

June 26, 2025

In Pursuit

For donors seeking impact

*Jewish Community Foundation of
The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington*



Bracketed between *Shavuot* and the introspective days of *Elul*, summer is one of the most reflective times in the Jewish calendar. It's a moment to take stock of what we've accomplished and recommit to what lies ahead.

This year, that reckoning is particularly complex, with compounding crises in Israel. At the same time, our local community is grappling with its own challenges, from rising antisemitism to growing security demands and emotional strain.

And yet, amid uncertainty, we continue to be reminded of something deeply powerful: our greatest strength is each other.

Through it all, and especially over the past year, we've amplified our impact by leveraging each other's giving for the greater good. Even as the ceasefire takes hold, the needs in Israel and in our local community remain urgent and ongoing. We can think of no better response than joining together to put our resources—and our values—to work.

Read on for updates on our community's latest grantmaking efforts, how families are refining their giving, and more chances to learn and give together.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer,
Sara and Debby

Sara Brenner

Executive Director

Jewish Community Foundation

Deborah Ratner Salzberg

President

Jewish Community Foundation



IMPACT: 625+ Days into Crisis and Still Showing Up

For more than 625 days, Israeli civil society has mobilized to meet the urgent needs of communities facing war, displacement, and trauma. From frontline relief to long-term recovery, organizations across Israel are stepping up—often beyond capacity and while carrying their own grief—to support those in crisis.

We've curated a list of trusted Israeli partners making a meaningful difference on the ground. Your support helps sustain their work at this critical moment.

[Explore their impact](#)—and consider giving through your Donor-Advised Fund



IMPACT: Rethinking Family Giving for Greater Impact

Align on values. Support the ecosystem. Get proximate. Reimagine your payout strategy. Engage the next generation early and often. These were among Sara's top takeaways from a recent intergenerational giving discussion hosted by the National Center for Family Philanthropy about how family foundations and donors are evolving to meet the moment—with greater clarity, creativity, and collective impact. [Read Sara's blog](#)



GIVE: \$1.5 Million in Grants Reflects Our Community's Commitment

This year, the Foundation has directed more than \$1.5 million in endowment grants, reflecting the power of our community's shared commitment to supporting urgent and enduring needs, both in Israel and in Greater Washington.

These grants reflect the lasting legacies of community members whose generosity continues to shape our future. Their love of the Jewish people and commitment to giving Jewishly lives on through support for a range of needs, including children with special needs in Israel, efforts to combat antisemitism locally, and the work of beloved local agencies like Makom, JSSA, and the Pozez JCC, which are continuing their signature programs to meet our community's evolving needs. [Read more](#)

In addition, the Fund for Women and Girls at the Jewish Community Foundation recently [awarded its third round of grants](#) to Israeli organizations working to elevate women into seats of power and decision-making—an essential shift during wartime and beyond.



GIVE: We Met Our Goal!

We're excited to share that we successfully completed our \$2 million DAF Partner Agency Matching Program, a major win for our community.

The result? A surge of resources to vital Jewish agencies and growth in assets through newly opened donor advised funds and increased contributions from participating donors—a win-win for our community. \$1 million in new and increased grants, combined with \$1 million in matching funds from the Jewish Community Foundation and Federation, bring greater financial stability to organizations and expanded support for those in need.

We are eager to continue experimenting with matching opportunities. If you have an idea for a creative matching effort, please reach out to us at foundation@shalomdc.org. [Review the results](#)



GIVE: What Does It Mean to Give Jewishly?

Jewish tradition teaches that giving isn't just generous—it's essential. Some forms of giving are required to address injustice and meet urgent needs. Others are freely offered to express connection, gratitude, and shared responsibility. At its core, giving with purpose means using our resources to build a more just world—and to bring meaning, dignity, and holiness into everyday life. [Read more](#)



ON OUR RADAR

Collective Campaigns Work

GivingTuesday is launching an accelerator to help communities in “philanthropy deserts” pool resources and drive giving. Their new program is inspired by data that shows that shared fundraising efforts raise 90% more and attract 85% more donors than individual campaigns. [Learn more](#)

Dollars Up, Donors Down

According to the Fundraising Effectiveness Project, giving rose 3.5% in 2024, but donor counts dropped 4.5%, and retention keeps slipping. These findings highlight a clear opportunity to not just raise funds, but to inspire more people to get involved in giving.

[Explore more](#)



OF NOTE: Bearing Witness at the Nova Exhibition

Not through July 6, the Nova Music Festival Exhibition is open in D.C. The immersive experience tells the story of the October 7 attack through striking visuals, survivor testimonies, and personal artifacts. It honors the lives lost and invites all of us to bear witness.

Join us on Tuesday, July 1 for Federation Day at the Nova Exhibition—a moment for our Greater Washington Jewish community to show up in solidarity and remembrance. [Buy tickets](#)

We exist to support your giving.

Turn to Jewish Community Foundation to:



Give to causes you care about inside and outside the Jewish community.



Take advantage of collaborative giving and learning opportunities.



Create an enduring legacy through Federation and the organizations you care about most.



Access advisory services to start, manage, and grow your charitable funds.

**Contact us to open a Donor Advised Fund, collaborative giving,
or to discuss your philanthropic goals.**

foundation@shalomdc.org | 301-230-7223

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**Jewish Community
Foundation**

**of THE JEWISH FEDERATION
OF GREATER WASHINGTON**

The Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington welcome the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations. Building an inclusive community is a priority.