

WCJCS

Goals and Mission

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and

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The World Council of Jewish Communal Service (WCJCS) is based on the premise of *Klal Yisrael*, that regardless of the many differences among Jews, we constitute one people with responsibility for one another, for strengthening Jewish life, and ensuring the Jewish future—both at home and abroad. The Jewish communal professional has a special leadership role to play in achieving these vital objectives in partnership with community lay leaders.

Since it was established in 1967, WCJCS has served as a vehicle for Jewish communal professionals to network, address global Jewish issues, develop strategies of response, and to share and exchange experiences. In the process, WCJCS has enhanced professional practice and a feeling of Jewish communal service as an international profession.

As a non-political, non-governmental organization, WCJCS has been able to relate to the broad spectrum of Jewish expression and to Jewish professionals from all over the world.

The centerpiece of WCJCS activities is its Quadrennial Conference in Jerusalem, which brings together hundreds of professionals from North and South America, Western and Eastern Europe, FSU, Australia, South Africa, and India. Details of the forthcoming Quadrennial are found in the following pages.

In addition, WCJCS sponsors an Annual Conference in June in Israel, has fostered regional conferences in Europe and Latin

America, and publishes this special edition of the *Journal*. A web site is now being set up.

At this critical time for the Jewish people, it is more important than ever that Jewish communal professionals come together and join forces to meet the growing challenges ahead.

Clearly, high on our agenda will be an effort to make the next quadrennial just as significant, if not more so than the last one. But, beyond that, an important goal will be to promote many forms of exchange, mutual assistance, and collaboration. We have to make a much greater effort to create more awareness of the successful exchange efforts that are already going on and to focus more purposefully on learning lessons from those successful ventures. We also must make more effective use of the new opportunities for communication through the electronic media.

The success of the World Council as an organization is not measured only by the number of activities because WCJCS is not only doing, but also encouraging others to do. It is an attempt to create momentum—to send a message. This message is sent out not only through participation in our activities but also when participants return home and tell others about their experiences. Even those who are unable to attend, receive a reminder that there is a commitment on the part of professionals from many parts of the Jewish world to work together. Our success will depend on our stimulating many people to act in many directions.