, games, and books for the JAFCO children to enjoy.

Lauren Alperstein has been teaching her children about giving back since they were babies. On Friday, mom took the day off of work to come with these adorable munchkins for one of their many trips to the JAFCO Jewish Children’s Village to happily donate boxes of new toys they received from their birthdays. And no mitzvah goes unrewarded...next stop was Menchie’s!

Third generation philanthropists Caroline Sokol and Hallie Leeds teamed up with the UM Hurricane football team on Super Bowl Sunday to continue their family's tradition of hosting the annual JAFCO Bowl raising $4,700 to support the kids.

Thank you Vicki and Steven Stolberg for your continued generosity and delicious food from your dining establishment, Ovlo Eats, the best healthy restaurant in Plantation!

NE Site Director Rebecca Salus and Family Support Specialist Amy Wagner attended the annual Bucks County Jewish Festival, a family resource fair and festival sponsored by the Bucks County Kehillah.

NE Site Director Rebecca Salus and Social Workers Amy Wagner and Kayla Jasper are proud to attend partner events in the community like the Philly Friendship Circle Walk and Resource Fair in support of families raising children with special needs and the Interfaith Mental Health Event at JFCS focused on supporting those with mental illness in congregations and throughout religious communities.

The Aventura Teen Chapter of JAFCO collected toys for the children PLUS raised enough money on Snapchat and Instagram to send the kids in the Shelter and Group Homes to a fun activity over winter break. Thank you to Teen Chapter leaders Chloe Bergman, Hannah Amoils and Jack Bergman!
We Are Grateful for Our Community

- A group from our Miami Chapter in South Dade created a girl’s night out/holiday bazaar called “Shop ‘Til You Drop” with 5 popular vendors, attracting over 50 guests and proceeds benefitting the children of JAFCO.

- We appreciate Dr. Lickstein for creating the annual Twelve Days of Giving holiday campaign at Lickstein Plastic Surgery in Palm Beach Gardens.

- We so appreciate Tunie’s Natural Grocery & Vitamin Market in Coral Springs as a valued partner, wonderful neighbor and generous donor supporting our Eagles’ Haven community with everything from storage space to healthy food and snacks...8 Days a Week!

- There’s nothing better than fresh baked Pita Pan challahs on Shabbat at JAFCO! Each year Pita Pan ensures that JAFCO has enough Challahs on Shabbat, toys for Chanukah, Mishloach Manot for Purim and more. Thank you to our friends at Pita Pan for making Shabbat and all the Jewish holidays at the JAFCO Children’s Village special.

- We are so thankful to Stacy Mager-Savit, Jeff Mager and their entire family for hosting the 10th Annual Marly’s Milestones! This two-day event featured a casino night and tennis pro-am fundraiser to support the Children’s Ability Center.

- Jenny Faith, in partnership with Jimmy Choo Bal Harbor, co-hosted a cocktail party and shopping event for the Aventura Chapter with proceeds benefiting the children of JAFCO.

- Rabbi Amy Rader, and families from the Neshama Institute, hosted a Mitzvah afternoon and provided a sing-along music class and yoga class for our children at the Ability Center.

- The children at JAFCO had another wonderful Chanukah thanks to NCJW Chapter at Valencia Shores.

- Thank you to these Miracle Makers for schlepping carloads of gifts from Miami, wrapping hundreds of presents for the children and adding some holiday happiness by decorating the Group Homes!

- Thank you to Lisa and Kenny Trattner for opening your home to celebrate Chanukah and fulfill Chanukah wishes from the children of JAFCO. The party collected enough gifts to fill an entire U-Haul truck!

- Chanukah wishes are being granted for the children of JAFCO thanks to Amanda Faren and her friends who hosted a pool party at The Oaks to collect toys this year.
You Have To See It To Believe It — Tours

- JAFCO was happy to welcome Yoni Kaiser from the Blueth Marcus Foundation

- To honor the legacy of his father and longtime JAFCO donor Abe David, Mark and Norma David came with friends to JAFCO to see the impact his family had on helping build JAFCO.

- JAFCO welcomed Terry Lilian from GL Homes for a tour of JAFCO.

- JAFCO’s Planned Giving Council enjoyed their tour of JAFCO and learning about the services we offer in the community.

- Amy & Richard Kronrad drove up from Miami to see the Children’s Village.

- Beth and Jack Greenman share their love of JAFCO with daughter Natalie, good friend Erica Obando and Cousin Gary.

- US Congressman Ted Deutch visits the children of JAFCO and is lucky enough to spend time with our number one volunteer Aunt Rita Carole.

- Our dedicated North Palm Beach Chapter continues to proudly escort busloads of people from various communities to see the miracles that JAFCO provides to children and families first-hand.

- Celeste Rose from Hunters Run brought eight friends to tour the Village and Ability Center.

- JAFCO’s very own Marathon Man, Eric Ostroff, ran 3 separate races in early 2020 to continue his 4-year winning streak of fundraising for the kids... his running total??? Over $31,000!!!

- To ensure the children of JAFCO are equipped with all the tools needed for school, Jodie Elyachar and Mindee Block coordinated a Florida effort with Mindy Richenstein of Supplies for Success to ship 450 backpacks loaded with school supplies for children K-12. The Ability Center staff already sent families some of the beautiful new backpacks to lift the children’s spirits as they learn from home!
Madelyn's Mitzvah Kids: Teaching Our Children Philanthropy

**Madelyn's Mitzvah Kids is named after the late Madelyn Weil, a wonderful human being and Board Member who dedicated herself to helping the children of JAFCO. The thought of children helping other children touched her heart.**

**Reese Glasser**
As a third generation donor, Reese felt a strong connection to JAFCO's mission. She raised over $14,000 to purchase summer camp supplies and send care packages to the children of JAFCO!

**Presley Bell**
Presley Bell of Atlanta Georgia, learned about JAFCO from her Aunt Rana Bell, Development Advisor, and knew for her Mitzvah project she wanted to support the children of JAFCO. Presley decided she would help make Chanukah wishes come true and thanks to friends, family and her own Bat Mitzvah gift, she donated over $2,400 in gift cards to ensure that the miracle of Chanukah continued for many of the children both in Florida and in the Northeast Communities.

**Isabella Mauskopf**
Isabella has a strong passion for women's empowerment and collected beauty items for the girls at JAFCO. Pictured with her loving grandparents, Brenda and Larry Robinson, Isabella delivered over $1,600 in gift cards to Ulta, Sephora and Target, along with assorted beauty products!

**More Mitzvah Kids**
Danica Andrews • Sofia Braun
Eli Budga • Lilly Citrin
Jolie Cohen • Nadav Emenecker
Emma Feinstein • Jessica Fele
Ross Kantor • Rivkah Levy
Katie Lips

**Presley Bell**
When Jack Diemar was tasked with providing 50 DVD’s to give to all the children who attend the Village Chanukah Party, he took on the challenge and delivered... along with hundreds of dollars in gift cards as well!

**Lyla Goldfarb**
For her Mitzvah project, Lyla Goldfarb asked family and friends to make a donation to JAFCO. Thank you Lyla for raising almost $9,000 for our children!

**Genevieve Ntab**
Genevieve held a fundraiser at a painting studio in Princeton, NJ and donated all of the proceeds to the children at JAFCO. Thank you, Genevieve, for being a third generation JAFCO supporter!

All gifts directly benefit the children of JAFCO. All “Mitzvah Kids” and their families are invited for a private meeting at the JAFCO Village where they are presented with a beautiful certificate honoring them for helping abused and neglected children and those with developmental disabilities.

To plan your JAFCO Mitzvah project in Florida contact Director of Development Operations Shelli Gold at shelli@jafco.org, or in the Northeast contact Director of Development Jill Lapensohn at jill@jafco.org.
Our Volunteers ♥ The Gift that Keeps on Giving

In 2019 our JAFCO Volunteers donated 5,150 hours to help make JAFCO stronger and more productive. They cooked, they cleaned, they counted, they copied, they checked and double checked, they organized, they tutored and they made children smile.

Volunteers are an important component of the JAFCO continuum of care. Volunteers help to improve a child’s self-esteem and confidence, assist our staff with important tasks, encourage community support for JAFCO and aid in raising much needed financial and in-kind support. We offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities to meet varied time schedules and backgrounds.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer please join us for a tour of the JAFCO Children’s Village and Ability Center, followed by a short post-tour session focused solely on the JAFCO Volunteer Program. Please contact Linda Sachs at 954.315.8664 or Linda@jafco.org for more details.

All volunteers working with JAFCO’s children must be 18 years of age and meet all background and screening requirements per Florida law.

HANDS-ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Tasks for volunteers change throughout the year and include many different needs to keep the children well cared for. We utilize the following hands-on volunteers on a regular basis: shelter childcare, cook, donation and closet organizer, clerical support, laundry helper, music and art instructor, sports coach, tutor and homework assistant.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Volunteers are needed in the community on a regular basis to help raise much-needed awareness, financial and in-kind support. You may contact one of our Chapter Presidents in your area to see how you can get involved by joining a committee, help planning an event or being involved at the grassroots level.

FOREVER FRIENDS PROGRAM
Our Forever Friends Program matches children in need with an adult role model. Volunteer mentors must make a minimum one-year commitment to visit with the child at least two times per month. This program helps to enhance self-esteem and provide a healthy, positive role model for each child.

PROFESSIONAL PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES
Professionals willing to offer pro-bono medical, dental, legal, tutoring, therapy or other services to JAFCO’s children are also needed.
Now That’s A Great Question! JAFCO FAQ’s

What does JAFCO stand for? How many sites do you have?
JAFCO stands for Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options. We have 4 sites: both our Jewish Children’s Village and Children’s Ability Center in Sunrise, FL; Eagles’ Haven Wellness Center in Parkland/Coral Springs, FL; our NE Communities Office in Philadelphia, PA.

JEWISH CHILDREN’S VILLAGE, FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION AND FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAMS
How does JAFCO hear about the children who come to live at the Village?
JAFCO can help a family in one of two ways: either voluntarily with the request of the parent or guardian, or if ordered by the court; referrals are made by the state, judges, schools, grandparents, rabbis, therapists, teachers, neighbors, family members and often by parents who are seeking help themselves. To refer a child or family in crisis, simply contact our Director of Operations and Clinical Services, Wendy Jenkins by calling 954.749.7230 x 110.

I know someone who is interested in adopting a child. Can you help them?
Yes. There are always children in need of loving adoptive homes and JAFCO is a licensed adoption agency. A family who wishes to adopt or needs an adoption related service or support should email Katie Ginsberg, our Adoption Specialist at katie@jafco.org. To get the process started you will be invited to attend one of our free monthly adoption orientations if you live locally. If you live outside of Florida we are happy to offer you a phone consultation and support your adoption journey in addition to connecting you with agencies in your area. Birth parents in need of adoption information or support are also invited to call for services.

Does JAFCO serve only Jewish children? What are the ages of the children you serve?
JAFCO was created to fulfill an unmet need in our Jewish community and as a Jewish agency it is our privilege and our pleasure to help any child and any family in need. We serve children from birth to age 23.

How many children live at the JAFCO Children’s Village? Where do they go to school?
The JAFCO Village can provide a home for up to 46 children at one time: 16 in our Emergency Shelter and 30 in our 6 group homes. The children attend either local area public or private schools or they are cared for and transported by their JAFCO house parents to their schools, sometimes in Boca Raton or Miami Beach. Over 1,500 children have found safety at the Weicholz Family Campus since it opened in 2003.

What happens when the children who live at the Children’s Village turn 18? Are there other JAFCO’s in the U.S.?
A child who turns 18 can live at the Children’s Village until the age of 23. Our JAFCO Life Coach will help guide them and teach them independent living skills, we will help with all college expenses and support them until the age of 25. While living in their college dorm our children come home over the summer and for breaks. Currently the JAFCO Jewish Children’s Village is the only center of its kind in the Jewish community in the United States.

EAGLES’ HAVEN WELLNESS CENTER
What services do you provide at Eagles’ Haven? Where is it located?
Eagles Haven opened in March of 2019 to help the Parkland/ Coral Springs community rediscover wellness and restore hope following the tragedy of 2/14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Open 8 days a week in the Heron Lakes Plaza, our Eagles’ Haven team of navigators provides an entire array of wellness activities, resources, case management and crisis support to any child or adult impacted by the trauma, free of charge.

CHILDREN’S ABILITY CENTER
I just found out my child may have autism. Can JAFCO help me?
Yes we are here to help immediately, you do not have to go through this alone. Please look on-line for our next parent tour or if you need to speak to someone right away please call the center at 954.315.7033 or email Linda Sachs, our Parent Support Specialist at Linda@jafco.org

What programs do you have at the Children’s Ability Center for children with Autism?
The JAFCO Children’s Ability Center serves the entire family by providing family enrichment, support and respite for children birth to 22 with all developmental disabilities including autism, intellectual disabilities, spina bifida, cerebral palsy and Prader-Willi. Please see page 8 for a list of our programs. Our new Catering Program will be offering work skills and experiences to our Life Skills graduates in our new Conference Center located at the Ability Center. The Ability Center is also a research institute to ensure that our programs are of the highest quality.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITIES OFFICE
Do you have a Village or Ability Center in Philadelphia?
We do not have a Village or Ability Center in Philadelphia. However, our highly trained clinical team in the Northeast office is at your side with the same quality JAFCO crisis support, family strengthening, clinical case management and intensive in-home support services to children and families in the greater Philadelphia and South Jersey area. Families who are in crisis, grandparents raising grandchildren and families raising children with developmental disabilities can receive our immediate support free of charge by calling our Site Director Rebecca Salus at 610.525.1040.

ILLUMINATE - EVENT CENTER
Does JAFCO have its own event center? How many people does it hold?
Yes! Illuminate is our new state-of-the-art event center that can hold up to 300 guests with a state-of-the-art lighting and audio visual system. Your Bat or Bat Mitzvah, Wedding, Anniversary or Corporate event will benefit the children of JAFCO and the center will also provide employment for young adults with developmental disabilities. To book your event today please call venue manager Michael Moran at 954.226.9925.
Join the JAFCO Business Circle and Help Save Children’s Lives

When you partner with us, you are connecting to a vibrant community that is committed to giving every child a place to belong.

When you join the JAFCO Business Circle you are joining much more than a charity. You are joining a big, loving family of volunteers, families, staff and donors dedicated to helping improve the lives of abused and neglected children and those with developmental disabilities. JAFCO has a database of over 100,000 families, 9 chapters across South Florida and the Northeast, and 100 events annually with attendance of 200 to 850 guests.

Our Business Partnership packages can be tailored to any budget allowing you to attend and sponsor multiple events throughout the year in your area. You will also receive recognition in this printed newsletter which is posted on our website, mailed and emailed to all of our donors.

For more information about how you can join the JAFCO Business Circle and connect with this vibrant community, contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Randi Winter at 954.552.2519 or randi@jafco.org.
The JAFCO Planned Giving Council’s mission is to encourage and facilitate the contribution of planned gifts to JAFCO. The Council’s goal is also to increase support for existing programs and raise awareness about child abuse and children with developmental disabilities in the community. The Planned Giving Council has grown to include many professionals who are looking to network and give back to their communities.

This past year the Planned Giving Council, chaired by Alice B. Newman, hosted successful events including their annual networking breakfast at St. Andrews Country Club, several happy hours and a bus tour to visit the two JAFCO centers in Sunrise.

To network with other professionals and give back to your community, contact JAFCO Development Associate Jensen Holroyd at 954.604.8354 or jensen@jafco.org.

Thank you Ellyn Bogdanoff and our Sponsors Florida Rep. Michael Gottlieb & Sen. Kevin Rader for our $500,000 Legislative Appropriation!

The JAFCO Children’s Ability Center legislative appropriation was co-sponsored once again by Fl. St. Representative Michael Gottlieb and Fl. St. Senator Kevin Rader to fund respite services, life skills training and parent education. The effort on behalf of JAFCO was led again by former Fl. St. Senator Ellyn Setnor Bogdanoff, now with the law firm of Becker & Poliakoff. Our efforts were successful and our funding was approved by the Governor. $500,000 will be available (for the third year in a row) through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and we extend our gratitude and respect to APD Director Dr. Barbara Palmer for the life-saving work of her agency on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Pro Bono All The Way
Thank you for your professional services

- Rudnick Dentistry and Dr. Sharon Gilbert for our braces
- Dr. Lisa Sirota Weiner and Dr. Barbara Martin for our health
- Dr. David Krasky for psychological testing
- Stacey Fischer, Carolina Garcia and Sammy Peck for CAC Classes
- Joel Kimmel and Jayne Sayovitz for Clinical Services
- Rick Allen, Stanley Brenner, Ellyn Bogdanoff, Stewart Greenberg, April Halle, Lea Krauss, Marci Langley, Matthew Luttinger, Alice Newman, Stuart Rader and Todd Weicholz for legal services and advice
David Posnack went from being a peddler in the lower East Side of New York City to one of the most distinguished philanthropists in the South Florida region during his lifetime and beyond. Born in 1904, he faced many personal struggles but fortunately overcame those obstacles after moving to Hollywood, FL. David partnered with Merwin Erenbaum and Ben Post to build their prosperous business, David Posnack Produce. David Posnack’s legacy lives on with the exceptional generosity he provided to helping young children thrive and stay connected to their heritage, specifically in Broward County. After his death, the David Posnack Foundation was led by David’s three close friends including Alan Levy and the late Rabbi Sam Jaffee and Merwin Erenbaum (obm) who followed David's clear directives to help build and support multiple campuses that are honored to bear his name including the JAFCO Jewish Children's Village, the JAFCO Children's Ability Center, the JCC and the Hebrew Day School. After a quarter of a century, the Foundation has sadly made its final distribution and we are thrilled to once again honor David's memory by naming one of the meeting rooms within the Grand Ballroom at our new Illuminate Event Venue.

Board Trustee Alan Levy, a dear friend of David's, played an instrumental role in running the foundation until its recent closure with the equally dedicated Mrs. Beverly Erenbaum. In addition to his dedicated role on countless child welfare non-profit boards throughout Broward County, Alan served for two decades on the Board of Trustees of the JAFCO Children's Village, the JAFCO Foundation and the JAFCO Children’s Ability Center, a project that is near and dear to his heart and whose success is directly related to Alan’s respect and deep compassion for families raising children with developmental disabilities. Now in its 6th year, the Ability Center is serving thousands of children with the help of several million dollars in local and state government contracts. “I can still recall my first life-changing phone conversation with Alan”, says Sarah Franco, JAFCO Founding Executive Director. Our entire annual budget was $50,000 and Alan called and said “I’ve heard about the great work JAFCO is doing related to Jewish foster care and I’d like to send you $50,000 from the Posnack Foundation”. “And so, in one second Alan doubled our annual budget and since that time he has donated $3m from the foundation always with a smile and his grand philanthropic heart. Alan and his wife Marsha are also personally supportive of JAFCO’s mission as members of our Godparent Circle and Circle of Hope, always the last two guests gracing our Gala dance floor. It is with great honor and distinction that our Board of Trustees have unanimously voted to welcome Alan Levy as a member of the JAFCO Honorary Board of Trustees, an honor reserved only for those who have made a significant impact on JAFCO’s history as well as our future”.

“It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.”

— Albert Einstein

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.
— Winston Churchill

Honorary Board Member Jerry Manowitz

Jerry Manowitz started from modest beginnings in Cliffside Park, New Jersey with his wife Claire (of blessed memory) and their two daughters, Barbara and Randi. Jerry manufactured handbags, while Claire was involved in every aspect of the business and home, her most cherished work was finding ways to help the underdog whenever she could. “Dad taught us to respect ourselves and always respect others.”, says daughter Barbara. “Mom taught us to love everyone and never give up.” says Randi. This simple philosophy in addition to a deep commitment to philanthropy has been passed down through the generations of the Manowitz Family. Claire and Jerry, with the help of their family, created the Annual JAFCO Golf tournament at Woodmont and over the years, this successful event has attracted hundreds of dedicated donors. They were both founding board members of the JAFCO Board of Trustees and Jerry continued to give his time, love and financial support and investment advice as a member of the JAFCO Village and Foundation Boards. We feel truly blessed to have had the service and the love of this incredible man who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. In honor of this milestone and to Jerry’s dedication and love for our children, our Board of Trustees is proud to welcome Jerry Manowitz to the esteemed JAFCO Honorary Board. Congratulations Jerry, looking forward to 120!
By Dr. Ron Simon & Sarah Franco

Upon learning that there was no plan in our community to retain the cultural and religious identity of Jewish children who came into foster care, it took Rabbi Bernhard Presler a minute or two to compose himself and he said just 4 words that would forever change the world: “What can I do?” This was the moment that started JAFCO.

Immediately, JAFCO was incorporated as a non-profit agency with Rabbi Presler named as President of the Board of Trustees. The Broward Board of Rabbis passed a unanimous resolution asking JAFCO to create a Jewish foster care program. JAFCO immediately submitted an application to become a state licensed Foster Care agency — but we were quickly denied by the state. The State District Director said it was policy not to license religious organizations as foster care agencies. Rabbi Presler took a minute or two to compose himself and this time said just 2 words that would forever change the world: “Oh, really?”.

Rabbi went to the Sun Sentinel to protest the government’s decision to prevent the Broward Jewish Community for caring for foster children. He called every politician he knew and before we knew it, the state’s decision was reversed, opening the path for JAFCO to receive a state foster care license. 20 years later, the entire foster care system in the U.S. was privatized and is being led by faith-based organizations like JAFCO. Clearly, our founder, Dr. Ron Simon and the Rabbi were a little ahead of their time.

Bernhard Presler was born in Germany and escaped from the Nazis as a child in 1939, spending the remainder of the war years in London, England. He studied in the Yeshivah in London and later in the U.S. The Rabbi’s love and devotion for the State of Israel has always been uppermost in his heart; he served as a foreign correspondent following the Yom Kippur War and retired to Israel ten years ago.

Rabbi Presler was the founder and Spiritual Leader of the West Broward Jewish Center in South Florida. He was married to Honey Presler for 30 years and raised a blended family of five children.

“I will never forget the tears in the Rabbi’s eyes on the day of the grand opening of the JAFCO Jewish Children’s Village,” says Founder Ron Simon. He had 3 words this time: “We did it”! And indeed he had in fact changed the world, creating the only Jewish Children’s Village in the entire country in addition to our Hebrew School, Bar and Bat Mitzvah program and memorable Shabbat and High Holiday Services which continue to this day thanks to the dedication of Shlomo Geva, his successor and mentee.

The JAFCO Community grieves the death of Rabbi Bernhard Presler. As we move forward to our future and next generation of children at JAFCO, let us keep him in our hearts, and as Rabbi Presler would say “L’dor V’dor”.

In Loving Memory of Abe David

The JAFCO family mourns the loss of a giant in our community whose generosity to JAFCO began over 27 years ago. When Abe David first walked into our one-room windowless office, he looked at JAFCO Executive Director Sarah Franco and said, “I like what you people do so I want to give you $5,000 but only if you accept American Express because I would like to get the miles”. We didn’t take American Express at that time, but we quickly changed that. Since that first generous donation Abe would take great pleasure in receiving all of our JAFCO invitations and calling our development staff to sponsor each event — nothing made him happier! He always took the time to acknowledge the hard work of the JAFCO clinical and development staff and he often asked about them as if they were part of his family, especially Wendy Jenkins and Gail Marlow. Abe truly understood JAFCO’s mission and will live on forever watching over our children as a member of our Founders Circle, Godparent Circle and Legacy Circle. In 2008 Abe and his beautiful wife Anne (his high school sweetheart and wife of almost 77 years) were recipients of the prestigious Jacob’s Ladder Award for Child Advocacy. As a member of the greatest generation, Abe was very focused on giving back to the vulnerable and less fortunate and did not hesitate for a second to become a capital donor at both the JAFCO Children’s Village and the Children’s Ability Center when he learned of those capital needs.

Abe was so proud to see his son Mark and wife Norma and all his children and grandchildren take on the value of philanthropy and join in his love for the children of JAFCO whom he loved so dearly. Abe taught us so much, he will be greatly missed but never forgotten, always in our hearts, inspiring us to give more and take care of those who need it the most, our precious children.

Philanthropy and family are his true legacy.
Imagine a Lifetime of Loving Commitment... Board Members

Marci Langley, Vice Chairwoman, JAFCO Children’s Foundation

Philanthropy and giving back to the community are an important part of Marci Langley’s life, a special gift she has received from her parents, Shirley and Bart Weisman, who have recently named the new JAFCO Event Center. When Marci was first introduced to JAFCO through her dear friend Chris Miller, she immediately felt connected to the mission. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the JAFCO’s Children’s Foundation for 8 years, starting her second term as Vice Chair, and continues to be the honorary chair for the Mother’s Day Luncheon. Marci received her undergraduate degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and her law degree in 1985 from the University of Miami. She has been recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in South Florida published by the Wall Street Journal. Marci has been a shareholder in the Real Estate Practice Group at the law firm of Greenberg Traurig since 1998. Marci has been married to her husband Jeff for 30 years and together they have two beautiful daughters, Robyn and Alyson.

Stewart Greenberg, Vice Chairman, JAFCO Children’s Village

Stewart Greenberg, lives with the philosophy “give until it feels good!”. Originally from Flushing, NY, Stewart moved to South Florida in 1976 to attend The University of Miami School of Law and became a prominent Miami Trial Lawyer until 2012. His passion for law gave him the opportunity to help people and continue changing lives. JAFCO gives that same sense of fulfillment to Stewart and his family. He has been involved for over two decades and in addition to serving as the Vice Chairman of the Children’s Village Board, he is a member of the Children’s Foundation Board. Stewart is happily married to his beautiful wife Maggie and they are the proud parents of an impressive blended family of 7 beautiful children and 9 precious grandchildren.

Melissa Barnhardt, Vice Chairwoman, JAFCO Children’s Ability Center

Melissa Barnhardt’s heart is filled with life’s persistent and most urgent question: “What are you doing for others?” In that spirit she has been involved with the JAFCO Children’s Ability Center for three years and we are honored to have her as the new Vice Chairwoman for their Board of Trustees. While she was trained as an attorney, Melissa currently holds the title of Senior Vice President and Senior Special Needs Trust Advisory Specialist at Wells Fargo Bank, in the Private Wealth Management Group. In addition to having previously represented children in abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights proceedings, Melissa also has a vast knowledge of seeing clients who are living with diverse abilities. While working in Chicago, she learned about government benefits and helping families plan for their loved ones’ futures. Melissa is happily married to her husband Shawn and they are the proud parents of a beautiful teenage daughter, Rylie.

Mark Taplinger, Vice Chairman, JAFCO NE Communities

Mark Taplinger lives by the words “It’s important to give back to the community and do anything you can.” He began his career as a successful CPA at Price Waterhouse, and later transitioned into personnel recruitment by placing top financial and accounting professionals at different firms in the greater Philadelphia area. Mark brings over 30 years of experience and expertise in the field to his current position of Branch Manager of F&A Executive Search at Addison Group. Prior to sharing his heart with JAFCO, he has always been involved in the nonprofit world and believes in helping those who are less fortunate through grassroots efforts. Helping guide and support the NE office Mark has served as the Vice Chairman of the JAFCO NE Communities Board for the last several years and is currently also the acting treasurer. Mark co-chaired the successful JAFCO City Lights event in 2019 with his wife and they will do it again in 2020. Mark and Michele are the proud parents of two children, Rachel and Adam.
We truly apologize for any errors or omissions. Please help us improve our communications by letting us know if any changes need to be made to your contact information. If you enjoy receiving this newsletter, please be sure to keep your JAFCO membership current with a 2020 gift of $36 or more. Please let us know if you are receiving duplicate mailings or none at all. If you are not receiving JAFCO emails please contact us at shelli@jafco.org so we may update your email address.

A copy of JAFCO's official non-profit registration and financial information may be obtained from the following state agencies; in Florida contact the Division of Consumer Services (registration #CH19241 & #CH39375) at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com; in Pennsylvania contact the Department of State (registration #34017) at 1-800-732-0999 or www.dos.state.pa.us; in New York contact the State Department of Law Charities Bureau (registration #21-49-39) at 212-416-8401 or www.charities.com; in New Jersey contact the Office of the Attorney General (registration #CH 3196000) at www.state.nj.us/lps/ca.; in Connecticut contact the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (registration #CHR.0062203) at 860-713-6050 or dcp.publiccharities@ct.gov.
Imagine a car donation that can change a life

Dear Cathy and Marc,

I want to say a huge thank you for your wonderful gift of my first car and for shipping it to JAFCO all the way from Cherry Hill where I know you are both so supportive of our JAFCO NE Office.

I was so excited to receive it and it has changed my life! It has given me the feeling of what it means to be independent, to drive back and forth to school and work and rowing and seeing my friends and to learn and grow and so much more. I am living a life I never before imagined would be possible and I have both of you and JAFCO to thank for that.

With much love and gratitude,
Hannah

Thank you Cathy & Marc Backal
and to the Marks and Spiegel Families for your life-changing gifts!

To donate your car to JAFCO please call JAFCO Executive Director Sarah Franco at 954.315.8680.
Special thanks to Mike Stern for overseeing our Car Donation Program for over 16 years.

CARES Act: Charitable Giving Incentives for 2020

INDIVIDUALS
• Creates a temporary universal deduction for charitable contributions with a cap of $300 for non-itemizers.
• Lifts the existing deduction cap on charitable contributions from 60% of adjustable gross income (AGI) to 100% of AGI for itemizers.

Information provided by the National Council of Nonprofits.