



# 2017-18 Impact Report

## Our Mission

To nurture a unified Jewish community that transcends generations and neighborhoods.

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Since we introduced PJ Library to the Greater Orlando community in 2010, hundreds of local children have enjoyed free Jewish books and music delivered monthly to their homes. Our first PJ Library subscribers are now teen-agers and soon will be heading off to college!

The success of PJ Library has allowed Federation to create a new local tradition of family engagement programs that provide uniquely Jewish experiences.

### Creating Jewish memories

This year we offered more opportunities than ever for families to meet and build friendships at 17 PJ Library events celebrating holidays such as Tu B'Shevat, Chanukah, Mother's Day and Purim. Two additional events were canceled due to Hurricane Irma.

PJ Our Way, launched in 2017 for Jewish pre-teens, continues to gain momentum. We held two PJ Our Way programs, which were planned and hosted by a kids committee.

Our family programs are a hot ticket, with more than half of them filled to capacity. Our most popular event of the past year was Community Helper Day, which drew 94 participants.

We tested "PJ Baby & Me" for parents and babies with four events, with an average of 17 families attending.

### Doing good and sharing our values, all around the community

**November - Nemours Children's Hospital:**  
We donated and delivered 38 stuffed ani-

mals (nearly 100 delivered in the past three years) at our Annual Family Mitzvah Day.

#### **December - Jewish Family Services:**

We collected 105 pounds of food at our Taste of Chanukah program and delivered it to Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando!

#### **February - City of Orlando & Pet Alliance of Central Florida:**

- At our Community Helper Day in February, children decorated and delivered cookies to the officers at Orlando Police Headquarters and made bandanas for the police dogs in the K-9 unit.
- We also collected and delivered new pet supplies to Pet Alliance of Central Florida.

#### **June - City of Sanford:**

Families cleaned up Fort Mellon Park during our Tikkun Olam Park Cleanup Day.

### Making more connections

Our PJ Library event engagements with adults and children have doubled over the past few years. In 2017-18 we had nearly 1,000 engagements, compared with 656 in 2016-17 and 506 in 2015-16.



Through our **Jewish Teen Education Network (JTEN)**, Federation is enhancing the education of Jewish youth through Community-wide Teen Education Days and grants that support collaborative educational projects.

Now in its fifth year, JTEN has also helped to bring together educators from our local synagogues, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and collaboration.

### Inspiring our students

Federation just awarded \$10,000 in JTEN Grants for collaborative projects for the 2018-19 academic year. To date, we have awarded more than \$35,000 to directly support local Jewish education initiatives.

This year's Community-wide Teen Education Day is set for Aug. 6-7. "New Beginnings" is a 24-hour immersive experience, including services, learning sessions and social experiences with the goal of building deeper connections with other Jewish teens outside of a traditional classroom.

### Serving our educators

Later this month is our second JTEN Educators Religious School Teachers Workshop. This year's theme is "Building Your Teacher's Toolkit," and educators will spend the day focusing on practical tools they use to deal with day-to-day challenges in the classroom. In addition, teachers will share some of their most valuable lessons learned on the job, and we'll explore opportunities for educators to continue to share and learn from one another throughout the year.



**Our Jewish Orlando (OJO)**, the Federation's engagement program for young adults, is helping the Central Florida Jewish community of tomorrow take root today. OJO is now fully volunteer-driven!

You can keep up with planned social events on the OJO Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/ourjewishorlando](http://www.facebook.com/ourjewishorlando).



The Federation’s **Jerome J. Bornstein Leadership Development Program** has created a strong tradition of developing future leaders for the Central Florida Jewish community. We remain committed to providing unique growth opportunities with the goal of fully realizing Jerry Bornstein’s legacy of lasting and impactful community leadership.

### Leaders of tomorrow

The 10 members of the Bornstein Class of 2018, who will be introduced during today’s Annual Meeting, have taken part in 10 leadership training sessions over the past nine months. These sessions have focused on a wide array of topics related to leadership in the Greater Orlando Jewish community, including board training through the Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership and communications skills training with the Peace and Justice Institute.

### A bold, new initiative

Federation will soon be leveraging the Bornstein program to directly benefit every Jewish agency and synagogue in Orlando! This fall, the Bornstein program will begin underwriting advanced training, through the Edyth Bush Insitutute, aimed at deepening the skills of our experienced leaders. By expanding our focus to include our incumbent agency and synagogue boards, the Federation is a driving force that is moving our community forward.



Cardozo Legal Society



Maimonides Medical Society

Federation’s **Cardozo** and **Maimonides** societies provide social, educational and networking opportunities for Jewish legal and medical professionals.

### Cardozo Legal Society

The Cardozo Society hosted a lunch discussion, “Leaks and Jewish Law,” exploring the ethical implications of leaking secrets, led by Rabbi David Kay. The society also held a breakfast CLE discussion on arbitration, led by Cardozo member Lawrence Kolin.

### Maimonides Medical Society

The Maimonides Society held an event celebrating the historic new partnership between Israel and India, co-hosted with CAPI, the Indian doctor’s association. This month, the society will host a reception and viewing of the Holocaust Center’s “Deadly Medicine” exhibit.



The **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)** enjoyed a resurgence in 2017-18 under new staff and volunteer leadership.

JCRC has been very busy this year, advocating on behalf of local Jews and building important relationships that will strengthen our Central Florida Jewish community while raising its profile statewide and nationally.

### **Parent/student advocacy**

JCRC led seminars at synagogues and The Roth Family JCC to educate parents about handling anti-Semitism in schools and advocating for their Jewish children.

### **Building crucial relationships**

JCRC representatives met with nearly every member of the Central Florida state legislative delegation; two lawmakers came to the Maitland campus for tours.

Director Ben Friedman embarked on a first-of-its-kind JCRC legislative trip to Tallahassee in January. Over the course of two days, Ben had 10 meetings with legislators and staff, was on hand to see the Florida House of Representatives pass a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and a bill to establish tougher anti-BDS legislation.

JCRC brought Fuente Latina to Orlando for a special presentation during a dual-language Shabbat service at Temple Israel.

### **The voice of local Jews**

In February, members of JCRC participated

in Orlando's annual MLK Jr. walk.

Last December, Ben was interviewed by Spectrum News 13 and the Orlando Sentinel. He discussed Jewish community reaction to the United States formally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Ben and JCRC Co-chair Dori Gerber attended the JCPA conference in New York City, and Ben attended AIPAC's Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

This month, Ben and JCRC Co-chair Michelle Zaltsberg were part of a JCRC-organized roundtable discussion with Florida Gov. Rick Scott at the Rosen JCC.

### **Community advocacy**

JCRC provided guidance to Central Florida Jewish organizations and synagogues regarding federal grants that are available for security improvements.

### **Community education**

JCRC co-sponsored an event on immigration with the Holocaust Center at Congregation Ohev Shalom.



The vision of Federation volunteer and Lion of Judah Loren London, **RAISE** was launched in 2014 to empower adults with special needs by providing work and social-skills training. It quickly became one of our signature programs.

RAISE continues to grow and inspire, transforming the lives of RAISE employees, the volunteers who work with them and the business owners who hire them.

### Growing impact

Since RAISE began four years ago, 35 employees have participated in the program; more than half of them received their first paycheck through RAISE.

In the past year, Volunteer Job Coaches dedicated 1,044 hours to support RAISE employee participants.

from the nurturing environment of RAISE into the more competitive marketplace.

### RAISE in the news

In March, five RAISE employees who secured jobs in the community thanks to RAISE Awareness to Hire shared their stories with the Heritage Florida Jewish News. The full article is linked at [www.jfgo.org/RAISE](http://www.jfgo.org/RAISE).

### RAISE Awareness to Hire

Launched this year, RAISE Awareness to Hire is a job-creation division that works with local businesses to provide a simple and seamless transition for adults with disabilities

### Coming soon: RAISE on the Road

RAISE on the Road is a developing division of RAISE that will soon be offered as a two-day seminar to organizations interested in duplicating the RAISE program in their own communities.

### Former JAO building sale

As announced last year, Federation has been negotiating the sale of the former JAO building on our Maitland campus to a memory-care facility.

Despite some delays, we have a pending contract for the purchase of the property.

### Campus 2020 campaign

The Campus 2020 Debt Retirement Campaign is on track to reach its goal of eliminating the Maitland Jewish Community Campus debt by Jan 1, 2020.

When the campaign began, our campus debt was \$5.8 million. As of July, the debt stands at \$2.8 million.

### Demographic study

In collaboration with The Roth Family JCC, the Federation has secured funding from donors to begin a comprehensive demographic study of the Central Florida Jewish community, the first in more than a quarter-century. The study's data will be shared with our entire community.

### Women's Israel trip

For the third year, we sponsored a women's trip to Israel in collaboration with the Jewish Women's Renaissance Project and JOIN Orlando. So far we have sent 56 local mothers on this journey of a lifetime. This October, we will send 22 moms, and 22 moms in 2019.

### Maitland campus security

We have continued to improve security on the Maitland Jewish Community Campus, including the enhanced use of carded access control, which creates a higher level of scrutiny for those entering the property.

### We're fine-tuning our mission

This fall, you will begin hearing about Federation's renewed commitment to **Advocate, Connect, Educate and Support** the people and organizations that make up the Central Florida Jewish community. These four core commitments drive everything we do, and they are the building blocks of the Federation of the future.



# THANK YOU!

for supporting  
the Jewish Federation  
of Greater Orlando