

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
June 7, 2003

Jewish Family Service raises over \$500,000

WORCESTER -- Jewish Family Service of Worcester Inc. has raised more than \$500,000 since 2001 through its Our Family Is Growing capital campaign.

The agency will rededicate its extensively renovated facilities at 646 Salisbury St., nicknamed "the secret on Salisbury Street," in a public ceremony from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. The event will include a Chanukat Habayit, which means Rededication of the House, as well as the Jewish tradition of affixing a mezuzah to the front doorway.

ANNUAL MEETING

After the open house, Jewish Family Service will hold its annual meeting, where the board of directors will install its next president, Jody Schwab Prunier. She is an assistant district attorney for Worcester. She replaces outgoing president Stuart Hammer.

The board will also honor Melvin Merken, known as the "human archive" of the organization, who is stepping down after serving as secretary of the board for 30 years.

"We are deeply gratified by the outpouring of support our capital campaign has generated from all segments of the public, as well as foundations and corporations," Executive Director Stephen G. **Slaten** said.

"The campaign has enabled us to better serve our clients, particularly frail elders who come for counseling, and members of The Club, a social group for developmentally delayed adults," he said.

EASIER ACCESS

Board member Ken L. McDonald said the most important aspect of the renovation and reorganization is that it provides older clients with easier access to the facility, including an elevator and ramps for those with disabilities.

Services offered by the agency include individual and family counseling, family mediation, adoption, geriatric care management, elder guardianship, support groups, consultation to schools and community agencies, and a court-mandated parent education seminar called Children Cope with Divorce.