



**2025-2026
Impact by
the numbers**

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A Year of Building Jewish Life,
Strengthening Community
and Securing our Future



Here for Good

Building Momentum

2025–2026 Community Impact Report

A Year of Building Jewish Life, Strengthening Community, and Securing Our Future

In September 2025, Jewish Ottawa embarked on an ambitious new chapter.

Our five-year Strategic Plan challenged us to think differently about the role of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa — not simply as a fundraising organization, but as a catalyst for innovation, a convener of people and ideas, and a connector that helps our community achieve more together.

Nine months into the plan, meaningful progress is already underway.

While continuing to provide the programs, services, advocacy, security, and support our community relies on every day, we have also begun building the foundation for a stronger, more connected, more secure, and more vibrant Jewish future.

This report highlights the progress made toward our four strategic priorities and the collective impact made possible through the generosity of our community.

Priority 1

Sharpening Our Distinctive Value Proposition:

Enabling Our Community to Achieve More Together

At its core, Federation exists to do what no single organization can do alone.

This year, we focused on strengthening our role as a catalyst, convener, and connector by bringing people together, fostering collaboration, and helping community partners achieve greater collective impact.

Catalyzing New Opportunities

This year, Federation completed Phase One of a comprehensive review of its funding architecture, resulting in a new grants framework aligned with our strategic role as a catalyst, convener, and connector.

Rather than simply funding programs, Federation is increasingly using grants as a strategic tool to increase engagement, reduce barriers, strengthen security, and advance community priorities.

Three new grant streams were introduced:

- Community Impact Grants, supporting collaborative initiatives aligned with strategic priorities, including Jewish Journeys, Arts & Culture Grants, and the Security Enhancement Fund.
- Powered by Federation Grants, including Microgrants and Shabbat Together 613, which reduce financial, social, and geographic barriers to Jewish engagement.
- Vulnerable Sector Scholarships, providing needs-based support for transformative experiences such as Camp B'nai Brith and March of the Living.

Convening Leaders and Building Collaboration

Federation launched Roundtable 613, bringing Jewish communal professionals together to share ideas, reduce silos, and strengthen collaboration across organizations.

The J-Fellows leadership program continued to cultivate emerging leaders, engaging 16 participants in mentorship, learning, and community-building. The program culminated in presentations at the Dorot Legacy Reception, where participants showcased projects designed to strengthen Jewish Ottawa.

To date, J-Fellows has developed more than 55 emerging leaders who are helping shape the future of our community.

Connecting Community

More than 750 families received PJ Library books this year, helping foster Jewish literacy, identity, and connection from an early age.

As PJ Library celebrated its 15th anniversary, the program surpassed an extraordinary milestone: more than 109,633 books delivered to Ottawa children since its launch.



PJ Library also hosted 40 community events, creating hundreds of opportunities for young families to connect with Jewish life.

Ottawa's PJ Library program is now leading an innovative Educator Book Kit initiative that reached more than 7,000 public and Catholic school students across Ottawa, helping introduce Jewish stories, culture, and traditions to classrooms throughout the city.

At Hillel Ottawa, students found connection and community through more than 388 Shabbat meals served during Home Away From Home dinners, creating a welcoming Jewish space for students studying away from family and familiar support networks.

Expanding Access to Jewish Learning

Federation's supplementary school ecosystem continues to grow, with enrolment increasing by 29% over the past two years.

Through the A Place for Everyone Tuition Incentive Program, 133 students were introduced to supplementary Jewish education, with 68% continuing their Jewish learning journey.

Planning is now underway to strengthen supplementary school funding and expand access to Jewish learning opportunities across Ottawa.

Impact

Federation is increasingly recognized as the organization that brings people together, builds partnerships, and helps our community accomplish more collectively than any organization could achieve alone.

Priority 2

Developing a Culture of Giving:

Inspiring Generosity at Every Age and Stage

A thriving Jewish community depends on more than financial contributions.

It depends on leadership, volunteerism, mentorship, participation, and a shared commitment to one another.

This year, Federation continued building pathways that invite community members to contribute according to their interests, abilities, and stage of life.

Growing Philanthropy

The Annual Community Campaign surpassed \$5 million for the first time since 2019.

This achievement reflects the extraordinary generosity of our community. Many donors increased their gifts by 8% to 12%, while the Young Adult Campaign achieved its strongest two years on record.

Federation also diversified its fundraising ecosystem through new sponsorship opportunities, corporate partnerships, and targeted fundraising initiatives supporting programs such as PJ Library and Hillel Ottawa.

Most importantly, this success will allow Federation to increase allocations to beneficiary agencies by 5% in the coming year — the first increase in more than a decade.

Developing Leaders

J-Fellows continued to cultivate the next generation of leadership by providing mentorship, learning opportunities, and meaningful community-building experiences.

Planning also began for J-Fellows Plus, which will create expanded opportunities for mentorship and connection between emerging and established community leaders.

Impact

A stronger culture of giving is emerging — one that values generosity in all its forms and helps ensure future generations feel ownership of Jewish Ottawa's success.

Turning Generosity into Impact

Every dollar raised through Federation's Annual Community Campaign helps strengthen the organizations that care for our vulnerable, educate the next generation, build Jewish identity, and create opportunities for connection across Ottawa.

This year, Federation's campaign success will contribute more than \$3.4 million in allocations, grants, and community investments.

Through these investments, Federation supports 35 vital Jewish institutions that form the backbone of Jewish life in Ottawa.



Caring for the Vulnerable

Federation funding helps ensure that no member of our community faces life's challenges alone.

Through Jewish Family Services, 782 Jewish households received support this year, including 130 households receiving monthly financial assistance.

Nearly 5,000 Kosher Meals on Wheels were delivered to 65 seniors, helping older adults maintain independence and dignity.

Federation funding also supports Hillel Lodge, where 120 residents receive compassionate care, and Tamir, which provides residential and day programming for 41 Jewish adults with developmental disabilities.

Through Keshet for Kids, 42 children and youth participated in programs designed to strengthen confidence, belonging, and resilience.

Strengthening Jewish Learning and Identity

More than 500 students are engaged in Ottawa's Jewish educational ecosystem, including day schools, supplementary schools, and Jewish high school programming.

This includes 280 students enrolled in Ottawa's two Jewish day schools, supported by more than \$1.49 million in tuition assistance provided to 93 families.

Federation's supplementary school ecosystem now serves 350 students and continues to grow.

Through the A Place for Everyone Tuition Incentive Program, 133 students were introduced to supplementary Jewish education, helping strengthen Jewish learning and engagement across the community.

Federation funding also supports early childhood education, camp experiences, and lifelong learning opportunities. Seventy-two children attended Ganon Preschool, more than \$28,000 in camp and preschool financial assistance helped families access Jewish experiences, and thousands of community members connected through the Soloway JCC's cultural, educational, recreational, and social programs.

Impact

These investments create a community where seniors are cared for, families are supported, people with disabilities are included, children receive Jewish education, and individuals of all ages can connect meaningfully with Jewish life.

This is the power of collective philanthropy.

Priority 3

Providing Cohesive Leadership and Responsive Support:

Meeting Challenges Together

As antisemitism rises and community needs become increasingly complex, Federation's role as a coordinating leader has never been more important.

Advancing Community Security

Federation strengthened community security by:

- Partnering with the Jewish Security Network
- Hiring a dedicated Regional Security Manager
- Securing a three-year \$300,000 USD LiveSecure grant
- Supporting organizations seeking federal security funding
- Helping facilitate 16 successful security enhancement projects over the past four years

These investments are helping build a safer and more resilient Jewish community.

Strengthening Advocacy

Federation deepened relationships with municipal, provincial, and federal leaders while helping advance Ottawa's Protecting Vulnerable Social Infrastructure (Bubble) Bylaw.

Working closely with CIJA and other partners, Federation amplified the voice of Ottawa's Jewish community and expanded efforts to address antisemitism through education, advocacy, and public engagement.

Building Allies

Federation reached more than 1,000 allies through interfaith engagement, educational programs, presentations, and community dialogue.

Through Hillel Ottawa alone, more than 214 students participated in interfaith programming designed to foster understanding, build relationships, and create opportunities for meaningful dialogue.

Deepening Connections to Israel

Federation continued to strengthen Ottawa's connection to Israel by creating meaningful opportunities for relationship-building, learning, and shared experiences.

Hundreds of community members and allies came together for Ottawa's October 7 Commemoration, strengthening communal bonds, honouring those affected by the attacks, and reaffirming our enduring connection to Israel and the Israeli people.

This year also saw the launch of new and expanded people-to-people initiatives. Through the Living Bridge program, 20 students from Hillel Ottawa and Tel Hai University connected through weekly Jewish learning and dialogue, building meaningful relationships across continents and strengthening ties between our communities.

Federation also supported the Monthly Mifgash program, a Partnership2Gether initiative that engaged 20 women from Ottawa and Etzba HaGalil in monthly discussions, shared learning, and relationship-building experiences that deepened understanding and fostered lasting connections.

Looking ahead, Ottawa will welcome 11 students from Tel Hai University in Fall 2026, transforming virtual connections into meaningful in-person experiences and further strengthening our partnership with Israel's Galilee region.

Federation also secured the return of the Shinshinim program after an eight-year absence. Beginning this fall, two Shinshinim will bring Israel to life for Ottawa students, families, and community members through meaningful educational and cultural engagement, helping strengthen connections between our communities and the next generation of Jewish leaders.

In addition, Federation continued to support participation in Birthright, Momentum, Partnership2Gether, and other Israel engagement initiatives, ensuring community members of all ages have opportunities to build lasting connections with Israel and the global Jewish people.



Impact

By investing in relationships, exchanges, and shared experiences, Federation is helping transform Israel engagement from a distant concept into meaningful personal connections that strengthen Jewish identity, community, and peoplehood.

Educating Against Hate

More than 350 public school students participated in Holocaust education programming through the Kindertransport exhibit, which travelled to four locations across Ottawa.

The initiative created meaningful opportunities for students to learn about the Holocaust, Jewish identity, and contemporary antisemitism.

Impact

Federation continues to serve as the trusted leadership table where community challenges are addressed collectively, strengthening resilience, security, advocacy, and Jewish continuity.

Priority 4

Strengthening Operations and Culture:

Building the Foundation for Excellence

Strong communities require strong organizations.

This year, Federation invested in the people, systems, and infrastructure necessary to support long-term success.

Strengthening Internal Capacity

Federation strengthened organizational effectiveness by realigning portfolios, improving collaboration, exploring shared-service opportunities, and deepening partnerships that enhance collective impact.

Modernizing Systems

Federation strengthened its operational foundation through improved financial controls and reporting, CRM implementation, data strategy development, HR modernization planning, and streamlined grants administration.

These investments improve efficiency, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

Impact

Federation is becoming a more responsive, accountable, and effective organization — one that is better equipped to serve community members, partners, and donors for years to come.

Looking Ahead

Year One has been about building momentum.

We have strengthened partnerships, modernized systems, expanded leadership development, enhanced security, deepened advocacy efforts, increased support for community organizations, and created new opportunities for Jewish engagement.

Most importantly, we have continued to bring people together, respond to challenges, and strengthen Jewish life across Ottawa.

Thanks to your support, we are building a stronger, safer, more connected, and more vibrant Jewish Ottawa.

Together, we are here for good.