

# JAFCO Children's Village



JAFCO 

...giving every child a place to belong



## JAFCO's mission is ...giving every child a place to belong

Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options (JAFCO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1992 to provide services to at-risk children and families in South Florida including:

- Marsh Children's Emergency Shelter
- Group Home Program
- Independent Living Program
- Foster Care & Adoption
- Family Preservation
- Trauma Informed Therapy Program
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)  
In-Home Family Therapy Program
- Senior Caregiver Program

## Safety • Love • Hope

### Weicholz Family Campus of the David Posnack Jewish Children's Village

Welcome to our beautiful gated South Florida community located on 5.6 acres of palm trees, flowers, beautiful bronze statues of children at play, a swimming pool, bicycle path, basketball court and playgrounds. The Jewish Children's Village is the only village of its kind in the Jewish community in the entire country. The campus consists of our children's emergency shelter and our six group homes which provide safety to up to 50 children at one time. Our foster care, adoption and family preservation programs and staff are also housed in the Kaminoff Children's Center on the Village campus and collectively our Children's Village programs serve over 600 children and their families each year.



## Our Programs

### Marsh Children's Emergency Shelter

This life-saving part of our village is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to offer an immediate safe and loving placement for a child who has been a victim of abuse, neglect or abandonment. Children (ages birth to 12) are placed in the shelter by state protective investigators often in the middle of the night or by parents and family members who themselves are in crisis. Children stay at the shelter typically for a few days, until a relative or a foster family can care for them, but on occasion when no family is available, children have lived with us for up to two years.

### Group Homes

Our six beautiful 4,000 sq. ft. group homes are designed to provide a safe home-like environment for up to 30 children who need a safe place to live on either a temporary or permanent basis. Each child has their own bedroom and bathroom for privacy and dignity, they go to local schools and participate in sports, dance or after-school activities of their choice. Up to six children live in each home and are cared for by a loving house parent. The children receive individual and family therapy to prepare them for either family reunification, foster care, adoption or independent living.

### Independent Living

All of the children residing within the group homes are prepared for eventual independent living and if they choose, they may continue to reside at the JAFCO village until the age of 24 while they attend college and work part/full time. When they are ready for the responsibility of driving, each child receives a donated pre-owned vehicle of their own which offers them full independence. For our children who are away at school, we keep their rooms intact so they can come home for breaks. JAFCO is their family and we will be there for them for as long as they need us.

### Foster Care & Adoption

JAFCO foster families are loving substitute families that open their homes to children in need of care for a temporary period of time, up to two years on average. JAFCO assists with adoptions through the foster care system and also works privately with birth parents in need of a safe placement for their child.

### Family Preservation

JAFCO is committed to keeping families together whenever possible. The JAFCO Family Preservation Program provides immediate, intensive, in-home support, clinical case management and referrals to families who are in crisis and are facing issues related to shelter, food and clothing, divorce situations, parent incarceration, mental health and addiction, court ordered supervised visitation and more.

### Trauma Informed Therapy

JAFCO therapists are trained in best practices and use a Trauma Informed Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Approach in working with the children, helping them learn coping skills and resiliency to more effectively manage and overcome the trauma in their lives. Our children participate in individual therapy, group therapy and wellness activities including meditation, mindfulness and yoga, equine therapy, and when medically necessary, medication management provided by our JAFCO medical director.

### Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) In-Home Family Therapy

The MST Program is an intensive research-based 3-month in-home therapy program. It supports the entire family and teaches parents the necessary skills to manage their children's behavior (ages 10 to 18) when they are engaging in truancy, aggression in the home, and early drug experimentation. The goal of this program is to prevent out-of-home placement for the child.

### Senior Caregiver – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

This program provides much needed supportive services and guidance to seniors who have taken on the challenging and unexpected task of raising their grandchildren by providing case management support services to the senior caregiver in order to stabilize and strengthen the placement.

For more information about our programs and services, please contact JAFCO Clinical Director Shea Pucci, LMFT at [shea@jafco.org](mailto:shea@jafco.org) or 954-315-8683.



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## JAFCO Children's Village

The Weicholz Family Campus  
David Posnack Jewish Children's Village  
The Marsh Children's Emergency Shelter  
The Kaminoff Children's Center

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### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are an important component of the JAFCO continuum of care, offering their time at the Children's Village. Volunteers perform a variety of tasks including cooking, homework help, organizing, clerical tasks and more. Our Forever Friends program provides a 1 to 1 mentor for a child in need of additional support and guidance. Professionals willing to offer pro-bono medical, dental, orthodontic and eye care or legal, tutoring, psychological evaluation or therapy services to JAFCO's children are also needed.

Please visit our website and attend the next monthly tour to begin the process. For more information about volunteering please contact JAFCO Community Outreach Specialist Linda Sachs, at 954-315-8664 or [linda@jafco.org](mailto:linda@jafco.org).

### Donations & Events

To make a donation to support the children or to attend or plan an upcoming event please visit our website [www.jafco.org](http://www.jafco.org). For more information or to get more involved contact JAFCO Director of Development Operations Shelli Gold, at 954-315-8671 or [shelli@jafco.org](mailto:shelli@jafco.org) for any information related to our events.

JAFCO's mission is to provide care, safety and support to children and their families within the Jewish community and beyond who are impacted by abuse, neglect, trauma, or developmental disabilities...giving every child a place to belong.



As a faith-based agency within the Jewish community JAFCO is proud to offer all of our services without discrimination against race, color, national origin and disability.