

JFS honored by Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

Jewish Family Services has been awarded the 2015 Distinguished Merit Citation by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. JFS was nominated based on a long history of promoting humanitarian ideals through service to the greater Richmond community and our collaborations with other organizations in the area.

One hundred sixty-five years ago in Richmond, a small group of dedicated Jewish women formed the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association, a group dedicated to helping those who needed it most. On a higher level, they wanted to grow their mission of Tikkun Olam. The Jewish philosophy of Tikkun Olam, or “repairing

the world” one person at a time, has guided JFS from its earliest days to today as the organization continues to meet changing needs in the community through compassionate service. Beyond helping individuals and families overcome life’s challenges, JFS works to provide service that addresses the deeper humanitarian issues the community faces and enact long-term, deep change. Whether finding families for orphans displaced by the Civil War, working with Jewish refugees in the aftermath of World War II through the Cold War, or counseling runaway youth and Veterans in the 70s at the Daily Planet, JFS has always addressed immediate needs while setting the

stage for a brighter future.

Today, JFS continues a long history of humanitarianism in the community that is carried out by helping those who need it most. JFS is a lifeline to those it helps, serving many individuals other organizations will not accept, including low income clients and the underserved. Throughout its history, JFS has tackled “big” issues facing the community, such as an aging population, LGBTQ adoptions or social and mental health needs of special-needs individuals. Ultimately, its day-to-day impact can be felt through dedicated service to individuals and families, treating them with care and compassion. Tikkun

Olam is the driving force behind its work and the support, advocacy and resources JFS provides clients with makes a real impact.

VCIC is a long-standing organization that promotes understanding and tolerance between different groups to encourage an inclusive and open community. Like VCIC, JFS strives to make a positive community impact by delivering high-quality and compassionate care for clients, regardless of background. The award honors local corporations or organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic, and

religious backgrounds along with their efforts in making Virginia’s communities more inclusive. Past recipients include CarMax, Virginia Historical Society, Virginia Holocaust Museum and Bon Secours Richmond Health System.

The 53rd Annual Richmond Humanitarian Awards Dinner will be held Thursday, Oct. 29 at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump. JFS will receive its award during the evening’s presentations and hopes community members will attend and help celebrate this prestigious recognition.

For sponsorship and ticket information visit: <http://www.inclusiveva.org/>.