



STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT
2020





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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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The theme for this year's Annual Report, "strength in community," honors the parents, teachers, Board Members, Alumni, and supporters who have stood with JCYS through the uncertain time of the worldwide pandemic.

Since its founding in 1907 as Young Men's Jewish Council, JCYS has served children and families in Chicagoland through periods of peace and periods of upheaval. From generation to generation, we have adapted our programs and services to the changing needs of our community. This past year, to meet a growing need among Highland Park families, we welcomed infants to our JCYS George W. Lutz Family Center for the first time. In the fall of 2019, we were overjoyed to welcome our inaugural classes of children to the new JCYS Iris & Steven Podolsky Family Center and watch the center truly come to life.

During the last year, we continued the JCYS Leadership Circle, the agency's formal leadership training program for our Board of Directors. The Leadership Circle provides Board Members with facilitated training sessions, mentorship, and individual learning. The program's cornerstone is the annual JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp, a full day of customized training designed in partnership with Northwestern University's Kellogg Center for Nonprofit Management.

In March of 2020, JCYS temporarily suspended in-person programming at all four of our Family Centers to protect our families and teaching staff from COVID-19. We are grateful to our teachers for maintaining virtual programming through the entire period of the shutdown, and to the wonderful staff who worked tirelessly to continue supporting families and prepare for our physical reopening in July.

The COVID-19 crisis demands much from all of us, but it has also brought out the best and most generous spirit in so many. We have been humbled by the support of our families and donors who responded to our emergency appeal. As we move forward through reopening, we are uplifted by the resilience and strength of our community.

Many thanks to each of you for the role you have played in supporting JCYS through this very challenging year.



Mike Karmin
President



Barbara Haworth
Chief Executive Officer



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Supporting our Families

As COVID-19 hit Illinois, JCYS went online to stay in touch with our students and families. Each Family Center hosted regular activities via video conference so that children could “see” their friends and continue learning. From bedtime stories to recipe demonstrations, our teachers showed incredible creativity and grace in moving online almost overnight. Every Friday, families from each center connected for a virtual Shabbat to celebrate our Jewish community at JCYS.

We understand that these months of isolation have been difficult. At our centers, JCYS provides spaces for children to reconnect with friends, talk about their experiences, and learn to navigate the new reality. We’ve adapted our programs in many ways, but whether we’re reaching children in-person or via video, with or without a mask, our mission remains the same.

Sustaining our Mission

Due to COVID-19, JCYS had to cancel both our major fundraising events in 2020 and lost four months of program revenue from each Family Center. In the face of this unprecedented financial challenge, the agency took immediate action to ensure long-term financial stability.

We were fortunate to be supported and sustained by our community. Parents at our centers donated portions of their tuition refunds, our donor community answered the call from our emergency appeal, and one hundred percent of our Board of Directors gave additional funds to support JCYS in this time of crisis. In addition to donated funds, JCYS also applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program loan under the CARES Act. We are beyond grateful to all the parents, donors, Past Presidents, Directors for Life, Board Members, and Board Alumni who have done so much and continue to support JCYS.

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 age 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 and Steven Podolsky
Family Center**

**Lincoln Square Ravenswood,
Chicago, IL**

**Michael R. Lutz
Family Center**

**Wicker Park,
Chicago, IL**





JCYS LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

This year marked the second program year of the JCYS Leadership Circle, the agency's ongoing leadership training program. Throughout 2019-2020, JCYS Board Members and Board Alumni participated in a range of customized trainings and discussions designed to strengthen them as Jewish leaders.

November 2019 – Site Visit: Shabbat Morning at JCYS Family Centers

Board Members and Designates visited the George W. Lutz Family Center in Highland Park or the Iris & Steven Podolsky Family Center in Lincoln Square Ravenswood. They participated in the community's weekly Shabbat ritual, which included joyful singing, dancing, and blessings over the challah.

November 2019 – Panel Discussion with Directors

Nikki Robin, Director of Suburban Operations, Jean Losek, Director of Chicago Operations, and Graham Little, Director of Risk Management, joined the November Board meeting to discuss the core features of each JCYS Family Center, as well as operational goals, opportunities, and challenges. At Large Executive Committee Member Jason Schraub engaged the panelists and Board Members in an informative question and answer session.

January 2020 – JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp

Board Members and Designates participated in the second annual JCYS Leadership Development Boot Camp, a full day of customized, interactive training created in partnership with Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. This year, Board Alumni were invited to join the morning sessions; their presence added depth and value to the discussions. It was a wonderful day of learning and enrichment for the JCYS community. Boot Camp topics included:

Leading with Values

Civic Leadership

The Board's Role in Fundraising

Building a Strong Organizational Culture

Major Gift Solicitation Strategies



February 2020 – Past Presidents Council Meeting

The Past Presidents Council Meeting brought together 20 Past Presidents of the Board of Directors. The event featured an agency update from senior leadership and a discussion about the impact of JCYS on its young leaders and on the community at large.

February 2020 – Fundraising Toolkit

Experienced JCYS Board Members shared specific tips and tools they have used to secure donor support and meet their fundraising goals over the years. The group discussed solicitation strategies and practical applications of those strategies in fundraising scenarios. Board Members and Designates walked away with resources to increase the effectiveness of their fundraising efforts.

April 2020 – Nonprofit Finance Training

Tommy DeGarmo, President-Elect, and Morgan Weber, Board Treasurer, reviewed the fundamentals of nonprofit finance with their fellow Board Members, focusing on how to ask pertinent questions to further their understanding of financial statements, budgeting, and audits. Board Members emerged with increased confidence in reviewing and analyzing the agency's financial documents.



JCYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- MICHAEL KARMIN – President
- TOMMY DEGARMO – President-Elect
- JASON KEITH – Immediate Past President
- SARAH GRYLL – Vice President of Development
- CARYN FIELDS – Vice President of Leadership Development
- MATTHEW GAINES – Vice President of Strategy and Innovation
- MORGAN WEBER – Treasurer
- IRINE SORSER TURIN – Secretary
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- CARLY SCHWARTZ – At Large
- BRYAN WOOL – At Large

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- Max Fargotstein
- Brad Helfand
- Jeremy Neil
- Josh Olian
- Brian Pearl
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- Joel Rabinowitz
- David Schultz
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- Rachel Seserman
- Katie Simon
- Elliot Small

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- Jordan Born
- Brandon Kaster

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Mark Goodman	Sidney Rosset*	

*indicates deceased



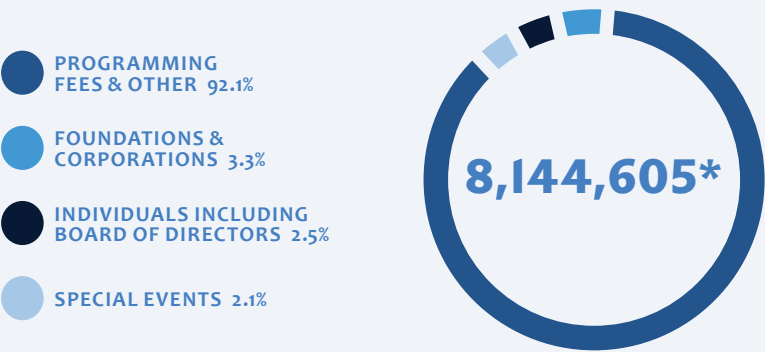
PROGRAM & FINANCIAL DATA

June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

JCYS PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Family Centers	1,391
Summer Camps	1,011
Special Events	369
TOTAL	2,771

SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE



DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATING EXPENSES

George W. Lutz Family Center	25%
Northwest Family Center	21%
Michael R. Lutz Family Center	18%
Iris & Steven Podolsky Family Center	13%
Camps	5%
Other	18%
TOTALING	\$8,962,310*

*Based on unaudited figures

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

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Gifts Made From June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

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

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ALUMNI CAMPAIGN

Gifts Made From June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

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

Platinum Circle \$5,000 & above

James R. and Lesley B. Anixter
Steven and Janet Anixter

Silver Circle \$2,500 - \$4,999

Dana and Lee Gordon
David B. and Carol Schulman

Bronze Circle \$1,000 - \$2,499

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\$50,000 - \$100,000

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Podolsky Family Foundation
and the Tarantur Family
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