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JCFS Opens Abe and Ida Cooper Center: Creates Central Campus in West Rogers Park

Chicago, Illinois – June 1, 2016 Jewish Child & Family Services is pleased to announce the opening of the Abe and Ida Cooper Center. The state-of-the-art facility for people of all ages and abilities and their families is located at 6639 N. Kedzie, Chicago, Illinois. A dedication ceremony will take place on June 8, 2016, from 5-6:30 pm.

The Abe and Ida Cooper Center, together with the Joy Faith Knapp Children’s Center, creates a central campus in West Rogers Park for many family-focused JCFS and JVS Chicago programs. Counseling services, the Therapeutic Day School and Therapeutic Yeshiva are located in the Knapp Center, with Integrated Pediatric Interventions, the Virginia Frank Child Development Center and Therapeutic Nursery and services for people with disabilities in Cooper. Other related programs which are part of the campus include legal advocacy, career and employment services and Encompass., a JCFS program that partners with communities and organizations to achieve person-centered, financially sustainable , community-based supports and services for Jewish adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Family and community involvement and engagement is a key piece in all of JCFS’s work. “Our goal is always to maximize the inclusion of people with disabilities, and we feel that the Abe and Ida Cooper Center will facilitate that inclusion by making children, parents, adults and families feel comfortable there,” said Stacey Shor, Vice President and Chief Development Officer at Jewish Child & Family Services.

The open layout of the new Cooper Center facilitates clinicians and other staff coming together for the type of natural collaboration that will result in improved client outcomes. Features of the new facility include a Family Lounge for clients and their families to relax, recharge and reenergize in comfortable surroundings; a Conference Center and flexible meeting room space for community and professional education and training; an Administrative Wing with open work stations to encourage cross-program staff collaboration and a Client Wing with a therapy gym, consultation rooms, the Virginia Frank Child Development Center Daily Room, life skills

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kitchen and laundry room, outdoor patio with a teaching herb garden and even a Snoezelen room—a specially designed space to help individuals with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities regulate their responses to sensory stimulation.

The 16,000 square foot Abe and Ida Cooper Center, designed by OKW Architects and built in partnership with the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, is located in the city's West Rogers Park neighborhood, bordering the communities of Lincolnwood, Skokie and Evanston. The campus was named by the Jules and Gwen Knapp Family Foundation in memory of Esther Knapp, grandmother of Joy Faith Knapp and JCFS Board Vice Chair Sue Schulman. The building is owned by JFMC Facilities Corporation for the benefit of Jewish Child & Family Services.

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