

Article for Ledger

On November 10 JFCM hosted 10 other Jewish community organizations at the kick off of the Life & Legacy program. Life & Legacy is a 4-year partnership program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that assists communities across North America to promote after-lifetime giving to benefit local Jewish day schools, synagogues, social service organizations and other Jewish entities. JFCM has been selected to coordinate the LL program for Central Massachusetts, one of only 8 communities selected to participate this year. We are joining a total of 36 communities nation-wide.

Philanthropic advisors believe that if 20% of a nonprofit's operating budget is not coming from endowment gifts by the year 2025, the organization will be in fiscal crisis. Endowments are now an essential element of any nonprofit's long-term financial strategy. The Life & Legacy program will provide educational, marketing and support resources so that Jewish organizations in Central Massachusetts can concentrate on soliciting legacy gifts for their organization.

This program launched on November 10 with a presentation by Arlene Schiff, national director of Life & Legacy at the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. This presentation was attended by representatives of Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Clark University Hillel, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation Shaarai Torah West, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Federation of Central Mass, Jewish Healthcare Center, Temple Emanuel Sinai, Temple Israel and Worcester JCC.

Anyone with questions about the program can contact Leah Shuldiner at the Federation office for more information.