

Our IMPACT:

JEWISH EDUCATION

“We are incredibly grateful to The Jewish Federation for the financial support it provides to the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation’s Capital (JPDS-NC). My husband and I have seen first-hand the extraordinary effect that JPDS-NC has on our children’s lives and our family life.

Our children are thriving at JPDS-NC! They have a deep love for the school, their teachers and their friends. They are engaged and excited about learning everything—from a growing understanding of Jewish text and tradition, to building a connection to Israel, to speaking Hebrew, to delving into the rich curriculum in general studies, to developing skills like creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.

Just as important, their experience at the JPDS-NC has helped them become more curious, joyful learners and more committed, engaged Jews.

Unfortunately, our family has suffered several serious financial setbacks in recent years, and without financial aid, we simply would not be able to provide our children with this invaluable experience. Without the anchor of day school education, I don’t believe that our family would be as deeply involved in Jewish communal life as we are today. We are incredibly grateful to The Jewish Federation for nurturing the Jewish spirit of every member of our family through its support of day school education.”

~Parent of day school scholarship recipients

The Need:
Accessible and affordable Jewish education is a critical component for building and strengthening a Jewish community.



Photo has been changed to protect the anonymity of the family.

Our IMPACT:

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Mrs. Gold*, a Ukrainian Jewish Holocaust survivor, immigrated to the U.S. in 2005. Mrs. Gold's Holocaust history was brutal: Most of her family was murdered under the Nazi regime.

As an immigrant, Mrs. Gold was not immediately eligible for benefits or health insurance. She was financially dependent on her son, a struggle for a man with limited means. The Jewish Social Service Agency's (JSSA) Holocaust Survivor Program provided Mrs. Gold with a case manager who helped her find low and no-cost medical care and medications. They arranged for Meals on Wheels and free corrective lenses to assist with her severe sight loss. Mrs. Gold's current financial situation continues to be dire, but thanks to JSSA and the support of The Jewish Federation, she can access programs and services that allow her to live a life of dignity.

There are more than 200 Holocaust survivors in Greater Washington who live below the poverty line. As survivors age, their needs increase dramatically. The Jewish Federation helps these survivors live out their remaining years in dignity. JSSA's Holocaust Survivor program offers the following critical services:

- Emergency financial assistance
- Social work services and counseling
- Assistance filling out benefits forms
- Meals on Wheels (kosher meals delivered to survivors' homes)
- Escorted transportation to medical appointments
- Personal care assistance
- Installation of in-home emergency call systems

The Need:
Expansion of services to the most vulnerable among us is essential to meet the growing needs of at-risk populations locally, in Israel and around the world.



Photo has been changed to protect the anonymity of the family.



Our IMPACT:

ISRAEL AND OVERSEAS

In one of Mikhail's earliest childhood memories, he was drawing a star in elementary school. The teacher saw it and told the class that instead of drawing a regular star shape, Mikhail had drawn a Jewish star, a symbol Mikhail was familiar with from his Jewish preschool.



By the time Mikhail, a native of Moscow, was in high school, however, he had lost touch with his Jewish roots. Mikhail reconnected through Hillel, which he joined during his first year in college. He attended Hillel's summer learning program and then Taglit-Birthright Israel. This past summer, Mikhail helped organize "Hillel University," the same program that first introduced him to Hillel many summers before, and he has served as a Taglit-Birthright Israel counselor four times. Mikhail's participation in Jewish life has come full circle. Thanks to The Jewish Federation, Mikhail was afforded many opportunities to connect to his Jewish identity, something not always easy for a Jewish person living in the Former Soviet Union. Today, he is proudly turning his passion into his profession as the new Director of the Moscow Hillel.

The Need:

Unwavering support, advocacy for and education about Israel and 60 other Jewish communities around the world must be a cornerstone for our community.



Our **IMPACT:**

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

During Operation Protective Edge, Nitzan Tzeitlin, a high school student from Southern Israel, was one of thousands of children taken out of the line of fire and away from the thousands of rocket barrages coming out of Gaza. Nitzan joined children who went for a day of rest and recreation away from the barrage of rockets and sirens. “We spend many hours in bomb shelters,” Nitzan said. “Even a day away makes life a little easier.”

The days of respite for children from the South also provided much-needed breaks to parents, who have spent inordinate amounts of time attempting to entertain their children in bomb shelters and whose routines have been shattered by the near-constant alarms of air-raid sirens.

“This is saving the kids,” program coordinator, Benchalem Argau, said. They’ve been bouncing off walls; they haven’t left their homes for a week, and I see how much fun they are having here. The weight has been taken off their shoulders, at least for a little while. They are used to sirens going off all the time, so this is very calming for them. I want to thank The Jewish Federation, which made it possible for us to

The Need:

We must respond swiftly to address the immediate needs of individuals who find themselves in crisis.



provide this critical opportunity for the thousands of children directly in harm’s way.”



Our IMPACT:

INCLUSION



To the many residents of the Hebrew Home at Charles E. Smith Life Communities, Paul is a volunteer who brings a smile, a joke and warmth to every room he visits. But Paul is no ordinary volunteer. His daily visits to the Hebrew Home signify an

incredible accomplishment for this special young man, who is one of many volunteers who participate in a program that accommodates volunteers with special needs.

In 2008, Paul joined the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes MOST™ program. This one-year program helps successfully transition young adults with special needs into adulthood by helping them develop, improve and maintain the life skills necessary for them to successfully integrate into the adult community.

Throughout his participation in MOST™, Paul volunteered one day a week at the Hebrew Home, something he came to cherish and truly enjoy. As a dependable, joyful volunteer, Paul's responsibilities continued to grow over time. Today, Paul volunteers five days

a week and he loves every minute of it. He takes residents on walks, gets them to their appointments in the building and does all he can to bring joy into their lives.

This summer, Paul celebrated his five-year anniversary as a volunteer at the Hebrew Home, something he is quite proud of. Thanks to The Jewish Federation's support of the MOST™ program, Paul and many other young adults with special needs are able to move into adulthood with confidence, independence and the critical life skills that enable them to participate in society meaningfully.

The Need:

We must be a welcoming and inclusive community for all by expanding the ways in which individuals are invited and encouraged to participate in Jewish life.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington welcomes the participation of interfaith couples and families, and people of all abilities, backgrounds and sexual orientations.



Our IMPACT:

JEWISH IDENTITY



Miriam "Mim" Kahn grew up in an observant home in Rockville. Though her family kept Shabbat and she attended Hebrew school, Mim always felt different from her peers at her predominately non-Jewish school. She was constantly explaining to them what it meant to keep kosher and observe Shabbat. At the age of 8, that changed when she experienced the power and joy of Jewish summer camp during her first summer as a camper at Capital Camps, a partner agency of The Jewish Federation.

For the next nine summers, those four weeks of the year became the most special and memorable times of her life. "For me, the best part of camp was the friends I made. I loved getting to see the same girls and counselors each summer. Shabbat was pretty special, too. It was nice to get to slow down, let go of stresses, reflect and be around the people you care about."

When Mim aged out as a camper she knew she wasn't ready to leave camp, so she joined the Leadership in Training (LIT) program, followed by a summer in the Counselor in

Training (CIT) program, and today at the age of 23, Mim serves as the coordinator of the camp's CIT program. "The relationships I make with my campers are some of the most meaningful I have in my life. I care deeply for them. I stay in contact with them throughout the year. My campers are like my kids. This year, twenty-nine of them joined me on staff, and it felt great to see the wonderful counselors that they have become."

When Mim reflects on her experiences at Capital Camps, she says what she appreciates most is the

The Need:
Expanding opportunities for meaningful connections to Jewish life enables members of our community a multitude of ways to build their Jewish journey.

way that camp enables each camper to discover Judaism in their own unique way. It recognizes the differences we have and allows us to celebrate and find meaning. "I'm glad that we can help campers explore their Jewish identity and become more connected to Jewish life." Thanks to the support of The Jewish Federation, Mim and hundreds of other Jewish youth in the Greater Washington area experience the joys and impact of Jewish overnight camp.

