Together we can,
together we will!

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Food Pantry & Nutritional Health Center

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven

JCC of Greater New Haven
This March, 152 members of the Greater New Haven and Greater Hartford communities traveled together for a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Israel where they witnessed first-hand the impact of donations to Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign in the State of Israel.

As we conclude fiscal year 2023 and usher in the Jewish New Year, we stand strong, stable, and on the rise! This New Year marks another chapter in our ongoing narrative—a story not just of numbers, but of profound impact. While we proudly celebrate milestones like achieving our Jewish Federation Annual Campaign goal, the success of the Beckerman Family PACE Challenge, and the JCC boasting its highest membership numbers ever, it’s essential to recognize our less tangible achievements and the lives we’ve touched.

Our accomplishments are a testament to our Tier One Agencies’ dedication. Their past, present, and future contributions—whether from Camp Laurelwood, Ezra Academy, Jewish Family Service, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, or the Towers at Tower Lane—form the backbone of our success. Our local Jewish organizations, synagogues, and overseas allies, including the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, play pivotal roles in our journey.

We, the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Foundation, and the JCC, remain united in our mission: Ensuring our Jewish Future, Building Jewish Identity, Support for Active Aging, Sustaining Global Jewry, Securing our Community, Enabling a More Inclusive Community, and Promoting Community Engagement. Of course, our impact is only possible because of you: our donors, volunteers, and staff!

The Jewish Foundation’s endowments have flourished, making charitable distributions last year that amounted to almost $4 million. Impressively, 82% of these funds directly supported local Jewish organizations and synagogues. Meanwhile, the Jewish Federation generously distributed over $1 million to our local and overseas communities, introduced exceptional programs and services, and paved new pathways for Jewish engagement. And not to be outdone, the JCC also made remarkable strides this year, from launching Café J—a café with a purpose—to expanding the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center, hosting over 350 children at JCC Day Camps, and setting new standards in Fitness, Aquatics, and Recreation.

In closing, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to you. Thank you for placing your trust in us and for choosing to be our partners in fortifying this Jewish community. Your belief and support fuel our shared vision and promise for a brighter tomorrow.
In November 2022, Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation launched the Beckerman Family PACE Challenge to secure PACE funds into the future. Its success is not only a testament to the community’s commitment to Jewish life and continuity, but also a strategic approach to building a strong and stable foundation going forward.

The Jewish community’s future is not merely a matter of preserving traditions but actively investing in sustainable programs that can foster growth and continuity for generations to come. Two initiatives that stand as pillars in this mission to ensure the Jewish future are the Beckerman Family PACE Challenge and the Create a Jewish Legacy (CJL) program. Both of these programs are more than fundraising campaigns; they are strategic endeavors that aim to build a resilient foundation for Jewish life, culture, and community engagement.

Here’s a closer look at how these two programs are shaping the future:

**BECKERMAN FAMILY PACE CHALLENGE**
The Beckerman Family PACE Challenge was a significant campaign initiated this year in partnership with the Beckerman Family Foundation, aiming to secure the future of the Greater New Haven Jewish community. The campaign’s initial goal was to raise $2 million, which would in turn be matched with $2 million from the Beckerman Family Foundation. In June, we passed that goal, and as of August 31, the campaign has successfully reached 82% of its new $5 million target, with $4,212,533 raised and 57 donors contributing.

The campaign focuses on the establishment and increase of Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) funds, which are permanent endowment funds designed to sustain annual commitments to the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign. The interest earned from these funds is distributed annually to the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign, ensuring a stable financial foundation for the community. Since their inception, PACE funds have grown significantly over the years, from accounting for just 0.6% of Annual Campaign donations in 1999 to nearly 22% of last year’s campaign.

**CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY (CJL)**
Create a Jewish Legacy (CJL) is a collaborative, strategic partnership between the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation’s national LIFE & LEGACY® program. The resounding impact of this initiative is unmistakable, with an estimated $8.1 million in new endowments and planned gifts secured by over 375 households in Greater New Haven in the past decade. Newly revived this year with 14 participating area synagogues and agencies, CJL enables professionals and lay leaders to secure New Haven’s Jewish future.
PJ Library continued its ‘Pathways to Jewish Experience’ educational and outreach series for a second year including two Family Camp Weekends in collaboration with Camp Laurelwood, hosting over 32 families at this year’s retreats.

The continuity of our future hinges on a strong connection to Jewish roots and culture, especially among our young families and children. To foster this connection, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation actively finance various initiatives.

These include grants for Jewish preschools, the PJ Library, Shalom Baby, One Happy Camper Jewish overnight camp grants, trips to Israel, BBYO, Hillel, the Jewish Scholarship Initiative for Synagogue Schools (JSI), and Birthright Israel. Further, the JCC provides Jewish enrichment through JCC Day Camps and the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center.

All of these programs are vital, transformational experiences that the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation support to guarantee a bright and enduring future for our community. Below are just some examples of the ways that we have built Jewish identity in this last year:

SHALOM BABY ON THE GO
Shalom Baby hit the road this year, bringing its signature Shalom Baby Café program to backyards and synagogues around Greater New Haven.

COLORS OF MY JEWISH YEAR
Funded through a Community Impact Grant, Beth Israel Synagogue and Quinnipiac Hillel partnered to launch a series of educational programs at local area libraries designed to deliver significant Jewish experiences for affiliated, unaffiliated, and interfaith Jewish youngsters in the broader Wallingford region.

BEVERLY LEVY SHABBATS
The Beverly Levy Early Learning Center saw great success this year with the launch of their Shabbat onegs series, coordinated by Rabbi Josh Pernick. Each week, a different local rabbi brought their interpretation of a kid-friendly Shabbat to the Vine Family Auditorium.

JEFFERSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(JHS) JUDAICA PROJECT
A recipient of this year’s Community Impact Grants, the JHS launched a series of talks on thrifted Judaica and their uses, in collaboration with Quinnipiac Hillel.

CELEBRATION OF JEWISH LATIN & LADINO LIFE
In partnership with PJ Library, the Center for Jewish Life and Learning hosted a week-long series of programs to educate the community on Jewish Latin & Ladino culture.

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS
This year $11,900 was awarded to 4 members of our community. The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Program enables Jewish students, ages 15–20, the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to develop, enrich, and reinforce their Jewish education and identity.

As a Jewish dad, PJ Library has made it possible for me to muddle through teaching my little ones about Judaism. They’re some of our favorite books.

Brian Hollander

Our Tier One agencies, local organizations and synagogues all contribute to the fabric of our community. The Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation, and JCC are proud to collaborate with and impact all of our partner organizations:
Caring for the elderly within the Jewish community is not merely a responsibility, but a cherished value that reflects compassion, respect, and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for aging adults. Several initiatives have been launched in recent years to provide comprehensive support to Jewish seniors, focusing on their well-being, independence, community engagement, and overall enrichment. These programs are not just about meeting basic needs; they are about creating a nurturing environment where seniors can thrive and continue to be active and valued members of the community. In addition, a community taskforce was formed to identify senior needs and is now a working committee of the Jewish Federation, called the Jewish Seniors Enrichment Alliance (JSEA). Here’s an overview of some of the remarkable programs that embody this commitment to care for the elderly:

**GRANTS FOR THE JEWISH ELDERLY**

Since 2020, the Jewish Foundation has awarded a total of $620,000 in Community Grants for the Jewish Elderly. This year, $176,000 was awarded to the following programs:

- The Care Navigators program at Jewish Family Service which focuses on ensuring secure housing, enhancing well-being, fostering community cohesion, promoting independence, and enriching the lives of aging adults.
- ‘The Towers at Tower Lane,’ will utilize Jewish Foundation support to establish a transformative Community Garden, contributing to inclusivity and overall well-being. This initiative’s impact will extend beyond landscape rejuvenation, reaching into local schools, camps, and involving volunteers. It will provide a space for shared learning and community.
- Chabad of the Shoreline was awarded a grant for its ‘Friendly Visitors’ initiative, which involves matching volunteers with Jewish seniors in nursing homes and assisted living. This program serves the dual purpose of countering isolation through joyful and regular visits, while also nurturing intergenerational Jewish projects that contribute to enriching experiences.

**JEWISH AGING MASTERY PROGRAM (JAMP)**

Jewish Family Service was awarded a Community Impact Grant by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven to present a 12-week series entitled, ‘Jewish Aging Mastery Program’ (JAMP). JAMP addresses issues for those aged 55+, including increased life expectancy, health, finances, and relationships. It fosters healthier, more fulfilling aging through knowledge and empowerment, impacting the 70 participants’ quality of life and well-being.

**ADOPT A BUBBE PROGRAM**

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven’s Women of Vision Society awarded a grant to “Adopt a Bubbe”, a program that paired a total of 32 female residents of The Towers at Towers Lane with Southern CT Hebrew Academy students. Eight unique sessions involved projects, crafts, snacks, socializing and singing. This initiative helped enrich lives and strengthen the Jewish community’s intergenerational fabric while enhancing education and building ongoing relationships.

**OTHER GRANTS TO SUPPORT ACTIVE AGING:**

- Safe Spaces for Grieving and Healing (JFS & The Towers)
- Community Meal Delivery (The Towers)
- Uniper Technology to Reduce Isolation for Holocaust Survivors (JFS)
At the Jewish Federation, our impact resonates across the globe. We extend support to strengthen Jewish existence in over 70 nations. In places where Jewish traditions have been stifled, we are actively restoring community foundations. Where there’s a resurgence of Jewish life, we stand ready to foster it. We recognize that regardless of our individual locations, we are united as one global Jewish family.

Despite numerous obstacles, Jewish culture continues to thrive across the world’s four corners. Our collaborative efforts with partners such as JDC, The Jewish Agency for Israel, and World ORT reach more than 70 countries. Together, we ensure that Jewish communities, irrespective of their size, remain lively and robust.

UKRAINE
In response to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, our partners at JDC, supported through your Annual Campaign dollars, have been instrumental in providing extensive humanitarian aid. They’ve supported over 83,000 Jews in Ukraine, delivering essentials like food, medicine, and winter relief. Together, we’ve distributed nearly 2.4 million pounds of aid, evacuated 26,000 Jews, and assisted 80,000 refugees across borders.

OPERATION ZUR ISRAEL
Over the last year, the Jewish Federation significantly supported Operation Zur Israel, an operation of the Jewish Agency which aided over 5,000 Ethiopian Jews’ migration to Israel; 70% under 35. Just in the last few months, JAFI has relocated an additional 150+ individuals from the Gondar region to Addis Abba, preparing them for emigration.

AFULA-GILBOA
In collaboration with the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC), the Jewish Federation invests heavily in the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel. This alliance emphasizes economic development, fostering coexistence between Israeli Jews and Arabs, education, and nurturing the next generation of leadership. Through collective efforts, they’ve made significant contributions to enhance education, security, and health care in the region. Additionally, this year our Jewish Community Relations Council and JCC collaborated on an art show with the Mishkan Museum in Ein Harod to further strengthen this bond.

Our Greater New Haven community maintains robust ties with global Jewish communities, thanks to our collaboration with International partners like the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and World ORT. Through initiatives like Partnership2Gether (P2G) and the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC), we foster close relationships with both Israeli teenagers and adults in our sister region, Afula-Gilboa.
The safety and well-being of our community stand above all else. With the rise in reported hate crimes, Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation are helping to expand, fortify, and protect our local Jewish community, ensuring everyone has secure and purposeful avenues to engage.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released its 2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, showing a 36% increase in the US and a 193% increase in CT. While these are staggering statistics, your Greater New Haven Jewish Federation has a strategic plan to combat antisemitism. Our holistic approach includes education, advocacy, and security, and addresses antisemitism on every level.

In 2021, Jewish Federation entered into a partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN). SCN is the official security and safety organization for the American Jewish community. Just as Israel has an Iron Dome to protect its citizens from attack, SCN seeks to provide a “security shield” for America’s Jewish community. Our Jewish community members and institutions benefit daily from our SCN Regional Security Advisor, Michael Shanbrom.

Here are some of the other ways you’re helping to keep our community safe:

**JCC SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**
Thanks to the Arthur Eder Family Fund of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, $977,000 in Security Grants have been awarded, in memory of Arthur & Yvette Eder, to 24 organizations since 2020. One of those recipients was the JCC. With 20,000 monthly visitors, and amid heightened safety concerns, the Jewish Federation sought funding to prioritize JCC safety. The Security Grant included installing an intruder-resistant desk and safety vestibule, impacting the unity and safety of all who enter the Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building.

**STOP THE BLEED KITS**
For two years now, Jewish Federation, in collaboration with the Secure Community Network (SCN) and Michael Shanbrom, has been enhancing security preparedness for Jewish organizations across Greater New Haven. A significant component of this initiative has been an emphasis on Stop the Bleed® trainings, which teach attendees how to manage severe bleeding injuries. This last year, Jewish Federation set a goal to equip every classroom and agency in the community with a Stop the Bleed® kit, ensuring immediate response to emergencies. This partnership underscores the commitment to community safety and resilience.

**FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM**
Over the past year, Michael Shanbrom has been instrumental in bolstering our defenses against antisemitism. He ramped up emergency training and built strong ties with local police and the FBI. On another front, Rabbi Josh Pernick, our Director of Jewish Community Relations, has been actively connecting with policymakers and expanding our community partnerships, especially with JFNA’s #ShineALight program, to push back against bias and discrimination.
Inclusivity is deeply rooted in Jewish values and teachings. By fostering unity, respect, and a deeper understanding among members of our community, we are fortifying the bonds we share with one another. Embracing and empowering diverse voices and experiences ensures that every individual feels valued and acknowledged.

We at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven continuously strive toward building a more accepting, diverse, and inclusive future, where Jewish spaces are welcoming for all who want to participate. Our mission is not confined to mere words or intentions; we actively engage in providing funding and needed resources to partners and agencies. Our focus on inclusivity extends to serving the disabled community, ensuring that our Jewish spaces are accessible and accommodating to everyone.

Our collaboration with various partners and agencies is aimed at creating opportunities for all to achieve their highest potential and lead independent, fulfilled lives. By aligning our efforts with those who share our vision, we are able to make tangible strides in building a community that truly reflects the values of acceptance, diversity, and inclusion that we hold dear.

CAFÉ J
This year, the JCC opened Café J, a unique café staffed entirely by young adults with developmental and social disabilities with support from volunteer mentors. Café J is a collaboration between the JCC, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, The Towers at Tower Lane and the Chapel Haven Schleifer Center, with generous support from the Jewish Federation in the form of a Community Impact Grant. It serves as a vocational training hub, promoting inclusivity and opportunity. This venture not only addresses the pressing need for meaningful employment opportunities for adults with disabilities but also symbolizes the JCC’s commitment to fostering growth, community, and inclusion.

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING AT THE JCC
This year, the JCC introduced a range of innovative programs aimed at seamlessly incorporating individuals with physical and developmental disabilities into our community. This encompassed our inaugural week-long adaptive camp, complemented by our newly launched adaptive swimming and sports classes. These inclusive initiatives, attended by more than 50 children, fostered self-confidence, enhanced social abilities, and instilled a profound sense of community belonging.

"...and when we come to a place like New Haven and have a chance to spend some time at the Chapel Haven Schleifer Center, and then we come here to the JCC of Greater New Haven and see how these institutions are working, not just in partnership, but in the warm embrace of a community committed to the success of one another...

Doron Krakow
President and CEO of the Jewish Community Center Association of North America"
We are deeply committed to creating lasting and meaningful ways for Jews to connect and strengthen their Jewish identity. This commitment goes beyond mere words, as we actively foster relationships within the Jewish community. We also extend our reach to people of all faiths and cultures, recognizing the importance of interfaith dialogue and collaboration. By working together, we believe in building bridges that can help construct a better tomorrow for everyone involved.

In addition to these efforts, we collaborate with our beneficiary agencies that provide essential social services and programs. These partnerships are vital in our mission to repair the world and keep Jewish life strong and thriving. By aligning with organizations that share our values and goals, we ensure that our impact is widespread and resonates with those we aim to serve.

These are just some of the ways we engaged our community this year:

**ISRAEL 2023: CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE**
To strengthen ties between Israel and Greater New Haven, we embarked on Israel 2023: Choose Your Own Adventure, organized in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. The trip, attended by 152 participants, offered diverse tracks like Geopolitics, Food, Art, and Technology. Highlights included talks by prominent figures, festive events, cultural experiences, and visits to significant locations and programs run by our partners, JDC and JAFI.

**DIGNITY GROWS**
This program was locally launched in the first quarter 2021 as part of a national initiative founded by Jessica Zachs in Hartford. To date, we have delivered over 4,000 tote bags throughout the Greater New Haven community to women and girls in need of basic feminine hygiene products. Our distribution partners include Jewish Family Service, CT FoodShare, Southern CT University and Gateway Community College. In just two years, we have raised over $55,000! Every dollar raised is used to fill the tote bags and distribute them to women and teen girls in need in our community.

**BEVERLY LEVY EARLY LEARNING CENTER**
The JCC’s Beverly Levy Early Learning Center has experienced rapid growth over the past two years, culminating in the opening of our 12th classroom this year. The full day program for children 3 months old to Pre-K has reached an enrollment of 120 children in Fall 2023, and continues its reputation as a caring and stimulating environment.

**JCC DAY CAMPS**
The JCC Day Camps program flourished this summer, creating lasting memories and fostering deep connections among our 350+ participants. Our campers experienced personal growth, built lifelong friendships, learned about Jewish culture and practice, and embraced the joy of summer. This testament to our commitment showcases the profound influence of nurturing a close-knit and inclusive community.
YOUR IMPACT:
An Overview

10,000 PJ LIBRARY BOOKS DELIVERED ANNUALLY TO OUR COMMUNITY

40 SHALOM BABY BABIES WELCOMED THIS YEAR, BRINGING OUR 2 YEAR TOTAL TO 150

HELPED LOCAL JEWISH ORG.’S SECURE OVER $4 MILLION IN FEDERAL & STATE SECURITY GRANTS

$117,000 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS AWARDED (DOUBLED FROM 2022)

358 KIDS IN JCC DAY CAMPS THIS YEAR IS A 5% INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR

32% INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT AT BEVERLY LEVY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

OVER 1000 DONORS HAVE GIVEN TO FEDERATION FOR 25+ YEARS

20% INCREASE IN JCC MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS

2022 Foundation Financial Summary

Total Foundation Assets: $72,175,268
Contributions (in gifts received): $2,930,773
Charitable Distributions/Grants: $3,988,953

Top 5 Distributions
- PACE Distributions to Federation Annual Campaign: $519,247
- Security Grants: $287,400
- Jewish Elderly Grants: $219,000
- Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven—Community Impact: $174,750
- Scholarships for Jewish Overnight Camps: $29,700

COMMUNITY IMPACT OF 2022 CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

$3,988,953

TOTAL 2022 CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS AND SYNagogues:
$3,245,197

LOCAL SECULAR:
$216,721

NONLOCAL SECULAR:
$311,939

NONLOCAL JEWISH:
$215,096
"I am excited to leave a two-fold legacy. My greatest legacy is having 3 children and now 7 grandchildren. As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I can say, 'We live on! We thrive!' My second legacy is to my shul, Congregation Beth El–Keser Israel. I created a legacy for BEKI in my estate plans so that it can continue to be a place for families to learn and grow." —Susan

What will your Jewish legacy be?
It’s moments like this...

When Leah arrived in Israel for the first time as a participant on our Israel 2023 trip, she discovered a connection to the land and its people that she’d never felt before. This moment is thanks to you. Your generous support of the Federation’s 2024 Annual Campaign helps strengthen Jewish community across the globe.

Be a part of moments like this, local and afar, big and small, impactful and life-changing.
jewishnewhaven.org/donate

We all strive to leave the world a better place through our children, our good deeds, our generosity.

Create a Jewish Legacy is a program sponsored and presented by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and is a collaborative effort of our area agencies and synagogues to secure the future of the New Haven Jewish community.

Mazel tov to our participants

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (PACE)
Temple Beth Tikvah
Congregation Mishkan Israel
Temple Beth David
Temple Emanuel

Congregation Beth Shalom
Rodef Zedek
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
Jewish Family Service
Camp Laurelwood
Towers at Tower Lane

Ezra Academy
UCONN Hillside
Jewish Cemetery
Association of Greater New Haven
New Haven
New Haven Mikveh Society

Be forever remembered by our community for the legacy you leave. Make YOUR legacy a brighter Jewish tomorrow.

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