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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JFCS AND JFS UNITE TO SERVE MINNESOTA AS ONE STRONG ORGANIZATION**

**GOLDEN VALLEY, MN, October 16, 2025**

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis (JFCS) and Jewish Family Service of St. Paul (JFS) are excited to announce they will unite as one organization with a new name, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minnesota (JFCSMN). Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the two social service organizations will begin to operate as one, providing more than 30 programs and services to the Jewish and broad communities across the Twin Cities and throughout Minnesota.

Following an extensive and thoughtful process guided by both agencies' leadership and boards, this unification is taking place through the acquisition of JFS by JFCS, forming one holistic organization grounded in compassion, professionalism, and the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

JFS Board President Tom Cytron-Hysom shared: "We are very pleased to be part of JFCSMN, ensuring that services to the St. Paul/East Metro Jewish community continue and will be strengthened over time. A service location in our community will be maintained, and JFS Board Members will serve on a transitional JFCS Board, representing St. Paul's perspectives and needs."

JFCS Board President Howard Hoffman added: "The evolution to JFCSMN will give clients a stronger sense of who we are and who we serve—not just Minneapolis or St. Paul, but the state as a whole. By bringing best practices from both organizations, we can deepen our programs, reduce duplication, and reach more people. As other organizations have shown, we are stronger as one."

Both JFS and JFCS have long histories of serving the Twin Cities dating back to 1911 and 1910, respectively, when both were established to serve the needs of European Jews fleeing oppression and coming to America with little more than what they could carry. JFS and JFCS began as volunteer-run organizations whose missions were to resettle these individuals and families so they would build new lives, contribute productively, and raise their families in safety.

Now, more than 100 years later, both JFS and JFCS determined the organizations could be stronger together as one holistic agency, guided by compassion and professionalism, and the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* (repair of the world), while expanding its impact across Minnesota.

Minneapolis Jewish Federation Chief Executive Officer James A. Cohen noted: "I applaud the decision to provide services collaboratively across the Twin Cities. During these challenging times, it is vital that everyone across our community is served in this way. Knowing the quality of their work, I am confident JFCSMN will continue to offer the best possible counseling, care, and programs."

St. Paul Jewish Federation Chief Executive Officer David Kaplan said: "We look forward to working with JFCSMN to ensure continuity of care for our community. With the potential of expanded programs and resources in St. Paul, families and individuals can feel confident that the support they rely on will continue without interruption."

JFS Chief Executive Officer Ruth Hampton Olkon emphasized: "For more than a century, JFS has been part of the fabric of St. Paul, providing critical services while honoring our historic and cultural roots. I am deeply proud of our staff and the generous community that sustains us. As we take this important step with JFCS, I want to assure our clients, donors, and partners that JFS' legacy will be honored and carried forward."

JFCS Chief Executive Officer Judy Halper added: "I am extremely excited about JFCS and JFS uniting as one strong organization meeting the needs of the Jewish and broad community. For more than 100 years, these agencies have offered essential care as a safety net for so many. The professionalism and boundless compassion of our staff, volunteers, and supporters will continue to make a lasting difference."

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JFCS Chief Program Officer and Incoming CEO Amy Weiss said: “JFCSMN is the best of both communities. By combining our strengths, we expand our reach and deepen our impact so individuals and families receive the care and support they need to thrive. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community, rooted in Jewish values and responsive to evolving needs.”

The process of bringing the two organizations together began in 2024. Leadership from both organizations envisioned how the two family services could unite and strengthen impact. A steering committee comprised of Board Members and agency leadership worked with consultants to establish a process leading to the formation of Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minnesota.

JFCS Immediate Past President Natalie Zamansky reflected: “This unification represents a thoughtful and deliberate step forward, grounded in stability and mutual trust. Both boards worked in close partnership, guided by our shared values of compassion, inclusion, professionalism, and our enduring commitment to tikkun olam. We are confident this unified path allows us to serve our communities with even greater purpose and impact.”

JFS will continue to provide service through December 2025. After Jan. 1, Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minnesota will continue to operate from Golden Valley, downtown Minneapolis, and the current location in St. Paul.

#### **About JFCSMN**

Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minnesota (JFCSMN) is Here for all. Always. A non-profit organization based in Golden Valley, JFCS provides essential services to people of all ages and backgrounds to help sustain healthy relationships, find stability, and navigate life’s challenges. For more information call 952-546-0616 or visit [www.jfcsmpls.org](http://www.jfcsmpls.org).