



Jewish Family & Children's Service

CONNECTIONS

Donor Newsletter



What Philanthropy Makes Possible **Florence and Diane Eckstein**

Faithful JFCS donors and committed philanthropists



Sisters Diane Eckstein (L) and Florence (Flo) Eckstein (R).

Valley sisters have 50+ year history with JFCS

Any conversation with Flo Eckstein and her sister, Diane Eckstein, sheds insight into a family's lifetime commitment to Phoenix's Jewish community. Flo (78) and Diane (76) learned early on from their parents, Cecil and Pearl Newmark, the importance of giving back.

"Whether by actions or through financial contributions, we grew up recognizing that it was our responsibility to help others," said Diane.

And this philosophy was evident in their husbands' family as well – a good thing considering the sisters married brothers, Paul and John respectively.

"We really don't remember how we met the Eckstein brothers, it just seems that our families have always known each other," said Flo. "The Jewish community was much smaller back in the 60s and 70s, so I'm sure we were introduced by common friends and the rest is history."

For Jewish Family & Children's Service, that history dates back to 1965, when Flo, a recent college graduate, started as an administrator with JFCS, at the time co-located in the former United Way building on 16th Street and Osborn Road in Phoenix.

"Lois Tuchler was executive director at the time. She had a very entrepreneurial spirit and was always looking for ways to improve JFCS' programs in the community," said Flo.

Foster care and adoption assistance were among the services offered.

"Lois gave me a tremendous opportunity to get involved in helping these kids. I found so much joy in this work that I decided to go back to school and get a master's degree in social work."

Flo continued working with JFCS through the early 80s, specifically with the Soviet Union refugee program

A Passion to Serve

and Older Adult Services. She then left JFCS to take over as editor/publisher of the Jewish News of Greater Phoenix, which had been in the family since 1961.

Meanwhile, Diane was pursuing a similar path in California, working for a time with the Los Angeles County Bureau of Adoptions and then the San Francisco Department of Social Services.

“When my husband finished his medical residency, we decided to return to Phoenix. A part-time position was available at JFCS in the adoption services division. It seemed like the perfect fit.”

Also citing Tuchler’s entrepreneurial spirit, Diane was intrigued by JFCS’ commitment to working with older kids needing permanent homes. Diane and her colleagues led group trainings designed to raise awareness of the family challenges during the adoption process, creating a safe and supportive environment for all.

“Lois was a real pioneer when it came to creating innovative programs. JFCS was the beneficiary of her approach, and I was fortunate to be a part of the organization during that important time in its history,” said Diane.

Diane left JFCS in 1981, and, with a colleague from JFCS, founded a non-profit counseling center, specializing in adoption issues. “What we learned at JFCS inspired us to offer these specialized services to the community.”

Today the sisters are enjoying retirement, traveling with their families and volunteering with a variety of community organizations.

“JFCS has been a part of our lives for so many years. We are happy that we can continue to contribute to its success all these years later,” said Flo.

The Eckstein sisters hold a photo with their husbands, parents, and in-laws, taken at a JFCS event





Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

Did you know that Jewish Family & Children's Service is among the estimated 90 nonprofit organizations throughout Arizona that are eligible for tax credit contributions in 2019?

Through the program, the Arizona Department of Revenue provides a dollar-for-dollar credit on your state income tax for anyone who contributes to a qualifying organization. The maximum credit allowed is \$800 for couples filing jointly and \$400 for single filers.

Don't think the donation will make that much of a difference?

Think again.

An \$800 credit can:

- 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.
- Provide emergency housing for two families for a week.
- Provide books, registration fees, school supplies, and other necessary items to enroll in postsecondary education classes for multiple youth.
- Give a year's worth of school uniforms for up to 10 children in need.
- Pay for bus passes for foster youth to get to their places of employment.
- Cover emergency dental care for a child who has been abused or neglected.

A \$400 credit can:

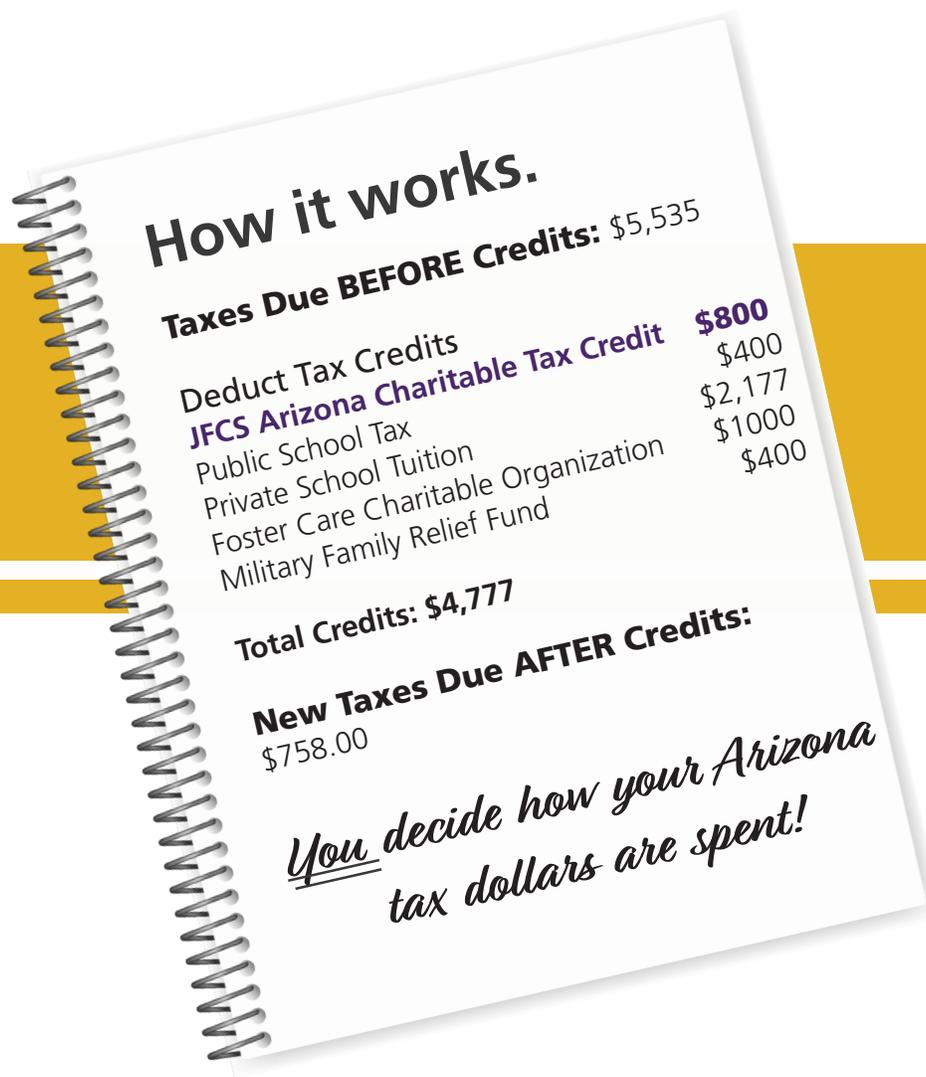
- Cover uncompensated care needs by assisting families and individuals with one-time emergency assistance such as housing and utilities payments, food to support dietary restrictions, transportation, fees for birth certificates and state ID's, and other urgent and basic needs.
- Ensure two individual 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.
- Allow 12 participants to attend a six-week class of JFCS' Health Navigator-facilitated Chronic Pain Self-Management, Healthy Living or Diabetes classes.
- 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.

Please consider taking advantage of this credit before year's end. 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!

Real World Job Development Program gets RED facelift

Since 2006, the JFCS Real World Job Development Program has helped prepare youth for adulthood by providing the learning skills necessary for self-sufficiency while teaching them the importance of education and employment. The program is designed in particular to help those ages 16 to 24 smoothly transition out of the foster care system and group homes.

And thanks to the team at Keller Williams Biltmore Partners, the participants in this program now have a newly updated program facility.

Chris Altman, managing broker for Keller Williams Biltmore Partners and the adoptive parent of a foster youth, knows first-hand the importance of programs like this to kids in the foster system.

“Our team had been introduced to JFCS and the Real World Job Development Program and when the time came to select the recipient of this year’s RED Day, we knew this was a perfect fit,” said Altman.

RED Day stands for “Renew, Energize, and Donate,” which is a Keller Williams national day of service. The team spent the day making the facility a newer, fresher, happier, more inviting place to gather and learn for the transitioning youth.

“And what really made the experience special for all of us was working alongside the kids in the program and seeing the pride in their faces knowing that they were a part of the effort.”

East Valley Clinic Moving, Adding Primary Care

In 2020, JFCS’ East Valley Healthcare Center will be moving to a 30,000-square-foot enhanced facility located at 880 N. Colorado Street in Gilbert.

The move – just five miles from the previous space in Mesa – allows the clinic to expand service offerings to include medical primary care services such as physical exams, diagnosis and treatment for common illnesses, immunizations, annual checkups, flu shots and sports physicals.

Once open, the clinic will serve as a fully integrated healthcare center, joining JFCS’ two current integrated sites, the Michael R. Zent Healthcare Center in Maryvale and the Glendale Healthcare Center.

Integrated healthcare center clients are treated by a collaborative team of therapists, clinicians, medical doctors, psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, and other professionals. Together, the coordinated efforts treat every aspect of a client’s well-being.



Valley kids go back to school in style

There's nothing quite like a brand-new backpack full of school supplies. And thanks to a variety of generous community partners and volunteers, Valley kids from Jewish Family & Children's Service's integrated health clinics will be going back to school in style this year.

JFCS' 2019 Backpack Drive brought in nearly 1,800 brand new backpacks for children grades K-12 in need across the Valley.

"JFCS is grateful to the many companies and volunteers who give so generously each year to our annual backpack drive," said Gail Baer, JFCS' vice president of Philanthropic Services.

Volunteers from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and Just-In Time Moving donated, assembled and delivered 1,000 backpacks stocked full of school supplies to Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) clinic locations in the Maryvale neighborhood and the West Valley.

"Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona was thrilled to be a part of the JFCS Backpack Drive this year," said Sue Glawe, vice president of community relations. "Our employee volunteers had a great time assembling the backpacks and appreciate the opportunity to help so many deserving kids start off the school year with these much-needed supplies."

Mercy Care, who has supported JFCS and its programs for several years, coordinated another backpack drive with volunteers from their organization. More than 30 employees gathered at the JFCS Michael R. Zent Healthcare Center and assembled almost 300 backpacks with supplies donated by the company. The backpacks will be divided between Michael R. Zent and West Valley healthcare centers.

Among other partners who participated this year were the Phoenix chapter of the Brandeis National Committee, Wells Fargo, and family and friends of JFCS volunteers Cheryl Kingsbury and Sue Sandys.

Become a JFCS Volunteer

Volunteers are a valuable resource at JFCS not only to our agency but to our entire community. Being a volunteer with JFCS gives you the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others while participating in rewarding experiences.

If you or an organization you are involved with is interested in a meaningful volunteer experience, contact Abby Loza at Abby.Loza@jfc saz.org or (602) 358-0444.





Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Michael M. Crow, President of Arizona State University
January 17, 2020 | JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn
www.jfcsaz.org/btl

JFCS Leadership

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



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