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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**JVS CHICAGO'S CUSTODIAL TRAINING PROGRAM RECOGNIZED
WITH BEST PRACTICE INITIATIVES AWARD
Young Adults With Disabilities Learning Job Skills Training**

CHICAGO, Ill. – JVS Chicago's Youth Environmental Services (YES) custodial training program has received a Best Practice Initiatives Award from the Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED) Association of Parents and Staff.

The Best Practice Initiatives Awards are designed to showcase outstanding programs promoting understanding and inclusion of children with special needs throughout NSSED member-districts. One goal of the awards program is to share innovative and effective practices that are being implemented in local districts in order for other districts to replicate the same success in their schools.

Funded by a grant from the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County, the eight-week YES program offers a combination of classroom, on-the-job paid skills training and job placement for young adults with disabilities.

"The partnership between NSSED, School District 28, and the Workforce Board of Northern Cook County, has created the appropriate support and training necessary for young adults with disabilities to succeed in life," said Eric Kramp, Assistant Program Director of Community-Based Services at JVS.

Since the program's inception, 18 students have graduated from the YES program and have received not only transferable job skills, but have also developed a sense of commitment to their job. "I learned a lot of unique skills and it's been very beneficial to me," said Andrew DiNanno, a program graduate now working as a part-time custodian at Meadowbrook School. "I really enjoy working with the teachers and other staff members."

The next eight-week YES program will begin in June in Northbrook. Interested participants can call JVS at 312-502-6066.

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ABOUT JVS

For over 125 years, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) has provided entrepreneurial support services, job development and placement, career counseling and networking, and customized skills training and rehabilitation to help all people realize their full potential. JVS is an affiliate agency of, and receives support from, the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

To learn more about JVS Chicago, visit www.jvschicago.org.

Photo Opportunities:

Andrew DiNanno may be photographed during his work hours at Meadowbrook School. An eight-week training program recently started at Westmoor School and runs daily from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Arrangements can be made for a photographer to visit the class and/or on-the-job training.

Interviews Available Upon Request:

Mary Beth DeFauw, Transition Coordinator for NSSED

Eric Kramp, Assistant Program Director for Community-Based Services at Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)