

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

Annual Report

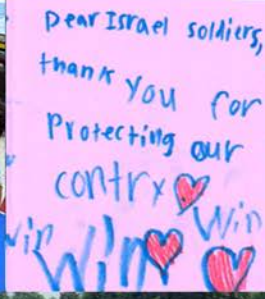


TABLE OF CONTENTS



2. 2023 Staff Directory
3. 2023 Board Committees
4. Executive Director's Letter
5. President's Message (Outgoing)
6. President's Message (Incoming)
7. 2023 Board Directors
8. 2024 Board Slate
- 9-10. 2023 Program Recap
11. Adult Friendship Club & Prime Timers
12. Jewish Cultural Committee & Israel Awareness
Committee Reports
13. JCRC Report & Noar + Atid
14. PJ Library & JCY Summer Camp
- 15-16. K'Ton Ton Early Childhood Programs
- 17-18. Community Service Awards & Thank You
- 19-20. Jewish Community Social Services
- FINANCIAL REPORTS
- 21-22. Endowment Report
- 23-24. List of Current Endowments & Funds
- 25-26. Statements of Financial Position



**YOUR
JEWISH
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

2023 **STAFF** DIRECTORY



FEDERATION OFFICE STAFF

Emily Benedix	Executive Director. emily@federationonline.org
Vicky Odegaard	Director of Finance & Operations vicky@federationonline.org
Lindsay Weiss	Multi-Generational Program Coordinator. . . lindsay@federationonline.org
Patti Anderson	Administrative Associate & JCS Coordinator. . . patti@federationonline.org
Samantha Meyer	Marketing & Communications Associate. . . samantha@federationonline.org
Rachel Saller	Front Office & Program Coordinator. rachel@federationonline.org
Monica Vega	Janitorial Services.
Jack Boglioli	Chef.

JCY CAMP STAFF

Rachel Sieffert	JCY Camp Director. director_jcycamp@federationonline.org
Trevor Biancardi	JCY Camp Assistant Director trevorjcy@federationonline.org

K'TON TON STAFF

Bailey Hoffman	K'Ton Ton Director. bailey@federationonline.org
Ruth Weinberg	K'Ton Ton Teacher.
Dawn Lanman	K'Ton Ton Teacher.
Tara Boswell	Me Two Teacher.
Karin Ballow	K'Ton Ton Assistant Teacher.
Julia Hernandez	K'Ton Ton Assistant Teacher.
Wendy Krzewski	K'Ton Ton Assistant Teacher.
Megan Houlihan	Me Two Assistant Teacher.
Sarah Israel	Me Two Assistant Teacher.
Talia Matury Vacaro	Me Two Assistant Teacher.
Samantha Meyer	K'Ton Ton Assistant Teacher.
Audrey Paulauski	K'Ton Ton Assistant Teacher.
Rosalie Zarowny	K'Ton Ton Assistant Teacher.

2023 BOARD COMMITTEES

Thank you to all of our 2023 chairs! We appreciate all of your dedication & hard work to make The Jewish Federation of NWI a place we ALL enjoy!

Building Committee

Co-Chairs: John Doherty &
Janine Rothschild

The building committee oversees the maintenance, repair, decor and improvement of Federation facilities.

Finance Committee

Chair: Alan Lahn

Led by the Board Treasurer, this committee oversees the creation of the annual budget, and monitors and reports on the financial status and activities of The Jewish Federation.

Governance Committee

Chair: Dana Kaplan Graves

This committee is responsible for overseeing the board's adherence to the bylaws, as well as serving as the nominating committee for the annual board slate.

Jewish Culture Committee

Chair: Carol Culberg

This committee plans & facilitates programming that provides social & educational experiences focusing on Jewish Culture & community.

Israel Awareness Committee

Co-Chairs: Miriam Marcus &
Judy Katz

This committee works to promote cultural, social, and educational programming to connect local members with communities in Israel. In addition, this committee works directly with the Partnership2Gether Western Galilee consortium of the Jewish Agency to build personal relationships between Israelis and members of our community.

Jewish Community Relations Committee

Chair: Rosalie Levinson

The duty of this committee is to promote interfaith relations and cultural understanding in order to strengthen communities and eliminate Antisemitism and other forms of bigotry. Through advocacy and educational programming, which includes Holocaust Education, this committee promotes the principles of humanity, social, justice and cooperation.

Jewish Community Service Committee

Co-Chairs: Marilyn Hirsch &
Laurie Young

This committee oversees the social services department of the Federation to ensure all programming and services provided are in line with the Federation Mission, and community needs.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

with Emily Benedix, Executive Director

When 2023 began, I couldn't have anticipated some of the changes we saw. From staff changes, a continued rise in antisemitism, and the horrific terror attack of October 7 and all the chaos that has followed for the Jewish people.

What I could have predicted is that our community, leadership, and Federation staff would continue to step up to ensure needs were met, and continued support for our Jewish community. Offering what many of us have known all along, Jewish communities are the supporting pillar for Jewish lives, in times of joy, growth, mourning, and uncertainty.

Co-Presidents Judy Katz and Dr. Mark Sperling have been invaluable partners, helping me navigate my 2nd year of service but also, providing a sounding board and support when approaching unexpected challenges. Our board has overseen the changes we've made to better serve our community. Our programming committee chairs have worked tirelessly to provide programming, review our services, and support our staff with their passion, ideas, and time. Our building co-chairs have worked with us to face the challenges of an aging building, ensuring that we have a safe and welcoming Federation to gather at. Our financial committees have been diligent in their oversight, helping us ensure that donor dollars are efficiently and responsibly used to meet our greatest needs.

At the center of all of the action is the amazing team we have here at the Federation. I am proud of the team we have. I am not only proud to share our success of the last year, but I'm excited to see what we will accomplish in 2024.

Last year I thanked Vicky Odegard for her expertise in finance as our Accountant. This year I am excited to thank her as our Director of Operations. Her knowledge, skills, and commitment to our mission have been a foundational part of the last year's success. Patti Anderson has expanded her duties beyond office administration to embrace the Jewish Community Services Administration role, providing caring ear support for our members when life's challenges get overwhelming. Rachel Saller continues to plan outings for our Prime Timers, and our youth with Noar and Atid, as well as launching successful programming for our PJ Library families. I would also highlight that in the spring when we found ourselves unexpectedly understaffed in multiple positions, these three went above and beyond to ensure our community received uninterrupted services.

Joining our staff this year, Lindsay Weiss returned to our community to take on the position of multi-generational programming and has excelled with great ideas for new successes and growth in existing programs. Also joining our team, Samantha Meyer joined our team as Marketing and Communications Associate, quickly demonstrating her design skills, and stepping up to assist with programming whenever needed.

K'Ton Ton saw the biggest change with the departure of Director Erin Nowakowski. Teacher Bailey Hoffman stepped in to fill the role and thanks to her experience and existing relationships with our parents, we have had a smooth transition for our students. Our teachers and assistants continue to make our classrooms warm and welcoming. Rachel Sieffert and Trevor Biancardi returned as our directors for a successful summer of JCY Camp. Additionally, we've welcomed Jack Boglioli as our cook for Federation programming, and Monica Vega Vazquez as our facilities associate.

I have always felt that the success or downfall of any organization is in the team that carries it. As a Jewish Federation, that team doesn't stop at the staff list. Our team includes the board, committee members, volunteers, and community leadership as a whole. There are no words to express my gratitude for the support of everyone on our team and look forward to all we will accomplish in the coming year.

REFLECTIONS OF A PRESIDENCY

with Judy Katz, Outgoing Co-President

Recently, I found the comments that I had made four years ago when I became President of our Federation for a two-year term. I'm very happy that I was able to take an active part of Federation. I specifically agreed to continue for the extra years because I could see that having continuity in the leadership would be helpful, as we hired our new Executive Director, Emily Benedix, who has now been with us almost two years. It has been extremely gratifying to see Emily put together a very competent staff that truly works as a team. Emily and Vicky, our Director of Operations, along with our Board Treasurer, Alan Lahn, have organized our finances to a place where they've never been since I've been on the Board of Directors. Our staff including Patti, Rachel, Samantha, and Lindsay have been doing a terrific job helping community members and developing excellent programs.

A big thank you to my two co-presidents these past two years. First, in 2022 Barbara Waxman agreed to serve again as president at a time when our Federation required a leader to help us get through some trying times. And, she sure did that! Then this past year I had the pleasure of serving as co-president with Mark Sperling, who brought a lot of life experiences to our Board of Directors. I know that Mark will do a great job, as he continues his presidency.

The past four years included dealing with the Covid pandemic and integrating zoom technology, so we could keep offering programs. While that was not an ideal way to meet, our community was able to stay in touch. We were able to keep all of our staff working at that time, and one of the most meaningful projects we did was having volunteers step up to deliver meals to many of our senior community members. We even had zoom programs for our annual campaign!

Our Building Committee co-chairs, John Doherty and Janine Rothschild have worked diligently to make sure our building and grounds are well-maintained and safe. Jonathan Radnor, our Endowment Committee chair and his committee has kept a close eye on our Federation's investments these past years. Our Governance Committee under the leadership of chair, Dana Kaplan, continues to offer proposals for our policies handbooks and proposes nominations for our Board of Director officers and directors.

Our Jewish Community Services offers programs and services for all generations. Laurie Young and Marilyn Hirsch, committee chairs, have been instrumental in overseeing changes to these well-received programs.

Thankfully, we were able to start meeting in person again in 2022 and have slowly built up our in-person programs. While it took some time for community members to feel comfortable coming to the building, I'm now happy to say we're operating many meaningful programs including our ever-popular Book Club led by Carol Culberg and several very interesting Israel-related programs including last February's Tu B'Shevat Seder and our annual Israel Solidarity Day under the leadership of Miriam Marcus, our Israel Awareness Committee chair. Our Jewish Community Relations Committee under the leadership of Rosalie Levinson continues to organize programs to reach out to the interfaith community including a discussion about the Abraham Accords this past September. They have also offered a well-attended program about Antisemitism and Hate to area high school and university leaders and started developing a relationship with local universities.

For me personally the most meaningful program we offered this past year was our Solidarity with Israel evening just four days after the horrible October 7 massacre in Israel by Hamas and Islamic terrorists. Over 180 people came together to pray and show their support for Israel.

These last two months have been difficult for me, as I mourn what has happened in Israel. I am so thankful to our community members who donated to Jewish Federations of North America's Israel Emergency Fund. Our

Federation contributed \$10,000 and the community has donated over \$20,000. It is so heartwarming to see how we have joined together to support our brethren in Israel.

Lastly, I can't end without thanking those of you who have already donated to our 2023 Annual Campaign and reminding those of you who have not yet done so, that there is still time to donate and support all of the wonderful things that our Federation does.

I hope to see many of you at upcoming Federation programs.

Am Israel Chai!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

with Dr. Mark B. Sperling, President

Last year, we had the opportunity to be in Warsaw Poland, and visit three of the concentration camps and the Warsaw Ghetto Museum among other places. Even though I have been a student of history for many years, I learned so much through that visit about the suffering of our people. Thus, I am very honored to continue as the President of the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana during one of the most difficult periods in Jewish History. We know that in every generation we have been attacked verbally and with weapons. The events starting on October 7 where thousands of innocent people including Holocaust survivors, and families including children and babies were wounded, killed, or taken hostage. Our Federation community has stood strong in its support for the State of Israel and its people through its solidarity gathering and very generous donations that followed that event here.

It's a difficult time in the United States with rising antisemitism and violence in cities, towns, and large college campuses. I am so fortunate to be a faculty member at Indiana University Northwest where our administrative team has worked diligently to have academic conversations with students, staff, and faculty surrounding the damage that has been done in Israel and Gaza. We also know that so many people living in Gaza and Israel, both Jewish and non-Jewish have been victims of the ongoing Hamas attacks. It should not be surprising that Israel is and will fight back and not sit and wait for more violence that hurts its people to continue. Unfortunately, the price is a mighty one for every Jew regardless of where in the world we live and work.

No one should be surprised that our Federation along with others will do everything in our power to educate our citizens through our programming that constructive discussion with local Islamic leaders and others can bring about a much better understanding as to what is at stake here.

This is quite a time to be President of the Jewish Federation. I along with the other Officers, Board, and Staff members carry the mantle of peace in our community, the mantle of constructive discussion, and the mantle of support for the State of Israel. History teaches us that Jews were in the Middle East long before anyone else lived there, regardless of what we hear on television, radio, or read in the newspapers. It's the job of journalists to be fair in reporting, not take sides, but sadly that's not what we have been exposed to in recent years.

I will strive to be your representative for what is good and right for our Federation during my term of office. I look forward to Board discussions that allow for our community to work together for a common good. At this time, I would like to thank Judy, Barry, Barbara, and others who have mentored me as I became a member and then officer of the Board. I am very appreciative of having the honor to serve and support the excellent efforts of our Executive Director even in this most difficult time, and I pledge to do my best to represent our Federation in the most positive light and work closely with our Board and Staff to present programs and messages of interest and education for our community.

2023 BOARD DIRECTORS

THANK YOU TO
ALL OF OUR
2023 BOARD
MEMBERS!
WE APPRECIATE
ALL OF YOUR
DEDICATION &
HARD WORK TO
MAKE THE
JEWISH
FEDERATION OF
NWI A PLACE WE
ALL ENJOY!

Co-Presidents

Judy Katz & Dr. Mark Sperling

Immediate Past President

Sean Egan

Treasurer

Alan Lahn

Secretary

Barbara Waxman

Vice Presidents, JCS

Marilyn Hirsch & Laurie Young

Endowment Committee Chair

Jonathan Radnor

Directors at Large

Dr. Lorin Brown

Carol Culberg

John Doherty

Jeremy Friedberg

Dr. Becca Galante

Janine Rothschild

Larry Gill

Nancy Gross

Barry Levin

2024 BOARD SLATE

THIS IS THE
2024 SLATE TO
BE ELECTED AND
INSTALLED AT
OUR ANNUAL
MEETING.

President

Dr. Mark Sperling

Immediate Past President

Judy Katz

Treasurer

Alan Lahn

Secretary

Dana Kaplan Graves

Vice Presidents, JCS

Marilyn Hirsch & Laurie Young

Endowment Committee Chair

Jonathan Radnor

Directors at Large

Dr. Lorin Brown

Carol Culberg

John Doherty

Larry Gill

Nancy Gross

Barry Levin

Janine Rothschild

Orlee Glazer

Rosalie Levinson

Liraz Tenenbaume

Erica Yakovetz

2023 Timeline: Year in Review

The Jewish Federation was proud to have offered a variety of programs and services in 2023. This is just a few of our highlights from this year.

JANUARY

JANUARY 22

"Jewelry Making Workshop" with Jack Boglioli
Local jewelry designer leads community members in a jewelry making workshop.



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 9

"Shared Legacies" at IUN
Rosalie Levinson, JCRC committee chair, introduces the film "Shared Legacies" at IUN.



MARCH 20

Cooking Program with Linda Curley
Linda Curley shared how to prepare for one to two people for meals.



MARCH

APRIL 30

Israel Solidarity Day Program
With 110 attendees, we spent the day commemorating Yom Hazikaron, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut and Israel's 75th birthday.



APRIL

APRIL 16

"The Suitcase" with Tim Lorsh
Community members listened intently to the one-man multimedia experience by Tim Lorsh and learned about the antisemitism one family endured in Germany through music.



MAY 21

K'Ton Ton Graduation
There were 20 K'Ton Ton graduates and families gathered together to celebrate. We wish them well as they embark on their new adventure in Kindergarten!



MAY

MAY 11

Antisemitism Training Event hosted by AJC
JCRC brought the American Jewish Committee to our Federation to train Northwest Indiana educational and civic leaders on understanding and combating contemporary antisemitism in their communities. There was over 40 people in attendance.



JUNE 4

Israeli Cooking with Debra Herszberg
In an effort to bring Israeli cooking to the community, the Jewish Culture Committee hosted local community member, Debra Herszberg, to teach some Israeli favorites at the Federation.



JUNE

JUNE 11

Jewish Migration Northwest Program with Jewish Historical Society
Dr. Tobias Brinkman, Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Pennsylvania State University, spoke about the settlement of Jewish immigrants in Northwest Indiana



**JUNE 19-
JULY 28**

JCY Camp
JCY Camp had a successful summer with 75 campers during our weekly program.



AUGUST 2

Prime Timers & PJ Library Broken Wagon Bison Farm
Young of all ages enjoyed a trip to the local Bison Ranch to see North America's Largest Mammal.



OCTOBER 7

Tragedy strikes Israel in a day now known as Black Shabbat after Hamas killed over 1,200+ Jewish Israelis in terrorist attacks on Simchat Torah.



NOVEMBER 29

"Braiding Challahkiah" Event with Tigertail Bakery
Anya from Tigertail Bakery led staff and community members in braiding beautiful Challahkiahs for Hanukkah and Shabbat.



JULY

SEPTEMBER

AUGUST

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

JUNE 25

Annual Summer Picnic
Despite the weather forecast calling for rain, we had a fun time indoors for our annual summer picnic!



AUGUST 20

Campaign Kickoff
Annual Campaign Kickoff went off without a hitch! It was great to welcome back Lazer Lloyd and everyone looked incredible in their western attire. What a great way to start campaign!



SEPTEMBER 10

Abraham Accords
JCRC partnered with AJC and the Consul General Israel to discuss the Abraham Accords, and welcomed many non-Jewish friends to the conversation.



OCTOBER 11

Israel Solidarity Event
We mourned as a community in the wake of October 7th. Over 100 people gathered together to offer each other support. Speakers Liraz Tenenbaume and Omri Markovich shared the struggle of being away from family during this horrific time.



OCTOBER 29

JCC hosts Funny Old Broads
Local comedians entertained the community with her sharp wit about being Jewish and getting older.



DECEMBER

DECEMBER 6

AFC's Hanukkah Lunch at Briar Ridge
Many latkes were enjoyed and lovely songs were sung by Munster High School Choir at our annual Hanukkah lunch.



ADULT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

with Lindsay Weiss, Multi-Generational Program Coordinator

In 2023, Adult Friendship Club introduced Coffee & Connections, a wonderful and casual social gathering every Monday afternoon. We also offer members a delicious, kosher lunch as well as a variety of unique programs every Wednesday. Once a month, the group goes out to lunch at a local restaurant for a change of scenery and the opportunity to try regional cuisines.

In addition to regular weekly meals, AFC hosted many special holiday and celebratory meals. These included a Purim party, Friendship Luncheon, Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Veterans Day, a Thanksgiving feast, and a Hanukkah celebration. Members were also offered beneficial programs for personal health such as flu and Covid shot clinics and guidance on brain stimulation and cooking.

Following each lunch, AFC arranged unique and fascinating programs held right at our building. From movies to crafting to live musical performances, there is something for everyone! Some of our members' favorite program highlights included the Elvis impersonator, ballroom dance performances by Arthur Murray dancers, the Julia Child lunch and show, and seeing a private screening of Golda at the movie theater.

The weekly attendance and addition of new members to the Adult Friendship Club has risen by 53% percent this year. We are thrilled to launch the Friends of Federation group in 2024 as it promises even more excitement!



PRIME TIMERS

with Rachel Saller, Programming Coordinator

Prime Timers had a great year of adventures. We kicked the year off with a meeting at Giovanni's Restaurant to talk about future trips. Our trips included going to the Chicago History Museum & Manny's, Chicago Botanic Garden, Broken Wagon Bison Tour, County Line Orchard, Konnie Kuiper's Auto Museum, and the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.

We are very excited to see what adventures 2024 brings as a part of the Friends of Federation. The Friends of Federation outings will continue to be a mix of local outings and bus trips. The year will start with a lunch at the Merrillville Florist and Tea Room and a bus trip to the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures Museum.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone and hoping for some new faces, as well.

JEWISH CULTURE COMMITTEE

with Carol Culberg, Chair

The Jewish Cultural Committee was proud to host 7 book group sessions in 2023, bringing our total number of meetings since inception to 42 meetings! In addition to our regular book discussions, we welcomed Debra Herszberg to teach us Israeli cooking and the comedy group Funny Old Broads in October. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2024.



ISRAEL AWARENESS COMMITTEE

with Judy Katz & Miriam Marcus, Co-Chair

The Israel Awareness Committee sponsored several Zoom discussions this past year beginning with a very interesting program with a couple who survived the Entebbe rescue.

In February we hosted a fun, educational Tu B'Shevat Seder for all community families. We had two shinshinim spend that weekend with us, and they did a great job leading the seder.

Our annual Israel Solidarity Day was enjoyed by many in our community. We had the honor of hosting four retired IDF officers who shared their stories with us, and we were treated to a sing-along with our local congregation vocalists. Two Shinshinim also joined us for the weekend. Community members provided photos of Israel that were displayed in the social hall.

October 7 was the worst day anyone could have ever imagined for the state of Israel when thousands of Hamas and Islamic terrorists infiltrated Israel. Our committee and Federation have tried to keep the community informed and updated. The committee worked with the JCS committee to plan a very important, meaningful Solidarity with Israel program.

In November we co-hosted a Zoom about the current situation in Israel with the Jewish Federations of St. Joseph Valley and Fort Wayne, hearing from Dan Feferman, a national security analyst, and Khaled Abu Toameh, an Arab Israeli journalist.

Because of the great relationship that we have with the Jewish Agency in Chicago, we had a third visit by Shinshinim in early December. They had Shabbat dinner with our Noar and Atid teen groups and spent a morning with our MASA Sunday school students.



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

with Rosalie Levinson, Chair

JCRC sponsored four programs this year.

In February we joined IUNW in presenting the documentary *Shared Legacy*, which traced Jewish/Black relations from the 1960s until today. Robin Rich, who co-chairs the Interfaith Action Network, described Black/Jewish relations in NW Indiana in the 50s and 60s and we learned about the current work of her organization.

In May, we brought speakers from the American Jewish Committee to train Northwest Indiana educational and civic leaders on understanding and combating antisemitism in their communities. The focus was on how local community leaders can actively work to respond to the recent surge in antisemitism. Also, a 5-year Jewish holiday calendar, which included Indiana's mandate to teach about the Holocaust, was prepared and distributed to the 40 leaders who attended. In September we celebrated the third anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords. The Deputy Consul General of Israel to the Midwest and the Regional Director of the American Jewish Committee discussed the importance of the Accords in achieving peace in the Middle East.

And on November 27, JCRC Chair Rosalie Levinson presented a program for IUN students and community members addressing the horrific surge in antisemitism and anti-Zionism since October 7, followed by her telling her parents' Holocaust stories.



with Rachel Saller, Programming Coordinator

Noar and Atid youth groups had an exciting year of programming. We started the new year off right with the Shinshinim from Chicago visiting us. We got to enjoy a Shabbat dinner and bowling with them.

In March we celebrated Purim by making different kinds of Hamantaschen. It was fun, messy, and delicious! During the rest of the year we enjoyed more Shabbat dinners together, laser tag, hiking at the Indiana Dunes, making blankets for Project Linus, and celebrating Hanukkah early by having a Latke Shabbat dinner and roller skating with the Shinshinim from Chicago.

We are very much looking forward to the programs to come in 2024. We will be starting the year off with a service project and then having the Anti-Defamation League coming to do a training for kids and parents on how to handle Anti-Semitism. Bowling, more Shabbat dinners, and get togethers will also be a part of 2024.





with Rachel Saller, Programming Coordinator

We are so excited to report on PJ Library and the programming that we had in 2023! This year we had a Pajama Dance Party, where we read a story and taught the kids the Hora. We also had a playdate at the park, had fun at the Broken Wagon Bison Ranch with Prime Timers, met up with Atid and Noar for a hike at the Indiana Dunes, picked out pumpkins, and fed the animals at Scheeringa Farms, and had an amazing Hanukkah party. The Hanukkah party included fun games, making mosaic menorahs, playing dreidels, taking fun pictures with Hanukkah props, and families getting to know each other.

We are excited to see what fun 2024 will bring!



with Rachel Seiffert, JCY Camp Director

Summer 2023 was another fun-filled season of JCY Day Camp. With 75 campers and 18 counselor staff (several of them part-time), JCY was exploring new fun activities along with revisiting old camp favorites. JCY continued those crazy games, in-house entertainment, food trucks, and wacky Pie Fridays as usual. We added new things like The Challenger Learning Museum, tried a new Video Gaming Truck, and had a show completely made of Bubbles.

Along with visiting old favorites like the Lincoln Park Zoo, Sky Zone, and Oak Ridge Prairie. JCY is bursting with pride at its most recent summer experience! We always try to JCY camp a fun experience and a safe haven for our campers during the summer. We plan on adding more activities to come. We are so excited to return to camp in 2024. Planning is already underway. Are you ready for this summer? :)





K'Ton Ton

with Bailey Hoffman, K'Ton Ton Director

Our focus this year has been *connecting with new friends and building relationships* here are K'Ton Ton.

Summer Camp was a **HUGE** success with 30 campers throughout the 6-week summer camp. We spent most of the days outside in the sprinkler or water table staying cool. The kids explored the playground looking for bugs and building tall towers. We ended the summer with a K'Ton Ton family ice cream party!

We welcomed students and families back to school with a Popsicles on the Playground event for all ages! Families stopped by the K' Ton Ton playground for a popsicle and outside activities. It was a great way to meet the new families and teachers in preparation for the upcoming school year.

We were excited to bring back field trips this year with a visit to the pumpkin patch. We bounced in the bounce house, played in the corn bin, fed the animals, and took a hayride to pick out a pumpkin. Kids were all smiles sharing this time with their loved ones and getting to know others in their class. We also invited a special guest from the Munster Library into the classroom to share stories for fall. We sang songs and counted apples as we prepared for the upcoming holidays. Rabbi Isaacs visited for Rosh Hashanah, shared stories, and blew the shofar. The kids were all smiles and giggles hearing the sounds of the shofar. Rabbi Gindlin shared her musical talents with us for Yom Kippur and brought the lulav and etrog for a full Sukkot sensory experience!

We have hosted monthly events to help nurture our relationships and build new ones. Last month we hosted a family game night sponsored by a local game store. The kids had fun learning new games and getting back to the table for some simple family (and friend) fun! While other kids watched a movie and snacked on popcorn with friends. We invited our "Very Important People" to VIP Day in the classroom to share a craft and books. We had a quiet afternoon with Ms Sam for Mommy & Me Yoga in the social hall. We ended the year with a Hanukkah party, complete with latkes, dreidel games, and a fun craft to take home!



2023 K'TON TON ENROLLMENT

MeTwo: 12

Preschool: 28

Pre-K: 19

8% are Jewish!

2023 CAMP K'TON TON NTROLLMENT

30 Campers

6% are Jewish!



COMMUNITY & SERVICE AWARDS

Award Recipients

Rosalie Levinson

Woman of Valor

For exemplary service to the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana in all areas, which has greatly improved our community

Don Levinson

Professional Service Award

For your valuable volunteer service to the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana by offering guidance in matters related to your professional field of law

Sean Egan, Becca Galante, Barbara Waxman, & Jeremy Friedberg

Gevurah Award

Thank you to our outgoing board members. Their time and dedication have been vital to the success of the Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana.

Special Awards

Presented to individuals who have performed a service or given in a fashion worthy of recognition and promotes the spirit of the Jewish Federation's Mission Statement

Laurie Young & Marilyn Hirsch

For your contributions to our Jewish Community Services and ensuring our members feel supported in their most challenging times

John Doherty

For dedication to ensuring a safe and stable community building for our members and our future generations

Carol Culberg

For offering time by helping members of our community find relief during times of grief

Alan Lahn

For working with staff and lay leadership to secure fiscal sustainability and the long-term presence of our Jewish Federation

Indiana University Northwest

Chief Scheckel and the Munster Police Department

Friends of the Jewish Community

Presented to non-Jewish individuals or organizations who have made important and exceptional contributions to the Jewish Community

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Without these incredible volunteers, we would not be able to do what we do! From delivering meals, setting up for events, and facilitating Federation groups - these individuals have gone above and beyond. Thank you to all of these individuals and everyone that has made 2023 a success!

Adult Friendship Club & Prime Timers:

Barbara Bard, Helene Elias, Judy Geller, Nancy Handler & Pat Jacobson

Delivery Drivers:

Alan Saks, Sydney Saks, Daniel Goldsmith, Gus Galante, Jack Boglioli, Bryce Talaby, Kim Talaby, Corky Weintrob, Nancy Gross, Linda & Susie Hess, Julie Gideon, Walker Family (Dan, Sheila, & Miriam) & Liraz Tenenbaume

Grief Relief:

Carol Culberg

JCS Volunteers:

Carol Culberg & Sy Sarowitz

2023 PARTNERS AND FRIENDS



AND OUR CONGREGATIONS: CHABAD NORTHWEST INDIANA, CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL, SINAI TEMPLE, TEMPLE BEIT SHALOM, TEMPLE ISRAEL MILLER BEACH, INDIANA, & TEMPLE ISRAEL VALPARAISO, INDIANA

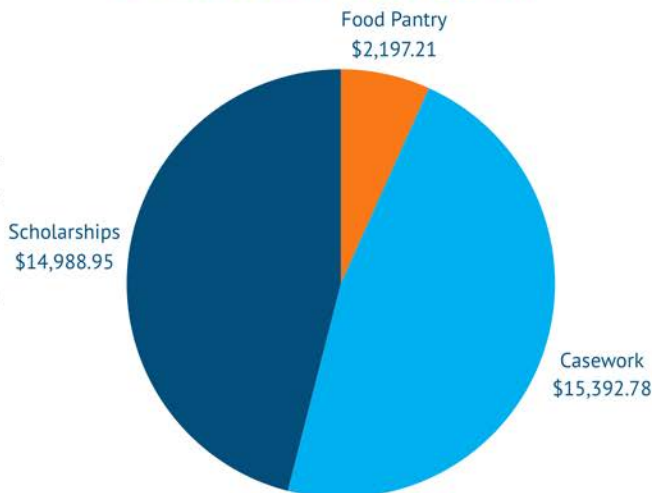
JEWISH COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

SOCIAL SERVICES---BY THE NUMBERS

The Jewish Federation Community Service department provides caring and professional social service to all of our community members in Northwest Indiana. However, 2023 has been all about Change for the Jewish Community Service Program. We began in late spring by closing our physical food pantry and moving to a "Gift Card" model. JCS clients are now able to receive gift cards to purchase what their family needs most, including fresh and perishable food items, hygiene products, and paper goods at the store of their choice. We also promoted our administrative associate, Patti Anderson, to be in charge of all intake forms and client calls. Patti's friendly personality and caring nature are a perfect fit for JCS clients who just need an ear. Services that JCS continues to provide are AFC meals to homebound community members, emergency utility and rent assistance, medical expense reimbursements, a peer-supported grief group, home and hospital visits to the sick, senior safety programs, and referrals to local social service agencies.

Any of our community members are welcome to request assistance. Remember, we are here to help!

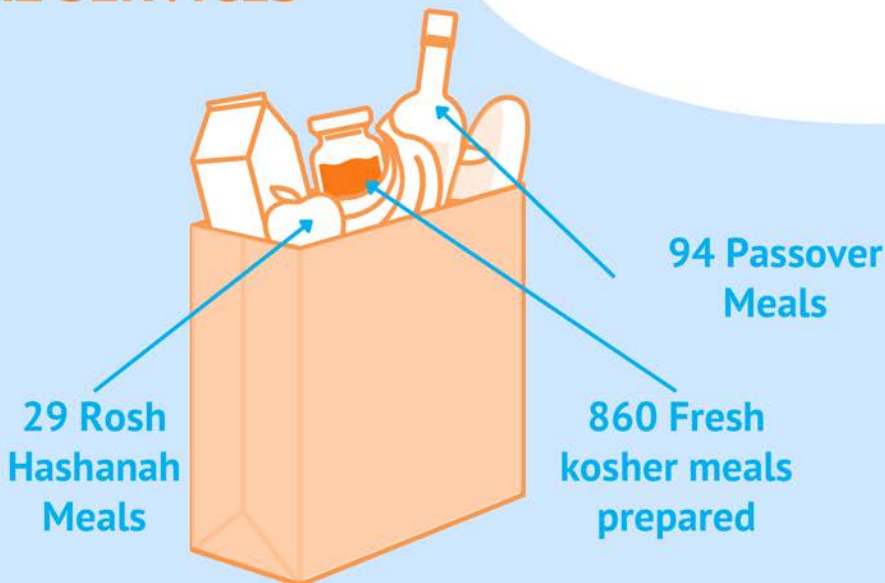
Financial Assistance Categories:



January-October 2023

65 CLIENTS SERVED

MEAL SERVICES



FOOD DELIVERY & ASSISTANCE

Generously Funded By:

- Allocations from Federation's operating budget.
- Individual donations from Jewish community members, including donation drives organized through our congregations.
- Food Pantry Funds & Endowments, including the Barbara Waxman JCS Fund
- A grant from Rotary Club of Munster

A **BIG** THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS,
LAURIE YOUNG &
MARILYN HIRSCH!



\$1,750

Gift cards & meals provided to homebound individuals



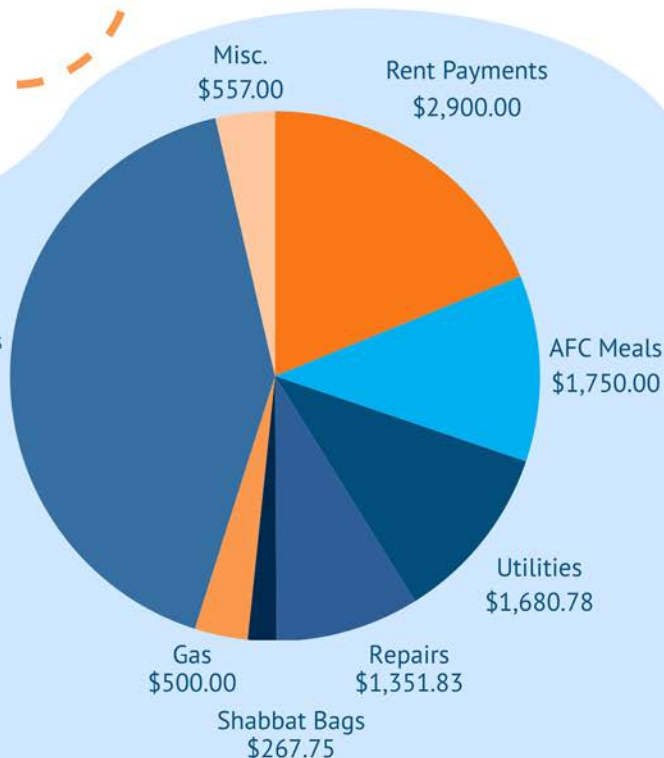
CASEWORK

Casework comprises assistance programs for:

Client services include:

- Group meetings for grief counseling
- Home and Hospital visits to the sick
- Distribution of scholarship funds
- Senior safety programs
- Individualized casework management
- Food Cards for the hungry
- Financial assistance to those in need
- Referrals to local social service agencies

Medical Expenses
\$6,385.42



Endowments

Endowments are monies given to the Federation to provide long-term support for a designated program or service.

**The income from the following endowments is given to
PACE (Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment):**

Anonymous PACE
Arthur & Sylvie Mednick Weiss
Bernard & Estelle Marcus
Fruehauf Family Honorary
George & Martha Karol
John Jacobson Memorial
Joseph Culberg Memorial
Kirschner Trust
Louis M. Marcus Trust
Louis & Gertrude Weinberg
PACE
Stan Goldberg PACE
Zweig-Berlin

**The income from the following endowments is given to
JCSP (Jewish Community Services & Programming):**

JCS
Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana, Inc.
Scholarship Fund

**The income from the following endowments is given to AFC
(Adult Friendship Club):**

Stan Goldberg AFC
Kate & Shirley Klapper AFC Entertainment
David & Ethel Crohn

**The income from the following endowments is give to
Senior Programming:**

Sam & Eva Weinstein Senior Retreat

Endowments

The income from the following endowment is used for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Bernard and Estelle Marcus Jewish Federation Community Building:

B'nai Judah

**The income from the following endowments is given to
The Food Pantry:**

Food Pantry

**The income from the following endowment is used to award grants to honorees who have demonstrated exceptional leadership ability to attend the
General Assembly:**

Hurst Family Leadership

The income from the following endowment is used to fund young Jewish students who wish to study in Israel:

Gertrude & Louis Weinberg Camp Scholarship

The income from the following endowment is used to support the Send-A-Kid to Israel Partnership:

Levenberg Family Memorial
SKIP Endowment

The income from the following endowment helps the resettlement of Jewish refugees:

Samual, Ida & Joseph Valdmam

The income from the following endowment can be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors

Nelson Family
Sarah Kutchinsky Friedberg
Unrestricted

The income from the following endowment supports youth in our community:

Sam H. Gray Memorial

Funds

Funds differ from endowments in that they may be utilized for short or long term needs.

The monies from the following fund are used to help underwrite the operating expenses of our community building:

Bernard Marcus Sustaining Operating Building

The monies from the following fund are used to assist Jewish individuals with the cost of medical treatments, prescriptions and health insurance premiums. Annually, any unspent dollars supplement the food pantry.

Barbara Waxman JCS

The monies from the following fund are used for building expenses:

Alex Morris

The monies from the following fund are used to help those with medical needs:

Marcus Wallack Heart

The monies from the following fund are used for Holocaust Education

Holocaust Education

The monies from the following fund assist JCY Campers

Chuck Elias JCY Scholarship

The monies from the following fund support an annual distribution of scholarship & "campership" grants & loans to applicants approved by the Scholarship Committee of The Federation. *This fund has been established by the following generous families: Morey & Ethel Gross, Lynn & Lloyd Hurst, Rudy & Anne Kodicek, Julie Linker Memorial, Nathan Roskin Family, William & Sylvia Silberstein, & Debra Weichman Memorial*

Endowment Committee Report

We would like to thank the many donors who donated to our various funds and endowments in 2023. Our Endowment received \$21,362 in designated donations in 2023 to help support our mission and ensure the Federation's future.

Endowment Committee Report

Most of 2023, was spent watching the market go up and down. According to Forbes, “Despite concerns over inflation and rising interest rates, an unexpected regional bank crisis and rising geopolitical tensions, The US economy remains resilient and corporate profits are continuing to rise. “ After transferring \$55,000 to the Federation operating budget, the value of the Jewish Federation endowments, as of November 16, 2023, was \$7,265,175 versus \$7,094,007,000 on December 31, 2023. Our portfolio has increased \$174,168 during this fiscal year.

**Todah Rabah,
Jonathan Radnor, Endowment Committee Chair**

Living Legacy Honor Roll

The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana works to foster continuity and growth, to secure and provide for the future of our community. The Living Legacy Honor Roll recognizes all the wonderful people in our community who have planned for our future. They have provided a Legacy of support by naming The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

**Ostroff Living Trust
Estate of Alfred Kobak
Yalowitz Family,
*In Memory of Merrill and Warren Yalowitz***

Awarded Grants

**Anderson Foundation
Rotary Club of Munster
Service League of Hammond Indiana**

Statements of Financial Position*

December 31, 2021 and 2022

DECEMBER 2021 & 2022

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 515,176.00	\$ 287,797.00
Investments		
Bonds	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Stocks & Equities	\$ 601,093.00	\$ 50,197.00
Common Investment Pool	\$ 6,494,007.00	\$ 8,099,333.00
Mutual Funds	\$ 161,934.00	\$ 194,607.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 26,255.00	\$ 52,682.00
Pledges Receivable	-	\$ 18,109.00
<i>Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$1,000 for 2021 & 2020</i>		
Grants Receivable	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 42,400.00
Other Receivable	\$ 4,490.00	\$ 6,469.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 8,876.00	\$ 7,308.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 7,813,831.00	\$ 8,759,402.00
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT		
Land	\$ 436,544.00	\$ 436,544.00
Building & Improvements	\$ 2,610,994.00	\$ 2,585,972.00
Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 220,313.00	\$ 220,313.00
Vehicle	\$ 24,791.00	\$ 24,791.00
Artwork	\$ 28,475.00	\$ 28,475.00
Total Property & Equipment	\$ 3,321,117.00	\$ 3,296,095.00
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (1,479,358.00)	\$ (1,392,721.00)
Net Property & Equipment	\$ 1,841,759.00	\$ 1,903,374.00
Operating Lease Right Of Use Asset	\$ 79,132.00	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 9,734,722.00	\$ 10,662,776.00

	2022	2021
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,903.00	\$ 32,594.00
Accrued Real Estate Taxes	\$ 137,449.00	\$ 126,650.00
Custodial Funds (SKIP)	\$ 49,811.00	\$ 54,501.00
Deferred Revenues	-	\$ 468.00
Other Liabilities	\$ 41,022.00	\$ 14,844.00
Current Maturities of Operating Lease Obligation-Equipment	\$ 14,476.00	-
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 258,661.00	\$ 229,057.00
Long Term Liabilities		
Operating Lease Obligation - Equipment	\$ 64,656.00	-
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$ 64,656.00	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 323,317.00	\$ 229,057.00
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 2,272,532.00	\$ 2,311,741.00
With Donor Restrictions	\$ 7,138,873.00	\$ 8,121,978.00
Total Net Assets	\$ 9,411,405.00	\$ 10,433,719.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 9,734,722.00	\$ 10,662,776.00

Thank you to our 2023 Campaign Contributors!

What you donate to The Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana makes a difference in ways you cannot imagine! Your donations are crucial to our ability to do the work we do for others every day. You make it possible to do everything we need to do for our community. Thank you!

A list of 2023 donors will appear in the next Edition of the Illiana News!



The Jewish Federation
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

585 Progress Ave. | Munster, Ind. 46321
219-301-0960

Stay up to date with everything JFNWI in our Facebook Group! For safety reasons, we have created a private Facebook Group to keep our community members in the loop. Join today!

