

MEDIA RELEASE



Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas

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Media Contact: Beth Donahue, Director of Marketing Communications
(469) 206-1635 | bdonahue@jfsdallas.org
www.jfsdallas.org

JFS Helps Raise Awareness for Special Needs and Inclusion

Dallas, TX – The Special Needs Partnership of Jewish Family Service will host and support activities to raise awareness throughout February's Special Needs Awareness Month—part of a national effort to raise awareness and navigate the journey of inclusion of people with special needs.

The Special Needs Partnership (SNP) is a grass-roots initiative that furthers awareness and inclusion through education and outreach. Under the auspices of Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas (JFS), SNP collaborates with many local organizations and families including synagogues, day schools, foundations and corporations.

Thursday, February 5th | 7:30 pm

The Akiba Academy Pollman Lecture Series presents ***Your Son Has a Half Hour to Live, and They Are Towing Your Car*** with Judge Dan Butler. Akiba Academy Pollman Hall, 12324 Merit Drive, Dallas, TX 75251. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Akiba Academy at (214) 295-3400 or development@akibaacademy.org. There is no charge for this event.

Friday, February 6th

Judge Dan Butler will host a student discussion with Yavneh Academy students. For more information, contact Rabbi Tannenbaum at rabbimbt@gmail.com.

February 6th and 7th

Congregation Shaare Tefilla's Scholar in Residence, Judge Dan Butler, will address several services.

Shabbat Services: Finding Sparks of Holiness in a Wi-Fi World and ***Shalosh Seudah: What Have We Become in the 3500 Years Since the Red Sea?***

Congregation Shaare Tefilla, 6131 Churchill Way, Dallas 75230. Childcare is available for Shabbat Services only. Contact Judy Kogutt for childcare needs at jjkogutt@sbcglobal.net. For more information about these events, contact Doris Klein at domozo@aol.com.

Saturday, February 7th | 7:30 p.m.

Finding Happiness No Matter What with Judge Dan Butler. Hosted by the Special Needs Partnership of Jewish Family Service, this P.E.R.K. group event (Parents Empowered Raising Kids) focuses to support and strengthen parents and families raising children with special needs through connections, resources and conversation. The February P.E.R.K. group will be held at the home of Dr. Jules and Lizzy Greif. For details and to RSVP, contact Dena Englander at denglander612@gmail.com or call JFS at (972) 437-9950.

Sunday, February 8th | 10:00 am

DATA of Plano will host ***Finding Sparks of Holiness in Each and Every Person*** with Judge Dan Butler. Tickets are \$5 per person for pre registration and \$10 at the door. Children ages 5-13 are welcome, but please register your children when you RSVP. For more information, contact Rabbi Zakon at nzakon@dataofplano.org.

Tuesday, February 17th

Trained volunteers will facilitate the Special Needs Partnership of Jewish Family Service's ***Inclusion Experience*** to the teachers and leadership of Torah Day School of Dallas. The Inclusion Experience is a workshop for local organizations to better understand the day-to-day activities that are challenging for those with special needs. Through a series of interactive stations, volunteers take participants through different tasks that simulate disabilities, both physical and developmental. The purpose of the ***Inclusion Experience*** is to empower organizations and individuals to make changes toward inclusion while raising awareness. For more information and to schedule an ***Inclusion Experience*** for your organization, please call JFS at (972) 437-9950.

Thursday, February 26th | 9:30 am-12:30 pm

The Faith Inclusion Network of Dallas (FIND) presents the 2015 Finding A Way Workshops: ***Models of Inclusion: Best Practices for Organizations and Programs***. Sessions include program and organizational success stories from local congregations and the practical applications for other groups to execute similar strategies. For workshop details and to register, visit www.JFSdallas.org or call (972) 437-9950.

A project of Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas and the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Faith Inclusion Network of Dallas (FIND) is a collaborative network of faith communities. Motivated by the fact that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve the opportunity to fully engage, FIND uses educational events and outreach to help faith communities offer their special needs members every opportunity to serve and be served alongside their fellow congregants. *For more information, visit www.JFSdallas.org/getinvolved/inclusion.*

For more information about JFS services for children and adults with special needs, visit www.JFSdallas.org.

Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas offers nationally accredited mental health and social services to any child, teen, adult or older adult in need, including those with special needs.

Individual and Family Counseling for Children, Teens, Adults and Older Adults | Family Violence Intervention
Mental Health Addiction Counseling | Services for Veterans and Families | Career and Employment Services
Diagnostic Assessment, Play Therapy and a Special Needs Resource Team
Support Groups | Food Pantry | Emergency Assistance | Chaplaincy | Home Delivered Meals
Cancer Support Services | In-Home Services for Homebound Individuals and Older Adults | Volunteer Services

To sign up for our eNews or for more information, visit www.jfsdallas.org.

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