2023 JCYS ANNUAL REPORT

RUACH

THE SPIRIT OF JCYS

MISSION

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.

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CREAT
EVER
THING

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

We are pleased to report that JCYS has completed its 116th year with great success. Our first full year of post-pandemic operation marked the return to the "old" normal that was enthusiastically welcomed by our children, families, and staff. Our centers were alive with the happy sounds of children, our programs dynamic and well attended, and our staff relieved to work in a stabilized operation. We are truly blessed with a remarkable team.

JCYS *ruach* (spirit) is what sustained us through the difficulties of the last three years.

Our leadership was thrilled to fully return to an in-person array of programming, including board meetings, JCYS Leadership Society events, and JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp. In April, we held a delightful event, *Make Magic with JCYS*, at the Ravenswood Event Center and are excited to report that we exceeded our fundraising goal by 50% while attendees enjoyed a fun evening of true magic. We hope to build on this success in the coming year with additional leadership experiences and board alumni engagement.

We are so proud of our staff member, Mike Swider, who was honored by JUF with the Pinsky Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Mike adds so much to our program, and we are so happy to see him and JCYS recognized in the field full of excellent early childhood educators.

In March, we completed the sale of our recreational facility in Highland Park, "The Lil," to Agudath Israel of Illinois. We are delighted that they will make great use of the facility—a solid win for JCYS and for the Jewish Community.

For the first time in decades, JCYS has cash reserves—nothing short of a miracle considering the impact the pandemic closure had on us three years ago. Thanks to our strong cash position, we undertook a complete renovation of the playground at the Highland Park location without having to stage a capital campaign or incur any debt. The playground renovation will be complete this fall.

After six years as CEO, Barbara Haworth has announced her intent to retire from her position in January 2024. Barbara has made a tremendous impact on JCYS. Her strategic and focused decision-making has helped secure the financial stability of the agency, and she created a formal leadership development program through the JCYS Leadership Circle to meaningfully engage board members and alumni. The board will now undertake a search to identify her successor and is very grateful to Barbara who has expressed that she is committed to supporting that transition in any way that she can.

With profound gratitude to everyone who has supported JCYS throughout our long and extraordinary history. It is your generosity that has fueled the *ruach* of this agency.

Barbara Haworth

Barbara Haworth
Chief Executive Officer

Irine Sorser Turin

Irine Sorser Turin
President

JCYS HISTORY

JCYS has responded to the varying needs and shifting demographics in the Chicagoland area throughout its long history. Though our programs continue to change and evolve to meet the demands of the community, our commitment and dedication to service—and to those we serve—remains constant and is what has sustained this agency for more than a century.

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 in Chicago.

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 outdoor recreation and camping.

1940s

Upon the passing of Illinois Governor Henry Horner, who was JCYS president in 1915 and integral to the summer camp's beginnings, the agency's summer camp near Wooster Lake was renamed "Camp Henry Horner" in his honor.

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 to better reflect the age group most served through its programs.

1990s

The agency acquired the former Elms Swim & Tennis Club in Highland Park, renovated it, and renamed it the Lillian L. Lutz Recreation Center (The Lil').

2000s

Extending the reach of agency services, the Northwest Family Center opened as an early childhood education center in Buffalo Grove, 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, becoming the only Jewish institution in the area to provide early childhood services.

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 includes the agency's beloved staff and programming from the Michael R. Lutz Family Center in Lakeview.

2020

A worldwide pandemic, COVID-19, caused all four centers to close for four months and reopen with a myriad of regulations and restrictions in place. The guidelines changed constantly and JCYS adapted as needed.

2022

JCYS held its first in-person gathering for supporters after two years of not seeing one another, *JCYS: Celebrating 115 Years*, honoring Nancy and Dan Pollack for a lifetime of service to the agency.

COVID-19, unfortunately, continued to shape JCYS operations and staff continuously rose to meet those challenges.

2023

By the beginning of the year, the agency was back to pre-pandemic levels in all areas. Infant care was expanded at all four centers, each one having two dedicated rooms. In March, JCYS conveyed its interest in The Lil' to Agudath Israel of Illinois. This was a very positive outcome for JCYS and for the Jewish Community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

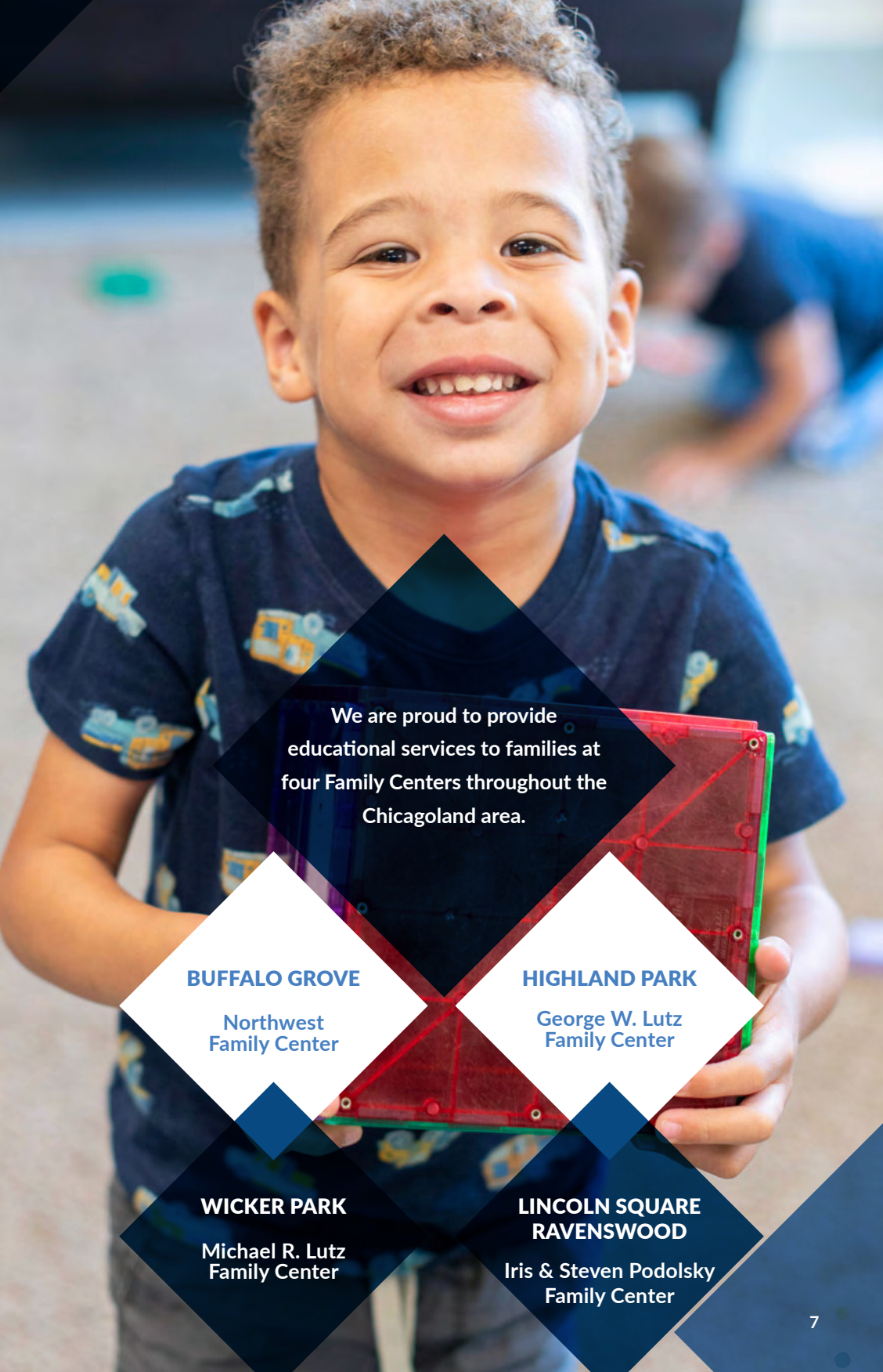
JCYS Family Centers provide a nurturing educational environment for children and a supportive community for families to learn and grow together.

JCYS' early childhood education programs foster curiosity and a love of learning in children aged 6 weeks through 5 years. Our play-based curriculum enables children to develop at age-appropriate levels while encouraging creativity and individual expression. Through various opportunities in the classroom, children work in small and large groups to build social-emotional and academic skills. Nurturing and loving teachers help children navigate learning through compassion and encouragement. We value children's ideas and recognize that their love of learning begins at JCYS and continues through their academic career. The teachers guide their learning by asking open-ended questions that continue to pique curiosity while inspiring and exciting the children's interest.

At JCYS, we incorporate Jewish values into everything that we do. Our classrooms bring the Jewish holidays to life, and each school celebrates and welcomes Shabbat beautifully in their own unique way. We strive for our families to develop lifelong friendships within our schools and build community in the classrooms and through events that bring our community together as a whole.

Through JCYS' early childhood education, children develop:

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



We are proud to provide educational services to families at four Family Centers throughout the Chicagoland area.

BUFFALO GROVE

Northwest Family Center

HIGHLAND PARK

George W. Lutz Family Center

WICKER PARK

Michael R. Lutz Family Center

LINCOLN SQUARE RAVENSWOOD

Iris & Steven Podolsky Family Center

SUMMER CAMPS

JCYS has known that fun, independence, and friendship make for a memorable summer camp experience for over a century. That rich tradition and expertise in camping inspire our current programs and activities.

Whether you're looking for a program that offers a classic camp experience, swim time, urban summer adventures, or specialty tracks—we offer many innovative summer programs for campers at various locations throughout the Chicagoland area.

BUFFALO GROVE

Sunflower Camp
(6 weeks – 3 years)

Lil' North
(Rising PreK – Rising Kindergarteners)

North Suburban Day Camp
(1st – 6th graders)

North Suburban Day Camp Teen Camp
(7th – 8th graders)

WICKER PARK

Sunflower Camp
(6 weeks – 5 years)

HIGHLAND PARK

Sunflower Camp
(6 weeks – 5 years)

LINCOLN SQUARE RAVENSWOOD

Sunflower Camp
(6 weeks – 4 years)

Big City Day Camp Kindergarten Camp (Rising Kindergarteners)

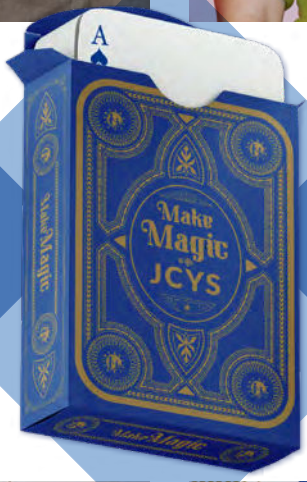
Big City Day Camp
(1st – 8th graders)

SPRING EVENT

On April 27, 2023, JCYS held its annual spring event, *Make Magic with JCYS*, in the Billboard Showroom at the Ravenswood Event Center in Chicago.

The magical evening brought together JCYS friends and supporters who mingled over cocktails and food, participated in roving magic, enjoyed an unforgettable magic show, and raised funds for the agency.

Thursday April 27
2023
JCYS
FOR YOUTH
Make
Magic
with
JCYS


A
Make
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JCYS
Thursday April 27
2023
JCYS
JEWISH COUNCIL FOR YOUTH SERVICES
Make
Magic
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JCYS
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Magic
with
JCYS
Thursday April 27
2023

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

This year marked a return to in-person events for the JCYS Leadership Circle, the agency's ongoing leadership development training program. Throughout the year, JCYS Board Members and Board Alumni participated in a range of customized trainings and discussions designed to strengthen them as Jewish leaders.

September 22, 2022 – JCYS Programs Review

Nikki Robin, Managing Director of Operations, gave an overview of the four centers, early childhood education, the agency's mission, and the focus of what we do through Jewish values: *Kavod*/Honor and Respect, *Chesed*/Kindness, *Kehilla*/Community, and *Tikkun Olam*/Repairing the World. Board members were able to gain a great understanding of our programs from her presentation.

November 2, 2022 – JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp

Board members participated in the third annual JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp, a full day of customized, interactive training created in partnership with Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

It was a wonderful day of learning and enrichment for the JCYS community, which also included a short lunch presentation by Jim Rolfe, Director for Life, who discussed the impact of his time on the board. Boot Camp curriculum topics included: Nonprofit Board Roles and Responsibilities, The Board's Role in Fundraising, Leading Contagious Change, and Strategy for Nonprofit Boards.

JCYS Leadership Circle

January 26, 2023 – JCYS History

Rachel Seserman Patzik, VP of Leadership Development, presented JCYS history over the course of the 116 years of the agency, encouraging board members to ask questions about various points in the agency's history.

February 21, 2023 – JCYS Leadership Society Luncheon

The JCYS Leadership Society Luncheon brought together Past Presidents and Directors for Life for the first in person luncheon since early 2020. The event included an update from leadership on the state of the agency, as well as a report on JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp and designate recruiting.

April 20, 2023 – JCYS Finance Overview

Josh Beren, Treasurer, and Rachel Seserman Patzik, VP of Leadership Development, reviewed the fundamentals of nonprofit budgets and audits with their fellow board members, focusing on the key differences between non-profits and for-profit organizations and how to ask relevant questions to further their understanding of financial statements.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a key part of JCYS' mission, we are committed to guiding young professionals to develop the skills needed for a lifetime of community service and philanthropy. JCYS owes much of its success to the vision and dedicated service of its Board of Directors, both past and present.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Irine Sorser Turin – President
Carly Newman – President-Elect
Caryn Fields – Immediate Past President
Suzanne Hershman Secler – Vice President of Development
Rachel Seserman Patzik – Vice President of Leadership Development
Max Fargotstein – Vice President of Strategy and Innovation
Josh Beren – Treasurer
Katie Simon – Secretary
Sarah Gryll – At Large

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(Executive Director Emeritus)

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

**indicates deceased*

PROGRAM & FINANCIAL DATA

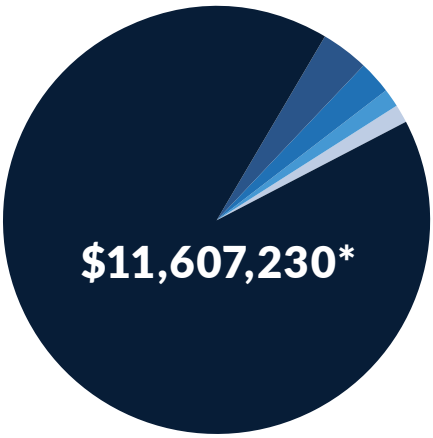
June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023

JCYS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

School Year Programming	534
Summer Camp Programming	672
Special Events	206
TOTAL	1,412

SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE*

- PROGRAMMING FEES & OTHER 91.23%
- GOVERNMENT 3.50%
- FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATIONS 2.64%
- SPECIAL EVENTS 1.39%
- INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1.24%



**Based on unaudited figures*

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

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Gifts made from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

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SPRING EVENT SPONSORS

Spring event sponsorships made from June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

Houdini - $15,000+

Wintrust Financial Corporation

Abracadabra - $10,000

Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC
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Hocus Pocus - $5,000

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Voilà! - $3,600

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