

SAFETY NET PROGRAMS



CHESED FUND

The Chesed Fund addresses the lifesaving needs of our most vulnerable community members, and is the only Jewish community assistance mechanism outside of one's synagogue and family 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 2022:

- Federation disbursed more than \$210,000 out of the Chesed Fund to help the most vulnerable in our community with direct financial assistance.
- We were able to assist 161 individuals (including 30 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 utility assistance. The next largest was housing (including covering or helping to cover rent/mortgage and transitional housing expenses).

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, personal protective equipment, dental care, rental 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 very significant in Jewish life. In a given year, five to ten 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.

A significant amount was spent covering the cost of proper Jewish burial for the 18 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. Every month in Kansas City, more than 900 children, from birth to 12 years, receive monthly books at no charge. Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City covers the cost of the \$40 subscription for each child in the family.

PJ Library is an international, award-winning program created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to help families discover their own Jewish journey; in 2022 the program saw 154 new enrollments. 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 the annual Junk Food Seder and Hanukkah Glow Party, along with monthly Shabbat get togethers.



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SASONE

Sasone is the Kansas City Jewish Community's response to children with special 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.

Today the program assists identified and unidentified special needs of 175 children directly and over 1500 educational settings. In 2022, Sasone hosted 4 trainings for 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 KC 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



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Community Leadership Forum brings together new Chairs or Chairs-Elect from across the Kansas City Jewish community to gain skills to lead their institutions as well as build relationships with other community leaders. In 2022, nine agency chairs/ chairs-elect participated in the second cohort of this 10-month leadership development program.



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LEADERSHIP TOMORROW

Leadership Tomorrow is a 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. In addition to their internship, interns receive professional development, are mentored by community leaders, and gain grant-writing experience. In 2022, there were 8 Jewish college students that worked in the community at numerous nonprofit organizations.

