

SAFETY NET PROGRAMS



CHESED FUND

The Chesed Fund addresses the lifesaving needs of our most vulnerable community members. Outside of one's synagogue and family, it is the only Jewish community assistance mechanism that provides for both short-term and long-term chronic financial need.

The Chesed Fund provides support for those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in challenging financial circumstances that might never change, as well as those who need one-time emergency assistance during challenging times.

In 2023:

- Federation disbursed more than \$250,000 out of the Chesed Fund to help the most vulnerable in our community with direct financial assistance.
- We were able to assist 197 individuals (including 33 Holocaust survivors) in partnership with Jewish Family Services.
- 75% of those served were over the age of 60; the median age of those served was 72. About 80% of those served are living in Kansas; 20% in Missouri.
- The largest category of assistance—both in terms of the dollar amount and the number of disbursements—was housing security.

We are able to help care for and support older adults and other vulnerable populations thanks to the generosity of those who support both our Chesed Fund directly as well as our Annual Campaign (from which the fund receives an annual allocation).



Only 14% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator have received at least 6 consecutive years with 4-star evaluations.

KAVOD SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST EMERGENCY FUND

This fund is a partnership between KAVOD (an organization dedicated to serving Holocaust Survivors) and the Seed the Dream Foundation. These funds match dollars raised by Jewish Federations of North America and local Federations to provide individual Holocaust survivors with food, dental care, rent assistance, emergency home care, and other urgent services. By accessing these funds, Federation has enabled JFS to change the lives of Holocaust survivors, meeting increased needs as they age.



INDIGENT BURIAL

Death and burial are meaningful parts of Jewish life. In a given year, people in our community pass away without the resources left behind to provide for an appropriate Jewish burial.

Thanks to a partnership with Jewish Family Services (JFS), the Rabbinical Association, synagogues and cemeteries, Louis Memorial Chapel, and the Chevra Kadisha, Federation is able to provide a proper, dignified Jewish burial. There is little the Federation does that speaks more to our Jewish values.

Last year, a significant amount was spent covering the cost of proper Jewish burial for the people who otherwise would have been unable to pay for this.

YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS



PJ LIBRARY

PJ Library brings Jewish tradition and values to life. Last year, more than 800 children (ranging in age from birth to 12 years) from 605 households in Kansas City received monthly books at no charge. Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City covers the cost of the \$40 subscription for each child in the family. In 2023 the program saw 86 new enrollments.

PJ Library is an international, award-winning program created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to help families discover their own Jewish journey. PJ Library fosters children's curiosity about their Jewish heritage and helps families explore their Jewish identity together.

Locally, PJ Library of Kansas City hosts events and programs throughout the year design to bring together Jewish families from throughout our community. These include larger events like the Junk Food Seder and Hanukkah Glow Party, along with smaller neighborhood gatherings.



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SASONE

Sasone is the Kansas City Jewish community's program to support children with diverse needs, bringing them the joy of Jewish education.

Created in the mid-1990s, Sasone was built on the passion of Steve and Sandy Passer, who envisioned a community in which no child would be denied access to Jewish education because of a special need or disability.

Today the program directly supports 276 children with identified and unidentified special needs and impacts 1,900 children in educational settings throughout Kansas City. In 2023, Sasone hosted 7 trainings for more than 240 Jewish educators in the community.

The goals of Sasone are to:

- Provide Jewish preschools, religious schools, day schools, camps and other programs around the Greater Kansas City area with funding and resources to help support students with identified and unidentified special needs.
- Provide training and resources to Jewish community leaders, teachers, administrators, and peers to support inclusive learning environments where all students can grow, learn and thrive.
- Consult with schools, administrators and teachers to provide individualized program planning.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



LEADERSHIP TOMORROW

Founded in 2014, Leadership Tomorrow is Jewish Federation's paid summer internship that immerses exceptional Jewish college students in Kansas City's non-profit community.

Internships in top-rated organizations are designed to provide learning opportunities and position students for future success. Interns can work in fields such as fundraising, public affairs, strategic planning, project management and more.

Leadership Tomorrow offers students the opportunity to network with other Jewish college students, receive one-on-one mentoring from community leaders and professionals and gain real-world work experience.

To date, there have been 99 students involved and approximately 32,000 hours of work provided to the community across more than 44 different area nonprofits.



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