

JFS

VOICES
SPRING 2011

A PUBLICATION FROM JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF THE DESERT

Schools Turn to JFS to Help Children Cope with Life's Challenges

Andy was just eleven years old when his parents sent him from their home in Texas to live with his aunt in Palm Springs. Both of his parents had lost their jobs during the economic crisis in 2008 and they could no longer afford to keep their family together. At first, Andy seemed to adjust well. He was quiet, well-behaved and did well in school.

Several months after he arrived, a fire devastated a home in North Palm Springs. Tragically, one of Andy's classmates lost several members of her family in the fire. While Andy did not know his classmate very well, the tragedy hit him very hard. He became withdrawn and his grades suffered.

Fortunately, Andy's school participated in the JFS KidsFirst program, a counseling program based on-site at his school. A concerned teacher referred Andy to JFS therapist Woody Bloch, MFT, who worked with him for several months. Woody soon realized that Andy was identifying his classmate's loss with his own feelings of abandonment by his family.

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ONE NIGHT ONLY

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One Night Only Celebrates Palm Springs Legends

Stefanie Powers & Carole Cook

In an evening that captured the magic of some of the desert's most celebrated entertainers, producer Michael Childers thrilled a sold out crowd of 1,100 guests at the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts with his fourth production of One Night Only to benefit Jewish Family Service of the Desert. Held on April 28th, the event showcased *Palm Springs Legends: A Celebration of the Desert's Greatest Composers, Lyricists and Performers*.

Host Alec Mapa introduced more than 20 stellar performers, all of whom donated their time and their talents in support of Jewish Family Service of the Desert. Performers included William Atherton, James Barbour, Kate Burton, Ann Hampton Callaway, Carole Cook, Gregg Edelman, Luca Ellis, Jason Graae, Danny Gurwin, Alix Korey, Michele Lee, Millicent Martin, Sally Mayes, Sean McDermott, Sharon McNight, Leslie Odom, Jr., Nick Palance, Freda Payne, Stefanie Powers, and James Snyder. The cast performed tributes to current and past desert entertainers and composers

including Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Lena Horne, Barry Manilow, Jerry Herman, and Alan Jay Lerner, among others. Calvin Remsberg and Ron Abel returned as Director and Musical Director, respectively.

One Night Only continues to be one of the desert's most popular events, selling out the McCallum Theatre for the fourth year in a row. The unparalleled evening of musical theater was followed by a lively VIP reception at Acqua Pazza California Bistro at the River. David Kaplan & Glenn Ostergaard hosted a lovely private party for the cast and major sponsors at their Las Palmas estate the evening before the event.

This spectacular evening of entertainment would not have been possible without the leadership of Honorary Co-Chairs Annette Bloch, Helene Galen, Barbara Keller, and Harold Matzner, along with Event Chairs Barbara Fromm and Sherry Schor. Presenting Sponsor Wells Fargo was among the nearly 60 sponsors that included Annette Bloch, Helene Galen, Barbara

& Jerry Keller, Harold Matzner, Angie & Harvey Gerber, David Kaplan & Glenn Ostergaard, David Lee & Mark Nichols, Dorothy & Mel Lefkowitz, Barbara & Mike Resmo, Mary & Jerome Angel, Becky & Jack Benaroya, Leslie & Gordon Diamond, Donna & Cargill MacMillan, JoAnn McGrath, Myra & Maurice Paperny, Linda & Manny Rider, Faye & Herman Sarkowsky, Arlene & Harold Schnitzer, Thelma & Gilbert Schnitzer, and more than 30 additional sponsors. Media sponsors included Palm Springs Life, the Bottom Line, Oasis 95.9FM, Classic Rock 99.5FM, BIG106 and K-JAZZ 102.3.

Proceeds from One Night Only support the critical work of JFS, including services for seniors, school-based counseling, substance abuse treatment, assistance for the homeless, counseling for individuals, families and couples, and other vital services.

Next year's production of One Night Only is scheduled for April 18, 2012. Tickets will go on sale in February 2011.



Honorary Chairs Annette Bloch, Helene Galen, Barbara Keller, & Harold Matzner; Event Chairs Barbara Fromm & Sherry Schor
On cover: Freda Payne, Michele Lee, Luca Ellis, Danny Gurwin & Leslie Odom, Jr. *One Night Only photos by Lani Garfield*

Michelle Anstadt Joins JFS as New Executive Director



Photo by Ciara Gail

JFS welcomed Michelle Anstadt as the agency's new Executive Director on April 4, 2011. Michelle joins JFS after relocating from Orange County, having most recently spent 10 years as Executive Director of the Saddleback College Foundation in Mission Viejo. Prior to that she was the Executive Director of Casa Teresa in Orange, an adoption home, transition and homeless shelter for pregnant women, new mothers and infants. She previously served as Director of Development for Vocational Visions, which runs life skills and vocational programs for disabled adults.

Michelle believes that her varied experience in developing programs for people in need combined with her ability to cost effectively manage resources will be an asset to JFS. "In the brief time I've been with JFS, I've been extremely impressed with our extraordinarily committed staff, dedicated volunteer base, and a board that is very invested in serving the community," according to Michelle. She sees JFS as an organization with tremendous strengths with the potential to offer expanded services throughout the desert. "I'm looking forward to partnering with agencies throughout the Coachella Valley to develop effective solutions for community problems."

Michelle's long term goals for the agency include increasing the agency's ability to provide services throughout the Valley through additional satellite operations. "The Coachella Valley is a relatively large area with a diverse population. The public transportation system is not highly developed. We need to be close to our clients in order to serve them more effectively."

Michelle is also looking to increase the agency's outreach into the community so that more people know that JFS is available to help them. "JFS has such a wide range of non-sectarian services for people of all ages," she notes. "Our staff are in the local schools counseling children and in the homes of seniors helping them cope with the challenges they encounter on a daily basis. We help the homeless, offer substance abuse treatment for teens, and provide counseling for individuals, couples and families." There is one change that Michelle wants to make at JFS as quickly as possible. "JFS is the best kept secret in the Valley," she explains. "It's time to let the secret out!"

SAVE THE DATE



**Thursday,
December 8,
2011**



**Sunday,
March 11,
2012**



**Wednesday,
April 18,
2012**

JFS Annual Meeting Welcomes New Board Members

On April 26, 2011, JFS held its 17th Annual Meeting at the Miramonte Spa & Resort in Indian Wells. The event included installation of new directors and officers, recognition of departing board members and the presentation of two awards.

Joining the JFS Board for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year are new members Audrey Bernstein, Keith Harwood, Joan Kerns and Daisy Spitzer. Board officers include Don Levy as President, Ed Gubman as President Elect, Deanna Pearl as Vice President, Mark Kashinsky as Treasurer, Annabel Goldstein as Secretary and Barry Kaufman as Assistant Treasurer.

Board President Don Levy presided over the event in which he welcomed new Executive Director Michelle Anstadt, acknowledged the distinguished service of former Executive Director Dan Bass and updated attendees on the agency's accomplishments in serving 1,400 households in the past year.

Departing board member Barbara Keller presented the "Vi Felix Community Service Award" to Joyce & Henry Freund for their longstanding contributions to the agency. Dan Bass presented the "Donna Stone Award" to retiring employee Helene Pine, Ph.D., in recognition of her 14 years of service to the agency. The board also extended their appreciation to departing board members Barbara Keller, Carol Feinstein, Susan Rosser and Jeanne Sassoon.



The Cast of One Night Only



Michele Lee, Stefanie Powers, Michael Childers, Freda Payne & Ann Hampton Callaway

Acqua Pazza General Manager Willie Rhine & partner Albert Gonzalez

JFS Helps People with HIV Live Positively

Jeff Taylor was just 26 years old when he was diagnosed with HIV in 1988. With few available treatments at that time, the disease was usually fatal. He developed pneumonia, his lungs collapsed, and he nearly didn't make his 30th birthday. Fortunately for Jeff and thousands like him, new medications emerged in the 1990's which transformed HIV into a manageable chronic illness. However, the ability of the virus to mutate requires that patients actively manage their care utilizing multiple medications, often changing drug regimens, while controlling debilitating side effects. Like many of those living with HIV, Jeff realized that one of his best weapons against this disease was education.

Determined that people living with HIV in the desert would have access to the latest information in order to make informed healthcare decisions, Jeff founded the Positive Life Program six years ago with several other volunteers. In 2010, when the program's previous sponsor was no longer able to manage the program, Jeff asked JFS to sponsor this critical program. Since then, Jeff and volunteers Bill Taylor and Bruce Kenyon have managed this program under the auspices of JFS with funding from small grants from pharmaceutical companies.

"Positive Life" programs typically feature physicians or researchers and are held ten times per year, the first Tuesday of the month, at Desert Regional Medical Center. The evening sessions include a light supper. Clients are surveyed to find out what issues are important to them and topics are tailored to these interests. Recent topics have included groundbreaking research on gene therapies that can potentially cure HIV, avoiding cancer risks in HIV, and metabolic problems facing those living with HIV. Upcoming topics include the Walgreens-sponsored "Ask the Pharmacist" featuring an HIV specialty pharmacist, accessing healthcare and insurance benefits, and the special treatment challenges for those living with both HIV and Hepatitis C infection. For more information about the "Positive Life" series, contact Jeff Taylor at (760) 835-1926.

JFS TRIBUTE CARDS



\$15 EACH OR EIGHT FOR \$100

You can support the vital work of JFS while honoring your family and friends with beautifully designed, contemporary cards for all occasions.

- ANNIVERSARY
- ADOPTION
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- BIRTHDAY
- BAR/BAT MITZVAH
- CONGRATULATIONS
- GET WELL
- GRADUATION
- MEMORIAL
- THANK YOU

VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM



You can donate your car, truck, boat, motorcycle or other vehicles through the JFS vehicle donation program. Your donation benefits the services of JFS in our community and can provide tax benefits for you.

Our representative will schedule a convenient pick up and provide confirmation of your donation.



For more information,

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Or email donations@charitableautoresources.com

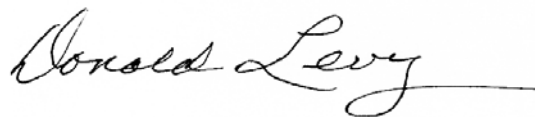
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT DON LEVY

In late 2010, the members of the Board of Directors of JFS began to confront one of the most important decisions we would ever have to make regarding the future of the organization. Dan Bass, who had been the agency's only Executive Director since it was incorporated in 1994 announced that he would be leaving JFS. We began a lengthy and exhaustive process to recruit his successor.

We are delighted that this search has resulted in the appointment of Michelle Anstadt as our new Executive Director. Michelle possesses exactly the qualifications that JFS needs to thrive as we go forward. She has strong leadership qualities, an extensive nonprofit management background, and solid business credentials. She also has a wonderful ability to connect with people. After meeting with her for a few hours, we felt like she was an old friend. We know that Michelle will be a tremendous asset to JFS. We gladly welcome Michelle and her husband Neil to our desert community.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to commend Dan Bass for his exemplary 17 years of leadership of JFS. We wish him the best in his new career endeavors.

Sincerely,



DON LEVY
PRESIDENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Story continues from cover

KidsFirst Helps School Children Cope

Woody helped Andy to cope with his feelings towards his parents. He came to understand that his parents were truly doing what they thought was best for their family. Gradually, Andy became more outgoing, began to socialize with other children, and his grades improved.

KidsFirst is a school-based counseling program provided by JFS for children aged 5 – 17. The program helps identify and treat behavioral and emotional issues that can often create barriers to learning and social interaction. All counseling is provided on-site at participating schools in Palm Springs Unified School District, as well as at the Jewish Community School of the Desert. Since 2005, the KidsFirst program has helped more than 1,500 students.



IN 2011, JFS RECEIVED A GENEROUS GRANT OF \$44,905 FROM DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT IN SUPPORT OF KIDSFIRST.

JFS counselors address a wide range of issues including anger management, coping skills, conflict resolution, classroom and study skills, bullying, aggression, and dealing with loss and grief, among others. As children process complex emotional issues, they often "act out" and exhibit inappropriate behavior.

In addition, when children become frustrated by emotional issues, the learning process may be impaired. A child will often "shut down" when overwhelmed. Participation in the KidsFirst program can result in improved mental health, improved social skills, higher self esteem and a better sense of self-worth. Happier, more well-adjusted children are better equipped to succeed in life. For more information about KidsFirst, contact JFS at (760) 325-4088.

JFS Joins With Jewish Federation For Mitzvah Day

On Sunday, April 3rd, JFS participated in "Mitzvah Day", organized by the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs & Desert Area, which involved more than 170 volunteers performing a variety of projects, including delivering hot food to the needy, collecting canned goods for food banks, helping in animal shelters, and other activities.

JFS volunteers Joan Wine and David Balinsky chaired the JFS project for Mitzvah Day, which included baking and collecting cookies to distribute to the homeless and to seniors. Joan assembled more than 15 volunteers to bake or buy the cookies. David and Joan organized a group to pack the cookies and help deliver them to locations throughout the Valley. JFS volunteers ultimately delivered nearly 1,300 packages



containing more than 5,000 cookies to Martha's Village, Safe House of the Desert, Shelter from the Storm, Roy's Desert Resource Center, Atria Hacienda Assisted Living, and Desert Horizon Transitional Housing programs.

Volunteers Joan Wine and Carol Cornell pack cookies for Mitzvah Day.



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SUPPORTED BY



Jewish Federation
of PALM SPRINGS and DESERT AREA

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS OF THE JEWISH AND GENERAL COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE GREATER COACHELLA VALLEY WITH A COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF PERSONS OF ALL AGES, INCOMES AND LIFESTYLES.

SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Solutions for Seniors Career Guidance
KidsFirst School Counseling Case Management for Homeless Individuals
Mental Health Counseling Bereavement Services
JFS Express Transportation Camp Scholarships
Outpatient Drug & Alcohol Program Trauma Counseling
Referrals Volunteer Programs
Financial Assistance and many additional services

JFS is a beneficiary of the United Way of the Desert and a member of the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies.

JFS IS A CARING RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEKING GUIDANCE, COMFORT, SUPPORT AND HOPE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES.
COUNT ON JFS TO BE THERE FOR YOU WHEN LIFE CHANGES.