

SUMMER 2024

DEFINING MOMENTS





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Photo by Shari Imbo

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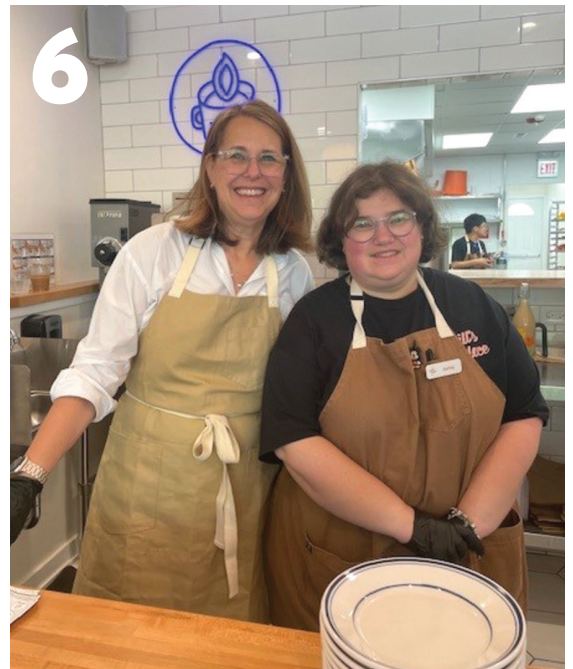
ON THE COVER: Response for Teens takes a holistic approach to working with tweens, teens, young adults and their families. Our team of counselors, social workers, community educators, and other youth development experts provide an array of services to meet the varied needs of young people in our community.

Photo by Cheryl Brown



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Photo by Marcello Rodarte



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At JCFS Chicago, we are dedicated to facilitating positive change in people's lives. With your support, every individual who comes to us has the opportunity to redefine what's possible for themselves. In this edition of *Defining Moments*, we celebrate significant milestones, such as a youth from Knapp School acquiring essential skills for reintegrating into their home school district, and the comprehensive clinical training provided to students in our PsyD and PhD programs who are on the path to becoming licensed clinical psychologists. In May we hosted a symposium to discuss the state of early childhood development service delivery, with the hope that attendees would leave with ideas and inspiration to inform and improve their work. With multiple connections to JCFS, the story of Will's Place in Skokie shines a light on the need for meaningful employment and vocational training opportunities for adults with disabilities.

Whether you're seeking personal assistance or professional growth, JCFS Chicago's Jewish Community Services is committed to empowering and fortifying our community. We also highlight the journey of a family grappling with their adult daughter's opioid addiction. Additionally, we are proud to showcase accomplishments from the Knapp School & Yeshiva as they conclude another successful academic year and introduce our new principal, Diona Lewis.

None of these accomplishments would be achievable without the essential support of our donors, volunteers and partners. Together, we can continue making a meaningful impact and create a future where everyone can thrive.

Stacey Shor
President & Chief Executive Officer

NEWS FROM JCFS CHICAGO

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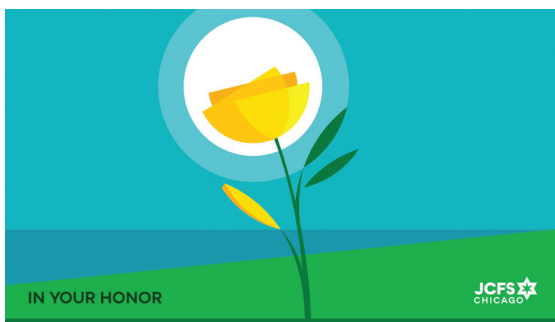
Defining Moments print edition comes out once a year, but you can get updates, news, and events information in our bi-monthly email version. To subscribe, send your name and email address to Communications@JCFS.org or visit JCFS.org!

JCFS Chicago 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. Licensed by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. Accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

Celebrate Life's Moments

with

JCFS Chicago Tribute Cards



Whether you are honoring the memory of a loved one, celebrating a new addition to your family or marking the joyful rite of passage of B'nai Mitzvah, you can commemorate any special occasion with a tribute to JCFS Chicago.

Every tribute card purchased provides help and healing care for the many children, adults, couples and families who rely on JCFS for counseling, pediatric therapies, special education, social and recreational opportunities, career support, community needs, services for people with disabilities and more.

Visit: www.jcfs.org/make-a-difference/tributes



Jennie Marble, Linnet Mendez, Sarah Martinez, Allison Lowe-Fotos, Megan Roberts and Beth Pettinelli

CHARTING A PATH FORWARD

On May 14, 2024, over 35 multidisciplinary experts from the Chicagoland community convened for the JCFS Early Childhood Development Symposium: Charting A Path Forward

to discuss the state of early childhood (0-5) development service delivery. The day began with a panel discussion that grounded attendees in current challenges and touched on the ways the panel experts from across the field are overcoming barriers and collaborating for broader impact. In the afternoon attendees split into breakout groups to dive deeper into the innovative ways they can address the key findings such as:

- Expanding the consultation model that puts an early childhood professional in the

classroom to provide direct support to teachers, students and families could eliminate the challenge of a workforce shortage.

- Developing stronger partnerships between parents and providers allows them to implement a care plan and focus on their child's growth at a greater level.

- An increase in awareness about available services, insurance coverage, system navigation and legislation is needed for providers and families.



Jennie Marble, Director of Integrated Pediatric Therapies and Linnet Mendez, Associate Director, Outpatient Behavioral Health and Director, Virginia Frank Child Development Center

The symposium was designed with the hope that attendees would leave with practical and operational ideas, models and inspiration to inform and improve their work and the work of their respective organizations.





WILL'S PLACE

and its many links to JCFS

Will's Place, a nonprofit Skokie café that provides meaningful employment and vocational training opportunities for adults with disabilities, has several connections to JCFS Chicago.

In May, JCFS's President and CEO Stacey Shor donned an apron and worked there one morning as a guest barista. Joan Hallagan, who along with her sister, Cathy Maassen, opened Will's Place just over a year ago, said they invite community members to donate their time behind the counter to help raise awareness for their new café.

While Stacey poured coffee and chatted with employees and customers, she gleaned some information about the various links that Will's Place has to JCFS.

First, she learned that some of the employees at

Will's Place are students at the Knapp School & Yeshiva.

"Right now we employ 22 young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities, and we have vocational spots for about six, and some come from Knapp," Joan said.

As vocational workers, the Knapp students mostly help behind the counter, serve customers and clear dishes, but they can also do kitchen tasks, Joan said. To get a job at Will's Place, students fill out an application and have an interview, where they discuss why they want to work there.

"Right now there are a lot of people who'd like to work here, so we have a little bit of a wait," Joan said. "But we hope that as we grow, we're able to bring more people on."



Patrons enjoy coffee and pastries served up by JCFS Chicago CEO Stacey Shor when she was the guest barista at Will's Place in May.

Opposite page: JCFS Chicago CEO Stacey Shor surrounded by Will's Place staff and supporters.

“We sat down with a person at JCFS and they laid out all the things they could do for Nicholas. He was going to be in a classroom with four students and two teachers. Wow, it blew my mind.”

—Jim Iverson, Will's Place landlord

Will's Place is named for Joan's son, William, who suffered a stroke at birth that caused neurological damage. When he turned 22 and aged out of the education system, Joan and Cathy made plans for the café, which gives Will and other adults with disabilities the opportunity to work.

Before Will's Place opened, the space was occupied by a candy shop called Mini Man Monkey Brains, which came about in a similar way. Owners Jim and Gloria Iverson opened the candy shop when their own son, Nicholas, who has autism, was aging out of the education system. The candy shop gave Nick and others with autism a place to work.

After the candy shop closed during Covid (Nick earned his CNA certification and found a new position), Jim became the landlord to Will's Place. He was at the café when Stacey was the guest barista and he told her how JCFS had benefitted Nick when he was young.

At age 3, after some testing, the Iversons learned that Nick had autism. Gloria took Nick to doctors and therapists, who were helpful, but the cost was becoming exorbitant, Jim said.

Then someone recommended JCFS.

“We sat down with a person at JCFS and they laid out all the things they could do for Nicholas,” Jim said. “He was going to be in a classroom with four students and two teachers. Wow, it blew my mind.”

“It was just unbelievable. He did so well there and just the burden of knowing that Nick was in a good place and that we could afford it, it just changed our lives.”

To support Will's Place, stop by 7927 Lincoln Avenue in Skokie Tuesday through Saturday, from 8am to 3pm, and grab a delicious homemade pastry, tasty sandwich or more!



At the culmination of the clinical training year in June, the Psychological Services staff and doctoral students gather for a meditation and labyrinth walk.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING

The path to becoming a Clinical Psychologist starts with JCFS.



Taking time for mindful meditation

For more than 25 years, JCFS Chicago has provided comprehensive clinical training for students in a PsyD or PhD program in clinical, counseling or school psychology, who are on the path to becoming licensed clinical psychologists. “We are very proud of our program,” said Dr. Alysa Slay, PsyD Senior Director, Outpatient Behavioral Health and Director, Psychological Services. In 2021, JCFS was the recipient of the Association of Chicagoland Externship and Practicum Training (ACEPT) Outstanding Training Site of the Year Award for exceptional focus on the training needs of students.

To become a clinical psychologist, students must complete their doctoral degree, practicum (externship) and academic requirements, and a 12-month, full-time internship. Dr. Carri Hill, Assistant Director of Psychological Services, directs JCFS’s clinical training program, overseeing both the interns and externs.



Walking the labyrinth at St. Gregory's

Each training year, JCFS accepts 2-4 doctoral level externs who concentrate on diagnostic testing, therapy or a combination of both through basic, intermediate, and advanced practicum placements. They spend 18-20 hours per week under individual and group supervision and attend JCFS training seminars.

After completing their externship, students then apply for an internship where they are matched with an accredited program like JCFS.

“After going through a rigorous review process, our internship program was recently reaccredited for 10 years—the longest accreditation given by the American Psychological Association,” added Dr. Slay. “This is also something we are very proud of.”

The two interns accepted by JCFS are full-time employees. They are supervised by the clinical training staff, and as an intern they are assigned an extern to provide supplemental supervision. Interns are initially given opportunities to observe, while slowly building their

SPOTLIGHT



Michelle Giuffre has completed several aspects of her clinical training at JCFS Chicago, including her advanced practicum, internship and current post-doc work. She was drawn to JCFS because of its supportive and welcoming environment. Michelle says, “I value working at a nonprofit social service agency that provides access to crucial services and includes interdisciplinary connection to provide accessible, well-rounded support to children and families. I’m looking forward to preparing future clinicians for therapy and assessment experiences.”

therapy and testing caseload. As the year progresses, they receive training on the Disruptive Behavior Clinic model, which includes the identification and treatment of challenging behaviors in children.

“The educational philosophy of JCFS’s psychology internship program is based on a Practitioner-Developmental-Apprentice model. This means students are more hands-on and more autonomous with their clients as the year progresses. They also have opportunities to observe people more advanced than them,” said Dr. Slay.

Following their internship, students need to complete post-doctoral training, or one year of supervised experience before taking the licensing exam in Illinois. Dr. Slay says, “Because we value regular, high-quality supervision and keep training and education needs at the forefront, we have a good success rate with where individuals go next.”

FUN, FESTIVITIES & FAREWELLS



The beginning of summer brought lots of fun activities to the Knapp Campus. From the Family and Community Supports Field Day to the Knapp School & Yeshiva Carnival and Graduation, a fun time was had by all.



Family Field Day

Lots of families enjoyed fun outdoor activities at the Family and Community Supports Field Day. Participants enjoyed face-painting, a bubble station, games and more.



Knapp Carnival

Students at the Knapp School & Yeshiva celebrated the end of the school year with a carnival on the school grounds.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Knapp School & Yeshiva held its 50th Annual Commencement in the school gym on June 7. Ten students graduated (six from high school and four from eighth grade). Following the distribution of certificates, the audience was moved by heartfelt speeches and a commemorative slideshow, and the momentous day ended with an outdoor reception.



RIGHT THIS WAY TO REINTEGRATION

When students enroll at the Knapp School & Yeshiva, it's no secret that the staff is hoping they are only there temporarily.

"The goal is to get them back into their home school full-time," said Antoine Sanders, Reintegration Specialist at Knapp, where the supportive learning environment is tailored to students who have not succeeded in other educational environments.

Antoine has worked at Knapp for over 20 years, devoting the last year and a half to helping students reintegrate into their home, or district, schools.

"My job is to find out what exactly the school needs for the student to be successful, and then try to accommodate them here to prepare," he said. "Once students are here for a certain amount of time and they maintain academics, attendance and behavior, they're eligible to reintegrate to their home school."

Teachers and social workers set up a meeting to go over a reintegration checklist, requiring students to finish 85% of their work, attend school 90% of the time and not have any behavior issues.

"If you meet those goals, then you get to meet with me," Antoine said.

Students who are slated to return to their home schools begin attending a reintegration group every other week, where they have open conversations about the process, as well as work on personal struggles.

"In those groups I get a chance to really target the areas of need," Antoine said.

It's also Antoine's responsibility to contact the

student's parents, as well as the case managers and district representatives from the home schools, to find out if he can get the student enrolled. Elementary students can reintegrate back into their schools anytime, but high school students must wait for the start of a semester. They usually start back at their home school part-time and work their way toward full-time, Antoine said.

"I've had kids that go part-time for a semester and they were ready to go full-time," he said. "There are some that need more time, so we'll give them time and make sure that they're prepared to go full-time."

"We've had kids that left, tried it, really weren't successful and came back, put in a little more work, went back to try again and did it successfully."

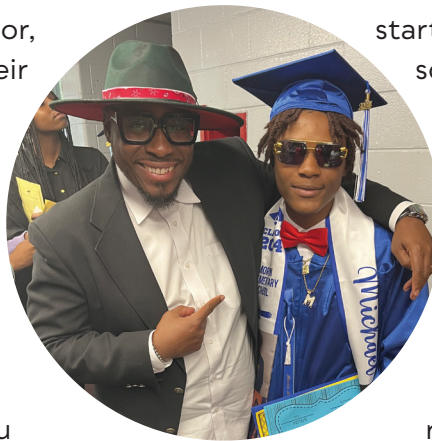
Antoine's job doesn't end when the student starts attending classes at their home school. He visits them once a week to check on their progress.

Not all Knapp students will reintegrate back to their home schools, Antoine said. Some will finish out their time and participate in the graduation ceremony at Knapp.

One student named Michael recently reintegrated into his home school after spending about six years at Knapp, Antoine said. This year Michael graduated from eighth grade,

and Antoine was there to support him.

"It was incredible," Antoine said. "For him to be released from a school, work his way back up and get back into that same school to participate in the graduation. That was very fulfilling for me to know that I had a part to play in that."



Antoine showed up to visit former Knapp student Michael at his graduation



Xavier Smith, Bella Ziegler and
Mac Chase with Antoine Sanders
Photo by Shari Imbo

JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

JCFS Chicago's Jewish Community Services

is dedicated to strengthening Jewish families and the community through culturally sensitive education and support. We offer a range of services tailored to address the specific needs of Jewish adults, children, families and the community. These services include community education, support groups, pastoral counseling, information and referrals, as well as professional training and consultation for synagogues, Jewish day schools, Jewish camps, other Jewish institutions and professionals in the broader community.

“We approach our work through a Jewish lens that deeply resonates within the community, serving community members where they live, work, worship and learn,” said Ann Luban, Senior Director of Community Services.

Specific areas of expertise include abuse prevention, addiction and recovery, adoption, infertility and support for building families, grief, mental health and spirituality. We also provide training and consultation to clergy and other professionals to build their capacity to better serve their constituents. For example, we teach our SMART Kids abuse prevention curriculum to pre-K through fourth-graders and train their teachers in recognizing the signs and symptoms of abuse. We facilitate support groups for those grieving the death of a loved one, or those struggling to build a family; often these groups are co-facilitated by area clergy. We educate the community about substance and behavioral addictions and work closely with Jewish organizations to establish 12-step meetings in their spaces. Our chaplains provide individual pastoral support, and also conduct Shabbat and holiday programming at residential facilities for Jewish residents. We could go on and on about the work we do to serve and support the community, but you can read for yourself the adjoining story of how our programs helped one family struggling with their adult daughter's opioid addiction.

Whether you are seeking personal support or professional development, JCFS Chicago's Jewish Community Services is here to serve, empower and strengthen our community, one individual and family at a time. Together, we can build a future where everyone can thrive.

DARK HOURS

Being the Parent of a Young Adult with Addiction

Waiting for that dreaded phone call, Elaine and Bruce sat on their living room sofa, a foot apart, not touching, each silently wondering what could have happened this time with their 19-year-old daughter Hannah. It was after 1am and they found themselves in an all too familiar circumstance, imagining the worst, yet still hoping for something better.

Hannah had an opioid-use disorder, but Elaine and Bruce could not determine why. There was addiction in the family, but that

They learned that their own recovery as parents of a young adult with a substance use disorder mattered, not only for them, but for Hannah as well.



was generations ago when no one talked about it and most folks didn't even know. There was the prescription for Norco after Hannah's impacted wisdom tooth extraction. There was Covid, the lockdown and isolation during freshman year of high school that spilled into sophomore year, academic decline from remote learning, so much anxiety, too much screen time. There were a million possibilities, not one was certain.

The addiction was certain though: using too much, buying pills from friends when doctors wouldn't prescribe more, switching to heroin when pills became too expensive, and finally, the deadly threat of fentanyl poisoning the black-market supply. Who knew there was something worse than heroin?

While they waited in their dark living room, Elaine and Bruce began talking about their attempts to help their daughter. There was the treatment program that seemed hopeful, but resulted in an immediate relapse. Another program gave Hannah some sober time, but eventually led to another relapse. Different doctors, different providers, different approaches. Their hope faded and was replaced by fear, then terror.

Elaine and Bruce had no idea how to parent a 19-year-old with an opioid-use disorder. Elaine suggested talking to their rabbi, who had spoken about addiction from the bimah on Rosh Hashanah. Bruce shrugged, what could a rabbi do that several treatment programs couldn't?

The garage door opened and Hannah walked in. She looked terrible but at least she was alive,

and she was home. For the moment, they could breathe again.

Elaine and Bruce did speak with their rabbi, who recommended contacting JCFS Chicago's addiction services. During the call with Program Manager Dr. Beth Fishman, Elaine and Bruce learned about Suboxone as a best practice for those with opioid-use disorders; that longer treatment stays often result in stronger recovery; and about Families Anonymous, a 12-Step program for loved ones of those struggling with addiction.

They learned that their own recovery as parents of a young adult with a substance-use disorder mattered, not only for them, but for Hannah as well. They learned that two Families Anonymous meetings took place in nearby synagogues, where many Jewish parents joined others with similar stories to learn new ways to parent their young adult children and lead their own lives. And they learned that they could be parents in difficult circumstances without losing themselves in the process.

We're here to help. For more information, call 855.275.5237 or email ASK@JCFS.org.

*By Beth Fishman PhD,
Program Manager, Addiction Services*

ELEVATE



Laurie and Neal Price, Irving B. Harris Leadership Award Honorees, celebrate with their friends and family at Elevate.



Syril Price, Honoree Committee Member



Marlies Gramann, Chief Program Officer and Stacey Shor, President and CEO



Raina Leon, Bruce Leon, What's Possible Award Honoree Cheryl Leon and Yael Leon



Danny and Jodi Newmark



JCFS Board Chair Michael Capone



JCFS Board Member Rob Brimm and Anna Brimm with Cheri Grossman, JCFS Board Member

Photos by Marcello Rodarte



Emcee Scott Cupper

THANK YOU

for making ELEVATE a spectacular success! We are grateful for the opportunity to highlight the inspirational work of JCFS Chicago and recognize Laurie and Neal Price and Cheryl Leon for their tireless leadership and significant impact on our community.



Harlene Pine and Marti Pine

Your generosity ensures that JCFS Chicago can continue to provide expert, individualized services to over 22,000 children, adults and families seeking emotional well-being and self-sufficiency.

Thanks to our sponsors and generous supporters, we raised over \$300,000 to lift up our neighbors.



JCFS Board Members and Event Co-chairs Marshall Pred and Liz Roberts Turnipseed with Stacey Shor



Bluma Broner and Lori Palatnik



Sara Poticha and Patti Frazin



Stephanie Malk, Rebecca Weiner, Greer Herman, Jessica Lorber (JCFS Board Member), Emily Keith (JCFS Board Member), Cindy Arenson, Mirav Domm

NOTEWORTHY NEWS



STACEY SHOR JOINS NJHSA BOARD

In May, JCFS Chicago's President & CEO Stacey Shor was installed on the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies (NJHSA) Board of Directors and will be serving a three-year term. "I am moved by the power amplifying human service agencies to help vulnerable people lead meaningful lives. Through our inter-connection, we build awareness, develop best practice and support each other in this critical work," Stacey said.

NJHSA stands as a collective of 170+ non-profit Jewish human service organizations spanning the United States, Canada, and Israel. Member organizations collectively provide a comprehensive array of human services for individuals across all age groups, both within and beyond the Jewish community.



WELCOME DR. LEWIS

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Diona Lewis has joined JCFS Chicago to serve as the new Knapp School & Yeshiva principal. Dr. Lewis comes with deep administrative and principal experience, and a passion for empowering students.

Dr. Lewis has been a special education teacher, assistant principal, director of special education and principal. She holds an EdD in Educational Leadership Curriculum and Instruction, an M.A. in Special Education, an administrative endorsement and a B.S. in Secondary Education. She well understands the needs of our students and is a great choice to lead the Knapp School into the future.

Welcoming Dr. Lewis to the Knapp School community is a special opportunity to embrace new perspectives and initiatives for our students' education and overall experience, paving the way for a bright and successful future.

DONOR PROFILE: ALAN FREEMAN

His family's connections to JCFS's organizational roots may have formed well before Alan Freeman was born in 1925, but the nearly century-old man and his family continue to support JCFS Chicago today.



As young boys, Alan and his brother lived in an apartment inside the Chicago Home for Jewish Orphans, growing up alongside the approximately 150 children their family served when his father worked at the Home.

"We grew up together as neighbors, friends and schoolmates." Alan

recalled of his time living in the building at South Drexel Avenue and East 62nd Street.

In 1937, the Chicago Home for Jewish Orphans merged with the Marks Nathan Jewish Orphan Home and the Jewish Home Finding Society to become the Jewish Children's Bureau (JCB), which eventually became JCFS Chicago.

Alan and his wife, Kathy, have continued donating to JCFS over the years. His daughters, Lynn Bernstein (and her husband, Toby) and Paula Freeman (and her husband, Tom) have done the same. They have all experienced the impact of JCFS's supportive programs and services.

WAYS TO GIVE



\$1000

provides two weeks of in-home respite for caregivers of a loved one with a disability.



\$500

provides a job-seeker with career counseling and placement services.



\$250

supports two weeks of counseling for an adult struggling with depression.



\$100

provides hygiene kits for a refugee family.



\$50

provides a child with a gift through the JCFS Holiday Gift Drive.



Joy Faith Knapp Children's Center
Esther Knapp Campus
3145 W Pratt Blvd.
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The mission of JCFS Chicago is to provide help, healing, and caring to strengthen lives in the community. services infused with Jewish values

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