



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES & SONGS FOR FAMILIES

JCRS seeks a donor

The PJ Library is a unique opportunity to enhance Jewish life for young children by furnishing specially-selected, age-appropriate Jewish books and music to youngsters aged six months through age 7. Funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the PJ Library partners with local Jewish agencies and philanthropists to finance monthly mailings to over 15,000 children in over 48 communities nationwide. The Grinspoon Foundation covers the overhead and coordinates the distribution of books and music from its headquarters in Massachusetts to communities throughout the country.

While most of the larger cities within the JCRS service area have a current PJ Library sponsor, at this time no Jewish families in Alabama or Mississippi, and only a few of the Jewish families in Arkansas or Oklahoma, are included in a program. Large parts of Louisiana, as well as rural Texas and Tennessee, are also not covered. It is to these more isolated Jewish families—as many as four hundred, some already known to JCRS -- that this agency would like to reach out.

The vision of the PJ Library is to positively engage Jewish families with young children in Jewish life. Since reading stories and listening to music together can be among the most nurturing early childhood experiences, the PJ Library seeks to make these special moments “Jewish”. Each child receives a total of ten children’s books per year and one CD. In addition, one selection per year is a parenting book for the adults in the family. The book and music list, selected by early-childhood experts, includes a wide array of themes such as Jewish holidays, folktales, and Jewish family life. Every book comes with a guide to help families to use the selection in their homes.



The PJ Library is open to all families with young children within a sponsoring area, but like the JCRS, it especially seeks to serve the unengaged or marginally engaged families with at least one Jewish parent. *Through a special donor, the JCRS would like underwrite the annual cost of \$60 per child.* The JCRS goal is to raise sufficient funds to accommodate all of the eligible children who wish to subscribe to the program. There are matching funds available at 50¢ for each dollar raised for enrollment, plus matching funds up to \$10,000 for local administrative costs. *In each area, the program is advertised as a gift of the local partner.*

If you are interested in sponsoring the PJ Library through JCRS - or know someone who might be – please contact the JCRS executive director, Ned Goldberg, by calling 1-800-729-5277, e-mailing him at ned@jcrsnola.org or writing to P.O. Box 7368, Metairie, LA 70010-7368.