



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Jewish Community Foundation Wins Kaleidoscope Award For Exceptional Governance**

The Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) has won the Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance awarded by University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

"The Jewish Community Foundation is an impeccable organization and a credit to the San Diego community," said Liz Shear, director of USD's Institute for Nonprofit Governance, whose committee of judges selected the Jewish Community Foundation for the first annual award. "Its Board brings precision, rigor and excellence to bear in its governance processes and practices."

Paula Cordeiro, Dean of USD's School of Leadership and Education Sciences, added: "The Jewish Community Foundation sets the highest standards for transparency, participation and leadership. Equally important is that the Jewish Community Foundation engages the community in a variety of ways. It offers many opportunities to be involved through its vast committee structure."

Marjory Kaplan, CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation, said the JCF believes strongly in sound governance as a means of building donor confidence and increasing grants to the community. "The Foundation's role as a fiduciary and facilitator of philanthropy requires top-notch governance," Kaplan said. "It is a responsibility that we take very seriously."

"As part of the Jewish Community Foundation's mission to strengthen both the Jewish community and the general community, the JCF strives to serve as a resource and example of good governance to other organizations," Kaplan continued. "Our staff advises and consults with non-profits on governance matters and integrates organizational governance standards into the Foundation's review of grant applications."

With assets that exceed \$250 million, the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego is a leader in charitable giving in San Diego. It manages and works with hundreds of community members to fulfill their charitable wishes for current and legacy giving. For 40 years, The 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 in San Diego, Israel and around the world. During fiscal year 2005-06,

the Jewish Community Foundation distributed more than \$53 million in 3,900 separate grants to 800 different charitable organizations.

Sheila Potiker, who chairs the Jewish Community Foundation's Board, emphasized the Foundation's commitment to good governance: "The Jewish Community Foundation strives to create a culture of accountability. Board members set overall policy and direction and oversee the budget process, audit, investments and operations of the Foundation."

The judges honored JCF for its transparency, its network of volunteers who participate in its Board and committees, and its efforts to promote leadership and good governance among community organizations.

The Foundation emphasizes transparency in its donor communications, one example of which is its Annual Report. Each year the Foundation sends donors a report highlighting its statement of assets, operating expenses and statement of activity as well as investment activity and general information on the Foundations' governance practices including leadership, audit, confidentiality and ethics policies, and its intentional transparency. Additional disclosures – such as the Foundation's tax return, known as IRS Form 990 – are posted on the Foundation's Web site.

To encourage continuing leadership participation, the Foundation created a Leadership Council comprised of former Board members to provide advice, guidance and input on broad Foundation policy issues.

"The JCF is a model of exemplary governance," said Pat Libby, director of USD's Nonprofit Leadership & Management Program. "The Board is engaged, involved in strategic decision making, active in ensuring that all operating systems are in place and, most important, truly committed to its mission."

Murray Galinson, the JCF's Board vice chair and chair-elect and past chair of numerous boards including the United Jewish Federation of San Diego, said: "The Jewish Community Foundation strives continually to meet and exceed the highest standards of governance."

For more information, please contact Emily Jennewein at 858-755-2665, [emily@jennewein.org](mailto:emily@jennewein.org) or our Web site [www.jcfsandiego.org](http://www.jcfsandiego.org).

### **About the Jewish Community Foundation**

With assets that exceed \$250 million, the Jewish Community Foundation is a leader in charitable giving in San Diego. For 40 years, The 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 in San Diego, Israel and around the world. During fiscal year 2005-06, the Jewish Community Foundation distributed more than \$53 million in 3,900 separate grants to 800 different charitable organizations.

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**The Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) has won the Kaleidoscope Award for Exceptional Governance from University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences. Accepting the award were (left to right) JCF Vice Chair and Chair-Elect Murray Galinson, Chief Executive Officer Marjory Kaplan, and Chair Sheila Potiker.**