Incorporated as the Employment and Vocational Bureau, our services first focused on Jewish refugees escaping the persecution in Europe and supporting these adults to find meaningful work in their new homeland. After this crisis diminished, the Bureau's priorities turned to Philadelphia's Jewish population: clients who were facing economic hardships and unemployment as well as those with disabilities. When we further diversified those we serve to include the community-at-large in the early 1940s, our founders clearly understood that improving the lives of individuals from all walks of life was ultimately the best way to strengthen the Jewish community.

While we’ve evolved into a broad-ranging human service agency, serving the most vulnerable in our community and people of all religions and races, our programs remain rooted in the traditional Jewish values of Tikkun Olam, or to repair the world. Below you will find a pictorial timeline of some of the highlights of each decade of “Making Hope Happen,” from our initial focus to the wide variety of services we provide today to individuals from all walks of life.

1940s
- 1940-44: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS opens a J.P. Orleans Vocational Center which houses facilities for the unemployed, as well as programs for individuals with disabilities.
  - JEVS participates in the War Industry Training and Vocational Service during World War II.
  - JEVS expands its services to include high school and college students and women returning to work.
  - JEVS opens a state-of-the-art educational institute.

1950s
- 1950-59: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS opens a state-of-the-art educational institute.
  - JEVS focuses on developing new programs for the unemployed, as well as programs for individuals with disabilities.
  - JEVS participates in the War Industry Training and Vocational Service during World War II.

1960-69: JEVS Human Services
- 1960-69: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS offers counseling and treatment for drug-related crimes; then develops counseling and treatment programs for individuals with disabilities.
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.

1970-79: JEVS Human Services
- 1970-79: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.

1980-89: JEVS Human Services
- 1980-89: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.

1990-99: JEVS Human Services
- 1990-99: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.

2000-09: JEVS Human Services
- 2000-09: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.

2010-19: JEVS Human Services
- 2010-19: JEVS Human Services
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.
  - JEVS participates in drug-related crimes counseling and treatment programs.