

## 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.