

# JVS pathways

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS  
ENRICHING LIVES

SPRING 2011

## Since 1955, Hilb Scholarships Have Helped Students Overcome Barriers to Pay for College

Michelle Rotbart's hard work has earned her a spot on the Dean's List every quarter she has attended the University of Cincinnati.

What's even more impressive is that she's paying her way through college by working. "Some people call me a workaholic," she says.

But even workaholics need support. That's why Rotbart appreciates the money she's been receiving from the Hilb Scholarship Fund in a selection process administered by Jewish Vocational Service. The money she receives represents a small portion of her tuition, but she says, "Every bit helps."

The Fund, managed by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, has assisted students since 1955. Gus Hilb created the fund to honor his parents, Mannis and Yetta Hilb. Grants totaling nearly \$175,000 are made to about 100 students annually.



**Hilb scholarship money helps Michelle Rotbart study fashion design product development at UC**

Eligibility is based on financial need and academic standing. The Fund defines need as annual family income that does not exceed \$120,000.

Rotbart, a Mason High School graduate, is studying fashion design product development. After her 2012 graduation, she wants to work in denim design or fashion research. She likes the creativity and practicality involved in her major. "By dressing people, I'm fulfilling an essential need."

At first, her parents helped to pay for her education. But now, she earns much of the money she needs by working in UC's cooperative education system. She alternates quarters when she takes classes with quarters working in a job related to her major.

Orly Amor, a psychology undergraduate at Ohio State, said Hilb grants have helped her avoid huge debt. "This has helped me be able to focus on my studies, rather than worrying about money all the

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— Orly Amor, scholarship recipient

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Additional funding for her education has come from on-campus jobs, another scholarship program and her parents. After her 2012 graduation, she wants

to pursue a masters degree in school psychology so she can be a school psychologist, helping children with disabilities and behavioral problems.

Dana Grinshpan of Loveland received Hilb money every year she attended Ohio State. The 2010 graduate still faces more than a decade of paying off her student loans.

But the Hilb money at least eased her financial hardships, allowing her to complete unpaid internships and write a thesis that included traveling to Israel for research. As a result, she graduated with honors with a degree in international relations.

Now, Grinshpan is a graduate student at the University of Chicago, receiving a full scholarship from the university. She expects to graduate this spring with a Masters of Arts in international security and political economy.

### **MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE HILB SCHOLARSHIPS**

Jewish Vocational Service is accepting applications for the 2011-12 academic year until May 1. More information is available at [www.cincinnaticareer.net](http://www.cincinnaticareer.net). Scholarship administrator Pamela Smith can be reached at 513-347-1564 or [psmith@jvscinti.org](mailto:psmith@jvscinti.org).

## Message to the Community

# Finding New Ways to Serve

### Dear Friends:

Though the economy is improving, the State of Ohio continues to seek ways to aggressively slash spending to balance the upcoming budget. Inevitably, human services will be cut. At Jewish Vocational Service, we've been identifying innovative ways to provide services to our consumers more efficiently and effectively:

- **JVS is a partner in Project Search** with Cincinnati Public Schools, Butler Tech and the Warren County Career Center. It's a national school-to-work program for high school students with disabilities. With the support of JVS job coaches, 60 students work at a community site performing various jobs that prepare them to find employment after graduation.

- **JVS works with six YMCAs** to support more than 70 individuals making the transition from a sheltered work environment to competitive jobs. At the YMCAs, participants get paid to work part of the day and then can enjoy recreational activities the rest of the day to improve their functional and behavioral skills.

- **JVS collaborates with five organizations** in a program funded by the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. The program provides individuals with disabilities increased access to vocational rehabilitation services, leading to competitive employment for about 300 consumers.

At JVS, we've recently completed another rigorous review to find even more ways to help our consumers achieve their goals by using our resources more effectively. Why? **Because our consumers deserve our best efforts.**



Joel S. Brant, Board Chair



Peter M. Bloch, President and CEO

### JVS programs focus mainly on helping three groups of people:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities.  
*They learn work skills while working at a JVS Work Center or in the community.*
- Senior citizens with developmental disabilities.  
*They participate in social and recreational activities.*
- Any individuals who want help with their careers and education.  
*They can get coaching, attend workshops or apply for scholarships.*

### JVS is grateful to its funding partners:



### JVS Board of Trustees:

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**Debbie Hurley attaches tape to packages for a JVS customer that makes cedar home storage products. She works at the JVS Employment Center in Hamilton with 80 other consumers. The JVS work program maximizes each consumer's potential so they can succeed at JVS or at jobs in the community. For JVS customers, the center last year packaged more than 1 million mailing boxes for shipment to stores, bagged 600,000 screw head plugs, and collated and packaged 50,000 wedding cake kits.**

### Jewish Vocational Service Contact Information:

Main office – 4300 Rossplain Rd.,  
Cincinnati, OH 45236; 513-985-0515

37 W. 7th St., Suite 504, Cincinnati, OH  
45202; 513-345-6624

4021 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211;  
513-481-3605

JVS Employment Center, 3400 Symmes  
Rd., Hamilton, OH 45015; 513-744-2500

[www.jvscinti.org](http://www.jvscinti.org)

[www.cincinnatiacareer.net](http://www.cincinnatiacareer.net)

[www.parnossahworkscincinnati.org](http://www.parnossahworkscincinnati.org)

*Copies of IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, will be available after June 15, 2011, by contacting JVS Controller Dave Ludwin at 513-985-0515. ▶ ▶ ▶*

# With the help of JVS, Daniel Speights gains independence

Although many of his peers reside in group homes, Daniel Speights lives independently in an apartment with his girlfriend and works as a janitor.

Despite a developmental disability, Speights has made these huge strides with hard work and the assistance of Jewish Vocational Service.

When he first became involved with JVS programs about five years ago, Speights, a 24-year-old Winton Woods High School graduate, had trouble accepting on-the-job supervision. He also found himself easily distracted. Now, he's conscientious and works with little supervision.

"He has come a long way," says Yvonne Joe, his grandmother. "JVS has been instrumental."

After high school, Speights was a dishwasher at a busy restaurant, then worked at a book warehouse. Neither job lasted long because he either socialized too much or found the work overwhelming.

Daniel then enrolled in a JVS program that teaches job skills, working for about four years on a crew cleaning the Powel Crosley Jr. YMCA in Springfield Township. With coaching, Speights learned how to do the job well.

About a year ago, it was time to seek a competitive job. Jeff Wesley, a JVS placement and retention supervisor, helped him decide



**Daniel Speights waits at a bus stop near his Forest Park apartment. He's headed to his job in Downtown Cincinnati.**

which types of job he'd like and coached him through the job application process. Speights decided he wanted to pursue a cleaning job. Wesley arranged for a job interview, and Speights was hired to help clean a Downtown Cincinnati office building five nights a week.

For the first few weeks, state funding subsidized his salary to give the employer an extra incentive to hire him. JVS provided a job coach for a month or so until Speights learned his new job.

Now, Wesley monitors Speights' progress, but the

JVS supervision he receives is minimal compared to what he received when he worked at the YMCA and when he first started his latest job.

He lives in a Forest Park apartment complex and takes a Metro bus to his job. He likes his two-bedroom apartment because it's "peaceful." He does some light cooking, washes his clothes and cleans the apartment.

Because he can hold a job, Speights not only has more independence and self-esteem, he also has choices, including what types of jobs he wants to pursue and what to do in his leisure time.

"He's got interests, desires, hopes and dreams just like anyone," Wesley says.

## Statement of JVS Activities January 1 thru December 31, 2010 (Unaudited)

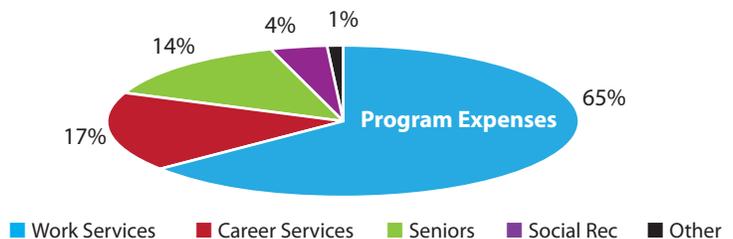
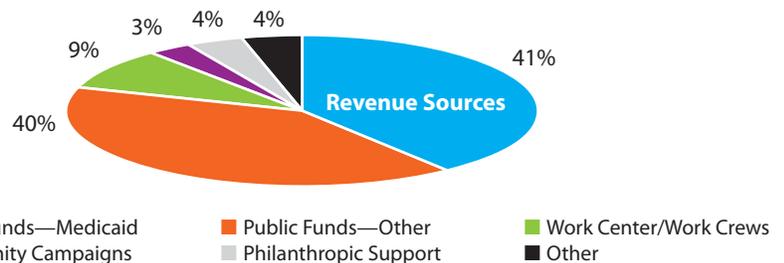
### Operating Revenues:

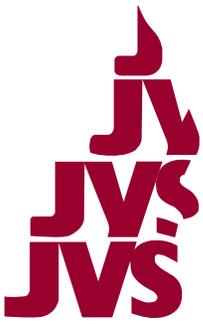
Public Funds - Medicaid	\$3,664,700
Public Funds - Other	3,527,300
Work Centers/Work Crews	774,700
Community Campaigns	266,900
Philanthropic Support	311,500
Other	318,700
	<u>\$8,863,800</u>

### Operating Expenses:

Staff Compensation & Benefits	\$6,373,800
Consumer Wages & Other Support	1,095,600
Facility Expenses	633,700
All Other Expenses	673,400
	<u>\$8,776,500</u>

Change in Net Assets	\$87,300
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$1,456,009
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$1,543,309</u>





**Jewish Vocational Service**  
4300 Rossplain Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

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## How To Talk About Disabilities

People with disabilities are the largest minority in the U.S. Like other minorities, the disability community has developed preferred language. It's called People First Language and it is an objective way of communicating. It focuses on people and their abilities rather than their disabilities, diagnoses or medical conditions.

What do you call people with disabilities? Men, women, boys, girls, mom, dad, adults, children, students, neighbors, employer, coworker, customer, teacher, scientist, athlete, comedian, SCUBA diver, Americans, individuals, leaders, people, friends and family.

- Focus on the person, not the disability: Alan has autism, not Alan is autistic.
- Emphasize abilities, not limitations: Sue walks with crutches, not Sue is crippled.
- Use positive descriptors, not negative: Lee has a brain injury, not Lee is brain damaged.
- Highlight access, not restrictions: Dan uses a wheelchair, not Dan is confined to a wheelchair. Wheelchairs are liberating for people with disabilities because they provide mobility.



**Chris Weitz puts together a box in the JVS Work Center in Blue Ash. Weitz works in a JVS program that provides long-term employment, performing tasks for businesses that contract with JVS. Some of the same consumers participate in educational and skill development groups. JVS regularly explores the possibility of community employment with these consumers.**