Dear Friends,

This year is unlike any our community has faced. The coronavirus pandemic, resulting economic downturn, and simultaneous reckoning with longstanding social injustices unleashed challenges in Greater Washington we could not have foreseen and revealed others we had yet to resolve.

As of the writing of this report, we are still in the midst of these crises. Members of our community need help making mortgage payments or buying food for their families. Jewish institutions that were secure a year ago are grappling with financial shortfalls and staffing layoffs. Countless individuals and families face uncertainty about the coming year.

As so often happens in response to hardship, our community revealed itself to be remarkably resilient and deeply compassionate. Individuals and institutions throughout Greater Washington continue to step up to help one another in new ways and at unprecedented levels. True leaders are reimagining our community’s core offerings to fit the changing times.

In the pages of this report, you will read about the many ways Federation is living up to our mission of inspiring, building, and sustaining vibrant Jewish life in a changing world. You will see the shifts we made this year to reflect the changes taking place around us. And you will experience our community’s first-ever digital-only community report.

At the same time, you will see that the core of our work has remained constant. Everything we do is deeply rooted in bringing people together to identify and address the most critical issues faced by our diverse community. In 2020, that meant providing direct assistance to individuals in need, investing in the resilience of our Jewish institutions, and adapting and nourishing Jewish life in our region.

This collaborative approach defines who we are, what we do, and how we do it—during both good and challenging times.

Together, we move forward as a community that is changed but unchanged: resilient, compassionate, and ready to forge new and even more vibrant paths of Jewish life. Thank you for being part of this community, and for all that you do to enhance it.

Mark A. Levitt
President

Gil Preuss, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
The Meaning of Community

We asked Jewish Greater Washington what community means to them. The answers were inspiring, creative, and heartwarming. Watch the video to hear from some of the dedicated and thoughtful people who are building a vibrant Jewish future in Washington, DC, Suburban MD, and Northern VA.

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Thank You!

Federation is grateful to our volunteers, leaders, professional team, donors, corporate sponsors, and community partners. In a challenging year, you stood up for our community, collaborated to address pressing needs with creativity, gave at unprecedented levels, and inspired our community to emerge stronger and more determined to sustain vibrant Jewish life in our region. On behalf of our agencies and all those we serve, thank you for your commitment to strengthening Jewish life and making a difference for thousands in our local and global Jewish community.
Every member of our community has felt the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. In the face of an unprecedented set of challenges, Federation rapidly convened and mobilized leaders, organizations, and resources in the nation’s capital to identify and address the most critical issues for our community. By bringing together diverse voices from across the region, Federation continues to lead our community in collaborative discussion, strategic thinking, and data-based decision making.

Together with generous and compassionate community leaders, we are raising and allocating critical resources, caring for the vulnerable, and bolstering our vital institutions so they can continue to meet communal needs.
Timeline of a Swift & Efficient Response

When schools, offices, and public spaces across our region and around the country began closing due to COVID-19, Federation took immediate and decisive action. In partnership with generous and forward-thinking local leaders, Federation worked swiftly to address our community’s most immediate and urgent concerns, while remaining focused on sustaining the foundations of vibrant Jewish life for the future.

A Community Shuts Down—and Reboots
March 13, 2020 Jewish schools, synagogues, agencies, and organizations across DC, MD, and Northern VA announce immediate building closures and begin transitioning to online platforms.

Responding Immediately
March 16, 2020 Anticipating an economic downturn and an increase in communal needs, Federation’s Executive Committee commits $500,000 from emergency reserves to support individuals and agencies impacted by the pandemic.

Connecting During Crisis
March 17, 2020 Federation launches the Connect with Purpose During COVID-19 Resource Center. The site showcases online Jewish experiences and virtual opportunities from across the region, keeping our community connected even while physically distanced.

Unparalleled Leadership & Generosity
March 25, 2020 Federation opens the Jewish Community Coronavirus Response Fund, and Susie & Michael Gelman and Melanie & Larry Nussdorf co-chair the Emergency Response Committee to oversee the funds. By July, 500 donors give $4.4 million.

Caring for Our Community
June 2020 Federation convenes JSSA and six other human service organizations to launch 703-J-CARING: The Jewish Community Support Line, the first comprehensive platform connecting individuals in need to resources from across the region with a single call.

Meeting Urgent Needs
August 31, 2020 Federation’s Executive Committee approves $2,754,054 in grants and loans to be allocated for immediate needs, as recommended by the Emergency Response Committee.

Securing Federal Support
April 2020 Federation assists local Jewish organizations in securing Federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, infusing our community with a total of $25 million at a critical time.

Connecting Volunteers
July 2020 Federation launches Jconnections, an online platform to connect those in need of support with volunteers looking to provide it.
Seeing Our Community Through Crisis
Together, we are helping people in need, stabilizing our community during the immediate crisis, and sustaining vibrant Jewish life in our region now and for the future.

We are leading our community through this pandemic

The Jewish Federation has distributed more than $2.7 million to help those impacted by the pandemic

More than 1/3 of all recipients have requested funds for food assistance

Of all dollars granted to individuals in need of COVID-19 relief, 40% has been put towards rent and mortgage payments

Nearly 10% of all aid has helped individuals with medical challenges

703-J-CARING: the Jewish Community Support Line is warmly connecting people seeking support with resources available across the region

The needs continue to grow

45% of those living in an unstable financial situation prior to the pandemic have experienced a worsening situation, and are more likely to feel isolated and lonely*

Of the 220,316 unemployed individuals across the region, 131,148 are newly unemployed from this time last year, a change of 175% over a 12-month period**

199,850 children face food insecurity in our region, a 92% increase from 2018***

Local Jewish organizations anticipate the loss of $17.5 million in revenue and donations

Our community has seen a 600% increase in applications for interest-free loans

Your generosity is helping people access critical resources

Emergency cash and food assistance
Safe places to live
Treatment for physical and mental health concerns
Water, gas, and electricity

*Data from Brandeis University Jewish Community COVID-19 Impact Survey for Greater Washington, in collaboration with Federation
**As reported by The US Bureau of Labor Statistics
***Data from Feeding America’s Insecurity Study
Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

A Snapshot: Caring for a Community in Crisis

“"I have never seen this level of desperation... It is through our partnership that you are assisting the most vulnerable in this hour of greatest need.”

—Rabbi Mendel Bluming
The Adel Fund

$932,050*

in grants are addressing the most immediate needs across our community, in partnership with these human service agencies and initiatives:

- The Adel Fund
- Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington
- Federation’s Rabbis’ Emergency Fund, supporting 27 synagogues
- Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Washington**
- JSSA
- Yad Yehuda of Greater Washington

Investing in Vital Organizations

Greater Washington’s Jewish community-building organizations pivoted during the pandemic to support their members in new and innovative ways—sometimes at extensive increased cost. Simultaneously, significant losses in revenue and fundraising shortfalls led to staffing furloughs and layoffs.

These agencies are critical to the success of our Jewish community. The essential, Jewish-identity building programs and experiences they provide are irreplaceable. And yet, without immediate support, these agencies faced the real possibility of shuttering their doors.

In partnership with generous community members and thoughtful, forward-thinking leaders, Federation provided initial loans and, in the longer term, grants totaling $1.86 million to ensure these agencies will survive the pandemic and continue to serve our community today and well into the future.

$1.86 million invested in:

- Bender JCC of Greater Washington
- Capital Camps & Retreat Center
- Edlavitch JCC of Washington DC
- Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia

*An additional $100,000 has been approved by Federation’s Executive Committee to be allocated as future needs arise

**Federation has allocated $100,000 to Hebrew Free Loan, and the Norman R. Rales and Ruth Rales Foundation has committed a matching grant of $50,000
A Snapshot: Meeting Essential Needs

Generous Federation donors, coupled with local Jewish human service agencies, are ensuring that 900+ individuals in our community receive help for pandemic-related financial distress, housing payments, food insecurity, and physical and mental health challenges.

You are sustaining our community during a time of unprecedented need.

$500,000 from Annual Campaign Emergency Reserves was designated for COVID-19 relief early in the pandemic

$2.7 million is helping vulnerable individuals and vital organizations through the pandemic

$4.4 million collected for the Jewish Community COVID-19 Relief Fund

703-J-CARING: The Jewish Community Support Line is connecting community members in need with the resources right for them

You are supporting people across 65 unique zip codes.

22 zip codes in Northern Virginia

15 zip codes in Washington, DC

28 zip codes in Suburban Maryland

“A having this financial aid helped me keep my housing for at least a couple more months as I convalesced from medical issues. I am so grateful to my community for helping me.”

—A thankful community member

You are ensuring grant assistance is available to help cover necessary expenses.

- 33% Food
- 22% Rent
- 11% Mortgage
- 9% Medical
- 9% Bills
- 7% Other
- 6% Utilities
- 3% Childcare

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Providing Compassion & Support

This year, Greater Washington witnessed unprecedented simultaneous challenges. Community members struggled with COVID-19-related health and emotional challenges, faced sudden and unexpected economic turmoil, and reckoned with long-standing social injustice. Through it all, Federation and our partners have remained committed to meeting our community’s most pressing needs.

Since the coronavirus pandemic began:

- **1,200+** individuals received financial and food assistance
- **$2.7 million** has been allocated to directly assist individuals and sustain local organizations
- **$4.4 million** was raised through the Jewish Community COVID-19 Response Fund
- **81,000+** people have visited Federation’s Jconnect.org to access resources and virtual events during the pandemic
A Collaborative Response to Communal Needs

As the significance of the pandemic became clear, several agency partners pushed beyond existing institutional boundaries to create new ways to meet community needs. Federation, JSSA, and our network of human service organizations launched 703-J-CARING: The Jewish Community Support Line. Callers from across DC, MD, and Northern VA can now reach trained professionals who will connect them with the right resources—including emergency assistance, consumer legal support, early childhood resources, trauma care, home health care, and adult transportation.

“This wonderful Federation project underscores what it means to be a community that cares for one another. The service system can be complicated, fragmented, and intimidating. When people ask for help, it should be as easy as possible to receive it. 703-J-CARING creates a central resource to connect people to the services that will address their needs.” —Todd Schenk, CEO, JSSA

A Community that Cares for Each Other

This spring, Federation proudly launched an online platform to connect those in need of support with volunteers looking to provide it. Jconnections curates resources for financial, food, legal, and mental health assistance, and connects people looking to volunteer with opportunities and assistance to start their own grassroots initiatives. Our community's volunteer efforts have made a difference for thousands in Greater Washington this year, and the work has only just begun. Read on to see how Bender JCC’s Wandering J and Congregation Kol Ami are caring for others by making their own “Jconnections.”

VISIT Jconnections for volunteer opportunities and resources
Transformation for Good

During the pandemic, the Bender JCC of Greater Washington’s Wandering J, an initiative powered by Federation, transformed into a “Mitzvah Mobile.” Donations of diapers, food, personal protective equipment, and more were collected from preschool families during socially-distanced teacher visits and delivered to local nonprofits, including Manna Food Center.

“In our family, we walk through the world thinking about how we can be helpers. What can we share? What kindness can we show? During quarantine, we decided to donate unused diapers we no longer needed to families who did need them. Even in isolation, we found a way to connect with our community. We were grateful the Mitzvah Mobile could help us do so.”

—Lauren L., local parent
(pictured at left with her child)

Colors of Gratitude

Though COVID-19 has kept us physically distanced, micro-communities continue to care for one another in ways large and small. In Arlington, VA, Congregation Kol Ami began distributing “Colors of Gratitude” cards—created by acclaimed illustrator and author Joanne Fink and her organization Zenspirations—to be sent to frontline workers. In July, together with eight co-sponsors including the Edlavitch DCJCC, Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington, NOVA Tribe, Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Kol Ami organized a Colors of Gratitude Virtual Gathering. Dozens joined the celebration and have since continued to distribute cards to thank those who are caring for us.

“Our postal workers are always prompt, friendly, and reliable. Every time I bring a package, the same workers always greet me with a smile. Last month, the package I brought included a card to thank them. This time, instead of a smile, I saw tears of gratitude as they posted their card proudly for patrons to see.”

—Debbie Linick, Co-Organizer, Colors of Gratitude Gathering

In our family, we walk through the world thinking about how we can be helpers. What can we share? What kindness can we show? During quarantine, we decided to donate unused diapers we no longer needed to families who did need them. Even in isolation, we found a way to connect with our community. We were grateful the Mitzvah Mobile could help us do so.”

—Lauren L., local parent
(pictured at left with her child)
Our Community’s Local Heroes

A community in crisis is powered by the people who are willing to give of themselves in any way they can. Jewish Greater Washington is fortunate to count many generous, dedicated, and passionate people who act as a force for good in a variety of ways. Acts of kindness, both large and small, and the generosity of our local heroes are keeping our community connected through this crisis and keeping us hopeful for brighter days ahead. Federation was proud to interview several of these local heroes early on in the pandemic. Below are excerpts from two of their stories.

Dr. Miriam Fischer Wachter
ER Physician at MedStar Washington Hospital Center

Life for Dr. Miriam Fischer Wachter was hectic even before the coronavirus pandemic, but now, her job is more complicated. From wearing personal protective equipment in order to treat patients to helping patients die with dignity when they can’t receive family visitors, she is helping COVID-19 patients in any way she can. Dr. Wachter draws inspiration from Jewish values and from her community during these challenging times.

“I truly believed, from early on, in the idea of pikuach nefesh, [that] saving a life is the holiest of holy things you can do and the most you can do for the community.”

Jacob Ravick
Staff Attorney at Federation partner agency, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)

Jacob Ravick already knew the work he and the team at JCADA were doing was essential. But when stay-at-home orders driven by the pandemic began trapping abuse victims at home with their abusers, his work became even more urgent. He helps those facing power-based violence receive protective orders against abusers to help survivors regain a sense of safety. Throughout the pandemic, JCADA has been an uninterrupted safe avenue for vulnerable individuals in our community to ask for and receive help.

“We’ve helped clients obtain protective orders where the abuser was ordered to vacate the home, which, during the pandemic, is incredibly important.”

READ MORE about Miriam, Jacob, and all of the local heroes we profiled this year
Collaborating for a Resilient Jewish Community

Jewish Greater Washington depends on our organizations, synagogues, schools, and agencies to help educate our children, care for the elderly, and connect with Jewish life in myriad ways. They serve as wellsprings for Jewish engagement and identity building. Even while facing serious fiscal challenges of their own, our organizations continue to care for our community members and provide the vital services we rely on. Federation is proud to support, collaborate with, and help bolster the work of these organizations as they stay strong for our community.
Collaborating for a Resilient Jewish Community

“The steel in our spine and the agility of our teachers comes from the reliable and critical support that Federation provides. Our agency allocation has always provided a tremendous educational and communal return on investment, like it does with all of our peer institutions in Jewish education.”

—David Sloan, Immediate Past President, Berman Hebrew Academy

Encouraging Meaningful Collaboration

From our unique, central vantage point in our Jewish community, Federation works to bring Greater Washington’s agency leaders and rabbis together to think strategically and collectively address the most pressing issues facing our community. When the pandemic began, Federation moved swiftly to convene the leaders of 181 partner organizations and synagogues with online forums for regular content-sharing and dialogue. Today, our community continues to benefit from the dynamic impact of their joint efforts.

We convene, collaborate with, and support:

- Hillels on college campuses
- Human service agencies
- Jewish Community Centers
- Jewish Day Schools
- Jewish summer camps
- Relationship-building community organizations
- Social action groups
- Synagogues

$1.86 million+ in emergency grants have been allocated to support communal organizations due to increased needs

Nourishing Resilient Organizations

As the pandemic continued, it became increasingly clear that our organizations would need support to continue their critical work. To help them remain viable and empowered to serve the community now and in the future, Federation’s Emergency Response Committee recommended, and our Executive Committee approved, millions in grant funding for human service organizations and local agencies.
Helping Jewish Organizations Secure $25 Million in Federal Loans

This spring, the Federal government approved the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help struggling organizations stay afloat. The application process was challenging to navigate, funds were limited, and many institutions felt alone. Federation’s connections and expertise allowed us to provide crucial support and guidance to local Jewish institutions, from synagogues to human service agencies, and from community centers to Hillels.

Thanks to this collaborative approach, every local Jewish organization that applied for a loan was approved to receive one—infusing Jewish Greater Washington with millions in loans during a critical moment.

“I cannot overstate how grateful I am for Federation’s help through the PPP loan process. It was because of your guidance, direction, and constant counsel that we were able to be prepared for this deadline. Federation is doing such great work for the community and you have my deepest gratitude.”

—Heather Moran
CEO & Executive Director,
Sixth & I Historic Synagogue

“The Federation team has been so supportive as the local agencies navigated the challenges that accompanied the pandemic. I’m particularly grateful for the guidance and assistance that Federation offered as we worked to secure a loan, truly a lifeline for our organization. Federation’s clear and consistent communications—plus individualized follow up and advice—really made a difference.”

—Jason Benkendorf
Executive Director, American University Hillel
Strengthening & Sustaining Vibrant Jewish Life

When the world’s landscape began to shift in March, Federation seized the opportunity to reimagine, as if from scratch, the kind of community we want to build, share, and leave to our children. Even while physically apart, maintaining connections remained a vital component of our community-building efforts. Together, our communal leaders and agencies made innovative adjustments to follow health guidelines while still ensuring vibrant Jewish life would continue in our region. Through virtual platforms and other opportunities, Jewish Greater Washington remains connected and inspired.
Connecting with Purpose, Even When We Cannot Connect in Person

Research has shown that connecting online has helped community members increase their connection to Judaism, and that Judaism, in turn, has helped them cope with the pandemic.* Federation is ensuring that community members of all ages have been able to stay connected with Jewish life even while physically distant from one another.

Sweetening an Unusual Summer for Families with Young Children

PJ Library in Greater Washington*, supported and managed by Federation, has built incredible trust and relationships with families and partner organizations through years of innovative community programming. This summer, PJ Library successfully converted the popular Sweet Summer Series into an engaging and collaborative online series that took place over 16 summer evenings, gathered 77 families, and included 22 partners.

“All three Summer Sweetness programs we attended were fun and engaging. The challah-making program was exceptionally unique and different. It was a warm and inviting environment.”
—Roxanne Lerner, PJ Library Summer Sweetness Participant

Developing the Next Generation of Jewish Changemakers

In July and August 2020, Federation’s Young Leadership division, in collaboration with The Jewish Federations of North America, brought together two cohorts of 20- to 25-year-olds to participate in the inaugural Jewish Changemakers Fellowship. Changemakers was designed to help the next generation of Jewish leaders and philanthropists expand their careers, networks, and ability to affect positive change in their community and the world. This three-week online experience brought individuals together to focus on professional development, service and advocacy, and the global Jewish community through a lens of Jewish values and ideas.

“Changemakers helped me realize that to serve my global Jewish community and society at-large in this moment, I must strive to embrace my story and channel my passions into projects that help others.”
—Gabby C., Greater Washington cohort graduate, The Jewish Federations of North America’s Jewish Changemakers Fellowship

*Data from Brandeis University Jewish Community COVID-19 Impact Survey for Greater Washington, conducted in collaboration with Federation
Virtual Highlights from an Unusual Season

When COVID-19 forced organizations to reimagine traditional offerings, our local synagogues and agencies got creative!

Sharing the Stories of Jews of Color
EntryPoint DC, the 20s and 30s program of Federation partner the Edlavitch DCJCC, collaborated with Mosaic Visions and the Manhattan JCC’s 20s and 30s program to present Dimensions: Jews of Color and Their Stories to address the trauma of racism experienced by Jews of Color inside and outside of their Jewish communities. The program featured three individuals who shared perspectives on participating in Jewish life as People of Color and included a follow-up discussion on how to create a more open, loving, and anti-racist Jewish community.

Summer Camp Redesigned
When it became clear that in-person summer camp would have to be canceled because of the pandemic, summer camps adapted to give children an experience like no other. With the Home Together initiative, Capital Camps made the best of an unusual summer. To keep campers and their families engaged, the camp sent care packages to their homes and led 125 virtual programs, including a Zoom Bunk Picture Day and online Havdalah each week.

Keeping DC’s 30-Somethings Connected
Known for its popular, in-person, monthly Happy Hours, GatherDC was driven to keep local young adults connected during COVID-19. Their inaugural 30s Exclusive Virtual Happy Hour was funded by a Federation grant. Based on great feedback from participants who appreciated the chance to connect with new people during the pandemic, GatherDC looks forward to hosting more virtual happy hours for this audience.

Engaging Synagogue Members Online as a Force for Good
At Temple Beth Torah (TBT) in Chantilly, VA, volunteer leaders were motivated to raise money for a great cause and engage their members virtually. Through a fun, lively Zoom trivia contest and an auction of creative gift baskets, like the one pictured at left, TBT raised $4,500 to share with the Dulles South Food Pantry.
Strengthening & Sustaining Vibrant Jewish Life

Maintaining Our Traditions, Adapting Our Practices

When COVID-19 prevented traditional in-person holiday gatherings at synagogues and in our homes, our community found creative ways to maintain our traditions. Families and organizations responded to challenging circumstances with innovation and determination, celebrating Jewish holidays in new and diverse ways—beginning with Passover in April.

Passover

Local synagogues and JCCs hosted virtual Passover seders and provided resources to help individuals and families host celebrations at home. The result was the continuation of an important Jewish tradition and, for some, the added bonus of breaking down geographic barriers. Local families hosting online seders welcomed guests from around the world, including Israel, Mexico, and Canada.

Lag B’Omer

Federation, PJ Library®, and partners from across the community provided families with resources to celebrate Lag B’Omer (the traditional observance of the 33rd day of the Omer) at home. Through Lag B’Online, an online event funded by the Marion Usher Fund for Interfaith Programs at the Edlavitch DCJCC, families built indoor tents, gathered around a “campfire” for stories, and enjoyed a lively music class.

Shavuot

In preparation for Shavuot, the holiday that commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people, our community enjoyed an extended evening of Torah study (tikkun leil) presented by Federation, in partnership with the Washington Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, and Hadar.

One Community, Many Voices: A Pre-Shavuot Zoom Celebration of Torah featured a cross-denominational study group with 16 local rabbis, and 600+ community members who signed on to learn with local teachers.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Although our community was not able to gather in person to remember and mourn on Yom HaShoah, we commemorated the solemn day with the help of Zikaron BaSalon (“Memory in the Living Room”), an initiative that brings Holocaust commemoration into homes and other intimate venues. Netta Asner, Federation’s community shlicha (Israeli emissary) to B’nai Israel Congregation in Rockville, MD, organized a session with Holocaust survivor Isaac Gendelman. From his living room—and on his 96th birthday—Isaac discussed his experiences during the Holocaust and shared the family photos lining his wall.

WATCH Isaac Gendelman share his moving story
Fostering Jewish Learning & Journeys

*Our Values, Our Aspirations*, Federation’s partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, continues to elevate Jewish learning in Greater Washington.

Leveraging Federation’s long-standing role as a community convener and Hartman’s as an internationally renowned center for Jewish scholarship and thought leadership, our organizations partnered for a second year to engage community leaders—our key change agents—in rich content on big questions central to Jewish life.

By rapidly pivoting to virtual programming, we continued our momentum despite COVID-19, Beginning with Yossi Klein Halevi’s March public lecture and smaller sessions facilitated from his living room in Israel, cohorts continued to come together in new ways—and in greater numbers—to engage in deep Jewish learning and explore what such learning means for their own lives and community.

“Participating in convenings on courageous leadership was a timely gift to the heart and head in these times of challenge and uncertainty.

Having the opportunity to listen, learn, and contribute to the enlightened and applied teachings of Hartman educators, especially Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman, reminded us as individuals and as a community that when we embrace and hold fast to the moral rudders of Torah and the wisdom of the ages, we are indeed equipped to weather every storm and make difficult decisions along the way.

—David Selden, Federation Board Member

WATCH *Is There Any Chance for Peace?*, a lecture by Yossi Klein Halevi, Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the Muslim Leadership Initiative at the Shalom Hartman Institute
In partnership with the JDC, Federation donors are caring for the most vulnerable members of the global Jewish community.

Supporting the Global Jewish Community

Generous volunteers, donors, and partners make it possible for Federation and the Greater Washington Jewish community to care for our brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world. Together, in times of crisis and calm, we are pursuing our vision for a community that acts as a force for good in the world.
Delivering Critical Assistance and Providing Connection for Those in Need

In partnership with the JDC, Federation donors address the needs of vulnerable Jewish populations in Israel and 70 countries around the globe. This year, as already desperate conditions faced by Jewish communities in countries like Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus were exacerbated by the global pandemic and economic downturn, our support was more critical than ever. When the pandemic struck, trained volunteers were swiftly deployed to help at-risk individuals and families.

Federation donors made it possible for hundreds of volunteers to connect with vulnerable and isolated Jews around the world via Zoom and local call centers during COVID-19. Your support ensured that children—particularly those from at-risk families—received help with homework and tutoring, and that seniors had access to vital emotional support.

Caring for Israeli Seniors in Quarantine

In partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Federation donors have continued to meet the needs of vulnerable Israeli seniors throughout the pandemic. This year, you cared for Etya Papugayev, a resident at the Amigour social housing community, a Jewish Agency subsidiary serving elderly Israelis. Born in Lithuania in 1931, Etya was her family’s sole Holocaust survivor, fending for herself since age 12. Etya and her children moved to Israel in 1996. But in 2009, when Etya realized she couldn’t live on her own anymore, she moved into Amigour. Etya and her neighbors are at high risk of contracting coronavirus, and require food packages, health provisions, and staff on-hand. Thanks to Federation donors, their homes are safe, and they are cared for throughout this crisis.

Thank you for embracing global Jewish peoplehood. This year, you made it possible for:

- 265 volunteers to help children—particularly from at-risk families—with homework and other projects online
- 6,874 isolated seniors to receive regular, ongoing phone calls from volunteers
- 240,000 individuals in Israel to access innovative social programs
This year has brought our connections as a global Jewish community into sharp focus. Even with restricted travel, the bond between Israel and our community in Greater Washington continues to grow and strengthen.

From unique Jewish Day School and synagogue offerings, to Federation’s incredible cohort of young Israeli shlichim (emissaries), our DC, MD, and Northern VA community members have a multitude of opportunities to connect with Israel and Israelis.
Helping Americans Understand Israel—and Israelis Understand America

Each year, Federation partners with the Jewish Agency for Israel to bring young Israeli *shlichim* (emissaries)—from different parts of Israeli society and with diverse professional backgrounds—to local congregations and schools.

These energetic and thoughtful *shlichim* bring Israel to life for more than 25,000 community members in DC, MD, and Northern VA. Ordinarily, their work requires face-to-face, in-person interactions. They teach religious school classes, facilitate adult programs, lead trips to Israel, and more. And this year, even as many Jewish spaces closed due to COVID-19, their work didn’t stop. Instead, they transitioned their focus to an entirely new, online delivery system.

In March, Greater Washington’s *shlichim* launched the innovative *Life: Online* series of Jewish and Israeli-themed digital programs and events, spearheaded by Rotem Ur, *shlica* to Shaare Torah in Gaithersburg, MD. This project was part of a full portfolio of *shlichim* programming throughout the year, allowing the delegation’s creativity to continue shining even in a virtual world. *Life: Online* launched a collaboration between *shlichim* locally and across the US, connecting more people and introducing a greater variety of programs than any local project could have achieved.

“One lesson I want to take back with me to Israel is that no matter our differences, and no matter how many miles separate us, Israel and America can still feel like one united community.”

—Miri Bernovsky Tibon
Federation *shlica* to Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, VA

WATCH our video tribute to 2019-2020’s outgoing *shlichim*
Reimagining Day School Israel Education for a Virtual World

When Jewish Day Schools first began to close their buildings and shift to virtual learning models, they faced the challenge of adapting established curricula for a new digital environment. The dedicated leaders and educators at our Greater Washington schools met this challenge and continued to engage thousands of young learners with excellence and joy.

- Gesher Jewish Day School arranged for the eighth-grade students whose trip to Israel was canceled to receive care packages with Israeli cookbooks and spices so they could experience Israeli cuisine at home. They were also invited to an online Q&A session with Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer.
- At Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, students, parents, and their families participated in fun, lively Israeli dance parties over Zoom.

“Nurturing the whole child is one of the foundations of Jewish Day Schools, and it takes an entire team of teachers, administrators, and staff members to do this. It was important to us to continue to see every child as an individual and not only a square on a screen.”

—Marissa Gally, third grade teacher, Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation’s Capital
Investing in Innovation & Impact

Federation is uniquely positioned to mobilize the many distinct interests, ideas, and offerings of our community towards collaboration and collective impact. In 2020, we were proud to once again partner with generous donors to build on the successful innovation and impact of projects funded in 2018-19, continuing our significant investment in engaging the next generation and strengthening Jewish life in Northern Virginia.
Investing in Innovation & Impact

Looking Ahead

Federation’s investment in these projects, particularly during challenging times, reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring a strong and vibrant Jewish future for Greater Washington. Now, more than ever, we need a robust exchange of ideas, enhanced connections with one another, and increased collaboration to meet our growing communal needs.

Federation is proud to support innovation and to further the work of local leaders strengthening Jewish life in our region. Each funded initiative demonstrated resilience and creativity in navigating new challenges this year, and will bring to our community an exciting new mix of virtual, in-person, asynchronous, and synchronous programming opportunities.

Bringing Ideas to Life: Pitch Night 2020

In February, Federation received 71 proposals from 56 unique organizations for our second annual Pitch Night, a showcase of strategic and innovative initiatives from across Greater Washington. Twenty-two organizations presented proposals for renewed funding, and 49 pitched brand-new ideas to more than 200 community leaders. The evening highlighted the diverse landscape of the Jewish community, with pitches from established local and national institutions, synagogues, and startups, and ideas that addressed social justice, Jewish learning, experiential programming, and more.

In June, Federation’s Strategic Planning & Allocations Committee and the United Jewish Endowment Fund Grants Committee recommended, and Federation’s Board of Directors approved, allocating $1 million to support 33 proposals (14 new and 19 renewals). 

WATCH the video recap of Pitch Night 2020

“[At Pitch Night], you feel the life behind the ideas. You see the passion people have for their community and the ways in which they want to share that with others. It’s really exciting.”

—Julien Guttman, Co-Chair, Federation’s Next Gen Task Force
Innovation & Impact Program Spotlights

**JFamily Ambassadors**
More than 750 families with children ages 0-3 have connected with Jewish life in Greater Washington thanks to JFamily Ambassadors (JFA). During the coronavirus pandemic, as programs moved online, Federation convened the JFA programs at the Edlavitch DCJCC, Bender JCC, and Pozez JCC to collaborate on programming. In this way, families from across our area can participate, meet new people and enjoy story times, Tot Shabbats, cooking classes, and more.

*The JFA program is a Federation-funded program that is implemented by each of the three JCCs.*

“I forwarded the [JFA] storytime link to my husband, Phil, to join with our son, and he is raving about it. I’m working and he keeps texting me about how great it is. Thank you so much!!”
—Lia K., local parent, sharing enthusiasm in real time with her JFamily Ambassador

**Tzedek DC: Next Gen Lawyers Division**
The Next Gen Lawyers Division is a collaboration between Federation’s Network Division and Tzedek DC, a nonprofit that offers pro bono legal consumer support through a Jewish lens to vulnerable families. The Lawyers Division supports mentorship of next generation lawyers by other lawyers in the Greater Washington Jewish community.

**DMV Hillel Pipeline Project**
In an effort to streamline resources, three local Hillels at The George Washington University, Virginia Tech University, and the University of Maryland have come together to help recent graduates find meaningful Jewish experiences in their immediate post-college years.

**Hill Havurah: Young Family Engagement on the Hill**
With the growing population of families with young children on Capitol Hill, Hill Havurah’s Young Family Engagement initiative expanded programming and connections between Jewish and interfaith families through their children, Jewish learning, and rituals. Piloted with Federation funding, the initial program was so successful it required a larger grant to expand.

**Jewish Women International: Financial Fitness for Young Women in Greater Washington**
This new five-part series will provide a well-rounded financial education for the young women’s cohort. Sessions will be led by established Jewish women in the field and will foster intergenerational learning.
Innovation & Impact
Grant Recipients at a Glance

Federation and the organizations below are committed to mobilizing our Jewish community toward comprehensive change and collective impact, and to continuing this important work during unprecedented times. For a data-driven look at how these 33 initiatives will measure success, visit shalomdc.org/innovationandimpact

- **AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION**
  Agudas Achim Young Families Outreach Initiative

- **BBYO—DC COUNCIL**
  BBYO NOVA Council

- **BENDER JCC OF GREATER WASHINGTON**
  JFamily Ambassadors/ Wandering J

- **CAMP GAN ISRAEL**
  Camp Gan Israel Expansion

- **CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF ALEXANDRIA- ARLINGTON**
  Young Jewish Professionals of Alexandria-Arlington

- **CHABAD OF OLNEY**
  Shabbat on the Block

- **CONGREGATION OLAM TIKVAH**
  Olam Tikvah Young Families

- **CONGREGATION OLAM TIKVAH**
  Young Professionals Hiddur Mitzvah Series

- **CONGREGATION SHAARE TORAH**
  Meeting Young Families Where They Are

- **THE DEN COLLECTIVE**
  The Mindfulness Initiative

- **EDLAVITCH DCJCC**
  JFamily Ambassadors

- **GATHERDC**
  Trainings Innovation

- **GATHERDC**
  30s Impact

- **GATHERDC**
  NOVA Impact/ Relational Engagement

- **GESHER JEWISH DAY SCHOOL**
  Gesher Transportation Expansion Northern VA

- **HILLEL AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**
  In Partnership with the Hillels of University of Maryland and Virginia Tech
  DMV Hillel Pipeline Project

- **HABERMAN INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES**
  Virginia is for Lovers of Learning

- **HADAR**
  Hadar in Washington, DC—Engaging Young Adults

- **HILL HAVURAH**
  Young Family Engagement on the Hill

- **HONEYMOON ISRAEL**
  Honeymoon Israel Greater Washington

- **ISRAELI AMERICAN COUNCIL**
  IAC Northern Virginia

- **JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL**
  Financial Fitness for Young Women in the Greater Washington Area

- **KESHER ISRAEL CONGREGATION**
  Torah on Tap

- **KESHER ISRAEL CONGREGATION**
  Project Kibbitz: NOVA Coworking and Programming Space

- **MESORAH DC**
  Cafe Nite Extra Special

- **MOISHE HOUSE**
  Strengthening Jewish Life in Northern Virginia through Moishe House

- **ONE TABLE**
  OneTable NOVA Fellow

- **POZEZ JCCNV**
  JFamily Ambassadors NOVA

- **POZEZ JCCNV**
  Fairfax Eruv

- **SIXTH & I**
  Sixth & Wee

- **TEMPLE MICAH**
  The Micah Storefront Project

- **TEMPLE RODEF SHALOM**
  Project Kibbitz: NOVA Coworking and Programming Space

- **THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON**
  PJ Library in Greater Washington

- **TZEDEK DC**
  Next Gen Lawyers Division

New  ▲ Renewal
Jewish tradition teaches that it is our responsibility to leave a better world for future generations. This year, in spite of unprecedented challenges, local donors and philanthropists have remained committed to doing just that.

2020 saw our community’s Lions of Judah* elevate their philanthropic giving during a critical time. Hundreds of generous and dedicated women took pride in ensuring that our community will make it through the pandemic stronger than before and ready to face a brilliant future together.

Community members across the region are also shaping and improving Jewish life for generations to come—and achieving their personal philanthropic vision—in partnership with Federation’s United Jewish Endowment Fund.

*Lions of Judah are women who act as a force for good in the world by donating $5,000 or more each year to Federation’s Annual Campaign
For generations, Federation’s Lions of Judah—an international sisterhood of global activists who care deeply about the Jewish future—have led the way in caring for the vulnerable and strengthening the Jewish community. Today, Greater Washington’s Lions are showcasing the power of their philanthropy to ensure a stronger and more vibrant Jewish community.

Through this year’s Lion+ Campaign, these leaders elevated their philanthropic giving amidst a global pandemic and economic crisis to ensure that our community’s needs would be met. Collectively, Lions raised more than $3 million in 2020 to meet the urgent and growing concerns facing Jewish Greater Washington—and brought hope to the many individuals affected by the pandemic. Their gifts to Federation’s Annual Campaign, the Jewish Community COVID-19 Relief Fund, and through establishing a Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) fund to become a Forever Lion—will ensure our community remains strong today and for years to come.

“Everything we do as individuals, leaders, and as a community will define who we are when the crisis is over and ensure the resiliency of our community.”

—Kerry Iris
Vice President, Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy

“Lions have this wonderful opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn together. In so doing, we can build on authentic relationships that will develop into a supportive, caring, and connected Jewish community, with women as leaders.”

—Julie Wallick, Lion of Judah

85 women in Greater Washington have established Lion of Judah Endowments, ensuring the support of Federation’s Annual Campaign as a resource for the Jewish community in perpetuity.

$620+ million in assets have been endowed worldwide by Forever Lions through Lion of Judah Endowment funds.

LEARN MORE about the campaign and read inspiring reflections from eight Lions of Judah.
United Jewish Endowment Fund: Investing in Our Legacy

Through the United Jewish Endowment Fund (UJEF), families and individuals leverage Federation's expertise to imagine and realize their personal philanthropic visions. Donors make gifts that fit their financial goals and focus their charitable giving on the communal issues and organizations most important to them. By leaving a legacy, establishing a Donor Advised Fund, or engaging the next generation in their philanthropic decision-making, individuals who connect through UJEF are shaping and bettering Jewish life for generations to come.

Pathways to Philanthropic Giving
UJEF offers several funds and gift types to help you match your philanthropic goals. Below are just a few of the options. To learn more, contact endowment@shalomdc.org.

Fund Types
• **Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)** serve as charitable giving accounts designed and operated exclusively to invest, grow, and donate assets to charities for meaningful and lasting impact. UJEF DAFs offer access to our particular expertise in Jewish philanthropy, competitive fees, and a convenient, web-based platform for transactions; and support for donors with complex assets including small business interests and real estate.

• **Field of Interest or Donor Designated Funds** empower you to direct your impact to specific areas of interest, such as Jewish education, Israel, or aging populations, for the betterment of our community.

• **General Fund Endowments** or **Memorial Funds** enable you to create a permanent legacy in your name or the name of a loved one, with the spendable amount available to be distributed to meet critical communal needs.

• **Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment** (PACE) or **Lion of Judah Endowment** (LOJE) funds ensure your support of Federation’s Annual Campaign will continue in perpetuity.

Ways to Give
• **Gifts of Cash or Appreciated Assets**
• **Life Income Plans** (Charitable Gift Annuities and Remainder Trusts)
• **Charitable Lead Trusts**
• **Key Donor Life Insurance Program**
• **Gifts of Cash or Appreciated Assets**
• **Private Equity or Real Estate**
• **Retirement Plan Assets**
Funding & Allocations Snapshot

Resources collected by Federation and UJEF will enable Federation and the Greater Washington community to help those in need, and to build and sustain vibrant Jewish life in a changing world.

United Jewish Endowment Fund Snapshot

Federation’s UJEF manages $227.5 million and proudly administers 778 donor funds, including 250 Donor Advised Funds.

Assets Under Management: $227,500,000

- $25,189,900: Unrestricted Annual, Emergency, and Special Campaigns
- $14,960,900: United Jewish Endowment Fund
- $1,419,300: Donor Designated Gifts and Government Grants

$41,570,100

Resources Raised by Federation’s United Jewish Endowment Fund: $14,960,900

- 79%: Non-Permanent Endowment Gifts
- 9%: Fee Revenue & Other Sponsorships
- 8%: Permanent Endowment Gifts
- 4%: Agency Investment Accounts
Federation’s Jewish Community COVID-19 Response

$4.4 million
raised from 500+ donors

$2,696,100
in grants to date*

$25 million
in Federal loans were secured by local Jewish organizations with Federation’s support

Innovation & Impact Task Force Funding

$1 million
raised to fund 33 innovative ideas to strengthen, connect, and build our community for the future

Investing in Communal Security

$1.7 million
has been infused into our community synagogues, day schools, JCCs, and partner agencies, through the Federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program, including $984,000 that Federation secured in partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN)

$515,000
in campus and Day School security funding has been allocated for 2020-21

$9 million+
in government funding has been secured in partnership with JCRC for our agencies and schools, social services, and institutions at risk for hate crimes

“Helping to guide Federation’s strategic allocations process in this very different year was challenging, but at the same time very rewarding. I had the privilege of witnessing incredible lay and professional leaders tackle the challenges of the pandemic, prioritize a communal mindset, and work in thoughtful collaboration to reach the best outcomes for the Greater Washington Jewish community today and for the future. I feel very proud to have helped lead a process to meet and address our community’s biggest challenges.”

—Julie Kass, VP, Strategic Planning & Allocations- Israel & Overseas

*As of September 2020
## Funding & Allocations Snapshot Fiscal year 2020-2021

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<tr>
<th>LOCAL ALLOCATIONS</th>
<th>Annual Campaign</th>
<th>Donor Designated Gifts and Government Grants</th>
<th>Task Force Funding</th>
<th>UJEF Grants</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee Grants*</th>
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### LOCAL ALLOCATIONS

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<th>Organization</th>
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<th>Task Force Funding*</th>
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<th>COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee Grants*</th>
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### ISRAEL & OVERSEAS ALLOCATIONS

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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Annual Campaign</th>
<th>Donor Designated Gifts and Government Grants</th>
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<td>Save a Child’s Heart</td>
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### ISRAEL & OVERSEAS ALLOCATIONS continued

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<th>Organization</th>
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<th>Donor Designated Gifts and Government Grants</th>
<th>Task Force Funding</th>
<th>UJEF Grants</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee Grants*</th>
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<td>Social Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society</td>
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### NATIONAL AGENCY ALLOCATIONS

<table>
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<th>COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee Grants*</th>
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<td>NCSEJ: National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry</td>
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<td>Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies</td>
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<td>Other Federations</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL NATIONAL ALLOCATIONS</strong></td>
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### FEDERATION sponsored PROGRAMMING & ADMINISTRATION

<table>
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<th>Annual Campaign</th>
<th>Donor Designated Gifts and Government Grants</th>
<th>Task Force Funding</th>
<th>UJEF Grants</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee Grants*</th>
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<td>$6,504,800</td>
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### TOTAL RESOURCES ALLOCATED BY FEDERATION AND ITS UNITED JEWISH ENDOWMENT FUND

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<th>UJEF Grants</th>
<th>COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee Grants*</th>
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*Task Force Funding includes $379,200, which was granted from UJEF to the task forces and granted to specific organizations through the task force process.

*ERC Committee Funds Partially or Fully Granted in FY21.
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Joel Breslau ●
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**Partner Agency Representative ●

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Paul S. Berger ●
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Presidential Appointee ●

Gary Berman ●
Past President ●

Liza Levy ●
Past President ●

Gil Press, PhD ●
Chief Executive Officer ●

Paul S. Berger ●
Arnold & Porter LLP, Counsel ●

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Bernard S. White ●

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Ron Halber ●

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Amanda Katz ●

Adena Kirsch ●

Sue Kurtz ●

Bruce Lederman ●

Rabbi Mitch Malkus ●

Rabbi Yitzchok Merkin ●

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Dava Schub ●

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Aviva Walls ●

Laurie Wexler ●

Of Blessed Memory ●

*Non-voting Members ●

**Partner Agency Representative ●

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Partners & Programs

LOCAL SERVICE NETWORK
- Avodah
- Bender JCC of Greater Washington1,2
- Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington2
- Capital Camps & Retreat Center2
- Charles E. Smith Life Communities2
- Edlavitch JCC of Washington DC1,2
- Garden of Remembrance3
- Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Washington2
- Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
- Jewish Council for the Aging
- Jewish Foundation for Group Homes
- Lillian & Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum
- JSSA2
- Moishe House1
- Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia1,2
- Sulam
- Sunflower Bakery & Café

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
- The Adel Fund1
- Agudas Achim Congregation1
- Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington1
- Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia’s Camp Gan Israel1
- Chabad of Olney1
- Coming of Age (MD and VA)
- Congregation Olam Tikvah1
- Federation’s Jconnect
- Federation’s Jewish Food Experience*
- Federation’s Leadership & Learning
- Federation’s Rabbi Emergency Fund2
- GatherDC1
- Hadar1
- Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies1
- Hill Havurah1
- Honeymoon Israel1
- Initiative in Congregational Education
- Israeli American Council1
- Israel Engagement / Imagine Israel
- Israel Quest
- Jewish Women International1
- JFamily Ambassadors1
- Kesher Israel Congregation1
- Mesorah DC1
- One Happy Camper
- OneTable1
- PJ Library1
- Shaare Torah1
- Sixth & I Historic Synagogue1
- Temple Micah1
- Temple Rodef Shalom1
- the Den Collective1
- Tzedeck DC1
- Yad Yehuda of Greater Washington2

JEWS DAY SCHOOLS
- Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
- Gesher Jewish Day School1
- Berman Hebrew Academy
- Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School
- The Torah School of Greater Washington
- Yeshiva of Greater Washington

COLLEGE CAMPUSES AND HILLELs
- American University
- College of William and Mary
- Gallaudet University
- George Mason University
- The George Washington University1
- Georgetown University
- James Madison University
- University of Maryland1
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Tech1

LOCAL YOUTH GROUPS
- BBYO1
- Bnei Akiva
- Habonim Dror
- National Conference of Synagogue Youth
- North American Federation of Temple Youth Mid-Atlantic Region
- United Synagogue Youth
- Tzofim

ISRAEL & OVERSEAS
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- Jewish Agency for Israel
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- Israel Gay Youth
- The Torah School of Greater Washington
- Yeshiva of Greater Washington

NETWORK
- HIAS
- Hillel International
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues
- Israel Action Network
- The Jewish Community Centers Association of North America
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- The Jewish Federations of North America
- Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
- JPRO Network
- National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry
- Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

1 Innovation & Impact Grants
2 Recipient of COVID-19 Response Grant Funding
Non-funded Agencies

NATIONAL AGENCIES
- 70 Faces Media
- Birthright Israel Foundation
- HIAS
- Hillel International
- Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues
- Israel Action Network
- The Jewish Community Centers Association of North America
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- The Jewish Federations of North America
- Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
- JPRO Network
- National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry
- Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

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Thank you to our dedicated staff for their commitment to and passion in pursuit of a vibrant Jewish future for our community.

1 As of 10/01/2020
Vision for Our Community

An open, connected, and vibrant Jewish community that cares for each other, fosters Jewish learning and journeys, embraces Jewish peoplehood and Israel, and acts as a force for good in the world.

Our Mission

To inspire, build, and sustain vibrant Jewish life in a changing world by mobilizing our community in common purpose, intentional innovation, and effective action.