



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: December 23, 2003**

**Contact: Charlene Seidle  
858-279-2740  
charlene@jcfsandiego.org**

### **Jewish Women's Foundation Focuses Attention on Jewish Single Mothers**

The newly-established Jewish Women's Foundation (JWF) has identified connecting Jewish single mothers to the community as the subject of their first grant.

The JWF identified the needs of Jewish single mothers as a priority issue through a series of focus groups with leaders from throughout the San Diego Jewish community. In addition to the focus groups, the results of the recent San Diego Jewish Demographics Study demonstrated that this is a growing population which is underserved.

"The study showed that at least 5,000 children in our Jewish community are growing up in single-parent households, the vast majority of them headed by women. This statistic, combined with our research, confirmed that the needs of Jewish single mothers are a key concern for our attention and our dollars," stated Jan Tuttleman, JWF Founding Chair.

Further discussions with affiliated and unaffiliated Jewish single mothers helped JWF identify and prioritize the key needs of this population. The priority issue that emerged was the cost of being Jewish including synagogue membership, Hebrew schools and programming, and the lack of resources to assist with daily activities such as transportation and childcare.

"In our discussions with mothers, they told us they needed information and resources about existing services and advocacy for their needs. Through direct funding and finding partners, we intend to make this happen," said Marjory Kaplan, Jewish Community Foundation Executive Director.

A request for proposals has been sent to local Jewish organizations. If you are an organization wishing to apply for this grant or for more information about the JWF, please call Charlene Seidle at 858-279-2740

--

Since 1967, the Jewish Community Foundation has partnered with donors and community organizations in achieving their philanthropic goals. In addition, the Foundation works to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish community in San Diego, Israel and around the world. During fiscal year 2002/2003, the

Jewish Community Foundation distributed more than \$36 million in 3,000 separate grants to 700 different charitable organizations.

--

The Jewish Women's Foundation of San Diego has been established with the Jewish Community Foundation to address the issues facing Jewish women and girls in San Diego and Israel through funding, education and social action. There are currently almost 30 founding members, and the Foundation expects to double its membership this year.