

Inspired by the Past, Building for the Future.

90 years of showing up. A community built to last.



Est. 1936

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

Ninety years ago, a handful of San Diego Jewish leaders, led by Judge Jacob Weinberger, came together around a single, urgent question: could a scattered, still-young community hold together? Every generation has helped answer that question with a resounding yes that over the years has created a legacy of thriving Jewish life.

Throughout the past year, that legacy was evident in countless ways. With your generosity, partnership, and trust, Jewish Federation of San Diego strengthened Jewish life here at home, in Israel, and around the world.

That legacy carried us through a demanding year. As antisemitism rose in our own backyard, our community helped advance new protections for Jewish students across California. And we deepened our 28-year partnership with Sha'ar HaNegev, helping families and institutions there rebuild with hope for the future.

Over the past decade, that same commitment has transformed our institution. Philanthropic partnership and shared purpose helped grow our assets from \$18.9 million to more than \$46 million, expand our team from 17 to 40 dedicated professionals, and bring Spark Interactive to life through the largest capital campaign in our history, raising nearly \$15 million to date to carry transformative Holocaust education to students across San Diego County. These milestones reflect something greater than growth: enduring trust in our shared Jewish future.

We are no longer only “holding it together.” We are building something meant to outlast all of us. As we step into our 90th anniversary year, the question is not

what has been built, but who it is being built for: the next generation of Jewish San Diegans, families in Israel who are rebuilding, Holocaust survivors and their descendants in our community, and young people discovering that they belong to a deeply meaningful tradition that’s both ancient and alive.

Today, we are proud to invite our community into what comes next: **Federation at 90**, our 90th anniversary campaign, dedicated to ensuring that Jewish San Diego remains as strong, connected, and purposeful as the generations that built it.

None of this is possible without you. That has been true for ninety years, and with your continued support and partnership, it will be true for ninety more.

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Gantwerk".

Heidi Gantwerk
President & CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Schindler".

Jeff Schindler
Board Chair, 2025-26

Jewish Community UNITES FOR RELIEF

Local Leaders Launch Drive to Aid Refugees in Europe and Israel

The united efforts of Jewish organizations in San Diego unite to bring aid and hope to thousands of our suffering brothers and sisters.

UNITED JEWISH FUND CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Our Goal —
Our Responsibility
Our Community
Give Generously!

The San Diego Brith Student Village
A home for Jewish Students



LADIES HEBREW AID SOCIETY ORGANIZES NEW INITIATIVE

To Aid the Needy and Support Jewish Families

A meeting of devoted women was held this week to plan relief efforts for local families in need.

PACKAGES FOR ISRAEL



you lucky volunteer

WIN

3 yes three

3 yes three

ALL-EXPENSE TRIPS TO LAS VEGAS

DETAILS AT MEETING!

TUESDAY, MARCH 20th... 7:45 P.M. SHARP
Temple Beth Israel Center... Third at Laurel Street

For Volunteers Only
No Solicitation of Funds!

The object of this meeting is to seek YOUR HELP as a voluntary for raising funds for this most URGENT drive of all...

Fund-Raising For U.J.F.
Can Be Fun!

Attend and learn the easy way to be a winner!

REFRESHMENTS

You'll be there, of course... because...

1,159,182 LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS

See You at the Temple—

Tuesday, March 20, 7:45

Mr. Henry... Mrs. Henry... Mr. Henry... Mrs. Henry...



Jewish Federation OF SAN DIEGO

Strengthening our community.
Building our future.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. A. Einstein
Mrs. S. Addelman
Mrs. M. Price
Mr. H. Jobel
Mr. I. Jacobs
Mr. H. Honorable
Mr. X. Schnitzer
Mr. A. Stolkiny
Mr. A. Newman
Mr. B. Liver
Mr. R. Weitz
Mr. Z. Cormiel
Mr. T. Spote
Mr. F. Kotler
Mrs. N. Nadmon
(and many others)

Thank you for strengthening our community.
Your generosity changes lives.

THE JEWISH HERALD OF SAN DIEGO
MAY 6, 1949

BUILDING A STRONGER JEWISH FUTURE

Through Unity, Leadership and Giving

Our community grows stronger each day through the combined efforts of leaders, volunteers and friends.



VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZE ACROSS SAN DIEGO

Thousands Answer the Call to Serve

From door-to-door canvasses to committee work, volunteers power the success of our campaign.

DONOR RECOGNITION LUNCHEON
HOTEL U.S. GRANT SAN DIEGO
MARCH 3, 1949

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. A. Einstein
Mrs. S. Addelman
Mrs. M. Price
Mr. H. Jobel
Mr. I. Jacobs
Mr. H. Honorable
Mr. X. Schnitzer
Mr. A. Stolkiny
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Mr. T. Spote
Mr. F. Kotler
Mrs. N. Nadmon
(and many others)

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EVENT INVITATION

You are cordially invited to attend the ANNUAL MEETING of the UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Tuesday, May 10,
U.S. Grant Hotel • 11:30 a.m.



Dear Friends,
Your work is made possible only through your loyalty, generosity and belief in our common purpose.
Together, we build, we heal, we give hope.
With appreciation,
Beatrice Jacobs



Our Vision

A vibrant, caring, connected, enduring and secure Jewish community.

Our Mission

Inspired by Jewish values, we broaden and deepen engagement in Jewish life to strengthen Jewish identity, foster dynamic connections with Israel, and care for all Jews in need. We mobilize our community's resources, leaders, and organizations to address the community's most critical needs, creating profound impact locally, in Israel, and around the world.

2025–2026 Executive Committee

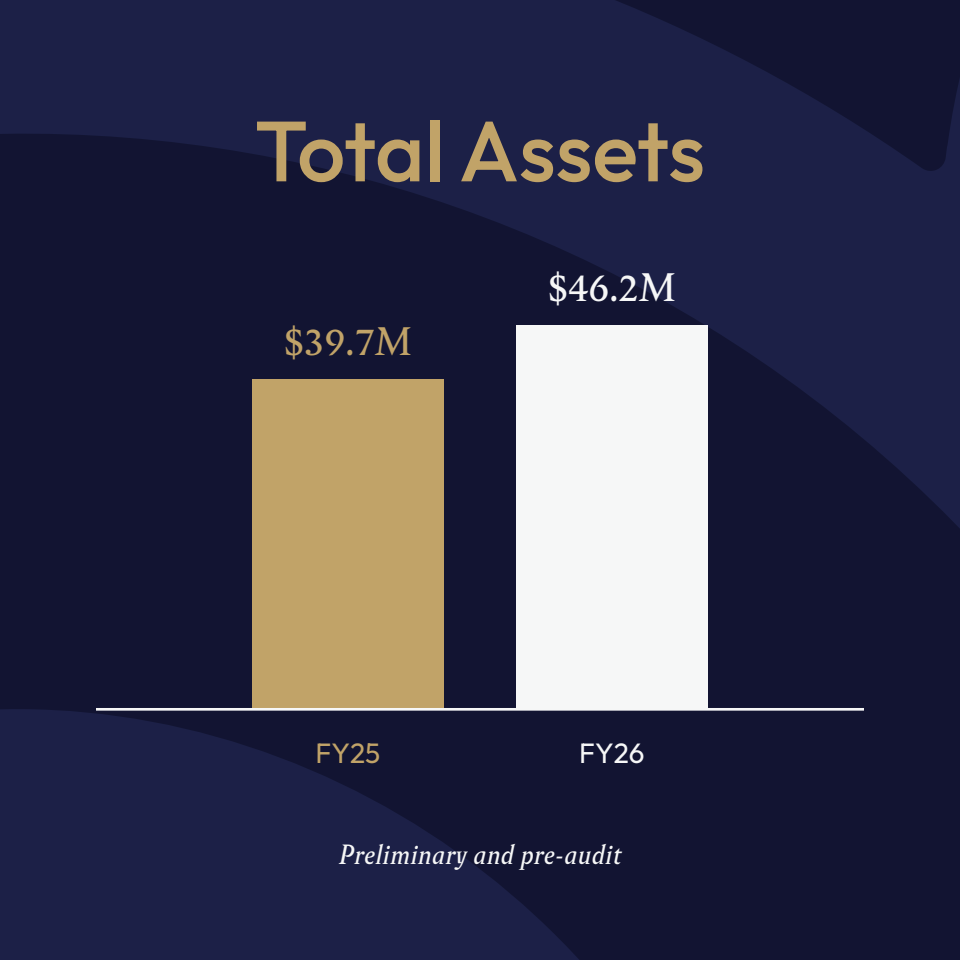
Simone Abelsohn, Director-at-Large
David Bark, Immediate Past Board Chair
David Bramzon, Director-at-Large
Debbie Deverett, Women's Philanthropy Board Chair
Kira Finkenberg, Director-at-Large
Heidi Gantwerk, President & CEO of Jewish Federation
Sonia Israel, Vice Co-Chair, Campaign
Larry Katz, Treasurer
Ingram Losner, Vice Co-Chair, Campaign
Jack Maizel, Director-at-Large
Meryl Maneker, Secretary
Robert Rubenstein, Director-at-Large
Jeff Schindler, Board Chair
Elliot Scott, Director-at-Large

2025–2026 Board of Directors

Tina Beranbaum, Jewish Community Foundation Board Chair
Silvana Christy, Director-at-Large
Julie Datnow, Director-at-Large
Ronit Droker, Director-at-Large
Uri Feldman, Director-at-Large
Allison Hauser Erickson, Director-at-Large
Sara Kabakoff, Women's Philanthropy Campaign Co-Chair
Heather Keith, Women's Philanthropy Campaign Co-Chair
Debbie Kornberg, Director-at-Large
Seth Krosner, Director-at-Large
Jeremy Pearl, Permanent Guest / Jewish Community Foundation CEO
Lisa Pearl, Immediate Past Board Chair, Women's Philanthropy
Shari Schenk, Director-at-Large
Sarah Shekhter, Director-at-Large
Victor Shlionsky, Director-at-Large
Elizabeth Siegler, Director-at-Large
Howard Somers, Director-at-Large
Guri Stark, Director-at-Large

FY26 at a Glance

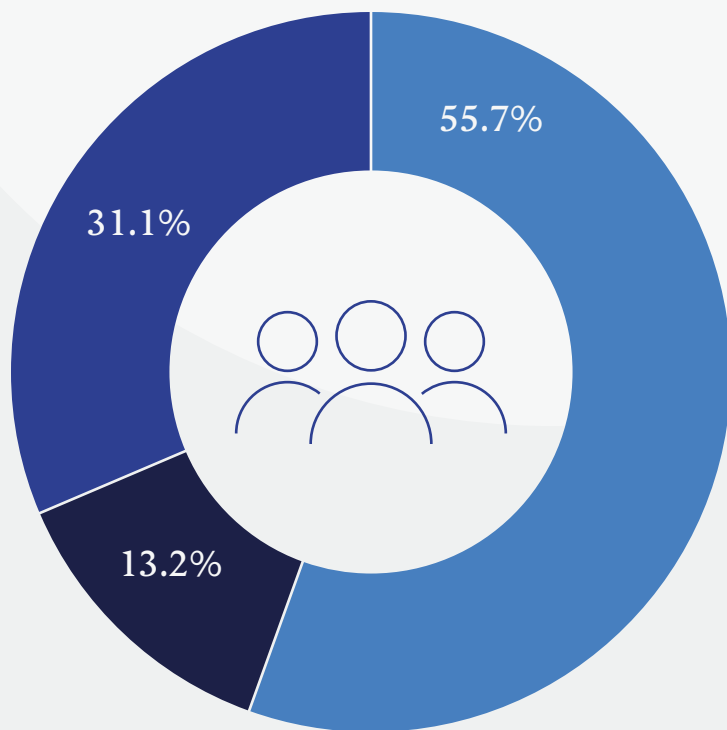
This year, our community contributed more than \$21.5 million to deliver on our mission and expand our capacity to make an impact on Jewish San Diego and beyond.



1,314

Total Donors

Comprising 1,224 households and individuals and 90 organizations.



732

Returning Donors

174

New Donors

408

Reactivated Donors

\$5.8M

Granted out

Across 122 grants and MOUs, reaching 40+ partner organizations.

Team Growth

+7

Staff
Members



Our team grew from 33 to 40 staff members.

Caring for Jews in Need

Before Jewish Federation of San Diego had a name, it had a purpose: ensuring no member of the community faced hardship alone. Our founders understood the Jewish teaching *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* – “All of Israel are responsible for one another.”

Few embodied that purpose more fully than Rose Neumann. One of the sixteen women who came together in 1918 to found Federated Jewish Charities, she led it as its president until 1947, building an organization rooted in dignity, compassion, and support for Jewish San Diegans facing hardship. That shared legacy helped lay the foundation for what would become Jewish Family Service and Jewish Federation of San Diego.

More than a century later, the needs of the community may look different, but that responsibility continues to shape our work. Each month, through the New Life Club, Holocaust survivors and their families find connection and belonging, while the Hebrew Free Loan Guarantor Fund helps vulnerable community members secure interest-free loans during difficult times. Chaplaincy services offer comfort and support when they are needed most. This past year, that has meant comfort at the bedside,

presence at the graveside, and the dignity of a proper Jewish burial for community members who could not otherwise afford one.

That same responsibility has also made Federation a convener – bringing communal partners together to address emerging needs and gaps in service. For example, when senior transportation surfaced as an unmet need in the early 2000s, Federation brought several agencies together to create On the Go, a program Jewish Family Service has carried forward ever since.

The values Rose embodied continue to connect our community to Jews around the world. During Operation Exodus, Federation helped mobilize support for Soviet Jews seeking freedom and a new beginning. That work continues today through our global partners including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and World ORT,

which provide care, dignity, and opportunity to vulnerable Jewish communities in more than 70 countries.

For 90 years, Federation has adapted to meet the needs of each generation while remaining rooted in the responsibility to care for one another that has guided our community from the beginning. The needs will continue to change. Our responsibility to one another – *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* – will not.



A Legacy of Women's Leadership

For generations, Jewish women have played a central role in caring for community, mobilizing volunteers, and strengthening Jewish life in San Diego and around the world.

For decades, these women-led organizations helped sustain San Diego's Jewish communal life, building networks of care, connection, and responsibility that would shape the community for generations.

1890 Ladies Hebrew Aid Society

c. 1912-1914 Jolly Sixteen

1913 Hebrew Sisterhood

c. 1917 Junior Charity League

1890

1918



Federated Jewish Charities is established, bringing these organizations together to coordinate care for Jewish San Diegans in need.

1946



Women's Division is established, creating a formal home for women's leadership and collective philanthropy within Federation. Julia Neumann, one of the original Jolly Sixteen, led Women's Division in its earliest campaigns.

1982



Pauline Foster becomes the first woman elected president of Federation's Board of Directors - leadership rooted in nearly a century of women caring for this community.

2021



Heidi Gantwerk named Federation's first woman President and Chief Executive Officer.

Today



Women's Philanthropy carries the tradition of caring for the vulnerable forward, especially through generations of women whose leadership continues to strengthen Jewish life in San Diego, Israel, and around the world. Their collective philanthropy contributes more than one-third of Federation's annual campaign, extending a legacy that began more than a century ago.

Building a Vibrant Jewish Future

A strong Jewish future is built one person at a time. Federation's work is to find people early, meet them where they are, and help them find their place in Jewish life. From its earliest days, Federation has invested in each new generation, trusting that a community grows strongest when its people feel they belong to it. Nine decades later, that conviction still guides this work.

For Benjamin Sussman, one of those pathways was LEADS. He joined the program carrying something he hadn't said out loud to many people: he wasn't proud of being Jewish. Somewhere along the way, his connection

had faded. But through text study, authentic relationships, and experiences like an interfaith Shabbat dinner, something shifted. The pride that had been absent began to return.

Benjamin's story is one example of how Federation helps people find their place in Jewish life. For many, that journey often begins much earlier, with a child's first Jewish book, a first summer at camp, or a first trip abroad that transforms identity into belonging. Through PJ Library, scholarships, and subsidies, Federation helps make those formative experiences possible for more children and families.

[The experience]
made me realize that
everyone has a part
to play in building
a community.

Teen Global Ambassador
Program participant,
Mexico City

As those children grow, so do the opportunities to deepen connections. Today, the Peter & Elaine Chortek BRIDGE Initiative, a five-year investment by the Chortek Weisman family, strengthens the Jewish identity, leadership, and global connection of San Diego teens, continuing the family's tradition of investing in the Jewish future.

The belief that investing in people compounds over time shapes how Federation develops community leaders. A vibrant Jewish community depends on people willing to serve on boards, chair campaigns, mentor the next volunteer, and carry its institutions forward. Through LEADS, the Pauline Foster Women's Leadership Institute, and the National Young Leadership Cabinet, Federation helps cultivate the volunteers, philanthropists, and community leaders who will steward Jewish San Diego for decades to come.

As each generation's needs change, so too must the ways we build community. Federation's work is to keep meeting the next generation where it is and to keep building the leaders, programs, and pathways that come next.





Looking Ahead: mosaic

Mosaic is one of the newest expressions of Federation's commitment to build for the next generation.

Created for Jewish adults ages 25-40, Mosaic is a new way to experience Jewish community, connecting people through the neighborhoods, interests, and relationships already at the center of their lives. Rather than asking people to fit into existing structures, Mosaic begins with connection, creating smaller, more personal pathways into Jewish life.

It is also an investment in the future: the young adults who find their place through Mosaic today are the volunteers, donors, and leaders who will carry Jewish San Diego into its next chapter.

Scan the QR code to learn more
and become part of Mosaic.



Signature Programs Across Every Stage of Jewish Life

One Happy Camper

Making Jewish overnight camp more
accessible for first-time campers

Global Ambassador Program*

Connecting Jewish teens with peers
from Jewish communities around
the world by traveling abroad and
hosting exchanges here at home

Student to Student*

Empowering high school students
to educate their non-Jewish peers
about Jewish identity

LEADS

Engaging young adults in San Diego's
Jewish community and exploring
leadership through a Jewish lens

Pauline Foster Women's Leadership Institute

Building confident women leaders
through learning, mission travel,
and community

*Funding generously provided by the
Peter & Elaine Chortek BRIDGE Initiative.

Connecting with Israel & Global Peoplehood

Since our founding, Federation has lived by one enduring commitment: Jews take care of one another—not only our neighbors, but Jews we may never meet, in places we may never go. In 1936, San Diego's Jewish community came together to help rescue European Jews fleeing the rise of Nazism. It answered the call again in 1948 to help build a newborn State of Israel. When the gates of the former Soviet Union opened, our community answered once more through Operation Exodus – and in the generations since has stood with Jews in need from Ethiopia to Ukraine to Argentina, wherever they call home.

Nowhere has that commitment taken root more deeply than in Federation's partnership with Sha'ar HaNegev. Since 1998, leadership exchanges, youth delegations, and visits in both directions have forged relationships that would prove invaluable when they are needed most.

When Hamas attacked Sha'ar HaNegev on October 7, 2023, those relationships became a lifeline. Because the partnership had been built over more than two decades, San Diego was able to respond immediately and continues to stand alongside Sha'ar HaNegev in its recovery today.

Through projects like Beit Melacha and the new "Assif" Resilience Village, we're helping create spaces for healing, creativity, and resilience.

The partnership's impact continues to unfold in meaningful ways by cultivating a new generation of Jewish leaders who embrace the responsibility to care for Jewish communities wherever they are. After participating in Giborim, Federation's emerging leaders exchange with Sha'ar HaNegev, Sebastian Mayer approached Federation's Israel team with an idea of his own: as he organized San Diego's Maccabi Games delegation, he wanted to include teens from Sha'ar HaNegev, and we made it possible. His initiative reflects exactly the kind of leadership Federation's global partnerships are designed to inspire.

That same commitment reaches across the Jewish world, through global allocations to JAFI and JDC and deepening ties with Jewish communities in Budapest and Mexico City. And this past year, immersive journeys to Cuba, India, Argentina, and more connected our community to the Jewish stories woven through each – reminders that we are threads of one people. Wherever Jewish life is being built, Federation's donors are part of it.

The bonds we solidified with our Sha'ar HaNegev family are something that will be cherished forever, and I'm so excited to see where we can go and what we can accomplish together.

Participant,
Giborim Emerging
Leader Exchange



Peoplehood in Action

28 Years

Federation’s partnership with Sha’ar HaNegev, established in 1998

\$5M

Rady Challenge Match – established by Ernest and Evelyn Rady to help fund a \$10 million package of trauma recovery and resilience initiatives across Israel

\$9.3M

directed to Sha’ar HaNegev since October 7 for relief, recovery, and rebuilding – \$11.4M including the Rady Match

\$3.46M

Federation’s FY26 investment in global peoplehood, up \$2.05M over the prior year

98%

of immersive travel participants formed new friendships across the FY26 travel portfolio (four missions, three continents, 68 travelers)

9

ShinShinim – young Israeli emissaries bringing Israel to life across San Diego, including 2 from Sha’ar HaNegev

Looking Ahead: Building the Next Chapter in Sha’ar HaNegev



Assif, meaning “gathering,” is Sha’ar HaNegev’s newest project: a single welcoming campus that will bring comprehensive mental health and trauma care, community, culture, and emergency preparedness together in one place. Rising from the region hit hardest on October 7, Assif is where children, families, and whole communities will come to heal, rebuild, and grow stronger together. Nearly 20,000 people are expected to use its facilities every year.

For San Diego, Assif is the next chapter in a partnership almost three decades in the making, a chance to help this community recover today while investing in its resilience for decades to come. And thanks to a \$5 million matching opportunity from the Rady Family Foundation, every dollar directed to Assif is doubled, amplifying what we can build together.



Experience Israel Together

In May 2027, 250 San Diegans will travel to Israel together, from Sha’ar HaNegev to Jerusalem and beyond, to witness this partnership firsthand. Turn to p.21 to learn more about The Community Trip, including an optional post-trip extension to Budapest, and other 2027 travel opportunities.

Creating a Secure and Resilient Community

Keeping one another safe, so that Jews can gather to pray, learn, and celebrate without fear, is among the oldest of Jewish responsibilities. In April 2019, a gunman opened fire at Chabad of Poway, killing Lori Gilbert-Kaye and wounding three others. The attack made painfully clear what our community had long lacked: any shared resources or coordinated efforts to protect the nearly 100 spaces across the county where San Diego's Jews come together. Federation has spent the years since building that infrastructure.

In February 2023, Federation partnered with the Secure Community Network (SCN), a national initiative of Jewish Federations of North America, to bring on Bill Ganley as San Diego's new Community Security Director, giving the community a dedicated, full-time point person for the first time.

From there, Federation built the security infrastructure the community needed most. Through the Jewish Community Security Institute (JCSI), launched in 2022, the people who run our synagogues, schools, and agencies learn to protect their spaces and their members together, and each comes away with a grant to put what they learned in place. Alongside JCSI, Federation now channels hundreds of thousands

of dollars each year into the enhanced security measures, so families arriving for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur can worship on the most holy days of the Jewish calendar without fear, and so the preschools caring for our youngest can open their doors without worry.

This infrastructure, built cohort by cohort and grant by grant, has allowed Federation to step into a new role when it was needed most. Our partnership with SCN links San Diego to nationwide security resources and has established Federation as a leader in community security. Following the sharp rise in antisemitism after October 7, 2023, one thing is clear: community security can no longer be episodic, something summoned in a crisis and set down afterward. It must be constant.

Yet meeting that reality takes more than guards and grants. The Federation-powered Finest Community Coalition, a collection of 48 San



Diego Jewish organizations working together to combat antisemitism, has enabled the community to respond with one voice in the civic arena by pushing back collectively against high profile instances of local antisemitism. Federation also advocated for the passage of California's AB 715, a new state law confronting antisemitism in K-12 schools, and brought a delegation representing some of San Diego's largest Jewish institutions to Washington, DC, to lobby our elected officials in support of the Jewish American Security Act.

In the next 90 years, Federation will keep building upon this infrastructure, reaching more institutions, responding faster, and holding steady through whatever comes.

Security By the Numbers

36

San Diego Jewish institutions
trained and supported through
JCSI since 2022

250+

security site assessments conducted
for local institutions

\$118,000

in High Holidays security grants
to 21 synagogues

\$180,000

provided to 19 preschools and early
childhood organizations through the
2025 Tepper ECC grants

48

member organizations in the Finest
Community Coalition

Tali's Story

Tali came to one of Federation's Security Spring Training sessions carrying a fear she'd always kept to herself. She has two kids in school, and like so many parents these days, she worried about their safety.

The evening paired an active-threat session with hands-on Stop the Bleed practice. And somewhere between the scenarios and the tourniquet in her own hands, something shifted. The fear didn't disappear. But it stopped being the only thing she felt. For the first time, she knew what she would do.

Before the night was over, Tali found Bill Ganley. She didn't want to be the only prepared parent she knew. She wanted to bring these trainings to her schools' PTAs, so that every family in her kids' schools could walk out carrying the confidence she felt, rather than the fear she walked in with.





A Promise for the Future

When Memory Meets Innovation

With the public launch of **Spark Interactive**, **Legacy of Light Goldberg Institute for Holocaust Education (LLGI)** introduced a bold new way to engage students, educators, and community members with one of history's most important stories. More than a new educational platform, Spark Interactive reflects an urgent truth: Holocaust education is not only about understanding the past, but about shaping a more just, compassionate, and courageous future.

The launch of Spark Interactive marked a defining moment. More than 400 educators, community leaders, supporters, and partners gathered to experience the platform firsthand, a reflection of a community that chooses to invest in memory, education, and the courage to confront hatred.

As the Survivor generation diminishes, the responsibility to preserve and share their stories grows larger. Created to meet that moment, Spark Interactive ensures future generations can continue engaging with the lessons of the Holocaust in meaningful, personal, and transformative ways.

Spark Interactive is part of LLGI's broader effort to strengthen Holocaust education throughout the region. Through the **Academy of Critical Thinkers (ACT)**, educators are learning to bring critical thinking and ethical reflection into their classrooms, reaching an estimated 3,000 students in the program's first year.

The **SHOAH Collaborative** connects educators, institutions, and community partners working to advance Holocaust education and combat antisemitism. At the same time, LLGI brought the acclaimed **Anne Frank: A History for Today** exhibit to audiences across San Diego County, where trained student docents helped thousands of visitors reflect on Anne Frank's story and its continuing relevance.

We are reaching a moment when the last eyewitnesses to the Holocaust will no longer be with us. Because this community chose to invest in preserving their stories, those voices will reach students who might otherwise never have encountered them, and endure long after the last Survivor is gone.



[My] memories
serve as powerful
reminders of the
importance of
Holocaust education,
especially in light of
all that's happening
today. Only by
learning from the
past can we inform
the present and the
future.

Lee Goldberg



*Legacy
of Light*

Goldberg Institute
For Holocaust
Education

Impact in Year One

6,000 students

reached in year one (FY26 estimate)

20 educators

trained (ACT Cohort 01)

19 schools • 5 districts

(ACT Cohort 01)

25 educators • 16 organizations

(SHOAH Collaborative)

A Legacy That Inspired a Movement

Growing up in the aftermath of World War II, Lee Goldberg experienced antisemitism firsthand. At the same time, she was surrounded by Survivors whose stories shaped her understanding of the responsibility each generation carries: the responsibility to preserve history and ensure its lessons endure.

Her father, Frank Winicki, lost almost his entire family during the Holocaust, with only two nieces surviving. After building his life in America, he remained deeply committed to the future of the Jewish people. Every month he sent money to Israel, quietly investing in Jewish continuity and renewal.

Lee carried that legacy forward. Her founding gift to establish Legacy of Light Goldberg Institute for Holocaust Education, the single largest gift in Federation's history, ensures that the responsibility her father modeled, and the stories he could not save, will endure for generations to come.

Scan here for more information about Legacy of Light Goldberg Institute for Holocaust Education and see a full list of Founding Donors.



Federation at 90

Inspired by the Past, Building for the Future.

Ninety years in, our anniversary year is not a look back. It is a new starting line.

Every generation inherits a Jewish community built by those who came before. Every generation decides the legacy it hopes to leave behind. That has always been Federation's work.

This work began in 1936, when a San Diego judge named Jacob Weinberger gathered a scattered, divided community, across every synagogue and faction, and asked them to do something radical: to become responsible for one another.

Everything that grew from that room – our schools and synagogues, our safety net, our ties to Israel and to Jews around the world – was built the same way ever since: by people choosing, year after year, to invest in a community larger than themselves and to build that community's future.

We convene. We respond. We invest. We build.

On this 90th anniversary, we renew the promise at the heart of it all: that we are responsible for one another, and that no one in our community faces what comes alone.

Jewish life weaves together the "oys and the joys," and Federation is built for both. We are the connective tissue that binds our synagogues, schools, and agencies into one community, and lets Jewish life flourish across the county – at Shabbat and holiday tables, in camp friendships, and through the everyday delight of belonging. And when the hard times come, we are ready, because a community strong enough to celebrate together is strong enough to protect one another.

Today, we face the same question Weinberger asked in 1936: will we care for our community and will we build its future together?

Every person who supports Federation answers it the way he did, with conviction: we are one community, one people. *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazei.*

To stand with Federation is to take your place in that answer, and to know that because you do, Jewish San Diego is stronger, safer, and more certain of its future.

Building Together

Key inflection points where Federation led the community to decide what to build next:

As danger gathers in Europe, Judge Jacob Weinberger unites 2,000 Jews across every synagogue and faction to found the United Jewish Fund (UJF).



As Israel is born, UJF leads San Diego in mobilizing for survivor resettlement and the new state.

1936

1948

For me,
building for the
future means investing
in a Jewish community
where every person knows
they matter and every
family can find connection.
That's why my commitment
isn't just for this year. It's
for the next ninety, for the
future generations who will
call this community home.

Allison Hauser Erickson
Director-at-Large



The United Jewish Fund merges with the San Diego Federation of Jewish Agencies to form the United Jewish Federation, uniting fundraising, planning, and agency support in a single organization for the first time.



San Diego and Sha'ar HaNegev become partners, beginning with the Ibim student village, home to young immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and around the world.

United Jewish Federation becomes Jewish Federation of San Diego, aligning with a Federation system rebranding nationally and signaling a shift from fund distributor to community convener.

1958

1990

1998

2010

2019

2023

Today

As the Soviet Union collapses, San Diego raises \$4.5 million in under two months for Operation Exodus, helping resettle Russian Jews fleeing persecution.

After the attack at Chabad of Poway, Federation begins building the security infrastructure that now protects Jewish life countywide.

After October 7, Federation mobilizes to support Israel and strengthen our community at home. The same year, *A Blueprint for Our Future* charts the community's path forward.

Will You Build With Us?

This is where the story becomes yours.

Every generation decides what kind of Jewish community it will leave for future generations. **This is ours.**

Whether your gift strengthens security, invests in Holocaust education, deepens our partnership with Israel, or creates new opportunities for Jewish connection and belonging, you are helping build the next chapter of Jewish San Diego.

Jacob Weinberger would be thrilled to see the community that grew from that room 90 years ago. We hope you'll join us in what comes from the next 90 years.



Ninety years in, and the work is not finished. Federation invests in security, caring for those in need, our partnership with Israel, and new ways to belong. What comes next is a choice this community makes together.

The legacy of our people is vast and has extended to areas such as philosophy, ethics, legal systems, and cultural practices. The Jewish community has had beneficial effects on scholarship, education and the concept of *Tikkun Olam*.

Marie and I, as our legacy, support the continuation of these values, especially education and community.

What is your legacy? Commit to it.

Dr. Robert Rubenstein



I grew up in a home where helping others was part of everyday life. If someone was in need, my parents were there to help. Now it is our turn. Andy (z"l) and I always felt strongly that we needed – wanted – to support the Jewish community in any way that we could. It is one thing to give money yearly. It is all together something else to leave a legacy for after we are gone. We hope that will help ensure the survival and the growth of our community and thus guarantee that the Jewish community will be there for our children and for our grandchildren.

“Kol Yisrael arevim zeh la-zeh.” Taking care of others is one of our core Jewish values. And what better way than leaving a legacy to guarantee that the Jewish community will indeed be able to take care of others.

Dr. Sonia Ancoli Israel

What Will Your Legacy Be?

For Every Generation

Some investments reveal their impact immediately – others take generations.

L'chol dor va'dor, for every generation. That is the promise at the heart of Jewish life: a commitment made today uplifts the generation living Jewish lives right now, provides for the generations still to come, and honors the memory of those who came before us. The Ratner-Foster family has lived that promise for four generations, from Anne Ratner z"l, a founder of Federation's Women's Division, to her daughter and son-in-law, Pauline and Stanley Foster z"l, who each led Federation as president, to the children and grandchildren who carry their tradition forward today. Across those generations ran a shared conviction: Jewish leaders belong at every table, and the family gave itself to San Diego's civic organizations, the arts, and education as devotedly as to its Jewish community.

What each generation built became the foundation the next one inherited.

Every program, every service, and every opportunity described in these pages exists because previous generations chose to invest in something larger than themselves. If you found your place in this community, it is because someone made that investment before you knew to ask for it.

As Federation marks 90 years of Jewish life in San Diego, there is no more fitting moment to ask what you want to outlast you. The **For Every Generation** endowment and legacy campaign invites our community to continue that tradition through endowment commitments and legacy gifts, including bequests, planned gifts, and named funds, that will sustain Jewish life for every generation.

I grew up in a community
my family and their
contemporaries built for
my generation. Now I
want to honor those
legacies and help
build the community
that will inspire the
generations to
follow.

Karen Foster
Silberman

The most meaningful legacies are not what we leave behind, but what we set in motion.

To learn more about legacy giving and the **For Every Generation** campaign, contact Michael Rabkin, Chief Development Officer, at michaelr@jewishinsandiego.org.



Journeying Together

Read back through these pages and you will notice how often a life changed the same way: on a journey. A week in Israel. A Shabbat celebrated with people who were strangers an hour before. A cohort that set out as travelers and came home as leaders. These trips are how Federation's long investment in Jewish peoplehood becomes personal, one traveler at a time. We invite you to journey with us!



Momentum Journey of Growth

November 2–8, 2026

A transformative leadership experience for Jewish women seeking deeper connection, purpose, and impact, this seven-day journey to Israel brings together women from around the world to explore Jewish values, strengthen their relationship with Israel, and discover new ways to lead in their families and communities. The experience includes a year of learning, reflection, and community-building, in which participants gain the tools to create meaningful change while strengthening Jewish life.



The Community Trip to Israel

May 18–25, 2027 | Budapest Extension May 26–30, 2027

Building on the success of Federation’s CommUNITY Trip in 2023, this experience will bring our community together to explore Israel’s history, culture, innovation, and people while creating meaningful connections that last long after the trip ends.

From iconic landmarks and inspiring encounters to shared moments with friends old and new, this is more than a trip, it’s a chance to strengthen your connection to Israel, the Jewish people, and the San Diego Jewish community. An optional extension to Budapest will captivate travelers with grand architecture, historic castles, and deep Jewish history around every corner.



Israel Unfiltered

June 2027

Israel Unfiltered offers Jewish teens the chance to experience Israel as it truly is – authentic, complex, and deeply meaningful. This trip encourages participants to step into the story and experience Israel’s vibrant culture firsthand, all while creating lifelong memories and friendships.





Jewish Federation
of San Diego

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