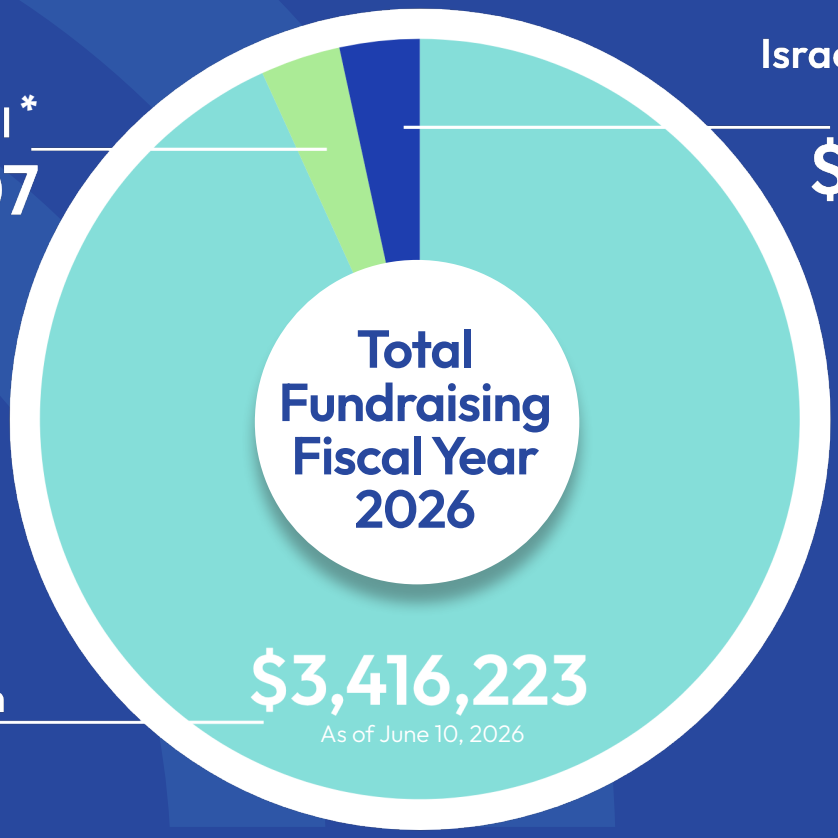
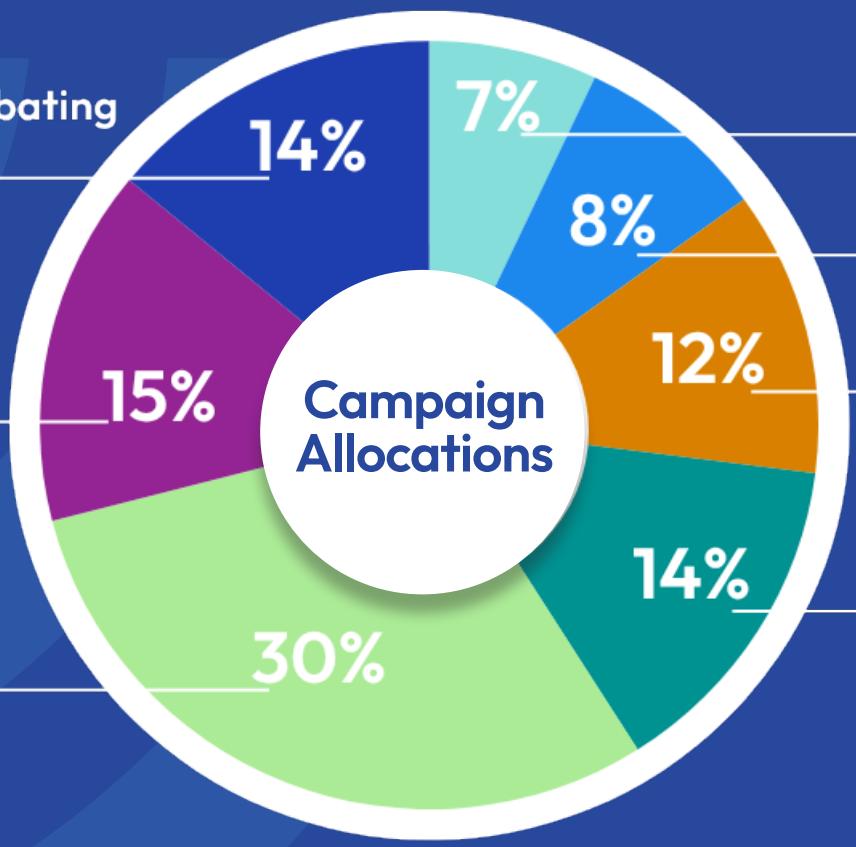
SPRING IMPACT UPDATE

2026

Jewish Community Federation of Richmond





*Security initiatives, Ukraine emergency needs, Dignity Grows, Honeymoon Israel, interfaith programs, and more.

Expanding Impact

Dear Friends,

We are proud to report that because of your generosity and trust in the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, collectively we are impacting an ever-increasing number of Jewish lives locally and globally. This past year, we raised almost $3.7 million through our Annual Campaign and Supplemental Giving enabling us to stay laser-focused on the Seven Impact Areas that align with our mission. Each dollar is treated as a precious resource and allocated through a rigorous process for maximum IMPACT. We are indebted to those in our community who trust and value our collective judgment to invest your dollars wisely. Together with our partner agencies, we carefully review the results and metrics of previous funding and programming as we build programs in the following Seven Impact Areas:

- Security and Antisemitism
- Jewish Connectivity, Identity & Engagement
- Israel and Overseas
- Jewish Education
- Jewish Caring
- Jewish Leadership
- Cultural Exchange and Outreach

One initiative creates impact across all these areas. We would be remiss if we didn't recognize our Shlicha (Israel emissary) for the past two years, Tal Bahar, who has been a presence throughout Richmond's Jewish and non-Jewish community, creating connections, participating in education, leading dialogues and connecting us not just to Israel, but to Jewish understanding, in untold and immeasurable ways. We thank her for her lasting impact and look forward to welcoming our new Shaliach, Shlomo Shprintzin, as we continue our program.

With gratitude,

Josh Goldberg
President

Daniel Staffenberg
CEO

Security and Antisemitism

The need for securing our community and staying vigilant is ever-growing. Antisemitic incidents in Virginia are up 225% compared to 2020 according to recent ADL statistics. Many additional incidents go unreported or happen under the radar at community events, schools and individual homes.

This past year Federation applied for and was awarded a $200,000 Tepper Foundation Security Grant that was distributed to support security personnel at early childhood programs at our community pre-schools, day camps and after-school programs. These funds not only provide security but also offer budgetary relief to our partners so they can continue their missions serving local families.

This is in addition to more than $500,000 invested by Federation in security over the past 6 years. Those dollars enabled our Regional Security Advisor to train more than 1,000 individuals in just the past year, both Jewish and non-Jewish, in Situational Awareness, Active Threat Response, and other vital security measures. Our investment also sustains our partnership with the national Secure Community Network (SCN) to enhance our community's safety, security and preparedness.

Additionally, our Jewish Community Relations Committee continutes to advocate our local and national elected leaders about security funding and other pressing issues that affect our community daily.

By the numbers:

$500,000 invested in security over the past **6** years

$4,400,000+ in security enhancements awarded to partner agencies over **4** years thanks to Federation grant assistance

Joined **400+** Jewish community leaders in DC to lobby for **$1 Billion** in additional security funding

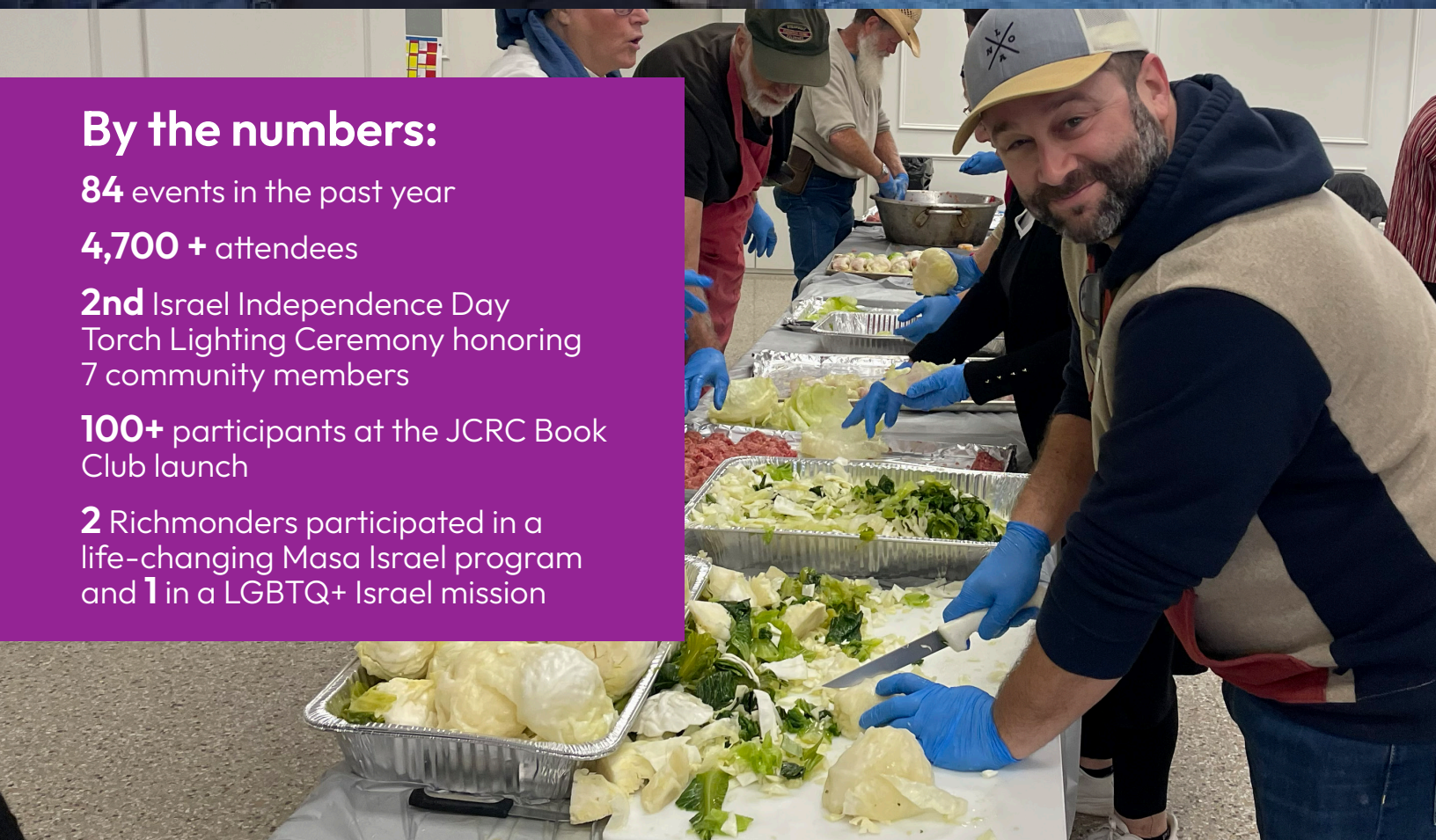
100+ community members met with elected officials on statewide Jewish Advocacy Day

Over **4,500** community members trained in safety and security

Jewish Connectivity, Identity & Engagement

A recent Pulse Survey of the Richmond Jewish community commissioned by Federation and with support from the Sisisky family, not only revealed a growing desire for Jewish connection and engagement, but also a need for new ways to accomplish it. For Federation, it's a call to create innovative ways to meet the community's need to deepen connections and strengthen identity in safe places. While traditional gatherings at synagogues and programs at our partner institutions meet the needs of many, other Jewish Richmonders are searching for more intimate, less formal gatherings to seek solidarity, support, and a renewed sense of identity.

Federation is meeting this moment by creating and funding inclusive and increased programming. From inventive PJ Library programs and NextGen Shabbats, to ENRICH FOR LIFE and Senior Schmooze ,which address social isolation by providing older adults (Jewish and non-Jewish) a free and safe place to meet and make connections, Federation is focused on supporting community-wide opportunities that are friendly and inspiring.



By the numbers:

84 events in the past year

4,700 + attendees

2nd Israel Independence Day Torch Lighting Ceremony honoring 7 community members

100+ participants at the JCRC Book Club launch

2 Richmonders participated in a life-changing Masa Israel program and **1** in a LGBTQ+ Israel mission

Israel and Overseas

Jewish Community Federation of Richmond continues to support our Israeli brothers and sisters rebuild their lives even as the situation in Israel remains unsettled. In addition to our long-time Partnership2Gether sister city, Hadera, Federation has launched a partnership with the northern city of Shlomi, which is located near the Lebanese border. We have undertaken a three-year rebuilding plan there with our partners at the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and our friends at Jewish Peninsula. Already, the Nachalim School of 100 students on the autism spectrum, ages 6-21, has installed safe rooms in every classroom and several small businesses are starting or rebuilding thanks to our community's generosity.

Overseas, our sister city of Zaporozhe, Ukraine, is besieged with its 5th year of war marked by ongoing missile strikes including recent damage at the local Mazel Tov JCC. Along with our JDC partners, we continue to provide critical support for the community. Their resiliency continues to astonish, even celebrating Jewish holidays via Zoom.

By the numbers:

The Nachalim School in Shlomi with **100** students on the autism spectrum has installed safe rooms in every classroom

16 small businesses in Shlomi are starting and even more are rebuilding

400,000+ Israelis have received mental health support since October 7th

75 displaced Ukrainian families in Richmond have received services from our JFS Richmond partner since 2022

Jewish Education

Federation sustains the core value of education in the Jewish community. From scholarships at the Aleph Bet Preschool and Rudlin Torah Academy to supporting the VCU Center for Judaic Studies annual Lyons Lecture, Federation provides learning opportunities appropriate for all ages.

PJ Library sends free high-quality Jewish children's books to 457 families every month and lends to community partners. Federation hosted multiple programs addressing topics such as antisemitism on campus, media bias, and adding to the dialogue, the JCRC launched a highly attended book club.

Jewish high school and college students continue to face a challenging environment on campuses requiring Federation programming support for BBYO, Hillels throughout the state and Jewish Life at VCU.

By the numbers:

$80,000 in scholarships

PJ Library participants increased by **14% to 591**

Rudlin Torah Academy increased student enrollment to **119**

11 high school student and college campus organizations supported

Jewish Caring

Jewish Federation cares for the most vulnerable in our community. With our partners at JFS and Richmond Jewish Foundation, together we have served 435 Jewish families and individuals in crisis over the past 7 years through the Richmond Jewish Care Line, providing mental health services, short-term financial assistance, and counseling to help them stabilize their lives.

We also create an inclusive community by supporting Friendship Circle, that enables people with disabilities develop friendships through meaningful social experiences at home and in community-wide activities. For several years we have also supported and participated in Dignity Grows, a national organization addressing period poverty, by providing free hygiene products in the Richmond area. Dozens of volunteers enthusiastically packed 3000+ bags which were distributed across Greater Richmond.

By the numbers:

$50,000 awarded to the Richmond Jewish Care Line to support Jewish individuals and families in crisis

8 Holocaust survivors in remote western Virginia receive groceries, transportation, and access to homecare

$28,000 in overnight camp scholarships

$50,000 to address food insecurity through **9** local agencies supporting over **1,000** Richmonders during the federal government shutdown

Jewish Leadership

Federation supports multiple initiatives designed to develop essential skills for those who commit to take on leadership roles within Jewish Richmond and the greater Richmond community. The reimagined Community Leadership Institute, in its second year, is open to all young professionals between the ages of 22-45. It explores the structure of Jewish Richmond, creates networking opportunities for young professionals, and provides elite professional development opportunities for participants.

Additionally, Federation supports several youth-oriented programs such as BBYO and Hillels, which offer leadership opportunities for teens and young adults as they develop into engaged community members. We could not succeed in our mission without hundreds of Jewish Richmonders both professionals and volunteers, who have taken on leadership roles at Federation and in our community at agencies, synagogues, schools, and more.

By the numbers:

15 graduates of Federation's Community Leadership Institute ready to build on their experience and strengthen Richmond's Jewish community.

42 community members attended philanthropic leadership workshops with Steve Markel and Jim Weinberg.

Cultural Exchange and Outreach

Federation builds bridges with secular and non-Jewish faith-based organizations and individuals. We know that only by working together can we improve the lives of all members of our community.

This year we co-partnered with Virginia Union University to launch the 1st VUU Interfaith Seder, bringing together over 200 members of the Jewish and African American communities to create mutual understanding and appreciation.

We annually contribute to holiday toy drives and seek out activities and conversations with community leaders to be interwoven into the daily lives of all Richmonders.

By the numbers:

200+ community members, Jewish and African American, attended the 1st Virginia Union University Interfaith Seder "Unity in Community"

181 holiday gifts wrapped for "Light of Love"

The Clergy and Citizens Against Racism group continued meeting to discuss common issues and challenges.

Board of Directors Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Josh Goldberg
President

Brian Greene
Vice President

Matt Lefkowitz
Secretary/Treasurer

Amy Nisenson
Immediate Past Pres.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rabbi Sherry Grinsteiner
Clergy Council

Amy Melnick-Scharf
Impact/Allocations Chair

Maya Eckstein
JCRC Chair

David Galpern
FRD Chair

Daniel Staffenberg
CEO

Board of Directors

Susie Adolf
Dan Brandeis, RJF President and CEO
Sylvia Farbstein
David Geller
Shelley Gouldin
Matt Grossman
Seth Kaplan
Susan Kornstein
Hedy Lapkin
Lisa Looney
Tatyana Manelis
Susan Meyers
Sam Revenson
Charley Scher
Adam Shor
Dan Siegel
Richard Thalhimer
Jim Weinberg

Professional Staff

Tal Bahar, Community Shlicha (emissary)
David Brackins, Regional Security Advisor
Sandy Davis, Chief of Staff
Melanie Fine, Director of Impact and Allocations
Kimberly Franklin, Business Operations and Finance Associate
Mary Gayle Guidon, Marketing/Special Projects
Kari Jolly, Director of Finance
Skip Kozakewicz, Senior Correspondent
Scott Leibowitz, Strategic Marketing
Kristen Mulberg, Marketing Associate
Lisa Plotkin, PJ Library Coordinator
Avi Remetz, Director of Philanthropy and Engagement (NextGen)
Dr. Samuel Richardson, Director, Jewish Community Relations Committee
Sara Rosenbaum, Chief Philanthropy Officer
Lindsey Rosenthal, Director of Philanthropy and Engagement (Women's Philanthropy)
Rebecca Spivey, Director of FRD Operations
Daniel Staffenberg, Chief Executive Officer

Federation Partner Organizations

The following list includes partners who receive funding and those we support in other ways including coordinated programming, federal grant support and promotion.

Aleph Bet Preschool
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
BBYO
Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives
Beth Sholom
Birthright Israel
Bon Secours Richmond Health System
Brody Jewish Center - University of Virginia Hillel
Carole and Marcus Weinstein Jewish Community Center
Chabad House at JMU
Chabad of Virginia
Congregation Beth Ahabah
Congregation Brith Achim Petersburg
Congregation Or Ami
Congregation Or Atid
Dignity Grows
Elmer Toth Food Pantry at Weinstein JCC
Emek Sholom Holocaust Memorial Cemetery
Ethiopian National Project (ENP)
FeedMore
Friendship Circle of Virginia
George Mason University Hillel
Hadassah Richmond
HaOgen (IDF reservists' family support services)
Henrico Community Food Bank
Hillel at Virginia Commonwealth University
Hillel at Washington & Lee
James Madison University Hillel
Jewish Agency for Israel
Jewish Educational Loan Fund (JELF)
Jewish Family Services of Richmond (JFS)
Jewish Life at VCU
Jewish Student Union/NCSY
Kehillah
Keneseth Beth Israel
Kibbutz Magal (security equipment)
Mazel Tov JCC – Zaporozhe, Ukraine
NFTY
One Happy Camper
Partnership2GETHER (P2G) – Hadera-Eiron Southeast Consortium US
PJ Library
Radford University Hillel
Randolph-Macon College Hillel
Richmond Coalition for Jewish Education (RCJE)
Richmond Jewish Foundation
Rudlin Torah Academy (RTA)
RVA Fridges
Sacred Heart Center
Safe Harbor
Secure Community Network (SCN)
SparkIL/Spark RVA
Temple Beth-El
The Market at 25th
Third Street Bethel AME Church
University of Mary Washington Hillel
University of Richmond Hillel
United Synagogue Youth- USY
Va'ad Hakashrut of Richmond
VCIC
Virginia Holocaust Museum
Virginia Tech Hillel
William & Mary Hillel
World ORT
Yeshiva of VA/ Shaarei Torah of Richmond
YMCA
YMCA Mobile Food Pantry
YWCA

Thank you to our corporate partners

Allianz

GreeneHurlocker

Hilton
RICHMOND HOTEL & SPA/SHORT PUMP

We gratefully acknowledge our Corporate Partners. Their generosity helps to underwrite the costs of our events, allowing us to maximize support for the Jewish community.

Jewish Community Federation of Richmond

Support our mission here.

Jewish Community
Federation of Richmond
www.jewishrichmond.org

P.O. Box 17128,
Richmond, VA 23226

5540 Falmouth Street, Suite 201,
Richmond, VA 23230