

## **JVS TO CELEBRATE 80 YEARS OF PUTTING ANGELENOS BACK TO WORK**

**Los Angeles, CA** – Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) will celebrate 80 years of putting Angelenos back to work at its Gala Tribute Dinner, *The Legacy Continues*, on January 29, 2011 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

Entrepreneur, inventor and businessman Stanley A. Dashew will receive the agency's Tzedakah Award for his long-time charitable support of the agency. The leadership of JVS' Board Presidents will also be recognized at the event. The Honorary Chair is philanthropist Brindell Gottlieb. Gala Co-Chairs and JVS Board Members are Elizabeth Gans, Nan Kalish Goodman and Pearle Ray Levey.

Said JVS CEO Vivian Seigel, "JVS would not be where it is today without the support and leadership of our board and its presidents. These amazing men and women have given their time, resources and knowledge to help build a better community for everyone. While our founders were very much aware of the problems our clients were facing, I think they would be amazed at how much the agency has evolved and the tremendous impact we have had over the decades."

In 1931, a small office opened on Bunker Hill to fight workplace discrimination and help European Jewish refugees and others find work in the midst of the Great Depression. Since then, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) has helped hundreds of thousands of people find jobs, regain their self-respect and dignity, and take care of their families. At its upcoming January 29<sup>th</sup> Gala, JVS will celebrate the men and women presidents of its board who led the way through turbulent changing times, growing the agency to where it is today.

JVS has become a respected leader in the field of workplace development and employment issues, helping veterans as far back as World War II, advocating for women in the workforce during and after the war, mentoring at-risk youth in partnership with LA County since the 1940s, taking a stand on accommodations for people with disabilities in the fifties and sixties, and conducting job training programs in the seventies, to name only a few initiatives that were well ahead of their time.

As an agency, JVS has participated in war commissions, welfare summits and policy meetings concerning immigrants from Germany, Shanghai, Russia and Iran. And today, the

organization's innovative partnerships within the corporate and non-profit communities have resulted in over 20 different programs, including its signature Bankworks™ and Healthworks™ training initiatives, high placement rates, and nearly 30,000 clients served yearly.

JVS Los Angeles recently launched *Veterans First* to assist returning Afghanistan and Iraq veterans transition to the civilian workforce. The program offers free career coaching, assessments to help identify transferable skills, job placement and even a Veterans Job Club support group.

When Ed Bastheim served as the first President and Chairman of the Board from 1932-42, he faced a budget of less than \$5,000 and the highest unemployment figures the country has ever seen. By the end of his tenure, he had succeeded in opening negotiations with Columbia Studios to employ JVS clients and inspired Jewish organizations across the country to add employment services. "Since the bureau was started as an experiment, the first years were naturally difficult ones, launched, as it was, during a period of serious industrial depression," wrote the board secretary in 1933.

Those who followed him as board presidents have each made their own mark, including J.A. Rosenkranz, Isador Brown, Ernest Armer, J.D. Alshuler, Andrew Meyer, Felix Juda, Joseph Weiss, Judge Robert S. Thompson, Hugo Zivi, M.M. Chuck Maltz, Irwin H. Goldenberg, Harry Braverman, Edward M. Marks, Fred C. Berne, Joseph M. Feldman, Abner Goldstine, Mike Klapper, Morry Axelrod, Jack Suzar, David Licht, Donald S. Simons, George Polinger, A. Charles Wilson, Robert Garber, Adrienne Horwitch, James Maslon, Susan W. Robertson, Rick Powell, Sunny Caine and current President Jeffrey Paul. Of the 30 presidents who have served since JVS founding, 16 will be in attendance or represented by their families at the Gala.

In addition, Stanley A. Dashew, a longtime advocate for the disabled, who generously funded JVS' Dashew Assessment Center, will receive the *Tzedakah Award*. The Dashew Assessment Center provides a variety of programs and resources to help people with disabilities discover their talents, skills, and most importantly, self-confidence as they enter or return to the workforce. More importantly, it continues JVS' tradition of being at the forefront of new technologies and methods to help its clients overcome barriers and achieve independence. Stanley Dashew's eclectic career has taken him from photojournalist to industrialist to inventor. His latest invention, the *Dashaway*, is designed to help people with disabilities regain their mobility.

For more information on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, please contact Randy Lapin at 323-761-8598 or email Randy Lapin at [rlapin@jvsla.org](mailto:rlapin@jvsla.org). You can also visit our new website [www.jvsla.org](http://www.jvsla.org).