

NCJW RETROSPECTIVE: OVER 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

- 1893** *National Council of Jewish Women* is founded by Hannah G. Solomon in Chicago with an initial membership of 93 delegates from 29 cities.
- 1895** October 14, *St. Louis Section* of NCJW is established with 34 members.
- 1919** St. Louis Section pioneers a *Free Milk Program* in the St. Louis public schools. Responsibility for the program is assumed by the school system in the 1930's.
- 1920** *The St. Louis Scholarship Committee* is founded to provide interest free loans for post high school education. The first loan is given to a Jewish woman who is a nursing student. Becomes an independent, non-sectarian organization by 1960, known as the *Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis*.
- 1923** Begins sponsoring monthly *Luncheons for the Blind*, open to the St. Louis community. This is the section's longest running community service project.
- 1926** Inaugurates *English Language and Americanization Classes* for émigrés.
- 1934** Opens *Council House* as a community center serving World War I refugees.
- 1940** Establishes the *Council Shop*, a resale store, now located at 8612 Olive Blvd. Profits provide funding to support NCJW projects.
- 1940s** The Section participates in World War II relief efforts and United Nations activities.
- 1945** Launches the *Golden Age Club* for seniors in the area at the Council House.
- 1956** Opens *Council House Summer Day Camp* for children, "Camp Council", serving 600 children ages 6-10.
- 1958** The *Lounge for Senior Citizens* is opened. University City assumes responsibility in 1973.
- 1960s** NCJW *Volunteer Tutors* assist students in remedial reading programs in St. Louis public schools.
- 1960** *Art Interest Group* is developed in partnership with the St. Louis Art Museum.
- 1961** *Trouping Theater* begins touring with original skits presented to children in elementary schools and hospitals.
- 1964** NCJW volunteers organize and modernize the filing system for Braille books for the *Wolfner Library* at the St. Louis Public Library.
- 1964** Urban League of St. Louis recognizes NCJW's participation in the *Head Start* program.
- 1964** The first *Couturier Sale* is held in a member's home. This sale continued as an annual event and source of funding for NCJW community service projects.
- 1964** Initiates plan to build the *Delcrest Apartments*, a 144-unit housing facility and activities program for low-income senior citizens.
- 1965** NCJW's *Consumer Education Project* helps women in poverty learn to manage limited resources.
- 1965** NCJW assists mentally ill and mentally challenged with transitional living skills at *Halfway House* on Missouri Avenue.
- 1967** *Literary Enrichment Program* offered by NCJW for gifted students at Soldan High School.
- 1967** *Campership Program* offered for visually disabled children.
- 1969** *The Delcrest*, a senior citizen apartment complex, opens in University City following NCJW's first capital campaign.
- 1969** *Summer Camp Programs* for disadvantaged children are offered at Pruitt Igoe and at Temple Israel. Six hundred children attend over 10-week session.
- 1969-71** *Teacher's Aide Program* is staffed by volunteers at local reading clinics.
- 1971** *The Delcrest* expands the availability of its activities program for seniors to non-residents who live in the neighborhood.
- 1971** Volunteers are trained to assist at the *St. Louis County Detention Center*.
- 1972** *Summer Detention Program* provides activities for children in detention at the St. Louis County Juvenile Courts.

- 1973 A pilot program is initiated at **St. Louis Children's Hospital** to treat the trauma of child abuse.
- 1974 The Section purchases and donates to the city of Webster Groves a **Transportation Van** for elderly citizens.
- 1974 **Well Baby Clinic** begins; volunteers screen preschool aged children for learning disabilities.
- 1975 Volunteers provide tutoring at **Edgewood Children's Home** for children with special needs.
- 1975 Volunteers trained by St. Louis County Juvenile Court are appointed as **Citizen Deputy Juvenile Officers**.
- 1975 **Good Shepard School for Children** utilizes NCJW volunteers in lunch program for special needs children.
- 1975 In partnership with the **Family Resource Center**, volunteers provide counseling for early intervention and prevention of child abuse.
- 1975 **The Children's Experience**, an introduction to the culture of Japanese children, is presented to 5th and 6th grade children by NCJW volunteers.
- 1975 **Canterbury Gardens Project** partners with NCJW volunteers to provide recreation and education program to residents.
- 1975 NCJW volunteers provide career transition counseling through the **Center for Career Development**.
- 1976 **Wife-Widow-Woman** Support Groups for women of all ages who have been widowed begins.
- 1977 **Victim Service Council (VSC)** is established to provide supportive services to victims of crime. Becomes part of St. Louis County Prosecutor's Office, January 1, 1996.
- 1979 Through the **West County Sheltered Workshop**, volunteers provide assistance for people with special needs.
- 1980 **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** is founded to advocate for the rights of abused and neglected children under the jurisdiction of the St. Louis County Juvenile Court. Becomes an independent agency, January 1, 1996.
- 1980 In partnership with the Jewish Federation and the JCCA, the **Multi-Service Senior Center** is founded to coordinate services to assist older adults in maintaining independent living in their homes.
- 1981 **Reproductive Health Service (RHS)**, trains NCJW volunteers to provide all options counseling for women with problem pregnancies.
- 1981 **The adolescent girl's survey** provided a review of the condition of girls in the juvenile justice system.
- 1981 NCJW's Evening Group produced and distributed **Quick Cuisine**, a cookbook designed to meet the needs of busy, working families.
- 1981 **Service to New Americans** initiated; volunteers help identify and make referrals for social service needs of new Americans.
- 1983 **Elder Hostel Scholarship** program provides sponsorship for continuing education needs of senior adults.
- 1983 **Oral History Project** initiated to "Preserve the Past for the Future Generations". Trained volunteers conduct interviews and tape family histories.
- 1983 **Divorce Support Group** initiated to offer professional and peer support to women experiencing the transition of divorce.
- 1984 **Foster Parent Training Seminars** are developed and administered for DFS by NCJW volunteers.
- 1985 **Advocate Services for Abused Women** is established to assist women seeking legal protection from abusive relationships. Becomes independent in October 1995 as **Legal Advocates for Abused Women (LAAW)**.
- 1985 **Kids at Home** is developed to train in-home childcare providers.
- 1985 NCJW volunteers assist with **Mothers in the Workplace**, a project of the National Center for the Child, to document social revolution of women joining the labor force.

- 1986** *Family in Partnership* begins as a community wide coalition providing services for families in need of shelter.
- 1986** *Junior Council* is created to foster community service leadership among Jewish youth.
- 1987** Volunteers work with the *English Language School* tutoring foreign-born students.
- 1987** *Children As Witnesses in Sex Abuse Cases* provides research data to the NCJW Center for the Child.
- 1988** *Inside Israel* begins a volunteer program to present the history and culture of Israel to local 6th graders.
- 1988** Volunteers serve as hospitality committee for the *Second U.S. National Senior Olympics*.
- 1988** *Teen Pregnancy Poster Campaign* places Children's Defense Fund posters for prevention education in area schools.
- 1989** *Challenge for Community Action* advocates for affordable quality childcare.
- 1989** *Rule of Thumb* video produced to provide education on domestic violence.
- 1990** *Four in Your Corner*, in conjunction with Channel 4, responds to consumer problems.
- 1991** NCJW initiates three-year capital campaign to raise 8.2 million dollars to build the *Delcrest II*, which expands residential facilities for senior citizens.
- 1991** NCJW adds a new support group for women, "*Retirement: The Next Stage Begins*".
- 1992** *Child Abuse Detection and Prevention Program (CAPP)* is implemented in partnership with Jewish Family and Children's Service, to educate professionals and parents about the problem of child abuse.
- 1992** *St. Louis Regional Child Care Partnership* begins in coalition with the Junior League, the Child Daycare Association, and the Black Child Development Institute.
- 1993** The National Convention in Chicago celebrates 100 years of national service and the National Junior Council president is chosen from the St. Louis Junior Council.
- 1994** *Teen Opportunities to Achieve in Life (TOTAL)* begins as a collaborative effort with the Junior League and other partners, to address the issues of teen pregnancy.
- 1995** Dedication of the *Gladys and Henry Crown Center for Senior Living (the Delcrest II)*.
- 1995** *Silent Witness Exhibit* opens at Saint Louis Galleria, as a memorial to women in Missouri murdered in 1994 due to domestic violence. This educational project continues to tour St. Louis and Missouri.
- 1995** The video project, *When Women Lead the Way* is initiated by NCJW, in partnership with eight women's organizations, to celebrate the significant contributions to St. Louis. The video highlights women in pioneering, innovative volunteer-driven community service programs.
- 1996** The first annual *Women's Summit: When Women Lead the Way* is hosted by NCJW and its *When Women Lead the Way* partners, as a companion to the video project. The Summit brings together women's and community service organizations to develop collaborations and create strategies to address critical programming needs in a challenging funding environment.
- 1996** *Moonlighters* is established. NCJW's Moonlighters is geared toward women in their 20's and 30's in all stages of life - students, professionals, full time moms or a combination of the above. The name is changed to *Young Women's Council* in 1999.
- 1997** NCJW becomes part of *Mentor St. Louis*, a project of the St. Louis Public Schools and a broad range of faith communities, businesses and other committed organizations. Volunteers provide grade school students with activities designed to encourage a desire to learn and to promote self-esteem.
- 1997** In collaboration with the *Better Business Bureau*, NCJW volunteers provide mediation assistance to individuals and businesses with consumer complaints.
- 1998** *Basic Boxes*, a program in which NCJW volunteers box household items and clothing to be sent to disaster victims and needy new Americans, begins.
- 1998** *CHAMP, Career Help and Mentoring Project*, is implemented to assist women moving from welfare to work through a savings club and asset development program.

- 1999 To address the current trend of episodic (or one time) volunteerism, NCJW introduces **Council Corps** to offer volunteers short-term opportunities with a flexible time commitment.
- 1999 **Operation School Bell** is started as a project that will include drives for various items needed by disadvantaged kids at local schools.
- 1999 **Kits for Kids** volunteers collect, wrap and deliver items to homeless children at local shelters.
- 1999 To raise awareness of **Teen Dating Violence**, NCJW compiles a resource and information guide that is made available to area youth groups and schools. A speaker's bureau is trained to facilitate workshops.
- 1999 **Working Advantage** program is developed to assist former welfare women entering the workforce with the selection of appropriate career clothing at the NCJW Council Shop. The program also provides education and resources for essential skills for job searching, finances, and personal grooming.
- 2000 **The Back-To-School! Store™** is developed as a one-day event to provide clothing, school supplies, and personal care items for deserving children in the St. Louis area and get them excited to head back to school. The first event was held in August 2001.
- 2001 **Teen Relationships: In Love or In Danger?**, an update to the Teen Dating Violence resource guide, is published and marketed to community service agencies and schools.
- 2001 **Benchmark: NCJW's Campaign To Save Roe** is launched by the NCJW Washington D.C. office. St. Louis and other sections join the watchdog campaign for federal judiciary appointees.
- 2002 To advocate against school vouchers and tuition tax credits, NCJW organizes **Protect Our Public Schools (POPS)**, a coalition of like-minded organizations. Programming is geared to mobilize and educate the public about the negative effect vouchers and tax credits would have on the public school system.
- 2006 NCJW takes on **Life Learning Legislation**, a collaborative effort every January to provide community wide education and advocacy coaching on a variety of legislative issues.
- 2007 NCJW-St. Louis Section instigates a relationship with **Lydia's House**, furnishing apartments for women and their children who are moving out of a domestic violence shelter into an apartment.
- 2007 **Plan A** is launched by NCJW Washington D.C. office. St. Louis and other sections join to secure and protect access to contraceptive information and sex education.
- 2008 As an outgrowth of NCJW's very successful Back-to-School! Store™, **Kids Community Closet** is organized to offer brand-new clothing, coats and school supplies to pre-qualified children right at their schools. Closets are installed in the Wellston and Ferguson Florissant school districts.