



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Pam Austin, Senior Director of Marketing & Communications  
773.467.3884/[PamAustin@jcfs.org](mailto:PamAustin@jcfs.org)

**JEWISH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES AND JVS CHICAGO ANNOUNCE MERGER**

Chicago, IL--- Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS) is pleased to announce that as of July 1, 2018, JVS Chicago (JVS) will be joining the JCFS family of services. In March 2013, JVS entered into an interim management services agreement with JCFS. This agreement, a natural next step in the evolution of a planned consolidation, has allowed JCFS to integrate the best practices of both agencies and broaden how effectively they both serve the community.

JVS traces its roots back to 1884 to the Employment Bureau of the United Hebrew Relief Association, and a group of volunteers who joined together to help find jobs for immigrants fleeing oppression in Eastern Europe. After mergers and consolidations, the Jewish Vocational Service and Employment Center, its formal legal name, was born in 1935.

Today, JVS provides career counseling, job skills training, job referrals, financial literacy, small business development, entrepreneurship and more to the Jewish and greater Chicago communities.

“Through my 18 years of JVS involvement, I have witnessed what a caring, committed and compassionate organization and team JVS is,” said Marc Jacobs, Business Advisory Committee Chair. “During my past two years on the JCFS Board of Directors, I have seen that the same can be said of JCFS and its people. They believe that work and vocation are central to a person’s well-being and betterment.”

JCFS will pay close attention to how best to nurture the respective reputations and identities of each agency, while leveraging the strengths and connection as one unified organization. Forefront is the commitment to carrying out JVS’s mission -- to offer professional, personalized and individualized career services-- and to provide the highest level of service to its clients and the community. The staffs and Board of Directors are dedicated to continuing the work of JVS in the years to come.

JCFS exists to maximize well-being for individuals and families with complex needs or barriers to service in the Jewish community and beyond. Enhancing social and emotional well-being while maximizing potential for people with disabilities helps JCFS provide vital, therapeutic and supportive services for children, adults and families of all backgrounds who face challenges with life transitions, mental health or basic human need.

JCFS is a partner with Jewish United Fund in serving our community. We embrace diversity. Our commitment to inclusivity is woven throughout our services, programs and welcoming workplace. For more information visit [JCFS.org](http://JCFS.org)

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