



Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND
HERE FOR GOOD

2025 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

Each year brings its own challenges and opportunities, moments of uncertainty alongside reasons for hope. Throughout the 2025 Annual Report, you will find stories that speak to the enduring strength of our Jewish Cleveland community – how we move forward together, grounded in our values, deeply connected to one another, and fortified by a shared resilience that empowers us to meet whatever lies ahead.

We are proud to be a strong community. Our strength is not something we diminish or apologize for – it is something we have built together through generations of leadership, generosity, and a deep commitment to Jewish life and responsibility for one another. That strength allows us to act with compassion, urgency, and purpose when our local and global Jewish community needs us most.

That same spirit was powerfully reflected in this year's Campaign for Jewish Needs when our community came together to raise a record-breaking \$39,035,018 by 9,036 gifts representing 12,094 donors. This extraordinary generosity will help change and save tens of thousands of lives in Cleveland, Israel, and around the world – and ensures we can respond immediately in moments of profound need.

For example, October 2025 marked two years since the October 7 attacks by Hamas. Since that devastating day, we have gathered to remember the lives lost, stand in steadfast solidarity with the people of Israel, and support those still living with trauma. As a ceasefire took hold, we also heard deeply troubling accounts of abuse, starvation, and torture endured by civilian hostages. Though this chapter has come to a close and the

situation continues to evolve, our commitment to remember and bear witness will never fade.

Closer to home, when unexpected disruptions to SNAP benefits put additional strain on vulnerable families, we responded quickly by launching an Emergency Food Assistance Grant. This effort ensured that individuals and families facing sudden food insecurity received the support they needed – another example of how our community's strength translates into immediate, meaningful action.

Our commitment to thoughtful planning and long-term impact also guided several important initiatives this year. We released the findings of our latest population study, providing a comprehensive look at the size, diversity, challenges, and strengths of Jewish Cleveland. Insights from this data are woven throughout the pages of this report and will continue to serve as a roadmap for building a Jewish Cleveland that is stronger, more inclusive, and more connected than ever. In addition, the Federation's Older Adult Task Force completed its work, offering recommendations to help ensure that older adults in our community can age with dignity, connection, and care in 2025 and for many years to come.

We continue to see our community come together for volunteer opportunities, meaningful events, and celebrations – reflecting the extraordinary commitment of Jewish Clevelanders in 2025.

A Message of Thanks

We are deeply grateful to outgoing Board Chair Daniel N. Zelman, who concluded his three-year term in 2025, for his dedicated leadership, clear

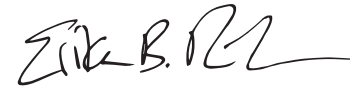
vision, and steady guidance. His commitment has strengthened our organization and helped position our community for continued success in the years ahead.

On behalf of your Federation's Board of Trustees and the professional staff, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners who help keep our community safe and strong, including local law enforcement, JFC Security, LLC, our agencies, schools, and synagogues. Your vigilance, collaboration, and commitment make it possible for Jewish life to thrive in Cleveland.

In every season – through challenge and celebration – our strength comes from one another. Thank you for being part of a community that shows up, stands together, and continues to be HERE FOR GOOD.



Jeffrey J. Wild
Board Chair



Erika B. Rudin-Luria
President



Our Priorities

CARE

for One Another

We care for one another by helping feed the hungry, comfort the sick, aid the elderly, shelter the homeless, and support those in need or with disabilities – wherever they are in the world.

PREPARE

for the Future

We prepare for the future by ensuring the long-term health and vitality of our diverse community.

SHARE

Our Perspectives

We share our perspectives by ensuring diverse points of view throughout our community are heard and respected.

REPAIR

Our World

We repair our world by responding in times of emergency and helping people rebuild in the wake of natural or man-made disasters.

Our Community's Safety Net

Strong, Compassionate, and Always There



In Jewish Cleveland, we embrace every member of our community. A strong network of programs and services help support those who are most vulnerable, ensuring they receive the care and dignity they deserve. And our commitment doesn't stop there. Around the world, we help faraway Jewish communities access the resources they need to rebuild, strengthen, and thrive.

Nurturing Confidence in Local Students

Bellefaire JCB provides licensed, culturally sensitive therapists to Jewish day schools across Cleveland, ensuring students, families, and educators have access to compassionate mental health support.

One child impacted by this program is Miriam*, a bright kindergartner who struggled to connect with classmates. While others played together, she often sat alone, unsure how to join in. A Bellefaire JCB school-based therapist began meeting with her weekly, helping her build confidence, develop social skills, and communicate more comfortably.

The therapist also partnered with Miriam's parents, offering strategies to support her at home and creating a consistent plan across school and family life. Gradually, Miriam began greeting classmates, joining group activities, and experiencing school as a joyful, safe place.

To support her continued growth, the therapist recommended outpatient counseling, and her parents thoughtfully chose to give her an additional year in kindergarten. One year later, Miriam's transformation is remarkable: she has close friends, participates eagerly, and approaches each day with confidence.

Her story reflects the power of community investment. Through our community's support and her dedicated family, Miriam gained tools for a brighter future. ✡

*Names changed to protect confidentiality

Caring for Vulnerable Jews in Ukraine

For too many Jewish families around the world, food, shelter, and peace of mind are scarce and precious resources. That is certainly true for Marina and her son Bogdan, two Jews struggling to survive in battered Odesa, Ukraine.

Born with a congenital heart defect, Bogdan has also lived his entire life with severe scoliosis, cerebral palsy, and epileptic attacks. Marina now cares for him on her own, a 24/7 responsibility that prevents her from finding other work.

Their only hope is the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). Today, they depend on JDC for food, medicine, winter survival aid, medical equipment, and a connection to joyful Jewish life.

Despite the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, they know they are not alone. Bogdan spends time with other young Jews with disabilities through vibrant community programming, and he enjoys visits from his JDC social worker. Together, they play the keyboard and pretend they're on "Ukraine's Got Talent."

Without JDC's support, Marina and Bogdan would not be able to survive. Through the care and compassion they receive, JDC has become a lifeline — offering not only critical resources, but a sense of dignity, warmth, and belonging for their family. ✡



SNAPSHOT

FINANCIAL VULNERABILITY IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

20% of Jewish households are struggling financially.

42% of households headed by young adults ages 18-34 are struggling financially.

43% of households with a member who has a disability or chronic health issue are struggling financially.

15% of Jewish households cannot fully cover a \$1,000 emergency expense.

Federation is translating these insights into focused programming aimed at addressing the gaps and risks identified.



Information from the 2022 Cleveland Jewish Population Study



32% of Jewish Clevelanders are 65 or older

(compared to about 21% of the general population in the Cleveland Metro area)

20% of Jewish adults provide care for a senior living outside their home

Information from the 2022 Cleveland Jewish Population Study

SNAPSHOT

Helping Older Adults Navigate Crisis and Care

Caring for older adults has always been a priority for the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Rita*, in her late 60s, called Access Jewish Cleveland, the Federation's confidential information and referral line, seeking financial assistance. She had worked for over two decades, then took a second job to make ends meet but illness left her unable to work for months. Living alone with no savings and a landlord unwilling to negotiate, eviction proceedings had already begun.

Even in crisis, Rita spoke of more than rent. She longed for the connections she once had, her synagogue community, and wanted to live closer to her father, who is in his 90s and has dementia.

Access Jewish Cleveland helped Rita explore housing options, including Sherri Park, Community Options, and the Cedar Center HUD building. Rita was also connected with Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) for emergency financial assistance, Forward Focus, and dementia care navigation to support her and her father.

About a month later, Rita experienced a transformative moment at JFSA's Memory Café when her father, who had been largely silent, began smiling and mouthing words along with the music at the event. Holding his hand, Rita cried. She felt grateful – not just for the practical help, but for the support and moments of connection that helped her feel less alone. ✨

*Names changed to protect confidentiality

Assisting Community Members as They Navigate Loss and Anxiety

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Chaplaincy program offers comfort to members of the Jewish community in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons through visits and correspondence from rabbis and volunteers. Based at four Cleveland hospitals, its mission is to unite, strengthen, and show every community member that they are cared for.

When 87-year-old Samuel* was hospitalized after a fall, a Federation chaplain visited him. His son, Mark*, who is middle-aged and has special needs, had recently lost a close family member and was struggling with anxiety as his father's health declined. Mark worried about his care and his own future.

The chaplain connected Mark to Access Jewish Cleveland, where a plan was created: counseling through JFSA to process grief, support with housing and finances, and additional guidance. To help him feel less isolated, Mark was also introduced to the Mandel JCC News of the Week program, a supportive space where he can discuss current events and feel less overwhelmed.

What began as a hospital visit became a bridge—turning a frightened, isolated son into someone with guidance, support, and hope. ✨



Health and Isolation: A Growing Concern

Health challenges and social isolation shape how people experience Jewish life – especially for older adults and those with limited means.



One quarter of households include someone with a health limitation or disability.



13% of households with seniors need help with daily activities.



63% of financially struggling households have few or no people they can rely on for support. Nearly half (49%) of adults age 75+ say the same.



Research shows social connection and support are vital for well-being.

Addressing isolation remains a central focus for Federation and its partners.

Information from the 2022 Cleveland Jewish Population Study



Standing Strong Together Against Antisemitism

Making sure hate has no home here is paramount to everything we do. In a year marked by rising antisemitism and moments of profound loss, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and its local partners responded with leadership, education, and unity. Together, we thrive despite antisemitism and deny it any power over our lives.



Elevating School Leadership to Confront Rising Antisemitism

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland hosted its first Education Leaders Summit in March 2025 to address the sharp rise in hatred targeting Jewish students. More than 100 superintendents, principals, school board members, and diversity professionals from over 50 public, private, and parochial schools across Northeast Ohio gathered for a full day of learning. The summit aimed to deepen school leaders' understanding of Jewish identity, rising antisemitism, and strategies for creating safer, more inclusive environments.

The program opened with an overview of Jewish history and Zionism, which many participants were encountering for the first time. Other sessions examined how antisemitism appears in schools today, followed by case

studies on antisemitic harassment and controversial online speech. Afternoon breakout sessions explored Holocaust education, legal considerations, and approaches to civil discourse, with many attendees valuing the chance to learn from peers across school systems.

Participants described the summit as eye-opening, meaningful, and inspiring. Federation and its partners continue to follow up with school-specific resources and planning future summits to continue this important work.

The event was supported by the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies Educational Foundation. ✡

Connecting Students Through Cleveland's Diversity at the Maltz Museum

The Maltz Museum fosters understanding and combats hate by sharing Jewish history through the lens of the American experience. As a Federation beneficiary agency, it has become a vital space where both the Jewish and general community can learn about tolerance, acceptance, and the diverse cultures that shape Cleveland.

Each year, thousands of students from Cleveland-area schools experience the museum's exhibits. These student tours emphasize inquiry-based learning, encouraging young people to think critically as docents pose open-ended questions and invite reflection.

Through its permanent and rotating exhibits, the museum highlights the many cultural threads woven into Cleveland's identity. By presenting stories of Jewish life alongside broader narratives of immigration, civil rights, and community-building, the museum helps visitors recognize shared experiences and appreciate differences.

For more than 20 years, the Maltz Museum has served as a bridge – connecting people, challenging assumptions, and inspiring a deeper commitment to stopping the spread of hate. Its impact continues to grow as new generations walk through its doors and carry its lessons into the wider community. ✡



Jewish Identity and Antisemitism

79% of Jewish Americans are concerned about antisemitism.

55% of Jewish Americans experienced antisemitism in 2024. More than half of U.S. Jews report personally experiencing antisemitism online, in public spaces, schools, workplaces, or near Jewish institutions.

Most Jewish Americans who experienced antisemitism have since deepened their Jewish engagement.

Among those directly affected by antisemitism, **nearly two-thirds** reported becoming more connected to Jewish community, identity, or participation.



Information from the Anti-Defamation League & Jewish Federations of North America, "Portrait of Antisemitic Experiences in the U.S., 2024-2025."

Responding to Tragedy with Unity and Resolve

Our community came together with urgency and compassion following the tragic murders of Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky, two staff members of the Israeli Embassy who were killed outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC in May 2025. The shock of their loss reverberated deeply, prompting Jewish Cleveland to respond with unity and resolve.

Within 24 hours, nearly 300 community members gathered to stand publicly against hate and reaffirm a shared commitment to protecting one another. The gathering created space for collective grief while channeling that emotion into strength and solidarity. Clergy, community leaders, and elected officials addressed the crowd, honoring the victims while reinforcing the imperative to confront antisemitism wherever it surfaces.

The gathering functioned not only as a memorial, but as a recommitment to action through education, advocacy, and partnership. In a moment of profound loss, Jewish Cleveland answered with a clear determination to move forward together. ✧

Reaffirming Community Strength After Unthinkable Loss

In December 2025, a brutal attack at a public Chanukah menorah lighting in Sydney's Bondi Beach claimed 15 innocent lives and shattered what should have been a moment of celebration. The violence sent shockwaves across Jewish communities worldwide, reminding many how fragile joy can feel in times of rising hatred.

In response, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland hosted a "Shine a Light" gathering that centered on remembrance and ritual. Community members came together to mourn the victims, pray for the wounded, and hold space for shared grief.

As part of the evening, participants lit a menorah to commemorate the sixth night of Chanukah. The quiet act carried deep meaning – affirming that even in the shadow of violence, Jewish tradition calls us to bring light, to stand together, and to choose hope. ✧

Standing Strong Together Against Antisemitism



Jewish Cleveland stands with the global Jewish community in moments of grief, resilience, and hope.

Strength In Action

Advancing Community Security and Resilience

In Cleveland, our Jewish community lives with openness, confidence, and a sense of safety that is made possible by JFC Security, LLC – Federation’s security provider – whose dedication of time, energy, and resources is invaluable. As threats to the Jewish people increase locally and globally, JFC Security has built the nation’s premiere comprehensive security program that serves as a model for communities worldwide. Each year, through innovation, partnerships, and training, JFC Security continues to expand and evolve, helping keep our people and our institutions safe.



Expanding Community Security Training in Cleveland

Since its launch in 2013, JFC Security has grown into a robust, community-centered operation. While its work spans safety awareness, facility protection, and law enforcement partnerships, one of its most significant advancements has been the expansion of security training for Jewish Clevelanders.

Today, free, community-wide training is a cornerstone of JFC Security’s work. Sessions include Active Threat Response; Run, Hide, Fight; Situational Awareness; Men’s and Women’s Self-Defense; Usher/Greeter protocols; and Bomb Threat Management. These programs

equip participants with practical, real-world skills while building confidence and a shared sense of responsibility. The goal is not only to respond effectively in an emergency, but to prevent incidents by fostering vigilance and preparedness across the community.

Community members say the trainings heighten awareness and empower them to identify vulnerabilities before situations escalate. By making safety education widely accessible, JFC Security is helping cultivate a culture in which more individuals know what to look for and how to act. ✡



Enhancing Community Safety Through Innovative Drone Technology

In summer 2025, JFC Security introduced a tethered drone pilot program at Mandel Jewish Community Center’s Camp Wise as part of a broader effort to enhance safety across community spaces. The drone, operated by trained JFC Security personnel, provided real-time, high-resolution visibility over the camp’s wide perimeter, improving situational awareness and supporting ground-level security operations.

The addition of this cutting-edge technology complemented other recent security upgrades at Camp Wise, including a staffed guard gate and strengthened access controls, and reflected a forward-looking approach to protecting the Cleveland Jewish community.

While the system is sophisticated, its presence on site was intentionally low profile. Most campers were unaware of the drone, and those who noticed it felt reassured rather than disrupted. The goal was to balance vigilance with peace of mind so that the camp experience remained safe and carefree.

The pilot provided valuable insights and helped inform future security enhancements at other Federation-supported sites. The drone technology is now being utilized across the Cleveland Jewish community, helping ensure the community remains safe, vibrant, and welcoming. ✡



Strengthening Synagogue Safety Through Volunteer Training

In response to rising concerns about community safety, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, in partnership with JFC Security, LLC, launched a pilot program to train volunteer security teams at local synagogues. The initiative equips community members to support professional security staff by providing additional eyes and ears to monitor potential threats and respond effectively during emergencies.

With guidance from the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official nonprofit dedicated to the safety and security of Jewish communities across the U.S. and Canada, the program is currently active at Congregation Mishkan Or, Green Road Synagogue, and B'nai Jeshurun Congregation. Volunteers receive comprehensive, hands-on training covering physical security techniques, emergency preparedness, situational awareness, Stop the Bleed methods, and reporting protocols.

Training also familiarizes participants with both routine and crisis procedures specific to each congregation, ensuring they can act confidently and collaboratively with professional staff and law enforcement.

This approach strengthens layered security while fostering active community involvement in synagogue safety. It also provides volunteers with practical skills applicable beyond the synagogue, promoting awareness and preparedness in daily life.

The pilot program is recognized nationally as a model for integrating trained volunteers into professional security operations. By combining professional expertise with engaged community members, the program ensures that synagogues remain safe, welcoming spaces while building resilience and shared responsibility across the Jewish community. ✡

“It’s about preventing situations before they escalate. The training helps you identify vulnerabilities and take action before it’s too late.”
- Allison Brandon, training participant

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

JFC Security:

- Provides security coverage across a service area with nearly 100 Jewish organizations.
- Serves over 60 synagogues for services and Sunday schools, eight early childhood programs, nine Jewish day school locations, the Mandel JCC, the Maltz Museum, and many social service organizations in the Greater Cleveland Jewish community.
- Employs close to 70 highly trained and seasoned professionals (along with another 115 off-duty police as independent contractors), including former FBI agents, a SWAT team commander, Explosive Ordnance Specialist, and five former police chiefs. JFC Security leadership has a combined 160+ years in law enforcement.
- Operates a fleet of six mobile patrol vehicles that canvas the community thousands of hours annually, day and night, to provide enhanced security oversight seven days a week.
- Maximizes security technology by connecting 26 locations, 1,300 surveillance cameras, 33 automated license plate readers, and 160 portable two-way emergency radios to the Chagrin Valley Regional Dispatch Center (CVRD).
- Runs a wide range of security training programs, training more than 3,700 community members since 2019.

365/7
COVERAGE



6
MOBILE PATROLS



70
SECURITY PROFESSIONALS



60+
SYNAGOGUES AND AGENCIES



17
SCHOOLS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

Empowering Families, Strengthening Communities

Israel Recovery in Motion

Since October 7, 2023, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland has helped deliver lifesaving aid, support for families, and economic recovery across Israel. Drawing on decades of trusted partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Federation provided guidance and resources to strengthen communities in need. By balancing urgent relief with long-term rebuilding, we help ensure resilience, stability, and hope for the people of Israel.



Stabilizing Small Businesses for Israel's Reservist Families

When the war began on October 7, 2023, hundreds of thousands of Israeli reservists were called to extended duty. Overnight, their spouses were left to carry everything else — home, children, and in many cases, a small business suddenly struggling to survive.

JAFI launched a first-of-its-kind Relief Fund for Spouses of Reservists to provide support to families suffering both emotionally and financially under the strain of prolonged reserve service.

The goal was not only to stabilize businesses, but to create a meaningful way for the global Jewish family to offer support and love to those who have quite literally been on the front lines for nearly two years.

Since the fund's launch, nearly 3,100 requests have been received, with more than 28 million shekels in grants distributed to date. Applications continue to arrive daily. Data from applicants reveals the depth of sacrifice: families endured an average of 357 days of reserve duty — with many serving far longer. Nearly 89% of supported businesses were long-established enterprises, yet each experienced an average revenue loss of 55%.

In northern Israel, two family-run restaurants reopened thanks to this support. One returning reservist now feeds soldiers by day — and, with help from Federation's partners, feeds his community at home. ✡

JAFI's Fund for Victims of Terror

provides immediate emergency grants, rehabilitation grants, intervention grants, and camp and respite grants to victims and their families. In its 21 years of providing assistance prior to October 7, the Fund for Victims of Terror has supported 9,000 families. Since October 7, the Fund has assisted more than 10,000 additional families with more than 85 million shekels (about \$23.8 million) in support.

Equipping Shelters to Save Lives in Beit Shean

In Beit Shean, Cleveland's sister community in Israel, a pregnant woman's life was saved by mere seconds. Moments before a missile destroyed her home, she accessed an air-conditioned shelter located next door. Just a day earlier, thanks to critical funding by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, local shelters had been equipped with portable air conditioners, transforming previously unbearably hot, uninhabitable spaces into safe havens. Ten seconds after she arrived, a drone struck her apartment. Because the shelter was ready, she survived.



BEFORE



AFTER

Beit Shean sits in a tense region, bordered by Jordan to the east and the Palestinian Authority to the west. Since October 7, ongoing attacks have threatened civilians, and the city has suffered from direct Iranian UAV strikes, causing extensive damage to a central apartment building.

In response, Federation prioritized renovating and equipping 82 public shelters in the region. Cooling and ventilation systems, mattresses, fans, bottled water, and "spirit kits" with snacks, games, and activities for children turned these spaces into safe, life-saving refuges.

Because of our community's swift and steadfast support, these shelters are not just structures — they are lifelines, protecting families in the most vulnerable and unpredictable moments. ✡

Relief Fund for Spouses of Reservists



357
average days of reserve duty served



3,100
requests for aid



28m
in grants distributed

Bringing Kissufim Teens to Camp Wise, Nurturing Resilience and Jewish Connection

Building on a successful 2024 pilot program, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland expanded its partnership with Kibbutz Kissufim in the summer of 2025 by welcoming 15 teenagers to Camp Wise for a three-week experience focused on healing, resilience, and Jewish connection.

Kissufim, near the western Negev, was devastated by the October 7 attacks, and its residents were subsequently displaced by the war. The Federation partnered with the Kissufim community to give these Israeli teens a safe space to step away from trauma and rebuild confidence.

At Camp Wise, the teens strengthened social connections, processed their experiences in a supportive environment, and engaged in a meaningful meeting (*mifgash*) with American peers. Through shared activities, language, and cultural exchange, both the Israeli and American campers deepened their Jewish identities and developed empathy across borders.

One Kissufim parent reflected: “Your generosity gave our children the gift of a summer camp – an experience that allowed them to breathe, smile again, and simply be children. After October 7, this was not just a camp. It was healing. This experience will stay with them forever.”

With continued demand and demonstrated impact, the Federation looks forward to welcoming more teens from Kissufim to Camp Wise in summer 2026. ✨

“After October 7, this was not just a camp. It was healing.”

- Kissufim parent



Responding Swiftly During Crisis to Bring Cleveland Teens Home

Sirens, uncertainty, and constant updates became the backdrop of what was supposed to be a 10-day educational journey across Israel. Last June, 26 Cleveland Jewish teens traveled to Israel with *israel.cleveland.next* (*icnext*), but on June 13, as fighting escalated across multiple fronts, their experience shifted dramatically. Bringing them home immediately became the top priority. While awaiting evacuation, *icnext* staff and chaperones created engaging programming and provided support to keep teens calm amid the backdrop of war.

“I will never forget this trip and the intensity of being in Israel during war time,” said *icnext* teen Maya. “I am grateful to our chaperones, the hostel that allowed us to stay in safety, and especially to the Cleveland Jewish Federation that took care of us and arranged for our return back home.”

Behind the scenes, the Federation worked around the clock, developing multiple evacuation plans as conditions rapidly changed. An initial plan included special permission to fly out of Ben Gurion Airport to Paris. That plan was abandoned when the perimeter of the airport was struck by a cluster missile fragment, forcing a last-minute pivot. Within hours, a new plan was secured: a chartered flight from Aqaba, Jordan to Europe.

Throughout the crisis, Federation leadership remained in constant contact with families, providing steady communication, reassurance, and ultimately, a safe journey home.

“I have no words to thank you and everyone who worked with the Federation to shepherd the kids out of Israel and work to bring them home,” said one *icnext* parent. “We truly appreciated the calm and collected Zoom calls and the transparency. Thank you doesn’t begin to cover it.” ✨



JEWISH ADULTS IN CLEVELAND

66% are emotionally attached to Israel.

88% of those who are very emotionally attached to Israel have visited or lived in the country.

62% have visited Israel at least once, higher than the national average of 45%.

Travel and emotional connection to Israel are linked.



Individuals who have visited Israel multiple times or have resided there exhibit much higher levels of attachment, with majorities from both groups indicating that they feel very attached to Israel.

Information from the 2022 Cleveland Jewish Population Study. Note this data was collected in 2022, prior to October 7, 2023. Behaviors and attitudes may have changed since then.

Impact at a Glance

As Jewish Cleveland's hub for innovative solutions and collaborative services, the Federation is able to change and improve lives in

Cleveland, Israel, and around the world

60 area schools and school districts engage through initiatives such as the Education Leaders Summit, Cleveland Jewish Teachers Summit, and Cleveland Jewish Teachers Network.



5,500 students in east side suburban schools participate in prevention programs through Bellefaire JCB's Social Advocates for Youth (SAY).

81 college students participate in the 2025 Mandel Myers Fellows cohort, receiving college scholarships and professional development while working at Jewish overnight camps.



2,024 subscribers receive PJ Library® books, building Jewish libraries for young families in Cleveland.



116 community leaders have participated in the Adler Civic Leaders Mission, the vast majority of whom are non-Jewish and had never previously been to Israel.

49,000 visits to explore the Roe Green Gallery, including attendees of Cleveland-Israel Arts Connection-specific events and visitors to the Federation's Ratner Miller Shafran Families Conference Center.



379 Ethiopian olim came through the Beit Alfa Absorption Center in Cleveland's sister communities of Beit Shean/the Valley of Springs.

310,516 visits to the Mandel JCC to experience wellness programs, fitness amenities, arts and culture, and more.

3,860 individuals receive basic necessities including food, household supplies, and clothing through the Cleveland Chesed Center.

5,626 students are enrolled in a Jewish Education Center-supported early childhood program, day school, or congregational program.

9,614 students engage in the Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate® program, using essays, poetry, and songwriting to promote respect across Northeast Ohio schools and communities.

3,218 Israelis affected by the trauma of war participate in group rehabilitation programs through JAFI.

57,180+ vulnerable Jews in Ukraine receive assistance since the start of the crisis through JDC.

378 Jewish Russian campers participate in overnight camp sessions hosted by JAFI, engaging in immersive Jewish learning and community-building.



25,785 students receive STEM education in Israel because of our Federation programming.



153,000 hours of home care services were provided to Holocaust survivors through JFSA.



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

Every dollar makes a huge difference.

Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs

\$39,035,018

RAISED IN THE 2026 CAMPAIGN FOR JEWISH NEEDS

12,094

DONORS

9,036 including **1,821**

GIFTS

NEW GIFTS

35 CAMPAIGN BENEFICIARY AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS that help tens of thousands of people in Cleveland, Israel, and around the world

IN CLEVELAND

- @Akiva High School
- Bellefaire JCB
- Cleveland Hillel Foundation
- Fuchs Mizrahi School
- Gross Schechter Day School
- Hebrew Academy of Cleveland
- Hebrew Shelter Home
- Hillel at Kent State University
- Jewish Community Security
- Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
- Jewish Family Service Association
- Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School
- Maltz Museum
- Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland
- Yeshiva Derech Hatorah

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

- American Jewish Committee
- Anti Defamation League
- BBYO
- Hadassah
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
- Hillel at Miami University
- Hillel at Ohio University
- Hillel International
- JCC Association of North America
- JFNA Community Relations
- Jewish Telegraphic Agency (70 Faces Media)
- Jewish War Veterans
- Network for Jewish Human Service Agencies
- Ohio Jewish Communities

AROUND THE GLOBE

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

We sincerely thank the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation for creating a special matching gift program to inspire new and increased Campaign gifts this year.

Special thanks

We greatly appreciate the support of Brunswick Companies and KeyBank for the matching gift incentives they provided during the Campaign.

We thank Campaign Chair Amir Jaffa for his leadership.

Grantmaking

In addition to raising dollars for needs in the community, Federation is one of the largest grantmakers in the region. The numbers below represent grants made in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2025.

TOTAL GRANTMAKING
\$249,562,237



GRANTS TO JEWISH SERVICES AND AGENCIES
\$144,927,852



GRANTS TO GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICES AND AGENCIES
\$69,980,556



GRANTS TO THE FEDERATION
\$34,653,829

Day School Transformation

The Day School Transformation Campaign reflects what is possible when a community comes together around a bold vision for its future. In just its first year, what began as an ambitious effort has already become a model for Jewish communities across the country, demonstrating Cleveland's leadership and deep commitment to Jewish education. Thanks to the generosity of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Supporting Foundation, and the partnership of Federation, the Jewish Education Center, and our five Jewish day schools, this initiative is already creating meaningful momentum.

With more than \$48 million matched to date and additional gifts in process, this campaign is inspiring philanthropy at a level that once felt out of reach. More importantly, it is laying the foundation for lasting impact – strengthening school endowments, supporting capital improvements, and helping to ensure that future generations of students receive an outstanding dual curriculum rooted in both Jewish values and academic excellence. With the campaign continuing through December 2026, there is strong momentum ahead, and this effort is already proving to be truly transformational for our Jewish Cleveland community.

\$45,265,050	Signed Gift Agreements	Total Matched through December 31
\$34,748,199	Verbal Commitments	\$31,300,000
\$80,013,249	Total potential gifts	\$41,665,000
		Endowment
		\$10,365,000
		Capital
		\$41,665,000
		Total



Numbers are from January 1, 2025- December 31, 2025.

Supplemental Giving

In addition to raising money for our annual Campaign, Federation raises critical dollars to support programs and disaster relief locally, nationally, and across the globe.



SECURITY
(JFC Security, LLC)
\$1,967,691



ISRAEL EMERGENCY
(Ongoing efforts to support victims of terror, economic recovery, and community resilience)
\$2,840,604



OVERSEAS PROGRAMS
(Emergency Rescue from Ukraine, *Aliyah* Support for Ethiopian Jews, Onward Israel, Birthright Israel, Israel.Cleveland.Next, Kibbutz Kissufim, and Youth Futures)
\$6,618,415



LOCAL PROGRAMS
(Cleveland Israel Arts Connection, Cemetery Preservation, Additional Support for Agencies)
\$4,947,850

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

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(As of December 31, 2025)

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland's activities are conducted by committees of volunteers in partnership with professional staff. Committee and subcommittee chairs are listed below. Please contact them or the Federation for more information about participating in Federation activities or other volunteer opportunities at affiliated organizations.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF CLEVELAND
 Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
 25701 Science Park Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44122

phone: 216-593-2900
 toll-free: 888-467-1125
 e-mail: info@jewishcleveland.org
 jewishcleveland.org

ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Distributes resources from the Campaign for Jewish Needs, balancing local, national, and overseas needs; helps to identify immediate and long-term issues which the community and/or individual agencies need to address; helps ensure that funds from the Campaign for Jewish Needs are used effectively and efficiently
 Elisabeth W. Sherman, Chair
 Andrew Zelman, Chair,
 Subcommittee on Human Services
 Adena J. Klineman, Chair,
 Subcommittee on Overseas
 Lawrence A. Mack, Chair,
 Subcommittee on Education Agencies
 Gregory A. Marcus, National Agencies Liaison Team

COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Studies and plans for community needs
 Kevin D. Margolis, Chair

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Implements public affairs agenda
 Susan R. Borison, Chair
 Alan Rosskamm and
 Jennifer Tramer, Vice Chairs

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Oversees all fundraising activities
 Suellen Kadis, Chair
 Amir Jaffa, General Chair, 2026 Campaign for Jewish Needs
 Ilana Isakov Katz, Chair, Women IN Philanthropy
 Jillian Nataupsky, Chair, Young Leadership Division
 Kimberly Stein, Chair, Professional Advisory Council

ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

Neil R. Waxman and
 Dara A. Yanowitz, Co-chairs

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Recommends funding for community programming and emergency needs
 Phillip M. Cohen, Chair
 Matthew F. Kadish, Chair, Donor Advised Fund Advisory Committee

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Oversees investment of endowment and capital funds
 Morris Wheeler, Chair

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Provides guidance and oversight of the recruitment, development, and placement of qualified professional and lay leadership
 Brian D. Robbins, Chair
 Sandra Wuliger, Chair, ALERT (Agency Leadership Roundtable)
 Keith Libman, Chair, Gries Award Committee
 Michael D. Siegal and Dara A. Yanowitz, Co-chairs, Mandel Course for Advanced Leadership (MCAL)

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Establishes marketing agenda and oversees communications activities
 Brian S. Stein, Chair
 Barbara Rosskamm and
 Alan Rosskamm, Co-chairs,
 Annual Meeting

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE

Conceives and manages projects that connect Jews in Cleveland with Jews in Israel and around the world
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 Debbie Hoffmann, Chair, Cleveland/St. Petersburg Partnership Subcommittee
 Jared S. Miller, Chair, Kissufim Partnership Subcommittee
 Ervin Pavlofsky, Chair, Cleveland/Beit Shean Partnership Subcommittee
 Dan A. Polster, Chair, Jordan/Cross-Border Initiative Subcommittee
 Stephanie Silverman, Chair, Youth At Risk Subcommittee
 Michael D. Stovsky, Chair, STEM Israel Subcommittee
 Allison Wuliger, Chair, Ethiopian Integration and Education Subcommittee

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Responsible for the creation, implementation, oversight, and revision of the Strategic Plan
 Danielle Wild, Chair

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Aviva Roland, Managing Director

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Rabbi Joseph Kirsch
Rabbi Edward Sukol

BUILDING OPERATIONS/CATERING

Judy Joffe
Donald Morlock

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO JFC SECURITY

JFC Security, LLC is the security provider for the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Founded in 2013, JFC Security helps to oversee the safety and security of the Jewish community and its institutions throughout the Cleveland area by nurturing a culture of security and by maintaining strong law enforcement partnerships.

CONTACT US

To request a consultation with a security professional, contact:

- Jim Hartnett, David P. Miller Director of Community-Wide Security at jhartnett@jewishcleveland.org or (216) 593-2833
- JFC Security Desk at (216) 593-2929

Help prevent potential security threats to Jewish Cleveland. If you see something, SAY SOMETHING by calling 911 immediately and then alert JFC Security.



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For more information on corporate sponsorship opportunities at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, contact Shelley Milin Marcus at 216-593-2900 (smarcus@jewishcleveland.org).

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MT. SINAI HEALTH FOUNDATION
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Federation is proud to recognize those who improve our community every day.

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