

# The Conception and Timeline of the Toby and Leon Cooperman Therapy & Family Resource Center



The Cooperman Center

A "One-Stop Shop" for  
Families with Special Needs

# ***How it all began.....***

- **In November of 2017** a group of senior staff and lay leaders of Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County (JFSPB) visited Beit Issie Shapiro in Israel.
- **Beit Issie Shapiro** is Israel's leading developer and provider of innovative therapies and state-of-the-art services for children and adults across the entire range of disabilities.
- **In 2018**, after consulting with Beit Issie Shapiro, JFSPB hired them to complete a study to determine the unmet needs of our community.
- **Also in 2018**, JFSPB published its Jewish Demographic study of South Palm Beach County, completed by Brandeis University.

# ***The Survey Says.....***

- **Beit Issie Shapiro's** report suggested that in an ideal situation there would be one organization that parents could contact who had all of the Special Needs services available under one roof- a “One Stop Shop” center.
- **JFSPB and Beit Issie Shapiro** felt that Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (JFS) should be the “host” of the “One Stop Shop” program, as it would be an expansion of the current Special Needs services that JFS was already providing to the community.
- **Jewish Demographic study determined:**
  - 28% of Jewish households include at least one person who has some sort of health issue, special need or disability. (19,320 Jewish Households)
  - 1% of Jewish households include a member with a cognitive or developmental disability. (690 Households)

# ***It takes a village.....***

- The concept of the new center came as a result of a community wide effort, spearheaded by JFSPBC, to identify unmet needs of families with special needs.
- In 2021, in preparation for the new program, JFS conducted a survey to determine the gaps that exist for families who have children with special needs.
- 250 respondents shared that cost and easy access to therapies were the two major obstacles preventing their children from getting the help they need.

# ***The Conception of the Cooperman Center.....***

**The goal of JFS and JFSPBC in the formation of the Cooperman Center was to:**

- To provide every individual access to treatment and therapies to allow maximum realization of their developmental, educational, and personal potential.
- To equip parents, through guidance, with the necessary information and tools to ensure a therapeutic continuum.
- To meet the urgent need in the community for access to affordable therapies and family support.

# ***The Conception of the Cooperman Center.....***

- Adopting, as far as possible, the approach of a “One-Stop-Shop” center, enabling services to be provided under one roof.
- To develop a multi-disciplinary expert team.
- Maximum utilization of professional infrastructures on campus, in favor of other services such as schools.
- Improving mechanisms of coordination and dialogue between the different professionals caring for the same individual.

# ***The Conception of the Cooperman Center.....***

- Learning and mapping the “players” who are active in the wider community in the field of disabilities, and building collaborations for learning and promoting common interests.
- Involvement of people with disabilities, parents, professionals and community stakeholders.
- Creating a shared vision and strategy.
- Provide unique services and programs in the framework of services for the general population. In this way, the stigma is lessened and inclusion is more significant.

# ***The importance of the family.....***

- A family center aims to concentrate a range of information services, guidance, accompaniment and support to help the families of children and young adults with disabilities to improve the quality of life for the family as a whole, and to realize their rights.
- The family center will provide the family with tools for coping with their daily situation, and organizing for the wellbeing of all family members.



# ***How we made it happen.....***

- **Seed funding** for the renovation and start-up costs of the center endeavor was provided by the Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation, a long-time supporter of Rales JFS and the namesake of the agency.
- **November 2021:** Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (Rales JFS) announced the appointment of Aliyah Longhurst, BCBA, LMFT, as Director of the new Toby and Leon Cooperman Therapy & Family Resource Center (Cooperman Center).
- **December 9, 2021:** Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (JFS) announced the launch of the organization's Capital Campaign to open a new Therapy and Family Resource Center. Thanks to a transformational gift of \$2M from philanthropists Toby and Leon Cooperman, the Toby and Leon Cooperman Therapy & Family Resource Center (Cooperman Center) is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2022 and will be a one-stop shop for families with special needs.

# ***How we made it happen.....***

- **November, December, January** – JFS began a series of Town Halls, inviting the community to attend an informational and virtual platform to educate the community about the new center.
- **January 2022** - Beth Levine and Aliyah Longhurst begin looking for similar models of the Cooperman Center project within the U.S. JCFS Chicago was the closest model to what JFS wanted to emulate.
- **February 2022** – Beth Levine and Aliyah Longhurst travel to JCFS Chicago to visit their program. Their services include home-based waiver for children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, respite support and relief, specialized recreational camps, Sibshops®; social activities for Jewish adults with disabilities; support, assistance and training for independent living, and educational and support groups covering a variety of topics of interest to people with disabilities, family members and professionals.

# Construction/Renovation Timeline: Toby and Leon Cooperman Therapy and Family Resource Center

Finalized architectural plans

Hired general contractor

JFS Intern worked/finalized  
furniture layout of space

Develop Capital Campaign  
Collateral and Donor prospects

Job posting for  
Director placed

Acquire CO and  
begin move-in

**August**

**September**

**October**

**November/December/January**

**February**

**March**

Construction/Renovations begin

Ongoing conversations with potential donors

Begin virtual Town Halls with new  
Director

Ribbon Cutting