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For Immediate Release

On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults Expands to New Service Areas, including Mission Valley, Rancho Bernardo and La Jolla

On the Go will hold a “Join Our Driving Force” to recruit new volunteers on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at the JFS – Turk Family Center, Room 101.

Contact People: Dennis Ellman – 858-453-9600 (dme@behmedia.com)
Anya Moberly – 858-453-9600 (anya@behmedia.com)

San Diego, CA – Jewish Family Service of San Diego’s *On the Go* program, founded in 2008, has recently expanded its Rides & Smiles operations to five additional zip codes in the San Diego region. The zip codes are 92014, 92029, 92108, 92116, and 92123.

Rides & Smiles, one of three components of *On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults*, is an award-winning program that provides transportation for older adults to necessary medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other life necessities in the North County Inland area, as well as Northern and Eastern San Diego. Rides & Smiles is the largest volunteer-based transportation service in San Diego County. Other components of the JFS *On the Go* program include shuttle service, organized excursions, and taxi scrip.

The expanded service area means that *On the Go* anticipates providing more than 42,000 rides in the next year, which has triggered a Volunteer Recruitment Campaign for its transportation services. Community volunteers play a vital role in the continuation of these community-based programs, which is why Jewish Family Service is hoping to recruit 100 new volunteers this year, with a heavy emphasis in the newly expanded service areas. *On the Go* will hold a “Join Our Driving Force” to recruit new volunteers on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 at the JFS – Turk Family Center, Room 101. Three times for this all-in-one orientation and training are available: 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. (Room 318); 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; and 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required at www.jfssd.org/otgvolapp.

“Individuals age 60 years and older represent the fastest growing segment of San Diego County’s population, with the number of residents expected to more than double by 2030,” said Meredith Morgenroth, Jewish Family Service Director, Senior Transportation. “The lack of easy, accessible, and affordable transportation for seniors is a problem recognized at the national, state, and local levels.”

Compared with those who still drive, older non-drivers make 15% fewer trips to the doctor, 59% fewer shopping trips and visits to restaurants, and 65% fewer trips for social, family, and religious activities (American Public Transportation Association). Rides & Smiles, one service component of *On the Go*, has provided 175,000 rides to more than 2,200 older adults over the past 5 years.

Morgenroth added, “*On the Go* applied for and was awarded \$325,000 in new vehicles through CALTRANS. Over the following months, the vehicles were custom built to *On the Go*’s specifications—making each of them wheelchair lift-equipped. In all, *On the Go* is proud to add one 7-passenger mini-van, one 16-passenger, and two 24-passenger vehicles to the fleet. This has facilitated our growth into new zip codes as we provide vital transportation services to more and more seniors in need.”

For additional information about *On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults*, please call 9858) 637-3050 or visit www.jfssd.org/onthego.

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ABOUT *On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults*

On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults is a division of Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Jewish Family Service of San Diego. *On the Go* consists of three service components offering both group and individual transportation. The *On the Go* Rides & Smiles® program provides individual transportation through volunteer drivers for older adults to medical and personal appointments. *On the Go* Shuttles provide group transportation to Jewish Family Service's Social & Wellness Centers, shopping centers, and lunch destinations. *On the Go* also offers exciting organized excursions to locations throughout San Diego County and surrounding areas. For additional information, please contact *On the Go* at www.jfssd.org/onthego or call 1-877-634-6537.

ABOUT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

Since 1918, Jewish Family Service of San Diego has been a trusted community resource for people in times of need. Our 50+ programs offer a wide range of help and care to *Empower Families*, *Respond to Crisis*, and *Care for Seniors* throughout San Diego County and the Coachella Valley. Many people turn to Jewish Family Service with a specific need, such as hunger. But what begins with one JFS program often leads to providing a much larger scope of assistance, including counseling, education, job coaching, transportation, and more. Our message to the more than 35,000 individuals and families in our community who we help each year is: WE’RE WITH YOU. To learn why JFS is *One Source for a Lifetime of Help*, visit www.jfssd.org.