

SAFETY NET PROGRAMS



CHESED FUND

The Chesed Fund, created in 2007, addresses the lifesaving needs of our most vulnerable community members. Outside of one's synagogue and family, it is the only Jewish community assistance mechanism that provides for short-term and longer-term chronic financial need cases.

The Chesed Fund provides support for those who find themselves in challenging financial circumstances that may never change, as well as those who need one-time emergency assistance during challenging times.

In 2024:

- Federation disbursed more than \$180,000 in direct financial assistance out of the Chesed Fund.
- We supported 215 individuals (including 33 Holocaust survivors) in partnership with Jewish Family Services.
- 66% of those served were over the age of 60; the median age of those served was 72. About 80% of those served are living in Kansas; 20% in Missouri.
- The largest category of assistance—both in terms of the dollar amount and the number of disbursements—was housing security.

In recent years, the monthly spend out of the Chesed Fund has been elevated, requiring additional fundraising. Each year, the fund may supply \$180,000-\$250,000 in total assistance.



KAVOD SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST EMERGENCY FUND

This fund is a partnership between KAVOD (an organization dedicated to serving Holocaust Survivors) and the Seed the Dream Foundation.

These funds match dollars raised by Jewish Federations of North America and local Federations to provide individual Holocaust survivors with food, dental care, rent assistance, emergency home care, and other urgent services.

By accessing these funds, Federation has enabled JFS to change the lives of Holocaust survivors, meeting increased needs as they age.



INDIGENT BURIAL

Death and burial are meaningful parts of Jewish life. In a given year, people in our community pass away without the resources left behind to provide for an appropriate Jewish burial.

Thanks to a partnership with Jewish Family Services (JFS), the Rabbinical Association, synagogues and cemeteries, Louis Memorial Chapel, and the Chevra Kadisha, Federation is able to provide a proper, dignified Jewish burial.

Last year, a significant amount was spent covering the cost of proper Jewish burial for the people who otherwise would have been unable to pay for this.

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS



PJ LIBRARY

PJ Library is an international, award-winning program created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to help families explore their Jewish through free, monthly children’s books.

In 2024, the program saw 170 new enrollments, with almost 1,142 children (ranging in age from birth to 12 years) from 732 households in Kansas City receiving books. Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City covers the cost of the \$40 subscription for each child in the family under 9 years of age.

PJ Library of Kansas City hosts events and programs throughout the year to bring together Jewish families from throughout our community. Last year, 261 families attended 33 PJ Library events, including Hanukkah Glow Party and PJ in the Neighborhood gatherings.



Only 14% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least 6 consecutive years with 4-star evaluations.

SASONE

Sasone is the Kansas City Jewish Community’s program to support children with disabilities, helping to ensure that they have access to Jewish education.

Created in the mid-1990s, Sasone was built on the passion of Steve and Sandy Passer. Today, it provides funding, training and other resources to Jewish educators, schools, camps and other programs in Kansas City.

In 2024:

- Sasone supported 9 Jewish schools and impacted 2,014 students, including 252 who had special needs
- Sasone helped train 400 teachers and community members to support inclusive learning environments
- Sasone allocated \$180,000 in block grants for essential inclusion needs

