

Jewish service agencies name CEO

Two key Jewish service agencies have a new CEO.

After a nationwide search, Marc D. Hopin, CPA, was named chief executive officer of Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service of Palm Beach County and its sister agency, Melvin J & Claire Levine Jewish Residential and Family Service of Palm Beach County. Mr. Hopin has worked at the nonprofit for more than six years, most recently as Interim CEO.



HOPIN

Jewish Family Services is a 45-year-old nonprofit dedicated to providing a wide range of social services to strengthen individuals and families, including counseling, psychiatry and case management, as well as providing aid for community needs. Jewish

Residential and Family Services provide residential care for people with disabilities through its two group homes and its innovative and inclusive Apartment Program.

Over the past year as interim CEO and in his six years with these vital organizations, Mr. Hopin has been credited with a financial turnaround that now includes a \$250,000 reserve for emergency response, increased employee retention and improved organizational culture, and expanding programs and services to meet the needs of a growing population.

For more information about Alpert Jewish Family Services and Levine Jewish Residential Family Service of Palm Beach County, visit www.alpertjfs.org. ■



Arc aims for national recognition of leadership training program

The Arc of Palm Beach County has developed a model to increase acceptance for people with disabilities.

That program, Stand Up, is a leadership training experience that matches high performing teens with same-age peers at The Arc.

Because of the mentor program's success, The Arc has been nominated for the Program Innovation Award and says it is leading the charge to get Stand Up implemented on a national level.

The Arc adopted the Stand Up program in 2018. Students undergo leadership and disability inclusion training and commit to at least 80 volunteer hours. They can serve in a variety of programs, including summer camp, career exploration, and at fundraising and awareness-building events. Stand Up members and graduates receive priority consideration for paid positions within programs offered through The Arc.

Since coming under The Arc's umbrella, Stand Up has doubled its

membership.

"One of our goals at The Arc is to create positive experiences for the people we serve and open the minds of those who interact with them," said Kimberly McCarten, The Arc's president and CEO. "The Stand Up program has resulted in learning and growth for both the mentors and mentees. The interactions that happen in this program bridge differences, highlight varied communication styles, and establish lasting bonds. This program is a model for how to build an inclusive community."

Stand Up members gain leadership skills and enhance their résumés, but the program's impact extends much further, according to The Arc. These young influencers will take their experiences and connections with individuals with disabilities into the businesses and boardrooms of the future. The program will serve as a catalyst for improved understanding and acceptance of people of all abilities. ■

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