



Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine

BUILDING COMMUNITY. ENRICHING LIVES.

IMPACT REPORT

2024-25

MISSION STATEMENT



Rooted in Jewish values, history, and our connection to Israel, the JCA cultivates and sustains a welcoming and thriving Jewish community in Maine and strives to build a better world for all.

A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Community,

This past year was one of tremendous change in our organization, with a backdrop of local, national, and international events that have been, at times, incredibly heartbreaking and, at others, have provided real optimism and joy. Throughout it all, our commitment to our values and to one another has been unwavering.

The Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine (JCA) is a living manifestation of the fundamental Talmudic principle of *Kol Yisrael* – that each Jew is responsible, one for the other. Our 2024-25 Impact Report provides a glimpse into the way our community of donors, volunteers, and staff embody this daily. You'll learn how we care for those most vulnerable, educate our children, strengthen Jewish identities locally, support Jews globally, and foster a thriving Jewish life, all while striving to make the world a better place for all.

No matter how you choose to engage with the JCA, your support is a beacon of hope, and your involvement makes our wonderful community what it is. As we move into 5786, we look forward to building stronger connections, deepening our impact, and spending more time together—at the J!

With gratitude and best wishes for a sweet new year,

Leslie Kirby
Chief Executive Officer

Sarah Allenby
Board Chair

LIMMUD | לַמִּדָּה

Rooted in the Hebrew word *lamad*—to learn—*limmud* reflects Judaism's enduring call to lifelong study. At the JCA, this value comes alive through preschool, camp, adult learning, and every moment we grow together in knowledge, curiosity, and spirit.

educ



ation



From the Goldman Family Preschool to PJ Library, after-school programs, and Center Day Camp, our children experience joyful, meaningful Jewish learning. For many, these are their first—and sometimes only—touchpoints with Jewish life, making your support essential to nurturing the next generation.

HEDVA | תְּדֻוָּה

In Hebrew, *hedva* translates to “joy” or “gladness.” The name also carries connotations of sweetness and is associated with kindness and compassion in Jewish culture. At the JCA we find joy, create connections, and enjoy time together.

connecting



with community



Through cultural events,
holiday celebrations, and
everyday moments of gathering,
we create spaces of belonging
where Jewish identity thrives.
Your support ensures no one
feels alone in Jewish Maine.

V'AHAVTA | וְאַהַבְתָּ

This Hebrew phrase, which translates to "and you shall love," is meant to emphasize the commandment to love G-d with all one's being. At the JCA, we honor *v'ahavta* by treating everyone with compassion and respect.

communi



ty service



Guided by *tikkun olam*,
we respond to local needs
with compassion. Together, we are
repairing the world close to home.

TIKKUN OLAM | תיקון עולם

Tikkun olam, the Jewish call to repair the world, teaches us that it is our responsibility to pursue justice, compassion, and acts of kindness. At the JCA, this value guides us in serving others and strengthening community close to home and beyond.

volu



nteer



Volunteers bring our mission to life. Their dedication transforms good intentions into lasting impact.



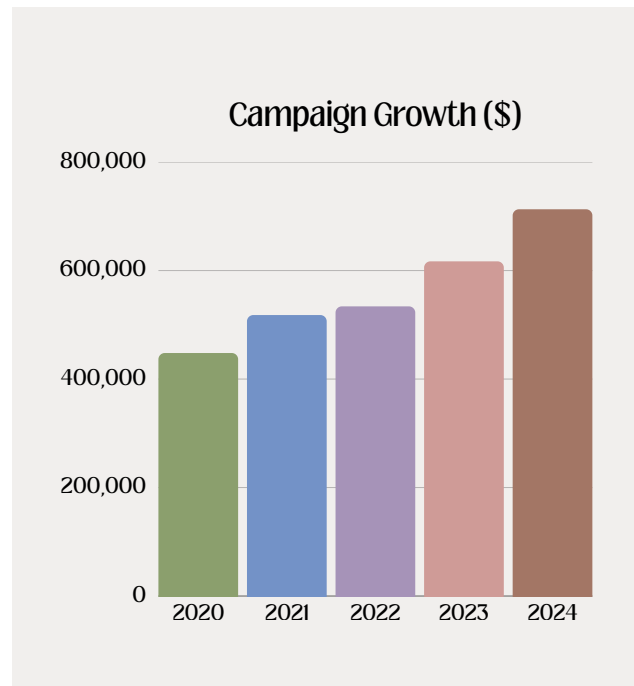
TZEDAKAH | צְדָקָה

Often thought of as “charity,” *tzedakah* truly means justice. It is the Jewish responsibility to share our resources and ensure dignity for all. Through your generosity, we bring this timeless value to life in Maine and beyond.

annual campaign

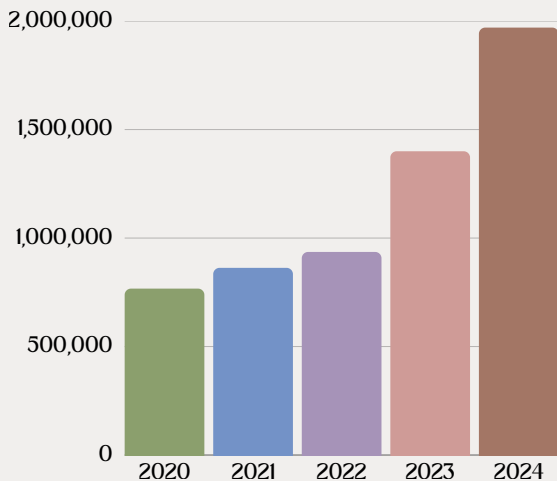
Keep the
momentum going—
our community
depends on it.

Over the last five years, our Annual Campaign has grown steadily—thanks to you. This strength allows us to meet each critical moment, from *simchas* to sorrows, with compassion and care. This year, we reached a remarkable milestone of **\$713,000**, a testament to your generosity and commitment. With so much more work ahead to safeguard and celebrate Jewish life in Maine, your continued support is essential.



& total giving

Total Growth (\$)



Together, we can
build on our growth
to meet the needs
of tomorrow.

In just five years, directed gifts have also expanded dramatically, reflecting the passion and priorities of our community. Together with our Annual Campaign, these gifts make it possible to respond to urgent needs and nurture joyful Jewish moments.

Israel & Overseas

Thanks to your generosity, Annual Campaign dollars reach beyond Maine—fueling food rescue, advancing educational equity, supporting trauma care, and renewing Jewish life in Israel and overseas. Together, we extend Maine's Jewish heart to communities worldwide. This year, *As One*, we invested **\$76,000** overseas.

American
Jewish Joint
Distribution
Committee

Leket Food
Rescue

Jerusalem
Rape Crisis
Center

Shlichim
Program at
Center Day
Camp

Yad L'Kashish

World ORT

Hand in
Hand
Schools

Local Allocations

Maine Jewish
Museum Delet
Program

Community
Theater Fund

Beth Israel
Mikveh
Waterville

Religious
Schools

Levey Day
School

Maine
Jewish Film
Festival

Southern
Maine Jewish
Cemetery

Local
Innovation
Fund

Documenting
Maine Jewry

Through careful stewardship, we invest Annual Campaign dollars back into our local Jewish institutions, helping tradition, learning, and connection endure for generations. This year, *As One*, we invested **\$104,500** locally.

Beth Israel Mikveh Waterville: \$5,000

Offering a sacred space to mark life's transitions through ritual immersion, the mikveh, available free to partner organization members, celebrates spiritual renewal, healing, and other meaningful moments.

Community Theater Fund: \$10,000

Nurturing creativity and Jewish storytelling, the Community Theater Project builds confidence and connection while bringing meaningful productions to life on stage.

Documenting Maine Jewry: \$3,500

Fostering deep-rootedness and relationships within Maine's Jewish community, this project curates the largest repository of information about Jewish individuals, families, businesses, institutions, and communal organizations.

Levey Day School: \$25,000

Serving as the only Jewish day school north of Boston, the Levey Day School welcomes community, strong academics, arts, Hebrew, and outdoor learning.

Maine Jewish Film Festival: \$3,000

Celebrating filmmaking and inspiring conversation through the lens of global Jewish experience, MJFF brings innovative programming and a diverse statewide audience into the dialogue.

Maine Jewish Museum Delet Program: \$8,000

Bringing free, engaging lessons to Maine's middle and high schools, the Delet Program builds understanding of Jews and Judaism, supports Holocaust and World Religion studies, and combats antisemitism.

Southern Maine Jewish Cemetery Association: \$5,000

Preserving and restoring the region's historic Jewish cemeteries, the Association honors our forebears in accordance with Jewish tradition, protects Jewish heritage, and keeps the memory of past generations alive.

Southern Maine Religious Schools: \$35,000

Reaching across Southern Maine, religious schools enrich students with Hebrew, prayer, and Jewish values, grounding young people in an identity and tradition that lasts a lifetime.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee: \$10,000

Offering support and hope for Jews and others in need since 1914 as the world's leading Jewish humanitarian organization, the JDC provides aid, strengthens communities, and responds to crises in over 70 countries.

Hand in Hand Schools: \$12,500

Bringing together over 2,000 Jewish and Arab students to learn, grow, and build a shared future, Hand in Hand, an Israeli network of bilingual, integrated schools and communities founded in 1997, fosters equality, inclusion, and mutual respect through education, multicultural curricula, and active community engagement.

Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center: \$5,000

Supporting survivors of sexual violence in Jerusalem and beyond while working to change societal attitudes through education, advocacy, and outreach, JRCC, founded in 1981, offers a 24-hour hotline, counseling, and volunteer-led programs, providing vital care and empowering survivors in their healing and pursuit of justice.

Leket Food Rescue: \$10,000

Focusing on collecting and distributing surplus, nutritious food to those in need, Israel's leading food rescue organization reaches over 330k individuals.

Shlichim Program at Center Day Camp: \$21,000

Bringing Israel to Maine each summer, this program welcomes highly trained young adult shlichim (ambassadors) to work as members of the Center Day Camp staff.

World ORT: \$5,000

Unleashing the potential of young people so they can lead fulfilling lives and have a positive impact on the world around them, the World ORT network reaches more than 350,000 people each year in over 40 countries, providing a combination of high-level science and technology education with strengthened Jewish identity.

Yad LaKashish: \$12,500

Working with hundreds of needy elderly around Jerusalem, Yad LaKashish, founded in 1962, provides stimulating work opportunities, a warm community environment, and invaluable support services.

LEADERSHIP

LESLIE KIRBY

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ASHLEY INBAR

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

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CHARLIE MILLER Z"l*

*ZICHRONO LIVRACHA (OF BLESSED MEMORY)



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