



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Jewish Family Service to Honor Norman Brownstein and Rabbi Steven and The Honorable State Senator Joyce Foster at 18th Annual 'Reel Hope' Fundraiser on December 2 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House**

**DENVER, CO — August 26, 2013** — Jewish Family Service of Colorado (JFS) will honor Norman Brownstein and Rabbi Steven and The Honorable State Senator Joyce Foster at its 18<sup>th</sup> annual benefit film screening, *Reel Hope*, on December 2 at 5:30 p.m. *Reel Hope* supports all programs of JFS, including mental health counseling, senior and adult in-home care, disability and employment services, and family safety net services. Community members are invited to pay tribute to Norm Brownstein as he receives the 2013 Kal Zeff Business Leader of the Year Award, and the Fosters who will accept the 2013 Jack Shapiro Community Service Award.

This year, the event will return to the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at 14<sup>th</sup> and Curtis in the Denver Performing Arts Complex. The 2013 gala event will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Kevin Taylor, a short program, and a film screening (to be announced).

The event efforts are being led by co-chairs Ed Barad, David and Allison Foster, Danny and Becky Foster, and Debbie Foster. The *Reel Hope* committee includes: Adam Agron, John and Shirley Asher, Carla Bartell, The Honorable U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Rabbi Joe and Susan Black, Howard and Carol Boigon, Bo and Lauren Brownstein, Stephen and Cheryl Cohen, The Honorable Congresswoman Diana DeGette, Steve Farber, Abby Foster, Aiden Foster, Bo Foster, Lucy Foster, Ozzie Foster, Rex Foster, Mickey and Nancy Gart, Michael Geller, Natalie and Stephen Goldman, The Honorable State Senator Ken Gordon, The Honorable Mayor Michael B. Hancock, The Honorable Governor John Hickenlooper, Jack Hyatt, Rob Kaufmann, The Honorable Governor Dick Lamm and Dottie Lamm, Scott and Laure Levin, Linda Appel Lipsius, Josh Miller, Larry Mizel, Bud and Cyril Newman, The Honorable Mayor Federico Peña, Jordy and Bonnie Saliman, Connell and Laurie Saltzman, Bobbi and Jim Seff, Steve Shraiberg, The Honorable U.S. Senator Mark Udall, Yana Vishnitsky, and The Honorable Mayor Wellington Webb and Wilma Webb.

Tickets for this event are \$180 and sponsorship packages start at \$1,500. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.jewishfamilyservice.org/ReelHope](http://www.jewishfamilyservice.org/ReelHope) or contact Lisa Mehl at 720.248.4633 or [lmehl@jewishfamilyservice.org](mailto:lmehl@jewishfamilyservice.org).

## **About the Honorees**

### ***Norman Brownstein, 2013 Kal Zeff Business Leader of the Year***

A founding member and Chairman of the Board of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Norm Brownstein is nationally recognized for his extensive experience in real estate law, commercial transactions and public policy advocacy. He is also widely acknowledged for his commitment to community service.

The *National Law Journal* named Brownstein one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America and he was named as one of Lawdragon's 500 Top Leading Lawyers in America. He has also been included in the *Best Lawyers in America* and *Colorado Super Lawyers*. Active in community affairs, Brownstein is involved in many activities on behalf of the University of Colorado and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), where he is currently vice president. He is presently a director of National Jewish Health and a trustee of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He is a past presidential appointee of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council (1996–2006). He and the firm are longtime supporters of Jewish Family Service.

In addition to this honor, Brownstein has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career. He is a past recipient of the Distinguished Humanitarian Award, the President's Award, and the Arthur B. Lorber Award for Distinguished Service from National Jewish Health, the Talmud Leadership Award from AIPAC, the Distinguished Service Award from ArtReach, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Colorado School of Law. He was awarded the Mizel Museum's Community Cultural Enrichment Award and the University Medal from the University of Colorado.

In 2012, Brownstein was included with 88 other distinguished American citizens who have influenced American public policy in the "Network" a permanent display at the Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC.

"When my brother and I were bereft at the loss of our family, Jewish Family and Children's Services (now Jewish Family Service) stepped in and gave us the wherewithal to redirect our lives," says Brownstein. "JFS has sustained those in our community who need help for 141 years, and G-d willing and with the support of our entire community, they will continue to do so. Their good deeds and acts of loving kindness exemplify the highest Jewish values."

### ***Rabbi Steven and The Honorable State Senator Joyce Foster, 2013 Jack Shapiro Community Service Award Recipients***

Both Rabbi Steven Foster and The Honorable State Senator Joyce Foster have dedicated their careers to serving our community. They have both supported and advocated on behalf of many nonprofits, including Jewish Family Service.

Rabbi Foster spent his entire 40-year rabbinate at Temple Emanuel until he retired in 2010. He is now rabbi emeritus for the congregation and also works as the Jewish chaplain for The Denver Hospice. He brought to his rabbinate a deep commitment to social justice, Jewish education, and Jewish continuity. He founded the Temple Emanuel Preschool and Kindergarten, the Theodore Herzl Jewish Day School (now Denver Jewish Day School), and Stepping Stones to a Jewish Me.

Rabbi Foster is also known for being a civil rights leader who always stands up for what's right, not necessarily what is politically correct or popular. In 1965, while he was a senior in college, he and other Jewish students from the University of Wisconsin marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, with Martin Luther King Jr. This experience shaped his entire life and he became an outspoken advocate for civil rights. Rabbi Foster served on the Colorado State Commission on same-sex relationships, was cochair of the "No on 2" campaign in 1992 (to prevent passage of the Colorado amendment that limited the rights of the gay and lesbian community), and was a member of the Colorado State Civil Rights Commission for 12 years and its chair for four years.

He has served on the boards of Allied Jewish Federation; American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado; Citizens Oversight Board, Office of the Independent Monitor for the City of Denver; Mile High United Way; the National Conference of Justice and Peace; and Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

Senator Joyce Foster has a long legacy with Jewish Family Service that includes leading, working for, and supporting the agency. Her background was in employment, and while she was serving on the JFS board in 1976, an opening came up that was a great fit. What was meant to be a temporary position turned into a 16-year career at JFS as director of resource development and director of employment services.

When JFS President and CEO Yana Vishnitsky arrived from Russia in 1978, she worked with Joyce as her translator and they made the perfect team. They piled Russian refugees in Joyce's station wagon and made the rounds to area warehouses. They talked fast and found jobs. "My career with JFS was very rewarding—not necessarily financially, but in all other areas," says Joyce. After Joyce left her job at JFS, she joined the board again and held several positions, including board chair in 2005 and 2006.

She was a Denver City Council member for 10 years and served as president during her term. Most recently, she served as a Colorado state senator from 2008 to 2012. In addition to her JFS board service, she served on the advisory board of Citywide Banks and the Lowry Foundation board.

Joyce says of being honored with the Jack Shapiro Community Service Award, "I've received many awards in my career, but being honored by JFS means the most to me personally. There are lots of wonderful organizations in Colorado, but JFS is the agency that does the heavy lifting and that helps everyone." Rabbi Foster adds, "I appreciate JFS because it absolutely epitomizes Jewish and American values regarding our obligation to be supportive of people in crisis."

The Fosters have three grown children, David (Allison), Danny (Becky), and Debbie, and six grandchildren, Abigale, Aiden, Aaron, Rex, Lucy, and Ozzie.

**Photos of the honorees are attached.**

### **About Jewish Family Service of Colorado**

Jewish Family Service of Colorado (JFS) believes in strengthening the community by providing vital services to people in need. Every day, JFS helps people overcome life's challenges to live fuller, more meaningful lives. Founded in 1872, JFS is a nonsectarian, nonprofit human services agency serving metro Denver and Boulder. JFS helps seniors live independently at home, provides quality mental health counseling, offers training and job placement to those with barriers to employment, and provides food and financial aid to people in crisis. Every year, the agency benefits more than 20,000 people of all ages, faiths, and incomes. For more information, call **303.597.5000** or visit [www.jewishfamilyservice.org](http://www.jewishfamilyservice.org). Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!