



## From Strength to Strength, JAFCO CEO Legacy Continues!

November 5, 2024

With tears of joy and sadness, JAFCO's beloved founding CEO, Sarah Franco, will be retiring at the end of this year.

As the daughter of Holocaust survivors who were orphaned by genocide, Sarah's meaningful work at JAFCO completed her family's circle by finding homes for Jewish children who were all alone in the world. Not having had living grandparents herself,

Sarah will now be moving closer to be with her young grandson Atlas and become a consistent presence in his life, thereby fulfilling that final missing relationship in her family history.

No matter where she is, Sarah will always be a part of our JAFCO family. JAFCO is part of her soul, and her soul will be part of JAFCO forever.

Sarah's unwavering dedication to JAFCO and the children and families we serve earned her a special place in all our hearts and the hearts of the entire community.

She has not only been a compassionate leader, but also one that is competent and forward-thinking. Because of this foresight, JAFCO's bright future is in safe hands both organizationally and financially.

The legacy of a true leader is the ability of their leadership team to carry on without them. JAFCO's reputation and performance speak for themselves. Our organization's strength and stability are complemented by a generous soul and warm culture that will continue to live on because of the amazing work that Sarah, Wendy Jenkins (our founding CCOO), and their team have done over these past three decades.

We announced Sarah's retirement in May; we then engaged DRG, a national search firm led by Sarah Raful Whinston and Natalia Kepler, and together with an elite JAFCO Selection Committee comprised of key members of our board, staff, alumni and community, including Broward County Mayor Nan Rich, we have been busy interviewing and vetting potential candidates for the next leader of JAFCO.

Our committee had an unbelievable and unprecedented combined total of over 150 years of involvement with JAFCO. We appreciate those of you who came out to meet the two final candidates and shared your valuable feedback with us. In the end, the final decision of the Selection Committee and the JAFCO Children's Foundation Board of Trustees was unanimous.

## We are thrilled to announce that the next JAFCO CEO will be Mr. Robert (Robby) Etzkin. Robby will join JAFCO as CEO-Elect on December 1, 2024, and will become the next CEO of JAFCO on January 1, 2025, upon Sarah's retirement.



If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more and become more, then you are a great leader. Throughout more than 20 years in the Jewish community, Robby has distinguished himself with his inspirational and compassionate leadership style. We personally heard from a variety of colleagues who told story after story of his mentorship, insight, and commitment to both team and organization.

Robby is the perfect individual to continue JAFCO's mission and vision as our next CEO.

### About Robby Etzkin

Robby has been a Jewish communal professional his entire career and it is b'shert that his journey has led him to JAFCO. Robby brings a twenty-year career in the Jewish non-profit sector to JAFCO, most notably as the former Executive Director of The Roth Family JCC of Greater Orlando. His career has always encompassed direct work with children, youth, and teens, and his outstanding achievements have been recognized with multiple national awards from the JCC Association for both inclusion of children with special needs and excellence in programming.

Robby is an experienced and engaging executive leader specializing in leadership development, team and culture building, and implementation of mission and vision through logic, analytics, accountability, and honesty. Robby holds a master's degree in Family, Youth & Community Services from the University of Florida, and he graduated with honors from the University of Florida with his bachelor's degree in Human Resource Development.

Robby is a well-known mentor and presenter in the Jewish youth, teen, and camping field and has presented at JCCs, Jewish Federations, BBYO's international convention, camp conferences, and both overnight and day camps. Robby also has nine years of experience as a director and consultant at several Jewish camps nationwide, where he was often involved in the design and building, holding full responsibility for the lives of the children and staff on-site.

We look forward to introducing you to Robby at upcoming JAFCO events; he is excited to meet JAFCO's large community of lay leaders, supporters, and the dedicated individuals and families who are the core of our great mission of helping children and families every day.

Thank you for being an important part of JAFCO's success!

Very truly yours,

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**For more information visit [jafco.org](http://jafco.org) or call 954-749-7230.**

**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.**