



FIGHTING BACK & JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Moving Forward Together



Purpose of the Merger

- Fighting Back, Inc. and Jewish Family Services have independently provided or funded social service and education programs for low-income or at-risk individuals and families in the greater Milwaukee community for many years.
- Over the past several years the two organizations have developed a close relationship and have recently been operating from the same building to reduce overhead costs.
- In January 2010, the two respected, Milwaukee-based organizations will merge operations, combining their strengths and creating efficiencies through shared resources.
- In particular, the merger will enable Jewish Family Services to expand services for youth and provide Fighting Back with access to a broader range of services for the organizations it serves, allowing both to care for the community, together.

Overview of Current Services

- **Fighting Back** serves eighteen youth-serving social service organizations in Milwaukee by providing support, training and resources designed to help those organizations implement programs in substance abuse prevention, positive youth development, and early intervention.
- **Jewish Family Services** provides vital social services to members of the Milwaukee community who are in need – regardless of faith or affiliation – to help them overcome hardship, fulfill their potential and lead rewarding lives. It focuses on four main areas of service –providing services for those with exceptional needs, caring for older adults, assisting those with mental health needs and community education.

Specifics of the Merger

- In January 2010, Fighting Back and Jewish Family Services will merge, bringing together the expertise of two strong social service agencies and enabling an expansion of services to the Milwaukee community.
- Fighting Back will operate as a program of Jewish Family Services, retaining its mission, name, services and staff. Both organizations are committed to ensuring the merger process is seamless for those they serve.
- The merger will provide Fighting Back with significant cost savings, by sharing space and administrative resources with Jewish Family Services, and access to a broader range of services. Jewish Family Services will be adding a proven program to complement its existing services and provide an opportunity to expand services to youth.
- The Jewish Family Services board of directors will welcome several board members of Fighting Back to ensure the program's mission is continued after the merger.

About Fighting Back

Fighting Back designs and implements effective strategies to attain quality, measurable alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse (ATODA) prevention programs in Milwaukee County. The organization serves the county by improving ATODA prevention and neighborhood systems; completing and maintaining an ATODA indicator measurement; and maintaining effective prevention programming. Fighting Back strives to mobilize the community and make it aware of the ATODA problem, and is focused on providing resources, training and technical assistance in effective prevention strategies throughout the community. Fighting Back believes it is simply not enough to have awareness and prevention services, and thus works toward effectively demonstrating programs' successful impacts.

About Jewish Family Services

Since 1867, Jewish Family Services (JFS) has provided comprehensive social services for the Milwaukee area Jewish and general community. The mission of JFS is to provide supportive services that will strengthen families, children and individuals throughout the life cycle within the context of their unique needs and traditions. We guided by our values of compassion, kindness and righteousness in providing quality care to the Milwaukee community regardless of religion, age, income or lifestyle.