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## Hanukkah party is all about the children



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More than 100 children who have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect or separation from their families were able to enjoy themselves for a few hours through an annual Hanukkah party at Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options' Children's Village in Sunrise.

JAFCO is an organization that provide services to abused and neglected children and those with developmental disabilities in South Florida. Its Children's Village is a 5.6-acre residential facility that consists of an Emergency Shelter and six group homes.

The children who attended this Hanukkah party – which included 15 tons of snow for them to play in, a *menorah* lighting, *latkes* and gift table – live in the JAFCO Children's Village and have been adopted or placed in foster care through the organization's programs. The organization, which was founded in 1992, has thrown this party for the children every year of its existence. The party was sponsored by a Plantation couple, Julie and Howard Talenfeld.

Children play in the snow during the Hanukkah party at JAFCO Children's Village.

The Talenfelds have supported JAFCO for more than a decade. Their support includes sponsoring this Hanukkah party every year since 2009. They are also JAFCO Godparents. According to the organization's website, its Godparents spiritually “adopt” abused and neglected children to ensure that they have everything they need.

“My husband and I are thrilled to sponsor this snow-filled tradition at the JAFCO Children's Village year after year,” said Julie Talenfeld. “Hanukkah has always been my favorite holiday, so I love seeing the joy and smiles the party brings to the children's faces.”

Sarah Franco, executive director for JAFCO, said, “We are so thankful to the Talenfelds for sponsoring our Hanukkah party every year and bringing snow to South Florida.”

“We truly love seeing the kids of all ages, even JAFCO alumni who come back to visit, have an absolute blast celebrating the holiday.”

Lyon Roth, center, with his daughter Israela and his parents at the Hanukkah party at JAFCO Children's Village.

Lyon Roth, center, with his daughter Israela and his parents at the Hanukkah party at JAFCO Children's Village.

The Children's Village's Emergency Shelter provides emergency placement for an abused, neglected or at-risk child immediately upon removal from the parent and is open to accept children at any hour, day or night, seven days a week. Its Children's Center includes a living room, dining room, kitchen, six bedrooms with baths, a library/computer room and outdoor play area. All children placed in this center are experiencing the trauma of abuse, neglect or separation from their family. All efforts are made by the JAFCO staff and volunteers to make them feel safe, protected and loved.

The organization also includes other services such as its Children's Ability Center that provides programs and services for children with developmental disabilities and their families.

Visit [jafco.org](http://jafco.org) for more information on the organization.