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Jewish Community Economic Recovery Fund Provides Relief to Those in Need

Single mothers, victims of domestic violence, seniors living on fixed incomes, formerly middle class families now struggling to get by -- the economic recession has created profound, immediate needs that the **San Diego Jewish Community Economic Recovery Fund** is addressing.

In response to spiraling demands for assistance, the Economic Recovery Fund, a joint venture of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego (JCF) and the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County (UJF), has awarded more than \$800,000 in grants to provide direct relief to those in need.

"We hope that these funds will provide the support and encouragement families need to help get them on the road to self-sufficiency," noted Andrea Oster, chair of UJF. "This is vital assistance that we as a Jewish community can provide."

"While these are surely troubled times, we also have a time-sensitive opportunity to step up and help those in need," stated Murray Galinson, chair of JCF. "By working together and responding quickly, we can emerge from this recession stronger, more innovative and with confidence in the future."

The Fund goals are to:

- Reduce the effect of the economic crisis on individuals and families in the San Diego Jewish Community through critical assistance that will help stabilize personal and family situations.
- Strengthen San Diego Jewish organizations, synagogues and schools and enhance their ability to respond to the economic crisis.
- Promote a caring, inclusive, and embracing Jewish community.

Forty-five percent of the Fund will provide support for basic needs including short-term crisis intervention and case management and will allow for:

- **Expanded emergency case management** through Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS).

- **Emergency financial assistance** through grants to rabbis' discretionary funds at more than 30 local synagogues throughout the county and through JFS
- **Project SARAH**, addressing significantly increased cases of domestic violence
- **Hand Up Youth Food Pantry** at JFS
- **Charitable Care for Elderly** at Seacrest Village Retirement Communities

"In many cases, our programs are seeing double the number of clients they did a year prior," said Jill Borg Spitzer, CEO of JFS. "Without this funding from the ERF, we would not be able to provide services to the many families and older adults in our community who need immediate help to reclaim their lives and get back on track."

Fifteen percent of the Economic Recovery Fund will go to individuals and families to provide tools they need to move out of crisis.

- **Vocational services advocacy** and career development counseling at JFS
- **JFS Economic Crisis Response Program** workshops offered to arm community members with skills and strategies to get back on their feet

The remaining 40 percent was allocated to scholarship assistance to these recipients:

- Five Jewish day schools
- Six Jewish preschools
- 10 congregational schools
- Funds were also designated to provide scholarships for Jewish summer camp

"We've seen a major increase in the need for tuition assistance this year," said Larry Acheatel, executive director of San Diego Jewish Academy. "Maintaining a caring community is so important at this time."



Children enjoying playtime at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS' Niernan Preschool, one of six local preschools receiving support from the Fund.

About the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego:

Since 1967, the Jewish Community Foundation has partnered with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their philanthropic goals and to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish community. With managed assets of nearly \$208 million, the Jewish Community Foundation is the largest grant maker in San Diego. During fiscal year 2008-09, the Foundation awarded and facilitated \$63.2 million in 4,700 grants to 1,000 Jewish and general organizations in San Diego, the United States and Israel. Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at www.jcfsandiego.org or call 858-279-2740.

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