



## Spring 2018 Donor Impact Report

From Arlene Miller  
President & CEO  
Jewish Federation & Family Services  
May 22, 2018

We strive every day to uphold our mission to care for people in need and strengthen Jewish community in Orange County, Israel, and around the world. We are on pace to achieve our 2018 Annual Campaign goal, as almost 50% has been raised in pledges to date. Below are just four highlights of the array of work your support has helped us sustain and build so far in 2018.

### 1) Missions to Israel

Our Israel committee, chaired by Steven Fainburg, created a vision to bring Orange County to Israel and Israel to Orange County. With this in mind, JFFS has been striving to make Israel accessible to our community members. One example of this, accomplished through the support of the Leon Ninburg Israel Legacy Fund, is to provide travel subsidies to each participant on our Israel @ 70 mission, taking place October 24-November 2. The Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly Conference will precede the mission, October 22-24, in Tel Aviv. You are welcome to join our delegation. The Mission, chaired by Elliot and Roz Vogelfanger and Barby Schwid, will promote community building and leadership development, boost philanthropy, develop deep connections to Israel, and lift Israel as a focal point of our local philanthropy.

Two additional trips to Israel are also planned. Last week, 24 men embarked on an anniversary mission to Israel (from May 17 to May 24) with the Solomon Society, and this summer, two young adults from our NextGen community will be joining young Jewish leaders from around the country to participate in the National Young Leadership Mission to Israel, also subsidized by the generous support of the Leon Ninburg Israel Legacy Fund.

### 2) Meal Partners

The Meal Partners program combats the isolation of Holocaust survivors by bringing them together with community volunteers through shared meals. Recently, we connected the 72-year-old daughter of a survivor who had recently passed away with a 96-year-old survivor who came from the same village as her father. She had asked to be a volunteer in the program, and as they shared a common language, the two were paired together. It turned out that the survivor knew the volunteer's father, and this connection has made

such a difference in both their lives. Our goal with Meal Partners is to build relationships, strengthen community, broaden the survivor's support system, reduce isolation, and increase the survivors' quality of life. This is just one of so many heartwarming stories that demonstrate what a difference this program makes.

Meal Partners has the capacity to make 35 matches a year and has made 24 matches to date. We have facilitated meals hosted by other organizations. Many survivors also attend the Russian Tea events that we plan and host. Of the 100 people who have inquired about becoming a Meal Partner volunteer, 68 have completed training, and more than 50 volunteers have been or are actively involved in volunteering for the program. The remaining volunteers are waiting for the right match. Training takes only two hours and changes the lives of both the volunteers and the survivors. For more information, contact Cally Clein, Holocaust Survivor Programs Manager, at [Cally@JFFS.org](mailto:Cally@JFFS.org).

### 3) Special Needs Housing:

Mandel House was first opened in October 2014, and after a recent refurbishment is now a nurturing Jewish home for six men (over age 18) with developmental disabilities. Both the co-ed Horwitz Family House, which opened last fall, and Mandel House provide a supportive living environment for adults with special needs, meeting the unique requirements of their residents. Both homes are located in Santa Ana, and residents receive assistance with daily living and learn about self-care and healthy living. They also have the chance to cook together, handle chores, and socialize—all the things that make a house a home. According to the mother of a new Mandel House resident, "Mandel House is more than a house. My son is now part of a community—the Jewish Community—and we are all so grateful." Jewish organizations and community volunteers partner with JFFS to provide Jewish cultural and seasonal events for residents.

### 4) OneTable

Orange County is officially a OneTable community! OneTable connects local young adults in their 20s and 30s to the Shabbat tradition and each other through shared experiences on Friday nights. Hosts can selectively invite guests or open their dinner to the public while Shabbat-seekers can find a dinner that speaks to them. Our goal for 2018 is to recruit 120 hosts and 840 guests, and we are well on our way. It is notable that many of the OneTable participants are alumni of the Birthright program.

The program is personalizable, and Shabbat dinner themes have included a Birthright reunion, Jewchella (a singles mixer), Dine Under the Stars, and many other creative ways to engage our young adult community. One novel example was a Shabbat Sha-brunch Pajama Jam. The participants welcomed the Sabbath in their pajamas, and brunch was served for dinner. An Israeli Shabbat included an invitation in Hebrew, and Hebrew was the only

language spoken throughout the evening. We are looking toward partnering with other Jewish organizations to host public space dinners for over 200 participants annually.

The impact of your gift is demonstrated every day in the extraordinary work that we are fortunate to do for those who benefit from our services and for the greater Jewish community, including counseling services, books to PJ Library families, transportation for seniors, and so much more. You have also enabled JFFS to strengthen Jewish Orange County funding for the Laguna Woods Jewish Food Festival (with more than 2,000 people in attendance on Sunday, April 29), the JCC's Celebrate Israel Day on Sunday, April 22 (featuring an acoustic experience with artist Matisyahu on Saturday, April 21), and OC Israeli's Yom Ha'Atzmaut carnival (bringing more than 700 people together to celebrate Israel's birthday on Sunday, April 29).

Additionally, thanks to the support of the Leon Ninburg Israel Legacy Fund, a bequest from the estate of Albert Weissman and Rhoda Yvette Weissman, and the generosity of Ed Posin, we are proud to be lead sponsors for the JCC Maccabi Games (if you haven't yet signed up to host our visiting athletes, please contact the JCC to offer your home and be part of this amazing experience!).

I again want to thank you for your incredible generosity, and I look forward to what we can accomplish during the second half of the year and well into the future.