

Connections

Your Donor Newsletter



Expanding Hope

Domestic Violence Survivors to benefit from New Relationship Between JFCS and Sojourner Center

The numbers paint a sobering picture: **Every three days in Arizona, someone dies in a domestic violence-related incident.** The Phoenix Police Department receives on average 50,000 domestic violence calls annually. For every one reported case of domestic violence, experts estimate eight cases go unreported.*

For more than 15 years, JFCS has been providing victims of domestic violence with critical safety planning, resources, support and case management for those who reside outside of a shelter setting.

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TAX CREDIT
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CREATING
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SOJOURNER CENTER BECOMES SUBSIDIARY OF JFCS



Recently, however, JFCS and Sojourner Center – one of the Arizona's largest and longest-running domestic violence shelters -- announced a definitive agreement in which Sojourner Center will operate as a subsidiary organization of JFCS. Sojourner Center will maintain its name, brand and 501(c)3 status.

The two organizations share significant synergies in their missions and programs and an alignment in organizational cultures. JFCS' existing work in domestic violence programs, history of operational excellence, and robust fundraising capabilities will allow Sojourner Center to improve the long-term financial health of the organization.

"Sojourner Center's role in providing critical, life-transforming services to victims of domestic violence cannot be overstated. We believe it is essential to make certain Sojourner Center is able to continue providing those services to our community, and that's what this agreement represents," said JFCS President and CEO Dr. Lorrie Henderson, Ph.D., MBA, LCSW (AZ). "The two organizations share a history of successful collaborations, which makes this partnership a perfect fit."

DID YOU KNOW?

October marks Domestic Violence Awareness month

Every 9 seconds in the U.S., a woman is assaulted or beaten

1 in 3 women (and 1 in 4 men) has been a victim of physical brutality by an intimate partner

Every 3 days in Arizona, someone dies in a domestic violence related incident

JFCS and Sojourner Center boast a combined 120-year history of providing services to Arizonans in need. JFCS already operates a domestic violence program, Shelter Without Walls, which addresses the unmet needs of Maricopa County survivors of domestic violence and their children who do not live in a shelter. The affiliation solidifies JFCS' continuum providing a full complement of services to survivors of domestic violence.

"The addition of Sojourner Center combines a bricks and mortar shelter and transitional housing program with our Shelter Without Walls program, which serves those victims who live outside a shelter environment, including those needing assistance in order to safely leave an abusive relationship," said Linda J. Scott, Vice President of Child & Family Solutions at JFCS. "Our footprint of services to victims has greatly expanded under the terms of this agreement."

Over the past several months, the JFCS and Sojourner Center staff have worked to return the nonprofit's financial stability without reducing any of its core programs or services, which have served the Greater Phoenix community for the past four decades.

"As a subsidiary of JFCS, Sojourner Center has been able to streamline administrative functions and realize additional efficiencies so we can continue to focus on what we do best – supporting victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking," said Julie Peterson, Senior Director of Programs at Sojourner Center, which serves thousands of individuals in the community annually and is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

To learn more about how you can help, contact Sojourner Center at 602-244-0997.

*Source: Arizona Domestic Violence Fatalities Report, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence, 2017

WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

More than half of all Americans older than 15 know a victim of domestic violence. Nonetheless, 67 percent have never talked about domestic violence with friends. Even if you have never been directly affected by domestic violence, it is an issue that has a ripple effect in your community. To end domestic violence, we need to open dialogue in our communities. Here are a few ways you can start the conversation:

CULTIVATE a respectful attitude toward everyone. Avoid behaviors that demean or control other people.

MODEL a non-violent and respectful way to resolve conflicts. When you are angry with someone, respond without hurting or humiliating them.

SPEAK UP when someone jokes about domestic violence. Talk to your friends or coworkers when they belittle others, make jokes about violence, or ignore an abuse victim.

ADVOCATE for laws and programs that protect victims and survivors. One thing we can all do is urge our government officials to create and support programs that protect domestic violence victims and survivors. Stay informed and contact your national and local government officials when you can.

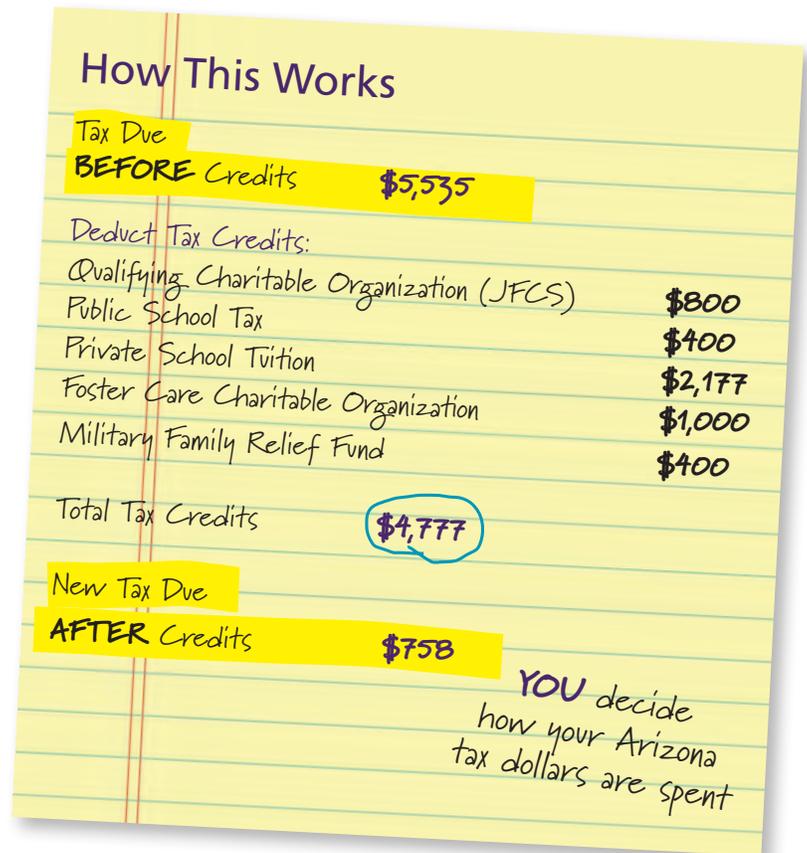
SUPPORT organizations like Sojourner Center and JFCS who work everyday to make a difference for those impacted by domestic violence.

TAKE THE AZ CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT

IT'S SIMPLE.

JFCS is a Qualifying Charitable Organization for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. Make a donation (\$400 for individuals; \$800 for married couples) to JFCS online at jfcs.org/taxcredit or mail a check using the enclosed envelope. List JFCS as your qualifying charitable organization and the dollar amount of your donation on AZ Tax Form 321 when you file your 2017 taxes. Questions? Call **602-279-7655**.

At JFCS, your Arizona Charitable Tax Credit donation can make an impact in numerous ways. Your donation of \$400 or \$800 will help pay for items like:



APPROPRIATE CLOTHING for interviews & internships for foster care youths



SCHOOL APPLICATION FEES for victims of domestic violence pursuing higher education



EMERGENCY DENTAL CARE for a child who has been abused or neglected



Six hours of **WORKSHOPS** to stop substance abuse and family violence



BUS PASSES for parents needing transportation to therapy appointments, for foster youth to get to their places of employment & the Real World Job Development Center



A year's worth of **SCHOOL UNIFORMS** for four children in need

CREATING PEACEFUL FAMILIES

Within the first two months of 6th grade, Todd* received three in-school suspensions for aggressive behavior, including several incidents involving physical altercations at recess. His assistant principal reached out to Creating Peaceful Families at JFCS and asked that Todd be placed into a conflict resolution support group.

Creating Peaceful Families was started at JFCS in 1997 as a prevention and community education program that helps students, families and school personnel effectively address and cope with critical problems. One important component of the program involves weekly 45-minute support groups that include 6 to 8 students who are experiencing difficulty in a specific area. In Todd's case, it was conflict resolution; however, Creating Peaceful Families has support groups on a wide array of topics, including self-esteem, grief and loss, changing families, bullying, among other topics.



"We collaborate closely with local school districts and organizations in Maricopa County to implement nationally recognized curricula that tackle tough societal issues like suicide and substance abuse," said Alicia Herzog, MSW, Director of Prevention Services at JFCS. "As a prevention program, we're focused on improving coping skills and strengthening support systems for children who need help in a certain area of their life."

After attending a few sessions of the conflict resolution support group, Todd opened up about his personal life circumstances. His father had walked out a couple years prior and was violent and on drugs while he was in his life. As the oldest sibling, he was expected to care for two younger siblings after school while his mother worked late hours to support the family. His mom was also pregnant again, but not involved with the father. He had pent up anger and fear about potentially having to take care for an infant too, but he didn't want to let his mom down so he never brought up his concerns with her.

A JFCS staff member was able to reach out to Todd's mother and offer additional support services, including a referral to behavioral health counseling for Todd's issues stemming from his estranged father, as well as how to apply to Department

of Economic Security for assistance with childcare. His teachers were also looped into a structured plan that outlined behavioral goals and assignments, which was an effective tool for keeping him on track.

In addition to support groups like Todd was a part of, Creating Peaceful Families also offers classroom presentations, staff development training, parent workshops and links to community resources.

"JFCS specialists with Creating Peaceful Families are dedicated to supporting the social and emotional needs of students in our district," said Shannon Cronn, NCSP, Clinical Services Coordinator for the Scottsdale Unified School District. "Their talented team teaches positive coping strategies that enhance the educational experience and give students the skills needed to be successful in the classroom."

For more information on Creating Peaceful Families or to find out how you can help, reach out to Alicia Herzog directly at Alicia.herzog@jfcsaz.org or 602.472.8288.

**Student's name has been changed to protect privacy.*

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



—Susan and Nestor Guzman

Sometimes people just need some help to get back on their feet, as is the case with victims of domestic violence. We hope our gift provides comfort to the women and children who are victims of abuse and need safe shelter and vital services in order to leave their abusers.”

—Susan Guzman

Susan and Nestor Guzman

When Susan and Nestor Guzman first learned about the recent affiliation between Sojourner Center and Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JFCS), they decided to come forward with a significant gift of \$95,000 to help support the two organizations and the due diligence required for the subsidiary relationship.

“We knew the Lodestar Foundation had offered a \$60,000 challenge grant if an additional \$120,000 could be raised supporting the cause by the end of September,” Susan said. “Since the Arizona Community Foundation came forward with a \$25,000 grant, we decided to contribute the remaining balance to ensure the challenge grant funds would be received.”

The Guzmans have a long history of supporting Jewish causes in the Valley since moving here in 1979. As members of Temple Kol Ami in Scottsdale, they believe in the idea that we must take care of each other to make the world whole in order to achieve *tikkun o’lam*, a Jewish value that is also central to the work JFCS does in the community.

Putting that value into action, Susan and Nestor volunteer with their temple every month to provide 800 hamburger meals to the homeless at the Lodestar Day Resource Center in downtown Phoenix.

“My husband comes from a family of nine children and the older siblings have always been available to help the younger ones when needed,” Susan said. “Sometimes people just need some help to get back on their feet, as is the case with victims of domestic violence. We hope our gift provides comfort to the women and children who are victims of abuse and need safe shelter and vital services in order to leave their abusers.”

The Guzmans have supported JFCS in the past with financial donations, and they have also contributed significantly to Jewish Free Loan, Jewish Community Foundation, Pardes Jewish Day School and the Arizona Jewish Historical Society, among other local nonprofits.

Giving back to those in need is a tradition they’ve passed down to their daughter, who operates a successful ballet school in downtown Phoenix, and to their twin granddaughters, who recently became bat mitzvah this fall.

STRATEGIC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Partners Making an Impact

The recent affiliation between JFCS and Sojourner Center would not be possible without significant contributions from the local philanthropic community. One of the first foundations to rise to the challenge was The Lodestar Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting permanent nonprofit collaborations as a major funding strategy. *We look forward to working with additional philanthropic partners in the future to strengthen the affiliation and ensure the needs of the domestic-violence community are met.*



The Lodestar Foundation came to the table with a \$60,000 challenge grant if JFCS and Sojourner Center could raise an additional \$120,000 within a certain timeframe. "The affiliation between Sojourner Center and JFCS is an exemplary transaction that is in alignment with our mission," said Lois Savage, President of The Lodestar Foundation. "We are especially pleased to be supporting a collaboration in our home community, and look forward to witnessing increased efficiencies, more financial stability, expanded services and overall magnified impact as a result of this transaction."



The Arizona Community Foundation (ACF) also heeded a call to action by providing a \$25,000 grant in support of the affiliation. "Arizona Community Foundation supports the affiliation between Sojourner Center and JFCS because it brings together two organizations with fundamental strengths in addressing the issue of domestic violence services in the community," said Jacky Alling, Chief Philanthropy Officer at ACF. "Sojourner Center provides the vital shelter services needed within the community while JFCS focuses on financial and operational plans to support long-term viability, in addition to continuing its focus on the Shelter Without Walls program."

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855-500-7433
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UPCOMING EVENTS



SPONSOR A FAMILY

The Holiday Program at JFCS is the only program in the Valley that supports families in need for both Hanukkah and Christmas! Your family, group or company can sponsor JFCS families or foster-care teens that are in need of help this holiday season.

- ▶ Choose the family-size you would like to sponsor.
- ▶ JFCS matches you with a family and provides all the information you need about the family's wishes. JFCS also gives drop-off dates/times & instructions.

For more information or to sign up, contact Kathy Rood at **602-452-4627** or Kathy.rood@jfcsaz.org.



It's A Wrap

Thurs., Dec. 7, 2017, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus
12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale

JFCS's Friends of the Family 7th Annual Holiday Brunch, It's A Wrap, is just around the corner. The event will provide an opportunity for guests to bring in assigned gifts to wrap and socialize with friends. Tickets are \$36. For more information or to sign up, contact Jayne Plotkin at **602-567-8334** or Jayne.plotkin@jfcsaz.org.

JFCS' 9th Annual Brighter Tomorrow/Hope Luncheon

Thurs., March 8, 2017, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Arizona Biltmore Resort, 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix

This year's Brighter Tomorrow/Hope Luncheon will celebrate Sojourner Center's 40th anniversary and affiliation with JFCS. Since 1977, Sojourner Center has provided shelter and support services to thousands of women and children affected by domestic violence, and become one of the largest domestic violence shelters in the U.S.

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