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**//FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE//**

**Friends of the Family**  
***Jewish Family Services Celebrates its 106<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**KANSAS CITY, MO. (May 22, 2007)** – Kathleen Kennedy Townsend shared a story about her late father Robert Kennedy at the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jewish Family Services, held on May 20th at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. On the day of President Kennedy's funeral in 1963, Senator Kennedy wrote her a letter that she has treasured for over four decades. He explained that as the oldest Kennedy grandchild, she had a special responsibility "to be kind and to work for your country."

This has been her credo ever since. She noted that this same ethic was something the evening's distinguished honorees – Maria Devinki and Rabbi Alan and Linda Cohen – imbued into all aspects of their lives.

Following Ms. Townsend's inspiring keynote address to the audience of 400 guests, Abbot Gregory Polen from Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri introduced Rabbi Alan and Linda Cohen who received the Dr. Phyliss and Robert A. Bernstein Humanitarian Award for their efforts to inspire interfaith sensitivity and understanding. Jewish Family Services President Erlene Krigel then presented Maria Devinki, noted philanthropist, mentor and entrepreneur, with the Agency's Alfred Benjamin Friend of the Family Award. Blanche and Neil Sosland served as the event's honorary chairs.

Jewish Family Services began in 1901, when it established a bathhouse, vocational and language programs for new immigrants, a summer camp, basketball leagues and resettlement services for Jews coming to America. Today, the Agency continues to help people find a way back to living life with hope and joy through many service areas; namely, counseling; case management for community resources and crisis financial assistance; homecare for the elderly or disabled; dietary consultation; chaplaincy programs; and Channeling Healthy Adolescent Interaction.

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