

## KidsKonnnect Turns 10!

Out of a conviction that children should not be the innocent and forgotten victims of divorce, and that the community did not have enough interventions, JFS started the Roth Family KidsKonnnect Program (KidsKonnnect) ten years ago in 2000.

KidsKonnnect is designed to provide a safe place for children experiencing family disruptions to express their feelings, to see that they are not alone and to learn how to cope well with a scary and confusing family time. Family disruption may include parental abandonment, family violence, incarceration, issues of dependency or military deployment of a parent. Group counseling and support services are provided to elementary and middle school-aged children on-site during the school day at no cost to families or schools.

Research conducted by Dr. Eileen Abel from the UCF School of Social Work and funded by the Roth family, showed that kids enrolled in the program made significant improvement in attendance, social skills and troublesome behaviors both in school and at home.

In the last ten years, KidsKonnnect has provided services to more than 6,000 children of all races and religions in nearly 90 schools in Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties.



...a safe place for children

**SIGN UP FOR OUR NEW E-NEWSLETTER: [info@jfsorlando.org](mailto:info@jfsorlando.org)**

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## Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando

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## Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando

Newsletter 2010

### Renewed Determination



While on maternity leave from her job as head cashier at Home Depot, Kimberly was trying to survive on \$200 a week from short-term disability. She was forced to leave her infant in childcare before the 6-week mark because she was falling behind in rent payments. Even after returning to work, she found that she was unable to get caught up on her rent and utility bills and feared becoming homeless.

Kimberly noticed a flyer at her apartment complex about the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP), which led her to the Family Stabilization Program (FSP) at JFS in December 2009. (cont. on page 5)

For the 4th consecutive year, JFS earned the Disney Helping Kids Shine Award for its excellence in children's services through the Roth Family KidsKonnnect Program. Pictured are JFS Director of Program Development, Karen Broussard and Executive Director Barry Kudlowitz with Disney Executive, Tom Morrissey. JFS was also proud to be recipient of a grant from the Jack and Jill of America Foundation for the first time this year.



### ... and SW Orlando Office Celebrates 1st Birthday



It's been a year since Rabbi Siegal blessed the mezzuzah that graces the door of JFS' office on the Jack and Lee Rosen Jewish Community Campus in Southwest Orlando. During that time, news spread of the services being provided to the area.

The pantry, donated by Darden Restaurants Foundation, has witnessed a steady increase of clients in need of food and in one month the pantry distributed more than 1,100 meals. "The community has embraced our services and we look forward to adding a counseling component in the near future," states JFS Executive Director, Barry Kudlowitz.

### Renewed Determination

FSP workshops taught her how to budget, how to purchase diapers in bulk to save, and how to pay attention to her expenses. She received credit counseling to improve her credit score with the hope of one day purchasing a home. Since enrolling in the program, Kimberly has moved out of her former apartment, which was in a high crime area. She now lives near Conway and states, "It is quiet and peaceful. I can go to the playground with my children and not feel that someone is going to rob me or bother my children."

Life has improved in many ways for Kimberly and she has found a new determination. She is taking online college courses for a business degree and has applied for a supervisor position at Home Depot. "Finding JFS helped me get motivated and I learned how to prioritize my life. I set goals for myself and aim to accomplish them so I can move forward in life."

Jewish Family Services' mission is to provide vital, high-quality and innovative social services to people in need.

Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando invites you to...

Save the Date

Evening of Valor 2010

Sunday, October 24, 2010 5-8pm

celebrating

The Magic of Community

and honoring

The Orlando Magic



### The Magic of Community

It is with great excitement that JFS announces this year's George Wolly Community Leadership Award honoree: The Orlando Magic.

This is the first year that JFS has honored an organization rather than an individual and the first time the Orlando Magic organization has ever accepted this type of award. The Orlando Magic represents the ideals that George Wolly represented to our community. From the leadership at the top level of the Magic organization to the Orlando Magic players, they embody "giving back to community".

On an annual basis, the Orlando Magic donates more than \$2 million to the local community with

sponsorships, donations, scholarships and grants. Orlando Magic community relations programs impact an estimated 75,000 kids each year, while a Magic staff-wide initiative provides more than 5,000 volunteer hours annually. In addition, over the last 20 years nearly \$15 million has been distributed to local non-profit organizations through the Orlando Magic Youth Fund.

The award will be presented at JFS' 2010 Evening of Valor on October 24th at the Orlando Marriott in Lake Mary. The cocktail hour begins at 5:00 pm, along with a fabulous silent auction. Dinner will follow at 6 pm in the Grand Salon. JFS' annual Disney Around Town drawing will also take place at the event. The winner will receive a package of 13 - \$100 gift cards to fabulous Orlando-area restaurants!

To learn more about JFS' upcoming event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Es Cohen, Director of Development, at 407-644-7593, x241.

**Connecting the Pieces**

On May 16, 2010, more than 100 people gathered at Maison & Jardin for JFS' Spring gala, **Connecting the Pieces**, which was a tribute to the Agency's programs and services and a commemoration and celebration of the 10th birthday of the Roth Family KidsKconnect Program.

*Commemorative puzzle pieces honor board members and guests' names.*

JFS Director of Development, El Cohen, presents Susan & Jerry Roth with a token of appreciation for their ongoing support of KidsKconnect.

JFS Board member Abbielee Wolfy, center, with Dick & Lucille Weiner.

JFS Board President Taylor Gold with his wife Joanne Gold and JFS staff, Momi S. Chapman and Angie Jensen.

JFS Board member (Jonathan Chiles, Center), Ugo Chung-Cohen (KidsKconnect Coordinator), Michelle Cruz (Agency's mother), Alphonse Brown-Cruz (KidsKconnect mother), and Luz Benita (Alphonse's grandmother).

Please help support the Roth Family KidsKconnect Program by purchasing a package of KidsKconnect NoteCards.

The cards were created by students who have been helped through the services of KidsKconnect.

~ 1 pack for \$20 ~  
~ or 2 for \$30 ~  
Includes 8 cards and envelopes

You may use the enclosed remittance envelope to order.

Send a note of thanks to a special friend. Pay tribute to your child's teacher. Celebrate a special occasion.

Eight Different Designs Included in Each Package!

**Matching Gifts**

Many companies match employee gifts to qualified nonprofit charitable organizations. Ben Weiner, Senior Vice President of Wealth Management asked his company, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, to match his gift to JFS and the company agreed.

To find out about a matching gift program, contact your company's personnel or Human Resources department. Complete your employer's form, send it with your gift to JFS and we will take care of the rest.

**Follow us...**  
JFS is on Facebook - Search: Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando  
and Twitter: <http://twitter.com/jfsorlando>

**IT'S BACK!!!**

**Dining Around Town 2010**

One lucky winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate from each of these 13 area restaurants!

- Bahama Breeze ■ Brio Tuscan Grille ■ Capital Grille
- Cheesecake Factory ■ Emeril's ■ Hue ■ PF Chang's
- Roy's ■ Ruth's Chris ■ Samba Room ■ Season's 52
- T-REX ■ Timpano's Italian Chop House

Tickets: \$25 Donation or 5 for \$100  
Drawing to be held October 24, 2010 at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary hotel. Winner does not need to be present to win.

**Matching Gifts**

UCF School of Social Work Partners with JFS

JFS was fortunate this year to have a class from the UCF School of Social Work participate in this year's *School Matters* school supply drive.

Dr. Eileen Abel decided that *School Matters* would be a great project for her current *Macro Level Roles and Interventions in Social Work Practice* class to focus their efforts. The students helped a vital segment of our community: elementary and middle school-aged students whose families, due to the downturned economy, face financial hardships and cannot afford to purchase the necessary supplies.

Abel's social work class organized the drive from soup-to-nuts: located businesses, wrote letters, assisted with a phone-a-thon and helped raise essential dollars to help purchase critically-needed school supplies.

The collaboration benefited both the community and the UCF students involved on the project. Students had the opportunity to learn more about the impact of poverty on academic progress and success; having school supplies is a key factor.

**DID YOU KNOW...** that the \$\$ you spend on 2 Grande Frappuccinos at your favorite coffee shop could feed a hungry child for a day?

**Special Evening Women's Forum**

Each month JFS hosts a *lunch and learn* Women's Forum at its Winter Park office to help educate women on various topics of interest. Recent forums have covered topics such as "Delectating & Organizing", "Health & Well Being", and "Feng Shui". This past April, the Women's Forum hosted a special evening panel, entitled "Love the Woman You Are" at Circa Restaurant. The event was so successful that one of the speakers, Stacey Murphy, will be returning for another evening Women's Forum. The event will be held in Southwest Orlando at Fleming's and is titled, "Nourishing the Soul."

**Thursday, August 26, 2010** - Reception/Networking: 6:00 PM, Program: 7:00 - 8:30 PM  
**Fleming's Prime Steakhouse** - 8030 Via Dellagio Way, Orlando  
**Fee: \$25** includes heavy appetizers and glass of wine  
**Register** by calling 407.644.7593 or online at: [www.jfsorlando.org](http://www.jfsorlando.org)

**GUEST SPEAKERS (Clockwise)**  
Pam Goldsmith, LMHC, will discuss "Compassionate Communication."  
Stacey Murphy will cover the topic, "Tantra - the spiritual path of sexuality."  
Nutritionist Kathy Morgan will discuss, "Super foods that nourish the body."

With Special Guest Moderator Erica Lee - formerly of the 105.1 FM Scott & Erica Morning Show

**RIDE Program**

In our community there are a large number of older adults who require support to meet their daily needs of getting to and from essential medical appointments. JFS initiated the RIDE (Reliable Independent Drivers for the Elderly) program to provide free door-to-door transportation to medical appointments for low-income older adults or disabled individuals who have no other means of transportation.

RIDE is a grant-funded program and provides an average of 25 rides per month, but can extend to 40 rides if needed and funding permits. Participation in the RIDE Program is based on need, regardless of cultural, ethnic or religious affiliation.

**Did you know...\$20 can help provide two round-trip RIDEs for a senior in need of medical transportation?**

**Letter from a "RIDER"**

Dear Jewish Family Services,

I am most happy with your RIDE service to medical appointments. The program is sorely needed in Central Florida with the sparse public transportation. Please keep it going!

Many thanks,  
George Neisham