



MARCH 2024

Grantee Spotlight

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia upholds its pledge to Care for Those in Need in part by providing funding to partner agencies that help connect people with social services, such as organizations striving towards equity and providing safe spaces for women in the community.

This is why we are proud to support Dinah, a comprehensive legal services center that provides low-cost and pro bono legal representation to survivors of domestic abuse in the Jewish community of Greater Philadelphia.

Utilizing the Jewish Federation's three-year grant, Dinah increased its staff support and extended its vital programs for community outreach.

Dinah has also received grants in the past from Women of Vision, the Jewish Federation affinity group that advances the lives of self-identifying Jewish women and girls across generations and geographic boundaries through strategic grantmaking, advocacy and educational programs leading to social change and social justice.

[Learn more about Dinah here.](#)

“Dinah is so grateful for the partnership and friendship we’ve built with Women of Vision over the past several years. With the support of the Jewish Federation’s WOV Endowment Fund, we were able to grow our organization from an idea into a thriving social service provider in the landscape of the Jewish community of Greater Philadelphia.”

- Shana Weiner, Executive Director of Dinah



“Dinah was always available for a phone conversation and not only provided legal advice but also helped with the emotional aspects of the situation while explaining my rights.”

- Chaya, Dinah client

Department Updates

Strategy and Impact

- The grant processes for the Jewish Community Fund (JCF), JFRE, and Women of Vision are underway for the FY25 grant term. For this cycle, the JCF plans to fund general operating support and a limited number of capacity-building grants. This will allow the Jewish Federation to now focus its funding on larger scale change for partner organizations, as opposed to the limited programmatic funding previously provided. This will require funding fewer organizations and being more selective in awards.
- The Jewish Federation's Israel team arrived in Philadelphia with community members from the Jewish Federation's P2G regions of Netivot and Sdot Negev who are also Oct. 7 survivors.
- The Emergency Response Committee continues to stay updated on the war, immediate needs, and anticipated long-term needs in Israel. The Strategy and Impact team is working hard to review every proposal received to determine if there is any duplication of service and is talking to providers, municipalities, and other funders to assess the extent of the need for philanthropic funds.
- Corporate sponsorships are being solicited for the 26th Annual Circle of Partners Event, which will be held on June 10 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at KI in Elkins Park. The event attracts over 350 attendees, mostly older adults, from all around the Greater Philadelphia area and will include entertainment and a dessert reception.
- Women of Vision announced a special one-time grant of \$30,000 to support the Civil Commission of Oct. 7 Crimes by Hamas Against Women and Children. The commission, chaired by University of Pennsylvania alumna Dr. Cochav Elkayam Levy, is focused on collecting and documenting evidence of these war crimes to support advocacy and action on behalf of survivors and victims, and supporting the establishment of international tribunals to combat misinformation and denial. This grant was made in commemoration of Women of Vision's 30th anniversary through an anonymous donation, separate from the Women of Vision Endowment Fund.

FRD/Affinity/Endowment

- Launch of new Professional Advisors Network is underway, led by Amy Ufberg, Esq., Chair of the private client group at Dechert LLP. The group's focus is to engage and educate estate and financial planners, insurance professionals, wealth managers, and CPAs. The first event is being planned in May.
- The first of three stewardship events for Circle of Partners members (donors who have given to the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign for 25+ years) was held on Feb. 26 at the JCC Kaiserman as part of its GEMS programming for older adults. The program featured an ethical wills workshop.
- Women's Philanthropy is leading a mission of 35 women to Mexico City in May to learn about global Jewry and discuss the vibrancy and critical need to support Jewish life around the world.
- Together with the JCRC, Women's Philanthropy and Women of Vision issued a statement on International Women's Day (Mar. 8) in support of the victims of gender-based violence in Israel on Oct. 7, calling on the United Nations to conduct an independent investigation into crimes committed.
- Lay leaders and professionals are in the process of following up with the 500+ attendees of the Talking Antisemitism with Lizzy Savetsky event that took place in January at Congregation Beth Or. Several of the event attendees are being considered for future WLDP, Cabinet, and leadership roles.



[Click on the image to see the report](#)

Through the community's collective support, the Jewish Federation is proud to have raised more than \$15.5 million through the Philly Stands with Israel Emergency Fund for humanitarian relief and recovery efforts for impacted communities in Israel, including the organization's partnership regions of Sdot Negev and Netivot, which border Gaza and have been at the epicenter of the terrorist attacks and escalating war.

We are proud to share this report, which highlights the impact Greater Philadelphia made through its generosity and commitment to the Jewish homeland.

Community Leadership Development / Engagement

- The community engagement specialists are working hard to engage people one-on-one, in an effort to identify prospects for both fundraising and leadership. This is in parallel with their events planning, leadership team stewardship and organizational relationship building efforts.
- The Kehillot are working toward a busy time of year with four Purim events slated to attract hundreds of community members to celebrate together.
- Staffing update: Jonathan Schmalzbach is now overseeing the Old York Road Kehillah. There is a search to hire a new Community Engagement Specialist for the Northeast Philadelphia and Bucks County Kehillot.
- The Governance Task Force is currently working on preparing recommendations regarding the Board of Directors, Executive committee and Board of Trustees, including size and scope of each. Engagement strategies moving forward will take advantage of members' interests, skills, experience and leadership capabilities to better enhance the effectiveness of the Jewish Federation.

Marketing/Events/PR

- The Jewish Federation released its [Philly Stands With Israel Emergency Fund impact report](#) to highlight the dollars raised to date and their impact on the ongoing crisis in Israel.
- In February, the Jewish Federation secured 17 pieces of earned media coverage that reached an estimated audience of 1.29 billion and received an estimated 1.39 million views, showcasing the organization's impact in leading the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community through advocacy, philanthropy, and interfaith partnerships.

- Marketing launched a new monthly internal newsletter with the goal of keeping staff aware of, invested in and connected to what is happening in other departments of the organization.
- Marketing led an effort to bring in 33 organizations and synagogues to become official supporters of "A Tree of Life" documentary screening and panel on Feb. 21, which was hosted by the Jewish Federation, Secure Community Network (SCN) and HBO. The following day, the Jewish Federation and SCN hosted two Counter Active Threat Training (CATT) sessions for staff, lay leaders and congregant members. Both the panel at the film screening and the security training featured Stephen Weiss, a survivor of the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting who credits the SCN training he took before the attack for saving his life. These events brought out over 200 community members.
- As mentioned in the Strategy & Impact section, from March 6-March 12, community members from the Jewish Federation's P2G regions had around 40 speaking engagements to share their firsthand accounts of the war. The Marketing team created a comprehensive marketing kit to aid organizations' and congregations' promotions of their events.
- For International Women's Day, as outlined in the FRD/Affinity/Endowment section, the Jewish Federation published a statement to reaffirm our belief in Oct. 7 victims of gender-based violence. [To read, click here.](#)
- The events team is at the height of the event season, with events ranging from parlor meetings to community gatherings to fundraising and reunion events. Preparations are being made for Purim events and upcoming shore events targeting various affinity groups and planning for the fall.
- Events has a new process to include focus on more in-depth planning and strategic thought for each event goal and timing.

JCRC and Government Affairs

- The JCRC is in the process of assembling a youth symposium for high school students in partnership with ADL and Stand With Us among other partners on Apr. 7. This free event will feature panels and workshops led by experts on topics like anti-Israel bias and prepping for college. This symposium will teach both students and parents the history and advocacy skills they need to be informed on how to navigate spaces when facing antisemitism and how to speak up for the Jewish community. The program is intended for Jewish students in both public and non-Jewish private schools, and all are welcome to attend.
- The JCRC has brought family of current and released hostages to members of the PA congressional delegation, including both Senators Casey and Fetterman, as well as Representatives Dean and Scanlon with plans to bring them to the rest of the state's delegation.
- The JCRC has continued to build its relationship with Pastor Carl Day and members of his church, Culture Changing Christians, in the initiative called The New Golden Age. Last month, the JCRC hosted Israeli activist and social media influencer Yirmiyahu Danzig to speak with the group to talk about the diversity of Jews both in Israel and globally. There are plans to take the group for further lobbying in Harrisburg as well as a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate for issues affecting both communities.
- The JCRC is in the process of creating a Continuing Legal Education event surrounding Title VI, hosted by the Brandeis Law Center on Apr. 9. This event will be open to local lawyers interested in learning how Title VI can be used to help advocate for those experiencing antisemitism in school or the workplace.



Finance/IT/Operations/Real Estate/Advancement Services

- With five months of the fiscal year now completed, there is an estimate of a slight budget surplus for FY24. This compares to a \$297,000 budget shortfall that was approved in May of 2023 for the fiscal year. All of the surplus comes from interest earnings on investments of idle operating funds. The finance team has taken a proactive approach to identifying liquid, principal-safe investments with high market yields. Also, three positions have been operating below budget, which has also contributed to cost savings. The three open positions will be filled by the beginning of March 2024.
- The FY23 financial statement audit for the Jewish Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Day Schools were completed and presented to the Audit Committee by the Jewish Federation's independent auditors EisnerAmper. Both entities received a clean opinion.
- Next up are the annual tax returns for both entities, which will be completed and filed prior to the July 15, 2024 due date.
- The finance and donor services teams completed the most effective pledge collections period in the Jewish Federation's history. Of the \$14,667,000 of unrestricted pledge income for FY23, \$14,050,000 was collected representing 96% collections of pledges within five months of the close of the campaign year.

- The finance team is wrapping up the first draft of the FY25 budget process. The budget draft will be presented to the Finance Committee at the March 14, 2024 meeting.
- The finance team is exploring options to upgrade the accounting and finance system from Abila MIP to Sage Intacct. As part of the upgrade, there is a plan to implement an automated accounts payable system. Subject to vetting consultants, timelines, implementation, and training costs, the goal is to complete the implementation by the end of FY24.
- The team continues to evaluate and analyze cyber security threats and have tested the Jewish Federation networks to identify weaknesses. Accordingly, a new threat assessment and firewall protection systems will be implemented to capture phishing, spam, and other cyber threats before they get to the user.
- The implementation of the Ruvna student safety and accountability program has commenced in 22 schools serving over 4,000 students and 1,000 faculty and staff.
- The Jewish Federation is beginning the evaluation of its second major security initiative: license-plate reading cameras. This technology will enable easy identification of vehicles on or proximate to Jewish facilities. There is a plan to beta test cameras on one or more of the Jewish Federation's campuses. The technology will enable campus security to identify vehicles that are not registered to be on campus. Discussions about this technology will be held with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to determine whether access to unidentified license plates would be helpful to them for enforcement and identifying potential threats.



Latest articles include topics such as:

- [Greater Philadelphia Bears Witness in Emergency Solidarity Mission to Israel](#)
- [Jewish Federation Supports JCHAI Work for Over 3 Decades](#)
- [Keeping our Local Community Safe: Jewish Federation's Concerted Efforts Over Past Year](#)

Finance Snapshot

Operating Results FYTD January 2024

Compared to Operating Forecast

Operating Surplus	\$217,000
Staffing Levels	87
Surplus (Deficit) from staffing levels	\$228,000
Surplus (Deficit) from Bond Interest Expense	\$(143,000)
Surplus (Deficit) from All Other Areas.....	\$132,000

JCF Pledge Accounts Receivable as of March 11, 2024

FY 2021 Campaign	\$900
FY 2022 Campaign.....	\$166,703
FY 2023 Campaign.....	\$346,872
FY 2024 Campaign.....	\$2,118,821
Total	\$ 2,633,296
Balance.....	\$5,900,000

Provisional and subject to final audit adjustments

Successes

- Operating results for the five months ended January 31, 2024 are pacing \$217,000 better than budget, that was approved at a \$297,000 deficit..
- Pledge balance collections continues to outperform. Open pledge balances on the Jewish Community Fund are under \$600,000 for the fiscal years prior to FY 2024.

Things to Watch

- Investigating license plate reading cameras to beta test on campuses with day schools. Unidentified license plate data will be captured and may be shared with law enforcement, as appropriate.
- Framing a property and casualty insurance review subcommittee of the Finance Committee.
- Deeply steeped in the FY 2024 forecasting and FY 2025 budgeting process.

Summary by Fiscal Year Campaign (BBEC Gift Year Specified by Donor)

	FY2022 9/1/21 3/9/22	FY2023 9/1/22 3/9/23	FY2024 9/1/23 3/8/24	FY2024 vs FY2023 2024 B (W)
<i>Source: Financial Accounting System</i>				
Total Unrestricted & Allocable	\$8,518,717	\$8,714,501	\$7,688,570	(11.8%)
Total Restricted Net of Emergency and One Time	\$3,523,062	\$3,177,527	\$15,317,987	
Emergency Campaigns & One-Time Gifts	\$(756,966)	\$(57,578)	\$(8,862,949)	
Restricted income net of Emergency & 1 Time	\$2,766,096	\$3,119,949	\$6,455,038	106.9%
Total Unrestricted, Allocable & Net Restricted	\$11,284,813	\$11,834,449	\$10,432,636	19.5%

	Pace = 5% over FY2023			
	Closed FY 23	PACE	Change	% Change
<i>3/05/24 BBEC Pace by Designation</i>				
Total Unrestricted & Allocable	\$7,567,128	\$8,499,270	\$(932,141)	(11%)
Restricted Income Net of Emergency and One Time	\$6,750,954	\$3,501,693	\$3,249,262	92.8%
Total Unrestricted, Allocable & Net Restricted	\$14,318,083	\$12,000,963	\$2,317,920	19.3%

Delta between Financial Accounting System (FAS) and CRM is timing difference between pledges recorded in the CRM and pledges verified, documented, and recorded in the FAS.

Commencing the process of structuring the Community Property and Casualty insurance improvement program for launch in FY 2025.

Beginning the process of developing the FY 2025 budget program parameters.