Celebrating Solutions Award
Nomination Form

Legal Name of Organization: Jewish Family Service Association

Address: 3659 South Green Road, Suite 322

City/State/Zip: Beachwood, Ohio, 44122

Contact person: Mitch Wasserman, MBA

Title: Chief Development Officer

Phone Number: (216) 504-2600  Fax Number: (216) 292-6313

E-mail: mwasserm@jfsa-cleveland.org

Description of organization

Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) of Cleveland, a private, non-profit organization, serves to strengthen families and individuals in both the Jewish and general communities in Northeast Ohio. Guided by traditional Jewish values of communal responsibility and social justice, JFSA is committed to enhancing every individual’s ability to thrive in our community. JFSA has been providing human services in Cleveland since 1875. JFSA’s broad range of services are all accredited by the Council of Accreditation for Services to Families and Children, Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. Our services include: Outpatient mental health service, counseling/therapy, addiction Services, divorce mediation and counseling for divorcing families, family violence prevention program – Project Chai, community-based services for seniors, career counseling, residential services for people with mental retardation and/or mental illness, and refugee resettlement.

Geographical area served: East side of Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Is organization tax-exempt under IRS 501 (c) (3) guidelines: Yes

Signature of contact person

Date: 9/11/03
PROGRAM OUTLINE

1. Mission of the Jewish Family Services Association of Cleveland. (5 sentences or less)

Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) of Cleveland, a private, non-profit organization, serves to strengthen families and individuals throughout Northeast Ohio. Guided by traditional Jewish values of communal responsibility and social justice, JFSA is committed to enhancing every individual's ability to thrive in the community.

It is the belief of JFSA's Family Violence Prevention Program that domestic violence is a serious social disease that must be identified, treated and prevented. Services are designed and implemented to empower victims, perpetrators and their families to make healthy, abuse-free decisions about their relationships and lifestyle. Regardless of the victim's desire, readiness or willingness to leave an abusive situation, our services are meant to provide a nurturing environment where the victim can be supported in her decisions and assisted in creating and carrying out treatment and case plans with safety as the highest priority.

2. Describe the most innovative aspects of the program you are submitting for consideration.

A number of unique aspects of Project Chai serve to make it a nationally recognized model program of innovation. These factors include:

- JFSA's comprehensive wrap-around domestic violence program is based within a multi-service mental health agency that provides a broad continuum of services to support families affected by domestic violence.
- The children's art therapy and teen dating violence outreach programs focus on breaking the cycle of abuse.
- JFSA has developed highly successful outreach programs to underserved populations such as the elderly, Orthodox Jews, new immigrants and refugees, in particular from the Former Soviet Union, and adolescents.
- JFSA has adapted our family violence programs to meet the needs of those with severe mental illness.

Before this program existed, comprehensive, culturally sensitive domestic violence services were not provided in suburban locations in the Cleveland area. A grass roots coalition was developed among numerous community agencies to address this need and in doing so discovered that domestic violence programs around the country did not focus on suburban populations. To fill this gap of service provision, JFSA agreed to seek funding and house a family violence prevention program designed to provide comprehensive, integrated domestic violence services tailored to meet the specific cultural, religious and socio-economic needs of suburban families.

Based in a multi-service mental health agency enables us to offer victims, perpetrators, and their families' total wrap-around services. Domestic violence is not just about violence but about the powerlessness and lack of control felt by both the perpetrators and victims. These issues do not occur in isolation. To break the cycle of violence, other issues such as substance abuse, unemployment, lack of coping skills, and other mental health issues must also be addressed. JFSA has a broad continuum of services to support our domestic violence work, including counseling, career counseling, resettlement services, and services to the elderly, people with mental illness, and people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities; all populations affected by domestic violence. In addition, victims of domestic violence are identified when they come in for other services, often before they identify
themselves as victims. As a result, we are able to begin helping families before they are in crisis and in need of emergency medical care or shelter. From the beginning to the “end” of the process, JFSA offers comprehensive services to victims and their families from a 24-hour family abuse hotline, emergency and short-term housing, individual and group counseling, case management, financial assistance, legal assistance, and vocational assistance.

Our programs also specifically target breaking the cycle of abuse. In 1998, we began offering Art therapy sessions for children in grades K-8 who have witnessed and experienced domestic violence. Themes that have emerged from these sessions include: fear, anger, anxiety, depression, behavioral problems and learning problems. The art activities give focused expression to the feelings of the children making them accessible to clinical interventions. Children exposed to violence must be able to speak openly with a sympathetic adult about their fears and concerns, and also, ideally, have someone to intervene to improve the situation and advocate for them. Most children rely on one or both parents to provide nurturing support, but ongoing exposure to violence can hamper the parents’ abilities to meet these needs. An art therapy program integrated with counseling has proven to provide a powerful tool to help children recover from the trauma of domestic violence. It is hoped that through this healing that these children will not become victims or perpetrators of violence in their future.

In 2001, we took breaking the cycle of abuse a step further and launched a teen dating violence program. By partnering with local area schools, we use a dramatic presentation by high school students about teen dating violence to discuss in depth with students healthy relationships. We are taking this program further by developing and implementing a pilot program targeting 2 local high schools to create a school-based long-term healthy teen relationships program. The new school-based initiative will include a school-based task force comprised of students, faculty, school board representation and our staff. In our current work with schools, we do not have enough access to students to engender long-term social change. By empowering schools to develop their own school-based programming we can help foster interactive and interdisciplinary education with teens that raises their awareness of gender role stereotypes, demonstrating how these societal “norms” encourage and set the stage for teens to become and remain involved in abusive dating relationships.

In addition, our tremendously successful and innovative outreach to special populations makes it worthy of this prestigious award. From its inception Project Chai has focused on suburban areas typically neglected in domestic violence programs. However, we have gone the extra step to develop programs to address the unique needs of sub-populations in our community. Our outreach programs work to overcome the barriers which face Jewish Orthodox women, women from the Former Soviet Union, the elderly, and adolescents. Again, the program’s base in a larger multi-service organization that serves these populations has made these efforts highly successful. We have also adapted our programs to fit the needs of those with severe mental illness. In particular, we have adapted our 8 week “Overcoming Powerlessness” educational support group to meet the emotional and educational capacities of those with severe mental illness. This population is severely at-risk for abuse and exploitation.

3. Describe your program’s implementation.

In May of 1994, a Coalition on Domestic Violence in the Cleveland Jewish community was developed to address issues of domestic violence in suburban areas and the Jewish community specifically. The Coalition included representatives of the domestic violence treatment community and Jewish community. Members included the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, JFSA, Temple House, Jewish Women International, National Council on Jewish Women, and representatives from
synagogue social action committees. The coalition conducted a survey on domestic violence in the Jewish community and sponsored several small community awareness programs.

The results of the survey pointed to the need for comprehensive family violence services. In 1995, the Coalition's community education event attracted 550 people when only 100 were expected. These two events prompted the Coalition to create a task force to establish family violence services to suburban communities. In 1996, JFSA agreed to write proposals to fund its Family Violence Prevention Program – Project Chai, a three-year demonstration project to provide comprehensive family violence services to the Jewish and suburban communities. The services of Project Chai were deliberately crafted to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, barriers to getting help. We began from a perspective of meeting the unique religious, cultural, and socio-economic considerations of Jewish families and realized that many of these very concerns are also barriers for suburban families in general. When we examined the existing resources in the community, we further realized that all suburban families could benefit from the services we were creating for Project Chai.

In June 1996, funding was secured from the United Way Solution Area Fund, the Jewish Community Federation Endowment, and the True Mart Foundation. We then conducted our first volunteer training with 150 participants and established a 24-hour Family Violence Abuse line.

**What barriers did your organization have to overcome?**

Our primary barriers to establishing this program have been in correcting the misperception that abuse does not happen in the suburbs and in overcoming the denial and shame associated with abuse. Our society fosters an idealized vision of the family. Religious, cultural, and socio-economic factors magnify this idealized vision. These same dynamics are added barriers to women getting the help they need to overcome the devastation of abuse. These same factors also create barriers for programs reaching out to these women.

**How did you marshal the necessary resources for implementation?**

JFSA developed a master proposal for Project Chai as a demonstration project. Project Chai was originally funded through a variety of private foundations, United Way, and the Jewish Community federation.

4. **How do you know your program works? Please cite two examples.**

In our first year, we provided counseling, groups and case management to 13 families and assisted an additional 157 people on our hotline. By our third year, we served 241 people and helped an additional 222 on our hotline. We have experienced steady growth since then. From its inception in July 1996, we have served 1,026 people on our hotline, 30 families have utilized emergency housing, and 1,542 people have been served in counseling, case management and groups. In the fall of 2000, we conducted an updated survey to assess how our program was meeting the needs of the community. Our survey indicated that 81% of those who identified themselves as victims had, at some time, sought help for an abusive relationship. In the original survey on domestic violence conducted in 1995, only 45% of those who identified themselves as victims sought help. Although more work needs to be done, this demonstrates our success in helping remove barriers to seeking help. We also know our success through the personal triumphs we have witnessed and helped facilitate. The following is a case study of how our programs for special populations work together with our comprehensive service model.
Irina was a 31 year-old pregnant, disabled woman from the Former Soviet Union who went to the emergency room after being brutally beaten. She was given our number at the emergency room. Her husband was American and had threatened that if she tried to leave he would have her deported, so she was very reluctant to get help. The history of their relationship showed escalating violence and the hospital staff felt that Irina’s life was in danger. One of our case manager met Irina at the hospital. We were able to convince Irina to accept our help. Over the course of the next 9 months, Irina received safe housing through Project Chai, free legal services through our partnership with the Milton A. Kramer Family Law Clinic at Case Western Reserve University Law School, case management, financial assistance, and counseling and Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation training through JFSA’s Career Center. With the training Irina received she was able to secure a job as a pharmacist’s assistant. She and her baby are now living safely and completely self-supporting. Irina has represented our program at community presentations to give testimony that our services indeed saved her life.

5. Who are your key partners? What are their roles?

We have a significant relationship with the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic of Case Western Reserve University School of Law to provide vital legal services to families affected by violence. We work closely with emergency rooms of hospitals, in particular, Hillcrest Meridia health Systems and University Hospitals, who provide safe rooms for victims and their children.

We also are a part of a collaborative that includes The Domestic Violence Center (on the West side), Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, and Witness-Victim Service Center of Cuyahoga County. Through this collaborative, there is an inter-agency agreement that highlights how we work with one another to address gaps in service and increase the effective provision of services to victims of domestic violence throughout the Greater Cleveland area. This collaborative has provided education to hospitals and police departments as well as developed a hospital advocacy program and a joint shelter waiting list.

Because we also reach out to the special populations of the elderly and immigrants, we work closely with the International Services Center where we provide outreach and education and from whom we get referrals. We also work with the Elder Abuse Round Table with whom we collaborate in providing services and community education.

6. Could/should your program be replicated in other areas of the country? Why?

Project Chai could, should and has been replicated in other areas of the country. Project Chai is a model domestic violence program. The program offers total wrap-around services for domestic violence to include: 24-hour family abuse hotline for crisis intervention; individual counseling and support groups at JFSA and in neutral confidential sites; emergency and short-term housing to victims who require immediate safe havens; emergency financial assistance to cover a number of expenses (i.e., child care, transportation, relocation, etc.); case management to navigate the maze of social service, legal, medical, vocational and welfare systems; community education and outreach; and referral services for legal, medical, vocational, educational and/or financial services that are important components for empowering victims to become and remain self-sufficient and violence free.

In addition, we have focused on breaking the cycle of violence with our powerful art therapy counseling programs for children grades K-8 who have lived with or experienced violence. We have continued the work with middle and high school children through our teen dating violence initiative.
Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland  
PROJECT CHAI PROGRAM BUDGET  
2002-2003  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Salary</td>
<td>$133,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits (includes social security, Medicare, unemployment, retirement, healthcare, &amp; worker's comp)</td>
<td>$24,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractors</td>
<td>$3,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff recruitment fees (position advertisements)</td>
<td>$2,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>$74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies (office, art, and other supplies)</td>
<td>$1,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Advertising (printing, ads, etc.)</td>
<td>$2,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food (for groups, workshops, etc.)</td>
<td>$407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone (for hotline/cellular &amp; landlines)</td>
<td>$5,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel (mileage at $0.375/mile and other travel costs)</td>
<td>$2,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff development/Training</td>
<td>$1,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Financial Assistance (provides clients with monetary support for a variety of needs to include rent, clothing, transportation, childcare, etc.)</td>
<td>$11,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues &amp; membership</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous expense</td>
<td>$274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative overhead allocation</td>
<td>$37,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$227,238</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Is your 24-hour Family Abuse line tied to the shelter? Police? How do you handle emergency calls?

One of the needs we outlined earlier that is unique to suburban victims is an adverse response to going to an urban based shelter that keeps them from seeking help. Therefore, our 24-hour Family Abuse line is not tied to a shelter. Instead, Project Chai has arrangements with area hotels to provide emergency residential "shelter". For families needing "shelter" for more than a few days we have arrangements with several apartment complexes to have furnished apartments available which our clients can live in, rent free, for up to six months, so long as they are receiving services from our program. These arrangements are facilitated by the Project Chai Coordinator who answers all hotline calls.

The hotline is also not tied to the police. When calls of an emergency nature are made to the Hotline, the Coordinator assesses the level of danger, helps the caller with safety planning, makes referral to services within our program or to other appropriate community services, and will directly contact police or ambulance services when necessary. If any call or situation warrants police involvement our Coordinator or client advocate/case manager will accompany the caller to the police station and/or hospital ER.

* Do you conduct perpetrator treatment? If so, is this court-ordered or voluntary? How do you address safety issues and confidentiality issues if the victim is also a client?

While Project Chai does offer anger management groups for men and for women, we do not offer batterers treatment. Since our program was developed as a grassroots effort to meet gaps in service provision, we work closely in partnership with the Domestic Violence Center (DVC) in an effort to not duplicate services and to enhance existing services. Our 4 week "Learning to Express Your Anger" group for men is co-sponsored by JFSA and the DVC and co-facilitated by one of our staff members and by a staff member from the DVC's Batterers Treatment Program.

Clients who are voluntary and/or court ordered for anger management are screened through an intake process via the telephone. Callers are screened for appropriateness, including but not limited to identification of the referral source, verbal contact with the referral source once verbal permission is granted or any other collateral contact deemed necessary by the facilitators, nature of offense (Any incident involving physical violence with a current or former partner is not acceptable in this particular group), accessibility, and ability to pay program fees. For those clients who do not meet criteria to attend this group, a referral to an appropriate agency is given.

As a prerequisite to group participation in anger management, clients are required to sign a partner release of information statement giving permission for the facilitators to speak with victim and/or the client's current partner, wife, girlfriend, live-in significant other, or any household member deemed necessary by the facilitators. If the client refuses to authorize this contact, he will not be eligible to attend the group. The partner release is an extremely important form as it protects a partner's safety in the home if violence is occurring. A partner can disclose to the facilitator in confidence that she is being abused when her partner may not be disclosing what is really going on in the home. For the safety and confidentiality of clients who are victims and clients who are perpetrators these services are offered on different days.

* For teens who take part in your dating violence program, how is follow-up accomplished? Has there been any pre- and post-evaluation of this program?

When a teen is identified as at risk, the teen outreach worker follows-up with teachers and guidance counselors to make appropriate referrals to our agency and other appropriate organizations in the community. Ohio law provides that children over the age of 14 can seek professional mental health counseling without parental consent for up to six sessions over a one month period of time allowing us to work with teens in abusive relationships immediately. One of our clinical goals, however, is to help the teen bring the parents into the counseling process so that services can be provided beyond the one month period.
Follow-up from an educational perspective is provided on a school by school basis. Currently, Project Chai is working with three school districts towards the implementation of a school-based, long-term, progressive educational effort. It is our goal to expand our teen dating violence initiative to establish multi-year programming grades 9 through 12 so that educational “inoculations” are conducted.

Currently, a pre- and post-evaluation is conducted with every participant of every program conducted by the teen dating violence program. These results are compiled and examined for outcomes and impact on students to determine if educational objectives are being met and to evaluate the program. We hope longitudinal studies will be conducted to assess how student’s beliefs, thoughts and actions have evolved via involvement in our school-based program once established.

In addition, we have established evaluative tools to assess the efficacy of all Project Chai programs using our agency’s “outcomes” department, customized surveys, existing materials and anecdotal information. JFSA also has an established outcomes management program designed to be in compliance with the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, The Council on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities, the local County Mental Health Board and the Ohio Department of Human Services.

- How do you get referrals for children who receive art therapy?

All of the children participating in our art therapy program have mothers who are also our clients. The children of women who attend our “Overcoming Powerlessness: Relationships and You” workshops and our on-going domestic violence support groups attend the art therapy program at concurrent times. Rather than simply providing child care, the art therapy groups provide a powerful therapeutic intervention for the children. Children who are identified as needing further therapeutic intervention are referred to our child treatment specialist in our counseling department.

- You refer to expanding your program to mentally ill victims. How many have been identified?

After identifying six women from consults with Ascentia, JFSA’s program of housing and supportive services for people with severe mental illness, we began an “Overcoming Powerlessness” group for severely mentally ill women in March 2003. Since that time a total of 15 women have participated in the group. “Overcoming Powerlessness” is an 8 week psycho-educational domestic violence support group. Because of the cognitive and emotional challenges of this special population, it has taken 9 months to get through just 6 weeks of the “Overcoming Powerlessness” curriculum.

- Please explain further your relationship with the law school. Do they assist victims with civil and/or criminal cases?

Since the establishment of Project Chai in 1996, the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic of the Case Western Reserve University Law School has been providing legal services to the degree they were able depending on the availability of students and staff. Over the years, we have been able to obtain funding, primarily from the Altia Doors of Hope program, to create a combined program of legal advocacy and legal services. Project Chai has a legal advocate/case manager trained in legal issues who assists our clients in negotiating all aspects of the justice system. The Law Clinic provides legal services through students and/or a law fellow who is dedicated to serving our clients. The Law Clinic provides services for both civil and criminal cases to include protection orders, legal separation, distribution of property, divorce, child custody, child support and victims who have been charged as perpetrators.
* Describe the “special needs” of suburban victims. How do their needs differ from other populations?

One of the greatest barriers that all domestic violence programs must overcome is the amount of denial that occurs around family violence. In suburban communities, however, this denial is especially strong. People often settle in suburban areas to escape or to avoid the perceived violence of the city. It is difficult for families in suburban communities to face the harsh reality that violence exists in their neighborhood, much less in their own families.

The stereotypes of abused women and batterers portrayed in the media exacerbate the amount of denial that women in suburban communities experience. These misconceptions lead people to believe that only low-income, uneducated women are victims of this crime and that only uneducated, low-income men would perpetrate abuse. Women in suburban communities who are abused by men, who are well respected businessmen and professionals, fear that no one from the police to even their friends or family will believe them. Because suburban families often have the “perfect life”: a nice home, two cars, children, and money in the bank, the level of self-denial that exists in most victims is higher as the abusive treatment seems like an anomaly to their “perfect” existence.

In contrast to women with fewer resources who may be more willing to seek help, women with more means tend to seek help for the symptoms of abuse rather than for the abuse itself seeing a psychiatrist or their private physician. These professionals, like others in the community, are often not attuned to domestic violence as the cause of their depression or injuries as these women are practiced at covering up the abuse. In addition, women are afraid to leave their home and risk losing their comfortable lifestyle and their children. Leaving the abusive situation often means reducing their lifestyle, possibly even living on welfare, a grim reality that many women are unwilling to face.

In Cleveland, the shelter-based, domestic violence service provider is located in the inner city on the West side. We have found that women from the suburbs are often afraid to go into the inner city by themselves or with their children. They also are unwilling to uproot their children from their home environment to a shelter-based service. Therefore, Project Chai provides emergency and short-term housing having created a network of confidential placement sites with local area hotels and apartment complexes.

Some women particularly in more affluent suburban communities are also well-known in the community and social circles. They fear the social stigma attached to being an abused women creating an additional barrier. To overcome this, Project Chai provides anonymous assistance through our 24-hour family abuse hotline. Because we are a mental health, human service organization with a broad base of services, victims can also come to us under the guise of seeking one of our other services. In fact, victims often present to other departments for depression, marriage counseling, or with a child with whom they are experiencing difficulty. With family violence as an integrated program of our agency, JFSA staff can quickly determine the presence of abusive and/or violent behaviors and connect them to our family violence services providing a seamless continuum of service.

In addition, the isolation victims often experience as a result of the controlling behavior of their partner is more intense and more difficult to overcome in the suburbs. Homes in urban areas are by nature, as row houses, condos, or apartments, in closer proximity to each other. Even single family homes are positioned closely together as lots are small compared to homes in suburban communities. Because homes in suburban communities have more land and are situated further apart than in urban settings, the potential for neighbors to witness or overhear the occurrence of violence and abuse is far less likely. It is entirely possible for next door neighbors in the suburbs to assume that families that are isolative simply are busy or keep to themselves and have no knowledge of any problems in the family. Indeed, high profile cases of domestic violence are shocking to the larger community as the couples involved were thought to have an idyllic relationship.
Our unique program is a part of a large multi-service family agency. As a result, we have a broad continuum of services to support the domestic violence work, including counseling, career counseling, resettlement services, and services to the elderly, mentally ill and disabled. This model allows us to serve the needs of others superfluously removing barriers that allow clients to obtain the services they need quickly and easily.

We have consulted with other organizations and agencies on how to create a similar program and participated on panels to inform others of our work. We would welcome the opportunity to expand these efforts.
Celebrating Solutions Awards
Mary Byron Foundation, Inc.
10401 Linn Station, Suite 200
Louisville, KY 40233-3823

February 23, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write in support of JFSA Project Chai. The domestic violence services provided by Project Chai are uniformly excellent and fill a much-needed gap in our community that reaches suburban women and children who face shame and stigma in coming forward to access help for their families.

The holistic model employed by Project Chai offers families many service options and insures that battered women can easily access whatever resource they may need without having to locate and establish relationships with numerous social service agencies.

Project Chai is also a leader in the Cleveland community in matters of prevention. The excellent "Expect Respect" project is an extraordinary vehicle for raising awareness and reaching adolescents who, as they begin the process of entering relationships, desperately need information presented in a manner that honors their unique developmental stage.

It has been our privilege to have a long-standing collaboration with Project Chai and we look forward to celebrating recognition for their hard work.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Cathleen Alexander, Executive Director
February 23, 2004

Re: Project Chai

To The Mary Byron Foundation:

I am writing in support of Jewish Family Service Association’s Project Chai and its nomination for the Celebrating Solutions Award Program. As the Co-Director of the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center at Case Western Reserve University School of Law I have often had the opportunity to work closely with Project Chai. In our Clinic Center third year law students, working as interns under the supervision of faculty, represent victims of domestic violence. We both refer clients to Project Chai and accept referrals from Project Chai.

Project Chai offers its clients the most complete and most notable array of services available in greater Cleveland. Whether responding to an emergency call from a hospital, an individual or the police, the Project Chai staff is ready to provide the highest quality intervention. Project Chai services have enabled families to make profound changes in their lives. Several of my clients have been provided shelter, are in ongoing support groups, individual counseling and have their children participating in art therapy. Professional staff from Project Chai accompany our clients to court and have testified as experts to educate judges about Domestic Violence. Project Chai has succeeded in designing a program that meets the multiple needs of the entire family. Its services are accessible to families from the suburbs or from the city. Their focus on individual case management has meant that each family’s needs are assessed. There is no single program available through Project Chai rather there are as many programs as there are families in need. In particular, this approach has enabled Project Chai to meet the needs of families living outside of the city in the suburbs.

During the past 12 months the Kramer Clinic and Project Chai have worked even more closely together to serve the needs of victims of violence within the family. Altria Doors of Hope Foundation has recognized our innovation in the area of service to victims of domestic violence by funding our partnership. This funding has made it possible for us to provide legal assistance to Project Chai’s clients in both the domestic relations and criminal arenas. Our representation is coordinated with the work of the other dedicated professionals at Jewish Family Service. We are able to represent clients throughout the legal process. We do not just address emergency needs but are able to stay with our clients for the long haul as they sort out the myriad issues that can arise when there is intimate violence.
Our clinical program has the dual goals of education and service and our collaboration with Project Chai furthers both goals. The Doors of Hope funding makes it possible to model the highest quality collaborative practice in our work with Project Chai. This multi-disciplinary practice model provides clients in both programs with coordinated, consistent services.

Project Chai is exceptional in its design and in its implementation. This is a program that addresses the multiple needs of families confronting intimate violence, regardless of their financial status, ethnicity or religion. All services are provided with skill and sensitivity. Project Chai is an invaluable resource in the Cleveland community. The Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center will continue its participation in the Project Chai program. We endorse and support the work of Project Chai and its nomination for the Celebrating Solutions Award Program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Judith Lipton, Co-Director
Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center
February 19, 2004

Celebration Solutions Awards  
Mary Byron Foundation, Inc.  
10401 Lim Station, Suite 200  
Louisville, KY 40233-3823

RE: Support letter for Jewish Family Service Association’s Project Chai: Family Violence Program

Dear Awards Committee,

Altria has proudly funded JFSA’s Project Chai: Family Violence Program since 1999, through extremely competitive application cycles (see history detailed on Page 2.) Additionally, we have send representatives to meet with the Project Chai staff and have had the privilege of presenting domestic violence workshops at the same conference this past July at the Jewish Women’s International “Call to Justice” International conference on Domestic Violence. Over the years, this program has consistently proven to be, by far, one of the best domestic violence service providers in the nation. We fully support their nomination to be the 2004 recipient of the Mary Byron Foundation Celebrating Solutions Awards.

Altria Group, Inc. is the parent company of Kraft Foods, Philip Morris International, Philip Morris USA and Philip Morris Capital Corporation. Building upon the more than 45-year history of our companies’ contributions in such important areas as hunger, domestic violence, the arts, AIDS, and humanitarian aid, in 2003 the Altria family of companies donated nearly $200 million in cash and in-kind contributions to feed the hungry, help survivors of domestic violence, support the arts, and assist with disaster relief and other worthy causes.

Established in 1998, the Altria Doors of Hope Program is a grantmaking initiative conducted in partnership with the National Network to End Domestic Violence Fund. This highly competitive initiative awards grants to domestic violence service providers across the United States who demonstrate excellence, innovation, and leadership in the provision of shelter and legal advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence. These grants strengthen the safety net available to survivors and raises awareness about the issue and services available.

As a funder we review over a thousand requests each year, and have the opportunity to learn about local agencies and programs that represent the highest standards of service provision and most extensive depth of program innovation and creativity. Jewish Family Service Association’s Project Chai: Family Violence Program exemplifies the best of the best.
History with JFSA’s Project Chai: Family Violence Program

➢ In our 1999 funding cycle we received over 630 proposals and funded 125 of those applicants. JFSA’s Project Chai: Family Violence Program demonstrated the true spirit of quality services from domestic violence programs around the county. It was their specialized domestic violence education outreach services to immigrant, refugees and Orthodox Jews that earned this distinction and our funding at that time.

➢ Again, in our 2001 funding cycle, JFSA’s Project Chai was one of 70 service providers across the U.S., out of 450 applications, to receive funding. That time we supported their teen dating violence prevention initiative which was a first time effort in the greater Cleveland area.

➢ And, in 2002, we again recognized this program with a two-year grant for its partnership with the Case Western Reserve University Law School Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic. Our funding supports a legal fellowship that provides a lawyer to meet the civil and criminal legal needs of Project Chai’s clients. In our 2002 funding cycle we reviewed 660 applications and selected Project Chai to be among the 100 programs funded nationwide.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you wish to discuss the exemplary work of this organization. I can be reached at 917-663-2817.

Regards,

John L. Barnes
Manager, Contributions