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your impact



IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025



thanks from the board



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OUR MISSION
Jewish Peninsula promotes and supports a vibrant and evolving Jewish community where everyone is welcome. Through a powerful combination of advocacy, programming, social action and philanthropy, we strengthen Jewish life on the Virginia Peninsula, in Israel and around the world.

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 5785, we are filled with profound gratitude for each of you. For seven decades, Jewish Peninsula has been more than an organization. We've been a home where lives are enriched, friendships are forged and the human spirit is uplifted. This legacy of service to strengthen Jewish life on the Virginia Peninsula, Israel and all over the world exists because of your unwavering support.

When we adopted our strategic plan just over a year ago, we made a promise to grow with purpose. Today, we're proud to share that we haven't just made progress, we've made real impact.

The Sarfan Center continues to nurture our youngest learners, while Camp Chaverim thrives as a place where children discover joy and build lasting friendships. This year, we came together for powerful cultural moments that strengthened our bonds: remembering October 7th, celebrating with the Mostly Kosher klezmer band and Hashayara Israeli band, and reflecting together during our community screening of "Tree of Life." These experiences connected us through joy, memory and shared purpose.

Behind the scenes, we've made critical investments in our physical foundation: new roofs, updated HVAC systems and improved parking areas. While perhaps not glamorous, these improvements reflect our commitment to creating spaces that will serve us well for years to come. We've also completed a comprehensive gymnasium renovation, welcomed a new director of athletics and enrichment programs and upgraded our audio-visual capabilities to ensure every program delivers an exceptional experience.

In response to your enthusiasm and diverse interests, we've expanded our programming across every stage of life. Whether you're seeking fitness opportunities, educational growth, social connections, or a deeper sense of belonging, you'll find your place at the J.

Your extraordinary generosity made this year's Annual Campaign our most successful in recent memory. Even during challenging times, your support has enabled transformational improvements to our programs and enhanced our ability to serve everyone with early childhood through older adult programming.

As we embrace future opportunities, our aspiration remains unchanged: to build a lasting legacy of inclusive community that stands the test of time. We know this vision is only possible with your continued partnership.

There is still much to accomplish, and we invite you to continue this journey with us. Your support doesn't just fuel our programs and services, it strengthens our collective capacity to touch and transform countless lives.

Thank you for being the cornerstone of our community. As we celebrate this successful year and look toward new milestones ahead, we're excited about a future filled with shared accomplishment, connection and growth—all made possible through your invaluable support.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Steven Marks
President



Eric Maurer
Chief Executive Officer



impact at a glance



\$853,000

raised through gifts to the Annual Campaign.



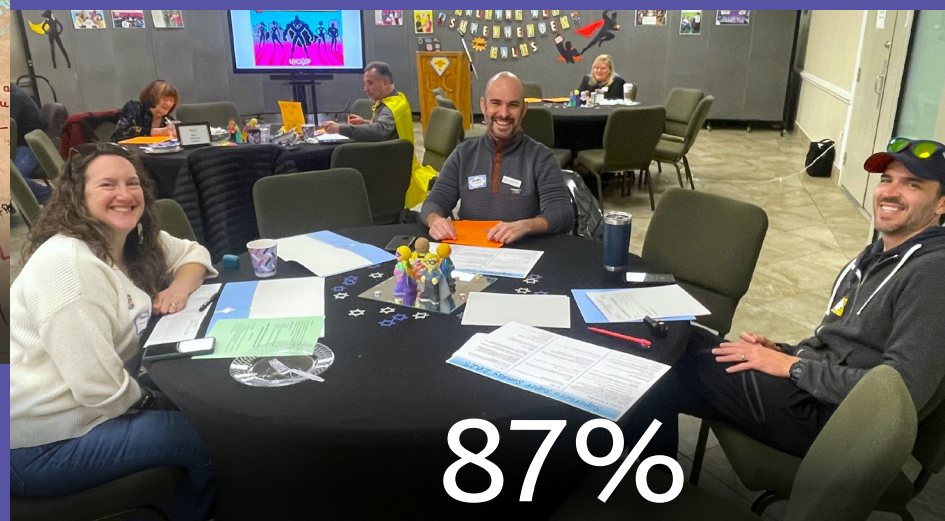
764

households engaged with Jewish Peninsula by supporting our causes and attending events.



84

amazing years serving the Virginia Peninsula.



87%

of Annual Campaign donors continue to give year after year.



34

postcards, messages and treats were sent to local kids and teens at eight Jewish overnight camps and summer experiences.



105

preschoolers played, learned and thrived at the Sarfan Early Childhood Center.



18

years of the recycled boat races at Camp Chaverim - with the fastest win this year at 18 seconds!





you are mobilizing in times of need

When a sudden water crisis hit Richmond in January, you helped Jewish Peninsula respond immediately. Within 24 hours, Jewish Peninsula launched an emergency water drive with the Jewish Federation of Richmond, and donations poured in.

Cars were quickly filled with bottled water, including 5-gallon jugs and dozens of one-gallon bottles. Working with Henrico and Richmond emergency management, volunteers delivered supplies to seniors, at-risk families and faith communities across the city.

Henrico County manager John Vithoulkis shared: "This week I have been humbled by so many organizations that stepped up. The Jewish community called and offered bottled water that helped get us to the finish line with water distribution efforts. I will never forget this act of kindness."

This is our federation system at its best.

Thanks to your compassion and action, every drop counted. Together we showed what it means to care for our neighbors - in Richmond and beyond.

You are living our
Jewish values
everyday.

87

birthday party kits were assembled and donated to THRIVE Peninsula during the annual Pearl Society social action party.

How you are putting Jewish values in action:

- 127 people viewed *A Tree of Life* and were moved by the panel discussion following the film.
- Religious school students from synagogues all over the Peninsula gathered on 3 separate occasions to learn and grow together.
- 140 hats, scarves, sweaters and blankets were hand-knit and crocheted with love by our community members and donated to Menchville House as part of the J's Knitz-vah Project.
- 48 handmade art projects created by our early childhood students brought smiles to Grand Club attendees in honor of World Kindness Day, turning creativity into acts of compassion.



you are

nurturing

Jewish life, education
and values

Laughter and song filled our campus as children from four local synagogue Sunday Schools—and even unaffiliated families—came together for a joyful Klezmer music workshop. Led by visiting musicians Leeav and Janice from the nationally acclaimed band *Mostly Kosher*, the program introduced young participants to the rich history and energy of Yiddish folk traditions. Children clapped, stomped and sang along to lively tunes, with one student exclaiming, “This was so much fun!”

The workshop went beyond music, weaving in the Jewish value of *hiddur mitzvah*: beautifying a mitzvah through creativity. Each child designed and decorated their own tambourine, turning Jewish learning into a vibrant, hands-on experience. As one parent reflected, “It’s so nice to see children connecting to their heritage in such a hands-on way. They’re not just learning about Jewish culture; they’re also bringing it to life.”

By the end of the afternoon, the room was alive with music, dance and laughter. Children left carrying their handcrafted instruments—and a deeper connection to Jewish tradition—thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, who make these transformative cultural experiences possible.

“Judaism is not
a survival of the
past; it is a living
wellspring for the
future.”

—RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

258

local families (411 children!)
have enjoyed PJ Library
books since the program
began on the Peninsula in
2014.

How you are nurturing Jewish life:

- More than 150 community members had a blast at the Purim Carnival, devouring 300 assorted hamentaschen.
- 31 elementary-age kids participated in our after-school art classes.
- The launch of our NextGen program led to 4 new events for young adults in our community with the goal of creating the next generation of Jewish leaders.
- Our campus beehives have doubled in the past year. More than 100,000 honey bees live and work in our campus hives, producing over 1,600 ounces (more than 100 pounds) of honey.
- 3 new roofs and countless other less glamorous facility upgrades were made this year to keep the J standing for many more years to come.



you are
caring
for those in need

Thanks to your generous support, Jewish Peninsula successfully partnered with THRIVE Peninsula this past spring to ensure Jewish families could celebrate Passover with dignity and tradition, regardless of their financial situation. This innovative collaboration created a dedicated kosher-for-Passover section at The Market at THRIVE, a unique, free grocery store that operates on the principles of choice, dignity and respect.

Community donations of essential Passover items including matzah, grape juice, gefilte fish and other traditional foods filled the shelves, allowing families to prepare for the holiday on their own terms without financial burden. "Passover is a celebration of freedom, and we believe that should include freedom from worry about how to provide traditional foods for the seder table," explained Jewish Family Services (JFS) Director Libby Batten. JFS also maintained its longtime tradition of hand-delivering Passover foods to homebound individuals.

THRIVE's Executive Director Angela York highlighted the broader impact: "Having new partnerships allows us to say 'yes' to more families who are food insecure - and it's such a win for the community."

You are helping families in need locally and around the world.

80

boxes of matzah were distributed during Passover, along with cases of other Passover necessities.

How you are caring for our community:

- \$16,050 aided families with early childhood, day and overnight camp scholarships.
- Grand Club members enjoyed 1,404 delicious and nutritious meals.
- 12 volunteers drove, delivered, visited, packed and engaged with community members through various JFS programs.
- 30 individuals facing diverse challenges - hunger, financial emergencies, unemployment, housing, instability at home and growing concerns with physical or mental health - received case management through our JFS office, where we serve as committed partners in navigating the resources available to them.
- 15 individuals received food assistance through our JFS food pantry, ensuring that the dietary needs of community members are met with cultural competency, sensitivity and inclusivity.
- JFS partnered with 6 local and national non-profit organizations, providing additional professional expertise, partnerships and shared resources to better serve our clientele.



you are standing up for Israel

Through your extraordinary generosity towards our annual campaign, we have committed to a three-year partnership with Shlomi, a resilient border town in northern Israel, as part of the Communities2Gether initiative.

Shlomi's residents were evacuated in October 2023 due to escalating security threats. The community suffered devastating damage: 400 homes were damaged, schools and the community center sustained direct rocket hits and half the surrounding forests were destroyed by fires.

Now, as residents have returned home, our partnership provides critical support for reconstruction, security infrastructure and community safety. Beyond financial assistance, we're creating people-to-people initiatives that will build lasting bonds between our communities.

This partnership demonstrates the power of Jewish peoplehood and mutual responsibility. Through your annual campaign contributions, we're helping rebuild a sister community in its time of greatest need while forging connections that will unite our communities for generations to come.

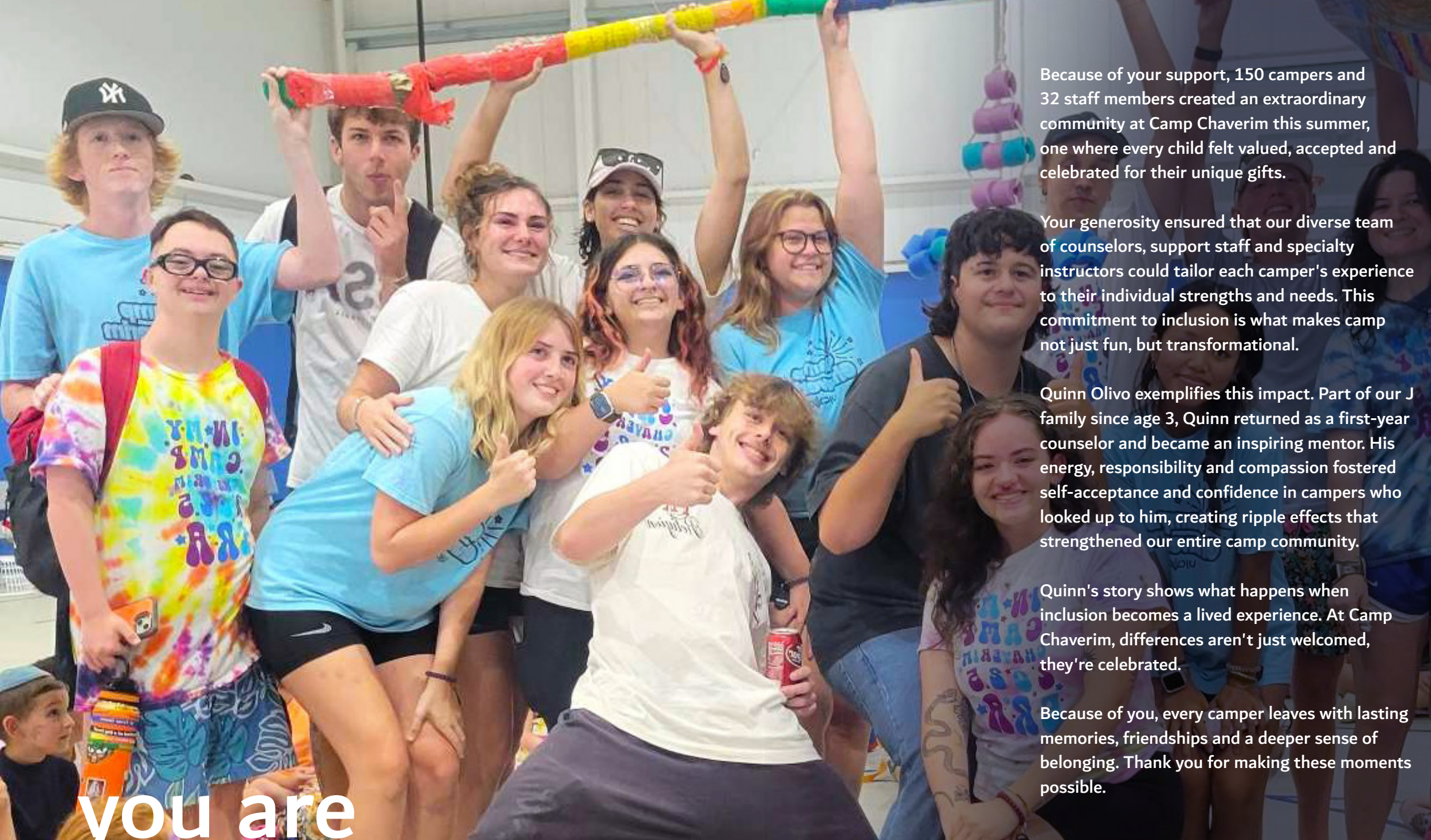
"I like that Shlomi is a small community, like us. Assisting their rebuilding and educational infrastructure will change lives."

-PATRICIA M.

More than **80** Holocaust survivors call Shlomi home and are struggling to resettle into their homes due to medical and emotional issues from the trauma of war and evacuation.

How you are standing up for Israel:

- 3 community leaders have committed to volunteer their time to guide Jewish Peninsula's recovery efforts in Shlomi.
- More than 300 people attended our Israel cultural or advocacy programs, including *Marking October 7, An Evening with Avi Melamed* and *Hashayara: A Musical Celebration of Israel*.
- 11 clergy and elected leaders were present as we marked October 7 with an evening of remembrance, resilience and hope.
- 200 falafel balls were tasted and 101 Israeli flags were crafted during Israel Day at Camp Chaverim.
- 14 attendees bore witness to the atrocities against women on October 7, 2023, at the film presentation of the documentary *Screams Before Silence*.



you are

inspiring

memories that will
last a lifetime

Because of your support, 150 campers and 32 staff members created an extraordinary community at Camp Chaverim this summer, one where every child felt valued, accepted and celebrated for their unique gifts.

Your generosity ensured that our diverse team of counselors, support staff and specialty instructors could tailor each camper's experience to their individual strengths and needs. This commitment to inclusion is what makes camp not just fun, but transformational.

Quinn Olivo exemplifies this impact. Part of our J family since age 3, Quinn returned as a first-year counselor and became an inspiring mentor. His energy, responsibility and compassion fostered self-acceptance and confidence in campers who looked up to him, creating ripple effects that strengthened our entire camp community.

Quinn's story shows what happens when inclusion becomes a lived experience. At Camp Chaverim, differences aren't just welcomed, they're celebrated.

Because of you, every camper leaves with lasting memories, friendships and a deeper sense of belonging. Thank you for making these moments possible.

"This is the miracle of true community - when we foster value of, and care for, all people - everyone belongs and has purpose!"

-DENILLE F., QUINN'S MOM

2 weeks

is all it took for Camp Chaverim to reach waitlist status during open enrollment for this past summer. Within just 1 month, all 8 weeks of camp were completely full!

How you are inspiring memories that will last a lifetime:

- 120 eggs were cracked while making challah for camp Shabbat.
- 2 large boxes filled with school supplies were donated to Newport News Public Schools through a philanthropic summer project led by our TAL (Teens As Leaders) program.
- 12 medals were awarded to our 9 Team Virginia athletes at the 2025 summer Maccabi Games in Pittsburgh.
- 6 Jewish overnight camps (Blue Star Camps, Camp Havaya, Capital Camps, Sababa Beach Camps, URJ 6 Points Sports Academy, URJ Olin Sang Ruby Union) hosted Peninsula kids for their summer programs.
- 160 art pieces were displayed at the 3rd annual Camp Chaverim art show.



Thanks to your support, Jewish Peninsula brought a vital conversation to the forefront at the Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference this past spring.

On April 16, Jewish Peninsula sponsored a powerful session titled "Understanding Antisemitism: History, Impact and Strategies for Allyship." This timely panel featured leaders, including Jewish Peninsula CEO Eric Maurer, Meagan Starks of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, and Dr. Amy Milligan of Old Dominion University. Together, they shed light on how antisemitism shows up - subtly and overtly - and how it's often overlooked in broader social justice spaces.

Your support made it possible to bring this issue out of the shadows and into public dialogue. As Maurer noted, "We cannot address what we are unwilling to name."

Attendees didn't just leave more informed, they left empowered with real tools to be better allies and advocates.

Because of you, antisemitism was named, challenged and taken seriously - not as a side issue, but as central to the pursuit of justice for all.

Because of you, antisemitism was no longer left out of the conversation.

300

Jews from across Virginia met to lobby to members of the senate and congress on Jewish Advocacy Day.

How you are combatting antisemitism and hate:

- \$1,000,000 in federal, state and private grants have been secured for our synagogues and Jewish organizations since the inception of our Secure Community Initiative, bolstering their security posture.
- \$60,000 in funding was secured through our partnership with Newport News Police Department to create a dedicated security fund for Newport News synagogues.
- 5 synagogues were awarded security grants from Jewish Peninsula to offset the cost of hiring security guards.
- 30 leaders were equipped with practical allyship tools as we elevated antisemitism awareness at the Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference.
- 40 meetings with law enforcement and assessments in the community were conducted by our regional security advisor.
- 22 antisemitic acts and threats were reported from our region in the last year.

you are
combatting
antisemitism
and hate



you are guiding curious young minds

Thanks to your generosity, the Sarfan Early Childhood Center was able to celebrate a truly special moment: our very first infant classroom graduation this past August. Families, teachers and our littlest learners came together for a heartwarming ceremony complete with a video presentation, refreshments and certificates of completion.

This milestone wasn't just about "moving up." It was a celebration of the many firsts that your support makes possible: first waves hello and goodbye, first smiles shared with friends and first steps into a lifetime of learning. These small yet powerful moments are the building blocks of confidence, connection and curiosity.

Because of you, our dedicated teachers can provide the loving, nurturing environment where infants thrive. And because of your commitment, families feel supported and connected as they entrust us with their most precious gift—their child.

As our tiny graduates move on to the Wobbler or Mazel Tot rooms, they carry with them the wonder and joy sparked in their very first classroom. Their bright futures began with the foundation you helped build. Thank you for making these first milestones possible.

Early childhood experiences lay the foundation for a lifetime.

12

babies filled our Sarfan Center infant room, 11 have moved on to Mazel Tots and 5 siblings are joining the 2025 infant class - the most we've ever had!

How you are guiding curious young minds:

- We have welcomed 18 new families to the Sarfan Center for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Community member Lori Luckman has taught close to 200 theatrical arts lessons to Sarfan Center Pre-K students over the past four years. This school year, she will have 28 new kids with whom to learn and play.
- 10 excited five-year-olds have started kindergarten at the Sarfan Center for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 15 different varieties of vegetables flourished in the Sarfan Center's 6 garden beds, lovingly tended by our students and teachers.
- 144 dedicated runners and walkers from across our community and local businesses came together to participate in our 39th annual 5K and 1-mile fun run.



**The Annual Campaign
is the lifeblood of
our Jewish Peninsula
activities and
programs.**

Your generosity is appreciated and your commitment to our community is valued.

Please join us in honoring our loyal and generous donors. Thank you!

*L - Lion of Judah (minimum contribution: \$5,000) | CS - Chai Society (minimum contribution \$1,800) | LOJE - Lion of Judah Endowment | PACE - Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment | P - Pearl Society | 1st - First Time Donor | * - of Blessed Memory*

\$20,000 +

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thank
you
for your support

“We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.”
— WINSTON CHURCHILL



"Jewish Peninsula has been an integral part of our family's life for decades. Contributing to the J through active volunteerism, lay leadership and annual donations aids in strengthening the vitality of the Jewish community and provides an invaluable support for strengthening Jewish family values and traditions."

-JOANNE & RICHARD GORDON

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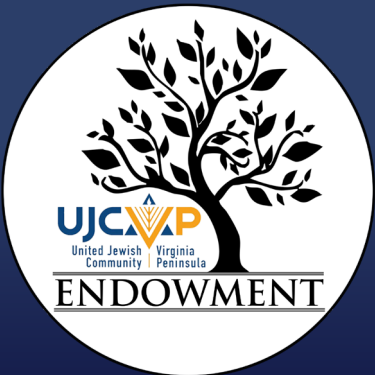
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The Wendy C. Drucker Family Foundation
Arthur & Jean Fass Philanthropic Fund
The Norma G. Frank Donor-Advised Fund
Glasofer Donor-Advised Fund
The William M. & Gloria E. Goldsmith
Philanthropic Fund (#73)
The William M. & Gloria E. Goldsmith
Philanthropic Fund (#74)
Goldstein/Comess/Benbassat Philanthropic
Fund
Goldstein Family Philanthropic Fund
The Barbara & Ralph Goldstein Charitable
Fund
Mark, Scott, Jack, Hanna, Alan & Selma Gordon Fund
Marilyn & Dr. Mark Nataupsky Holocaust
Education Fund

Kanter Family Fund
The Kostiner Family Donor-Advised Fund
The Roy & Elizabeth Lasris Charitable Fund
Eugene M. & Betty N. Levin Family Philanthropic
Fund
Levy Family Philanthropic Fund
The Lon Levy Donor-Advised Fund
The SuSu Levy Donor-Advised Fund
The Lori & Jeff Luckman Philanthropic Fund
Boris Margolin Foundation Fund
The Thomas W. Meehan Family Foundation
Cyril R. & Evelyn Flax Mirmelstein Philanthropic Fund
The Bernard A. & R. Lorraine Morewitz Charitable
Foundation Fund
Gary & Janet Nachman Donor Advised Fund
William M. Nachman Philanthropic Fund
The William T. & Joanne K. Roos and Eugene M. and
Betty N. Levin Leadership Fund
William T. & Joanne K. Roos Philanthropic Fund
The Rosenbaum Family Fund
Rosenbaum-Lautman Children's Fund
Edward & Jody Sarfan Philanthropic Fund
Sarfan/Gary S. & William M. Nachman Philanthropic
Fund
Scott Wolf Family Fund
Segaloff Family Philanthropic Fund of UJC
The Steven & Sally Seltzer Donor Advised Fund
The Ellyn J. Soefer Charitable Fund
The Charles & Lisa Stern Philanthropic Fund
Joseph A. & Phyllis A. Stern Family Philanthropic Fund
Howard & Sandy Waters Fund

you are
impacting
our future

Through the UJCVP Endowment, generous donors create Jewish
tomorrows for the Virginia Peninsula community.



The UJCVP Endowment is an
independent tax exempt public
charity, separate from Jewish Peninsula.



20
community members and
City of Newport News
employees toured Jewish
Newport News via trolley,
marking Jewish American
Heritage Month.

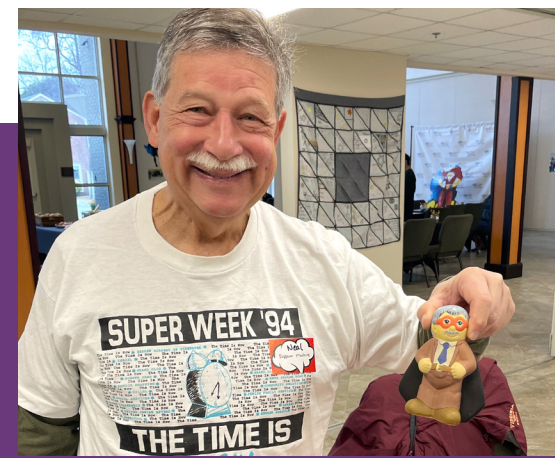
300
room changeovers
were facilitated by our
maintenance supervisor and
his team to accomodate all
the classes, meetings and
events we hosted over the
year.



8
Camp Chaverim counselors
got their educational
start at the Sarfan Early
Childhood Center.



446
calls were made to
personally thank donors.



past events
2024-2025