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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JFCS and PRISM, along with Pope Architects, are excited to announce their 'Next Century' location, opening in 2018**

**Golden Valley, MN, October, 2017** – Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis (JFCS), along with Pope Architects, is excited to announce its "Next Century" location, which will be open in early 2018! JFCS – along with Minnesota-based Pope Architects and the building's founding sponsor, the Stillman Family Foundation – is renovating an existing office and warehouse building in Golden Valley to create a welcoming home for 120 employees, and clients in its 30-plus programs and services. The newly renovated building will provide JFCS with a permanent home for the first time in its 108-year-history.

Joining JFCS in this new space is non-profit partner PRISM, which serves more than 6,000 people each year through its food shelf, housing programs, children's programs, and thrift shop. This will be the first time since PRISM's founding in 1970 that it has been housed in a facility planned specifically to meet the unique needs of its services and participants.

The building's innovative design will encourage collaboration and connection and foster staff and community engagement, while also providing privacy for clients. The Golden Valley site will be a welcoming, community-building home for volunteers, staff and other community members. It will also be equipped with more efficient and innovative technology.

Through an interactive process with JFCS and PRISM, Pope Architects planned and designed a transformation of the existing Richter Building at 5905 Golden Valley Rd. The design offers a collaborative, flexible work space, with informal and formal meeting spaces, a community event room, meditation/prayer rooms, updated technology, adjustable-height desks and more. In addition, the portion of the building to be leased by PRISM includes a grocery-store-like food shelf and a large retail space for PRISM's Shop for Change Thrift Shop. The two-level space is strategically organized to facilitate collaboration and shared resources.

"Our new building provides a great opportunity for staff, volunteers and donors to better serve the local community with the very best in professional, compassionate and caring service," said Judy Halper, JFCS Chief Executive Officer. "Throughout life, each person experiences a time when he or she can benefit from help and support – and we are here to serve everyone."

“JFCS and PRISM make such a difference for the entire community through their services and resources,” said Gonzalo Villares, AIA, Principal at Pope Architects.

“We are honored to design an elegant, welcoming new home for both organizations to continue to be a beacon of hope for individuals and families in need.”

Since 1910, JFCS has provided programs, services, and support for thousands in the Jewish and broader communities – from older adults and people needing employment to children and families. The agency also provides community engagement programs and counseling and mental health support. There have been a few locations from which JFCS has operated these services over the past century, but JFCS has never owned its own building. It is now embarking on a path to a permanent home where it hopes to serve the community for another century...or longer!

PRISM was founded in 1970 in response to the unmet basic needs of low-income residents of the Twin Cities’ northwest suburbs. PRISM’s continued focus on providing healthy food, proper clothing, and housing stability to thousands of children, adults and seniors each year is a perfect complement to JFCS’ programs.

#### **Stillman Family Foundation**

The Stillman family has been a supporter of JFCS for decades, both financially and as volunteers. Andy Stillman serves on the JFCS Board of Directors. He and his father, Ralph Stillman, who sadly passed away earlier this year, helped provide the vision for JFCS’ new home, and the Stillman Family Foundation is the building’s founding sponsor.

Andy and his wife, Cass Stillman, have supported JFCS for years because it not only serves the Jewish community, but people of all backgrounds without regard to race, color, creed or religious belief.

“I saw this as an opportunity to invest in an organization that reaches most facets of need while building bridges to the community in what is the spirit of Judaism,” Andy said. “A place that is the center of our community for help.” He added that the opportunity for JFCS to join forces with a leading food shelf like PRISM allows it to become the “go-to” place for those in need in our community.

Michael Ryan Company, Inc., the general contractor, has built a strong relationship with the Stillman family through 50 years of construction, renovations and the growth of its grocery and importing business.

“It is very inspirational to see how doing right by our customers, vendors and community, over the course of time, can build such a lasting legacy,” said Matt Hornibrook, Ryan Company Operations. “Thanks to these shared values, the community will benefit for generations to come through the charitable work of JFCS and PRISM. I appreciate the confidence the Stillmans have entrusted in us.”

Demolition work at the Richter Building started this spring, and the contractor began building out the interior spaces in May. JFCS and PRISM expect to move into the new spaces by spring 2018. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held 4-6 p.m. **Tuesday, May 8.**

**Partnership**

In this new home, JFCS and PRISM are solidifying a synergistic partnership. The shared location allows both organizations to holistically support individuals and families in times of financial hardship. PRISM offers an immediate response to the basic needs of people in crisis, and JFCS provides additional wrap-around services that, together, can stabilize families, provide long-term solutions and help prevent future crises.

“The need for food, clothing, and housing continues to grow each year, and it’s growing fastest in the suburbs,” said Michelle Ness, PRISM's Executive Director. “We are excited to partner with JFCS in such an innovative way. When organizations and members of the community work together, we can respond more effectively and create real change.”

**About JFCS**

Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Minneapolis (JFCS), established in 1910, is a non-profit located in Minnetonka that provides essential services to people of all ages and backgrounds to sustain healthy relationships, ease suffering and offer support in times of need. For more information call 952-546-0616 or visit [www.jfcsmpls.org](http://www.jfcsmpls.org).

**About PRISM**

PRISM, founded in 1970, is a non-profit organization located in Golden Valley that meets the basic needs of food, clothing, and housing for thousands of children, adults, and seniors each year, helping them build healthy, stable lives. For more information call 763-529-1350 or visit [www.prismmpls.org](http://www.prismmpls.org).