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For Immediate Release

On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults Expands to New Service Areas, Including Carmel Valley

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San Diego, CA – Jewish Family Service of San Diego’s *On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults* program, founded in 2008, has recently signed two grants that enabled the expansion of their Rides & Smiles operations to the Northern San Diego region, most significantly to the Carmel Valley region, which currently has no public transportation.

Rides & Smiles, one service component of *On the Go*, received these grants in hopes to provide 6,500 rides in 2012 in the Northern San Diego region alone. In addition to the Carmel Valley and Northern San Diego expansion, which was due to the New Freedom Federal Funds grant, the TransNet Senior Mini Grant helped expand the North County Inland, and Eastern San Diego service areas to include Tierrasanta. The goal for the TransNet grant is to provide 13,000 rides in 2012. All grants were awarded and are monitored by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

Dr. Julie Saltman, a senior community member who has long advocated for senior transportation in Carmel Valley, will be joined by her husband and Council Member Sherri Lightner for the symbolic first ride scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2012.

Councilmember Lightner, who was instrumental in helping secure funding for the Rides & Smiles service in Carmel Valley, urged residents to volunteer for this much-needed program.

“Access to transportation is a critical issue for Carmel Valley seniors. Currently, there is no public transportation in the area, making it all but impossible for seniors without cars to do the everyday things that many of us take for granted. Thanks to Jewish Family Service and SANDAG for their help in getting this done.”

On the Go anticipates providing over 40,000 rides in 2012, 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 volunteer drivers use a convenient, web-based scheduling system to choose when, where, and who they drive. Secondary insurance is provided by JFS and mileage is reimbursed. The average trip is 10 miles roundtrip.

Rides & Smiles, one of four 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.

For additional information about *On the Go: Transportation Solutions for Older Adults*, please 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 OF SAN DIEGO

Jewish Family Service was founded in 1918 by a consortium of women's clubs which sought to address the myriad of human needs of the time. Today, JFS is a comprehensive human service organization with locations throughout San Diego County and the Coachella Valley. From its early grassroots origins, the agency now serves all of San Diego County with more than 50 programs. Its programs and services include: Adoption; Case Management; Counseling; Crisis Services; Family Violence; Jewish Connections; Refugee Resettlement; Older Adult/Senior Services; Parenting, Youth & School-based Services; and Training/Education. Learn more about why JFS is *One Source for a Lifetime of Help* at www.jfssd.org.