



JEWISH FAMILY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICE OF THE SUNCOAST, INC.

2688 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 366-2224
Fax (941) 366-2982
www.jfcs-cares.org

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Wendy L. Sunshine
Director of Marketing
941-366-2224, ext.105
wsunshine@JFCS-Cares.org

At-Risk Kids and Families Face Brighter Future Due to Partnership Between JFCS of the Suncoast and Barancik Foundation

Sarasota, Florida – January 13, 2016 – Thanks to generous funding by the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, local at-risk children and families have access to empowering programs and services from the Jewish Family & Children's Service of the Suncoast, Inc. (JFCS). These services help break the cycle of violence and addiction, strengthen personal relationships, promote mental health, support academic success, and empower the community.

The Barancik Foundation awarded two grants, one of which spans three years, totaling \$495,000 to support the organization's core human service programs:

- **Fathering classes teach men to interact in healthier ways with their children**, both during incarceration and after they return home. One "grateful hearted" father wrote a thank you letter from Sarasota County Jail explaining that because of JFCS staff and services "*I have been blessed to see the importance of becoming a 'nurturing' father and husband to my family... I have been incarcerated for the past one hundred and forty days and have made a complete turnaround for the better.*" (Healthy Families/Healthy Fathers program)
- **Struggling kids attend a specialized camp where they learn coping skills to break the cycle of addiction.** Activities for these children, who have an addicted parent or guardian, revolve around the 7 C's: I didn't CAUSE it, I can't CONTROL it, I can't CURE it, But, I can take CARE of myself, By COMMUNICATING my feelings, Making good CHOICES and CELEBRATING myself! One parent said, "*Camp Mariposa helps my son and daughter deal with emotions. It gives them a base not to go with the wrong friends at school. It made them confident again in themselves.*" (Camp Mariposa program)
- **A fun obstacle course builds sensory skills that empower kids at Emma E. Booker Elementary School in the Newtown Community of Sarasota.** Sensory skills practice and counseling sessions combine to help at-risk youth overcome extremely challenging learning and living environments. The program reduces problem behavior because it gives students a safe place to share their feelings and problems, the confidence that someone is listening to them, and techniques for calming themselves and maintaining control in the classroom. One proud mother said, "*Emma's Dream Team helped my son get his behavior under wraps and now he's in the gifted and talent program!*" (Emma's Dream Team program)
- **Families on the verge of losing their home get financial help, budget planning, and counseling.** This program keeps families together and helps them avoid eviction. Case managers work with families to develop individual plans to ensure sustainability; all families are monitored for one year. "*Our money was running out, even though we were staying in the cheapest motel. My case worker helped us find and get a new place in a much safer neighborhood. Now I'm not afraid to*

walk home from work and my kids have a safe yard to play in!” (Building Strong Families Homelessness Prevention program)

- **Differently-abled young adults don’t need to be isolated or fearful; they benefit from counseling and life skills practice at weekly group sessions.** Each participant gets an individual service plan which helps them develop skills to gain confidence and independence. One 24-year-old who attends said, *“I had a couple of challenges through high school. STARS helped me deal with those challenges. Because of STARS I have the confidence to have a job.”* (STARS Program)
- **Homeless families get personal help navigating community resources to obtain permanent housing and secure direct financial assistance.** This program works with homeless clients through the Family Haven Alliance community partnerships with Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army, Harvest House, 211 of Manasota and the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness. (Master Case Management for the Homeless program)
- **Food Pantry** provides the basic life necessities of food. The program distributes vouchers for perishable grocery items as well as canned and packaged foods purchased at a discounted fee from All Faiths Food Bank.
- **Summer Enrichment** provides a special two-week summer program for at-risk youth. Sessions at Emma E. Booker Elementary School and Lincoln Middle School include career exploration, field trips, and community outreach.

These generous grants from the Barancik Foundation will enable JFCS to continue delivering these important programs and services to the entire community on a non-denominational basis.

“We’re so grateful that the Barancik family has provided this funding,” said Rose Chapman, LCSW, president and CEO of JFCS. “Their generous support will provide many services for basic needs and at-risk populations.”

Teri A Hansen, president and CEO of the Barancik Foundation said, “The Barancik family is deeply committed to improving the human condition and the Foundation is pleased to partner with JFCS because we know their programs make a difference in the lives of the people they serve.”

For more information about these initiatives, call JFCS of the Suncoast at 941-366-2224.

About the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation

The Charles & Margery Barancik family has long believed in the power of philanthropy to shape our world and enrich the lives of all people. It was the expression of this belief that led them in 2014 to establish the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation—a private, family foundation located in Sarasota, Florida. The Barancik Foundation creates initiatives and awards grants in Sarasota and beyond in the areas of arts and humanities, education and science, humanitarian causes, medical research, and the environment. For further information, please contact Kelly Romanoff at kromanoff@barancikfoundation.org.

About JFCS

Jewish Family & Children’s Service of the Suncoast, Inc. (JFCS) is a fully accredited, community-based social service organization that delivers counseling, prevention, intervention, outreach and education programs on a secular, non-denominational basis. JFCS serves children, adults, families, seniors, and veterans living in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties of Florida. To learn more, visit JFCS-Cares.org.