

Impact Report

2025-2026



Birmingham
Jewish Federation

BIRMINGHAM
JEWISH

Foundation



A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Every day, the Birmingham Jewish Federation and Birmingham Jewish Foundation are committed to creating flourishing Jewish communities here in Birmingham, in Israel, and around the world. That commitment guides every decision we make as we work together to be thoughtful stewards of the resources entrusted to us, investing where they will have the greatest impact.

This Impact Report highlights just a few of the ways your generosity is making a meaningful difference. Together with our agencies, synagogues, donors, volunteers, and community partners, we are strengthening community security, caring for those in need, investing in Jewish education and engagement, and responding to the challenges and opportunities facing Jewish life today.

None of this happens alone. Thank you for believing in our shared mission and for making this work possible. As one, we are building a strong Jewish future for generations to come.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Florina Newcomb".

Florina Newcomb

CEO, Birmingham Jewish Federation & Foundation



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheryl Kimerling".

Sheryl Kimerling

President, Birmingham Jewish Federation



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Nelson".

Aaron Nelson

President, Birmingham Jewish Foundation

This report shows the power of working **AsOne**

What you'll read here represents more than metrics. It tells the story of a community that shows up, gives generously, and builds boldly.

AsOne we strengthen Jewish life in Birmingham, support Israel and Jews around the world, respond to urgent needs, and invest in a safer, more connected, and more vibrant Jewish future.

Our Impact Areas

**Building a Vibrant
Jewish Future**

**Fostering a Welcoming
& Caring Community**

**Ensuring Safety,
Security & Advocacy**

**Connecting with Israel
& Jewish Peoplehood**

**Shaping a Meaningful
& Lasting Legacy**



Building a Vibrant Jewish Future

Through our **PJ Library initiative**, we carefully tailor programs for every stage of childhood, reaching children and families from **birth to 7th grade** through **Shalom Baby, Bubbie's STEM Kitchen, Shalom Chaverim**, and **Young Jewish Philanthropy**. This year we:

- Hosted more than **25 programs**
- Delivered **25 Shalom Baby Bags**
- Provided PJ Library books to **180 area families**, reaching **220 children**
- Through programming, we extended our reach to **160 families**, partnering with the LJCC, NEMJDS, Chabad of Alabama, Temple Beth El, and Temple Emanu-El



PJ Library books are provided by the Andrew David Abroms Fund in the Birmingham Jewish Foundation



“Connecting with other parents in the same stage of life, and having a community where our Jewish identity was celebrated, helped us feel at home and more deeply connected to both our faith and Birmingham’s Jewish community.”

– Julie Pizitz,
PJ Library parent



BBYO, the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement, engages local **8th through 12th graders** in meaningful programs and leadership opportunities. This year we:

- Engaged with **35 members** in 2 chapters
- Reached over an additional **100 participants** with programming open to all Jewish teens
- Locally hosted over **30 events**

The **BJF Young Leadership Program** strengthens our community's future by equipping emerging lay leaders with the knowledge, skills, and connections to lead.

- Since inception in 2022, **24 young leaders** have completed the program
- **16** currently serve in leadership roles throughout our community on boards and committees
- **4** represented Birmingham at Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) **General Assembly** in 2025
- We are welcoming our 3rd cohort in Fall 2026

 This program is made possible by the **NexGen Lift & Lead Fund**



"The Young Leadership Program not only brought me useful, relevant, and practical skills for strengthening my leadership abilities in the Jewish community, but also gave me a close network of Jewish peers whom I am thankful to now call friends."

-Abby McNeill,
Young Leadership Participant

Lights & Latkes, Birmingham's annual young adult Chanukah Party, brought together **50 young adults**. On top of mingling and networking, this evening included a delicious kosher dinner, raffle prizes, and an ugly Chanukah sweater contest.

This event is held in collaboration with Chabad of Alabama, Congregation Kneseth Israel, Temple Beth El, and Temple Emanu-El.



Fostering a Welcoming & Caring Community

You Belong in Birmingham (YBIB) facilitates professional, social, and spiritual interactions between young Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s by:

- Providing 1:1 support services to help young Jews build successful lives and connect more deeply with the larger Birmingham Jewish community
- Engaging **over 100 participants** through **20 events** since June 2025
- Welcoming **28 new community members**, including transplants and recent graduates

A signature YBIB program, **Jews & Brews**, regularly brings together **15-20 young adults** each month for an evening of connection.



“YBIB has given me the opportunity to bring together young Jewish adults who were looking for exactly this kind of connection. Getting my friends involved, growing the board, and connecting with people in the community has been one of the most fulfilling things I’ve ever done!”

-Mason Berger,
YBIB Advisory Board Member



The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV) is the nation's oldest active veterans' service organization. Birmingham's own JWV Post 608 has been serving the community since 1980 by:

- Fostering camaraderie and connection among Jewish veterans
- Preserving and sharing the stories of Jewish military service
- Participating in patriotic observances and memorial ceremonies
- Educating younger generations about the contributions and sacrifices of Jewish veterans
- Supporting veterans and promoting civic engagement within our community

Women's Philanthropy (WP) is dedicated to building a strong community through giving, leadership, and **tikkun olam**.

- **41** WP members have volunteered at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama, packing over **60,000 pounds of food** since March 2026
- Hosted the **4th Annual** Great Chanukah Read visiting **16 schools**, reading to **57 classes**, reaching over **1,000 students**



"Each of us has to do our part. Show up, do one little thing when you can. It makes a difference."

-Lisa Engel,
Women's Philanthropy Member
BJF Board Member

In February 2026, **22** Lions of Judah and Pomegranate Society members traveled to Havana, Cuba. Through this mission trip, they:

- Brought **16** duffel bags and suitcases filled with over-the-counter medical items to donate
- Contributed **\$5,500** to fund future dinners and provide transportation affected by the fuel shortage
- Hosted a Shabbat dinner for **65 people** from the Havana Jewish Community
- Hosted a Saturday night dinner and Havdalah for **6 young Cuban Jewish adults**



Ensuring Safety, Security, & Advocacy

Through the **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)**, we advocate for the security of our community at both local and national levels.

- **Inaugural State Advocacy Day:** 16 lay leaders and BJF staff members met with **12 elected officials** to educate and advocate for religious liberty and state-level security funding
- Joined more than **400 Jewish leaders** from **82 communities** across the country in Washington, D.C., for the “**Securing Our Communities**” advocacy fly-in, standing together to advocate for the safety and future of Jewish life in the U.S.
- **Resetting the Table**, training programs that equip our Jewish community to have better dialogue across differences, hosted **3 local practice sessions** and **2 workshops** with the national organization this year. So far, **60** people have participated between **2 cohorts**.

✦ **Resetting the Table made possible in part by the Joanie Plous Bayer Memorial Fund**

“Advocating allows us not only to strengthen our own Jewish community, but really to start relationships within the broader communities.”

-Sarah Schaeffer,
JCRC Chair



We are proud to manage the position of **SCN Regional Security Advisor**, held by **Damon Summers**, who:

- Provides security consultations to Jewish agencies in the community
- Meets with and briefs local law enforcement on security concerns of the Jewish community
- Coordinates security for events
- Responds to security and antisemitic incidents

Security Summit with Michael Masters

July 7, 2026

Nearly 100 Jewish professionals, lay leaders, law enforcement officials, and elected leaders from across Alabama gathered for the inaugural **State of Jewish Security: Alabama Leadership Summit**, reinforcing that protecting Jewish life is a shared responsibility built through collaboration and trusted partnerships.

Keynote speaker **Michael Masters**, National Director of the **Secure Community Network (SCN)**, addressed the evolving security landscape and highlighted the importance of proactive partnerships. Since partnering with SCN in 2022, the Birmingham Jewish Federation has strengthened intelligence sharing, security planning, training, and coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement, helping our community better prevent and respond to threats.

The summit also advanced advocacy efforts, including the push for a state-level **Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)** to supplement limited federal funding and expand security resources for Alabama's faith-based organizations. By bringing together community leaders and public safety partners, the summit strengthened relationships, elevated critical security priorities, and reinforced our collective commitment to ensuring Jewish life in Alabama remains safe and resilient.

“Security measures go a long way in making us feel safe being outwardly Jewish here in our community.”

–Samuel Friedman,
Day School Parent



Connecting with Israel & Jewish Peoplehood

As Jews, we believe in our sacred responsibility to care for one another. We extend a helping hand to those in need, both within our local communities and across the globe.

We connect with Jews in Israel through:

- **The Community Israel Committee**, made up of delegates from each Jewish organization, meets regularly to decide on and implement Israel programming throughout the year.
- Partnering with the LJCC on the **Annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration**
- Partnering with NEMJDS on the **Annual Yom HaZikaron Memorial Service**
- **October 7th Commemoration Program**



Yom Ha'atzmaut programs made possible in part by the Myers Morrison Fund

Our Overseas Partners

Wherever Jews are in harm's way or need help, the BJF and our overseas partners have a unique ability to act quickly in emergencies. Personnel and programs already on the ground in virtually every part of the world allow the BJF to enable humanitarian assistance when and where needed most.

The **Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)** is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization.



The **Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)** secures a vibrant Jewish future by serving as the official link between the Jewish state and global Jewish communities



World ORT is the world's largest Jewish education and vocational training non-governmental organization.



The **Israel World Jewry Bureau (IWJB)** is our overseas allocations process. This unique undertaking has enabled the BJJ to support smaller, yet critical agencies that do vital work for people in need, both in Israel and around the world.

In 2026, the BJJ allocated **\$189,200** to **19 Israeli organizations** that focus on vital humanitarian and social needs and crisis intervention programs.

We granted an additional **\$329,500** from funds remaining in our Israel Emergency Fund once we formally closed our local Israel Emergency Campaign. Every dollar was directed exactly as donors intended, to emergency-related work in Israel. All of the organizations we supported are trusted, JFNA-vetted partners working on medical response and trauma care to community resilience and recovery.

We are now turning our focus to the **Rebuild Israel Campaign**. Donors who wish to make designated gifts where 100% of proceeds go directly to Israel are still able to do so, with every dollar supporting long-term recovery and renewal.

These gifts will support the ongoing work of our **Israel World Jewry Bureau**, our Israeli sister city of Rosh Ha'Ayin, and the leadership of our Israel Community Committee. Birmingham will remain personally, strategically, and meaningfully engaged in this next chapter.

Funding Care for the Mitnick Ambulance

Through funds remaining in the Israel Emergency Campaign, we were able to endow maintenance and continued care for a **Magen David Adom (MDA)** ambulance previously donated by community members Ronne and Donald Hess.

MDA, Israel's national emergency service, operates 1,800 ambulances as part of a fleet of 2,650 first responder vehicles. Routine maintenance is critical for both vehicle longevity and first responder and patient safety.



Shaping a Meaningful & Lasting Legacy

The **Birmingham Jewish Foundation** is the supporting foundation of the Birmingham Jewish Federation. Together, we strengthen Jewish life, support Israel, care for those in need, and invest in a vibrant future for our community. By partnering with donors to develop personalized charitable plans, the Foundation helps achieve individual philanthropic and financial goals while creating enduring resources that address community needs and support future generations.

The Foundation helps individuals and families create lasting charitable legacies through endowment and other philanthropic funds. These gifts provide permanent support for the Federation, the Levite Jewish Community Center, the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School, Collat Jewish Family Services, the Alabama Holocaust Education Center and other Jewish and general community organizations and initiatives.

By the Numbers



\$51.2 Million

in assets under management



More than \$50,000

distributed to support Jewish camp scholarships and immersive Jewish travel experiences



\$10.8 Million

in donor advised funds



\$40.2 Million

in designated endowments



More than \$2.48 Million

distributed in grants, including:

\$907,609 to
Birmingham Jewish
Federation

\$219,819 to
N.E. Miles Jewish
Day School

\$13,944 to
Alabama Holocaust
Education Center

\$356,671 to
organizations serving
the broader community

\$247,473 to
Collat Jewish Family
Services

\$120,133 to
Levite Jewish
Community Center

\$614,539 to
synagogues and other
Jewish organizations



Investing in a Jewish Future: The Impact of Camp

At the Birmingham Jewish Foundation, we believe few investments have a greater return than Jewish camp. Research consistently shows that children who attend Jewish summer camp develop stronger Jewish identities, build lasting Jewish friendships, and are more likely to remain engaged in Jewish life as adults.

That belief is reflected in the Foundation's commitment to helping families access these transformative experiences through **camp scholarship funds** established by generous donors. By removing financial barriers, we are investing not only in individual children, but in the future strength of our entire community.

Few people understand that impact better than **Sheri and Jimmy Krell**. For Sheri and Jimmy, Jewish camp has been a family tradition across generations. Sheri attended Camp Judaea, Jimmy attended Ramah, and together they chose to send all three of their children to Jewish camp. Their experiences inspired them to establish the **Birmingham Camp Fund**, ensuring that more children attending Movement camps can experience the same sense of belonging, Jewish identity, and lifelong connection that camp provided for their family.

Today, **the Birmingham Camp Fund provides more than half of the Foundation's annual camp scholarships**. It is a powerful example of how one family's vision can strengthen an entire community and inspire others to create lasting legacies that will help shape the Jewish future for generations to come.



Federation by the Numbers



\$786,306

in Programming Expenses



\$432,000

in Partner Allocations



\$391,187

in Core Operating and
Infrastructure Expenses



\$311,500

in Israel & Overseas Allocations,
Grants, and Programs



\$214,000

in Community Security



\$200,000

in Community Grants

2026 Community Grants

This year, the Birmingham Jewish Federation and Foundation allocated **\$312,000** to support programs and organizations across the community.

JEWISH EDUCATION, IDENTITY, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N.E. Miles Jewish Day School:
\$110,000 for Hebrew education
through Ivrit Chayah

Bama Hillel:
\$17,000 for Shabbat dinners and
student programming

Auburn Hillel:
\$7,500 for campus programming

**Chabad of Alabama
(Camp Gan Israel):**
\$20,000 for summer camp

Southern Jewish Voices (LJCC):
\$6,000

**Shuk Market at Jewish Food &
Cultural Festival (LJCC)**
\$3,000

Birmingham Jewish Foundation:
\$10,000 for 2nd and 3rd year
overnight camp incentives

COMMUNITY SAFETY & SECURITY

Alabama Holocaust Education Center:
\$25,000 for security personnel and
planning

Levite Jewish Community Center:
\$70,000 for enhanced campus safety

Knesseth Israel:
\$5,000 for security support

CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NEED

Jewish Children's Regional Services:
\$10,000 for need-based scholarships

Collat Jewish Family Services:
\$10,000 for handicap-accessible
transportation matching funds

CJFS Senior Solutions:
\$18,500 for senior services



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ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TODAY**

www.bjf.org

www.birminghamjewishfoundation.org

