

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Of Southern Arizona

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Contact: Staci Smith
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Refugee Services to be Discontinued

Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) has been dedicated to providing quality behavioral and social services to community members for the past 66 years. During those years, JFCS has served single parents, traumatized youth, people with substance use and coping issues, domestic abuse survivors, cancer survivors and refugees from around the globe. But the world around us is ever-changing and JFCS must adapt with those changes. Like many non-profits, JFCS relies on support from Federal funding sources to provide programs to some communities. Unfortunately, much of that funding has disappeared or been significantly reduced in the past six years. At the same time, costs to sustain those services have skyrocketed, making it ever more challenging to continue to provide the high quality programs that JFCS demands from itself.

As a result and in order to remain faithful to the provision of quality services, it has become necessary for JFCS to discontinue providing Refugee Services. Beginning immediately, JFCS is working with HIAS, our national resettlement organization, and with other local resettlement agencies to make the best transition plans for all current clients. Our unwavering commitment is to ensure that all refugee clients currently in our program receive every service and assistance due them. As of September 1, JFCS will not be accepting new refugees through our program. The closure of this program mirrors an unfortunate national trend of diminished funding which has forced other agencies to reach similar conclusions.

JFCS will continue offering the wide range of services that has made us a leader in social and behavioral health service provision, including: individual and family counseling; substance abuse and domestic violence prevention; trauma services for children and adolescents; a wide continuum of services for the developmentally disabled; home-based services for older adults; as well as many other programs serving the entire community. We have been and will continue to be dedicated to providing quality programs for Tucson residents. Our long established collaborations with governmental organizations and other social service agencies is a reflection of JFCS' strengths, rooted throughout the community. JFCS is dedicated to serving the Tucson community and will continue to be a leader in the provision of social services. Through strong financial and community support, we will provide solid social services for many years to come.

This decision is reached with great sadness, yet great pride in the role JFCS has played in resettling over 2,000 individuals in the past 18 years and helping them achieve success in America. JFCS remains

committed to providing quality social services to Tucson; although it is necessary to shift our emphasis in other directions, JFCS continues to value and support the ideals behind refugee resettlement.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Sack, Chief Development Officer for JFCS at 520-795-0300 x 263.