

After 1 and a half years the legacy giving program in Central Massachusetts has secured more than 260 after-lifetime commitments with an estimated value of 6,644,000 dollars in future financial gifts to the community. Through LIFE & LEGACY™, JFCM partnered with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to help start a community-wide legacy giving program. As a part of the collaboration, the Federation, in turn, partnered with local organizations as a part of the four-year program that provides coaching, training and incentive grants to ensure that legacy giving becomes a normal part of the philanthropic culture of the community. Central Mass's participating organizations are Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Clark University Hillel, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation Shaarai Torah West, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Healthcare Center, Temple Emanuel Sinai, Temple Israel and the Worcester JCC.

Recently, Central Mass Community leaders joined colleagues from across the country in Springfield, Massachusetts, for this year's LIFE & LEGACY/Create a Jewish Legacy Leadership Gathering. The conference was aimed at building skills, sharing best practices and providing opportunities for networking among the participants in order to continue creating sustainable, legacy giving programs in their local communities.