

JEWISH CENTER FOR ADDICTION PRESENTS...

FREEDOM SONG

A MUSICAL

ONE FAMILY'S STRUGGLE WITH ADDICTION.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Freedom Song Musical to Highlight Addiction Issues in Chicago's Jewish Community May 30th & June 1st

Jewish Child & Family Services Brings A Musical About the Slavery of Addiction to Raise Awareness About This Pervasive Issue Amongst Chicago Jewish Youth

Chicago, IL - "Having *Freedom Song* here will take the Chicago Jewish community to a whole new level of awareness, understanding and action on addiction," said Beth Fishman, Manager of Jewish Center for Addiction. "A warm, powerful and entertaining musical seemed like a natural way to introduce the topic." Her team with Jewish Family Services brought the musical *Freedom Song* to Chicago to broaden the discussion on the issue of addiction amongst Jewish youth in Chicago.

Freedom Song is a musical about a Jewish family struggling with addiction. It uses original modern music to expose the pervasiveness of the disease of addiction and its effect on everyone in the family system. The cast is not made up of actors, but of actual addicts in recovery that have broken off the shackles of drugs, alcohol, gambling and other destructive behaviors. They take part in Beit T'Shuvah's theatre in recovery and prevention program.

The lead in the musical, Tricia Nykin, says performing for an audience in Chicago and sharing her past struggles and current successes is a special opportunity. "The greatest gift of sobriety is giving back, and my hope for this trip is that we touch at least one person and enable someone to reach out for help," said Nykin.

"There have been and continue to be pockets of important prevention and intervention work in the Jewish community, but an effort to reach a larger audience is long overdue," explained Fishman. "We at the Jewish Center for Addiction are ready to carry the message forward with prevention programs, community education, training, and support for individuals and families struggling with addiction."

Jewish Child and Family Services received a grant from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago to fund a three year youth drug prevention initiative. Beit T'Shuvah's nationally renowned Partners in Prevention program is now offered through JCA and Response staff to Jewish organizations in Chicago.

WHAT

Freedom Song, A Musical: Using song and dance, tears and laughter, and an intense post show discussion with our cast, *Freedom Song* opens eyes to the real life struggle against the 'bondage of self' that we all fight every day. Do you obsess over being the picture of perfection? Are you constantly trying to please your parents? Is your own self worth based on material things?

WHY

The Jewish Center for Addiction felt it was necessary to create a larger discussion of addiction as a Jewish issue in Chicago. The Musical serves as a warm and inspiring way to introduce the discussion about very real issues many of Chicago's Jewish families are secretly struggling with.

WHEN

Sunday, May 31st, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
 Congregation BJBE
 1201 Lake Cook Road
 Deerfield, IL

Monday, June 1, 7-8:30 p.m.
 Temple Shalom
 3480 N. Lake Shore Drive
 Chicago, IL

Admission is FREE (To register call [847-745-5422](tel:847-745-5422) or visit <http://bit.ly/jcaformor>)

VIDEO ABOUT FREEDOM SONG**INTERVIEWS**

To arrange for interviews with members of the cast or to video performances please email stephanie@abramsmanagement.com or call Stephanie at 323-999-4489.

About Beit T'Shuvah (Bate-t'shoo-vah)

Beit T'Shuvah is a nonprofit treatment center and education institution dedicated to guiding individuals and families toward a path of living well in order to recover from addiction. T'Shuvah translates to repentance and return. Beit means house. Beit T'Shuvah = The House of Return. www.beittshuvah.org

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