



**JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HOUSTON  
2021/22 IMPACT REPORT**





*As the leading Jewish philanthropic organization in Houston,*

the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston is the convener, connector, and fundraiser for our community. We are actively working to build a community where all Jewish Houstonians can live a proud, connected, and engaged Jewish life.

We do this by funding programs and organizations that support the needs of the vulnerable and build the Jewish identity of the next generation. By bringing together our schools, synagogues, and organizations we are also helping our community work together to more effectively support the collective. And we are increasing our outreach to those who feel disconnected from the community to include them in our "Big Tent."

**HOW DOES THE FEDERATION SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY?**

**FUND DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

Supporting the needs of the community in Houston, Israel, and around the world

**COLLABORATIVE NETWORK INITIATIVES AND INCUBATOR**

Sharing collaborative resources, training, and community data to help drive decision making

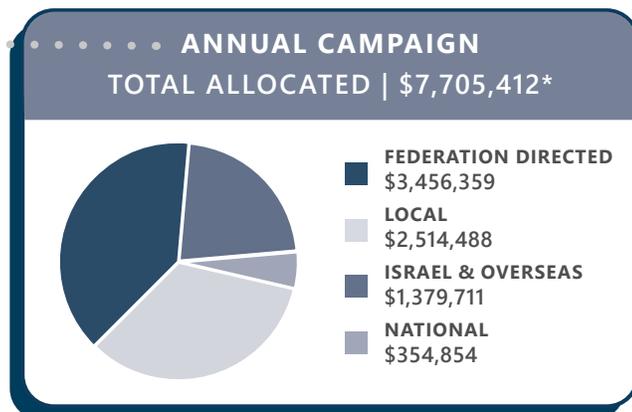
**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

Provide meaningful ways to connect to Judaism and engage in Jewish life

**2021 CAMPAIGNS | TOTAL RAISED: \$12,704,465**



- ANNUAL CAMPAIGN ..... \$7,861,670
- DONOR DESIGNATED ..... \$3,870,146
- BUILDING ..... \$490,500
- COVID ..... \$482,149



\* Includes carryover from previous budget year and contingency funds.



# FEDERATION FACTS

**2,667**  
TOTAL DONORS



**\$77,250**  
IN CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS  
to 122 recipients

**575**  
HOUSTON CAMPERS  
at Camp Young Judea  
Texas and URJ Greene  
Family Camp

**800+**  
FAMILIES  
ATTENDED PJ LIBRARY  
Chanukah Programs

**937**  
VIRTUAL YOM LIMMUD  
ATTENDEES

**849**  
VIRTUAL  
COLLAGE ATTENDEES



**1,730+**  
STUDENTS  
PARTICIPATING IN  
HILLEL & CHABAD  
at Texas universities

**\$792,225**  
IN FUNDING FOR  
JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS  
supporting  
**1,509**  
K-12 STUDENTS  
at 9 schools



PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FOR  
**450**  
TEACHERS  
impacting 4,000 students

**1,014**  
PARTICIPANTS IN JRAN  
(Jewish Response &  
Action Network)  
COVID-19 Trainings

**\$22,155**  
LOCAL NEED BASED  
ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIPS

**21,817**  
PEOPLE AROUND THE  
WORLD MADE ALIYAH  
supported by JAFI

**1,350**  
HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS  
supported in Israel

**4,208**  
PEOPLE BENEFITED  
FROM THE JFS CHAPLAINCY  
PROGRAM

**22 million+**  
HOURS OF HOMECARE  
FOR ELDERLY JEWS  
in the former Soviet Union  
supported by JDC

## Federation Networks

As the one umbrella organization that encompasses the entire Jewish community, the Federation plays a central role in connecting and convening our various schools, synagogues, agencies, and institutions for collective resource and idea sharing. The growing cohort of networks has proven to be a vital resource that Jewish communal professionals rely on in their work.

The Federation recently launched the Network Portal, an interactive online space to share resources and facilitate discussions to support the work of the Federation's collaborative networks. Hosted on The Jewish Education Project's Educator Portal, the Federation is the first community to pilot this new tool with five networks.

### ONGOING NETWORKS

- Jewish Response & Action Network
- Day School Heads of School
- Day School Admissions Directors
- Day School General Studies Principals
- Day School Judaic Principals
- Federal Funding Network for Jewish Day Schools
- Congregational School Principals
- Early Childhood Directors
- Youth Professionals
- Hebrew Language Teachers
- Synagogues
- Youth Mental Health Coalition

### NEW NETWORKS

- Engagement Professionals
- Public Affairs Professionals
- Young Adult Professionals
- Israel Educators in conjunction with the Shirley Barish Educators Israel Experience

*"Without the Day School Heads of School network I would not have the relationships with other heads of school that I do. This allows for easy communication with all members of the group when I need to reach out to discuss any topic at all. It has also been invaluable to know how other heads of school in Houston are handling school closings, COVID-19, or any number of issues facing all of our schools."*

– Paul Oberman,  
Head of School,  
Robert M. Beren  
Academy



# PJ LIBRARY CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF BUILDING JEWISH IDENTITIES

KIDS & FAMILIES | ENDOWMENT

**Federation Support: \$131,613**

During its 13 years in Houston, the Federation's PJ Library program, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, has grown to bring Jewish content and community connection to more than 1,800 children in 142 zip codes across the city each year. This includes mailing free Jewish books and gifts each month to children up to 12-years-old, providing family programming, and outreach via PJ Parent Connectors in The Heights, West Houston, and The Woodlands who build Jewish networks to extend our community.

Last spring, the Federation began fundraising for the PJ Library Endowment Fund, which is generously underwritten by The Samuels Family Foundation, and Nancy S. and Gary S. Glesby, Lauren Glesby Mahan, & Tracy Glesby Northington in honor of Veda Mae and Morris Glesby. The ultimate goal of a \$3 million endowment will ensure Jewish stories and traditions are shared with future generations of children and families in Houston.

## FACT

Over 7,000 children and 4,300 families have participated in PJ Library in Houston since the program began.



*"PJ Library connects two of my favorite issues, books and reading, and Jewish continuity. As a former professor of children's literacy and reading, I can think of no better way to connect children to reading than the wonderful books PJ has selected to share Jewish values, ideas and holidays."*

– Bobbi Samuels

*"When my family had the opportunity to make a donation to PJ Library in memory of our parents, it was very meaningful and important for us to do so, and it was one of my greatest pleasures in my life. I'm very glad the children have been able to enjoy the books and I look forward to that for many, many years to come."*

*"Through the books and the programs, we've had ways to intentionally connect to Jewish values like tikkun olam and tzedakah."*

– PJ Library Parent Committee Member Aliza Plotkin

# INAUGURAL KEHILLAH HIGH ISRAEL TRIP FOSTERS CONNECTIONS

ISRAEL | TEENS

**Federation Support: Kehillah High \$49,000**

Since 2015, Kehillah High, Houston's citywide religious school for students in grades 8-12, has grown to include 150 teens who meet on Wednesday nights to engage in conversation with clergy and respected Jewish educators.

Last summer, 32 of these teens from across greater Houston, representing seven congregations, got to experience the journey of a lifetime on Kehillah High's first Israel trip, funded in part by the Federation. In addition the Federation's Annual Campaign support of Kehillah High and a donor designated gift of \$20,000, the Federation provided a \$30,000 grant from our Gift of Israel fund and helped secure a \$100,000 grant from RootOne to support the Israel trip. RootOne is an initiative seeded through a generous grant by The Marcus Foundation and powered by The Jewish Education Project that helps tens of thousands of teens travel to Israel each summer with major subsidies for trip participants.

After being postponed for a year due to COVID, these teens were some of the first tourists allowed back in the country. During their three weeks, participants had the opportunity to build personal connections to Israel and fully develop a relationship with the country by interacting with the people, the land, and the culture.



## FACT

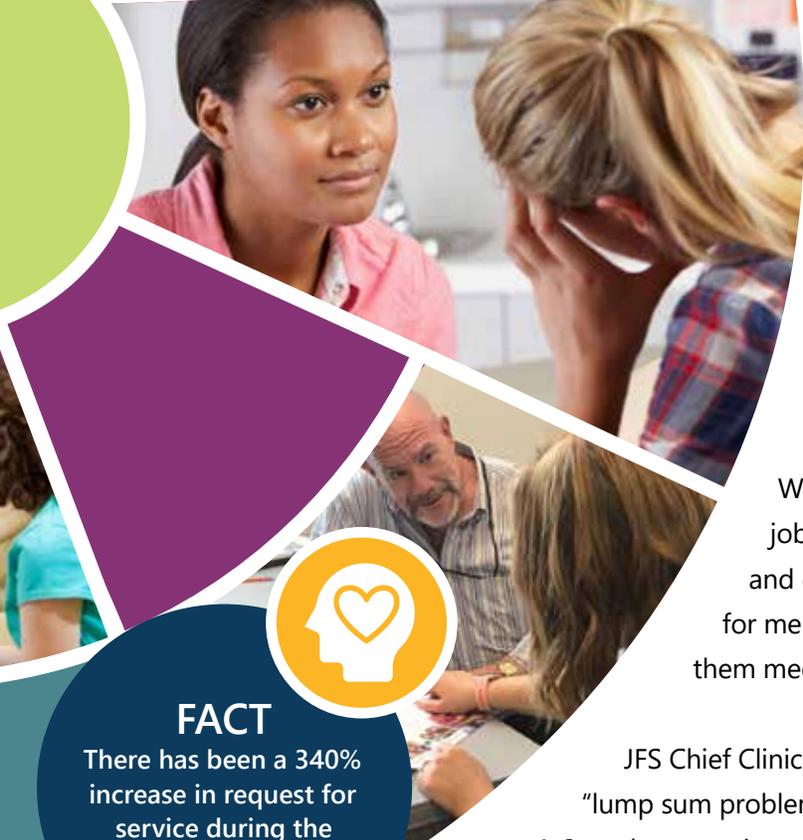
375 teens have attended Kehillah High since it opened in 2015.



*"I didn't think a lot could happen in three weeks until I went on the inaugural Kehillah High Israel trip. In just 21 days, I was able to learn and experience so much about Israel, my future, and myself. After the many long days and long nights, I can proudly say I am Jewish, I am a Zionist, and I love Israel. It's not like I couldn't say it before, but it's different after the trip. It might sound cheesy, but I did uncover a part of myself by going to Israel. I embraced my roots and made a connection with the land and the people. I hope this connection is never lost and only strengthened over time.*

*I found myself taking value in the little things, thinking about deeper meanings, and praying. I have brought home with me these ideas and hope that I continue to connect with my Judaism. After this trip, I have seen the world through a different lens. I can't wait to come back and explore more. Thank you to all that made this trip possible. I will forever be grateful."*

– Alexa Schwartz, 12th grade



# JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE MEETS INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

LOCAL | MENTAL HEALTH

**Federation Support: \$386,619**

Annual Campaign: \$218,445 | Donor Designated: \$168,174

With increased stress from COVID-related challenges such as job loss, homeschooling, family distress, marital conflict, illness, and grief, Jewish Family Service Houston has seen the demand for mental health services triple. The Federation stepped in to help them meet the need with funding for additional counseling staff.



## FACT

There has been a 340% increase in request for service during the pandemic.

JFS Chief Clinical Officer Ada Cheung, PhD, LCSW-S, RPT said these “lump sum problems” have caused their waitlist to expand to approximately 4-6 weeks, sometimes longer. While people are waiting, JFS screens the client to make sure they are not experiencing symptoms that require immediate intervention and provides two free support sessions, access to free support groups, and refers to at least four community resources. “We put them in touch with our professional partners, so they know they’re not alone with their problem,” she said.

If it is a life and death situation, such as substance use or an eating disorder, the client may be referred to a partner agency specialized in those areas where they can receive proper care immediately.

Clients range in age from 2 to 85+, and while JFS sees people across the socioeconomic spectrum, more often than not, it’s vulnerable populations who cannot afford access to mental health care.

Since COVID began, prevalent diagnoses include adjustment disorder from constantly having to adjust to the changing environment, depression, general anxiety, obsessions such as obsessive cleaning or obsessive thought of not wanting to go anywhere, and oppositional defiant disorder in children.

“Now it’s like a popcorn effect from COVID with every change they could not adjust to triggering them, from past trauma to the current trauma, so we’re seeing the complex trauma and collective trauma in the community as a whole,” Cheung said.

“The stress is way beyond what we anticipated or what we were really trained to do, and our therapists have not stopped since COVID happened. We work so hard and long hours in order to meet the needs and having the Federation support has really helped. We are grateful to have the funding to be able to hire people.”

– JFS Chief Clinical Officer Ada Cheung, PhD, LCSW-S, RPT

# BUILDING ACCEPTANCE BETWEEN DIVERSE GROUPS IN ISRAEL

## ISRAEL | PLURALISM

The Federation has doubled down on its commitment to pluralistic education in Israel with a focus on bridging gaps between diverse groups including various Jewish sects and between Arab and Jewish populations. Support for pluralism includes:

### Hand in Hand

#### Federation Support: \$25,000

A growing network of seven early childhood and elementary schools that cultivates friendships and understanding between Arab and Israeli children. It serves more than 2,000 students and 10,000 community members.

### Meitarim Network for Inclusive Jewish Education

#### Federation Support: \$20,000

A network of 142 integrated religious-secular schools supporting 13,845 students and 1,380 teachers. Meitarim also works to engage the communities and families of students and staff.

### Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa

#### Federation Support: \$66,000

With 2,400 students in PreK-12th grades, Leo Baeck provides a first-class education, school, community center, and synagogue to Jews, Muslims, Druse, and Bahá'í with pluralism as a core goal.

### iRep

#### Federation Support: \$15,000

A coalition of 25 Jewish Federations and the Gorlin Family Foundation led by the Jewish Federations of North America work together with partners across the religious spectrum to promote respect for diverse expressions of Judaism in Israel. By working with Israeli civil society organizations, iRep advances meaningful change to the religion-state status quo such as expanding the range of legally-recognized options for marriage in Israel.

### JDC and JAFI

The Federation supports additional programs in Israel including funding two primary overseas partner agencies—the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). In 2021, JAFI received \$400,000 and JDC received \$475,000 from our Annual Campaign.

*“Every time there's a conflict—a Palestinian-Israeli conflict—we, as adults, Jews and Arabs, come and we talk about it. It's a process, but we do it together. If it can work at Hand in Hand, it can work all over the country.”*  
– Yoseph Shaheen, Hand in Hand Haifa school parent





Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER HOUSTON

[houstonjewish.org](http://houstonjewish.org)