

From soup kitchen to 40 programs

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Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS) celebrated its 150th Anniversary Gala on June 28 at the Chicago Hilton Towers. Over 400 guests raised \$260,000.

The gala offered frequent reunions among the guests, while an auctioneer interjected humor as he inspired people to bid (fund) various JCFS programs.

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(Photo by Benjamin Lapid)

Jewish Child and Family Services 150th Anniversary Gala: Lisa and Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) Board member Bruce Goldman of Northbrook attended the JCFS 150th Anniversary Gala on June 28 at the Chicago Hilton Towers. The gala offered frequent reunions among the guests, while an auctioneer interjected humor as he inspired people to bid (fund) various JCFS programs.

PHOTO GALLERY



• [Trend setting \(9/3\)](#)

Humble beginnings

JCFS began as a soup kitchen in 1859, serving 200 people daily. Over the years services grew and shifted to meet the needs of the community.

Today, nearly 4,000 children, teens and adults receive services through one of JCFS' 40 programs. There are 11 locations throughout metro Chicago, including Skokie and Northbrook.

Honoree

Long-time agency supporter Illinois State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz bestowed on Dr. Robert R. Bloom of Highland Park, JCFS retiring executive director, a formal House Resolution Number 497, which honors his many achievements.

As executive director, Bloom drew upon his experience as a teacher, therapist, consultant and program director. His lifelong commitment to do "whatever it takes to save a child" led to the establishment of several innovative programs to provide at-risk children with the services they need to thrive and succeed.

Innovative programs

Highlights of his achievements include creating the Respite program that provides relief to caregivers of children and adults with disabilities and launching a preschool/early elementary school for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Northbrook.

Bloom has had a long academic teaching career and published widely on topics such as the management of residential treatment centers.

Before coming to JCFS, he was chairman of special education at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, where he developed the nation's first special education program that included working with families of children with disabilities.

Bloom integrated his experience as the director of residential treatment at Bellefaire/JCB in Cleveland and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as a disabilities consultant to the White House Conference on Families.