

120 YEARS OF JFS

United Jewish Charities is incorporated as several smaller agencies merged to pool their efforts and their funds to help the wave of immigrants from Eastern Europe. **William J. Berkowitz** serves at the first Board Chair from 1901-1904. **Alfred Benjamin** became President of the agency in 1904.

1901-1904

Camp Bittersweet for Jewish immigrant children is run by **Miss Fanny Benjamin**.

1916-1931

1939 - Emilie Levin becomes Executive Director, the first professionally trained social worker to direct UJC, and serves until 1976.



Agency changed its name to **Jewish Family and Children Services** to reflect adoption and foster care services.

1964

Channeling **Healthy Adolescent Interaction (CHAI)** is formed to help teens bring the Jewish value for life into their daily choices and decisions; annually over 1,200 adolescents, parents, and educators participate.

1986

Jewish Senior Network is created to serve seniors and disabled adults with financial subsidies, case management, needs assessments, and more. This program was modernized and became **Older Adult Care Management** in 2013.

2001

2008 - JET Express and **Help@Home** are introduced. Both programs are designed to help older adults live independent lives. Over 100 volunteers contribute to the success of these programs.



JFS opens first food pantry at the Jewish Community Campus (The J). By 2021, the JFS pantries served 3,475 individuals and distributed more than 500,000 pounds of food to the community.

2012

JFS Launches **KesherKC**, our holistic program combining social services and the Food Pantry. KesherKC helps families with essentials like food, utility assistance, pet food, government benefits and more.

2019

2022-2023 - JFS serving more than **10,000** people, JFS **celebrates 120 years** in the Kansas City Community.



1906

A "Settlement House" for immigrants is the first step in the field of human welfare.



1919 - Alfred Benjamin Dispensary opens; a social welfare agency and medical clinic providing services regardless of race or religion. Later it evolved into Menorah Medical Center.

1957

Specialized services for older adults becomes part of the JFCS mission.

1976

JFCS offers counseling, **Family Life Education**, adoption services, and specializes in services for older adults.

1990

Operation Exodus begins resulting in the resettlement of over 1,000 Soviet Jews in the Kansas City area.

2006

JFS Chaplaincy program is established to help meet the spiritual needs and foster spiritual wellness for Jewish individuals and their families, particularly for the unaffiliated; annually over 6,000 lives are touched by this program.

2011

Jewish Community Mental Health Coalition is formed to help eliminate the stigma of mental illness and provide suicide prevention education.



2017 - JFS opens office in Brookside on MLK Day. The new facility allows JFS to significantly expand services to residents in Kansas City, MO.

2020

JFS responds to the COVID pandemic. JFS never closed our doors and found immediate creative solutions to continue to serve the community, whether providing drive up pantry services or virtual counseling sessions.