



Jewish Family & Children's Service

CONNECTIONS



East Valley Healthcare Center Opens!

Our third, fully integrated healthcare center offers primary medical care, behavioral health, and social services to the East Valley.



New JFCS Healthcare Center Brings Integrated Care to the East Valley

The new JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center is part of JFCS' strategic objective of bringing integrated health to individuals and families in the Valley of the Sun. By moving behavioral health services from its current location in Mesa to the new 30,000-square-foot Gilbert location, JFCS will now offer behavioral health and primary medical care services in one location, providing the most effective approach to caring for people with multiple healthcare needs.

The new JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center offers primary care services that include physicals, wellness exams and immunizations, as well as behavioral health services that incorporate individual, group and family therapy. Featuring

state-of-the-art equipment and an enhanced large play therapy area, the JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center will serve new and existing clients and their families.

"We were very mindful of the building's layout during planning and construction," said Robert Ouimette, Director of the JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center. "It wasn't just about bringing everyone together under one roof. It was also about providing an environment that promoted conversation and collaboration between the primary and behavioral care disciplines so providers could ensure the best possible patient outcomes with minimal appointments."

“Unlike other behavioral health agencies that only support the individual with a mental illness, the JFCS model offers integrated health services for the entire family,” added Ouimette. “When you live with someone who has a significant mental health illness, it’s a family issue. So when you can serve and offer support to the whole family, it’s a game changer.”

In addition to offering comprehensive services onsite, JFCS has a community-based team including therapists, clinicians, child case managers, youth and family specialists, and family support partners that support clients in their homes, schools and other treatment settings.

“Our new site is perfect for serving the needs of foster youth who require regularly scheduled medical and behavioral check-ups,” said co-director Jean Kerr. “Group home kids tend to move around a lot. Offering one dedicated place for all their medical needs means we can get to know them on a whole new level.”

For Valley residents that are a part of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), JFCS’ plan to offer integrated care means these individuals will have the same access to quality care as individuals on the most comprehensive health care plans. Financial access to care, transportation and gaps in knowledge about how to properly care for themselves are no longer a barrier to quality care. Combining primary and behavioral care means a well-rounded, effective approach to treating the whole person, regardless of social or economic circumstances.

“We’re excited for our care teams to become pillars in Gilbert and the surrounding communities,” added Kerr. “The new location is just what we needed to fulfill our mission of providing the highest quality of care to everyone.”

According to JFCS’ Vice President of Integrated Health, Mary Jo Whitfield, the new JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center will strengthen the community by providing a one-stop location for much-needed integrated services.

“It is amazing what faith and commitment can build,” said Whitfield. We couldn’t have reached our goal without the amazing people that support our mission.”

JFCS is grateful to the following major donors who funded the expansion of the JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center:

- Valerie and Herschel Richter
- Thunderbirds Charities
- Rosenbluth Family Charitable Foundation
- Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation



JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center

880 N. Colorado St. Gilbert, AZ 85233

480.820.0825 | www.jfcsaz.org/EV





Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

When you give to JFCS, you put families on a path to success – and you could receive an Arizona state tax credit of up to \$800 for couples or \$400 for individuals. JFCS is a qualifying organization for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. Gifts made to JFCS can qualify for the credit and be claimed on your Arizona State income tax return using QCO code 20255. As with any tax issue please consult your tax professional.

We're happy to assist with your year-end charitable giving. Although gifts of cash immediately sustain our mission, gifts of stock, giving via your IRA, and planned giving alternatives are excellent gift options for this time of year. Call us today at 602-567-8327.

Your generous contribution makes a real difference!

An \$800 credit can:

- Provide emergency housing for two families for a week.
- Help four foster care youth participating in JFCS' Real World Job Development program pay for the test fees required to pass the Arizona High School Equivalency Diploma.
- Give a year's worth of school uniforms for up to 10 children in need.
- Cover emergency dental care for a child who has been abused or neglected.
- Provide books, registration fees, school supplies, and other necessary items to enroll in postsecondary education classes for multiple youth.
- Pay for bus passes for foster youth to get to their places of employment.

A \$400 credit can:

- Help a Domestic Violence survivor make needed car repairs, new tires, etc., so that they have safe and reliable transportation for themselves and their children.
- Allow 12 participants to attend a six-week class of JFCS' Health Navigator-facilitated Chronic Pain Self-Management, Healthy Living or Diabetes classes.
- Cover uncompensated care needs by assisting families and individuals with one-time emergency assistance such as housing and utilities payments, food to support dietary restrictions, transportation, fees for birth certificates and state ID's, and other urgent and basic needs.
- Ensure two individual domestic violence survivors have the ability to turn on utilities when they are ready to move in to their own safe housing, or maintain service when the abusive partner is delinquent on child support.

Please consider taking advantage of this credit. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your support and commitment to the good work we all do in our communities.

Should you have questions, please consult your tax advisor.

Giving to the AZ Charitable Tax Credit

Costs You Nothing!

How it works.

Taxes Due BEFORE Credits: \$5,535

Deduct Tax Credits	\$800
JFCS Arizona Charitable Tax Credit	\$400
Public School Tax	\$2,177
Private School Tuition	\$1,000
Foster Care Charitable Organization	\$400
Military Family Relief Fund	

Total Credits: \$4,777

New Taxes Due AFTER Credits:
\$758.00

You decide how your Arizona tax dollars are spent!

Host a Backpack Drive

The 2020 JFCS Back to School Drive benefiting the children served through our agency is right around the corner and we need your help! Backpacks from JFCS contain the core supplies that a student needs for success in the classroom. Supplies are selected based on teacher feedback and are grade appropriate. All backpacks and supplies are new.

We are looking for the following donations:

- #2 Pencils
- Blue and Black Pens
- Copy Paper (White & Various Colors)
- Tissues
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Markers (washable)
- Dry Erase Markers (various colors)
- Children Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- 2-Pocket Folders
- Three-Ring Binders

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Abby Loza at Abby.Loza@jfcsaz.org or (602) 358-0444.



Real World Job Development Program gives hope

JFCS' Real World Job Development (RWJD) program was established in 2006 as a youth-directed program to assist "disconnected youth," age 14-21 who are out of school, out of work and aging out of the foster care system. These at-risk youth accessing the program struggle with mental health challenges, chronic homelessness, learning disabilities, academic and basic living skills deficiencies.

Disconnected foster youth can be a challenging population to engage, particularly those who have experienced foster care. Many youth in the program face challenges complicated by trauma history. To help youth remain engaged, we focus on helping them feel a connection to the program, to the community of peers and staff, and address barriers such as lack of transportation, homelessness, and emotional issues such as anxiety and depression.

Our trauma-informed program works to successfully transition youth to adulthood, self-sufficiency and independent living by improving their academic and life skills, providing real work internships and creating structure-focused guidance toward individual career path development. Last year, the RWJD program served 200 at-risk youth.



I'd like to thank JFCS

for giving me this opportunity to get my GED and just having such a spectacular team to guide me and my fellow graduates to this point. I'll make sure to always remember all the people I've met here and the wondrous support from JFCS.

-RWJD Graduate, Ethziely: An excerpt from her graduation speech



Older Adults are cherished at JFCS



Memory Café



Creative Aging: Belly Dancing

JFCS is passionate about helping people at every stage of life, including the older adults of the Arizona community. Our programs provide older adults access to activities that foster independence and promote healthy living in both mind and body.

From fun social activities, to health and wellness programs, to Jewish programming, the **JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment** provides a wide variety of classes that are free and open to the entire senior community. Similarly, our **Creative Aging** classes stimulate the mind and body and provide an outlet for artistic expressions.

The **Memory Café**- a meeting place for those with challenges in memory, mild cognitive impairment due to Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, along with their care partners.

If they can't come to us, we come to them with our **In-home Older Adult Services**, providing comprehensive in-home support such as counseling, case management, advocacy and referrals to appropriate resources.

And if seniors simply want to be in the know, they can always call our **Senior Concierge**, a collaborative program between JFCS and the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, which help connect our older adult population to community programs and services.

“ Thank you abundantly.

Your class is truly beginning to wake up & tone my sleepy muscles again! – JFCS Creative Aging, Belly Dance 2020 Participant ”

JFCS Volunteers make all the difference

Volunteers are a vital part of the JFCS Healthcare Centers. They take on some of the responsibilities of patient care and allow medical professionals to spend more time taking care of their patients and less time doing inventory and answering the telephone. Currently, JFCS utilizes volunteers in the following capacities:

- **The Michael R. Zent Healthcare Center (MRZ)** – Madeline D. (JFCS volunteer) is currently working with MRZ staff and the community to help bring programs and beautification to the onsite community garden. She is taking into consideration all of the ways a community garden can benefit the surrounding neighborhood and our patients
- **The West Valley Behavioral Health Clinic** – Jennifer B. (JFCS volunteer) provides relief for the hardworking medical staff. She is available to check in customers as they arrive, answer questions, and work on administrative tasks. Her donation of time allows the JFCS staff to focus on client interaction and care.
- **The East Valley Healthcare Center** – Susan K. (JFCS volunteer) helps in the children's room, a place to play, listen to a book reading, or engage in an art activity. Susan also helps with administrative tasks and customer care.



JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center Grand Opening!

This exciting new chapter for JFCS will be celebrated **May 20, 2020**. Breakfast will be provided and we will enjoy speeches from JFCS leadership and local officials. You won't want to miss this!

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www.jfcsaz.org/EV

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