

A Celebration of Our Century

1907 – 1929

1907 – YOUNG MEN’S ASSOCIATED JEWISH CHARITIES was chartered. Its purpose was to bring together young, single, Chicago-resident Jewish men “to unite... to inculcate in them knowledge of their duties and responsibilities in connection with Jewish Charities and Philanthropies... and actively to assist said charities in securing funds” and create a “broad and enduring fellowship” among these young men.

1907 to 1911 – YMAJC focused on raising funds for organizations supported by the ASSOCIATED JEWISH CHARITIES.

1912 – A meeting hosted by Ben Stein was a forum to discuss the possibility of starting a boys’ camp.

1914 – CAMP WILSON began at Long Lake. **YMAJC** not only raised funds for the camp, but board members and officers took an active role in its direction; many of them actually worked with campers to pitch tents and prepare the campsite.

1918 – YMAJC continued its growth, merging in 1918 with another organization, YOUNG MEN’S FEDERATED JEWISH CHARITIES. We then became **YOUNG MEN’S JEWISH CHARITIES OF CHICAGO.**

1920 – CAMP WILSON was renamed **CAMP HARDING** when the new President took the White House.

1923 – Ben Stein led the purchase of several acres of land on nearby Wooster Lake. As camp relocated to its new site the very year that President Harding died, its name was again changed – this time, to **CAMP WOOSTER**. Initially, the camp could only handle 30 to 35 boys at a time in four two-week summer sessions.

YOUNG MEN’S recognized the growing need for city programs during the school year – programs that would keep the boys off the streets by providing them with activities and a place to be.

1924 – Five years after its founding, the **American Boys’ Commonwealth** was adopted by **YOUNG MEN’S**, in terms of financial support and program leadership “to help boys become better men.”

1926 – YOUNG MEN’S settled the **ABC** into a facility at 3036 West Roosevelt.

Late 1920’s – the **DEBORAH WOMAN’S CLUB**, which had funded a home for orphan boys, affiliated with **YOUNG MEN’S**.

1927 – First full-time executive director was hired.

The 1930s

1930 – The **DEBORAH BOYS' CLUB** opened on Division Street – The “Deb” offered art class, woodshop, a game room and library.

1930 – A new home for the **AMERICAN BOYS' COMMONWEALTH** opened – built in memory of Bobby Franks, the 14 year-old slain by Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold in 1924. A \$100,000 check – a bequest from the estate of the late Jacob Franks, Bobby's father – enabled **YOUNG MEN'S** to construct the new facility at 3415 W. Thirteenth Place, as well as enhance **CAMP WOOSTER**, where the athletic field was named in Bobby's memory.

CAMP WOOSTER provided for 500 youngsters each summer.

1934 - **YOUNG MEN'S** further extended its programs, moving into the Albany Park community which in the 1920s had experienced a large influx of Jewish families. The **ALBANY PARK BOYS' CLUB** opened in 1934 at 4710 North Central Park Avenue.

1935 – A Chicago Daily News article noted that the **ALBANY PARK BOYS' CLUB**, along with the **DEBORAH** and **ABC** facilities, had served 4,637 boys in 1935. “Boys were given pleasure, help and encouragement,” the theme for the 1936 membership campaign of the **YOUNG MEN'S JEWISH CHARITIES OF CHICAGO**.

1936 – Construction at **CAMP WOOSTER** continued with more permanent buildings and a total of 47 tents. Camp began to replace the tents with cabins at the end of the decade. And camp itself nearly tripled in size, with the addition of 40 more acres.

1937 – The board first changed its name to **YOUNG MEN'S JEWISH COUNCIL FOR BOYS' CLUBS**, and then to **YOUNG MEN'S JEWISH COUNCIL**.

The 1940s

1940 – The **HUMBOLDT PARK BOYS' CLUB** was first established.

1941 – Membership reached 429 members and the **HUMBOLDT PARK BOYS' CLUB** relocated to 1143 North Spaulding. The Club was remodeled to include a game room on the first floor, library and meeting rooms on the second floor, and a basketball court outside.

CAMP WOOSTER was renamed **CAMP HENRY HORNER** upon the passing of Illinois' Governor Henry Horner who was **YOUNG MEN'S** president in 1915 and integral to establishing the camp.

1945 – **YOUNG MEN'S** absorbed the **BOYS BROTHERHOOD REPUBLIC**. Since its founding in 1913, **BBR** – like **YOUNG MEN'S** – reached out to boys in trouble.

1948 – **YOUNG MEN'S** embarked on its first formal capital campaign, "Building for Boys." The three-year campaign sought funding for the relocation of several boys' clubs to emerging Jewish neighborhoods on the city's north and south sides – Albany Park and South Shore.

1948 – **YOUNG MEN'S** would soon be prepared to build the new **DEBORAH BOYS' CLUB** and the **SOUTH SHORE YOUTH CENTER**.

The 1950s

1950 – The **DEBORAH BOYS' CLUB** – at the corner of Kimball and Ainslie in Albany Park – was completed.

1953 – The **HUMBOLDT PARK BOYS' CLUB** closed.

1954 – The **DEBORAH BOYS' CLUB** became a youth center, offering membership privileges to teen and tween girls – specifically, use of the club's lounge.

1954 – The **SOUTH SHORE YOUTH CENTER** opened its doors at 76th and Phillips. The building included a specially designed nursery school wing, a large gymnasium, game room, crafts facility, library, drama and music studio, lounge and club meeting rooms.

1954 – 69 acres were added to the **CAMP HENRY HORNER** property, bringing the total acreage to 135. The **WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF CAMP HENRY HORNER** was organized to aid in fundraising. Its members also helped establish camp programs for those with physical disabilities.

1956 – 100 girls, ages 8 to 12 were enrolled at the **SOUTH SHORE YOUTH CENTER**.

Mid 1950s – **YOUNG MEN'S** ceased sponsorship of the **BOYS BROTHERHOOD REPUBLIC**. The **ABC** building was given to a group of neighborhood leaders (the Citizen's Committee for the ABC), most of its members African American. The building was later taken over by the Chicago Youth Centers which drew its initial leadership from the **YOUNG MEN'S** board, received early financial assistance from **YOUNG MEN'S**, and kept **ABC** in its name.

The 1960s

1960 – **CAMP HENRY HORNER** served 37 children with physical challenges.

1961 – **YOUNG MEN'S JEWISH COUNCIL** fully launched services for children with disabilities as part of the traditional camp program. Ruth Lodge for handicapped

Children, which became an auxiliary of Young Men's in 1961, later funded and donated several winterized buildings at **CAMP HENRY HORNER**, making year-round camping for children with disabilities possible.

1961 – The **DEBORAH BOYS' CLUB** began serving those with cognitive challenges – people ages 12 through 21.

1961– The **SOUTH SHORE YOUTH CENTER** special services program served children with cognitive disabilities ages 6 through 17, as well as those with physical and emotional challenges.

1968 – The agency established the **CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING** to provide a wider scope of services, providing social enrichment, personal development skills and life-long learning to youth, teens, adults and seniors with developmental disabilities.

The 1970s

Early 1970s – **CAMP HENRY HORNER** became co-ed. Camp's "intergrouping" program was at its peak, with about one-third of campers being African American, Jewish and "other", respectively.

A small unit of campers with developmental disabilities joined the traditional eight-week session. Additional programs for adults with developmental disabilities were offered before and after camp's regular eight-week schedule.

YOUNG MEN'S turned over the **SOUTH SHORE YOUTH CENTER** to a local group, providing organizational assistance to help transition the facility and its programs.

1975 – **YOUNG MEN'S** announced that the **DEBORAH BOYS' CLUB** would be phased out over a three-year period. Later that year, a neighborhood group incorporated as the Albany Park Community Center, to whom **YOUNG MEN'S** transferred the operation of the building – a decision which received harsh criticism from several Orthodox community members who felt the agency should have designated a Jewish organization to inherit the property.

The **CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING** – **CEL** first leased space from Deborah's new owners, and then moved to the former Sharp Corner School in Skokie, where it served 150 adults with developmental disabilities.

Having spun off its youth centers to local community organizations, the agency was no longer bound by its ownership of real estate, other than **CAMP HENRY HORNER**. As a renter, Young Men's became an "agency without walls" – poised for a new kind of growth with the ability to invest its resources in program development.

YOUNG MEN'S expanded its geography, renting facilities. After-school programs began in Hoffman estates/Schaumburg, as well as in Morton Grove, and in Lincoln Park.

With its aggressive pursuit of “programs without walls” throughout the decade, **YOUNG MEN’S** introduced five summer day camps:

- **NEW HORIZONS DAY CAMP** – serving Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg
- **LINCOLN PARK DAY CAMP**
- **SUBURBAN DAY CAMP** serving Skokie and Morton Grove
- **ARLINGTON HEIGHTS/BUFFALO GROVE DAY CAMP** at **CAMP HENRY HORNER**
- **NORTH SHORE DAY CAMP** serving Highland Park and Deerfield

YOUNG MEN’S formalized the parent groups into “Branch Boards” to establish a liaison group in each of the areas it served. These boards met regularly and had their own elected officers. They helped direct the scope of the camps and after-school programs, and held local fundraising events to raise scholarship funds.

1976 – Renting space from Temple Shalom, **YOUNG MEN’S** began its first **PARENT-CHILD CARE CENTER** in Lincoln Park. The center provided programs for pre-schoolers and support for families, offering parent education, parent and child activities and an environment for children that enhanced self-esteem by focusing on social, intellectual, and emotional growth.

1978 – **YOUNG MEN’S** opened the **NORTH SHORE CHILD CARE CENTER**. The program rented space at the Immaculate Conception Church, operating alongside another fellow tenant, the Stepenwolf Theater Company.

By the end of the decade:

- The five area programs and summer camps were directed primarily by each branch’s Board of Directors
- **YOUNG MEN’S** budget had reached \$1 million
- The agency hired its first Director of Development as well as its first Controller.

1984 –To the objection of some board members – women joined the leadership ranks of **YOUNG MEN’S JEWISH COUNCIL** first as designates and then as board members.

YOUNG MEN’S expanded its vision and updated its mission statement, emphasizing service to the Jewish community, with a concentration on early childhood education and full day childcare programs for working parents.

Young Men’s rented the former Kennedy Elementary School on Clavey Road in Highland Park to house the **NORTH SHORE CHILD CARE CENTER** and expand to full day childcare. It shared the space with **YOUNG MEN’S CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING**.

The agency also opted to relocate the **LINCOLN PARK CHILDCARE CENTER** from Temple Shalom to a leased space at 957 West Grace Street.

1980 – YOUNG MEN’S closed its **SUBURBAN DAY CAMP**.

1984 – NEW HORIZONS DAY CAMP was closed.

1984 – The **CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING** led to great controversy. The program was very costly for the agency to operate. Many board members believed that **YOUNG MEN’S** could pursue other areas of service without the financial burden, and that an independent **CEL** would be better positioned to attract major donors. The board grew divided as arguments ensued – some pushed for **CEL** being spun off as an independent entity, as others advocated for **YOUNG MEN’S** continued support of the program.

1984 – The decision was made to let **CEL** go. Ten Young Men’s Board Members went with it, committed to establishing **CEL** as an independent agency. The Director of the **YOUNG MEN’S** program became the new **CEL**’s executive director. Young Men’s financially supported **CEL**’s launch as its own entity.

CAMP HENRY HORNER had grown to 180 acres. The program moved away from the “Building Bridges” intergrouping philosophy.

YOUNG MEN’S created the Camp for Enriched Living at Camp Henry Horner, where its residential facilities accommodated children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Within a few years, camp began marketing itself as a conference center to garner year-round business. It also looked towards developing other innovative features, and initiated its outdoor education programs.

The **NORTH SHORE CHILD CARE CENTER** in Highland Park grew into the space once occupied by **CEL** at the Kennedy Elementary School, and the site was used exclusively for early childhood education.

YOUNG MEN’S opened another childcare center in Wheeling, renting space from a local synagogue.

YOUNG MEN’S continued through the 80s using its “agency without walls” approach, renting facilities and relocating when necessary.

1989 – The agency changed its name from **YOUNG MEN’S JEWISH COUNCIL** to **JEWISH COUNCIL FOR YOUTH SERVICES**. The new name acknowledged women’s evolving role in the agency from auxiliaries and partners to members of the Board of Directors, and reflected the age group most served by the agency.

The 1990s

1991 – A new executive director was hired. **JCYS** soon began to steer a different course – breaking away from the “agency without walls” approach, and laying the foundation for the organization to become “master of its own destiny.” To further grow

its vital services, the agency concentrated on fiscal responsibility, shifting to a decentralized operation that promoted accountability and better served the families in its local communities.

1993 – JCYS purchased the Kennedy School building for the price of \$1 million.

JCYS received a million dollar donation from Lillian L. Lutz, the mother of past president Michael Lutz – naming the building on Clavey Road the JCYS George W. Lutz Family Center, in memory of her late husband.

Camp Red Leaf continued to flourish, offering programs and facilities to serve people with special needs year round- including family camps that welcomed parents and siblings as well.

Mid 1990s – Having closed its Wheeling Childcare Center years before when a rental agreement fell through, JCYS no longer had a presence in what it believed to be an emerging Jewish community.

JCYS embarked on a market study to determine the viability of a new center in the northwest suburbs. When the study confirmed JCYS' instincts and affirmed the ability to raise the needed funds for construction, it launched the JCYS Building on Tradition capital campaign, to raise three million dollars which would purchase land in Buffalo Grove, build a 20,000 square foot family center, and add new residential and program facilities to JCYS Camp Red Leaf.

1997 – In cooperation with the Chicago Public Schools, the agency inaugurated “ JCYS Adventure Education, a 10-week drop-out prevention program for at-risk high school freshmen. Charged with helping students develop academic and life skills through participation in experiential activities, the program was developed to foster a positive community of learning, growth and challenge, encourage leadership skills and provide new and healthier outlooks for students.

1998 – On the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, JCYS learned that the property on Grace Street, which it had been renting since 1982, was being sold. The Board of Directors convened an emergency meeting during the holiday weekend, and made the decision to purchase the building.

JCYS entered in a lease with a tennis and swim club known as The Elms, in Highland Park. The lease enabled JCYS North Shore Day Camp to institute its own swim program.

1999 – Phyllis Tabachnick, at JCYS' 92nd Annual Meeting, was installed as the first woman elected president of the organization.

The 2000s

Camp Red Leaf initiated its year round respite program.

2000 – The agency hired a new camp director to further its vision of growing the overnight camp.

The doors opened at the new JCYS Northwest Family Center in Buffalo Grove.

The Lincoln Park Child Care Center changed its name to the JCYS Lakeview Family Center.

JCYS assumed the remaining portion of a 99-year lease of the Highland Park property formerly known as The Elms. JCYS partnered with friends of the late Max Davidson to honor Max's memory. The collaboration emerged as the **JCYS Max Davidson Tennis and Swim Center**.

2001 – JCYS celebrated the opening of **Red Leaf Village** with the Shirley and Hilton Leibow Lodge and Harriet Gerber Lewis Arts and Crafts Center at Camp Henry Horner. The lodge was the cornerstone of the village, and a vital step toward achieving the goal of Camp's master site plan which called for the development of separate areas to support day camp, overnight camp and Camp Red Leaf operations.

f

2003 – Vital classroom renovations and site enhancements began at the George W. Lutz Family Center funded by a matching donation from the Marshall Lutz Family Foundation.

2004 – A new Executive Director was hired.

2005 – The agency launches **NSDC Sports Camp** – the agency's first specialty camp.

2006 – JCYS reunited with the Center for Enriched Living to create The Integrated Theater Program – it was conceived to promote creativity, patience, acceptance and understanding among its participants, with theatrical instruction from a third partner, the Lookingglass Theater Company.

2007 – The **JCYS Lakeview Family Center** restructured its summer camp program inaugurating the Big City Day Camp.

2007 – 2008 – The Centennial Year

April 2007 – JCYS launched the celebration of the Centennial with a Gala honoring former camper, board member and agency president (1970), Edwin Glickman.

September 2007 – 100th Annual Meeting at Bryn Mawr Country Club. This event showcased the Second Century Capital Campaign – a \$20 million campaign that targeted several projects:

- Rebuilding and expanding the current JCYS Lakeview Family Center
- Renovation of the tennis/swim center in Highland Park, known as The Max.

2008 – The Agency budget grew to more than \$9 million

2008 – 2009– Our 101st Year

May 2008 – The JCYS 100th Anniversary Gala honored Michael and Karen Lutz with over 600 people in attendance.

June 2008 – Inaugural year of Camp STAR – The agency united with University of Illinois Chicago to create a special summer treatment program serving children with ADD, ADHD and those on the Autism spectrum.

August 2008 – The Sacks Family Recreation Center opens at Camp Red Leaf.

January 2009 – The final “Max AM” benefit is held at the East Bank Club.

January 2009 – JCYS faces new challenges resulting from the downturn in the economy leading to the suspension of the Second Century Capital Campaign and greater emphasis on fundraising for scholarship and operations.

May 2009 – Successful inauguration of the first non-gala “gala” Night of 101 Laughs at the Park West.