

JAFCO

2025 JOURNAL

Together, We Change
the World

2024 Annual Report Enclosed



JAFCO's mission is to provide care, safety, and support to children and their families within the Jewish community and beyond who are impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities...giving every child a place to belong.

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Changing the World with your Love and Support



Dear JAFCO Family,

Thank you for your support and trust in me to step into the esteemed role of CEO of this incredible jewel of an organization. I am in awe of what I am witnessing every day as I see with my own eyes the impact of JAFCO's lifesaving role in our community in South Florida at the Jewish Children's Village, the Children's Ability Center, Eagles' Haven, at Family Matters in Philadelphia, and with our partners in Israel.

With a new season and a New Year upon us I am incredibly honored to join the JAFCO Family as your new CEO.

Since my first day, my heart and my soul have been nourished by the culture and compassion that each member of our amazing, talented, and dedicated staff exude every single day and night. The dream that every child needs a place to belong and that no child gets left behind, not on JAFCO's watch, is real. I want to personally assure you that NOTHING has changed, nor will change in that regard. The life-saving mission of JAFCO, our trauma-informed culture, and our ability to meet whatever challenges our children and families are facing 24/7 remain in place.

The unique incredible culture of caring and service that our founding CEO Emeritus, Sarah Franco, started at her kitchen table and nurtured for over three decades with our Chief Clinical & Operations Officer Wendy Jenkins at her side, will remain our guiding star and blueprint for how we will continue to serve the community for centuries to come. I inherited an agency that is strong financially, programmatically, and reputable beyond reproach. I have already come to realize that JAFCO is not just another charity, we are a family who cares about one another in the same way that all of us care about our own children and extended family members.

Many of you have been involved for decades and I thank you for that from the bottom of my heart. I will work hard to earn your continued trust and financial support. Sadly, with the unimaginable surge of antisemitism in our world, JAFCO's original mission of finding safe and loving homes for Jewish children (and all children) has never been more important. As individuals we may feel powerless to change the world right now, but Judaism teaches us that if we save even one child, just one, we help save the entire world. I will remember that every day as your CEO, and I invite you to join me. Together, we can get through these trying times. I cannot do this without you.

As your new CEO, I want to thank you for your commitment to treating our children as if they were your own. You are changing lives, you are changing the world, and you are giving every child a place to belong.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt J.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew C. Levin
JAFCO Chief Executive Officer

**At JAFCO, we know that it
takes all of us, our dedicated team,
generous supporters, and the resilient
children we serve, to create lasting change.**

**Your support enables this work to happen.
Together, we provide safety, healing, and hope
to those children and families who need us most.**

2024 Financial Overview

91 cents of every dollar you donate directly changes the lives of the children and families we serve. Thank you!

Agency Revenues

▶ JAFCO Children's Village	\$6,697,868	43%
▶ JAFCO Children's Ability Center	\$6,541,720	42%
▶ Eagles' Haven	\$1,274,770	8%
▶ FamilyMatters	\$1,142,277	7%

Total Revenues..... \$15,656,635

Revenue Sources

▶ Government & Public Funding	\$6,775,682	43%
▶ Private Foundations & Grants	\$3,389,553	22%
▶ Special Events, Fundraising	\$3,142,792	20%
▶ Private Contributions	\$2,095,108	13%
▶ Jewish Federations	\$253,500	2%

Total Revenues..... \$15,656,635

Agency Expenses

▶ JAFCO Children's Village	\$6,173,252	40%
▶ JAFCO Children's Ability Center	\$5,574,637	36%
▶ Eagles' Haven	\$1,256,768	8%
▶ FamilyMatters	\$1,097,903	7%

Total Program Expenses..... 91%

▶ Agency Fundraising Expenses.....	\$760,640	5%
▶ Agency Administration.....	\$624,752	4%

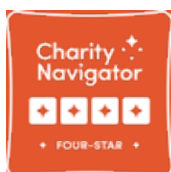
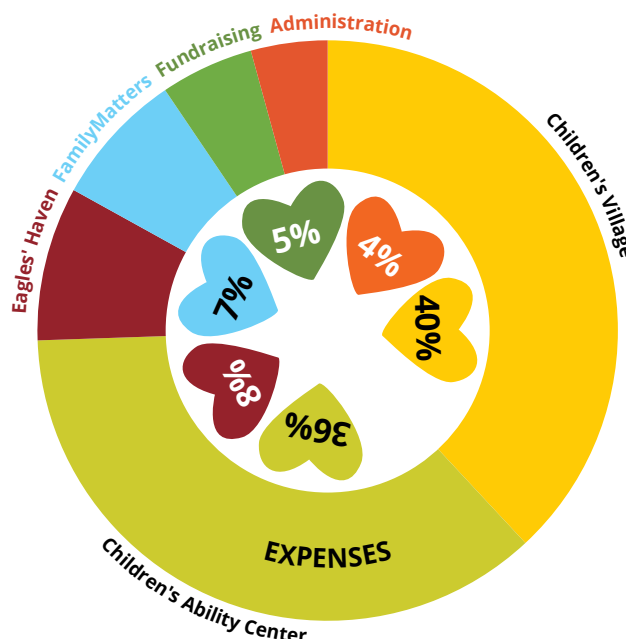
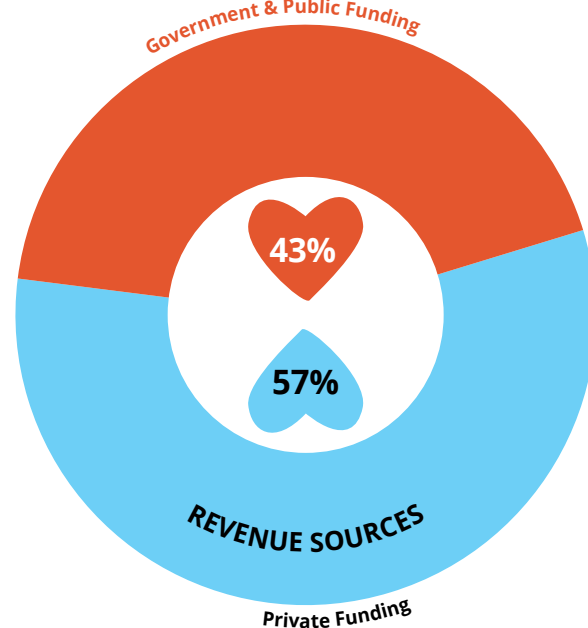
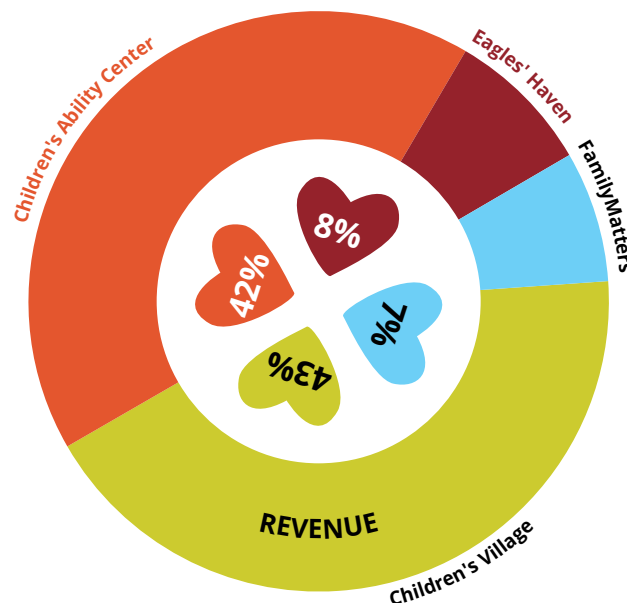
Total Administrative & Fundraising Expenses..... 9%

Total Expenses..... \$15,487,952

Net Revenue Over Expenses..... \$168,683

Thank you for helping us meet our budget this year!

JAFCO's full consolidated financial audit and our 990's are available on our website
www.jafco.org/accountability



JAFCO is a highly rated charity, receiving four stars (the top rating) from Charity Navigator, America's most utilized independent charity evaluator.

2024 Impact: Changing the World One Child at a Time

Thanks to your generosity we were able to change the lives of **4,148** children and their families at our four sites.



581

children have a
safe home and
hopeful future

**JAFCO
Children's
Village**



1,691

children are
making friends
and learning to be
more independent.

**JAFCO
Children's
Ability Center**



1,643

children, parents,
and teachers are
managing trauma
more effectively.

**Eagles' Haven
Wellness
Center**



233

families feel stronger
and supported.

FamilyMatters

Over the past 32 years you have helped us change
the lives of over 20,000 children and families.

Together, we ARE changing the world!

JAFCO Children's Village

Giving every child a place to belong.

The JAFCO Children's Village programs touch the lives of children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Over 500 children found safety in either our emergency shelter, foster care, adoption, family preservation, or group home programs last year.

Weicholz Family Campus of the David Posnack Jewish Children's Village

The beautiful, gated Children's Village campus in Sunrise, Florida, provides an actual home to children living in our emergency shelter or one of our six-group homes. Our foster care, adoption and family preservation programs are based in the Kaminoff Children's Center on the Village campus.

Marsh Children's Emergency Shelter

This life-saving part of our Village is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to offer an immediate safe and loving placement for a child who has been a victim of abuse, neglect, trauma, or abandonment. Children (ages birth to 12) are placed in the shelter by state protective investigators, or by parents and family members who themselves are in crisis.

Group Homes

Our six beautiful 4,000 sq. ft. group homes are designed to provide a family-like environment for up to 30 children who need a safe place to live on either a temporary or permanent basis. Each child has their own bedroom and bathroom for privacy and are cared for by a loving house parent.

Independent Living Program

All the children residing within the group homes are prepared for independent living and may continue to reside at the Village until the age of 24 while they attend college and work part/full time. When they are ready for the responsibility of driving, each child receives a donated pre-owned vehicle of their own which offers them full independence. For our children who are away at school, we keep their rooms intact so they can come home for breaks. JAFCO is their family, and we will be there for them for as long as they need us.

100% of children and families in need received immediate, intensive, clinical case management services free of charge.

Foster Care & Adoption

JAFCO foster families are loving, trained adults that open their homes to children in need of temporary care. We assist with adoptions through the foster care system and also work privately with birth parents in need of a safe placement for their child.

Family Preservation

Our Family Preservation Program is a voluntary, no-cost service designed to stabilize and support families during challenging times. Our dedicated clinicians strengthen and empower families through in-home assistance, case management, referrals, and more, guiding them as they overcome adversity. We serve families in Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

The Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) program is an In-home, evidence-based intervention designed for families with youth ages 10 to 17 years old, who are experiencing significant behavioral challenges, including truancy, poor school performance, verbal and physical aggression, substance use, and negative peer influences. Offered at no cost to residents of Broward County, MST is a voluntary, intensive, three-month program that requires caregivers to meet with a therapist at least twice per week.

Senior Caregiver

Many grandparents unexpectedly find themselves stepping into the role of primary caregiver for their grandchildren. JAFCO's Senior Caregiver Program offers free, voluntary, in-home, and community-based case management services to guardians 55 and older with legal custody of their grandchildren. Funded by the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County and The Department of Elder Affairs, JAFCO is committed to supporting senior caregivers across Broward through in-home support, bi-monthly support groups, and access to valuable resources.

Safety • Love • Hope

To make a referral or for more information about our programs and services, please contact JAFCO Clinical Director Shea Pucci, LMFT at shea@jafco.org or 954-315-8683.

Nechoma Finds Independence and Balance



Nechoma, came to the Village in 2018 at age 12. She is now living independently, thriving as she balances academics, work, and her passion for wellness. Nechoma is currently attending Broward College, soon to finish her first year! Alongside her studies, she continues to grow in her role as a yoga instructor-in-training, promoting health and mindfulness for both herself and others.

64 young adults took steps toward independence, moving to college, learning life skills, and preparing for adulthood.

Local 10 Photographer: Changing the World through Adoption

It was a joyful and emotional day in a Broward County courtroom when Local 10 News photographer Brian Ely and his wife, Kristen, finalized the adoption of their foster son, Kannon. After more than two years of caring for him, the Ely family officially welcomed Kannon into their hearts and home forever.

The courthouse was filled with music, laughter, and bright smiles as the Ely children sang both inside and outside the courtroom. Kannon's great-grandmother summed up the moment beautifully, sharing that Brian and Kristen had always wanted a bigger family, and now they have one. It was a moment full of love.

For the past five years, Brian and Kristen have served as foster parents through JAFCO. Along with their three biological children, Brody, Savannah, and baby Coletton they have opened their home to children in need of stability and love. Before Kannon, they fostered two other children, both of whom were eventually reunited with their biological families. That is the ultimate goal of foster care: to give families the time and tools they need to heal and come back together safely.

Kannon's journey took a different path. Despite tremendous efforts, his birth parents were unable to regain custody. During that difficult time, Brian and Kristen remained a constant source of love and stability. When it became clear that Kannon needed a permanent home, they made the decision to become his forever family through adoption.

Families like the Elys do not take this journey alone. Every foster and adoptive family at JAFCO receives hands-on support from the moment they express interest through every step of raising the children in their care. Each family completes MAPP training, which stands for the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting. This training prepares them for the realities of foster care and adoption.



They learn how to support children who have experienced trauma such as abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Once licensed, families are matched with a child in need, and from that point on, a dedicated JAFCO social worker walks alongside them for the entire journey.

Becoming a foster or adoptive parent is not easy. It takes patience, courage, and a strong support system. That is where JAFCO steps in. We stand beside our families every step of the way. We offer court advocacy, in-home support, therapeutic services, and connection to a community of other parents who understand the journey.

Families like the Elys are at the heart of what we do. They show up, lean in, and make room in their lives for children who need them most. Because of their love and commitment, Kannon now has a place where he can grow, explore, and build a future filled with promise.

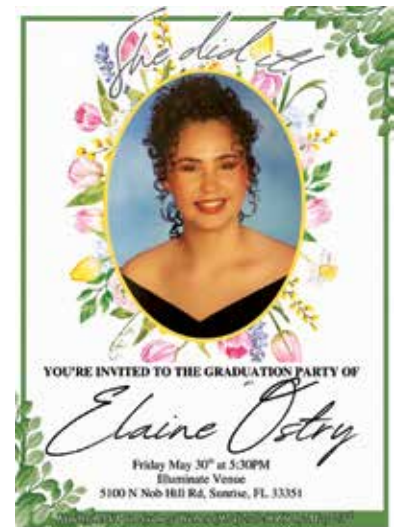
Thanks to the Ely family, and with the support of JAFCO, Kannon has a safe and joyful home where he can navigate his way through life, surrounded by love and a team cheering him on.

Even the Longest Tunnels Lead to Light: A High School Diploma Changes the World for a Child

Elaine's father placed her at the JAFCO Children's Village at the age of 11, and it was a huge trauma for her. Her dad was quite ill and wasn't sure if he would make it. He had no family to leave his children with so he asked JAFCO to take them. Sadly a few years later, he passed away. Since that time Elaine has been embraced by her JAFCO family who has offered her love, encouragement, and unconditional support. This graduation milestone was filled with pride and tears, not just for Elaine, but for each of the 40 guests present at her party who have played a significant life-changing role in her growth over the years....it truly takes a village.

Elaine has grown into a young woman defined not by her past, but by her strength. Nationwide, only 50% of children in foster care graduate high school. At JAFCO our philosophy is "over my dead body are you not graduating high school" and so our graduation rate is 100%. Looking back, Elaine shared in her graduation speech that her journey hasn't always been easy as she often worried about the future, the unknown, and the lingering pain of childhood trauma. Over time, and with the support of her JAFCO family, she began to release that fear and replace it with hope and resilience. Now, as she prepares to take her next steps, Elaine shared that what once felt frightening now feels full of possibility. She feels more ready, more excited, and more supported than ever before. Elaine shared that the hardest moments have meaning, and, in her own words, "even the longest tunnels eventually lead to light".

Elaine, your entire JAFCO family of staff, volunteers, and donors are deeply proud of you and we are inspired by your courage. You are a reminder of why we do this work and why JAFCO exists, helping every child not only to survive, but also to thrive. We look forward to the day where you too, will find a way to change the world.



JAFCO Children's Ability Center

Providing support to families raising children with developmental disabilities, we are committed to helping families from the moment of diagnosis throughout their journey.

The JAFCO Children's Ability Center, located in Sunrise, Florida, is committed to serving children from birth to age 22 who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability (including Autism, Intellectual Disability, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Prader Willi, and others) or developmental delay. Our programs provide family support and strengthening, child enrichment, out-of-home day and overnight respite, and community engagement to families raising children with a developmental disability.

Child Enrichment Services

Children with developmental disabilities often don't have the opportunity to engage in social and recreational activities with their peers. We recognize the importance of helping children learn social and life skills, build self-esteem, make new friends, and just have fun.

• Social Skills

Social skills groups focus on structured activities targeting specific abilities such as social language, appropriate play, and interaction with peers.

• Just Having Fun

Children experience art, music, dance, sports, fitness, yoga, science, playground fun, water play, foam parties, and more!

• Life Skills

Our Life Skills classes address the abilities needed for children to transition into independent adults including home management skills (cooking, cleaning, laundry, loading dishwasher), money management skills, and employment readiness skills.

The Children's Ability Center has **tripled** its overnight respite capacity with the completion of two new respite homes that allow parents a chance to rest and relax while their children are hanging out with friends in one of our 3 homes.

Family Support and Strengthening

Our team works in partnership with families to create an individual plan, offering training and education classes to help family members understand their child's diagnosis, to advocate for them, and to assist them to reach their potential. A full array of support groups for moms, dads, couples, grandparents, and siblings are offered to ensure we assist everyone in the family.

Respite and Community Engagement Services

All parents need time to relax and renew, and the Ability Center offers fun programming for your child while you enjoy some time off. Once children are comfortable with us (and you are too), we offer every family up to two weeks of respite per year. Respite is also offered for school closing days, all year long. We are always here to help if you have an emergency.

Many parents and caregivers of children with developmental disabilities report feelings of isolation so the Ability Center offers social events to connect with other families including Parent Evenings Out, Mom Retreats, and Family Fun Days. We provide childcare during these events as well as individualized childcare hours for personal date nights.

Camp Kehilla

Camp Kehilla (Kehilla means community) provides campers with a fun, safe, and exciting summer, while increasing their social and life skills, exposing them to new experiences, and allowing them to make friends for a few days or for the entire eight-week session. Activities include Life Skills and Safety, Social Skills, Music Therapy, Sports, Sensory Carnival, Petting Zoo, Water Play, Fun with Food, Talent Shows, and more.

For more information call JAFCO Program Director Lindsay San, MS, BCBA at 954-315-8687 or email her at lindsay@jafco.org.

Our Ability@Work Program is Changing the World by Providing Employment for Young Adults



Dear JAFCO Family,

We are deeply grateful for the incredible opportunities that Gabe has been given through JAFCO. Being able to work there, participate in Ability@Work events, and even speak in public has meant more to him — and us — than words can express. These experiences have made Gabe feel exceptional, intelligent, capable, and valued as someone with Down syndrome. JAFCO has created a space where he can shine, build confidence, and show the world all he has to offer. We are profoundly thankful for the love, support, and belief in Gabe's potential that JAFCO continues to provide.

Thank you forever!

Virginia & Gabriel (Gabe's grateful parents)

A Quiet Little Program: Changing the World for Children Like Nathan

Everyone knows about the Village Emergency Shelter, but fewer know about the quiet little shelter program tucked away at the Children's Ability Center.

It's not hidden on purpose. In fact, it blends so seamlessly with our other services, including after-school care, music and art therapy, respite, and clinical support, that you might not even realize it's a shelter. But it is. And the children who stay there have been through more than most of us can imagine.

One of those children is Nathan.

Nathan came to us after experiencing severe abuse and neglect. At just 10 years old and diagnosed with autism, he arrived non-speaking, withdrawn, and struggling with even the most basic daily living skills. We didn't know his full story, but we knew it had been a hard one. What we also knew was that the love of JAFCO knows no bounds.

With the tireless support of our team of therapists, clinicians, and nurses, Nathan began to blossom. Slowly, he started to feel safe. He started to trust. With consistency, patience, and repetition, he began developing the skills many of us take for granted, like using the bathroom on his own.

That may not sound like a big milestone to some, but for Nathan, it was life-changing. It was a gift of dignity and independence that will stay with him forever.



Now, Nathan smiles. He seeks connection. He engages with staff who understand what he's trying to communicate. He walks through the Children's Ability Center with confidence and feels safe.

Thanks to the shelter provided by the JAFCO family at the Children's Ability Center, Nathan has taken monumental steps toward independence. We don't yet know how much more he'll grow, but we do know he's already come so far. As we look forward to his hopeful adoption, we celebrate a brighter future. A future made possible by a community that believes every child is worthwhile and every child deserves a place to belong!

The Children's Ability Center Model: A "Dream Center" for Other Agencies

Three members of JAFCO's Children's Ability Center team recently attended the 30th annual ARCH (Access to Respite Care and Help) National Respite Conference. This important event brings together respite care providers from across the country to share best practices, engage in learning, and build professional connections.

The Children's Ability Center team was honored to be selected to present their work as a national model of care. Their presentation highlighted JAFCO's unique Constellation of Care model, which integrates high-quality respite services with the warm embrace of wraparound support that we are known for. These include support groups, case management, advocacy, and other essential services that work together to meet the complex needs of families.

Throughout the conference, it became clear that JAFCO stands out for its innovation, quality, and comprehensive approach to care. The Children's Ability Center model was recognized as forward-thinking and deeply impactful, offering a level of flexibility and responsiveness that many programs aspire to achieve. This really is "The JAFCO Way", a deep commitment to doing whatever it takes to support families who need us.

After the presentation, the team was approached by attendees who shared their aspirations of creating a center modeled after the Children's Ability Center, what they called their "dream center." The JAFCO team readily exchanged ideas, discussed what makes the JAFCO approach unique, and offered to share programming details and resources. This moment captured the spirit of collaboration and leadership that defines our agency. Even in communities where JAFCO is not physically present, our philosophy of care and commitment to excellence is beginning to influence providers across the country.

"Representing JAFCO on a national stage was a meaningful and inspiring experience for the Children's Ability Center team. It affirmed the strength of our work and opened the door to new opportunities to share our unique model nationwide," said JAFCO Executive Director Justin Kohlhagen pictured on the left with Children's Ability Center Shelter Supervisor Shirley Lora Reyes and Program Director Lindsay San.



Eagles' Haven Wellness Center

Rediscovering wellness and restoring hope in the Parkland/Coral Springs community.

At Eagles' Haven, we believe that recovery after trauma is a journey. The journey is one of love, hope, and healing. Our wellness center was created after the tragic mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with a single, guiding purpose: to offer a safe space where members of the MSD community, past, present, and future, can come together for support, healing, and wellness. We are always here for the community "8 days a week" because healing does not follow a schedule, and support should always be available when you need it most.

A Place for Healing and Connection

Eagles' Haven is more than just a wellness center; it is a lifeline. We are here for anyone impacted by trauma, whether directly affected by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy or struggling with the far-reaching effects of mass violence. Our center provides a variety of services designed to promote emotional well-being, including crisis support, group support sessions, mindfulness programs, navigation services, and wellness classes. It is a space to rediscover resilience, restore strength, and find hope for the future.

We are committed to ensuring that every person in our community has access to these services, free of charge. Whether you are a student, parent, educator, first responder, or community member, we recognize that trauma lingers in unexpected ways. By removing barriers, we create a place where everyone can seek support without hesitation.



970 individuals experienced healing through our wellness programs, providing emotional and mental well-being support.

Wellness Experiences

Classes range from physical fitness to creative arts to mindfulness activities including:

- Yoga
- Sound Healing and Meditation
- Creative Arts and Music
- Macrame, Knitting, Embroidery
- Floral Design
- Physical Fitness, Strength Training, ZUMBA!
- Therapy Dog Training

Family Strengthening

In-home and private assessments are available free of charge to individuals and families for as long as necessary to provide ongoing care. Immediate walk-in crisis intervention, safety plans, and clinical referrals are also available.

- Family and Individual Consultation
- In-Home Private Consultations
- School Advocacy
- Crisis Support
- Private and Group Walk-Ins

Workshops and Support Groups

These groups provide trauma information and education on topics such as communication, mind-body skills, parenting, loss and grief, self-care, wellness, the value of therapy, and include:

- Parent Guidance Sessions
- Support Groups for Students, Teachers, Family, and Extended Family Members
- Wellness and Resiliency Workshops
- Community and School Outreach

For more information or to access our services contact Eagles' Haven at 954-618-0350 or eagleshaven@jafco.org.

If you or someone you know was impacted by the MSD shooting, is in crisis, or needs help dial 211 or 988 or simply walk into Eagles' Haven. We are open every day, no appointment needed, and services are free of charge.

Changing the World in Washington DC

Eagles' Haven had the honor of participating in the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Candlelight Vigil at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. in April. We were proudly represented by Eagles' Haven Director Rebecca Jarquin. Our Eagles' Haven team has been supporting victim's families with compassion, dedication, and expertise for the past six years.

L-R: Eagles' Haven Director Rebecca Jarquin, MSD Victim Family Liaison Lisa Wobbe-Veit, and Broward Schools District School Counselor Rachel Kusher



Together, We Heal. Together, We Remember.

A Day of Remembering

As we marked 7 years since the tragedy that forever changed our community, we are often asked why we continue to do our work? The answer is simple: We must never forget.

We must never forget the 17 innocent victims who were murdered, the 17 families who carry unimaginable grief, the 17 survivors who face lifelong physical and emotional scars, and the students, faculty, first responders, and community members who lived through an experience that continues to impact them. Honoring their memory is not just about remembering the past, it is about shaping a future where tragedies like this do not happen again.



But in this grief, there is also a call to action. We are committed to ensuring that no one faces trauma alone. Through therapy, support groups, mind-body wellness activities, educational support, community resources, and holding a safe space we foster resilience and hope in the face of unimaginable pain. Healing is not about forgetting, it is about finding the strength to move forward while honoring the past.

Our Commitment to Healing and Hope

The legacy of the 17 victims reaches far beyond our community. Their memory fuels the work we do at Eagles' Haven, and we are dedicated to continuing this life-saving mission for all who have experienced trauma.

We invite you to join us, not just to remember, but to take action. Your support ensures that Eagles' Haven remains a sanctuary of healing for anyone who needs it.

This year, and every year moving forward on February 14, we gather to read the names of the 17 victims who were senselessly murdered. Coming together is an act that holds deep meaning for our community and serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of keeping their memory alive.

These names are more than a tribute; they represent a call to action to end mass violence and protect our children, our schools, and our communities.

The effects of mass violence extend far beyond Parkland. From Winder, Georgia; to Madison, Wisconsin; New Orleans, Louisiana; Nashville, Tennessee; and Tallahassee, Florida, communities across the nation and our world have endured similar heartbreak. Tragic incidents of mass violence, such as those recently seen in Washington D.C. and Boulder, Colorado, underscore a disturbing rise in attacks targeting the Jewish community. As we honor the 17 victims of the MSD massacre, we stand in solidarity with every community touched by this crisis.

The Ongoing Crisis

The impact of mass violence is not just a memory, it is a reality we live with every day. Activities that once felt simple like attending school, shopping, or going out to eat are now overshadowed by fear for so many.

Eagles' Haven witnesses the lasting effects of trauma every day. Each time another school shooting or mass violence event occurs, we feel the weight of renewed pain and anxiety. For the families of the 17 victims, the tragedy of February 14, 2018, has left a permanent void. Grief does not fade; reminders are constant, and healing is an ongoing process.





When families find the courage to open up and ask for help, we are there. We are at your side.

FamilyMatters provides barrier-free, personalized, and intensive support services to children and families in Greater Philadelphia who are facing crisis, trauma, or overwhelming challenges. Our mission is to keep families safe, strong, and together by empowering them with the resources, skills, and guidance they need to overcome obstacles. This is accomplished through our five core programs.



Our Five Core Programs

Family Strengthening

FamilyMatters strengthens families by providing the support and resources they need to remain stable and thrive.

Respite

Offering caregivers a much-needed break while providing children with meaningful experiences that reduce stress for the whole family.

Enrichment Programming

Engaging and fun enrichment programs designed to help children learn, grow, and succeed.

Support Groups

Connecting individuals with others facing similar challenges, facilitated by expert clinicians for guidance and encouragement.

Supervised Visitation

Providing a safe, structured environment where families can rebuild relationships with professional guidance.

For more information, please contact FamilyMatters Director of Clinical Services Ellie Ettman, LPC at 610-215-3535 or ellie@familymattersnetwork.org.

45% more children and families were served by FamilyMatters in 2024 and now they are preparing for a major expansion into their own building to meet growing community needs.

Let's build something extraordinary together!

Thanks to your incredible love and support, we were able to serve 233 children and families in 2024 — a 45% increase from 2023! The need for our services is growing, and because of you, so are we.

We're thrilled to share a major milestone: we've purchased our own building in King of Prussia! Interior demolition is done, and renovations for the Linda & Don Brodie Family Matters Center are underway.

This 28,000 sq. ft. space, inspired by our successful Florida programs, will strengthen families, promote wellness, and support those raising children with special needs. It will also introduce new services like overnight respite care.

To bring this vision to life, we've launched a \$20 million capital campaign — and we've already raised 68% of our goal! Now, we need your help to reach the finish line.

Naming opportunities are available at various giving levels, with flexible payment options. Whether you give solo or with others, this is your chance to help create something lasting and meaningful. As a thank you, all capital campaign naming donors will receive a specially commissioned piece by artist Shem Tov.

To schedule a private hard hat tour to select your family's naming opportunity, please contact Jill A. Lapensohn, FamilyMatters Executive Director at 484-385-0726 or jill@familymattersnetwork.org.



Grand Benefactors Don and Linda Brodie take a first look at the future FamilyMatters Center in King of Prussia after personally launching the capital campaign with a seed gift of \$12m to purchase the building and begin a total renovation.

Changing the World by Building What Matters: Join our FamilyMatters Capital Campaign Today.

Your generous gift will provide valuable support for the continued success of the Linda & Don Brodie FamilyMatters Center, and it will also ensure that your name is forever linked to the mission and growth of FamilyMatters, a JAFCO Support Network.

Together, we can shape the future. Thank you to our Capital Donors Linda & Don Brodie, Marcia & Philip Cohen, Susan Auerbach & Shelly Koffler, Michael Simon, Casnoff Family, Georganne T. Goldblum, Bernard Braun, Robyn & Marc Abrams, and Sarah Franco.



FamilyMatters would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Shelly Koffler and Susan Auerbach for their incredibly generous gift of \$250,000 to name the Donor Wall of Honor at the Linda & Don Brodie FamilyMatters Center in King of Prussia, PA. This meaningful contribution, made in loving memory of their parents, Jean and Edwin Solomon, will leave a lasting legacy and help further the Center's mission. As proud Philadelphians, Susan, Shelly, and their parents have demonstrated a deep commitment to their community, and their support will undoubtedly make a profound impact for generations to come.

FamilyMatters Capital Naming Opportunities: Please Help Us Grow.*

FamilyMatters Center Exterior (Named)	\$12,000,000	Respite Laundry	\$72,000
Ground Floor Naming (Named)	\$1,000,000	Downtown Nurse's Station	\$54,000
Second Floor Naming	\$1,000,000	Respite Nurse's Station	\$54,000
Respite Home	\$750,000	Family Consultation Room 1 (Named)	\$54,000
Fun & Fitness Gym	\$540,000	Family Consultation Room 2	\$54,000
Imagination Outdoor Playground	\$540,000	Supervised Visitation Playroom	\$54,000
Welcome Lobby	\$540,000	Conference Room Kitchen	\$54,000
Parent Café	\$360,000	IT Headquarters	\$36,000
Life Skills Training Lab	\$360,000	Power Station	\$36,000
Welcome Drop-Off Driveway	\$250,000	Copy/Supply Room	\$36,000
Entry Courtyard & Vestibule	\$250,000	Life Skills Laundry Training Lab	\$36,000
Donor Wall of Honor (Named)	\$250,000	Life Skills Office Training Lab	\$36,000
Creation Station	\$180,000	Life Skills Pantry (Named)	\$36,000
General Store	\$180,000	Classroom (Named)	\$36,000
Reception & Welcome Desk	\$180,000	Event Mission Control Center	\$36,000
Board & Conference Room	\$180,000	Children & Family Donation Center (Named)	\$36,000
Technology Lab & Teen Hangout	\$180,000	Direct Care Drop Zone	\$36,000
Respite Kitchen & Pantry	\$180,000	Children's Mudroom	\$36,000
The Fun Spot	\$180,000	Kids Kool Down Room	\$36,000
Dance & Movement Room	\$108,000	Employee Entrance (Named)	\$36,000
Play & Party Room (Named)	\$108,000	Respite Library	\$36,000
The El (Elevator)	\$108,000	Respite Storage	\$36,000
Staff Lounge	\$108,000	Clinical Staff Office (4)	\$36,000
Respite Bedroom & Bathroom (6)	\$108,000	Copy & Paste Center	\$36,000
Respite Living & Dining Rooms	\$108,000	Gear Gallery	\$36,000
Therapy Room (2)	\$72,000	Supply Shed	\$36,000
Life Skills Kitchen	\$72,000	Development Staff Office (6)	\$36,000
Executive Director's Office	\$72,000	Outdoor Bench (2)	\$25,000
Clinical Director's Office	\$72,000		

*subject to change, flexible payment terms available

Do not miss the chance to be part of this amazing new center that will change the world for the families in Greater Philadelphia. It is the perfect way to honor someone you love. For more information contact FamilyMatters Executive Director Jill A. Lapensohn at 484-385-0726 or by email at jill@familymattersnetwork.org.

Celebrating Our Alumni: You Changed Their World



◀ **Kayla Katz** is the VP of the Domestic Violence Program at Ruth Rales JFS in Boca. Earlier this year, she married Jordan Abramczyk, CPA in a beautiful Aruba sunset beach wedding escorted to the chuppah by her brother Austin and our founding CEO Sarah Franco. The couple already owns their own home in Parkland, Florida. Mazel Tov!



◀ **Becky Saka** is the FIDF Associate Director of the Southeast Region. A former lone soldier, she just returned from Israel where she served in the IDF Reserves. Becky gives back to JAFCO as the co-chair of the Alumni Circle, as a JAFCO Godparent and Circle of Hope member, and as our favorite event emcee!



▲ Our beautiful alumni share a "family photo" at the 2024 JAFCO Gala.



▼ **Josh Shapiro** works as a social worker for JFS in NYC where he lives with his girlfriend Ayalet who is a special needs teacher.



▲ **Ahron Levin** is the co-chair of the Alumni Circle and fights hatred and antisemitism every day as the Associate Director of HR and Operations at StandWithUs. He works remotely from his RV as he loves to travel the country.



▲ **Nikki Tashoff** is attending NSU in Naples so she can become a Family Nurse Practitioner and give back to the community.

▼ **Steven Weiss, MBA** continues to excel in his career as Managing Director of The Bloom Organization. He is giving back to JAFCO as a Godparent and co-chairing the JAFCO Investment Committee as a Board Trustee.





▼ **Sholom Neistein** is a US Army Captain who is stationed in Georgia where he lives with his wife Ariella and their sons Stephen and Josh. Sholom gives back as a member of the JAFCO Board of Trustees. He and Ariella are proud JAFCO Godparents.



▲ **Justin Leo** is a detective for the Hollywood P.D. As a JAFCO Board Trustee, he chairs our safety committee, and he and his wife Michelle are JAFCO Godparents. They own their own home in Broward where they are raising Emma and Jackson.

▲ **Reilly Skizenski** just married his high school sweetheart Sabrina in a beautiful wedding at The Addison in Boca. He works in the construction industry with his father-in-law and the couple is so excited to have just purchased their first home. Mazel Tov!



▼ **Chana Seidner**, is starting graduate school in the fall at UF for a Masters in Applied Physiology. Chana works as the rowing coach for University School and is also an amazing Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Practitioner.



▲ **Andrew Osborne** lives in NYC where he opens and oversees new locations for a major restaurant chain. His wife Kelly is a lawyer for the United Nations.



▲ **Nicole Tomaras, BSN**, is an ICU nurse currently obtaining her masters degree to become a Nurse Practitioner in Port St. Lucie where she owns a home with her husband Cole, who is also giving back as a paramedic.

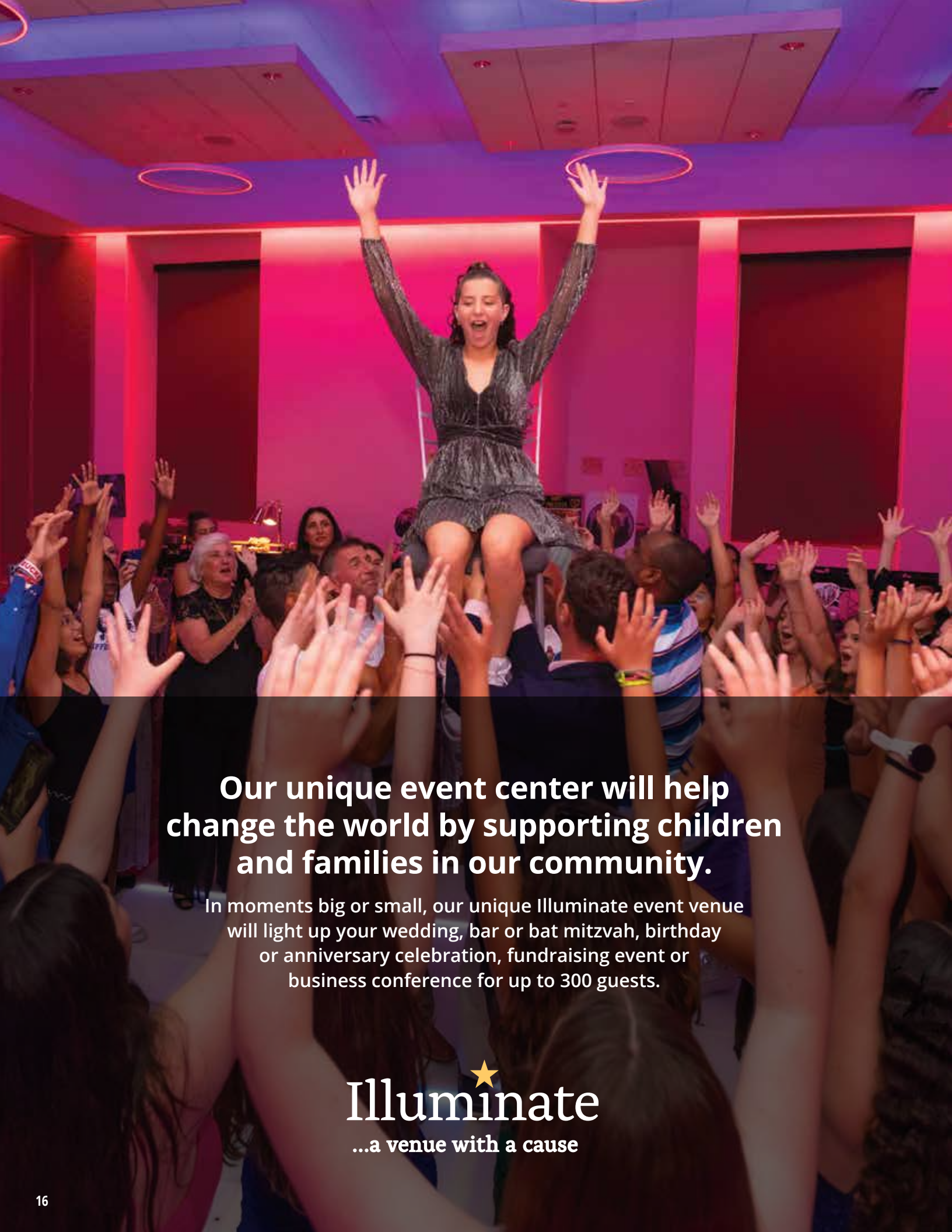
Rivkah Halpern, LSW, is giving back and addressing food insecurity in her community in Long Island, New York as Director of the Gural JCC Food Pantry. Her son Evan dedicated his upcoming Bar Mitzvah project to provide one of our JAFCO children with a Mitzvah party as well! Rivkah is a former board trustee, and she and her loving husband Eric are proud JAFCO Godparents. ►



▲ **Austin Katz** holds an MS from UF and is keeping our community safe in his role as Logistics Coordinator for the Miami-Dade Dept. of Emergency Management. He lives in Ft. Lauderdale with his girlfriend Heather who is studying to become a nurse.



▲ **Patrick Soares** is an entrepreneur and the owner of the Escape Room in Boca. He and his wife Samantha have a beautiful little boy named Zion.



**Our unique event center will help
change the world by supporting children
and families in our community.**

In moments big or small, our unique Illuminate event venue
will light up your wedding, bar or bat mitzvah, birthday
or anniversary celebration, fundraising event or
business conference for up to 300 guests.


Illuminate
...a venue with a cause



Teen Celebrations

Throw the ultimate Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Quinceañera, sweet 16, birthday or party in a cool space where your teen will want to celebrate. Our unique event center makes the atmosphere a teen's dream and a parent's stress-free venue.



Weddings & Lifetime Moments

Step inside Illuminate and find a beautiful venue filled with light and love for your wedding or lifetime moment. Let your big day take center stage in the premier event space for celebrating every chapter of your story.



Social Events & Celebrations

Illuminate is a versatile event space that turns every occasion into an epic celebration. Whether you're hosting a family reunion, holiday party, birthday, or anniversary, Illuminate is the perfect place to celebrate and come together.



Corporate Events

Elevate your corporate or fundraising event to extraordinary heights with our 10,000 sq. ft. event space with outstanding design flexibility. Our state-of-the-art audio-visual system provides a touch of exceptionalism and professionalism to every event.

Events that change the world.

Imagine that your event will help support children with developmental disabilities, those who have experienced abuse and neglect, or the trauma of a mass shooting — all part of the mission of JAFCO, the non-profit whose services benefit from the Illuminate venue.

Your event has to be perfect.

Planning an event does not have to be stressful, it actually can be fun and worry-free. From beginning to end — we promise to support you in every way possible to create the event of a lifetime, the event you've always dreamed of.

Illuminate has everything you need in-house to make all your dreams come true for a perfect event.

- Pre-event lobby bar space
- Beautiful grand ballroom
- Color-changing programmable floor to ceiling lighting system
- State-of-the-art audio-visual system
- Commercial catering kitchen
- Tables and chairs of various sizes
- 5-star vendor partnerships available

A great layout makes a great celebration!

With 10,000 sq. ft. of event space our design flexibility will match your vision to create the perfect ambiance for any event.

Capacity:

- 200 seated with dance floor
- 250 seated without dance floor
- 300 for cocktail-style reception
- 300 for theater seating

Illuminate has easy access from anywhere in South Florida and is the perfect venue for a local or destination event. We are just minutes from the Sawgrass Expressway and the Florida Turnpike, conveniently located with just a 30-minute drive from Ft. Lauderdale Beach and Airport, Miami International Airport, and Boca Raton.

For more information contact Illuminate Venue & Facilities Director Michael Moran at 954-226-9925 or michael@illuminatevenue.com or scan this QR code to visit our website.

Located within
The Shirley & Barton Weisman
and Family Event Center
5100 North Nob Hill Road
Sunrise, FL 33351
954-226-9925
info@illuminatevenue.com



Capital Naming Opportunities

Connect Your Family Name with JAFCO Forever

JAFCO Capital Donors build dreams by providing funding that secures the future of our children's lives. We offer a wide range of ways donors can pay tribute to their loved ones and make a meaningful impact. Your name will be a permanent part of JAFCO where every child has a place to belong.

The JAFCO Children's Village Capital Rededication Opportunities

Children's Village Security System	\$720,000
Entrance Garden.....	\$540,000
Entrance Circle	\$540,000
Village Generator Station.....	\$540,000
Meditation & Relaxation Room.....	\$252,000
Boulevard Name.....	\$252,000
Chief Clinical Operations Officer's Office	\$180,000
Serenity Garden	\$180,000
Children's Shelter Library/Computer Room.....	\$108,000
Children's Shelter Crisis Care Office.....	\$108,000
Playground Shade Canopy	\$108,000
Clinical Offices (7)	\$108,000
Development Operations Center	\$108,000
Torah Ark	\$108,000
Torah (2).....	\$108,000
Vegetable Garden.....	\$108,000
Swimming Pool Shade Canopy	\$72,000
Therapy & Wellness Center Family Room	\$72,000
Children's Shelter Family Room.....	\$72,000
Children's Shelter Dining Room.....	\$72,000
Development Event Mission Control	\$72,000
Group Home Kitchen (3).....	\$54,000
Therapy & Wellness Center Office (4).....	\$54,000
Children's Shelter Bedroom & Bath (6).....	\$54,000
Children's Shelter Safe Room.....	\$54,000
Basketball Court	\$54,000
Grand Outdoor Chanukah Menorah	\$54,000
Group Home Child's Bedroom & Bath (24).....	\$36,000
Group Home Family Room (2)	\$36,000
Group Home Dining Room (2)	\$36,000
Group Home Laundry Room (6)	\$36,000
Children's Shelter Laundry Room.....	\$36,000
Human Resources Offices (2).....	\$36,000

The JAFCO Children's Ability Center Capital Naming Opportunities

2nd Floor Parent Wing	\$540,000
2nd Floor Research & Clinical Training Wing	\$540,000
Children's Enrichment Wing.....	\$540,000
Illuminate Catering Kitchen.....	\$500,000
Illuminate Center Ballroom.....	\$500,000
Hurricane Generator Power Zone.....	\$360,000
Ballroom Furnishings	\$250,000
Lodge Vista Drive	\$180,000
Event Center Sound & Lighting Zone	\$180,000
Clinical Staff Think Tank.....	\$108,000
Art Studio Parent Overlook	\$108,000
Sensory Room Parent Overlook	\$108,000
Clinical Therapy Environment	\$72,000
Guest House Bedroom	\$36,000
Guest House Dining Room (2).....	\$36,000
Ability Center IT Headquarters	\$36,000
Staff Work Stations (20)	\$36,000
Fun Center (5).....	\$36,000
Hydration Station.....	\$36,000
Illuminate Catering Kitchen Magic Oven	\$36,000
Illuminate Catering Kitchen Soda Machine.....	\$36,000

Thank You to Our New 2024 Capital Donors

JAFCO Children's Village

Beverly & Joel Altman
Gila & Allen Chelminsky
Sharron Feldman
Francee Ford
Elissa & Mark Goldner
Patricia Isenberg
Sylvana & Murray Klein
Barbara & Peter Norden
Lisa Sirota Weiner & Doug Weiner
Mary & Mel Zwirn

JAFCO Children's Ability Center

Roslyn Dubin Silverman
Ken Fisher & Elizabeth Lender/HealThePlanet.com
Francee Ford
Mandy & Justin Mauskopf
Ethel Pinkwasser
Brenda & Larry Robinson
Felicia Beth Levine Schwartz & Richard Philip Schwartz



For more information about Capital Naming Opportunities or creating a Family Fund, please contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Janet Epstein at 954-315-8696 or janet@jafco.org.

Sylvana & Murray Klein



Sylvana and Murray Klein's journey is one of resilience, gratitude, and profound generosity. Born into privilege, Sylvana's life changed drastically when her family became refugees, and with the help of a Jewish organization and sponsorship from her uncle, the family began anew in America—seven people sharing a modest two-bedroom apartment.

Years later, having achieved success in business, Sylvana embraced the value of giving back. Together with her husband Murray, the Kleins became devoted philanthropists, sharing their hearts with meaningful causes. Their journey with JAFCO began when a dear friend invited them to an event. Moved by the powerful video, stories, and heartfelt mission, the Kleins wanted to learn more about JAFCO and a visit to the Children's Village solidified their connection. Seeing the babies in the Emergency Shelter and children living in the Group Homes being cared for with such love left them profoundly moved. Last summer, Sylvana and Murray made a generous gift

to JAFCO and lovingly named the Welcome Center at the Entrance Garden of the Children's Village, the first point of entry for all who come to the Village.

The Kleins' connection to JAFCO reached beyond Florida as they also care about the Philadelphia community. Years ago they named the reception desk at the FamilyMatters office, helping them make the move to their current office space.

For the Kleins, philanthropy is about seeing lives transformed. Through JAFCO and other causes, Sylvana and Murray Klein continue to make a difference in the lives of countless children and families, and we are eternally grateful for their love.

Beverly & Joel Altman Family Foundation



Beverly and Joel Altman are shining examples of what it means to lead with compassion and purpose. For years, their unwavering dedication to philanthropy has touched countless lives — especially those of vulnerable children facing tremendous challenges. Guided by a deeply rooted belief in helping those who cannot help themselves, they have prioritized supporting youth-focused causes, with a strong emphasis on the Jewish community.

As successful businesspeople in construction and development, Beverly and Joel are no strangers to building foundations. But beyond concrete and steel, they've spent decades laying emotional and educational foundations for children in need — helping ensure brighter, more secure futures.

Their journey with JAFCO began through their dear friend Alan Levy, a devoted supporter from the organization's inception until his passing in 2020. Inspired by Alan's legacy and deeply moved by JAFCO's mission, Beverly and Joel visited the Children's Village in 2024. That visit sparked a profound connection and led to a generous capital gift to name the Beverly & Joel Altman Family Foundation Auditorium.

This vibrant, welcoming space is where the children of JAFCO gather for movies, shows, and presentations. It also serves as the first stop for donors and visitors — offering a glimpse into the heart of JAFCO's lifesaving work.

We are deeply honored to welcome Beverly and Joel into the JAFCO family. Their generosity will echo in this space — and in the lives of our children — for years to come. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

Dorothy & James Goodman: They Loved to Give



On February 11, the world as we knew it was forever changed when we lost Dotty Goodman at the age of 92. Dotty and her husband Jim (of blessed memory) shared their intense love of family, life, and philanthropy with the beautiful children of JAFCO. Over the past decade they sponsored and attended every event they could and included the children of JAFCO in their estate with a very generous donation. Their generosity was beyond words and every possible opportunity they had, they gave from their hearts and so happily. They also gave us their amazing daughter Amy and son-in-law Barry Sylvetsky who are both part of our dedicated board leadership team. Dotty and Jim were members of the Endowed Godparent Circle, Circle of Hope, Founders Circle, Capital Donors and Silver Heart Society, helping ensure that JAFCO has the funds to take care of our children both today and for many generations to come. Their memories are a beautiful blessing for their family and for the children of JAFCO.

JAFCO Founders Circle: Lifetime Giving of \$100,000 or More

\$15,000,000 and above

Linda & Don Brodie / Don & Linda Brodie Family Foundation

\$2,000,000 - \$4,999,999

Joan Berman
Leslie Berman
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Helen & Louis Kuriansky Foundation
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Bratt Charitable Trust
Susan & Arnold Zweig / Shirley Glass
Charitable Lead Trust

\$100,000 - \$249,999

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Zyman Foundation

*** JAFCO welcomes
these donors to the
Founders Circle**

JAFCO Legacy Circle: Leaving a Legacy of Love

What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal. — Albert Pike

The Legacy Circle honors donors who have included the Children of JAFCO in their estate plan, thereby assuring that our life-saving work continues forever. If you have done so and are not listed, let us know so we may welcome you to our Legacy Circle.

Sondra Aaronson	Eileen Flum Estate	Andrea Levine	Francine L. & John E. Schultz
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There are many simple ways for you to fulfill your charitable desires with a gift that will continue your legacy for years to come. Please contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Janet Epstein at 954-315-8696 to discuss leaving a gift to JAFCO in a will or a bequest with cash, real estate, life insurance policy, IRA, appreciated stock, Charitable Gift Annuity, or a Charitable Remainder Trust.

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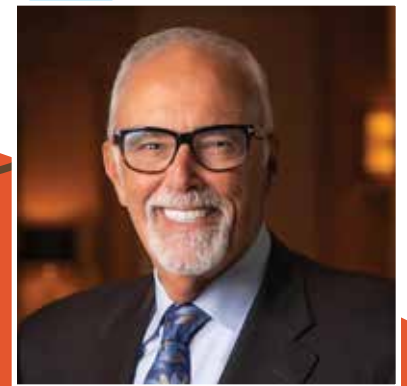
Arthur Adler: Giving Life Meaning

There is no better way to describe the life and legacy of Arthur Adler than by the words of Viktor Frankl when he said, "The meaning of life is to give life meaning."

Arthur Adler passed away on November 24, 2024 at the age of 82. His impressive and exciting career included owning radio stations and ad agencies that represented the NY Yankees and so much more. He was a loving husband to his wife Shelly of 60 years, a loving father and grandfather. For most people this would have been more than enough, but in his heart Arthur felt there was more to do. Arthur's deep love for children resulted in the founding of the Boca West Children's Foundation dedicated to raising funds to support over 25 children's charities in South Florida. Arthur served as their founding Chairman and was still deeply involved as Chairman Emeritus through the end of his life.

Arthur was proud to select JAFCO as the first partner charity having heard about us from his sister who was volunteering as a mentor to a JAFCO child, something she was committed to until the day she died. Arthur was most moved by the JAFCO Children's Emergency Shelter, especially the newborn infants born exposed to narcotics. When the JAFCO Children's Ability Center opened, Arthur wanted to be sure that parents raising children on the autism spectrum had the overnight respite support they needed.

Arthur's personal generosity in addition to his priceless calls to the JAFCO staff to provide them with love, mentorship, and guidance are sorely missed, but Arthur is still beside us every day. To honor his memory, the foundation he created will be naming the Shelly & Arthur Adler Playground, A Lasting Legacy of Love, Laughter, and Giving just outside the JAFCO Children's Emergency Shelter. Arthur's legacy will live on forever in the hearts of each of our children as well as everyone who was lucky enough to know him. May his memory be a blessing for all of the children he loved, forever.



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Due to space limitations, we have not listed our generous donors below \$1,800, but please know that from the bottom of our hearts, JAFCO appreciates every dollar and every diaper that is donated. It is ONLY because of the generosity of our entire community that the children and families are so well cared for and that we can provide high-quality programs. If you cannot find yourself on the donor honor roll, please feel free to call me directly and we will find it together. With gratitude, Shelli Gold, Director of Development Operations, 954-315-8671.

Paul Goldner, a True Mensch

Paul Goldner believed in the words of Graham Greene who felt there was "a moment in every childhood where a door opened and the future came in." Paul felt strongly that it was education that opened the door of success for himself, for his children, and grandchildren whom he loved so much. He wanted to be sure that the children of JAFCO were given those same opportunities. In 2006 he created a Mensch fund to make sure that every JAFCO child had a chance to go to college, become successful and then give back to JAFCO.

It was with deep sadness that our JAFCO family lost Paul on March 18, 2025 at the age of 90. He lived a full life with his wife Sandra of 40 years and his loving children and grandchildren. He was a pioneer in the marketing and database industry and used his expertise and passion to help JAFCO. He could not visit our Village and see the children without tears, and loved his adopted granddaughter with all his heart and soul. As a member of the JAFCO Board of Trustees, Paul was lovingly known as the board member to encourage us to charge more for our gala every year, to benefit the children, a tradition we plan to continue. Paul passed the value of philanthropy down to his children who are all involved as JAFCO donors and so his legacy of opening doors for children who have lost everything in the world will continue....forever may his memory be a blessing.



Thank You to Our JAFCO Godparents



To be asked to be the Godparent for a child is one of the greatest honors in life. JAFCO Godparents spiritually “adopt” our precious children who have endured abuse and neglect to ensure that each child will have a wonderful life filled with every opportunity that all children should have.

Godparents make a commitment to support the children with a gift of \$18,000 payable in one payment or \$1,800 a year for ten years. Two special 14K gold pins have been created for our Godparents featuring the JAFCO logo which symbolizes our mission - a child swinging joyously on the Tree of Life. Each Godparent's name will be inscribed on the donor wall at the Children's Village in South Florida or at the FamilyMatters Center in Philadelphia, depending on where they would like their gift designated. Our **Recommitted Godparents** commit to making a second pledge of a minimum of \$18,000 payable in one payment or over the next ten years. They receive a specially commissioned candleholder created exclusively for JAFCO by artist Yaacov Heller. Our **Godparents for Life** pledge to donate \$1,800 per year as long as they are able. They receive two Yaacov Heller candleholders as a gift from the children. This commitment offers the children of JAFCO even greater security for their future.

The JAFCO **Forever Godparent** Endowment is open to our JAFCO Godparents, or members of the Circle of Hope, who wish to continue watching over the children forever. Being a Forever Godparent ensures that your philanthropy makes an even greater difference throughout their lifetime and for generations to come. A minimum cash or legacy gift of \$54,000 will be fully endowed and the dividends from this investment will pay your \$1,800 annual Godparent donation... forever.

As a small token of our gratitude for protecting the children, our Forever Godparents will receive an exclusive specially commissioned, limited edition mezuzah by world renowned artist Romero Britto, to protect your home and your family, just as you have protected our children. The gift of this priceless mezuzah is made possible by the **Eileen Garlick Estate Endowment Fund**. Eileen loved all of the children of JAFCO and her memory lives on as a blessing for them.

Forever Godparents

Judi & David Dines
Eileen Garlick
Dorothy & Jim Goodman
Becky & Laurence Herrup
Judith & Barry Katzen
Lois & Stephen Kaufman
Judy & Benjamin Pace
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Brenda & Larry Robinson
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Sharon & Paul Kaliner

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Dona Weinraub
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Jennifer & Kevin Faith
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Marion & Jordan Fox
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Alexis & Tom Fritz

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JAFCO Godparent Circle Chair Helene Weicholz and Godparent for Life, Rita Carole Messner share a great love of the children of JAFCO.



**Four Generations of JAFCO Godparents!
L-R: Stephen Block, Suzanne Block, Mildred Lidov, Heather Barkin, Samantha Saltz & Joshua Saltz with Haeley Saltz, age 5, the newest member of our Godparent Circle.**

Thank You To Our Circle of Hope Members



The **Circle of Hope** is a group of loving committed individuals who care deeply about children with developmental disabilities and want to provide compassionate support for them and for their families through a continuum of high quality services offered by JAFCO both in Florida and Philadelphia. The Circle of Hope is a pledge of \$1,800 for 10 years (\$18,000). Circle of Hope Members receive a beautiful and exclusive 14k gold pin featuring a parent pushing their child on a swing on the JAFCO tree of life surrounded by the protective roots and branches of the tree, symbolizing the love of our JAFCO family. Circle of Hope Donors who recommit for a second ten years receive a beautiful candleholder created for JAFCO in Israel and designed by world renown artist Yaacov Heller. Donors who recommit for life receive two candleholders. Each Circle of Hope member will have their name inscribed on the Circle of Hope Wall of Honor in either South Florida or Philadelphia, depending on where the donor wishes to have their gift designated.

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Donna & Arthur Schreier
Judi & Allan Schuman
Barbara Schwartz
Marla & Leo Schwartz
Rachel & Andrew Schwartz
Sheila & Larry Schwartz
Stephanie & Matthew Scupp
Sue & Steve Shaffer
Madelane Shane & Family
IMO Michael Shane
Olivia & Gerald Shapiro
Susie Sheftel & Howie Lapides
Frieda & Lawrence Shefter
Susan Sher
Sheryl Sherman
Samantha & Ryan Shrouder
Gina & Greg Shugar

348 parents had JAFCO by their side, raising their child with a disability through support groups, wellness programs, and social activities.

Joann & Bruce Silk
Linda & Martin Silver
Marlene & Martin Silver
Hillary & Kenneth Silverstein
Deni & Ronald Simon
Sandra & Charles Simon
Fay & Samuel Singer
Gail & Bennet Singer
Myrna & Sam Skurnick
Mason Slaine
Susan & Stevan Smallow
Annette Smith
Robin & Samuel Smith
Shelly & Dan Snyder
Linda & Alan Sohn
Lori & Jason Solodkin
Bonnie & Martin Spector
Jandy & Robert Spiegelman
Geraldine & Gary Stanko
Cynthia & Paul Stein
Diana & David Stein
Susan B. Stern
Leslie & David Storch
Joyce & Edward Stravitz
Jayne & Marvin Suskin
Carol & Stanley Sussman
Velia Sweet
Este & Sam Sylvestsky

Julie Sylvestsky
Dani Tapper
Liz & Alex Taub
Lauren Sylvestsky Tsivin
Fayette Toren
Jennifer & Barry Toren
Lynne Uiberall
Melanie & Ronald vanderValk
Nancy & Marc Voluck
Phyllis & Arthur Wachtel
Gale Wechsler
Helene & Stephen Weicholz
Kimberly & Todd Weicholz
Dona Weinraub
Barbara & Barry Weinstein
Shirley & Barton Weisman
Sharon & Stephen Wender
Bernice & Edward Wenger
Laura & Kenneth Wernick
Jodi & Steve Wigginton
Randi & David Winter
Rotem & Maxx Winter
Susan & Robert Wisan
Bari & Michael Zahalsky
Jennifer & Craig Zeuner
Craig Zinn Automotive Group
Susan & Arnold Zweig
Lisa & Andrew Zwick



L-R: Judith Dines (Recommitted Circle of Hope Member), Founding JAFCO CEO Sarah Franco (New Circle of Hope Member), Honoree Lori Solodkin (Circle of Hope Member), Kim Fetterman (Recommitted Circle of Hope Member), Honoree Jason Solodkin (Circle of Hope Member), Ronni Roth (New Circle of Hope Member).

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

Thank You to Our Special Godparents AND Circle of Hope Members

We are deeply grateful to our donors who have made both Godparent and Circle of Hope commitments. Through your dedication and continued support, our JAFCO Children's Village and Children's Ability Center have provided a safe place for our JAFCO children to live and thrive. Thank you for allowing us to dream BIG!

Diane Abelson & Stephen Hurwitz
 Robyn & Marc Abrams
 Rochelle & Arthur Adler
 Louise Jacowitz Allen
 Jeanette & Alan Antokal
 Susan & Mark Auerbach
 Terry Masel Auerbach
 Debra & Dov Bacharach
 Dara & Alan Berger
 Joan Berman
 Leslie Berman
 Nanci & Stephen Beyer
 Stephanie & Frank Bielenberg
 Angela & Louis Birdman
 Lauren & Art Blick
 Bruce Borger
 Karen Borger
 Charlene Brazner
 Linda & Don Brodie
 Vicki E. Bronfman
 Jane & Bruce Burwick
IMO Lance Burwick
 Deborah & Alan Casnoff
 Barry Cohen & Caren Weinberg
 Hara & Michael Cohen
 Norma & Mark David
 Jane Davis
 Karen & Mark Dern
 Sherry & Steve Einhorn
 Jennifer & Kevin Faith
 Kim & Sean Fetterman
 Adrienne Ruby-Fink & Herschel Fink
 Joan & Lawrence Fleischman
 Sarah Franco
 Elaine & Harold Friedland
 Marla & Steve Garchik
 Joan & Lewis Gedansky
 Andrea & Thomas Gero
 Dorinne Gerstin
 Melissa & Joshua Gerstin
 Magda & Malcolm Ginnis

Mara & Mel Gober
 Lori & Lewis Gold
 Leslie Goldberg
 Lisa Goldberg & Stanford Blake
 Sandra & Paul Goldner
 Hillary & Jeffrey Goldstein
 Dorothy & James Goodman
 Helene & Robert Gottlieb
 Donna & Louis Greenberg
 Maggie & Stewart Greenberg
 Leslie Greene
 Beth & Jack Greenman
 Margery & Stephen Greenspan
 Ellen & Gerald Greenspoon
 Melissa & Mario Grosfeld
 Andrea & Bruce Grundt
 Sandra & Leonard Haiken
 Cathy & Steven Haubenstock
 Suzi & Joshua Herrendorf
 Becky & Laurence Herrup
 Maty & David Herschthal
 Ursula & Leonard Hess
 Fred Hirt & Joan Fletcher
 Lois Hollander & Steven Schlosser
 Tami & Perry Isenberg
 Amanda & Joseph Jaffe
 Sylvia Kahana & Arie A. Taykan
 Eileen & Stewart Kahn
 Carole & Mel Kantor
 Dr. Linda J. Kaplan
 Carole Kissel
 Susan Kobitz
 Edward Koenig
 Jackie Kohn
 Charles & Esther Krieger Foundation
 Gail & Kerry Kuhn
 Stefanie & Bill Kushner
 Stacey & Barry Label
 Patricia & Randy Lahn
 Sara Lampert
 Marcia & Jeffrey Langley
 Beth Lebovitz
 Carol B. Leeds
 Elizabeth Lender & Kenneth Fisher
 Fern & Mac Lerner

Rhonda & Howard Levin
 Nauma Levin
 Andrea Levine
 Marsha Levy
 Mildred Lidov *IMO Howard I. Lidov*
 Delsie Lipton & Arthur Weinstock
 Diane & Stephen Lovell
 Susan & Barry Lyman
 Sandra & Arthur Mandell
 Caryn & Darren Marsh
 Mandy & Justin Mausekopf
 Rita Carole Messner
 Sharyn & Bert Model
 Sandi Morris
 Gayle Moskowitz
 Avis & Abraham Neiman
 Michelle & Samuel Ohev-Zion
 Andrea & James Orleans
 Helene & Rick Paul
 Sandi & Max Paul
 Lucianna & Jared Perlin
 Terry & Paul Peykar
 Julie Peyton
 Ethel Pinkwasser
 Marjorie & Maurice D. Plough, Jr.
 Law Office of Pamela Higer-Polani
 Suzanne & Samuel Pollack
 Susan & Jeffrey Postal
 Norlyn & Ed Poto
 Barbara Reich
 Carmen & Sanford Reinhard
 Elaine & Bernard Roberts
 Brenda & Larry Robinson
 Jamie & David Rosenberg
 Michelle & Bruce Ross
 Frani Rothman
 Marjorie Rudolph
 Becky Saka
 Rochelle Sampson
 Sherri Samuels
 Phyllis Sandler
 Eleanor Schick
 Beryl & Robert Schneider
 Barbara Schwartz
 Marla & Leo Schwartz

Rachel & Andrew Schwartz
 Stephanie & Matthew Scupp
 Madelane Shane
 Olivia & Gerald Shapiro
 Sheryl Sherman
 Samantha & Ryan Shrouder
 Joann & Bruce Silk
 Marlene & Martin Silver
 Deni & Ronald Simon
 Sandra Simon
 Fay & Samuel Singer
 Myrna & Sam Skurnick
 Mason Slaine
 Susan & Stevan Smallow
 Annette Smith
 Robin & Samuel Smith
 Bonnie & Martin Spector
 Diana & David Stein
 Leslie & David Storch
 Joyce & Edward Stravitz
 Jayne Suskin
 Carol & Stanley Sussman
 Velia Sweet
 Amy & Barry Sylvestsky
 Este & Sam Sylvestsky
 Julie Sylvestsky
 Fayette Toren
 Lauren Sylvestsky Tsivin
 Melanie & Ronald vanderValk
 Phyllis & Arthur Wachtel
 Kimberly & Todd Weicholz
 Helene & Stephen Weicholz
 Lisa Sirota-Weiner & Douglas Weiner
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 Barbara & Barry Weinstein
 Shirley Weisman
 Sharon & Stephen Wender
 Bernice & Edward Wenger
 Jodi & Steve Wigginton
 Randi & David Winter
 Susan & Robert Wisan
 Bari & Michael Zahalsky
 Craig Zinn Automotive Group
 Susan & Arnold Zweig

For a total of \$300 a month you can become part of the greatest club in the world, our most special donors who support every JAFCO program as both Godparents and Circle of Hope members. For more information about becoming a Godparent and Circle of Hope Member, contact JAFCO Development Officer Elise Dolgow at elise@jafco.org or 954-732-0353 or JAFCO Philanthropy Director Janet Epstein at janet@jafco.org or 954-315-8696.



Florida Legislators: Changing the World for JAFCO



JAFCO is grateful to have received critical funding through an appropriation from the Florida Legislature for the past several years to support our children and families, and we hope that this continues into the future. We sincerely appreciate our dedicated sponsors, Florida Senator Tina Polsky and State Representative Christine Hunschofsky, for securing funding for Eagles' Haven Wellness Center. We also thank Senator Polsky and State Representative Michael Gottlieb for prioritizing and advocating for this year's state appropriation for the Children's Ability Center. We are beyond grateful to Attorney Ellyn Bogdanoff for dedicating three decades of her life to support JAFCO as a former Florida Senator, a founding board member, and major donor.

We are also thankful to the leadership and staff at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities for their partnership in ensuring these funds are put to the best possible use providing critical services to families in need. State funding plays a key role in keeping our children and families safe, and we are grateful to everyone who advocates, lobbies, and works tirelessly to secure these resources.

At the same time, we recognize that private donors and family foundations remain essential partners in sustaining and expanding our programs. The combined support of public funding and private generosity ensures that all our programs remain fully operational and accessible to every family in need.



**Senator
Tina Polsky**



**Representative
Christine Hunschofsky**



**Representative
Michael Gottlieb**



**Former Senator
Ellyn Bogdanoff**

Thank You to Our Pro-Bono Professionals for Changing the World by Donating Your Expertise and Time to Our Children and Families

With immense gratitude to the members of our JAFCO Board of Trustees for donating your professional expertise (listed on page 46).

Beauty Services: FAB Beauty Salon, Frank Marino, Salon Sora, and Drew Caparoula

Life Coaching and Independent Living Training: Dennis Ratner and Bari Schanerman

Medical Services: Children's Medical Association, Dr. Lisa Sirota-Weiner, and Dr. Michael Schaffer

Legal Services: Stanley Brenner, Brett Rogers, Harry Friedman, Fabian Ruiz, and Ellyn Bogdanoff

Children's Ability Center Women's Retreat Wellness Professionals: Avital Israel, Marianne Altschul, Evelyn Ballin, Nava Ben-Shoshan, Karin Charbit, Natalie Cohen, Bar Ben-David, Matthew Hamburger, Rachel Herman, Maya Kadar, Tracy Kahn, Lili Moryoussef, Leah Perl, Dr. Lisa Sirota-Weiner, Mor Taieb, Babs Walter, Ann Warren, and Sabrina Zhang

Camp Scholarships: Camp Jori, French Woods, and Golden Slipper

We are looking for pro bono services in South Florida and Philadelphia. Services needed are: Pediatric doctors and specialists, dentists and orthodontists, optometrists, family lawyers, hair stylists, and more!



Business Circle Members: Working to Change the World

When you partner with us, you are connecting to a vibrant community that is committed to giving every child a place to belong.



When you join the JAFCO Business Circle you are joining much more than a charity. You are joining a big, loving family of volunteers, families, staff and donors dedicated to helping improve the lives of children impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities. JAFCO has an extensive database, 8 volunteer chapters across South Florida and the Northeast, and dozens of events annually with attendance of 200 to 850 guests.

Our Business Circle packages can be tailored to any budget allowing you to attend and sponsor multiple events throughout the year in your area. You will also receive recognition in this printed newsletter which is posted on our website, mailed, and emailed to all of our donors.

For more information about how you can join the JAFCO Business Circle and connect with this vibrant community, contact JAFCO Director of Development Operations Shelli Gold at 954-315-8671 or shelli@jafco.org.

We Are Honored to Change the World with Our Partners by Our Side



JAFCO is proud to be the first point of contact for MOLSA (Israeli Ministry of Labor Social Affairs and Social Services) whenever there is a family in need of immediate assistance with members both in Israel and the U.S. We are happy to assist and send our love and prayers to all of the innocent victims of the current war.

2024 Gala Honorees: Making a Difference in the World



Brenda & Larry Robinson **Jacob's Ladder Award Recipients**

Brenda and Larry Robinson believe that helping one child can change the world. This guiding principle has fueled their deep commitment to JAFCO since 2014, when Brenda first attended a card party that sparked a lasting connection. Since then, they have been fully invested in supporting JAFCO's mission to provide safe, caring environments for children and families in need.

As active members of JAFCO's North Palm Beach Chapter, the Robinsons have chartered bus trips to JAFCO, allowing others to see the life-changing work happening at the Children's Village and Ability Center. They are Capital Donors, Endowed Godparents, and members of the Circle of Hope, Founders, and Godparent Circles, ensuring every child has a place to belong.

Larry currently serves as the JAFCO Foundation Board Chair, while also sitting on the Finance Committee and FamilyMatters Board. A Bronx native with a diverse professional background, he now dedicates his retirement to philanthropic work. Brenda remains a vital part of the North Palm Beach Chapter and the Mirasol community.

Married for 58 years, the Robinsons are proud parents to Eric, an entrepreneur, and Mandy, a consultant. They are loving grandparents to Ethan, a rising senior at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and Isabella who will be starting her freshman year at The University of Texas at Austin. Mandy and her husband Justin made a generous Capital Gift in honor of Brenda and Larry at the Gala. The Robinsons' impact on JAFCO's mission is profound, and their commitment to children and families is a powerful reminder of the difference one family can make.



Norma & Mark David and Annie* & Abraham* David **Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients**

"It's much more gratifying to give than to receive."

Annie and Abraham David's journey with JAFCO began when Abe first walked into its modest office, offering a \$5,000 donation — on the condition they accepted American Express, as he wanted the miles! From that day forward, Abe and Annie embraced JAFCO's mission, becoming Capital Donors for both the Children's Village and the Children's Ability Center. Their commitment to giving back as members of the Founders, Godparent, and Legacy Circles ensures their impact will live on, forever watching over the children they cared so deeply about.

Their legacy continues through their son Mark and his wife Norma, who, along with their children and grandchildren, have embraced the same spirit of philanthropy. Mark fondly recalls the profound experience of helping open the Children's Village, a place of safety and love for vulnerable children.

Mark, a University of Toledo graduate, spent his career leading the apparel manufacturing company Movie Star Inc., before retiring as CEO in 2000. Norma, a former teacher with degrees from Queens College, now enjoys family time, travel, and community involvement, including support for the Israel Tennis and Education Centers and Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. As former JAFCO CEO Sarah Franco reflects, "Abe truly cared about the children, and his legacy lives on through his family. Abe would be so proud." JAFCO was honored to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Annie, Abe, Norma, and Mark David.

(*posthumously)



Holland & Knight **Community Partnership Award Recipient**

Holland & Knight, a global law firm with over 2,200 professionals across 34 offices, was honored with the JAFCO Community Partnership Award for its ongoing collaboration with JAFCO on critical projects, including international child abduction cases.

For years, Holland & Knight has provided pro bono legal representation to families whose children have been abducted and brought illegally to the United States, often by an estranged relative. These cases are legally complex and emotionally challenging, requiring swift, decisive action.

One defining moment in this partnership came when Holland & Knight was approached to help reunite a six-year-old boy with his mother in Chile. After the boy was brought into the U.S. through Texas, Holland & Knight quickly filed a federal lawsuit in Florida, securing an early ruling from Judge Aileen Cannon to remove the child from his father's custody. JAFCO stepped in to provide temporary care, ensuring the child was safe until his return to Chile.

Since that case, the partnership has grown, with Holland & Knight attorney Jeff Schacknow joining the JAFCO Village Board and the firm expanding its work on child abduction cases globally. They also collaborate on local initiatives, including a recent Chanukah gift program through the Jewish Lawyer Association of Palm Beach. For their dedication to children both locally and internationally, we proudly presented Holland & Knight with the JAFCO Community Partnership Award.

JAFCO Event Honorees: Inspiring Positive Change

Lori & Jason Solodkin - In My Shoes Luncheon

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Helen Keller

After being introduced to JAFCO 16 years ago, Lori served as a committee member and co-chair of the In My Shoes Luncheon and helped raise over \$2 million dollars to benefit the Children's Ability Center. Jason shared Lori's dedication to In My Shoes by taking the role of emcee for over a decade, followed by a commitment to becoming JAFCO Circle of Hope members.

In 2001, a mutual friend introduced Lori and Jason when they both lived in Aventura. Jason was a native Floridian with a degree from UM and Lori moved south after graduating from Syracuse University. Jason heard 5'10", blonde hair, blue eyes, and Jewish, and couldn't resist! Lori and Jason now have two wonderful children, Samantha (18) will be a Freshman at the University of Texas in Austin, and Jordan (15) attends the Boca School for Autism.

Jason was a Miami Heat and Hurricanes broadcaster, and the Hurricanes stadium announcer. He transitioned into the finance industry and is currently a Principle and Certified Financial Planner with Financial Design Resource Group. Aside from JAFCO, Lori shares her time on committees supporting many local special needs organizations.

Over the years, Lori and Jason have experienced the benefits of the Children's Ability Center first-hand where their son Jordan enjoys Camp Kehilla during the summer, as well as many school closing days. Lori and Jason remain forever grateful for all the services offered by JAFCO and the Ability Center and are eager to share their positive experiences with other families in the special needs community.



Gila & Allen Chelminsky - Chanukah Miracles Luncheon

"We know that any success that we have comes from G-d and thus Hashem is our partner in anything we do."

Allen and Gila are a deeply spiritual couple, in fact it was their devotion to Judaism that brought them to JAFCO. Many years ago, Allen felt a void in his life and asked the advice of his Rabbi. The Rabbi told him about JAFCO and that very day he visited the Village campus, took a tour, and met with former CEO Sarah Franco. "I fell in love with JAFCO at first sight," Allen said. "Not only did I want to give my money to such a worthy charity, I also wanted to give my time."

Gila and Allen have been generous supporters of JAFCO since 2006 and are members of the Founders Circle, Silver Heart Society, and Godparent Circle. They have established the Chelminsky Family Hebrew School Fund and Allen has served on the JAFCO Board of Trustees since 2007.

Allen was born and raised in Toronto, Gila was born in Israel and grew up in New York. For the past 30 years, Allen has enjoyed a successful career in real estate acquisitions and management. They are proud, loving parents of five daughters: Leah (23), Sarah (20), Eva (17), and twins Leora and Rebecca (14). In June of 2024, Gila & Allen celebrated their first family wedding of Leah to Elliott Koskas. Recently the Chelminskys made a generous capital gift, naming a Group Home at the JAFCO Children's Village in honor of their beautiful family: The Chelminsky Home, for the blessing and success of all their children.



Susan Lyman - Mother's Day Luncheon

"She leads with wisdom and leaves a legacy of love in every heart she touches."

Born in Bristol, VA and raised in Norfolk, Susan Lyman has built a life centered on compassion, community, and connection. A dedicated x-ray technician for over 20 years, she's equally known for her extensive volunteer work.

Susan is the beloved wife of Barry Lyman and a proud mother to Adam Citron, Shira Citron, Debra Lyman and wife Deb Yates, Pam Lyman and husband Ethan Miller, and Karyn Lyman and husband David O'Connor. Her greatest joy is her grandchildren: Itai, Tali, Zed, Ryn, and Cecily.

Her connection to JAFCO began with a simple Chanukah party and grew into nearly two decades of service. She has served on the Speakers Bureau, co-chaired fundraisers, and organized silent auctions with passion and care. Susan and Barry are proud JAFCO Godparents and members of the Circle of Hope. In 2025, she stepped into a new role as co-president of JAFCO's South Palm Beach Chapter.

Whether on the golf course or in a spirited Mah Jongg match, Susan lives by her motto: "Just be nice." Her proudest moments come from seeing JAFCO children reunited with family - a reflection of the love she brings to everything she does.



FamilyMatters Event Honorees: Creating Meaningful Impact



Judy Lundy - 2024 Spring into Summer

Judy Lundy is a dedicated philanthropist and passionate advocate for giving back. A longtime supporter of JAFCO FamilyMatters, she became a Godparent after attending her first Spring into Summer Luncheon over a decade ago and continues to generously support the organization. A personal trainer for 24 years, Judy loves fitness, art, travel, and, most importantly, her family. As President of the Lundy Law Foundation and an active member of several charitable organizations, she lives by her philosophy of paying it forward and leaving a meaningful impact. Judy's love, generosity, and dedication inspire all who know her.

Pearl Halegua - 2025 A Rare Gem

Pearl Halegua, along with her husband Nathan and sons Josh and Aaron, has called Long Island home since 1983. A lifelong educator, Pearl began her teaching career in the NYC school system after graduating from Queens College. She later earned a National Science Foundation Grant for a master's in STEM and was named a NYC Teacher of the Year in 2004.

Even after retiring in 2005, Pearl remained dedicated to children's welfare, founding and chairing the Long Island chapter of JAFCO in 2007 with a fundraiser for 30 women in her backyard. That fundraiser turned into Fun in the Sun, which now hosts over 300 women for a day of fun and philanthropy each year. Pearl's motto, in Hebrew, dogmah eesheet - means leading by example - which guides her unwavering commitment to education, community service, and social action.



Dayna Rose Benn - 2025 Spring into Summer

Dayna Rose Benn is a Trust and Estate attorney and founder of her own practice, which she has successfully run for over a decade. A lifelong resident of Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, she is deeply committed to philanthropy, embodying the principle of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world. She has played a key role in helping to build FamilyMatters, chairing our City Lights, Spring into Summer, and LOVE events, while witnessing firsthand the impact of our work. Beyond FamilyMatters, she provides pro bono legal services through Philadelphia VIP, Wills for Heroes, and Dayna actively volunteers in her community. She lives with her husband, Andrew, and their two children, Sasha and Jacob, who inspire her to give back and make a difference.



151 families were strengthened in the Philadelphia area, drawing on the practices and skills from all of our sites, overcoming challenges related to trauma, abuse, and disabilities.

JAFCO Mitzvah Kids: Future Changemakers

This page is dedicated to the creator of the first JAFCO Journal in 1995, the late Madelyn Weil, a founding board member who believed that children are our future.

▼ Cameron Biondo & Victor Krislav

Cameron and Victor collected toys and raised over \$2,500 from organizing a 3v3 basketball tournament on January 12th. The boys made flyers, created brackets, and totally ran the show, inviting children from all over Miami to join the tournament at Temple Beth Am, who was kind enough to lend the boys their gym for the afternoon. This is a true example of a community working together to help children and families in need.



▲ Jonathan & Rose Alperstein

Jonathan and Rose Alperstein, children of Broward County Judge and long time JAFCO supporter Lauren Alperstein, have been collecting gifts every year since they were a year old, to make wishes come true for the children of JAFCO. This year they spread their philanthropic hearts to their cousin Eliav who joined them in their tradition of giving back and making the world a kinder place.

▼ Dylan Szprynger

Following in the footsteps of his parents Daniela & Pablo Szprynger who are JAFCO Godparents, Dylan selected JAFCO as the beneficiary for his Bar Mitzvah project. He raised over \$1,700 by selling Chanukah kits.



▲ Maddie Torban

Maddie Torban's Mitzvah project to provide camp supplies for our children was beyond successful! She was able to collect enough items and over \$1,500 for all of our children to enjoy the perfect summer.



▲ Jacob Cohen

Jacob provided his incredible DJ talents at our annual Village Chanukah Party! His Mitzvah project included raising funds for the party which included actual snow for the children to play in! A total of \$5,000 was raised.

▼ Perri Calinoff

Perri Calinoff organized a Target wish list shopping spree for her Mitzvah project and collected over 50 baskets filled with birthday goodies for the children of JAFCO. Her mom, Ali Calinoff is an integral part of JAFCO's Miami Chapter and has shown Perri the importance of giving back and making a difference.



Thank you Mitzvah Kids

Zoe Kempler
Danielle Novick

All gifts directly benefit the children of JAFCO. All "Mitzvah Kids" and their families are invited to the JAFCO Village where they are presented with a beautiful certificate honoring them for helping children impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities.

To plan your JAFCO Mitzvah project in Florida, contact JAFCO Director of Special Events, Rebecca Drescher at rdrescher@jafco.org.

In the Northeast, contact FamilyMatters Events Manager, Robin Raskin at robin@familymattersnetwork.org.

Meet Our Aventura Chapter President

Lauren Faith: A Life of Purpose and Philanthropy

Lauren Faith's story is one of compassion, community, and a deep commitment to giving back. Originally from North West London, Lauren learned the importance of charity early in life. With her first paycheck, she gave to those in need, recognizing that "If you are blessed, pay it forward... be grateful for the ability to do that." This philosophy has remained the foundation of her life and work.

After moving to the United States two decades ago, Lauren found that charitable involvement helped her assimilate into her new community. In 2009, she made her first contribution to JAFCO during Chanukah and officially joined her first fundraising committee in 2012, thanks to the encouragement of Monica Egozi. JAFCO presented an opportunity to work with the most amazing people that she may never have met, and Lauren continues to forge deep lifelong relationships while working with like-minded people. What began as a simple act of giving grew into a life mission.

For Lauren, volunteering with JAFCO is more than community service, it's a calling. Her leadership roles have included Chapter President, Vice President, Event Chair, and Teen Chapter Advisor. She finds deep joy and purpose in mentoring youth through JAFCO's Aventura Teen Chapter, alongside Elise Egozi, Nicole Maleh, and her sister-in-law Sophie Faith. Her belief is that the ripple effect of the Teen Chapter is helping to expand the awareness of its members while creating a new generation of compassionate leaders and future philanthropists.

Lauren balances her volunteerism with a busy family and professional life. She has spent 15 years managing her online consignment business for fashion accessories and oversees her family's pet accessory business in the UK. Her husband of 19 years, Roland, is the COO of The Faith Group and a steady partner in both life and philanthropy. Their children - Anoushka, who is headed to Boston University to study Fine Arts; Gaby, a rising senior; and Jonah, a middle schooler, have all attended Scheck Hillel Community School and share their mother's philanthropic values.

In addition to JAFCO, Lauren and the Faith family support the Aventura Chabad, Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center, and the IDF. The family works directly with individual Israeli soldiers and provides Israeli advocacy in the US. Her work reflects a deep gratitude for life's blessings and a firm belief in giving with an open heart, expecting nothing in return.

According to Lauren, "My most meaningful experiences are witnessing the positive effect JAFCO provides to ensure the children's success. JAFCO will always be front and center in my legacy."



Teen Philanthropy Helps Change the World...Now and In the Future

Aventura Teen Chapter - The JAFCO Aventura Teen Chapter membership has exceeded expectations! With over 200 active participants from 10 local schools, students ages 15 - 18 years old, produced 3 engaging activities this season including Loaves of Love challah baking, Valentine's Day card and goodie bag creations, and a Dodgeball Tournament Fundraiser! The teens raised awareness of JAFCO's mission while generating over \$3,000 in donations for the children in addition to all the beautiful gifts!

Thank you to the Aventura Teen Chapter leadership: Anoushka Faith, Sophia Egozi, Gabriella Faith, Eva Maleh, Lyla Faith, Sara Malca, Eden Edelboim, Gylia Schindler, Hailey Hardoon, Brielle Maleh, Laila Egozi, and Nika Norinsberg.



Boca Teen Chapter

The JAFCO Boca Raton Teen Chapter President Elan Greenbaum, has successfully organized the collection of Chanukah gift wish lists and camp items for the children of JAFCO for three consecutive years.

This year, he achieved a significant milestone by raising nearly \$10,000 in donations. We are grateful for Elan's continued dedication and outstanding contributions.



Please visit: jafco.org/teenchapter
to learn more about the Aventura Teen Chapter

Please join us and help JAFCO grow!

2025-2026 Florida & Northeast Events

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Comedy for a Cause

Dominick A Potena Performing Arts Center, Margate, NJ

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Fun in the Sun

Glen Head Country Club, Glen Head, NY

Thursday, October 16, 2025

In My Shoes Luncheon

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton, FL

Thursday, November 6, 2025

All in for Poker

Illuminate Venue, Sunrise, FL

Thursday, November 13, 2025

City Lights

Green Valley Country Club, Lafayette Hill, PA

Thursday, November 13, 2025

An Evening of Miracles

Temple Beth Torah, Aventura, FL

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Name Your Game

Temple Solel, Hollywood, FL

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Change the World Gala

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton, FL

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Funny Girl!

An Homage to Barbra Streisand...

The Voice, the Star, the Legend

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton, FL

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

An Evening of Mentalism and Magic

Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, West Palm Beach, FL

Monday, February 2, 2026

JAFCO Golf Classic

Weston Hills Country Club, Weston, FL

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Blooming Hearts Luncheon & Card Party

The Club at Admirals Cove, Jupiter, FL

March 2026

Pickleball for a Purpose

Serving up for a good cause!

South Florida TBD

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Have A Heart Luncheon & Card Party

The Club at Mirasol, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

April 2026

Live, Love, Lunch

Miami, FL

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Mother's Day Luncheon

Boca West Country Club, Boca Raton, FL

Volunteer Chapter Leadership

Aventura/North Miami

Lauren Faith, 954-558-7766

Lauren Roth, 917-974-2900

Central Palm Beach

Dave Epstein, 561-302-5423

Wendy Galit, 917-805-5660

Century Village Pembroke Pines

Debbie Kaliser, 954-465-7330

King's Point Tamarac

Ellen Bernstein, 954-597-8772

Dolores Shampaner, 954-707-2919

Long Island

Pearl Halegua, 516-319-0769

Miami

Heather Sosler, 305-984-2768

Elyssa Lewis, 954-242-5598

North Palm Beach

Susan Auerbach, 610-580-8599

Dara Berger, 215-317-3001

Larry Robinson, 561-837-7508

Susan Wisan, 914-419-9412

South Palm Beach/North Broward

Rochelle Sampson, 248-296-4226

Susan Lyman, 561-445-9995

Please join us for a JAFCO Community Tour

Tours are held on the first Wednesday of each month

(Excluding June, July, and August)

Part 1: 9:30 am JAFCO Children's Village | Part 2: 11:00 am Children's Ability Center

JAFCO Development Team

Shelli Gold

JAFCO Director of Development

Operations

954-315-8671 | shelli@jafco.org

Janet Epstein

JAFCO Philanthropy Director

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Brooke Berkowitz

JAFCO Development Assistant

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With your help, over

4,000

children and families received loving support from JAFCO, across all our four sites and programs.



Board Trustees & Management Team

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Jeffrey Schacknow
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Keith Singer
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*of blessed memory

JAFCO Management Team

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Chief Executive Officer
Wendy Jenkins, LCSW
Chief Clinical & Operations Officer
Maher Malak
Chief Financial Officer
Justin Kohlhausen, PsyD
Executive Director - Children's Village &
Children's Ability Center
Jill Lapensohn
Executive Director - FamilyMatters
Rebecca Jarquin, LCSW
Director - Eagles' Haven
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Clinical Director
Elli Ettman, LPC
Clinical Director - FamilyMatters
Katie Ginsberg, LCSW
Director of Foster Care & Adoption
Shelli Gold
Director of Development Operations
Janet Epstein
Philanthropy Director
Rebecca Salus Hodge, MSW
Director of Grants & Partnerships
David Rudolph, PHR, SHRM-CP
Director of Human Resources
Michael Moran, MS
Illuminate Venue & Facilities Director

We truly apologize for any errors or omissions. Please help us improve our communications by letting us know if any changes need to be made to your contact information. If you enjoy receiving this newsletter, please be sure to keep your JAFCO membership current with a 2025 - 2026 gift of \$54 or more. Please let us know if you are receiving duplicate mailings or none at all. If you are not receiving JAFCO emails please contact Shelli Gold at 954-315- 8671 or shelli@jafco.org so we may update your email address.

A copy of JAFCO's official non-profit registration and financial information may be obtained from the appropriate state agencies; in Florida contact the Division of Consumer Services (registration #CH19241 & #CH39375) at 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com; in Pennsylvania call 1-800-732-0999 (reg. #34017) or www.dos.state.pa.us; in New York call 212-416-8401 or www.charities.com (reg. #21-49-39); in New Jersey contact www.state.nj.us/lps/ca (reg. #CH 3196000). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

The JAFCO Difference

Your Support Allows Us to Uniquely and Immediately Respond and Create Positive Outcomes



Immediate Response Time

Help is just a call away, with same-day support for families in crisis.

High-Quality, Comprehensive Care

Expert clinicians deliver personalized, intensive services tailored to each family's unique needs.

Support Wherever It's Needed

We meet children and families where they are, in their homes, schools, and communities, to provide care where it's most effective.

Access Without Barriers

No child or family is turned away, regardless of insurance, financial circumstances, or diagnosis.

A 'Whatever It Takes' Mentality

We go above and beyond to ensure every child and family receives the support they deserve.

Ongoing Support

Our care doesn't stop after one service; we're here for as long as a child and family needs us.

Culturally Competent, Values-Driven

Rooted in Jewish values, we serve our community while embracing the privilege and honor to serve children and families from all backgrounds.

Compassionate, Trauma-Informed Care

Recognizing the deep impact of trauma, we offer compassionate care that fosters healing and resilience.

Empowering Growth Mindsets

Children and families are given tools to embrace challenges, grow through adversity, and build lasting strength.

Calm, Clarity, and Emotional Regulation

Through mindfulness techniques, children and families learn to manage stress, regulate emotions, and stay grounded in everyday life.

Stronger Together Through Advocacy

By partnering with schools and community organizations, we coordinate care and empower families to be their own best advocates, creating lasting, positive change.

More Than an Agency, A Family

JAFCO is more than an agency, we are a family.
Together, we create real, lasting change



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JAFCO Children's Village

*The Weicholz Family Campus
David Posnack Jewish Children's Village
Marsh Children's Emergency Shelter
The Kaminoff Children's Center*
**4200 North University Drive, Sunrise, FL 33351
954-749-7230 • info@jafco.org**

JAFCO Children's Ability Center

*Sam & Adele Borger Campus
The David Posnack Jewish Children's Center
Stephen & Helene Weicholz Children's Lodge*
**5100 North Nob Hill Road, Sunrise, FL 33351
954-315-7033 • info@jafco.org**

Eagles' Haven Wellness Center

The Shoppes of Heron Lakes
**5655 Coral Ridge Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33076
954-618-0350 • info@eagleshaven.org**

Illuminate Event Venue

*The Shirley & Barton Weisman
and Family Event Center*
**5100 North Nob Hill Road, Sunrise, FL 33351
954-226-9925 • info@illuminatevenue.com**

JAFCO FamilyMatters

The Linda & Don Brodie FamilyMatters Office
**3 Bala Plaza, Suite 104 East
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
610-525-1040 • info@familymattersnetwork.org**

Time Sensitive Material



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Education is the Most Powerful Tool to Help Change the World

National foster care statistics regarding education predict that only half of children in foster care will graduate high school. This affects their ability to attend college and sadly impacts their future employment and possible homelessness.



We invite you to partner with JAFCO to ensure that ALL our children have a chance to go to college.

Our JAFCO alumni are changing statistics, one incredible child at a time. In fact many of our children have gone on to obtain graduate degrees in social work, nursing, emergency management, and business! We have many children attending college that could use your help with anything from a laptop to dorm necessities, and of course books, room and board.

If you want to be part of changing the world for our children by helping with their college education, follow this QR code or contact JAFCO Philanthropy Director Janet Epstein at janet@jafco.org or at 954-315-8696.

Thank you for giving our children everything that you give your own children and grandchildren.

