

# 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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**Kathryn Weisbaum**

The 2016-17 year for CUJF saw many accomplishments and also presented us with several challenges. First, our accomplishments. Our local committees did amazing work this past year, providing the community with a variety of educational and humanitarian programs and services. Please see the “highlights” section for summaries of the accomplishments of Holocaust

Education, Human Services, New Americans,

Chevra Kadisha, PJ Library and KIDdush club committees. Our community events drew participants from across the spectrum of background and affiliations. In addition to CUJF sponsored events (like the Film Festival, which drew nearly 100 participants to each of the 4 week showings and follow-up discussion), we are also proud of the “grass roots” programs (Israeli Folkdancing and Teen Movie Night) that were conceived, organized, and hosted by community volunteers. We hope to see more of these community-initiated events in the future. Please see more details in the Annual Report about these extraordinary accomplishments.

And, we are very excited to report a *100% collection rate* on our campaign! Our campaign totaled \$265,477. Thanks to the 265 donors for your continued support and for following through on your pledges!

We also faced some challenges this year. In the spring, we found ourselves facing the unfortunate and unique position of being without both a President and an Executive Director as of June 30 (the end of the fiscal year). We had seen this coming for quite some time, but we just weren't able to head it off. We also knew that we had issues within the organization itself that needed to be addressed. Our visibility in the community has deteriorated over the past few years and some of our programming has fallen by the wayside. Further, changes in other local organizations have led to changes in the “landscape” of the Jewish community and, potentially, in how we can best serve. We realized that we have to hone a clear mission to inspire our donors and to establish our niche in the community.

In May, our board members affirmed their commitment to the organization and to forging a more visible and viable role in the local Jewish community. We decided to delay the annual meeting (normally held in June) and the formal induction of the new board until later in the summer, when hopefully we would have: a) solicited input from the community into what our role and mission should be moving forward; b) gained more time to recruit additional board members and officers (President and President-Elect); and c) initiated the search for a new Director.

Throughout the summer, we sought input from the community regarding our role in the CU community. From surveys, letters from community members, and many face-to-face meetings, I

was gratified and encouraged by the support for CUJF and by the extent that CUJF is seen as an integral part of the Jewish community.

Our charge going forward is to focus on those areas that we alone provide to the community, including Human Services (including its camp scholarships), Holocaust Education, Chevra Kadisha, New Americans, PJ Library, and Seniors/Chai Group. We need to continue our work in these areas and, most importantly, do a better job of letting the community know about the critical work we do. Our communication skills have been lacking recently, but we are committed to working to improve. We are also committed to maintaining our active support of the other Jewish organizations in town so that, together, we can serve the vibrant, diverse, and engaged community that we know we can achieve. And we remain committed to providing funds to those Israeli organizations (and programs in other countries) that support our mission and priorities in serving Jewish populations abroad.

As of this writing, we still do not have a President or an Executive Director. But the search for the ED is underway, and we have the talents and expertise of the Search Committee (chaired by Laura Bleill) to recommend a leader who can help us formulate our best course going forward. And we have a Nominations Committee (chaired by Janis Topolosky) who will fill out the ranks of our extremely talented board and search for lay leadership at this critical juncture.

As I end my tenure as President, there are many people I would like to thank. Djavid Novrouzov, our financial officer, has served the organization for many years as a loyal, steadfast, and vigilant manager of our financial well-being. This past summer, he has assumed many additional duties, in addition to keeping the organization on track. We wish Jessica Kopolow, who served CUJF for 5+ years as Executive Director and years prior as CUJF staff, the very best in her future endeavors; we know she will remain a good friend of CUJF.

To our outgoing Board members: Melissa Cronin, Hagit Itkowitz, Alaina Kanfer, Stephanie Pregent—thank you for your service. To the Executive Committee (Dov Cohen, Dana Cohen, Eva Ginsburg, Hagit Itkowitz) who gave freely of their time, insights, and support throughout—my sincere thanks and appreciation. And to those who have “re-upped” and those who have joined the board this year: please know that your efforts are important, and very much appreciated by the community you serve.

My deepest thanks and warmest regards to all the members of the community who have supported CUJF and have advised me throughout my leadership. We are very blessed as a community to have pillars of support to sustain us, as well as ample talent to lead us forward. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served this extraordinary community!

## 2016-2017 COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

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### ■ HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

This committee continues its efforts to support local teachers by providing resources for developing curricula to teach about the Holocaust and related topics, as well as much needed professional development for these educators. Activities this year included:

- Holocaust Curriculum Trunk- materials used by 10 teachers
- Teacher workshop on including the arts in teaching Holocaust. 5 teachers presented; 15 teachers attended
- Display of the Holocaust artwork of Agnes Matjinszky Pal at Sinai Temple
- 11th annual Virtual Holocaust Museum at Franklin Middle School
- 5th annual "Through their Eyes- A student exhibit on the holocaust" at Sinai Temple in conjunction with Yom Hashoah
- Presentations at Barkstall Elementary in Champaign, Lincoln's Challenge in Rantoul, Giacoma Elementary in Westville, Shlarman Middle and Shalarman High schools in Danville— presentations by Bob, Brian, and Jessica

### ■ CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

(Human Services Committee)

As in previous years, HSC worked with Sinai Temple to coordinate camp scholarship funds and to maximize the number of children served by the community. This year, 8 students received funding for OSRUI, Camp Tavor, and Camp Nageela Midwest.

### ■ KIDDUSH CLUB

Funded by a community development grant from the Jewish Federation of North America, this is a collaboration between Sinai Temple Religious School and CUJF. Events this year included: Pop Up Playdate, Winter Swim Party, and CU Jews at Scovill Zoo. These 3 events drew a combined attendance of about 150 participants, many "new" and "unaffiliated" families.

### ■ PJ LIBRARY

Families with children 6 months through 8 years of age receive free Jewish children's books through this program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations, like CUJF. In CU, we have served 128 children to date. PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, regardless of background or observance.

### ■ CHEVRA KADISHA

Our local Jewish burial society provides preparation of the dead for traditional Jewish burial, education about Jewish death

and mourning practices, and respectful, low-cost burial for the indigent. Currently, nearly 80 volunteers serve as shomrim (who watch over burial from death to burial) or on tahara teams (who wash and dress the deceased and place the body in the casket). This past year, volunteers participated in 8 burials this year (73 since 2000). The committee also published new booklet A Jewish Guide to Death and Mourning and made presentations to groups at UI, Sinai Temple, and the Carle hospice program.

### ■ HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

One of the most important services we provide to the local community, the HSC attempts to address the diverse human needs of our community with insight and compassion. In addition to assessment and referral to appropriate social services, the committee provides assistance with necessities such as food, housing, childcare, transportation and medical care through limited emergency loans and direct third party payments. The members of the committee recognize the sensitive nature of our mission and maintain strict confidentiality in all proceedings. This year, we helped 28 households with utility bills, emergency accommodations, and medical issues

### ■ NEW AMERICANS

This committee provides assistance to over 40 people, with educational materials to study English, financial assistance to attend holiday and community events, assistance with immigration documents and (in cooperation with Human Services) to counsel and assist local Russian speaking families with issues of domestic dispute and domestic violence.

### ■ COMMUNITY EVENTS

We continued our collaboration with other organizations for a community July 4th BBQ. We also sponsored "Judaism in Japan" at the Japan House, a Passover Fair, and a 4-week Film Festival that was very well attended. Two "grass roots" programs included Israeli Folkdancing and Teen Movie Night, each offered several times throughout the year, organized and hosted by volunteers.

### ■ COMMUNICATION

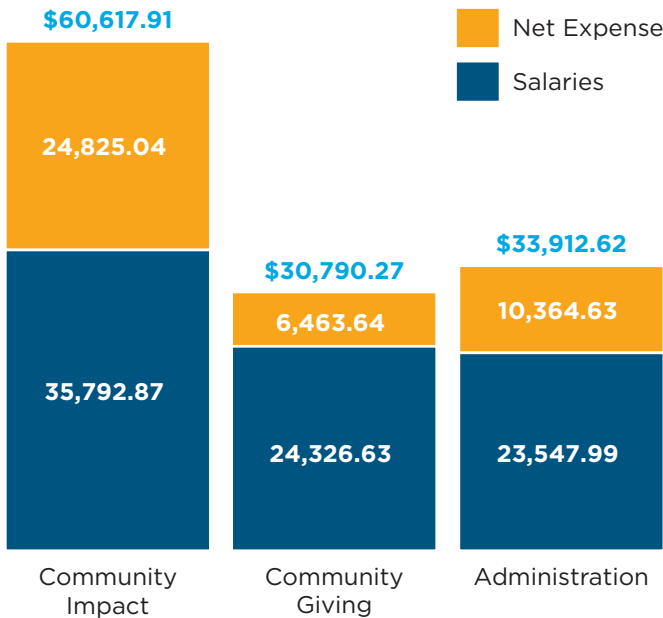
We continue to produce a weekly newsletter, monthly bulletin, and special announcements for 500+ local members, and maintain a website (soon to be updated) and Facebook page.

### ■ CAMPAIGN

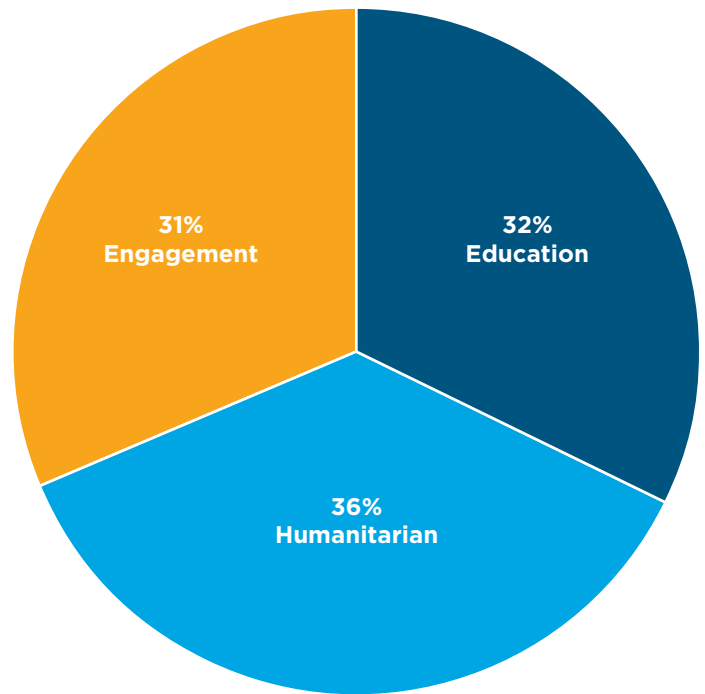
265 donors contributed \$265,477  
100% collection rate this year!

# 2016-2017 TOTAL LOCAL EXPENSES

TOTAL LOCAL COSTS BY AREA



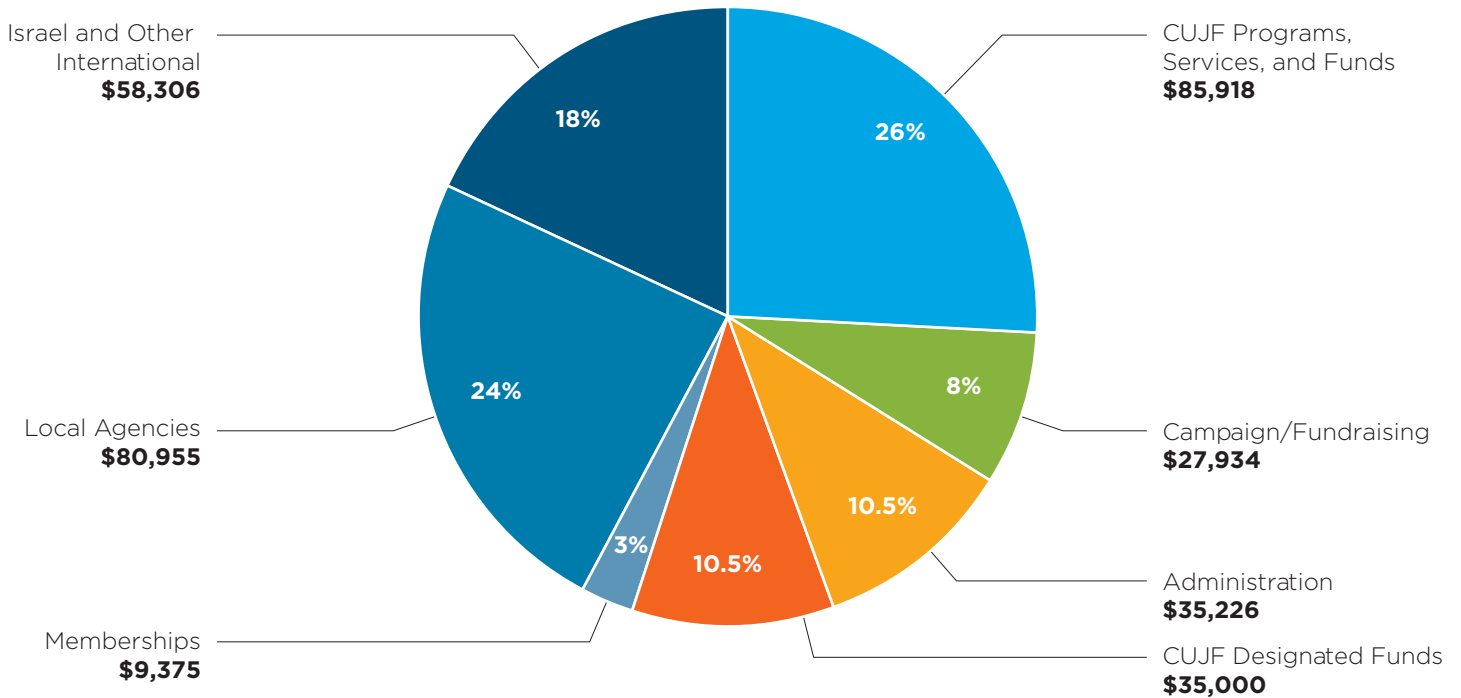
COMMUNITY IMPACT BY CATEGORY



COMMUNITY IMPACT BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY

|                                    | Salaries           | Net Expense        | Total Cost         |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>EDUCATION</b>                   |                    |                    |                    |
| Gift if Israel                     | 293.46             | 0.00               | 293.46             |
| Holocaust Education                | 2,441.00           | 3,429.57           | 5,870.57           |
| Leadership Development             | 698.05             | 21.48              | 719.53             |
| Kiddush Club                       | 2,094.14           | 727.5              | 2,821.64           |
| PJ Library                         | 698.05             | 1844               | 2,542.05           |
| Human Services: Camp Scholarships  | 647.62             | 6660               | 7,307.62           |
| <b>Subtotal Education</b>          | <b>6,872.32</b>    | <b>12,682.55</b>   | <b>19,554.87</b>   |
| <b>Percent of Community Impact</b> |                    |                    | <b>32%</b>         |
| <b>HUMANITARIAN SERVICES</b>       |                    |                    |                    |
| Human Services                     | 7,123.78           | 4977.92            | 12,101.70          |
| Chevra Kadisha                     | 1,806.24           | 2257.32            | 4,063.56           |
| New Americans                      | 5,811.82           | 39.00              | 5,850.82           |
| <b>Subtotal Humanitarian</b>       | <b>14,741.84</b>   | <b>7274.24</b>     | <b>22,016.08</b>   |
| <b>Percent of Community Impact</b> |                    |                    | <b>36%</b>         |
| <b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>        |                    |                    |                    |
| Seniors (CHAI)                     | 1,611.66           | -1287.25           | 324.41             |
| Communications                     | 9,157.87           | 3,291.36           | 12,449.23          |
| Community Events                   | 2,957.70           | 2,864.14           | 5,821.84           |
| Jewish Community Relations (JCRC)  | 451.48             | 0.00               | 451.48             |
| <b>Subtotal Engagement</b>         | <b>14,178.71</b>   | <b>4,868.25</b>    | <b>19,046.96</b>   |
| <b>Percent of Community Impact</b> |                    |                    | <b>31%</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>      | <b>\$35,792.87</b> | <b>\$24,825.04</b> | <b>\$60,617.91</b> |

## 2017-2018 ALLOCATIONS



| ISRAEL AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL                         |  | \$58,306 |
|--|--|----------|
| BINA (via NIF)   |  | 11,852   |
| Birthright Israel (via JFNA)                           |  | 2,807    |
| IMPACT! Scholarships: Friends of IDF                   |  | 1,000    |
| JAFFA Institute  |  | 10,000   |
| Jewish Federations of North America                    |  | 15,159   |
| PEF: Israel Endowment Fund                             |  | 5,000    |
| <i>Aviv Nitzoleh HaShoah</i>                           |  | \$1,000  |
| <i>Emek Medical Center</i>                             |  | \$1,000  |
| <i>Lo-Combating Violence Against Women</i>             |  | \$1,500  |
| <i>Yad Sarah</i>                                       |  | \$1,500  |
| Save a Child's Heart                                   |  | 11,852   |
| Earmarks   |  | 636      |
| LOCAL AGENCIES   |  | \$80,955 |
| Chabad Local Programming                               |  | 7,500    |
| East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center |  | 1,650    |
| Hillel Local Programming                               |  | 36,000   |
| Hillel Torah Fund                                      |  | 1,800    |
| PACE CU Jewish Endowment                               |  | 705      |
| Sinai Temple Religious School                          |  | 22,000   |
| Earmarks   |  | 11,300   |
| MEMBERSHIPS  |  | \$9,375  |
| Illinois Government Affairs Office                     |  | 250      |
| Jewish Federations of North America                    |  | 9,000    |
| Small Cities Representatives                           |  | 125      |

| AMERICAN AGENCIES   |  | \$87      |
|---|--|-----------|
| Earmarks  |  | 87        |
| CUJF PROGRAMS, SERVICES & FUNDS   |  | \$85,918  |
| <small>(Includes pro-rated portion of staff salaries devoted to CUJF programs &amp; services)</small> |  |           |
| Allocation  |  | 3,932     |
| Chevra Kadisha  |  | 7,996     |
| Communication (announcements, calendar, website)  |  | 12,361    |
| Community Events  |  | 6,023     |
| Gift of Israel (CUJF Matching Funds)  |  | 5,823     |
| Holocaust Education   |  | 9,145     |
| Human Services General  |  | 12,958    |
| Human Services Camp Scholarships  |  | 8,986     |
| Jewish Community Relations  |  | 612       |
| Leadership Development (Includes PJ Library and Kiddush Club)   |  | 7,809     |
| New Americans   |  | 6,141     |
| Seniors (CHAI)  |  | 2,935     |
| Earmarks  |  | 1,197     |
| CAMPAIGN/FUNDRAISING  |  | \$27,934  |
| ADMINISTRATION  |  | \$35,226  |
| CUJF DESIGNATED FUNDS   |  | \$35,000  |
| Emergency Fund  |  | 5,000     |
| Reserves  |  | 25,000    |
| Technology  |  | 5,000     |
| TOTAL   |  | \$332,801 |