



Jewish Family & Children's Service

CONNECTIONS

Donor Newsletter



Reflect, Return, Reconnect



Center for Senior Enrichment Combines Virtual and In-Person Programming

Snippets of conversation can be heard as the residents at The Palazzo senior living community begin gathering in the cinema room. After months of no in-person gatherings due to COVID-19, it is a welcome sight to see people getting out and about again. The Palazzo is home to Jewish Family & Children's Service's Center for Senior Enrichment.

For Janet Rees, Creative Aging Coordinator for JFCS, just seeing the smiles on people's faces as they participate in the various programs is proof enough that they are so happy and appreciative that JFCS is providing engaging activities for them.

"For most of us, we still had some personal interactions with other members of our families or perhaps a close friend," said Rees. "But for the seniors at The Palazzo, social distancing meant staying in their own rooms, with very limited interactions. Participating in our programs has been a welcome addition to their week."

JFCS began offering once a week in-person programming mid-summer at The Palazzo. In addition to the Zoom offerings, the residents have enjoyed live music, a drumming circle, Zumba Gold and a variety of interesting speakers.

According to Jennifer Brauner, JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment site director, since the virtual program launched in November 2020, more than 5,000 have engaged in programs.

"Our participants really enjoy attending an online class without worrying about transportation or extra travel time," said Brauner.

One of the benefits of offering virtual classes is the opportunity for seniors from across the Valley to participate.

"We're so glad we are able to offer our community a choice of coming to a program in-person or joining online," said Rees. "And in some cases, they're doing both. We're gathering in-person at The Palazzo and logging in to one of the virtual programs. Being in a group to watch a Zoom brings a sense of community and is quite different from watching isolated in a room."

The JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment provides cultural, educational and faith-based programs for seniors throughout the Valley. These programs are open to all faiths and have been made available thanks to the generous support of Area Agency on Aging, the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Phoenix and individual donors. For more information: <https://www.jfcsaz.org/events>.



JFCS completes plan to open four healthcare centers

Recognizing the need to provide integrated healthcare to underserved communities across the Valley, Jewish Family & Children's Service has completed its plan to open four integrated healthcare centers in six years. Integrated health combines full wellness – primary medical care and behavioral health services in one location as a one-stop shop for individual and family care.

The most recent site (West Valley) opened in Spring 2021 at 1840 N. 95th Avenue, Suite 160 in Phoenix. Each healthcare center offers behavioral health and primary medical care services in one place, providing the most effective approach to caring for people with multiple healthcare needs.

Clients have access to primary care services, including physicals, wellness exams, immunizations, and behavioral healthcare services that include individual and group therapy. In addition to offering comprehensive services onsite and via telehealth appointments, JFCS has a community-based team including therapists, clinicians, child case managers, youth and family specialists, and family support partners that support clients in providing wellness and treatment services.



"Although we did return to seeing clients in-person several months ago, the use of technology, including telehealth and teletherapy is now a permanent part of our service delivery model. For our younger patients, being face-to-face with their therapist is much easier than keeping their attention on-screen or on the phone. We've seen a decrease in the amount of time kids have to miss school because they can also call in or use video-conferencing for appointments. We plan to continue offering this hybrid model of providing care dependent on client need. We are thrilled that we have been able to open our Play Therapy Room. With strict adherence to social distancing protocols, our therapists and our patients are benefiting from this type of interaction."

Robert Ouimette, Director, JFCS East Valley Healthcare Center



"As we continue to move toward seeing more patients in-person, one great addition is our outdoor community and therapeutic garden. We're growing sage and sunflowers and expect to plant zucchini, peppers, tomatoes, kale, and various herbs in the coming months. Since it is a community garden, we recently had an individual experiencing homelessness volunteer to assist in the garden, as they had been a recipient of some of the harvest and wanted to give back. It also is a therapeutic garden, with specific areas designated so that our patients can plant what they want, nurture it and watch it grow. We also use the garden as a skill-building opportunity to teach patients planting skills, what nutrients are needed, which gives them further insights in to how to take care of themselves."

Jennifer Young, Director, JFCS Michael R. Zent Healthcare Center



"The past year has been challenging for so many. But with strict adherence to our safety protocols, we have begun conducting our therapy appointments in-person. Our therapists are thrilled to be back onsite providing support to our clients. We fully embraced telehealth and will continue to do so as many of our clients have found this option to be valuable in order to access their important behavioral health appointments."

Melissa Baker, Director - JFCS Glendale Healthcare Center



"We moved to our new location in early 2021 and have been offering fully integrated care since May. Our therapists are seeing clients in the office as well as through virtual visits, so that we continue to maintain safe social distancing throughout the site. We will continue to offer telehealth services as it is so beneficial for some of our clients and removes significant barriers to care. Our new location also has a Play Therapy Room and a Sand Tray Therapy Room. Both provide opportunities for our patients to express themselves through play, a very important therapy option for both children and adults. "

Rochelle Ryan, Director - JFCS West Valley Healthcare Center

Giving to the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

Costs You Nothing!

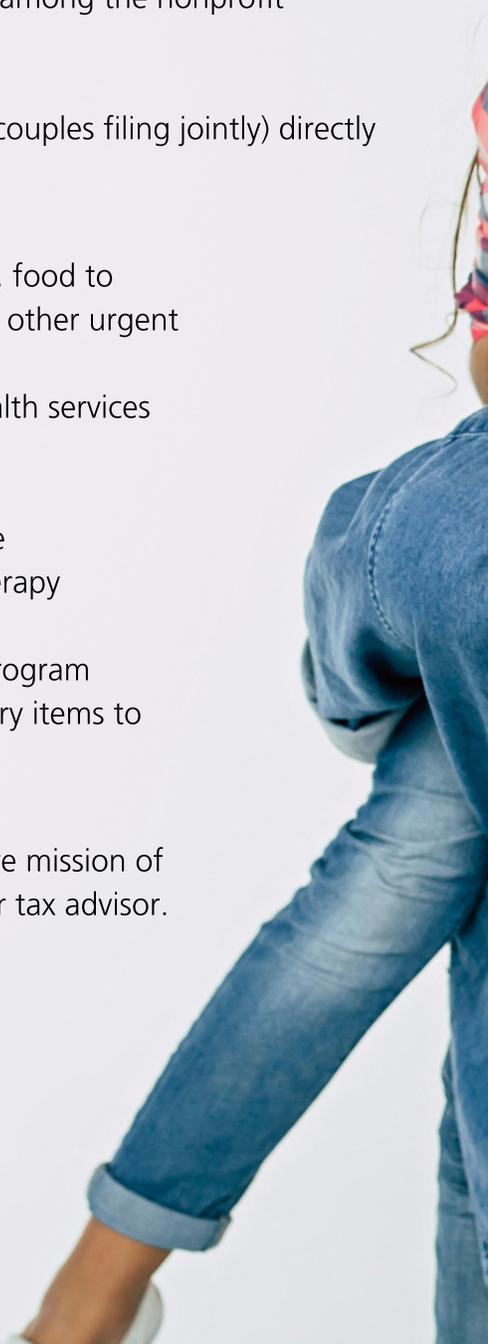
JFCS relies on the generosity and financial support of the community to do the work we do. And if you make a financial contribution to Jewish Family & Children's Service, you not only make a positive impact on our organization, but YOU benefit from it as well!

The Arizona Department of Revenue provides a dollar-for-dollar credit on your state income tax when you make a financial contribution to a qualified nonprofit organization. JFCS is among the nonprofit organizations that are eligible for Arizona Charitable Tax Credit.

A tax credit gift of \$400 (maximum for single filer) or \$800 (maximum for couples filing jointly) directly supports:

- One-time emergency assistance such as housing and utilities payments, food to support dietary restrictions, fees for birth certificates and state IDs, and other urgent and basic needs
- Access to technology to ensure those who require it can obtain telehealth services
- Emergency dental care for children in need
- School application fees for survivors of domestic violence
- Workshops to fight and stop substance abuse as well as family violence
- Bus passes for parents who need to bring themselves or children to therapy appointments
- Foster care youth participating in JFCS' Real World Job Development program
- The cost of books, registration fees, school supplies, and other necessary items to enroll in postsecondary education classes for multiple youth.

We thank you for your continued support and commitment to our collective mission of healing lives. Should you have any additional questions, please consult your tax advisor.





Volunteers Keep Things Running



Although in-person volunteer opportunities have been limited, the need for volunteers at Jewish Family & Children's Service remains strong.

JFCS relies on its volunteers to help provide services and support to the community. Being a JFCS volunteer allows people to make a difference in the lives of others while participating in rewarding experiences. Volunteer opportunities include but are not limited to:

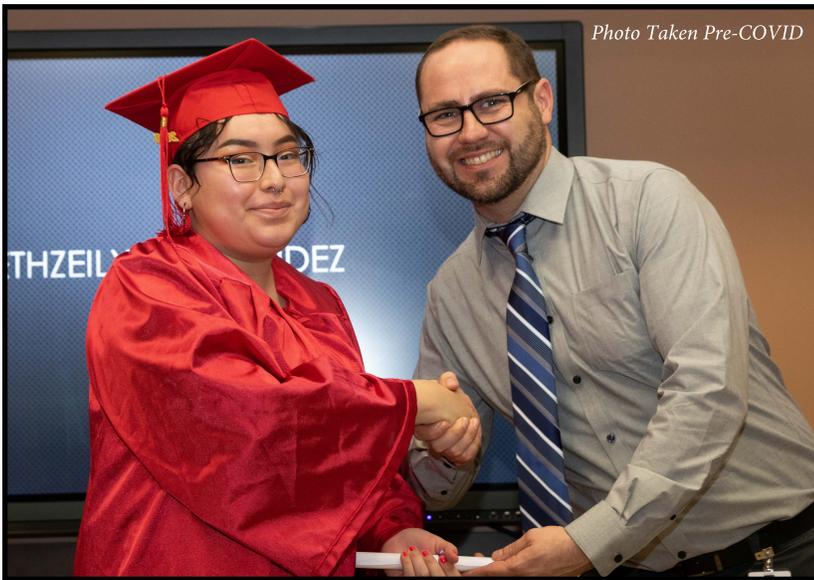
- academic and life skills tutoring
- administrative support
- drivers

Current needs include non-perishable and non-expired foods including:

- Soup
- rice
- pasta
- canned fruit
- veggies
- cleaning supplies
- personal care items (soap and toiletries, deodorant, and diapers.)

JFCS also welcomes gift cards from local grocers. In addition, JFCS annually provides back-to-school backpacks and will continue to collect school supplies throughout the year. For more information about volunteer opportunities and to make a contribution, please visit the JFCS website at <https://www.jfcsaz.org/volunteer>.

Real World Job Development Program Has Lasting Impact



Students in the Real World Job Development program at Jewish Family & Children's Service are youth aging out of the Arizona foster care system, typically ages 16-24.

Most of the young clients in this program live in group homes. JFCS staff works with the youth to assist in education completion, work readiness, and life skills. The past 18 months has not been without its challenges, but through it all, 18 students received their GED certificates (10 in 2020, 8 so far in 2021), 5 obtained their certified nursing assistant and/or phlebotomy certificate, 10 students have paid internships and one was hired full-time after his internship was completed.

Although adjustments needed to be made because of COVID, the students remained committed to their goals, and came to classes and stayed engaged. "When all GED testing centers closed, we worked with Pearson-Vue, a GED testing provider, to proctor the exams at our location so that our kids could complete this important step," said Gina Harper, director of JFCS Real World Job Development program. As businesses return to more normal operations, Harper and her team have developed new relationships with small businesses in the community, willing to offer internships to our students.

Community Professionals Bring Passion for Social Service to JFCS



If you are an emerging leader, with an interest in social service and giving back to the community, then Jewish Family & Children's Service Professional Leadership Group might be for you. Founded in 2017 by Adam Brooks, a longtime supporter of JFCS and Managing Director of ABLE Financial Group, JFCS' Professional Leadership Group provides leaders and emerging leaders, age 27-45, the opportunity to make a difference in their community.

Bringing together philanthropic-minded individuals that have a passion for social service, participants get an in-depth look at the role JFCS plays in our community. The eight-month program offers participants engaging and practical leadership training, networking, mentorship, and the opportunity to make a tangible impact in the community.

According to Andrea Arkow, director of philanthropy and donor engagement, the Professional Leadership Group is a great way for individuals to learn from experienced community leaders, while building connections and making a meaningful impact through the work of JFCS.

"After spending time learning more about our programs and services and seeing first-hand the impact we are making, many of our alumni continue to be engaged with JFCS through volunteerism as well as financial support," said Arkow. "They express a deep appreciation for the work that we do and want to continue their involvement following their graduation from the program."

And that is certainly true for Jessielyn K. Hirschl who was a 2018-19 participant in JFCS' Professional Leadership Group.

"While I was always aware of JFCS, I never really knew just how much their programs had to offer until I joined the leadership group," said Hirschl. "I experienced a full-day tour where I visited many of their program sites and got an in-depth understanding of just how many communities and individuals they touch on a regular basis. This is what eventually led me to become a monthly donor and it's something I'm very proud and happy to do."

The next cohort will run October 2021 – May 2022. For more information visit the website at: <https://www.jfcsaz.org/PLG>.



Jewish Family & Children's Service Brighter Tomorrow Event

January 28, 2022

For information and registration, visit:
www.jfcsaz.org/btl

Executive Leadership Team

Lorrie Henderson, Ph.D., MBA, LCSW
President & Chief Executive Officer

Terrence Daniels
Chief Financial Officer

Gail Baer
Vice President of Philanthropic Services

Mark Callesen, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Megan Lipman
Vice President of Quality
Management & Compliance

Ellie Schwartzberg, MC, LPC
Vice President of Older Adults and
Jewish Community Services

Linda Scott, MSW
Vice President of Child & Family Solutions

Gwynn Simpson
Vice President of Human Resources

Mary Jo Whitfield, MSW
Vice President of Integrated Health

JFCS Governance Board

Paul E. Stander, M.D., MBA, Chair
Janice Dinner, Vice Chair
Noel Williams, Secretary
Vicki Cabot
Marc T. Giannone

Carol A. Kern
Pam Meyer
Ken Miller
Edward M. Ober
Karen Owens
Jeffrey Packer, D.O.
Michael J. Seiden
Edna Sitelman, Ed. D.
Richard Wolf

Emeritus Members

Lenore Schupak
Carol Seidberg



4747 N. 7th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85014 • 602.279.7655 • www.jfcsaz.org

