



Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bellefaire JCB Announces New Name for Its Mentoring Program: Jewish Youth Mentoring

CLEVELAND, OH — April 6, 2026— Bellefaire JCB announces that its mentoring program, formerly known as Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, officially transitions to a new name: **Jewish Youth Mentoring**, effective immediately.

This change reflects Bellefaire JCB's continued commitment to the transformative impact of youth mentoring, while marking an important step forward in strengthening its connection to the greater Cleveland community. The transition also follows the program's decision to disaffiliate from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA), allowing for deeper alignment with Bellefaire JCB's mission and vision as one of the region's most prominent child-serving social service agencies.

"While our name is changing, our mission remains the same," said Carl Brass, Bellefaire JCB Executive Director, "We are as committed as ever to providing meaningful, high-quality mentoring relationships that empower Jewish youth and support families across our community."

Bellefaire's mentoring program has built a strong foundation rooted in nationally recognized standards and best practices. Jewish Youth Mentoring will continue to uphold and build upon these high standards by:

- Utilizing independently licensed social workers and counselors to develop, support, and supervise mentoring matches
- Conducting comprehensive volunteer screening, including written applications, background checks, reference checks, and in-person interviews
- Requiring extensive in-person training for all volunteers prior to matching, ensuring readiness and understanding of youth needs and program commitments
- Actively engaging parents and guardians as essential partners in each mentoring relationship

"As someone who has been involved with this program for many years, I've seen firsthand the life-changing impact mentoring can have," said Betsy Tucker, a current mentor and chair of the program's advisory board. "This new chapter is an exciting opportunity to build on a strong legacy while continuing to meet the evolving needs of our Jewish community's youth and families."

In addition to serving Jewish youth, Bellefaire JCB also offers a foster youth mentoring program, extending the organization's impact to young people in foster care who benefit from consistent, supportive adult relationships. Bellefaire JCB remains deeply grateful for the continued support of the community and looks forward to this next chapter in delivering impactful mentoring experiences for Jewish youth and families.



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About Bellefaire JCB

Among the nation's largest, most experienced child service agencies, Bellefaire JCB provides a variety of behavioral health, substance use disorder, education, and prevention services. Bellefaire helps approximately 25,000 children, youth, families and community members each year through its more than 25 programs including outpatient and school-based counseling, prevention and early intervention (Social Advocates for Youth - SAY), homeless and missing youth, foster care and adoption, mentoring, and residential treatment including crisis stabilization, drug and alcohol treatment, and transitional and independent living programs. Comprehensive autism services are provided by the Monarch Center for Autism to individuals aged three through adulthood. Bellefaire JCB is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

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