

**Jewish Family and Children's Services:
A Pioneering Human Service Organization (1850-2008)**

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ABSTRACT

Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties (JFCS) is a pioneering nonprofit human service organization that has delivered services for 157 years. Over the course of its history, the organization has transformed itself from an all-volunteer agency delivering aid to immigrant families during the Gold Rush era to a \$30 million nonprofit human service organization offering a full-range of services to adults, children and families. The history of JFCS sheds light on the importance of strong leadership, strategic planning, external relationships, and strong donor support.

KEY WORDS: Organizational history, nonprofit organization, Jewish community