



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jewish Child & Family Services to Host Mazel Paws Fundraiser Benefiting Its Therapeutic Day School

Chicago, IL--On Sunday, October 22, 2017 from 9 – 11 am, Jewish Child & Family Services is hosting Mazel Paws, a morning of dog- and family-friendly fun that includes a costume dog parade, activities for dogs and their “pet pawrents,” and a special pet blessing. Mazel Paws benefits the JCFS Therapeutic Day School and its goal of creating opportunities for success for students with special needs.

Mazel Paws will take place at the Joy Faith Knapp Children’s Center, located on the Esther Knapp Campus in West Rogers Park, 3145 W. Pratt Avenue, Chicago. Kosher bagels, juice and coffee will be served. Tickets in advance are \$20 for adults (or \$30 day of event) and \$10 for children aged 18 and under. Children under age 3 are free. Admission includes a “Bark Bag” filled with pet treats. All dogs attending Mazel Paws must be leashed. To register, visit jcfs.org/mazelpaws.

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School represents a new tradition for students with special needs. It operates on the principle that a therapeutic environment for students with emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities requires meaningful participation from parents, mental health professionals, special needs educators, the students themselves and the community.

“There is a strong reciprocal relationship between any community and the schools that serve their children, including JCFS Therapeutic Day School,” says Allison Stevens, Clinical Director at the school. “We work diligently to help our students learn to be responsible and productive community members and we rely on the community to help make this learning experience possible.” Dan Nilson, Dean of Students at the Therapeutic Day School agrees, “When our community is involved in our school, we see a lot of success in our students.”

The school also believes in providing a well-rounded education to students, and offers an array of services designed to yield life success as well as academic achievement. The new Life Skills Program enables students to gain skills in decision making, time management, interpersonal relationships, team building and independent living. Developing confidence in these simple skills is their gateway to launching a life of independence in the community.

Sparky, the Therapeutic Day School’s official therapy dog visits students biweekly as part of the school’s Animal Assisted Therapy services. Sparky’s unlimited smiles and unconditional acceptance can work wonders in cultivating self-esteem and self-confidence in students with special behavioral and emotional needs. Students enrolled in the Yeshiva program – an extension of the Therapeutic Day

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School – participate in religious classes in addition to their secular curriculum, giving religiously observant families an educational opportunity for success unlike any other in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The low student-to-teacher ratio, positive social interaction and state-of-the-art facilities help students reap rewards in ways that yield measurable marks of their development:

- 40% to 45% of high-school students hold jobs in the Therapeutic Day School in-school work program
- At least 10% of our students re-enter public schools each year, exceeding the Chicago Public Schools benchmark
- Nearly 30% of students are on the academic and attendance honor rolls

The JCFS Therapeutic Day School is accredited and licensed by the North Central Association, Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Illinois State Board of Education. In addition to working with the Chicago Public Schools, the school works with suburban school districts from the North Shore, western suburbs and Lake County.

For more information about the JCFS Therapeutic Day School, visit jcfsschool.org or call 773.467.3900.

Jewish Child & Family Services is a partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community. We embrace diversity. Our commitment to inclusivity is woven throughout our services, programs and welcoming workplace.

For more information about Jewish Child & Family Services visit jcf.org or call 855.275.5237.

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