

# JRS launches Annual Friends effort

*JRS release*

Jewish Residential Services' annual Friends Campaign was launched this year on Dec. 1, with Sylvia Busis and E.J. Strassburger serving as cochairpersons. Through "Friends," JRS appeals to the community for support of its programs and services.

"This year, a successful campaign is more important than ever before as we are preparing for the expansion of the agency," states Deborah Friedman, executive director, referring to the anticipated opening of Charles Morris Hall and the Howard P. Levin Clubhouse this coming year.

Charles Morris Hall, a residential program in Squirrel Hill for adults with developmental and cognitive disabilities, will provide 12 one-bedroom apartments and a spacious common area for group activities. With the assistance of an advisor, residents of Charles Morris Hall will be able to achieve their dream of independent living.

In January 1998, JRS launched the pilot phase of the Howard P. Levin Clubhouse, a social rehabilitation program which targets a range of adults with persistent mental illness. The "Clubhouse" program addresses issues of long-term support, social isolation and employment. JRS recently acquired space in which to operate a full time clubhouse program, projected to open within the next 12 months.

Since JRS opened its doors in 1993 with the establishment of the Leonard Staisey House, the agency has grown. In addition to the Leonard Staisey House, JRS also operates a Supported Housing program.

"Over the past two years, our fundraising efforts have also grown, with the Friends Campaign increasing by more than 50%," states Linda Reich, director of development.

"These additional funds have been critical to our annual operating budget, and we count on continued community support to help fund our new programs, while maintaining quality services to our current residents."