



JEWISH ALCOHOLICS, CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT
PERSONS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

JACS Fact Sheet

JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others) became a program of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services in 1992. Since it was launched in 1980 by UJA-Federation of New York, JACS has served as **the first**

and primary mutual support network for Jews affected by alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction. Unique among JBFCS service programs, **JACS is mainly a membership and peer support service**, in which **the "clients" themselves are the primary service providers.** JACS has **over 400 formal members, many active volunteers**, and reaches **over 10,000 people per year.** JACS serves Jews in the Metropolitan New York area, the United States and around the world (e.g., Israel, South America, South Africa, and even Australia!).

JACS supports recovery from alcohol and substance abuse through:

▪ **Guidance, Contact and Comfort In Times of Crisis**

- Counseling by JACS staff or members, by phone or in-person [*>500 people/yr*]
- Consultations about effective treatment and support services [*>300/yr*]

▪ **Jewish Events that Promote Recovery**

- Two Annual Weekend Retreats [*67 in total*], and periodic all-day retreats [*> 400/yr*]
- Three to four clean-and-sober Jewish Holidays celebrations (e.g., Purim, Passover) [*>250/yr*]
- First ever *Birthingright Israel* "Sober Trip" for Young Adults in Recovery, March, 2010
- Annual *Birthingright Israel* "Sober Trips" for Young Adults in Recovery - January, 2011 & June, 2012
- Informal mentoring and support from JACS' vast network of adult Jews in recovery
- Links with the JACS Teen and Young People's Support Network
- Periodic workshops on "Recovery Tools" (e.g., Handling Anger and Frustration) [*> 200/yr*]
- 12-Step Meetings with a Jewish focus (e.g., texts, values, traditions) [*> 200/yr*]
- Website, Newsletter, Online Discussion Groups [*>5,000/yr*]

▪ **Community Awareness and Prevention Services**

- JACS Speakers Bureau presentations for synagogues, schools, JCCs, camps [*50/yr for 2,500 people*]
- Training and consultation for Rabbis, Educators and Jewish Communal Professionals [*30/yr for >120 Jewish Professionals*]
- Media Presence: Newsweek, Huffington Press, Jewish Week, The Forward, NY Blueprint, Brooklyn Eagle, Bergen Record, Jewish Press, Jewish Telegraphic Agency
- "*Jewish Sisters in Sobriety*" Book - Published November, 2007 [*> 1,200 copies sold & distributed*]

▪ **Budget**

- Budget is approximately \$360,000/yr. 1/3 from Service Fees; 1/3 from Philanthropic Donations to JACS; and 1/3 from UJA-Federation Basic Grant.
- JACS volunteers provide about \$60,000 worth of services per year, e.g., as mentors, speakers, event coordinators.
- JACS is proud to be a certified Recovery Support Services Provider for New York State OASAS.
- JACS receives sponsorship funding from addiction treatment centers.

▪ **Vignette**

- Six years ago, just before Rosh Hashanah, a member of the JACS Teen Group called JACS to express concern about his 20 year old friend, Michael. A few days later, Michael came to the JACS office, looking "like his life had been sucked out of him." We referred him to rehab, and three months later he was able to attend his first JACS retreat. During the following years, JACS has been a vital support for his recovery, and his success in completing college and getting a good job. In keeping with JACS' focus on peer support, Michael has become a model and resource for others, serving as a frequent speaker for our outreach and prevention efforts, and eventually chairing one of our retreats.