RESILIENCE

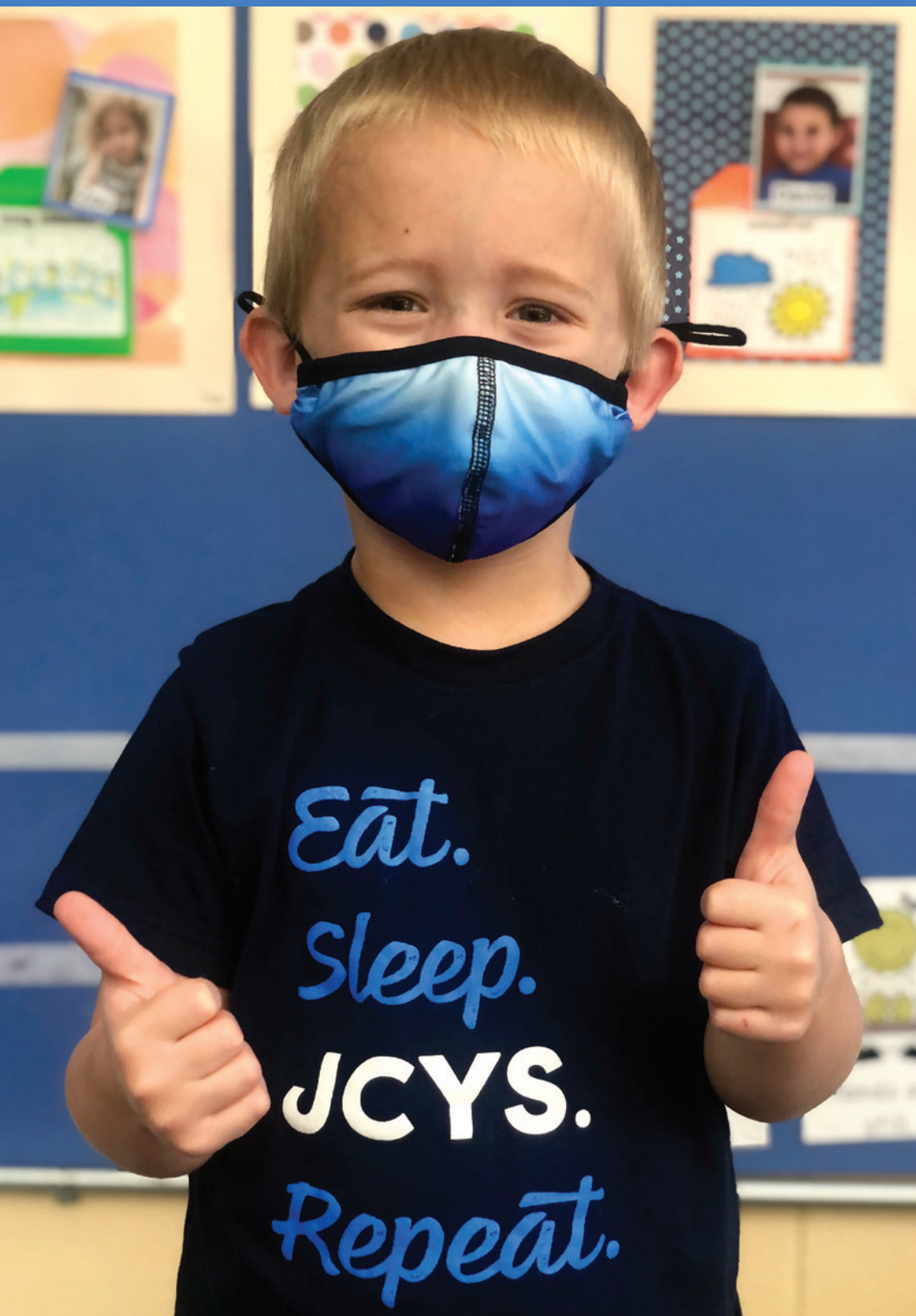
JCYS ANNUAL REPORT | **2021**

JCYS

JEWISH COUNCIL FOR YOUTH SERVICES

Speaker View
Learn
4
Community
Support
Communicate
Sharing
Response
Support

Speaker View



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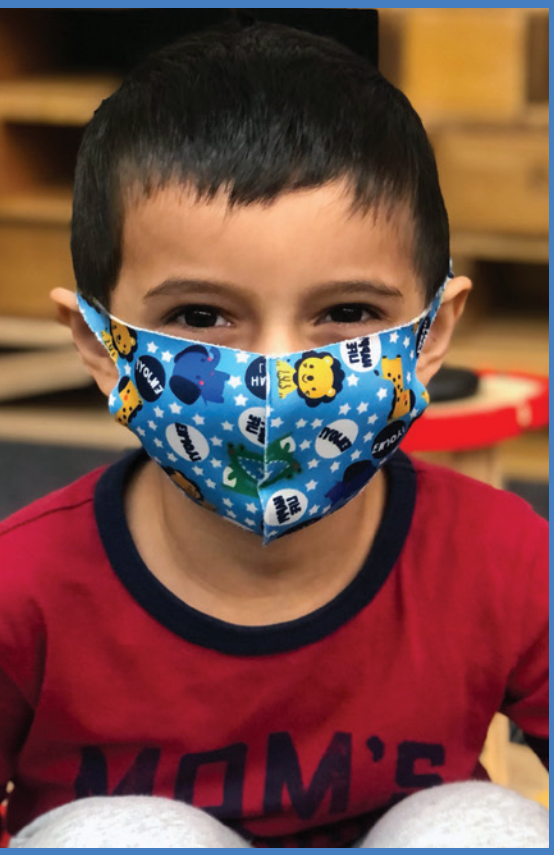
Guided by Jewish values and culture, Jewish Council for Youth Services provides educational and recreational programs for Chicagoland's children and, through board service, develops the next generation of Jewish civic leaders.


MOM'S

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Resilience…there is simply no other word to describe JCYS at this moment. This wonderful agency has been in existence for 114 years which means that JCYS has faced adversity, trauma, and threats throughout its long history. We believe that even in the face of two world wars and the Great Depression, JCYS just concluded the most challenging operational year in its existence.

Resilience brought board alumni from many years past, present board members, foundations, donors, and parents to the forefront. They stepped up to make sure that this agency survived the COVID-19 Pandemic, which closed the operation completely for four months, a period during which there was no revenue generated from services.

Resilience defines a staff that rose to meet the challenges brought on by the pandemic. The agency was forced to downsize as the doors closed for a mandated lockdown. The few remaining team members took cuts in pay and worked remotely while the future remained unclear. A skeletal teaching staff learned to connect with young children virtually to keep them and their families engaged with JCYS. The staff navigated the complexities of operating during a deadly pandemic without a guidebook in a world of continuously evolving rules, regulations, and frankly, medical opinions as to what was safe and/or necessary. There was no precedent for our operation, so everything was redefined and reimagined, often daily.

Resilience of our children enabled them to adapt to the remote learning opportunities our teachers provided. These youngsters then readjusted to in-person learning after four months of being at home with their parents. They returned to an environment of masks, social distancing, and hand washing as a measurable daily activity. Our incredible teachers returned to the front lines enabling parents to go back to work and their children to have the social and emotional needs of their development met.

With the help of so many individuals, foundations, and governmental programs, we raised approximately $4.5 million and emerged from the worst of the pandemic strong, committed, and even more **resilient** than before.

We offer profound gratitude to everyone who supported JCYS and brought us back to financial strength. We stand ready to begin the next chapter in the growth of this agency as we continue to serve Chicagoland's youth and to build the next generation of Jewish leaders. As we move forward, we are uplifted by the strength and **resilience** of our community.

Barbara Haworth

Barbara Haworth
Chief Executive Officer

C. Thomas DeGarmo

C. Thomas DeGarmo
President

JCYS HISTORY

For the past 114 years, JCYS has responded to the varying needs and shifting demographics in the Chicago area. Our programs and services have evolved to meet the demands of the community but our commitment and dedication to those we serve has remained constant.

1907

JCYS—first known as "Young Men's Associated Jewish Charities" and later as "Young Men's Jewish Council"—was founded. The agency's initial purpose was to engage a group of young male leaders in securing financial support for various Jewish charities and philanthropies.

1914

While the leadership experience continued to be a key part of the agency's mission, JCYS sought a new direction—to directly serve the youth of Jewish immigrants who desperately needed social and recreational services. The organization chose to pursue this goal through camping.

1940s

JCYS's summer camp near Wooster Lake was renamed upon the passing of Illinois Governor Henry Horner who was Young Men's Jewish Council president in 1915 and integral to the summer camp's beginnings.

1970s

Women started to play a larger role in the workforce and JCYS responded by adding preschool programs and parent-child activities. The agency experienced significant growth with the addition of the George W. Lutz Family Center in Highland Park and the Michael R. Lutz Family Center in Lakeview.

1989

The agency changed its name from "Young Men's Jewish Council" to "Jewish Council for Youth Services" to honor the growing role of women in the organization and better reflect the age group most served through its programs.

1990s

The agency took on ownership of the former Elms Swim & Tennis Club in Highland Park, renovated it, and renamed it the Lillian L. Lutz Recreation Center.

2000s

Extending the reach of agency services, the Northwest Family Center opened as an early childhood education center, offering infant care for the first time in JCYS history.

2016

The new Michael R. Lutz Family Center opened in Chicago's growing Wicker Park neighborhood, expanding the agency's city operations to two facilities.

2018

Strengthening its tradition of volunteer service and leadership development, the agency launched the *JCYS Leadership Circle*, a formal leadership training program for the Board of Directors.

2019

The JCYS Board of Directors approved the sale of Camp Henry Horner to Camp Nageela, a Jewish camping organization. The sale included the camp site and the Camp Red Leaf program.

The Iris & Steven Podolsky Family Center, located in the heart of the Lincoln Square and Ravenswood neighborhoods of Chicago, opened. The center houses the agency's beloved staff and programming from the Michael R. Lutz Family Center in Lakeview, which closed in 2019.

2020

A worldwide pandemic, COVID-19, caused all four centers to close in March and the majority of JCYS staff was laid off. In July, all four centers reopened with a myriad of regulations and restrictions in place. The guidelines changed constantly and JCYS was forced to adapt as needed.

2021

The COVID-19 pandemic shaped every aspect of JCYS operations and staff rose to meet the challenges. JCYS was strengthened by many forms of fundraising provided by the many supporters of JCYS as well as the federal and state government programs.

Gallery View

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

JCYS Family Centers provide a nurturing educational environment for our children and a supportive community for our families to learn and grow together. Our early childhood programs foster curiosity and a love of learning in children 6 weeks through 5 years. Through our play-based curriculum, JCYS Early Childhood Education develops:

- Social and emotional intelligence
- Behavioral skills
- Physical health
- Academic readiness and cognitive development

We are proud to provide educational services to families through four Family Centers:

George W. Lutz Family Center

Highland Park, IL

Northwest Family Center

Buffalo Grove, IL

Iris & Steven Podolsky Family Center

Lincoln Square Ravenswood, Chicago, IL

Michael R. Lutz Family Center

Wicker Park, Chicago, IL

JCYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tommy DeGarmo

Caryn Fields

Michael Karmin

JCYS owes much of its success to the vision and dedicated service of its Board of Directors, both past and present.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TOMMY DEGARMO – President

CARYN FIELDS – President-Elect

MICHAEL KARMIN – Immediate Past President

CARLY SCHWARTZ – Vice President of Development

IRINE SORSER TURIN – Vice President of Leadership Development

MATTHEW GAINES – Vice President of Strategy and Innovation

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JOEL RABINOWITZ – Assistant Treasurer

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SARAH GRYLL – At Large

JASON SCHRAUB – At Large

BRYAN WOOL – At Large

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(Executive Director Emeritus)

Dr. Edward A. Newman*
(Medical Director for Life)

**indicates deceased*

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PROGRAM & FINANCIAL DATA

June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021

JCYS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION*

Family Centers	677
Summer Camps	169
TOTAL	846

**JCYS Family Centers were not in operation until July 20, 2020 and reopened to mandated lower enrollment and increased operating requirements which lasted throughout the fiscal year.*

SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE*

- PROGRAMMING FEES & OTHER 56.6%
- GOVERNMENT 34.7%
- FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS 6.2%
- INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2.5%

**Substantial funding was received as part of the federal government's COVID Relief Packages.*

DONORS

VISIONARY CIRCLE

Thank you to our donors who joined our planned giving program.

Dr. Howard N. Allen
Maurice Fantus*
Millard J. Grauer*
Lisa Jericho
Alyssa and Jeremy Knobel
Steven H. and Iris Podolsky
Dan and Nancy Pollack
David and Carol Schulman

**indicates deceased*

MATCHING GIFTS

Gifts Made From June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

Thank you to the following corporations and foundations for matching the gifts of JCYS donors.

AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund
Baird Foundation
Cisco Systems, Inc
Kirkland & Ellis
LinkedIn
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
SC Johnson Matching Grants & Dollars for Doers Programs

ALUMNI CAMPAIGN

Gifts Made From June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

Thank you to the JCYS Board Alumni for their generosity and ongoing commitment to our agency.

Platinum Circle
$5,000 and Above

James R. and Lesley B. Anixter Family Foundation
Lester & Edward Anixter Foundation
Rand and Rhonda Diamond
David B. and Carol Schulman

Silver Circle
$2,500 - $4,999

Dana and Lee Gordon

Bronze Circle
$1,000 - $2,499

Melvin A. and Lee Blum
Brian and Jamie Fields
Ashley and Ken Lebovic
Allan and Lynne Reich

Alumni Circle
$500 - $999

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Gifts Made From June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

$50,000 and Above

Alvin H. Baum Family Fund
Crown Family Philanthropies
JUF
Steven H. and Iris Podolsky

$10,000 - $49,999

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Strategic Wealth Partners
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Lauren and Gary Wool

$3,000 - $4,999

Associated Insurance & Risk Management Advisors
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$2,000 - $2,999

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$501 - $1,999

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JCYS gratefully acknowledges the support of JUF. While JCYS is not an affiliated agency, JUF provided meaningful advice and counsel, early childhood resources, and emergency funding to help JCYS navigate the financial challenges posed by the pandemic. Additionally, our supporting foundations advanced funds and/or removed restrictions from grants to free up funds for general operating purposes. The resilience of our community is deeply appreciated and has much to do with our success during these difficult times.

JCYS

JEWISH COUNCIL FOR YOUTH SERVICES

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