Sources: Guide to Services for People with Disabilities within the Jewish Community (www.acaje.org), organization websites, publications, interviews.

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A SAMPLING OF JEWISH DISABILITY RESOURCES- AUGUST 2011

SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

JEWS FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICE- PHILADELPHIA
http://www.jfcsphilly.org
2100 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
P: 267.256.2100
F: 267.256.2119

• Social Skills Groups for Children, Teens, and Adults - Individuals practice and develop social skills in a supportive group setting and increase their confidence and security when making connections to others.
• The Network - High functioning individuals can make new friends while participating in monthly community-based, culturally enriching outings.
• SPICE (Social, Peer, Interaction, Community, Education) - Individuals can improve social skills and life skills while making friends and having fun.
• Gam Yahad - Individuals can feel a sense of community when celebrating holidays together in a synagogue setting with family members.
• B’Side (Brodsky Support For Independence, Development and Enrichment for Adults with Special Needs) - Supports and empowers families, through prevention and intervention, by creating and implementing individualized, holistic plans for families through each stage in the life cycle.

ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (ADD)
http://www.addpa.org
261 Old York Road, Suite A-50
Jenkintown, PA 19046
P: 215.886.9990
F: 215.886.6818

• ADD believes that social interaction is at the heart of the human experience. Their goal is to enrich the lives of members –giving them a place to meet and make new friends. Their program is non-denominational but many of their clients are involved in the Jewish community.

CELEBRATIONS- MISHKAN SHALOM
http://mishkan.org/celebrations
4101 Freeland Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19128
(215) 508-0226
office@mishkan.org
• **Celebrations!** is a family education workshop designed to create the opportunity for families of children with disabilities to experience Shabbat together. The program is designed for students who have cognitive, learning or developmental disorders, including but not limited to autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy and Down Syndrome.

**S.I.M.C.H.A.- SPECIAL INDIVIDUALS MEETING CHALLENGES WITH HEARTWARMING ACTIVITIES**
Shir Ami-Bucks County Jewish Congregation
101 Richboro Road
Newtown, PA 18940
P: 215.968.3400

• **S.I.M.C.H.A** provides support for Jewish special needs children and their families with monthly Shabbat programs. It also offers a summer youth group for teens. Services are available in Mercer, Bucks, and Montgomery counties.

**JEVS COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE**
[www.jevshumanservices.org](http://www.jevshumanservices.org)
5521 Wayne Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19114
P: 215.884.7700
F: 215.848.7715

• **JEVS Community Collaborative** offers participants with cognitive disabilities a wide range of community-based activities that are recreational, social and cultural in nature. It also encourages participation and involvement in everyday life in the community.

• **JEVS Community Living and Home Support** provides residential services to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. Families provide loving, supportive homes to program participants in the Life Sharing Through Family Living Program, while the In-Home Supports Program provides personal assistance and other supportive services to consumers living with their biological families.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE INTERNATIONAL**

• **The Friendship Circle** is a Jewish organization for children with special needs. Its goal is to cultivate friendships between special children and teen volunteers.

25 North St 754 South 9th Street 103B Kingston Terrace Dr.
Newtown, PA 18940 Philadelphia, PA 19147 Princeton, NJ 08540
Phone: 215-497-9925 Phone: 215-574-1765 Phone: 609-683-7240
**JCC KAISERMAN CAMP**  
http://www.phillyjcc.com  
610.896.7770 3

- The **Mildred Lasch Special Needs Inclusion Program** is tailored to support and facilitate social development and peer interaction, along with athletic and creative skills in a fun and nurturing environment. This program is designed for children who have IEPs.

**TIKVAH FAMILY CAMP**  
tikvah@ramahpoconos.org  
2618 Upper Woods Rd.  
Lakewood, PA 18439  
P: 570.798.2504

- **Tikvah Family Camp** provides Jewish children with developmental disorders and/or social learning disorders, their parents, and their siblings the unique opportunity to experience the magic of Jewish summer camp. The 5-day overnight program incorporates Jewish learning, recreation, spiritual reflection, and plain-old-fun in the beautiful natural environment of Camp Ramah in the Poconos.

**TIKVAH/ADVOCATES FOR THE JEWISH MENTALLY ILL**  
2100 Arch St.-7th floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215.832.0671  
tikvahajmi@philadelphiafederation.org

- **Tikvah** is an organization designed for adults living with mental illness. Under the auspices of the Advocates for the Mentally Ill, it provides social and vocational programs with a Jewish theme.

**JCHAI (JUDITH CREED HOMES FOR ADULT INDEPENDENCE)**  
http://www.jchai.org/  
21 Bala Avenue, Suite 100  
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
610-667-7875  
610-667-7882 (fax)  
questions@jchai.org

- **Judith Creed Homes for Adult Independence (JCHAI)** is a non-profit organization that gives much needed support to Philadelphia area adults with special needs, including people with developmental disabilities, brain injury and autism.  
- **JCHAI AT HOME** is a service tailored to each individual’s needs and interests. This can include home management issues, participation in community-based activities, enhancing social skills, involvement in social activities, counseling, and collaboration with family members.
• **Group Homes**-each group home accommodates six residents, and each house incorporates a sense of Jewish identity. This includes weekly Shabbat dinners, holiday activities, and maintaining a kosher environment.

• **Apartment Program**- an apartment program based in the Presidential City Apartments in Philadelphia is designed for individuals who can primarily live independently, but who may need some additional support in daily living skills. Shabbat dinner is held communally each Friday night for those who are interested, and life in the apartments encourages community, independence and mutual support.

HEBREW ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
Rose Olanoff Community Center
8027 Castor Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19152
P: 215-672-5804 (V/TTY)
F: 215-672-7418
RGBalsam@juno.com

• The **Hebrew Association of the Deaf** offers social and recreational programs for the deaf and hearing-impaired, including religious observances, Shabbat and High Holiday services.

SAMOST JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICE- SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY
1301 Springdale Road, Suite 150
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Phone: 856-424-1333
http://www.jfcssnj.org/

• **Sibshops**- Sibshops is an exciting program for brothers and sisters of children with special needs. Throughout their lives, brothers and sisters will share many - if not most - of the same concerns that parents of children with special needs experience, as well as issues that are uniquely theirs.

• **SAIL Program**- SAIL (Supports to Achieve Independent Living) is a program with a mission to provide activities for individuals with special needs. The SAIL Program provides a variety of social and recreational activities and life skills supports. It is designed for young adults who have graduated from high school, are able to work competitively in the community, have the ability to live independently now or in the future, and are open to meeting new friends and having fun!

• **Senior Services** are offered to senior adults with disabilities, such as brain injury, dementia and physical disabilities. Social and recreational programs as well as meals are offered at the JCC, and an “aging in place” program provides home health services and geriatric case management.

KATZ JCC-CHERRY HILL, NJ
http://www.katzjcc.org/special-needs.php
1301 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Phone (856) 424-4444
Fax: (856) 751-6804
• **ACHaD program** (Achieving Community Hopes and Dreams)- The Katz JCC in Cherry Hill serves individuals with special needs from children through elderly adults. Their resources enhance the social, emotional, and physical development of participants through supportive special needs programs and activities that facilitate a sense of empowerment and independence. Programs include school age member programs (ACHaD Crew, Connect, Squad), community and holiday celebrations, social and recreational programs for adults 21+, sports for special needs, and summer camp.

• **Open Hearts/Open Doors camp program**- this program provides accommodations in order for children with disabilities to participate fully with age-appropriate peers in the JCC Camps at Medford and the Kindercamp program in Cherry Hill. Integrated within camp, an “advocate” counselor helps each child fully maximize his/her experience. The ultimate mission of Open Hearts/Open Doors program is to provide the opportunity for children with disabilities to become successful and welcomed members of the JCC Camps community.

• **Holiday Celebrations**- In cooperation with the JFCS Developmental Disabilities Program, the JCC offers programs to bring individuals and families together for Jewish holiday celebrations.

**JEWSH FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICE OF GREATER MERCER COUNTY, NJ**

Phone:(609) 987-8100  
1-877-408-JFCS (5327)  
Fax:(609) 987-0574  
707 Alexander Road, Suite 102  
Princeton, NJ 08540-6331  
info@jfcsonline.org  
[http://www.jfcsonline.org](http://www.jfcsonline.org)

• **Sibshop** for siblings of special needs children. This program helps siblings deal with the inevitable issues that arise when a family member has a disability.

• **JFCS** collaborates with area congregations to support the specific needs of each Jewish community as congregations welcome individuals with disabilities and become inclusive communities.

• **Shabbat programs** are offered to bring individuals and families together for Shabbat celebrations.

• **Social Skills Group** – this program is available during the school year to individuals with social skill needs, particularly those with Asperger’s Syndrome.

• **Hand in Hand** is a program initiated by parents in the community and members of the JFCS Special Needs Task Force who are looking for support for the inclusion of all people with special needs into the life of the general and Jewish communities. Their goal is to provide information and referral, parent workshops, individual and family counseling, support groups for parents and siblings and socialization groups for children.

• **Carousel Program**- social and recreational program for teens and young adults with special needs. This program is operated in conjunction with the JCC Princeton Mercer Bucks, a center with many walls. The JCC can be reached at [www.jcctoday.org](http://www.jcctoday.org). P: 609-219-9550.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS- PRE-SCHOOL

AUERBACH CENTRAL AGENCY FOR JEWISH EDUCATION
Mandell Education Campus
7607 Old York Road
Melrose Park, PA 19027
215-635-8940,
dgettes@acaje.org

- ACAJE Special Needs Department provides all congregations with consultative services regarding special needs so that most preschool programs in the Delaware Valley are able to provide appropriate accommodations and services for children with special needs.

ADATH JESHURUN SINAI PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
7763 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA 19027
215-635-3490
http://adathjeshurun.infor/preschool/sinai.html

- The SINAI Class is a special needs preschool classroom for identified children with mild to moderate delays in language development, attention, and/or motor skills. The curriculum focuses on the development of language and social skills. Sensory integration issues, and fine and gross motor delays are also addressed in the classroom.

BETH HILLEL-BETH EL PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
1001 Remington Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096
610-649-2277, ext. 212
www.TBHBE.org

- Bright Horizons. Bright Horizons is a social language class for ages 3-5 with developmental delays in speech, language, motor skills and attention. The staff includes a speech pathologist, assistant teachers, a consulting psychologist, a music teacher and a creative movement specialist. Children join in with the school community for Shabbat, holidays and special events.

- Let’s Play: Let’s Play is an enrichment program designed to enhance and develop the social skills of preschoolers within a nurturing and caring atmosphere. Through direct instruction, modeling and practice within a fun-loving and supportive environment, Let’s Play helps build socially competent children who are caring, respectful, responsible and confident.

FEDERATION EARLY LEARNING SERVICES
Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Campus
10700 Jamison Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19116
215-676-7550 ext. 104
Fax: 215-676-9498
www.FelsKids.org
• **Federation Early Learning Services** enrolls children with a wide range of special needs. A Child Development Specialist (a licensed occupational therapist), is available to collaborate with teachers and parents and, when appropriate, with early intervention service providers, so the child can work towards goals on IFSP/IEP. The overall aim is the successful integration of the child with special needs into the typical classroom setting.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS-SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOLS

**AUERBACH CENTRAL AGENCY FOR JEWISH EDUCATION**
Mandell Education Campus
7607 Old York Road
Melrose Park, PA 19027
215-635-8940,
dgettes@acaje.org

• **ACAJE** professionals consult with rabbis, educational directors, teachers and concerned lay people to initiate and/or enhance special education programs. They assist schools in determining appropriate programs, assessing and adapting available materials, and evaluating and updating teaching methods in light of the needs of each school’s particular population.

**HAR ZION MADREGOT “STEPS” SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM**
The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School
Har Zion Temple
1500 Hagys Ford Road
Penn Valley, PA 19027
610-667-5000 x114
http://www.harziontemple.org/madregot.php

• **Madregot**, the special needs program of The Jane Fishman Grinberg Religious School, is a warm, nurturing Jewish learning environment dedicated to children with learning and physical differences in grades K-12, with a special Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coordination Program. Each child is encouraged to maximize his or her learning potential and is instilled with a lifelong love of Judaism. The children learn about Jewish holidays, Israel, and the Hebrew language in a fun and creative atmosphere. Some children benefit from a self-contained classroom, while others are partially or completely mainstreamed with support. Their needs are varied, but we are committed to engage every child and help them to live a meaningful Jewish life.

**AMANDA SHAM RESOURCE CENTER**
Old York Road Temple Beth Am Religious School
971 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-886-8000
www.oyrtbetham.org
• The Amanda Sham Resource Center for children with special needs is designed to provide educational services to children with learning differences. Through this regionally acclaimed program, children receive the support necessary to allow them to participate fully in our religious school.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY CLASSROOMS
Kehillah of Bux-Mont Office
215-646-4500

• Self-contained classrooms for children with moderate to severe disabilities. Instruction is individualized according to the instructional and IEP needs of the learner.

CHESTER COUNTY AREA SPECIAL-NEEDS JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
Kesher Israel Congregation
1000 Pottstown Pike
West Chester, PA 19380
610-636-7210
http://kesher-israel.org
shalom@kesher-israel.org

• Haverim B’Simcha and Kolot B’Simcha: Two supplementary religious school programs for people with special needs who live in Chester County.

OLD YORK ROAD TEMPLE BETH AM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
971 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001
215-886-8000
www.oyrtbetham.org

• Resource Center for special needs. Children receive the necessary support to allow them to participate fully in the religious school.

ON EAGLES’ WINGS
http://booktobimah.com

• On Eagle’s Wings presents and produces innovative resources, tools, and support for special needs children approaching their b’nai mitzvah.
• **JCHS Special Needs Programs** provide opportunities for strengthening of Jewish identity; furthering connections with Israel and the Jewish community; understanding the rituals and traditions associated with the Jewish holidays; offering emotional support during difficult life experiences; building a supportive community of friends, and fostering the strengthening of self-concepts.

• **Mainstreaming/Inclusion at Jewish Community High School**: working as a team with parents, students and teachers, we make sure that each student is provided with what he/she needs to make JCHS a meaningful educational experience. Curriculum may be modified, a part-time counselor is available, a resource room option is provided, and the Director of Special Needs and the counselor provide assistance to teachers. Students with more significant special needs are mainstreamed into the Food for Thought classes of the Service Learning and Leadership Institute.

• **Sunday AM Adult Jewish Education Program at JCHAI residences**: monthly program offering a comprehensive Jewish education for adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities, neurological impairments, and physical challenges.

• **Sunday Afternoon Adult Class**: Calendar-based monthly program which meets twice a month for older individuals with moderate to severe delays.

• **ATID (Advocacy, Transitions, Involvement, Development)**: ATID is a groundbreaking intergenerational inclusion program for typical teens paired with teens with special needs to interact with the senior residents of Sunrise Assisted Living in Dresher. ATID was created as a response to parents of teens with special needs who were constantly confronted with the challenge of finding opportunities for their son/daughter to socialize with other Jewish teens. This service learning experience strengthens the self-esteem of all the teen participants.

• **Inglis House**: Inglis House is a skilled nursing facility for adults with physical disabilities, often including multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy or spinal cord injury. Religious services and recreational programs provide an avenue for socialization and enrichment of their lives.

• **Elwyn**: Elwyn is a human services agency serving children and adults with a wide range of physical, developmental, and/or emotional disabilities as well as those who are disadvantaged. Our JCHS program takes place in their residential facility, and “Jewish Services” is a weekly program for the Jewish residents of Elwyn. Twice a month students from the JCHS Service Learning Program join together with the residents to participate in activities. Jewish holidays are celebrated together, and a chaplain provides pastoral care to the residents.

• **Kulana Chaverim- We are All Friends**: Woods Services is a residential facility in Langhorne for people with mental and/or physical challenges. JCHS students of the Service Learning and Leadership Institute interact with Woods Services residents in a variety of recreational settings. Opportunities are available for friendships and socialization throughout the year.
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS-DAY SCHOOLS

P’TACH
742 Argyle Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096
Phone: 215-477-7123
Fax: 215 477 4230
http://www.ptach.org

- P’TACH is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the best possible Jewish and secular education to children who have been disenfranchised because of learning differences. We believe every child has a right to learn. Every child can succeed and should be provided with the opportunity within a regular mainstream setting. To help realize this goal, P’TACH has taken the initiative to establish special classes and resource centers in conjunction with yeshivas and Jewish day schools throughout the United States, Canada and Israel. P’TACH utilizes these model programs as laboratories in the forefront of research and discovery on how children learn. These programs are then used as models for others to observe, study, and duplicate. Services include Resource Room, tutoring and self-contained classes.

OROT
604 Harper Avenue
Jenkintown, PA 19046
phone 215.935.0020
fax 215.517.4087
info@orotkids.org

- OROT is an organization which supports special needs education in Jewish day schools for those children whose needs cannot be met by a resource room. In conjunction with host schools, the target population is day school elementary and middle school aged children with severe learning disabilities, including Down syndrome, autistic spectrum disorders, significant behavioral disorders, ADD/ADHD and brain injuries. Typical children and those with special needs playing and learning together continue to foster a feeling of mutual respect. Host day schools include Perelman Jewish Day Schools: Forman Center, Stern Center, Saligman Middle School; Politz Hebrew Academy, and Torah Academy.

CAREER, VOCATIONAL, AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

SAMOST JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN’S SERVICE- SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY
Vocational Services
1301 Springdale Road, Suite 150
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
Phone: 856-424-1333
Fax: 856-424-7384
http://www.jfcssnj.org/
• **Situational Assessments** - Evaluates an individual's job skills at community-based job sites.

• **Job Development** - Seeks to match individuals with appropriate employment opportunities based on skills and interests.

• **Job Coaching** - Provides employment training to assist individuals with learning the skills of a new job and meeting employer expectations. Professional coaches work with clients.

• **Job Sampling** - Through arrangements with local school districts, JFCS offers various job sampling opportunities for students who will be transitioning from high school.

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**JEVS (JEWISH EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES)**

JEVS Human Services
330 West Chelten Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
P: 215-848-6000
www.jevshumanservices.org

• **JEVS Employment Network**: Offers participants with cognitive impairments a full continuum of opportunities related to work, such as pre-vocational training, transitional and volunteer activities, and competitive employment placements.

• **JEVS Work and Recovery Services**: Offers people with emotional, intellectual and physical disabilities the chance to move toward competitive employment and greater independence.

• **Career Strategies**: Offers the following services for individuals with learning differences and an interest in attending college: SAT and ACT tutoring, college admissions counseling, and financial aid advising.

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**INCLUSION**

**OLD YORK ROAD TEMPLE BETH AM**
971 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001
P: 215-886-8000
www.oyrtbetham.org

• **Old York Road Temple Beth Am** has initiated an active Congregational Inclusion Committee. Their commitment to inclusion includes wheelchair accessible sanctuary and bimah, educational programming for children with special learning needs, sign interpreted services on request, dial-in-service for Shabbat services, disability awareness programming, and “caring community” volunteers who reach out to congregants.

See Also:

**JEWISH INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE**
info@jfgp.org
215-832-0821
NATIONAL JEWISH DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

CHAI LIFELINE
http://chailifeline.org

- Through programs that address the emotional, social, and financial needs of seriously ill children, their families, and communities, Chai Lifeline restores normalcy to family life, and better enables families to withstand the crises and challenges of serious pediatric illness. Services Offered: camps, hospital services, counseling, educational assistance, activities and events, crisis intervention, trips and vacations, and community services.

COUNCIL FOR JEWS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
http://www.cjsn.org

- The Council for Jews with Special Needs is a non-profit organization founded in 1985 with the goal of providing programs, supports and resources to help all Jews with disabilities and their families fulfill their spiritual, cultural and religious needs. Programs and services Include: Support for inclusion in religious schools and Jewish camps; Family support groups and activities; Social groups for teens and adults with significant disabilities; Simchat Shabbat Services; Information and referral services ; Education forums; Speakers bureau and community education; Sign language interpreters; Newsletter and Adult residential services.

EMPOWERING JEWS WITH DISABILITIES
http://www.empoweringjewswithdisabilities.org

- This site was created because it is time for Jews with disabilities to be seen and heard. Our goal is to embrace a spirit where we can express ourselves freely, take a stand, be a part of a welcoming community, and rejoice in our strengths and abilities. We need to ask for help while striving for independence in whatever fashion we can attain for ourselves. We will support each other emotionally and spiritually through this site. This site will help create the tools we need to be our own advocates.

JBI LIBRARY
http://www.jbilibrary.org

- The JBI Library is an independent and free library for the visually impaired, blind, physically disabled and reading disabled that produces books of Jewish and general interest in Audio, Large Print and in Braille. The Library serves eligible individuals of all ages and backgrounds all over the world.

THE JEWISH DEAF RESOURCE CENTER
http://www.jdrc.org

- JDRC programs include: educating the wider Jewish community to increase awareness of Jewish Deaf individuals;; supporting and assisting Jewish Deaf individuals to navigate their relationship with the wider Jewish community; and increasing representation of Deaf individuals in Jewish communal leadership positions.
YAD HACHAZAKAH - THE JEWISH DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT CENTER (JDEC)
http://yad-jdec.org

• At Yad HaChazakah — The Jewish Disability Empowerment Center, Inc. we believe in you. We want to see you discover and use your personal strengths, abilities, and resources to take more control over the direction and quality of your life. We provide: Personal coaching; Peer networking and support; Advocacy and resource navigation; Topical workshops and Disability awareness and policy advisement.

YACHAD (NATIONAL JEWISH COUNCIL FOR DISABILITIES)

11 Broadway- 13th floor
New York, NY 10004
http://www.njcd.org

• Yachad is dedicated to addressing the needs of all individuals with disabilities and including them in the Jewish community. Programs include: summer programs, Our Way for the deaf and hearing impaired, IVDU schools, educational services, social skills training, job training and placement, and Taglit Birthright Israel.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR JEWISH HEALING
135 W. 50th St.- 6th floor
New York, NY 10020
info@ncjh.org
212-632-4500

• The National Center for Jewish Healing provides resources for individuals and professionals. Their goal is to help communities meet the spiritual needs of Jews living with illness, loss and significant life challenges. They offer consultation, resource material, publications, training, and referrals.

BAY AREA JEWISH HEALING CENTER
www.jewishhealingcenter.org/mental health.htm
415-750-4197

• The Bay Area Jewish Healing Center offers programs in: Mental Illness Outreach and Education; Torah Reflections; Mitzvah Havurah, a training and support program for volunteers in hospitals and senior facilities; and Kol Haneshama, a Jewish End of Life Care Program. A Clergy Packet is available for downloading.