



A warm Welcome and focus on Healthy Youth–Healthy Communities

In February, JFCS welcomed Emily Saltzman – our new Community Services Director. After spending 8 years in New York City as a social worker, Emily has made her way back home to the Twin Cities. In this role Emily manages several of our programs that are steeped in JFCS history, including Hag Sameach, Caring Connections, Volunteer Resources, PJ Library, J-Pride, Healthy Youth-Healthy Communities, Mental Health Education Project, Caregiver’s Conference and Food Security. With experience in community & elementary education, sexual health and racial justice, Emily is thrilled to support such a variety of programming.

Many of the programs she is supervising were created by dedicated community members that came together out of a strong need to have a Jewish response to a community need or issue. For example, Healthy Youth-Health Communities (HY-HC) was initially created from a group of concerned parents that wanted to develop a Jewish response for a rise in alcohol and substance use amongst teens. Through the powerful work of this group, HY-HC developed an important conference that brought in experts discussing substance abuse and prevention strategies. HY-HC also created a series of workshops for teens that focused on alcohol and substance abuse prevention. Over the years HY-HC has developed numerous workshops that focus on a range of issues facing teens today including Healthy Sexuality, Relationships, Mental Health, Anti-Bullying and Leadership. For more information or to learn about HY-HC programming opportunities, contact Danielle Livon-Bemel, Community Youth Specialist at 952-542-4865 or dlivonbemel@jfcsmpls.org.

With a background in Community Organizing, Emily feels strongly that understanding the history of a community, project or program is essential to developing a sustainable initiative. Honoring the history of those who came before can only elevate our work. Emily is excited to learn from many of the ‘Historians’ at JFCS and continue to build programming that brings our work to the next level. You can reach Emily at esaltzman@jfcsmpls.org or 952-542-4809.