

## Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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### AJC Cleveland Presents its 2016-17 Isaiah Award for Human Relations to the Magnolia Clubhouse

**Cleveland, OH** – AJC Cleveland will present its 2016-2017 Isaiah Award for Human Relations to Magnolia Clubhouse at a special breakfast program, Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 AM, at The City Club of Cleveland. We will also have the opportunity to recognize all of our finalists, the scope of their work and commitment to bettering our community. The program will include a discussion, “Building Bridges, Strengthening Community” with Margot Copeland, Chair & CEO, KeyBank Foundation and Margaret Mitchell, President & CEO, YWCA Greater Cleveland.

For over 50 years, AJC Cleveland has presented this prestigious award to recognize the work of local non-profit organizations which show significant initiative and leadership towards advancing intergroup understanding and respect. The prophet Isaiah stands as a symbol of optimism and of the hope for redemption of all humankind. The Isaiah Award serves as a way to recognize the efforts of Northeast Ohio’s outstanding non-profit community, which in the spirit of Isaiah and AJC, continues to build bridges and improve our world.

In announcing the committee’s decision, Isaiah Co-Chair David Hexter, noted, “For over 50 years, AJC has been privileged to recognize extraordinary organizations for their work in promoting understanding and strengthening our community. As in past years, we had an outstanding group of finalists, all of whom make a difference in Northeast Ohio each and every day. The selection committee feels the responsibility of its legacy and our decision is never easy.” Co-Chair Loree Resnik added, “This year’s recipient, Magnolia Clubhouse, is a very special and deserving organization. A vital community of growth, hope, and opportunity, Magnolia Clubhouse furthers understanding by ensuring that people who live with mental illness are respected as co-workers, neighbors, and friends. In fulfilling their mission, they truly embrace both the spirit of Isaiah and the values of AJC.”

“Magnolia Clubhouse is profoundly honored to receive the Isaiah Award for Human Relations. At its core, the mission of Magnolia Clubhouse is to achieve social justice for those who live with mental illness. Mental illness crosses all boundaries of faith, ethnicity and socio-economic status, affecting one in four people along with their families. Too often it is accompanied by a sense of isolation and despair. Through education, employment and support, the Clubhouse provides an opportunity for people living with serious mental illness to live lives of dignity and fulfillment. Through advocacy and education we work to reduce stigma and prejudice.

Our sincere thanks go to the American Jewish Committee for this wonderful recognition of the important work and profound difference that Magnolia Clubhouse makes in the lives of so many in our community.” said Dr. Rebekah Dorman, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

## **ABOUT AJC**

*For more than a century, AJC has been the leading global Jewish advocacy organization. With offices across the United States and around the globe, and partnerships with Jewish communities worldwide, AJC works to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and to advance human rights and democratic values for all. Now in its 73rd year, AJC Cleveland supports this mission through its work in advocacy, diplomacy, education, and bridge-building.*

## **ABOUT MAGNOLIA CLUBHOUSE**

*Dedicated to the men and women of our community who live with mental illness, Magnolia Clubhouse provides opportunities for its members to live, work, and learn by contributing their talents through a community of mutual support. It is one of more than 300 Clubhouses worldwide that offers psychiatric rehabilitation based on the research-proven Clubhouse Model. At the heart of the model is the philosophy that work and relationships are rehabilitative and that both mental and physical health are enhanced when disconnectedness is reduced. Through supported employment and education programs, Magnolia Clubhouse also assists its members in getting jobs and returning to school, if they so desire. Located in University Circle, Magnolia Clubhouse is open to any adult who is diagnosed with a mental illness. In keeping with its holistic approach, the Clubhouse offers both behavioral and primary care at its on-site clinic.*

*For more information or to arrange a tour, visit [www.magnoliaclubhouse.org](http://www.magnoliaclubhouse.org) and call 216-721-3030.*

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