

**PowerNET**  
**2023**

# PowerNET

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# **The Jewish Hospital in America: Past, Present and (Possible) Future**

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# “The Stuyvesant Pledge”

- ▶ New Amsterdam (New York City) 1654
- Voluntary Jewish social support, educational, health, welfare systems to try not to be a societal burden, like what they had previously done in other countries.



# First Wave 1850-1880

- Shortage of U.S. Hospital Beds (primarily as a result of urban epidemics, such as cholera and yellow fever outbreaks).
  - ▶ Founders expressed feeling shame when unable to care for their own.
  - ▶ Framed goal not only as avoidance of being a burden, but as a responsibility to uphold Jewish values of "*Tzedaka*" & "*Bikkur Cholim*"
- Increasing Anti-Semitism
  - ▶ Wide-spread missionizing of sick Jews in American hospitals (forced scripture reading, deathbed baptisms)
  - ▶ Needed access to kosher food and religious services
- Decision to welcome all people to these hospitals
  - ▶ Hopes that it would reduce anti-Semitism & Jewish values of caring for all humanity



# Welcoming to All

- ▶ Jewish Hospital in Denver, 1889
- ▶ “To rear a Temple unbounded by any creed. As pain knows no creed, so is this building the prototype of the grand idea of Judaism, which casts aside no stranger no matter of what race or blood.”
- ▶ Jewish Hospital in Philadelphia, 1886
- ▶ “The Hospital was erected by the voluntary contributions of the Israelites of Philadelphia, and is dedicated to the relief of the sick and wounded without regard to creed, color or nationality”



# Welcoming to All

- ▶ Beth Israel in New York City, 1890
- ▶ “Beth Israel, like Abraham’s tent, will be open to sufferers without distinction as to race or creed.”
- ▶ Beth Israel in Newark NJ, 1908
- ▶ “While this hospital shall be mainly supported by Jews, it will open its doors just as wide as they can swing to receive the non-Jew who may desire to enter and his religious sentiments shall be carefully safeguarded”





# Second Wave: 1890-1924

- ▶ **Over 2 million Eastern European Jews immigrate to U.S.**
  - ▶ Poor, observant, high burden of tuberculosis, frequently resented by Americans.
  - ▶ 5x increase in American Jewish Hospitals
- ▶ **Severe mistreatment of Jews in American Hospitals**
  - ▶ "Hebraic Debility" "Jew-Neurasthenia"
- ▶ **Physician Apprenticeship Transitions from homes to medical schools/hospitals**
  - ▶ Jewish medical students harassed and not given hospital jobs or privileges
  - ▶ Medical School quotas severely limiting Jewish enrollment
- ▶ **Jewish Community rallies to the cause** (25% of Federation grants)



# Third Wave and Decline

- ▶ Hospital Survey and Construction Act of 1946 (Hill-Burton Act)
  - ▶ Created thousands of new hospital beds, primarily in suburban areas, enabling many older Jewish hospitals to relocate.
- ▶ Quotas limiting Jews came to an end in the 1960's
  - ▶ Jewish patients began receiving better treatment at non-Jewish hospitals and many opened kosher kitchens and access to ritual/religious needs.
  - ▶ **Medicare/Medicaid (1960's) decreased reliance on philanthropy & hospital competition increase**
  - ▶ By 1981 Jewish Federations allocated only 2.3% of budget to Jewish hospitals. Smaller hospitals close or merge.

# What Has It Meant to Be a Jewish Hospital?

- ▶ 1. Founded primarily by members of the Jewish community
- ▶ 2. Built primarily for members of the Jewish community
- ▶ 3. Funded primarily by members of the Jewish community
- ▶ 4. A Jewish name
- ▶ 5. Governed primarily by members of the Jewish community
- ▶ 6. Staffed by an especially high percentage of Jews
- ▶ 7. Viewed as "Jewish" by the Jewish community
- ▶ 8. Adheres to Jewish religious or ritual practice to a greater degree than other religions or ritual practices
- ▶ 9. A place in which Jewish patients feel comfortable (cultural sensitivity, not displaying symbols from other faith traditions, and in-language care)



# What Does it Mean to be a Jewish Hospital in America Today?

- ▶ 1. Inclusivity
- ▶ “Do not oppress the stranger, for you know what it feels like to be a stranger, for you yourselves were once strangers in the land of Egypt” (Ex. 23:29)
- ▶ 2. Faith Friendly, Not Faith Enforced
- ▶ Not only is religious coercion usually ineffective at promoting religion and risks anti-religious backlash, but it is bad for religion.



# What Does it Mean to be a Jewish Hospital in America Today?

## ► 3. Values

- Care for Body & Soul
- Research and Education
- Responsibility to Care for Sick & Poor







Thank You!



**Gulf Coast**  
**JFCS**

lives uplifted

LOVE

**L**IVING  
**O**UR  
**V**ALUES  
**E**VERYDAY



# OUR MISSION

INSPIRED BY  
JEWISH VALUES,  
WE **PROTECT**  
THE VULNERABLE,  
**EMPOWER**  
INDIVIDUALS,  
AND **STRENGTHEN**  
FAMILIES.



*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?*

*But if I am only for myself, who am I?*

*If not now, when?*

*- Hillel the Elder (Hillel HaZaken)*

# OUR VALUES

This is the guiding principle behind the mission of Gulf Coast JFCS. This obligation, or *mitzvah*, to oneself and to others is a fundamental value – for being part of the community, for charity, and for caring for others.

We cannot be effective – in any aspect of life – if we are not caring for ourselves. Nurturing the seeds of inspiration in ourselves, and in our coworkers, leads to becoming an inspiration in the lives of others.

Repair the World – *Tikkun Olam*

Respect – *Kavod*

Friendship – *Chavurot*

Kindness – *Chesed*

Faith, Trust & Loyalty –  
*Emunah*

Welcome the Stranger –  
*Hachnasat Orchim*

Peace – *Shalom*

Justice through Action – *Tzedek*

Generational Honor – *L'dor V'dor*

Community – *Kehillah*

Health – *Refuah*

Compassion – *Rachmanut*



*Living Our Values Everyday*

*Welcome the Stranger*  
**HACHNASAT ORCHIM**

**CERTIFICATE  
OF RECOGNITION**

*LOVE*

*Recognized by your peers, this certificate is bestowed upon Gulf Coast JFCS employees who embody the values that make Gulf Coast JFCS a force for good throughout Florida.*

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*Dr. Sandra E. Braham*  
President & CEO



\_\_\_\_\_  
*Lloyd DeFrance*  
Chief Human Resources Officer



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# ABOUT JSSA

**MISSION:** Recognizing our shared humanity, JSSA empowers individuals and families to enhance well-being across all ages and stages of life.

**VISION:** Guided by Jewish values, we are the partner of choice providing integrated services that enhance the quality of life across our region's diverse communities.

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# By living our values, we attain our mission.

**Our personal conduct and treatment of others—individuals, families, employees, and community—are empowered by the following core values. By living our values, we attain our mission.**

**Dignity:** We honor, respect, and esteem the ability and diversity of all individuals and serve all people with empathy, compassion and caring. We promote autonomous decision-making and the right to self-determination of everyone we serve.

**Integrity:** We are committed to strong ethical and moral principles; honesty, fairness, equity, trustworthiness and bringing our whole selves to everything we do.

**Hope:** We foster an optimistic outlook allowing individuals to journey through uncertainty and confront difficulty with the promise of learning and healing that leads to a greater sense of physical and emotional well-being.

**Inclusiveness:** We seek and embrace the diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, abilities, experiences, and contributions of staff, volunteers, clients, and partners, fostering an environment that allows everyone to reach their full potential.

**Responsibility:** We are dedicated to ensuring that services needed by our community are accessible and available to all. We are committed to disciplined stewardship of resources to ensure the organization's services are sustainable.

**Excellence:** As a learning organization we strive for continuous improvement, utilizing best practices and employing innovative techniques to achieve outstanding outcomes.



# These Jewish tenets infuse all that we do:

**B'tzelem Elohim** – Recognizes our shared humanity; the value and dignity of every human life.

**Tikkun Olam** – Healing the world through collective and individual engagement. We feel a responsibility to give back.

**Chesed** – Unconditional kindness, compassion and generosity. Altruism inspires our every action.

**Kavod** – Bringing honor to ourselves, our families and the communities we belong to. We cherish human dignity and individuality.

**Pikuach Nefesh** – Recognizing the ultimate value of human life. We devote ourselves to healing and health.

**Teshuvah** – Faith in the ever-present possibility of growth and renewal. We work to inspire positive change.

# JSSA external org chart

**MENTAL  
HEALTH**

**AGING  
IN PLACE**

**HEMOCARE**

**HOSPICE**

**EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICES**

**TRAINING**

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# Additional JSSA programs

Resiliency Roundtable  
(beginning in fall 2023)

## MENTAL HEALTH



Synagogue  
Liaison Program

## AGING IN PLACE



Holocaust  
Survivors Program

Jewish Community  
Chaplaincy

Synagogue- and JCC-based  
support for older adults

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# Jewish Family Service of San Diego

*Establishing the Center for Jewish Care:  
A Recommitment to the Jewish Community*

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Rabbi Susan Freeman, Director  
[susanf@jfssd.org](mailto:susanf@jfssd.org)

[www.jewishcare.org](http://www.jewishcare.org)

858-637-3018





# Jewish Family Service of San Diego

## Established in 1918

### 105 Years of History and Expertise

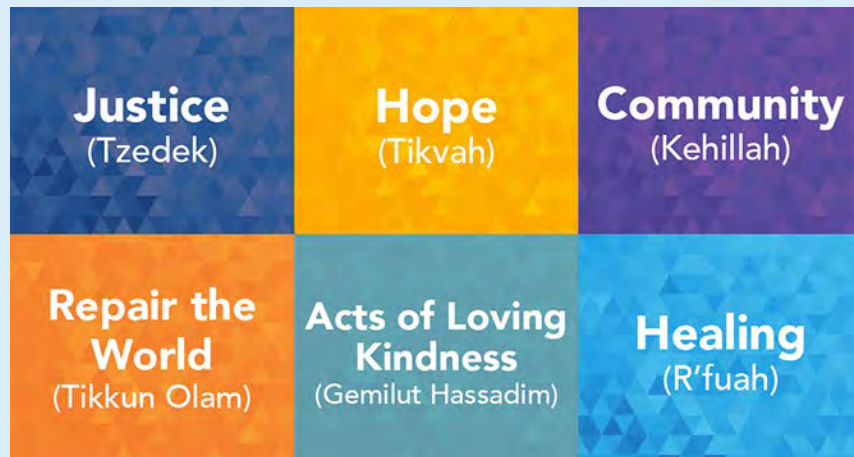


*Our Founding Mothers, the Jolly Sixteen*

### 2020 JFS Blueprint for Impact:

In serving the greater community, remain focused on our responsibility to the Jewish community. We are recognized as a leader and advocate for the health and well-being of the Jewish community.

### Our Guiding Values



**Moving Forward Together**

# Center for Jewish Care at JFS San Diego

## Established in 2020



1

### Makes More Visible the Pathway to Support for Jewish Community

through Center for Jewish Care-specific website, phone number, email, web form

2

### Dedicates Professional Staff with Cultural Competency to Provide Support

27 CJC team members and growing with structured leadership

3

### Provides a Home for Tikkun Olam

as a place for our Jewish community to volunteer and participate in authentic Jewish conversations

4

### Strengthens Jewish Learning & Community Engagement

by educating staff, volunteers, board, and community

5

### Elevates Jewish Voice on Advocacy

whether denouncing antisemitism, building support for Holocaust Survivors, or providing Jewish lens on JFS advocacy priorities

6

### Inspires Giving

by donors and funders who are specifically motivated to support the Jewish community

**Moving Forward Together**



# Center for Jewish Care Components



# QUESTIONS



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