

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ANN ARBOR

# IMPACT REPORT 2025



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## JEWISH FEDERATION'S VISION

Greater Ann Arbor is home to a resilient, thriving Jewish community where every person feels welcomed, valued, and connected. We celebrate Jewish life with joy and pride, stand united in the face of challenges, and actively contribute to building a better world for all. Our community aims to be a beacon of Jewish values, interfaith partnership, and civic engagement that strengthens both our local area and the global Jewish people.

## JEWISH FEDERATION'S MISSION

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor unites and strengthens our Jewish community to shape a vibrant, resilient future. Together we build a flourishing Jewish community that is welcoming & inclusive, educated & engaged, safe & secure, caring, active, and connected to our local community, Israel, and Jews worldwide.

## JEWISH FEDERATION'S FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

The Jewish Federation's work is guided by three Pillars:

**PHILANTHROPY, ENGAGEMENT, AND CONVENING.**

# LOOKING BACK ON 2025

2025 was a year of continued growth in Jewish Federation's mission to support flourishing Jewish life in greater Ann Arbor. We addressed challenges to our community locally and abroad, and we offered contemplative and joyful opportunities for community connection.

With your help, we:

- Raised a record \$1.6 million for the Annual Community Campaign.
- Hosted the most well-attended Main Event since 2012 with keynote speaker David Brooks.
- Significantly increased Israel-related programming in the community, including the successful inaugural year of our Shinshinim program. Highlights include community-wide celebrations of Lag B'Omer and Yom Ha'Atzmaut - each of which attracted more than 300 people - and meaningful commemorations of the October 7 attacks and Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day).
- Forged new connections through our JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Committee), including the founding of a Washtenaw County Black-Jewish Coalition and a Hanukah-Diwali celebration in collaboration with the JCC and the local Hindu community.
- Continued our work in meeting essential security needs of the community, with over \$560,000 raised for our local communal organizations through federal and private grants.

We are deeply grateful to each generous donor, volunteer, and individual who engaged with and supported the Jewish Federation and our Jewish community. We are motivated by the many people who have found meaningful Jewish connections in the greater Ann Arbor Jewish community. In the coming year, we will continue this important and inspiring work of strengthening our flourishing Jewish community locally, in Israel, and around the world.

L'Shalom,

Eileen Freed, CEO

Marla Linderman Richelew, President of the Board of Directors



Black-Jewish Freedom Seder at the JCC in March 2025. The seder sparked the creation of a formal Black-Jewish Coalition in Washtenaw County.



The allocations process starts with a dedicated committee of volunteers, who review funding requests from local and overseas partners. This committee then makes allocations recommendations that are approved by the Jewish Federation Board of Directors. Eighty percent of funds raised is allocated to local and national partners; 20% is committed to Israel/Overseas, with 50% being used to support specific projects that reflect community values and priorities.

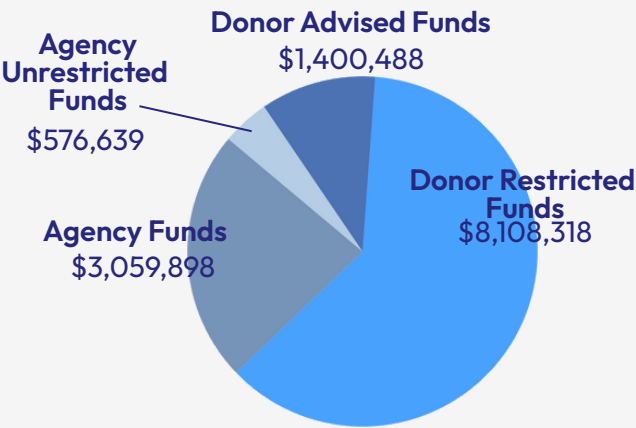
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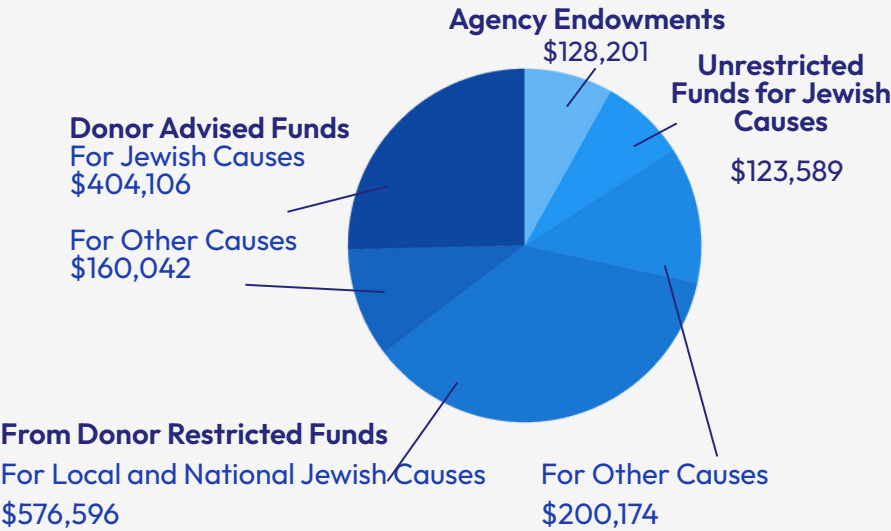
# PHILANTHROPY

## Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Ann Arbor

Foundation Assets  
Total: \$13,145,343



Foundation Investment in Tikkun Olam  
Total: \$1,592,708



## Thank you to the Jewish Federation’s Legacy Society

Anonymous  
Joelle Abramowitz  
Dr. Jeremy & Rabbi Sara Adler  
Larry & Sue Adler  
Carol and Herb Amster (z”l)  
Henry & Harlene (z”l) Appelman  
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Ed & Mona Goldman  
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Jessica ‘Decky’ Alexander & Bruce Kutinsky  
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Stacey Lee  
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Carolyn & Paul Litcher  
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Nancy & Phil (z”l) Margolis  
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Marylen S. Oberman, Ph.D.  
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Susan & Murray Rebner

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Jennifer & Eric Rosenberg  
Prue & Ami (z”l) Rosenthal  
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Harriet & Marvin Selin (z”l)  
Miriam Beth Shaw  
Carey & David Sherman  
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Barry Nemon & Barbara Stark-Nemon  
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Ron & Lonnie Sussman  
June Swartz  
Larry & Roberta Tankanow  
Joan Lowenstein & Jonathan Trobe  
Zelma H. Weisfeld (z”l)  
Donna Winkelman  
Sarajane Winkelman  
Martha & Eric Young  
Charlene Oventhal Yudowin

### Legacy giving across greater Ann Arbor

**490** legacy commitments, from 272 donors

**\$15.7 million** estimated value of legacy contributions



# PHILANTHROPY

## Spotlight: Community Engagement Fund

Jewish Community Engagement Fund grants are intended to encourage organizations and individuals to work collaboratively on innovative initiatives to cultivate a strong, engaged, connected, caring, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in Washtenaw County.

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, eight collaborative projects were funded, including events on the UM campus, Israel education programs, and a program coordinated by JCOR (Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement).

For the third year, the Community Engagement Fund provided a grant to the annual Recover Seder.

The third annual Recovery Seder, which took place April 13, is a partnership between Temple Beth Emeth (TBE), Beth Israel Congregation (BIC), Jewish Family Services (JFS), and the Lior Project.



This seder is a community effort to address issues of mental health and addiction in the Jewish community. Building on the success of last year's program, the Recovery Seder aims to meet the spiritual and religious needs of members of the recovery and 12-step communities. It enables participants to navigate aspects of the traditional ceremony that can be more challenging and to explore what freedom at this season means to someone who is struggling with freeing themselves from addiction.



# ENGAGEMENT

The Jewish Federation's role is to connect people to opportunities for Jewish engagement, provide those who have not found a connection point new ways to be involved, engage with other faith and cultural communities, and foster meaningful and thoughtful relationships with Israel.

## JCRC

(Jewish Community Relations Committee)

The JCRC's connections with non-Jewish communities and elected officials grew significantly in the past year. From the launch of a Washtenaw County Black-Jewish Coalition to advocacy in Washington, DC for stronger security funding for Jewish communities, JCRC is leading the way in representing the Jewish community in broader society.

One meaningful program was a Chanukah-Diwali event that brought together the Jewish and Hindu communities in December 2024. It was a night of traditional food, dancing, and new friendships.



## Israel Programming

The Jewish Federation spearheaded a number of Israel-related programs this past year to enhance the community's connection with Israeli culture and life. A series of educational programs on Jewish-Arab relations in Israel inspired fascinating conversations. Community-wide commemorations for 10/7 in October and for Yom HaZikaron in the spring offered spaces for people to reflect and share in community during challenging times.

One of the most energetic events was a community-wide Yom Ha'Atzmaut Block Party at the JCC, attended by over 300 people. The night featured a live band, communal art, and a petting zoo.



## NextGEN A2

NextGen A2, the Jewish Federation's engagement group for post-college young adults, offered multiple opportunities to gather and create community this year. Monthly Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, and a "Jews in Tubes" tubing event on the Huron River were some of the programming highlights from the past year.





# CONVENING

## Spotlight: Community Security

Since joining the Jewish Federation professional team in 2023, the Jewish community's first Security Director, Shane Dennis, has worked on behalf of all communal organizations to strengthen security protocols and facilitate building upgrades.

Over the past year, Shane led six comprehensive security and preparedness trainings – for staff and volunteers in our synagogues and communal spaces, and for the community at large. A program titled “What You Do Matters: Lessons from the Holocaust” was presented to local law enforcement to show just how instrumental they are in protecting civil liberties of all citizens. In total, these programs reached 343 attendees, representing a broad network of professionals, students, and community partners.

Beyond education, Shane has actively supported the community's long-term safety infrastructure through the federal Nonprofit Security Grant process. In the past year, Shane helped guide Ann Arbor area Jewish organizations to successfully apply for \$500,000 from the federal government. Infrastructure projects completed or underway include upgrading security systems and installing new doors and locks at Chabad House of Ann Arbor, installing swipe-card access at the Hebrew Day School library, and new security cameras at Temple Beth Emeth.

Together, these efforts reflect a sustained commitment to preparedness, partnership, and proactive security, creating safer facilities and fostering a culture of collective responsibility and care.



## Spotlight: ShinShinim

This past year marked an exciting milestone as Ann Arbor proudly hosted its first ever delegation of ShinShinim—Israeli emissaries on a year of voluntary service between high school and the army. During their year in Ann Arbor, they shared Israeli culture with the community and engaged people with Israel in a deeply personal way.

While the ShinShinim program is hosted by the Jewish Federation, it is only successful with the involvement and commitment of local Jewish communal organizations. During this inaugural year, the ShinShinim brought energy and connection to students at Hebrew Day School, Temple Beth Emeth, and the JCC's Early Childhood Center. They planned multiple community-wide events, including a Purim Carnival and greater Ann Arbor's first Israel-style Lag B'Omer celebration, which welcomed more than 300 people, who enjoyed bonfires, outdoor games, and Israeli food.

This first cohort of ShinShinim sparked meaningful conversations and friendships, helping strengthen the bridge between Ann Arbor and Israel and laid a strong foundation for this year's cohort.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 2025 ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

## Prime Minister (\$50,000+)

Henry Appelman<sup>^</sup>  
Michael Levine  
Steven Stancroff and Tamar Springer

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Eva and Edward Solomon\*  
Monica Starkman\*  
Nancy Barbas and Jonathan Sugar

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Carolyn and Paul Lichter\*  
Art and Mary Schuman\*  
Jonathan Trobe and Joan Lowenstein\*<sup>^</sup>  
Ambassador Ronald Weiser

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Terri Ginsburg and Jeffrey Spoon+  
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Wendy and Russell Weiner

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Decky Alexander and Bruce Kutinsky<sup>^</sup>  
Judith and Robert Marans\*<sup>^</sup>  
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Renee and David Pinsky

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Galit and Barry Dunietz  
Carol and Steven Dworkin  
Julie and Charles Ellis  
Paula Bockenstedt and David Fox

\*Includes a gift to the Women's Campaign

<sup>^</sup>Includes a gift to the LiveSecure Campaign

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Martha and Eric Young  
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Jody and Yaniv Atzmon  
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Deborah Dash Moore and MacDonald Moore  
Gayle and Bruce Moyer

\*Includes a gift to the Women's Campaign

^Includes a gift to the LiveSecure Campaign



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\*Includes a gift to the Women's Campaign

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Megan Bernard  
Jesse Bernstein

\*Includes a gift to the Women's Campaign

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