



Jewish Federation
of Greater New Haven

Community Impact Report **2024 - 2025**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Dr. David Hass



Gayle Slossberg

In a time of challenge and change, our Greater New Haven Jewish community stood strong -- connected, compassionate and proud. Together, we've built a place where being unapologetically Jewish is celebrated, and joy always shines through.

Dear Friends,

Amidst a year of profound challenges and change, our community has continued to adapt, grow, and strengthen. The 2024–2025 year has been an extraordinary time for Jewish New Haven—one that revealed the depth of our resilience and the power of our connection to one another. From engaging in new volunteer initiatives to enjoying innovative cultural and performing arts experiences, and from coming together for meaningful programs to celebrating moments of joy and unity, our community demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to one another and to Jewish life throughout Greater New Haven.

This year also brought an inspiring resurgence of energy and involvement from our young professionals. Our emerging leaders have been gathering, learning, and stepping forward—ready to make their voices heard and to help shape the future of Jewish New Haven. Their enthusiasm and dedication are both a promise and a reflection of who we are as a people: strong, determined, and rooted in community.

The resilience we have shown comes as no surprise. This is who we are. We are built for this. It’s what we have been taught for generations—that when times are tough, the Jewish community of Greater New Haven deepens its care for one another and continues to move forward together. Building and nurturing a thriving Jewish life has always been, and will always remain, the foundation of our strength and survival.

In the pages of this report, you will see just a few of the many ways we are improving lives across Greater New Haven: strengthening security, fostering connection and belonging, and creating opportunities for engagement and growth. At the same time, we continue to stand with the people of Israel as they confront the unimaginable trauma that has followed since October 7, 2023.

All of this—and so much more—is possible **because of you**. Your dedication, compassion, and generous support of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven have made a tangible difference. Together, we raised an extraordinary \$2,641,072 through the 2024–2025 Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs, representing 1,227 gifts from across our community.

On behalf of the Federation Board of Trustees and professional staff, we extend our deepest appreciation to all who helped ensure the strength and safety of our Jewish community. We are especially grateful to our partners in law enforcement for their steadfast commitment to protecting our community. We also extend heartfelt thanks to the dedicated leaders of our Board committees, whose vision and service embody the very spirit of community building. Finally, we are proud to stand in partnership with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and our beneficiary agencies—Camp Laurelwood, Ezra Academy, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, The Towers at Towers Lane, and Jewish Family Services—as well as our synagogues and clergy, whose tireless devotion continues to inspire and sustain Jewish life throughout Greater New Haven every day.

As we look ahead, may we continue to build upon the extraordinary strength, generosity, and spirit that defines us. Together, we will go from strength to strength—deepening our connections, expanding our impact, and ensuring that Jewish life in Greater New Haven remains vibrant, secure, and full of promise for generations to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dr. David Hass
President, Jewish Federation
of Greater New Haven

Gayle Slossberg
Chief Executive Officer

Towns We Serve

- Ansonia
Bethany
Branford
Cheshire
Chester
Clinton
Deep River
Derby
East Haven
Essex
Guilford
Hamden
Killingworth
- Madison
Milford
New Haven
North Haven
Old Saybrook
Orange
Seymour
Shelton
Wallingford
West Haven
Woodbridge
Westbrook





Standing Up to Hate

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven stands as the frontline against antisemitism in our region responding decisively whenever hate rears its head.

We do not stand by – we step forward. When a local university professor needed legal counsel to compel the release of a taxpayer-funded lecture in which another professor allegedly compared Hamas to the Salvation Army, likened rockets into Israel to fireworks and trivialized Hamas terror tunnels as someone's basement, Jewish Federation made sure she had the resources to fight back. And when a community member was assaulted coming home from shul, we worked closely with law enforcement and local authorities to help identify and hold the perpetrators accountable.

In moments like these, our role is clear : to protect, to advocate and to lead. We bring together legal expertise, community solidarity and strategic action to confront antisemitism wherever it appears – in the classroom, on the streets or in public spaces. Through our rapid response, partnerships with law enforcement and unwavering commitment to truth and justice, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven ensures that hate does not go unanswered and that our Jewish community stands strong, proud and unafraid.

Preparing Our Community to Combat Antisemitism

After October 7, 2023, it became clear that our community felt unprepared to respond to the tidal wave of antisemitism that engulfed us. Federation quickly pivoted to providing education and training, whether in partnership with other organizations or developing it on our own.

We learned quickly that we had work to do on our college campuses. We convened the leaders of our campus Jewish student groups to share best practices and coordinate strategies to protect Jewish students while strengthening Jewish life on campus. We developed tools and guidelines for university and college administrators to ensure a safe, inclusive campus environment. This work continues at our local universities, colleges and preparatory schools including

Yale, Southern Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University and Choate Rosemary Hall.

Our community expressed the need for guidance when talking about antisemitism with non-Jewish friends, community leaders and elected officials; a simple guideline tool was developed by our Jewish Federation: *How to Get Off the Bench in the Fight Against Antisemitism*. At the Lion of Judah International Conference, our CEO Gayle Slossberg was asked to share the guideline tool as she participated on a panel to train people to speak about antisemitism. We launched *Fighting Antisemitism: Strategies and Tools to Face the Emergency*, a four-part series for parents, educators and civic leaders.

IMPACT: More than 200 participants gained concrete skills to counter hate, respond to incidents in schools and campuses and advocate confidently for the Jewish community through workshops and live role-play training. Additionally:



210 People participated in 'Fighting Antisemitism,' a Four-Part Series



New Tools Developed for Combatting Antisemitism



430 People Educated and Trained

Protecting Our Children in School

With antisemitism surging worldwide to its highest level in generations, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven refused to answer with business as usual. Through our Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), we launched a bold, first-of-its-kind campaign to give our community the power to act immediately. We didn't settle for theory. We insisted on action – arming parents, students and civic leaders with the skills to crush antisemitism online, protect Jewish students in schools and on campuses, and pressed officials to deliver real, lasting change.

We didn't stop with training the community, we took the fight to the system itself in partnership with the seven Jewish Federations of Connecticut; we co-led efforts to draft and advance a **landmark statewide bill** creating the first government working group to confront antisemitism in K-12 public schools. This pioneering body will unite Jewish experts, educators and state leaders to overhaul policies, craft effective teaching tools and train educators ensuring Jewish students can learn and thrive in safe, respectful schools.

Supporting Community Initiatives

We are proud to support community initiatives that shine a light on the most pressing issues of our time. This year, a group of our community members approached us for support in launching a new local chapter of *Run for Their Lives*, an organization devoted solely to raising awareness about the plight of the hostages from Israel that were held in Gaza for more than 738 days. This effort is just one of the community initiatives Federation has been proud to support in the past year.

**WHERE THERE IS
A NEED, JEWISH
FEDERATION IS
HERE TO HELP**



Securing our Community, Protecting our Future

Security is not just about walls, cameras, or guards—it is about preserving the freedom to gather, to connect, to celebrate, to worship, and to live Jewish life without fear.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven serves as the lead organization providing security for the Jewish community in our region. Every day, we shoulder the responsibility of ensuring that synagogues, schools, camps, and community institutions have the tools, training, and resources they need to stay safe. Working in partnership with the Secure Community Network (SCN), we offer professional security assessments, customized trainings, consultations, and direct support with grant applications—all provided *at no cost* to the more than 100 Jewish institutions we serve. This proactive and comprehensive approach has positioned our Federation as the central hub for community security, where

institutions know they can turn for guidance, expertise, and help in moments of need.

Our efforts go beyond training and preparedness. This year we have successfully advocated at the State Legislature to secure **\$20 million in funding for nonprofit security grants**—an unprecedented investment in safety that benefits our entire community. With our hands-on grant-writing assistance, local Jewish institutions have already received more than **\$2.8 million in state and federal dollars** to harden facilities, install security technology, and strengthen their ability to respond to threats.



66
Security
Trainings
Conducted

2,347
Persons
Trained

23
Security
Assessments
Conducted

143
Security
Grant-Related
Consultations

Strengthening Community Ties

"The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Regional Security Program has provided invaluable training and support to our community. Thanks to their expertise, we've been able to obtain vital security grants, and I wouldn't plan an event or adjust a safety protocol without their trusted counsel."

- Michael Dimenstein, President Jewish Historical Society, Past President Congregation Mishkan Israel

With Our Interfaith Partners

With the knowledge and experience we have developed regarding security, the Jewish Federation is building new relationships with interfaith partners to share training, assessments and knowledge. We want to ensure that all communities of faith can gather safely. This year, with the support of a grant from the Tepper Foundation, we were able to perform site assessments and training for a number of interfaith partners. As part of our advocacy work, the JCRC has also built new coalitions with communities of color and Christian clergy to fight antisemitism together. We look forward to expanding both of these initiatives.

With Our Elected Leaders

We are building relationships with our elected leaders at every level, to share our experiences, be a resource for them when issues of community importance arise and ensure our voices are heard in the halls of power. This year, we held multiple meetings with our Federal, State and Local elected officials and led several zoom meetings with them as well.



US Senator Richard Blumenthal addresses our community at the JCC.

The Following is a Sampling of Organizations Supported by Our Regional Security Program

Temple Beth David
 Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
 Chabad of the Shoreline
 Congregation Mishkan Israel and Nursery School
 Temple Beth Sholom
 Quinnipiac University Hillel Herald House
 Chabad of Hamden
 Temple Beth Tikvah and Nursery School
 Camp Laurelwood
 Chabad of Milford
 Congregation Beth-El Kesser Israel (BEKI)
 Congregation Kol Ami Cemetery
 The Joseph Slifka Center at Yale
 Bikur Cholim Sheveth Achim
 Congregation Chabad Lubavitch
 Orchard Street Shul (Beth Israel)
 Westville Synagogue
 Chabad at Yale
 Yeshivas Beis Dovid Shlomo
 Southern Connecticut State University Hillel
 The Towers at Tower Lane
 Jewish Family Services of New Haven
 Jewish Israeli Center of New Haven
 Gan Israel Camp of New Haven
 Colel Tiferes Zekainim
 Rabbinical Institute of New Haven
 Chabad of Downtown New Haven
 Chabad of Westville
 Yeshiva Gedolah Rabbinical Institute
 Shabtai Society
 Yeshiva Beis David Shlomo Zal
 New Haven Kollel
 Beish Moshach
 Jewish Historical Society
 New Haven Mikvah Society
 Congregation Or Shalom
 Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge
 Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy
 Temple Emanuel
 Chabad of Shelton-Monroe
 Beth Israel Synagogue
 Chabad of Wallingford
 University of New Haven Hillel
 Congregation B'nai Jacob
 Beverly Levy Early Learning Center
 Ezra Academy
 JCC of Greater New Haven
 Chabad of Bethany
 CTeen

The Power of Community and the Call to Repair the World

Supporting Underserved Communities

At the heart of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is the belief that we are part of something larger than ourselves—a vibrant, interconnected community rooted in the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. Our commitment extends beyond the Jewish community to the Greater New Haven region, recognizing that our well-being is bound together. That's why we welcome everyone to become part of our community, offering affordable and

accessible membership at the JCC, financial assistance for families at the Beverly Levy Early Childhood Learning Center, and scholarships to help children experience the joy and belonging of JCC Day Camps. Together, we build a stronger, more compassionate community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL)

Thanks to a generous grant in memory of Rickey and Wally Rubin, we were able to create a new partnership with the Booker T. Washington School. This collaboration relaunched our literacy volunteer program, sharing the joy of reading and the power of connection with students. Each week during the school year, volunteers from our Jewish Coalition for Literacy visit the classrooms to read with students, offering not only stories and learning but also friendship, consistency, and encouragement. The children eagerly look forward to these visits, and the volunteers do too—forming bonds that uplift both generations.

60 Scholars in kindergarten through second grade participate each week with the volunteers of the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL).



In addition to reading, we host an end-of-year celebration to honor the relationships built, the progress made, and the shared achievement of a growing love for reading through this partnership.. It's a simple act with profound impact—helping children feel seen, supported, and inspired to learn.



The Barry J Vine Food Pantry

Food insecurity remains a pressing concern in Greater New Haven, affecting families, individuals, and even members of our Holocaust Survivor community who face daily struggles to afford nutritious meals. The Jewish Federation is steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that no one in our neighborhood goes hungry. Through our annual allocation to Jewish Family Services, this year, the Barry J Vine Food Pantry provided over 100,000 pounds of food (equivalent to more than 84,000 meals) and essentials to those in need -- sustaining both body and spirit. This vital resource supports our local Jewish community and extends compassion and nourishment to our neighbors across New Haven, reflecting our deepest Jewish values of caring for one another and feeding the hungry.



Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR)

The Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) is a partnership of six New Haven-area synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. As a co-sponsor for Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), the principal refugee resettlement agency in Connecticut, JCARR helps new refugee and immigrant families resettle in our community. The synagogues - Congregation Beth-El-Keser Israel (BEKI), Congregation B'nai Jacob, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Congregation

Or Shalom, Temple Beth David, and Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven - have all had a history of individually sponsoring refugee families, dating back to the 1980s. They saw the need to reinvigorate those efforts considering recent refugee crises worldwide and continue that work today. Since December 2015, JCARR's coordinator and numerous volunteers have welcomed one asylum-seeking and ten refugee families who fled their home countries to escape persecution and violence.

Dignity Grows

Dignity Grows is a powerful expression of compassion and collective action—addressing the often-overlooked issue of period poverty with dignity and care. Through Women's Engagement and Philanthropy, volunteers come together to pack discrete tote bags filled with essential hygiene products, ensuring that women and girls in need throughout our community can manage their periods with confidence and self-respect. These bags are distributed through local partner organizations, reaching those most in need. Each packing event is not just an act of service but an act of



solidarity—women supporting women, fostering empathy, and strengthening the fabric of our community one bag at a time.

800 tote bags have been distributed to women in need.

PROVIDING CARE AND SUPPORT



In Israel & Around the World

Protecting the Most Vulnerable

In Israel:

In times marked by crisis and uncertainty, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven stood firmly with our partners in Israel, raising nearly **\$2 Million** in dedicated funds to support the victims of terror throughout Israel including \$250,000 to help safeguard and strengthen our sister city of Afula and the Gilboa region. In addition, through targeted critical grants and emergency support, we provided both physical protection and essential social services during one of Israel's most difficult times.

\$100,000 secured for a regional command center to ensure the safety and preparedness of local communities.

Through our leadership in the Southern New England Consortium of Federations (SNEC), Jewish New Haven provides multiple grants to key partners in Israel enabling vital support for children, families and vulnerable populations.

Youth Futures, Afula

Having received a \$10,000 grant, Youth Futures was able to continue serving at-risk children and families in Afula throughout the war. Mentors provided stability, guidance and emotional support while new initiatives addressed the urgent needs caused by October 7 and its aftermath. This included:

- Direct financial counseling and aid for families facing job loss and economic strain
- Parenting workshops to strengthen family bonds during a time of trauma
- Emotional therapy for children suffering from fear and anxiety

These efforts helped families from diverse communities that include Jewish, Arab, Haredim, Beduin, Druze, find resilience and hope in the midst of crisis.

Impact in Israel through Youth Futures:

49 Municipalities

4,600 Youth

14,000 Family Members

Over 300 Members

Haifa Rape Crisis Center, Afula Branch

During the war, the Afula branch of the Haifa Rape Crisis Center needed to expand services to meet the urgent community needs. With a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, through SNEC, the Afula branch was able to bring on new leadership, greater volunteer engagement and launch the expanded effort.

- Support groups for survivors, including a Krav Maga-based empowerment program.
- Therapeutic treatment sessions led by trained guides.
- These programs created a vital network of care, ensuring women had access to professional help and a community of solidarity during a vulnerable time.

Around the World:

Relief Efforts; Caring for Ukraine's Jews

Amid freezing temperatures and blackouts, Federations International Partner, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), launched a winter survival initiative across Ukraine, delivering heaters, cooking stoves, and utility subsidies. This aid reached thousands, including elderly Jews like 85 year old Dina Shadrina, an internally displaced person

in Kyiv. "Once we had no electricity for 30 hours; JDC gave me hope." she said.

Federations also purchased generators for Hesed social welfare centers and Jewish Community Centers, allowing them to stay powered and serve as "warm hubs" where community members could charge devices and access hot meals or beverages.



Evan Wyner of New Haven reviewing safety and medical supplies provided by the Greater New Haven Jewish Federation.



Without this support, much of Ukraine's Jewish community would have struggled to survive.

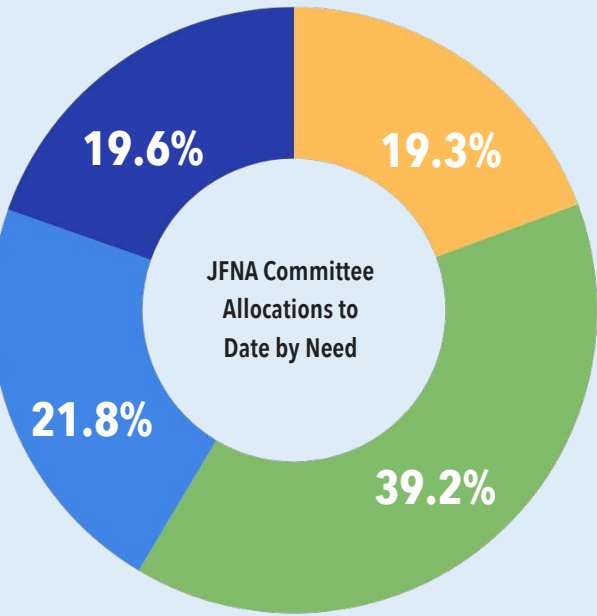
Israel Relief and Recovery

Through our long-term partnerships with International organizations such as the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), our community quickly came together to launch the “Israel Emergency Campaign” to provide the much needed additional funds necessary to support victims of terror, assist with evacuations, rebuild damaged infrastructure, provide temporary housing and address the unprecedented levels of trauma caused by the October 7 attacks.

To date, your Federation has raised and distributed nearly \$2 million and counting. The generosity of support from our community is inspiring and speaks to the deep connection between the people of Israel and the Greater New Haven Jewish community.

As the situation on the ground in Israel changes, we are working with our partners to understand the needs and shift our emergency responses into long term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)



TOTAL RAISED: \$862,446,587

- Lifeline Services
- Medical & Trauma Relief
- Economic Relief & Recovery
- Community Resilience & Rebuilding

Israel and Overseas Committee

This year, we established our first Israel and Overseas Committee, a milestone in deepening and strengthening our connection to the people of Israel and Jewish communities around the world. This dedicated committee brings focus and leadership to our efforts—identifying needs on the ground, coordinating support, and ensuring that our community’s response is both meaningful and effective. From helping to

rebuild lives and communities in Israel to leading missions that foster personal connections and understanding, and raising dedicated funds for critical relief and recovery, the committee embodies our unwavering commitment to *Am Yisrael*—the global Jewish family. Through this work, we not only provide tangible assistance but also reaffirm the unbreakable bonds that unite us across continents.

Improving Access to High Quality Medical Care

Access to high-quality medical care is essential to the well-being of every community, both here at home and in Israel. The Jewish Federation is proud to strengthen partnerships that advance medical excellence, innovation, and compassion- connecting professionals and institutions dedicated to saving lives.

Photo: Emek Medical Center



In Israel – Emek Medical Center

In our sister city region of Gilboa, Emek Medical Center stands as the leading healthcare institution serving all of northern Israel, providing lifesaving care to people of all backgrounds. This year, Emek’s executive leadership visited our community, meeting with representatives from Yale and local healthcare professionals to explore opportunities for collaboration in cancer research and other cutting-edge

medical advancements. These conversations have laid the groundwork for meaningful partnerships that bridge our communities through shared expertise, compassion, and innovation. Looking ahead, we are planning a Healthcare Professionals Mission to Israel in 2026—continuing to strengthen the bonds between our medical communities and advance healing across borders.

And Locally – Maimonides Society

2025 marked the exciting launch of our Maimonides Society, a dynamic new network of Jewish healthcare professionals committed to healing, learning, and service. Guided by the values of compassion and community that define our tradition, the Maimonides Society is focused on improving access to healthcare for all, fostering professional and personal connections, and engaging with the latest medical innovations and ethical discussions shaping the

field today. In just its first year, the Society has already hosted two successful events that brought together physicians, researchers, and healthcare leaders from across Greater New Haven. Looking ahead, the Maimonides Society will take on a leadership role in organizing the upcoming Healthcare Professionals Mission to Israel—strengthening ties between our local and Israeli medical communities while advancing the shared goal of saving lives and improving health for all.



Providing Opportunities for Jewish Connection Women's Engagement and Philanthropy

2025 Year in Review

Women's Engagement & Philanthropy is where women connect with one another—across generations and backgrounds—to strengthen Jewish life and create meaningful change. Through shared learning, service, and giving, women lead by example, fostering belonging, compassion, and a powerful sense of purpose across our community.

"When women lead together, community flourishes."

More than fundraising, this work transforms lives through **connection, education, and acts of loving-kindness (g'milut chasadim), mitzvot, and tzedakah**. Women's Philanthropy raises nearly half of the Annual Campaign each year—fueling programs that feed the hungry, educate children, support seniors, and strengthen Jewish life locally and around the world. It is a movement of women building community and inspiring one another to act.

Photo at Right: A Women's Day Trip to NYC to Visit the Anne Frank Museum Exhibit



2025 Highlights

Campaign & Engagement

- Annual Campaign Kickoff at Stacey Smith's house with Roya Hakakian
- Super Sunday!
- Playing with Purpose with Olga Markus

Leadership & Learning

- JWLY YESOD Leadership Program
- International Lion of Judah Conference: 16 philanthropists attended

Service & Community Impact

- Dignity Grows: 800 feminine hygiene bags distributed

The Butterfly Project

Introduced by Laura Roselinsky, this hands-on Holocaust remembrance initiative brought together more than 400 participants of all ages to create ceramic butterflies honoring the 1.5 million children lost in the Holocaust. Supported by the Abi Vail Family, Ravski Family Fund, and Rachel Dranoff, the project inspired education, empathy, and intergenerational connection—culminating in a permanent JCC exhibit.

400 butterflies painted. 10 groups engaged. Countless lives touched.

Culture & Connection

- First Intergenerational Hamantashen Bake with BBYO and Jodi Seidner
- JEWEL Society floral arranging with Jesse Pearl
- Plant-Based Passover Cooking Demo with Dana Goldman
- Author Event with Julie Fingersh
- NYC Cultural Day with Women's Engagement and Philanthropy Cabinet

The Power of Connection. The Impact of Women.

Impact at a Glance

In 2025, over **1,000 women** engaged in programs that inspired learning, leadership, and giving. Together, they **raised nearly half of the Annual Campaign**, strengthened Jewish life across Greater New Haven, and extended care to those most in need. From **400 memorial butterflies painted** to **hundreds of hygiene kits packed**, every act of kindness and connection built a stronger, more compassionate community.



Honoring Dr. Dana Schwartz, 2025 Kipnis-Wilson-Friedland Award Recipient at the International Lion of Judah Conference.

Fostering Unity and Belonging

Jewish Cultural Renaissance Series

With Jews around the world still reeling after the October 7 attacks on Israel, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven created the Jewish Cultural Renaissance Series to help our community find moments of comfort and renewal – not by forgetting our pain, but by creating spaces where Jewish joy reminded us of our proud peoplehood and extraordinary capacity for resilience.

By opening our doors through culture, we invited neighbors and allies to experience Jewish life firsthand and build bridges of understanding. From celebrating diverse Jewish traditions to honoring communities of color, from presenting interfaith events to sponsoring marquee performances, each program became a catalyst for connection and renewal.

Our community laughed together at a packed evening with the comedian Modi, felt the soaring power of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's performance of The Ordering of Moses at Yale, and came together for a moving Gospel Shabbat honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We grappled with courage and resilience at screening of *Navalny* at the JCC featuring a live conversation with Leonid Volkov, Alexei Navalny's Chief of Staff. We also embraced Sephardic heritage and diversity with a vibrant Mimouna celebration at the JCC, marking the Ladino and Sephardic end of Passover with music, food, and cultural pride.

Produced by the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council, our Jewish Cultural Renaissance Series proved that culture, when infused with meaning, doesn't just entertain; it also transforms. In a year marked by pain, the series gave our community the joy and solidarity we needed while opening new pathways to connect with the wider world.



Honoring Memory, Mourning, and Celebration: The Yamim

Each spring, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven brings our community together to observe the Yamim, three Israeli holidays that reflect the full arc of Jewish experience – from remembrance to resilience to celebration.

We began with Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, at Congregation Mishkan Israel, honoring the six million lives lost. Keynote speaker Karen Baum Gordon shared her father's Holocaust story, offering a powerful reminder of the importance of memory and moral responsibility.

A week later, Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Memorial Day, invited our community – Israelis and American Jews alike – into collective mourning for fallen soldiers and victims of terror. Through poetry, music, and testimony, we stood in solidarity with those who have sacrificed for Israel.

Finally, grief turned to joy on Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Hundreds gathered for a vibrant outdoor celebration with music, food, and festivity – a proud show of unity and love for Israel during a difficult year.

Together, these days embody the Jewish journey. The Federation is honored to be a place where our community can remember, mourn, and celebrate – as one.

- 210 Participants Yom HaAtzmaut
- 115 Participants Yom HaZikaron
- 225 Participants Yom HaShoah



ENSURING OUR JEWISH FUTURE



More than 40 young professionals gathered for the Young Leadership Kick-off Event

Investing in Youth and Leadership Development

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is committed to building a strong and vibrant future by investing in the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Young Leadership Division

We are especially proud to announce the return of our Young Leadership Division. Historically, Young Leadership has been the backbone of leadership development in our community, producing many of the dedicated lay leaders who have guided the Federation and our agencies for decades. After a long hiatus, this program is being relaunched with fresh energy and vision. By engaging young adults early, we are creating pathways for them to grow, lead, and shape the future of Jewish life in Greater New Haven for decades to come.

BBYO

BBYO continues to thrive as one of the most dynamic and inspiring programs for Jewish teens in our community. Centered on Jewish values, it builds lifelong friendships, cultivates leadership, and has the power to transform lives. Federation provides an annual allocation to support BBYO’s impactful work and this year partnered with them to bring Club Z for an empowering educational program on Israel and antisemitism. We are excited to continue investing in this vibrant community of young Jewish leaders.

JWLY/Yesod

Building on last year’s success, we were delighted to welcome and graduate a second cohort of our Jewish Women’s Learning Collaborative (JWLY/Yesod). Eleven inspiring women came together each month to learn, connect, and explore the richness of Jewish life—locally and around the world—with guidance from passionate expert educators. Each session was held at one of the local agencies supported by the Federation’s Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs. Participants attended sessions at Camp Laurelwood, Ezra Academy, the Jewish Historical Society, JCC and the Towers at Tower Lane.



Inclusion

Over the past year, the Melton Adaptive Jewish Education curriculum was implemented over two semesters at Chapel Haven Schleifer Center. Through a strategic partnership with the Melton School, the Jewish Federation/JCC became one of the first institutions in the nation to pilot this innovative adaptive education program. Participants engaged in a comprehensive exploration of Jewish holidays, life cycle

events, and ritual. Instruction was enhanced through the integration of local subject matter experts, creative art activities, music, multimedia presentations, and meaningful group discussions – all carefully adapted to accommodate the unique learning needs of the participants.

Supporting Jewish Students on College Campuses

The Jewish Federation is deeply committed to nurturing Jewish life and leadership on our local college campuses, where the next generation of Jewish leaders is growing and finding its voice. Through funding, partnership, and ongoing engagement, we proudly support the Hillels at Southern Connecticut State University and Quinnipiac University, helping to make possible Shabbat and holiday meals, meaningful Jewish programming, and—especially since October 7—providing critical resources, guidance, and

advocacy support during the height of campus protests. Our close partnership with the Yale Slifka Center continues to strengthen Jewish life at Yale through collaboration on issues ranging from student engagement to campus security, while our support for UConn Hillel includes both financial and security resources to ensure a safe, welcoming environment for Jewish students. Across all campuses, Federation stands as a steadfast partner, ensuring that Jewish students feel supported, proud, and empowered to lead.





STRENGTHENING JEWISH IDENTITY

Shabbat at Camp Laurelwood

Strengthening Jewish Identity

Nurturing a deep connection to our heritage is at the heart of our mission, and we know that the foundation begins with our children.

By giving young people opportunities to experience the joy of Jewish life, we help them understand the proud heritage they inherit and instill within them a deep sense of belonging. Whether it is through summer adventures at Camp Laurelwood or JCC Day Camps, gathering with peers in BBYO, or discovering Jewish learning every day at Ezra Academy and Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, our young people are building the memories, friendships, and values that will shape their lives for years to come.

The Federation is proud to stand alongside our community partners in this vital work. Together with Hillel, we ensure that Jewish students on campus feel supported and connected, even as they navigate the challenges of young adulthood. Each of these programs nurture identity and pride, reminding our children and teens that they are part of something greater than themselves. By investing in these experiences, we are investing in the future of the Jewish people.

PJ Library & Shalom Baby

PJ Library brings the joy of Jewish learning and connection into the homes of young families across our community. Monthly deliveries of beautifully-illustrated Jewish books are provided to families at no cost to them in tandem with engaging programs like PJ Tu B'Shevat and Tot Shabbat Fridays at the JCC, Federation. These books and programs provide families with resources to celebrate Jewish life together from the very start.

Our Shalom Baby program extends that welcome even earlier—greeting new Jewish babies and connecting parents to valuable Jewish community resources, friendships, and support. For many, PJ Library has become a gateway to lifelong friendships, shared traditions, and a deeper sense of belonging—supporting parents and children at the earliest and most formative stages of their Jewish journey. Together, these initiatives ensure that Jewish life in Greater New Haven remains strong, connected, and prepared for the future.

➤ **968 Children (754 Families)**
Currently Receiving Books through PJ Library

➤ **32 Babies**
Participate in Shalom Baby Program



Nourishing Young Minds

Strengthening Jewish identity begins with investing in the places where Jewish life takes root and grows. The Jewish Federation provides essential financial support, shared services, grants, and security resources to ensure that our community's schools and camps remain strong, safe, and vibrant. These institutions nurture Jewish values, pride, and belonging from the earliest years through young adulthood—building the foundation for a lifetime of connection to Jewish life.

Ezra Academy and Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy each play a vital role in shaping the next generation of Jewish leaders and thinkers. Through outstanding academic programs infused with Jewish learning and values, these schools give children the knowledge, confidence, and moral grounding to engage proudly in the world as Jews.

Our community's camps—Camp Laurelwood and the JCC Day Camps—are where countless Jewish memories and friendships are born. They provide joyful, immersive environments where children experience Jewish life through play, community, and shared values. The Beverly Levy Early Childhood Learning Center at the JCC gives even our youngest children a warm, nurturing start, introducing them to Jewish traditions and a love of learning.

1,298 TOTAL # CHILDREN

Strengthening Jewish Identity through Education and Camp Experiences

Ezra	106 Children
SCHA	290 Children
JCC Day Camp	375 Children
Camp Laurelwood	412 Children
Beverly Levy	115 Children

Together, these institutions embody the heart of Jewish identity—learning, belonging, and community—and Federation's continued investment ensures that every child has the opportunity to grow up with a strong, joyful connection to their Jewish heritage.



Building Community at the Beckerman-Lender Jewish Community Center

Opportunities for Connection, Wellness and Learning

The JCC of Greater New Haven stands as a vibrant hub for community connection, wellness, and learning. In a warm and welcoming environment, individuals and families of all ages come together to strengthen body, mind, and spirit. Serving thousands across the region, the JCC reflects the diversity of Greater New Haven and provides programs and services that engage people of all backgrounds and abilities. Each month, more than 50,000 visits bring our campus to

life—120 families rely on our early childhood programs, more than 375 children enjoy an enriching summer camp experience, and 30 interns with differing abilities gain valuable vocational training. In addition, numerous nonprofit and community organizations utilize our facility as their home for programs and special events, making the JCC a true center of community life.



Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinson's



JCC Day Camps



Intergenerational Programs

516

Kids Learn
How to Swim
EVERY WEEK!

Your JCC is Thriving! Did YOU Know...

1,648
People Visit
the JCC
EVERY DAY!



120

Children Attend
Daycare & Preschool
EVERY DAY!



30+

Community
Non-Profits
Use this Space

NEW
in 2025!



Something for Every Age and Every Stage

Young Families

- Beverly Levy Early Childhood Learning Center
- Infant/Toddler Care
- Pre-Kindergarten Care
- Parent/Child Programs
- Enrichment, Educational and Skill building classes
- Holiday Celebrations
- Hands-on Community Events (Touch A Truck)
- Family Fun Days
- Learn to Swim

Growing Families

- Afterschool Childcare
- Skill building classes
- JCC Day Camp & AfterCamp
- Birthday Parties
- Making Fitness Fun
- Swim Lessons
- Swim Team
- Rock Climbing
- Art & Music Classes
- Dance Classes
- Karate Classes
- Vacation Camp Programs
- Library
- Basketball Instruction & Leagues

Young Adults

- Group Exercise Classes
- Sports Leagues
- Meeting home of BBYO & CTEEN U
- Social Hub and Meeting Place

Adults

- Pickleball Lessons and Leagues
- Jess Ciola Personal Training Suite
- Swimming and Aqua Aerobics in the Reiter Swimming Pool
- Cultural Arts Programming in the Vine Auditorium
- Art Exhibits in the Hoos Art gallery
- Community Events like the Craft and Gift Fair
- Co-working space in The Cube
- Group Exercise Classes
- Small Group Coaching
- Yoga and restorative exercise classes
- Nutrition Workshops
- Recreational Sports Leagues
- Softball Leagues
- Israeli Dance
- Indoor Cycling
- Pilates Training
- Community 5K Bagel Run
- Spa Treatments
- Home for Community Events

People with Differing Abilities

- Internship Opportunities
- Café J our vocational training cafe
- Adaptive Sports Programs for adults and children
- Adaptive Summer Camp
- Support Group for Parents
- Monthly trips to local community events
- Educational Classes

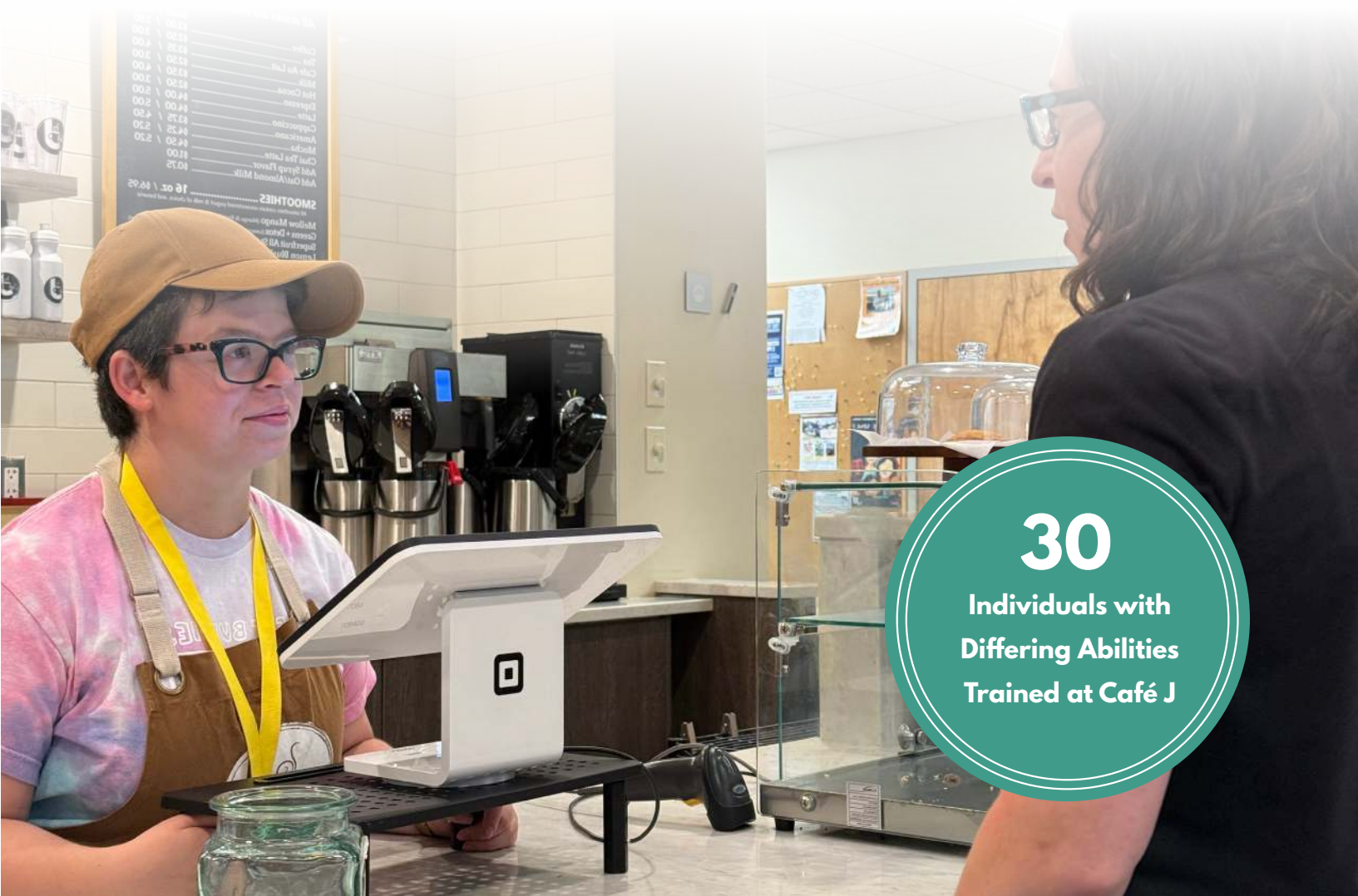
Older Adults and Those Seeking Wellness

- Personal Training
- Parkinson's Support Group
- Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinson's
- Gentle Exercise
- Silver Sneakers Memberships
- Support Group for Caregivers
- Home of Institute for Learning in Retirement Classes
- Aqua Aerobics
- Spa and Wellness Workshops
- Exercise Interventions for Medical Conditions

Café J

At the heart of the JCC, Café J serves as both a welcoming gathering space and a model of inclusive community impact. Operated in partnership with Chapel Haven Schleifer Center, the café is staffed by neurodiverse adults who gain hands-on experience in hospitality, customer service, and teamwork—building confidence, independence, and professional skills.

What truly sets Café J apart is the joy and warmth that fill the space each day—the laughter shared between staff and guests, the genuine connections formed over coffee, and the sense of belonging that radiates from every interaction. By pairing meaningful employment with a vibrant, communal atmosphere, Café J embodies the Federation's commitment to inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for all—demonstrating the power of joy and community to strengthen every individual.



30
Individuals with
Differing Abilities
Trained at Café J



The Towers at Tower Lane

Caring for Jewish Seniors

Caring for our seniors is a core Jewish value and a cornerstone of our community. Federation supports active aging—helping older adults stay physically strong, mentally engaged, and socially connected—through programs that promote movement, learning, and connection.

Sustaining Jewish Life Throughout Our Community: The Towers at Tower Lane

The Towers provides Jewish continuity for our elders who want to continue living according to their traditions, thanks to the support of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

From our Kosher kitchen, which provides three healthy meals a day and Kosher catering across the Greater New Haven community to Shabbat meal deliveries, The Towers is providing access to meaningful Jewish quality of life. Weekly services and observances of every Jewish holiday is made possible thanks to funds which support our spiritual leaders and chaplain. Residents also get to enjoy a wonderful

Kiddush lunch every week after Shabbat services. On holidays, our residents enjoy special meals to help them stay connected to our traditions.

All of this is made possible by Jewish Federation, which is sustaining Jewish life in our community.



Silver Sneakers at the JCC

The Silver Sneakers program at the JCC has become one of our most popular offerings, bringing hundreds of older adults together each week to stay active, strong, and socially connected. Through fitness, friendship, and fun, participants find not only improved health but also a welcoming community that celebrates active aging and Jewish life.

Average of
2,737
Participants
Each Month
GETTING FIT!

Institute for Learning in Retirement

The JCC is one of the area locations for The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) which offer a rich array of engaging, well-attended classes that bring lifelong learners together at the JCC. Through thought-provoking

discussions and educational programs, ILR fosters intellectual curiosity, community connection, and a love of learning at every stage of life.



 The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR)

**An Average of 16
Unique Programs
Scheduled Throughout
Each Quarter**

Community Grants for the Jewish Elderly

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, through the generosity of designated gifts, provides grants for innovative and new programs and projects for Jewish elderly currently residing in Greater New Haven. In 2024, the Towers at Tower Lane received a grant for a new Cognitive Day Program. The purpose of this program is to

help foster brain health, socialization, and overall wellness for 35 residents of the Towers. Jewish Family Services (JFS) received a grant for its Aging Adult Services program. Both initiatives focus on empowering older adults and their caregivers, promoting independence, and reducing barriers to care.

JFS Holocaust Survivor Program

Through Jewish Family Service's Holocaust Survivor Program, vital support is provided to Holocaust survivors in our community—ensuring they receive the compassionate care and resources they deserve. The program currently serves 43 clients, with services that include comprehensive diagnostic assessments, personalized case management, and assistance with long-term care planning. Support is

also provided with grant writing to help eligible clients access critical financial resources. This program reflects our community's enduring commitment to honoring and caring for those who endured unimaginable hardship, ensuring their dignity, safety, and well-being in their later years.



Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs

Every year, Jewish New Haven raises money for the Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs to help ensure our community's vitality and vibrancy.

\$3,605,845  **Total Raised from Community**

\$2,641,072  **Total Raised in the 2025 Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs**

1,220 Gifts (Includes 187 New and Reengaged Donors)

21 Beneficiary Agencies and Programs:

Helping hundreds of thousands of people locally, across the United States, and around the Globe

New Haven and Across the USA

- New Haven Eruv Society
- New Haven Mikveh
- Jewish Cemetery Association
- The Herald House at Quinnipiac University
- Southern Connecticut State University Hillel
- Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale
- Jewish Federation of Los Angeles (LA Fire)
- University of Connecticut Hillel
- Ezra Academy
- Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy (SCHA)
- Camp Laurelwood
- The Towers at Tower Lane
- Jewish Family Services (JFS)
- Jewish Historical Society (JHS)
- BBYO
- Synagogues
- Camp Mystic, Texas (Flood)

Around the Globe

- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)
- Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)
- World ORT

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**Terms as of September 2024 through August 2025*

A GREAT PLACE FOR MEANINGFUL WORK



A Great Place for Meaningful Work

At the Federation and JCC, we believe that investing in our staff is investing in the strength and future of our community.

Every program we run, every family we support, and every initiative we launch depends on the dedication and talent of the people who serve our team. By creating a workplace where staff feel respected, valued, and empowered, we ensure that our mission is carried out with passion, excellence, and heart.

We are committed to providing a meaningful place to work – one where our staff not only find professional growth and

development but also feel deeply connected to the impact they make in the lives of others.

When our staff thrive, our community thrives. By prioritizing their well-being, listening to their voices, and celebrating their contributions, we strengthen the very foundation of our Federation and JCC, ensuring that our community remains vibrant, welcoming, and strong for generations to come.

“The Federation is a very family-friendly place to work and coming in makes me feel like I’m a part of something big – with people that care about me and my family.”

“JCC is my home away from home. where I feel appreciated, empowered, and inspired.”

Staff & Employees

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