

Jim Mueth's Story

I converted to Judaism when I was in my mid-30s. I did not knowingly meet anyone Jewish until I was in college. My decision to convert did not occur until much later and, as with most decisions in a man's life, it began with a girl. It wasn't my wife, Shelah, though. It started with our daughter, Leah. Shelah was raised Jewish, and, when we decided to have children, we decided to raise them to be Jewish. After Leah was born, I took an "Introduction to Judaism" class to learn what Leah's life would be like, and something clicked. The more I learned, the more I wanted to become Jewish. I became enthralled with the rhythm of the Jewish week and the Jewish year. And, of course, I love the food!

I made commitments to three organizations through LIFE & LEGACY: Jewish Family Service, the Jewish Federation and Temple Covenant of Peace. My reasons are simple. Through JFS, my donation will help feed and take care of Jews and non-Jews in the Lehigh Valley. Through the Federation, my donation will cover the broadest range of needs locally, in Israel and throughout the world. And through my donation to TCP and, now that the merger is complete, the new combined Congregation Bnai Shalom, I will help ensure that there will always be a Jewish community in Easton.

In my previous career, I learned how important it is for all charities to be well-run. They need to be organized and fiscally strong enough to meet their budgetary needs. A well-funded endowment helps make a strong charity. LIFE & LEGACY will help our local Jewish organizations build strong endowments.