



Collaboration

WE DO THIS TOGETHER



Jewish Federation®
OF GREATER METROWEST NJ

2017-2018 Report to the Community

"I believe strongly that one of the Jewish community's greatest strengths is our sense of mutual responsibility. No other organization helps me, as an individual, to help more Jews locally and around the world, whether we're feeding hungry Jews in the former Soviet Union, building bomb shelters at Kibbutz Erez, or ensuring that our local institutions are secure."

Jonathan Liss

It's been an extremely eventful year... Through good times and bad, we have strengthened ourselves by coming together as a community, lifting one another up, teaching and supporting one another. This is the very definition of community, and at the center of our Greater MetroWest Jewish community is Federation. We work to bridge the distances, the differences, and the divides, uniting us through our common commitments to care for those in need locally and overseas, build a foundation for our Jewish future for our children and grandchildren, and save the lives of those in crisis around the world.

Federation has an obligation to make our Jewish community stronger, both through our dollars and our actions. We are uniquely positioned to monitor the needs, evaluate the community resources available, and then lead the charge in tackling these challenges as a united community. At the core of it all are the donors who support our UJA Annual Campaign. They build the programs and services that care for those in need and keep us all safe and inspired. **We do this together.**

WE CARE. WE BUILD. WE SAVE.



making our community voices heard

We know that efforts to improve existing community resources such as transportation are critical to the success of individuals with disabilities... We know that comfortable housing seniors can afford is imperative to their living in dignity... And we also know that no dollar amount from Federation could solve our community's transportation and housing crises, faced by many seniors and individuals with disabilities. We realized that by expanding the advocacy work we were already doing, and at the same time teaching and helping build the agencies' capacity to advocate for themselves, our dollars would be leveraged more so than if they went to any single agency. The Strategic Priorities Council recommended the creation of a part-time position to fill this role, and Federation's Board of Directors approved the allocation. Now our Legislative Advocacy Manager has been meeting with agency leaders to determine how she can provide them with the support they need.

Some examples of what we've accomplished this year include:

Together, we responded to the natural disasters of the summer of 2017, and Houston in particular. As soon as we became aware of the devastation the Jewish community in Houston sustained from Hurricane Harvey, Federation President Scott Krieger called an emergency Board meeting and they voted unanimously to allocate \$36,000 from our Emergency Reserve to help victims in immediate need. In total, our community raised more than \$250,000 in funding, a quarter of a million dollars! The Board allocated an additional \$54,000 to help in the rebuilding efforts there. *Together we support Jews in crisis around the world.*

Together, we addressed the rising tide of anti-Semitism in our community, in our country, and around the world. Security remained a top priority for our community this year. Federation Chief Security Officer Robert Wilson continued to meet with agencies and synagogues and helped them build connections with local law enforcement. We implemented the Secure Community Network System and awarded tens of thousands of dollars in security matching grants for our synagogues to make improvements in their security systems. *Together we keep our beloved Jewish institutions safe and secure.*

We came together to call for common sense gun legislation in the wake of the high school shooting in Parkland, Florida. We also recognized that many members of our community desperately needed to come together to express their sorrow and outrage. In response, Federation hosted a rally where incredible teens from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School spoke to more than 2,000 members of our community at Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston. We followed that up by providing buses to March for Our Lives in Newark, as well as lunch and discussion sessions afterward. *Together we speak out on the local and national levels on issues we care about.*

Together, we celebrated Israel's 70th birthday. Federation funded 16 amazing programs across the community, many of them collaborative efforts between synagogues and agencies. Our commitment to celebrating, supporting, and developing partnerships with Israel deepened even more this year. We hosted hundreds of Israelis from our partner communities, including, for the first time, a delegation of lace makers and their chaperones from the Druze community of Horfeish. And 15 Israeli cyclists rode with us to raise money for camp scholarships at our Tour de Summer Camps. *Together we continue to strengthen the bonds we have forged with our brothers and sisters in Israel.*

Together, we increased our efforts to reach out and engage the entire Greater MetroWest Jewish community. This year we've continued to expand our programs to connect with families with young children, teens, college students, young adults, empty nesters, and grandparents. We launched Greater MetroWest Hillel... we had more than 800 people join us for our first, incredibly successful LIVE365 event with Ben Platt... we relaunched the popular Live & Learn event... we brought together rabbis from all denominations in conversation, and much more.

When we work together toward our common goals of strengthening, protecting, and inspiring our Jewish community, we accomplish amazing things!



Scott Krieger
Federation President
Executive



Dov Ben-Shimon
Federation CEO/
Vice President



Families are busier than ever before, pulled in different directions and struggling to make time for Jewish practice. Yet the only way to secure our Jewish community for future generations is to continue to empower and engage young families. Federation offers myriad ways for families to connect to their Jewish heritage on their own terms, in their own time. By building community today, we ensure our presence and vitality for tomorrow. Shtick Together, a unique program Federation launched in conjunction with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, empowers small groups of families to celebrate Shabbat together on a regular basis over the course of a year. Federation professionals help organize the groups of families and provide guidance through age-appropriate activity ideas and advice. Participating families not only build their own small communities – they feel empowered to spearhead Jewish activity in the greater community.



Report from the JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Here are examples of the \$34.5 million in grants awarded from endowments and philanthropic funds:

Memory Café: This innovative new program offers luncheons, entertainment, and support for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Within the first month, 20 to 30 families benefitted from this sold-out monthly program.

Write On for Israel: Eight teens attended this nationally-recognized program, which facilitates student engagement and Israel advocacy.

One Happy Camper Grants: 230 first-time and 92 needs-based scholarships were awarded from DAFs, supporting foundations, Federation funds, and fundraising from the Tour de Summer Camps cycling event.

For nearly 70 years, the Jewish Community Foundation (JCF) has focused on helping our clients fulfill and direct their giving. We acknowledge with gratitude our generous fundholders, who continued to have a profound impact locally, nationally, and throughout the world by recommending \$31 million in grants in the 2018 campaign year. It is truly our privilege to facilitate your grantmaking, and we are pleased to report yet another year of growth and service to the Jewish community.

JCF manages \$470 million in charitable assets from 750 fund holders. We are proud that the 2019 UJA Annual Campaign will begin its year with \$2 million in commitments, thanks to individuals who had the forethought to plan for a perpetual campaign endowment. This accounts for 10 percent of the Campaign.

This past year we established 43 donor-advised funds (DAFs), the largest number ever. As JCF fundholders know first-hand, a DAF is a valuable tool to streamline your philanthropy and help you to be more strategic and thoughtful with your charitable giving. Here at JCF, we continue to create and share educational resources to assist you in meeting your philanthropic goals. In order to bring you further insights from the top thought-leaders in philanthropy, JCF is partnering in the coming year with the Jewish Funders Network to create an educational series on important issues within the philanthropic and Jewish worlds.

We are always working to enhance our services and improve our technology. Nearly 20 percent of fundholders responded to a survey we sent out. We appreciate the input, and in the coming year we will be working to implement many of your suggestions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. We look forward to continued growth and working with you for a stronger and better community.

Robert Kuchner
President

Stanley H. Stone
Executive Director



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METROWEST NJ