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**THE LEGACY CONTINUES:
JVS GALA CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY, HONORS PAST PRESIDENTS**

In 1931, a small desk was set up to help Jewish refugees find work and help workers fight discrimination in the midst of what is now known as the Great Depression. That desk turned into an agency, the Federated Employment Bureau, which eventually became Jewish Vocational Service. Since then, JVS has helped hundreds of thousands of people find jobs, regain their self-respect and dignity, and support their families. On January 29, 2011, JVS celebrated the men and women presidents of its board who led the way to growing the agency to where it is today. Aptly titled "*The Legacy Continues, 80 years,*" the event was held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Stanley Dashew received the agency's Tzedakah Award. Keith Erickson, former L.A. Lakers, UCLA Bruins basketball star, and long-time CBS sports broadcaster, hosted the event.

With 500 guests and honorees in attendance, JVS exceeded their fundraising goal with a total of nearly \$840,000 in contributions. This achievement includes \$97,000 raised that night with an appeal made from the stage by Jack Suzar, Managing Director of Bel Air Investment Advisors LLC and a former JVS Board President.

Said Jack, "JVS and its life-changing mission is as current and necessary today as it was when it was founded. I'm honored to be involved."

When Ed Bastheim became the first President and Chairman of the Board in 1932-42, he faced a budget under \$5,000 and the highest unemployment figures the country has ever seen. By the end of his tenure, he had opened negotiations with Columbia Studios, saved the Jewish Social Services Bureau over \$40,000, and inspired seven other Jewish organizations to add employment services. Said the secretary in 1933, "Since the Bureau was started as an experiment, the first years were naturally difficult ones, launched, as it was, during a period of serious industrial depression."

Those who have followed have each made their own mark, including J.A. Rosenkranz, Isador Brown, Ernest Armer, J.D. Alshuler, Andrew Meyer, Felix Juda, Joseph Weiss, Judge Robert S. Thompson, Hugo Zivi, M.M. Chuck Maltz, Irwin H. Goldenberg, Harry Braverman, Edward M. Marks, Fred C. Berne, Joseph M. Feldman, Abner Goldstine, Mike Klapper, Morry Axelrod, Jack Suzar, David Licht, Donald S. Simons, George Polinger, A. Charles Wilson, Robert Garber, Adrienne Horwitch, James Maslon, Susan W. Robertson, Rick

Powell, Sunny Caine and current President Jeffrey Paul. Of the 30 presidents who have served since our founding, 17 were in attendance or represented at the gala.

Through their efforts, JVS has become a been a leader with regards to employment issues, helping veterans as far back as World War II, advocating for women in the workforce during and after the war, mentoring at-risk youth in partnership with LA County in the 1940s, taking a stand on accommodations for people with disabilities in the fifties and sixties, and conducting job training programs in the seventies, to name a few. As an agency, we've participated in several war commissions, welfare summits and policy meetings concerning immigrants from Germany, Shanghai, Russia and Iran. And today, the agency's innovative partnerships within the business world and community have resulted in 20 different programs, including its successful Bankworks™ and Healthworks™ training initiatives, high placement rates, and nearly 30,000 clients served yearly.

Said JVS CEO Vivian Seigel, "JVS would not be where it is today without the support and leadership of our board and its presidents. These amazing men and women have given their time, resources and knowledge to help build a better community for everyone."

The Honorary Chair for the Gala was Brindell Gottlieb, along with JVS Co-Chairs and Board Members Elizabeth Gans, Nan Kalish Goodman, and Pearle Rae Levey.

In addition to awards being presented to JVS' Past Presidents, Stanley Dashew, a longtime advocate of JVS, who generously funded The Dashew Assessment Center, received the Tzedakah Award. Stanley Dashew's career has spanned everything from photo journalist to industrialist to inventor. His latest invention, the *Dashaway*, is designed to help people with disabilities regain their mobility. The Dashew Assessment Center provides a variety of programs and resources to help people with disabilities discover their talents, skills, and self-confidence.

In the past, JVS has honored outstanding individuals whose commitment to the organization and to the community are an inspiration to others. Past honorees have included: Roz and Abner Goldstine, Salli and Bernie Harris, Ruth and Irving Karp, Laura and Jim Maslon, Shirley and Edgar M. Phillips, Jr., Betty and Chuck Wilson, Mike and Ellen Rosenberg, Adrienne and Elliot Horwitch, Joyce and Larry Powell and Rick and Debbie Powell. JVS presented the first Tzedakah Award to Linda and Jim Hausberg in 2009, in honor of their selfless efforts to assist others achieve self-sufficiency.

For more information visit our new website www.jvsla.org.