

Jewish Community Resources for People with Disabilities

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In honor of Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month, here are Jewish Boston's Community Resources for People with Disabilities

"Beyond the Ramp" of the **Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston** (JCC) raises community awareness of the needs of people with disabilities of all ages and their families. Contact Judy Pearl at (617) 558-6508 or specialneeds@jccgb.org.

Case Management for Adults with Psychiatric Conditions works 1:1 with individuals with psychiatric challenges providing support in accessing a wide variety of community resources including housing, vocational opportunities, social programs, etc. For more information about this **Jewish Family & Children's Service** (JF&CS) program, contact Sandy Slavet at (781) 647-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Center for Jewish Special Education at **Hebrew College** is dedicated to expanding and strengthening educators' ability to support students with special needs through professional development, including online classes, onsite workshops and conferences, curriculum development and consultation. Contact Sandy Miller-Jacobs at (617) 559-8615 or smillerjacobs@hebrewcollege.edu.

CHAI (Community Housing for Adult Independence) of **Jewish Family & Children's Service** (JF&CS) provides a range of options for adults with disabilities who want to live as independently as possible while enjoying community involvement and pursuing individual goals. Contact Sandy Slavet at (781) 693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

CHAI Works is **JF&CS**' day support program offering opportunities for volunteering, internships, employment training and paid employment to adults with disabilities. Contact Doreen Cummings 781-693-5638 or dcummings@jfcsboston.org.

Chaverim Shel Shalom at **JF&CS** connects people with chronic mental illness to the Jewish community, offering holiday celebrations and opportunities for socialization. Contact at (781)-693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Chaverim Chaim: Friends for Life, a program of **JF&CS**, the **JCC** and **Jewish Big Brothers/Big Sisters** provides monthly activities for adults with developmental disabilities that enhance Jewish identity and foster connections to the Jewish community. Contact Sandy Slavet at (781) -693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

CJP Disabilities Housing Initiative works to expand supportive housing in a holistic way so that people can live full lives with access to the wealth of opportunities in the Jewish community. Contact Elizabeth Sternberg at (617) 457-8593 or elizabeths@cjp.org.

CJP Disabilities Trust and Trust II helps families who have a child who have a disability (cognitive, psychiatric or physical) provide financial protection and lifetime personal advocacy. Contact Sandy Slavet at **JF&CS** at (781)-693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Disabilities Resource Network at Jewish Family & Children's Service (**JF&CS**) offers help to access programs and services. Contact Sandy Slavet at (781)-693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Family Futures Planning works with families who have a disabled adult (or older adolescent) plan for housing and support services independent of the family home. This service is provided through individual family consultation as well as group meetings and workshop. This is a program of **JF&CS** and is funding by the **CJP** Disabilities Housing Initiative. Contact Sandy Slavet at (781)-693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Gateways: Access to Jewish Education runs a Sunday school for children with special needs, bar/bat mitzvah training, a teen youth group and support services for students with special needs in day, community and congregation schools and Jewish preschools, plus coaching teachers in various Jewish learning settings to make their classrooms more welcoming to a range of learners. Call (617) 630-9010 or e-mail info@jgateways.org.

Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters (JBBBS) Friend 2 Friend Program matches volunteers and adults with disabilities in one to one friendships. JBBBS also provides caring adult volunteers for children, some of whom have mild to moderate special needs. Contact Jan Klein at 617-558-6548 or jan@jbbbs.org.

Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston (JCC) Special Needs Services offer a wide variety of programs for people with disabilities, including early identification and intervention for children aged 3-5, inclusive day and overnight camps and adapted physical and social programs for children, teens and adults. Contact Judy Pearl at (617) 558-6508 or specialneeds@jccgb.org.

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) advocates on behalf of people with disabilities on the state and federal level with key governmental and community representatives. Contact Aaron Agulnek at (617) 457-8674 or aagulnek@jcrceboston.org.

Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) programs include **Connections**, assisting Jews with disabilities in career planning, placement and on-the-job support; and **Partnership for Careers and Learning**, providing employment training to individuals with disabilities. Contact Rebecca Pyle at (617) 399-3204 or RPyle@jvs-boston.org.

K'Sharim: Connecting People with Disabilities to Jewish Life involves teens and adults with disabilities in all facets of synagogue life with monthly programs at area synagogues. Contact Sandy Slavet at (781)-693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Stars of David is a social group for adults with disabilities, sponsored by **Temple Emmanuel in Newton**. Contact: Pamela Goldstein at (781) 986-0030 or mppg0030@msn.com.

Yachad/National Jewish Council for Disabilities is a social and recreational and educational group affiliated with the Orthodox Union, for older teens and young adults with developmental disabilities and those on the autism spectrum. Contact Peshie Rubin at peshierubin@gmail.com or (347) 882-1512.

Yesodot offers Jewish family support to families with school-aged children with disabilities. Yesodot provides social and recreational and respite opportunities for the entire family as well as workshops on such topics as transition planning, guardianship and housing. This is a respite program for

children and young adults with neurological disabilities. For more information about this **Jewish Family & Children's Service** (JF&CS) program, contact Sandy Slavet at (781) 693-5640 or sslavet@jfcsboston.org.

Yom Sport is an annual sports day for adults with disabilities organized by **JBBBS** in partnership with **CJP's Young Leadership Division**. Volunteers and athletes are invited to participate in a variety of sporting events for a day of fun. For more information, contact Jan Klein at 617-558-6548 or jan@jbbbs.org or visit www.yomsport.org.

