

UPDATE ON JUF'S J-HELP INITIATIVE



Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation
of Metropolitan Chicago

In response to the economic downturn, the Jewish United Fund launched J-HELP, a special initiative to increase community agencies' capacity to provide basic human services, particularly to newly unemployed, financially stressed middle-class individuals and families. Thanks to J-HELP, during this period of stretched resources, nearly 50,000 individuals within the Jewish community are being helped to meet basic needs such as food and financial assistance.

J-HELP works in three priority areas: *Emergency assistance*
Access to Jewish life
Expanded social services

Since J-HELP's creation, JUF's network of social service agencies—including Jewish Child & Family Services, Jewish Vocational Service, CJE SeniorLife, JCC, EZRA Multi-Service Center, The ARK, Maot Chitim and the Touhy Health Center—has devoted \$8.5 million in extra funds to:

- *Provide hot meals, groceries and home-delivered meals*
- *Coach through job searches, retooling a resume and setting up a small business*
- *Help families cover rent and mortgage payments so they can stay in their homes*
- *Send children to Jewish child care, day schools and summer camps*
- *Supply jobs for seniors and teenagers in need*
- *Offer mental health counseling and healthcare*
- *Distribute additional money to rabbinic discretionary funds for the rabbis to assist congregants in crisis*
- *Provide pro bono legal assistance to low-income people who face bankruptcy, foreclosure and domestic issues*

Approved in March 2011, the latest \$360,000 from J-HELP is funding more emergency financial assistance for families battling the effects of the recession; more meals, Pesach packages and home-delivered meals for seniors and needy families and individuals; more life-saving medication for people who can't afford it; more scholarships to day and overnight Jewish camp for low-income families; and more ways to connect to community resources through **J-HELP ACCESS**.

J-HELP ACCESS

Do you need help with a job search, financial counseling, applying for benefits or connecting to other services?

Help is just a phone call away through J-HELP ACCESS.

Call **312-357-4949** for one-stop access to professionals at Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS) or CJE SeniorLife.

Or visit our online directory at www.juf.org/jhelp for answers to common questions about job searches, healthcare, housing, public benefits—and access to more than 5,000 Jewish and general resources in locations throughout the Chicago area.



J-HELP ACCESS EVENT CALENDAR

Staying Motivated in a Tough Job Market: *A 4-week group offered by JVS & JCFS to help job seekers manage stress, find support and create an action plan for their job hunt.*

Thursdays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2011 • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

JVS Career Planning Center • 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook

There is no charge for this class, but registration is required.

To register, contact Rosalie Greenberger, LCSW, at 224-625-2819 or RosalieGreenberger@jcfs.org, or contact Roberta Glick, LCPC, NCC, at 847-412-4304 or RobertaGlick@jvschicago.org.

Untangle Your Phone Bill: *Clients can bring their phone bills and meet with a representative of Citizens Utility Board to consult on ways to lower their phone bill.*

Friday, May 6, 2011 • 10 a.m.– Noon

Bernard Horwich Building • 3003 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago

There is no charge for this class, but registration by May 2 is required.

To register, contact Lauren Crawford at 773-508-1000 or Lauren.Crawford@cje.net.

Driver Safety Class: *AARP's classroom-based refresher course for drivers 50 and older.*

Wednesday, May 11, and Thursday, May 12, 2011 • 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Bernard Horwich Building • 3003 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago

\$12 for AARP members, \$14 for non-members.

To register, contact Lauren Crawford at 773-508-1000 or Lauren.Crawford@cje.net.

Building Your Credit: *Natalie Pankow, Credit Builder Advisor at JVS Duman Microenterprise Center, will discuss ways to reduce credit card debt, check your credit score, improve your credit history and make your credit card work for you. Benefits Counselors also will be available to discuss public and private credit-building programs.*

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 • 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Bernard Horwich Building • 3003 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago

There is no charge for this class, but registration by May 2 is required.

To register, contact Lauren Crawford at 773-508-1000 or Lauren.Crawford@cje.net.

Link In to LinkedIn™: *A hands-on workshop focused on developing your LinkedIn professional presence, offered by JVS/Parnossah Works.*

Wednesday, May 25 • 5:30–8:30 p.m.

JVS—Skokie Office Computer Lab • 5150 Golf Road

\$35. Registration is required by Friday, May 13.

To register, contact Melissa Fickling at 847-745-5468 or melissafickling@jvschicago.org.

In addition, JVS career counselors regularly make the rounds of Chicago-area public libraries, offering interactive sessions by appointment. Learn the skills to ensure financial independence and solvency at special JVS workshops, from retooling resumes to writing business plans, from tips on starting a small business to stretching your dollars and smartly using credit cards. Visit www.jvschicago.org/calendar for updates.