



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

- No one would ever have been able to predict what 2020 brought us, and those challenges continue into 2021. That's the reason having an organization like Federation to harness our community's collective *tzedakah* is vital. We are here to thoughtfully and nimbly direct our community's resources to make impact, whatever challenges we are facing.
- While our revenues continue to be uncertain due to the COVID-19 crisis, our Federation has continued to stretch to do more. Once again this year, we increased our allocations by over 5%.
- This year, our Federation has not only increased allocations to our historic beneficiaries both locally and abroad, but we have also carved out a pool of \$75,000 to meet new emerging and urgent needs. Already some of these funds have been utilized to cover the entire first year operations of new kosher food pantries in Upper Fairfield County.
- The Federation has maintained a "rainy day fund" for emergency needs in Israel, and this past 13+ months have been one of those rainy days. We have utilized those reserves to purchase life-saving medical equipment for Emek Medical Center in Afula and to purchase laptops, food packages, and senior activity kits for those in need in our Afula-Gilboa partnership region.
- In yet another uncertain year, our Federation has continue with significant internal cost-cutting in order to maximize the support we can provide to agencies on the front lines, reducing our 2021 operating budget by over \$57,000.
- For the 5th consecutive year, our Federation has been awarded Charity Navigator's Four-Star Rating, the gold standard for non-profits in rating financial responsibility, accountability, and transparency.
- In this time of crisis, our Federation has continued to serve as a central planner and convener, bringing together congregations and agencies for planning, helping facilitate JFS food deliveries, working with Merkaz to plan activities in support of Jewish Senior Services residents and staff, and coordinating meaningful online community programming.

While our Federation has stretched to do more in a time of uncertainty, our ability to continue stretching relies on assessing our prospects for continued support through our 2021 annual campaign.

If this isn't the right time for you to make your commitment for 2021, we understand. But, if you are able to make your pledge – and even better pay your pledge – now, it will make a major difference in our ability to sustain the vital support we are providing to our Jewish community, both locally and around the world.

2021 Beneficiary Organization Glossary

ISRAEL & OVERSEAS:

Jewish Federations of North America: The North American system for Jewish federations, providing connection to overseas needs, technical support, and more

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee: Our funds are directed to provide food and medicine for the elderly and vulnerable in Russia's Volga Region

Project Keshet — FSU: Providing leadership development training for women and girls in the former Soviet Union

Sarah Herzog Emunah Children's Center: A residential facility for at-risk youth in Afula with which our community has had a long-standing connection

Beit Singer: Residential facility for at-risk youth in Afula known, among other things, for its therapeutic zoo program

Ethiopian National Project SPACE Program: Providing supplemental afterschool education to Ethiopian-Israeli high school students in Afula

Home in the Valley: Afula-Gilboa's first LGBTQ support organization, founded by one of our community's first ever young Israeli emissaries

Haifa Rape Crisis Center (Afula): Providing counseling for sexual assault victims and education in schools to prevent sexual assault

Mishkan Museum of Art: Provide to bring Arab school children for cultural enrichment at an Israeli art museum in the Afula-Gilboa region

JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD:

Anti-Defamation League: Fighting hate and providing anti-bias education, ADL's Connecticut Regional Office impacts public policy and improves our communities

Birthright Israel: Program that sponsors free ten-day heritage trips to Israel for young adults of Jewish heritage, aged 18–32

Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center, Fairfield U.: Center for Jewish Studies that enriches the intellectual, cultural and spiritual life at Fairfield University

Hillel UConn Storrs: Center for Jewish Life for nearly 2,000 Jewish students at the University of Connecticut's main campus

Holocaust Child Survivors of CT: Providing support for and education in local schools by Holocaust survivors in Connecticut.

Jewish Broadcasting Service: Jewish-oriented television network including daily news, live events, and cultural programming of interest to the Jewish community

Jewish Council for Public Affairs: Central coordinating organization for Jewish Community Relations Councils around the country

Jewish Federations Association of Connecticut: Government relations and advocacy organization representing Jewish Federations in Connecticut

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Circle of Friends: Fosters relationships between children with special needs and local teen volunteers; created innovative Crumb Together Bakery program

Friendship Circle: Bridges the gap between special needs and typical youth, empower special needs youth with the skills for a productive and independent life

Schoke Jewish Family Service: Primary local Jewish social service agency, providing counseling, case management, food pantry, emergency assistance and more

Jewish Senior Services: Provides skilled nursing and senior care services for the Jewish community and beyond

Keshet Project: Program operating at B'nai Israel in Bridgeport and Jewish Senior Services providing Jewish programming for developmentally-challenged adults

LifeBridge Community Services: Bridgeport-based secular non-profit, fostering resilience through behavioral and youth services, includes the Community Closet

Positive Directions: Westport-based secular non-profit providing substance abuse counseling and receiving counseling referrals from our Jewish community

YOUTH & TEENS

BBYO: Connecticut Valley Region of non-denominational Jewish youth group servicing over 800 teens in the region

Bi-Cultural Academy: Jewish day school located in Stamford, serving 27 students from Upper Fairfield County

Ezra Academy: Jewish day school located in Woodbridge, serving 5 students from Upper Fairfield County

JCC of New Haven Day Camp: Day camp at Jewish Community Center of New Haven with participation from families in Upper Fairfield County

Merkaz Community High School: Weekly supplemental community Jewish High School program meeting on Tuesday evenings at B'nai Israel in Bridgeport

Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy: Jewish day school located in Orange, serving 14 students from Upper Fairfield County

INTERNAL PROGRAMS:

Federation Israeli Emissaries: Building a living bridge with Israel, this year the Federation will engage past emissaries virtually from Israel

PJ Library: Providing free monthly Jewish content books to Jewish families with young children

Books2Connect: Promoting literacy and self-esteem for young readers through the gift of books through secular schools and organizations

Book Buddies: Pairing elementary-school children with adult volunteers who serve as mentors and encourage children to become confident, competent readers