

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2025 THROUGH MAY 2026

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER BINGHAMTON

MISSION STATEMENT

The Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton strives to create a caring, vibrant, enduring community locally, in Israel and worldwide. The Federation uses its assets and contributions to strengthen local Jewish institutions and organizations, to support Jewish people in need, and to educate the people in the Southern Tier about Jewish values and identity.

MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Community Members,

Profound challenges have been at the forefront of our lives for several years, and we, as leaders, cannot escape the weight of this moment. The task of keeping our community united, secure, and strong has not been easy, but we have come to understand that the Jewish people are resilient and compassionate.

In the last year, members of this community have mourned together and celebrated as one. We have gathered for meaningful programs that deepened our love for and understanding of Jewish values. We have also raised the essential dollars that will sustain our community for the future. We have done this even as we've watched war rage through the Middle East, through parts of Europe, and the unrest on the streets here in the United States.

To every community member who has shown up and given of their time and resources, we say “*yasher koach*.” Your generosity has created a light in the darkness and has given strength to others. This is what the Federation is all about and what it means to be Jewish.

Together, we are making the Greater Binghamton area a safer, more compassionate and more vibrant home for all of us. May we continue to be strong and be strengthened by each other.

Sincerely,

Shelley Hubal
Executive Director

Suzanne Holwitt
Board President

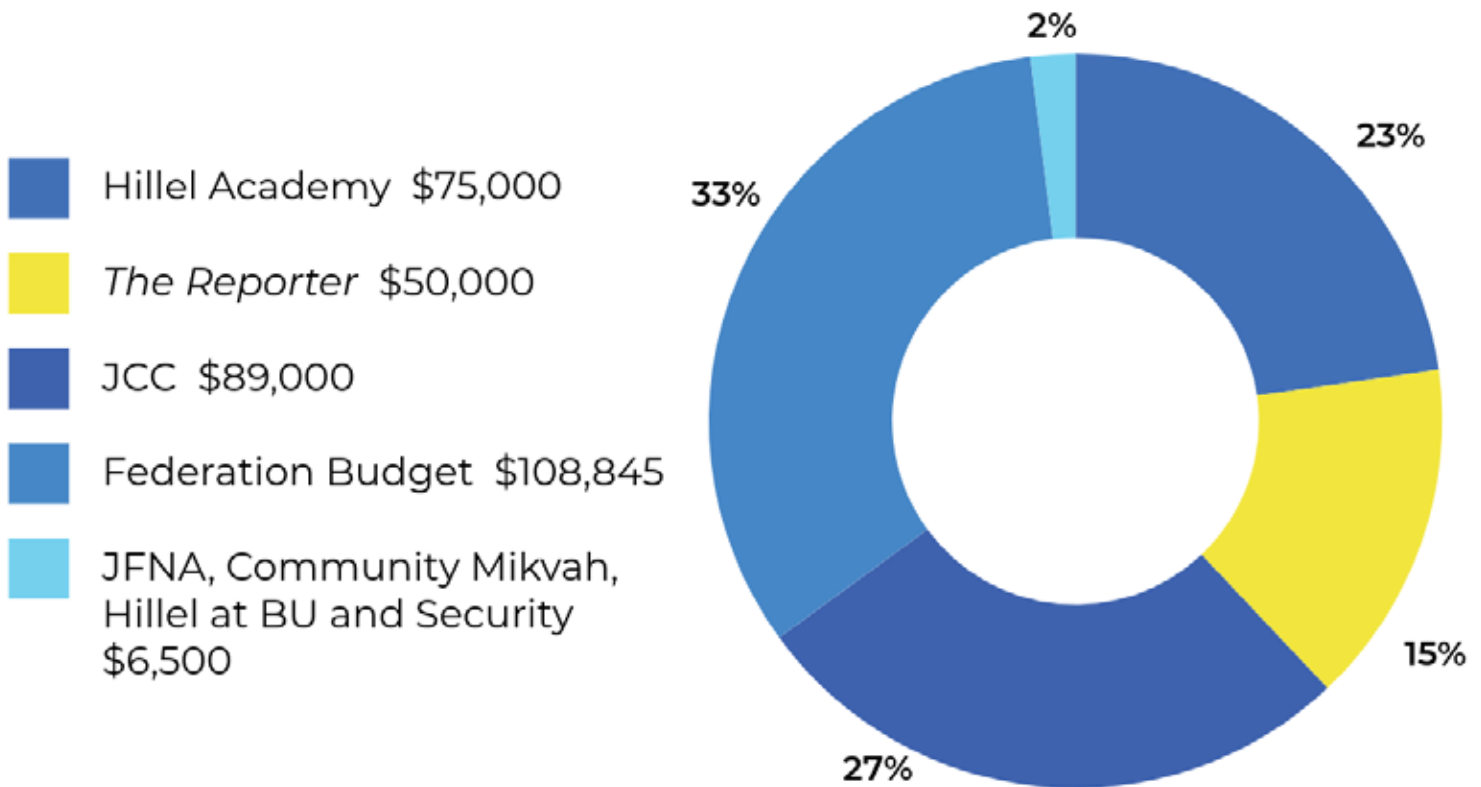
FEDERATION SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS AND FINANCIALS

2025 BUDGET AND ALLOCATIONS

The Federation Board of Directors allocated a total of \$329,345 for 2025.

The Federation budget included funding for Jewish Family Service, Film Fest and PJ Library. Funding for allocations comes from Annual Campaign dollars and the endowment.

Our resources are precious. We are grateful for the community's support.



YEAR IN REVIEW

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2025

JUNE 25, 2025 – Security meeting for local leadership

JULY 15, 2025 – Peace vigil for the Israeli hostages

AUGUST 17, 2025 – Annual Campaign kickoff featuring Tamir Goodman

AUGUST 27, 2025 – “Guardian” and “Stop the Bleed” training

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 – Holocaust memorial gathering

JANUARY - MAY 2026

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 – “The Tasters” – Film Fest event

FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – A conversation with the ADL

MARCH 15, 2026 – “Soul of a Nation” – Film Fest event

APRIL 16, 2026 – Community Yom Hashoah commemoration featuring Rabbi Dr. Lance Sussman

MAY 31, 2026 – “Sheep & Shmears” PJ Library farm tour

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

OCTOBER 5, 2025 – Community October 7th commemoration with Dr. Yehezkel Caine, president of Herzog Medical Center in Jerusalem

NOVEMBER 9, 2025 – Global Day of Jewish Learning

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 – “Running on Sand” – Film Fest event

DECEMBER 7, 2025 – Screening of four short films – Film Fest event

DECEMBER 14, 2025 – “Discover Hannukah” PJ Library event at the Discovery Center

DECEMBER 28, 2025 – “The Matchmaker” – Film Fest event

THE REPORTER

The Reporter keeps our area informed of Jewish activities, programming and important news (local, national and global). Our staff continues to find ways to remain solvent and relevant during the ongoing struggles of print media. The Reporter is received in almost 1,000 homes by people in 28 states. After going to a monthly print edition this year, *The Reporter* launched its “Reporter Notes” e-blast to help keep the community informed about upcoming events and up to date news. Our website, www.thereporter.org, is also updated

frequently to better serve the community. In 2025, *The Reporter* won a Syracuse Press Club award for an article by columnist Bill Simons and two American Jewish Press Club Simon Rockower Awards for Excellence in Jewish Journalism, both by columnist Bill Simons.

The Reporter staff wants to thank its loyal readers and generous supporters. We are dedicated to continuing the important work of keeping the Binghamton Jewish community connected and informed.

PJ LIBRARY

This year, with the support of the Federation budget and a special anonymous donor, PJ library sustained a subscriber list of 82 young children who received free Jewish-themed children’s books every month.

The “Discover Hanukkah” party at the Discovery Center was co-sponsored by Hillel Academy. More than 100 participants enjoyed sufganiyot,



special Hanukkah crafts and play time at the museum. PJ Library also sponsored a special program, “Sheep and Shmears,” featuring a farm tour and an opportunity for young families to shmooze at the Miller family farm.

PJ Library enables the next generation to connect with their Jewish roots in a meaningful way. That is a great investment in our future!



SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

LIVESECURE



As an affiliate of the Central-Western NY Region of the Secure Community Network, members of the Safety and Security Committee have direct communication with regional director Mark Henderson. With the rise in antisemitism and increase in global unrest, this relationship is integral to our community's day-to-day safety preparation. The committee chairs have also maintained relationships with the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, local police, state police and the Broome County Sheriff's Office.

CONSISTENT WITH ITS PURPOSE STATEMENT, THE SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING BETWEEN JUNE 2025 AND MAY 2026:

- Continued use of the text alert system to disseminate information to committee members and local Jewish leadership.
- Held meetings with local leadership to enhance security protocols.
- Distributed funds to support High Holiday security for local synagogues and campus Jewish organizations.
- Reported security updates and information to the Federation board.
- Three community-wide security training courses.
- \$8,300 raised for our community security fund.
- Site specific training for the JCC, Hillel Academy and Temple Concord.
- Acted as a liaison to connect local leadership with law enforcement

"The relationship Federation has built with Secure Community Network strengthens the community. With access to professional security assessments, trainings, consultations, and a professional grant writer, our leadership now have a place to turn to when there are safety and security concerns."

- Shelley Hubal

Funding for the Safety and Security initiative was formerly supported, in part, by the Jewish Federations of North America Live Secure grant. This grant is no longer available.

We are grateful to Adam Weitsman and family for their generous gift in support of community security.

Community members that want to contribute to our security efforts can contact the Federation office at 607-724-2332.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

you belong

“You Belong,” the theme for the 2026 Annual Campaign, reflects the impact of each donor, volunteer and community member. It is our mission to create a community where everyone is accepted and knows

they belong.

The Annual Campaign for 2025 raised \$282,950 from 299 donors. To date, the 2026 Campaign has raised \$240,494 from 273 donors.

A special thank you to all our generous donors and especially the David and Virginia

Eisenberg Foundation. We pledge to use our precious resources to make the Binghamton Jewish community safe, vibrant and welcoming for all.



“It was my great honor to chair the Federation Annual Campaign. This important work has given me a greater understanding of the local Jewish community. The compassion and generosity that I have witnessed is outstanding. I want to say *‘yasher koach’* to all of our donors. You make our community better.”

– Marilyn Bell, Campaign Chair

BINGHAMTON JEWISH FILM FEST

The 2025-2026 Film Fest season consisted of five events. Four events were virtual and one was an in-person screening. The Binghamton and Ithaca communities combined for more than 230 views in total.

We are grateful to the Victor & Esther Rozen Foundation and all our contributing members for their generous donations that helped to make the Film Fest a success.

A special thank you to the Film Fest Committee members: Shelley Hubal, Susan Hubal, Ben Kasper and Steve Lisman.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

I had the honor of becoming the director of Jewish Family Service in November 2024. At that time, I really did not understand the needs of our neighbors, or the incredible generosity of our Jewish community. In collaboration with many other community service providers, we have supported people who have no one left to turn to for help.

In the last year, we have been able to assist with NYSEG bills, food pantry referrals, grocery cards, gas cards, dental bills, rent payments and storage unit bills. Although we can't support everyone, we try to listen with compassion and problem solve for every person seeking support.

Our partnership with Jackie's Kitchen has enabled us to feed 11 families every week with free kosher food. Currently, JFS is seeking outside funding for a program that will pay for storage units for people that have lost their homes and are living in a shelter or a hotel.

Recently, a family in the "We Remember You" program was able (with our help) to move out of financial distress and, as a result, let us know that our support was no longer needed. We see this as a success and are grateful for all the donors that support this program.

Sincerely,

Merryl Wallach, JFS Director

JFS IMPACT JUNE 2025 – MAY 2026:

- \$9,780 to Jewish families in the "We Remember You" program
- \$3,974 miscellaneous emergency financial help
- \$4,277 rent or moving assistance
- \$1,400 grocery assistance
- 26 emotional support calls
- 90 well check calls
- 40 referrals to food pantries
- 20 referrals to NYSEG for funding support
- \$4,787 in assistance for NYSEG bills
- 12 referrals for housing and rent support
- 3 referrals for home care
- 24 referrals for mental health support
- 4 home visits
- 48 collaborations with other agencies



HIGHLIGHTS

82 Children
receiving PJ
Library Books



310 Donors
to the Annual
Campaign



\$9,780

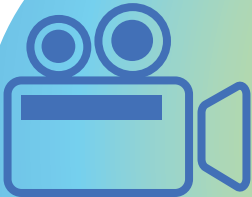
Distributed
to our "We
Remember You"
families



The Reporter
is delivered to
homes in
28 States



5
Film
Fest
Screenings



16 community-
wide sponsored
or co-sponsored
programs



\$14,438
Distributed
locally in
emergency relief
funds

