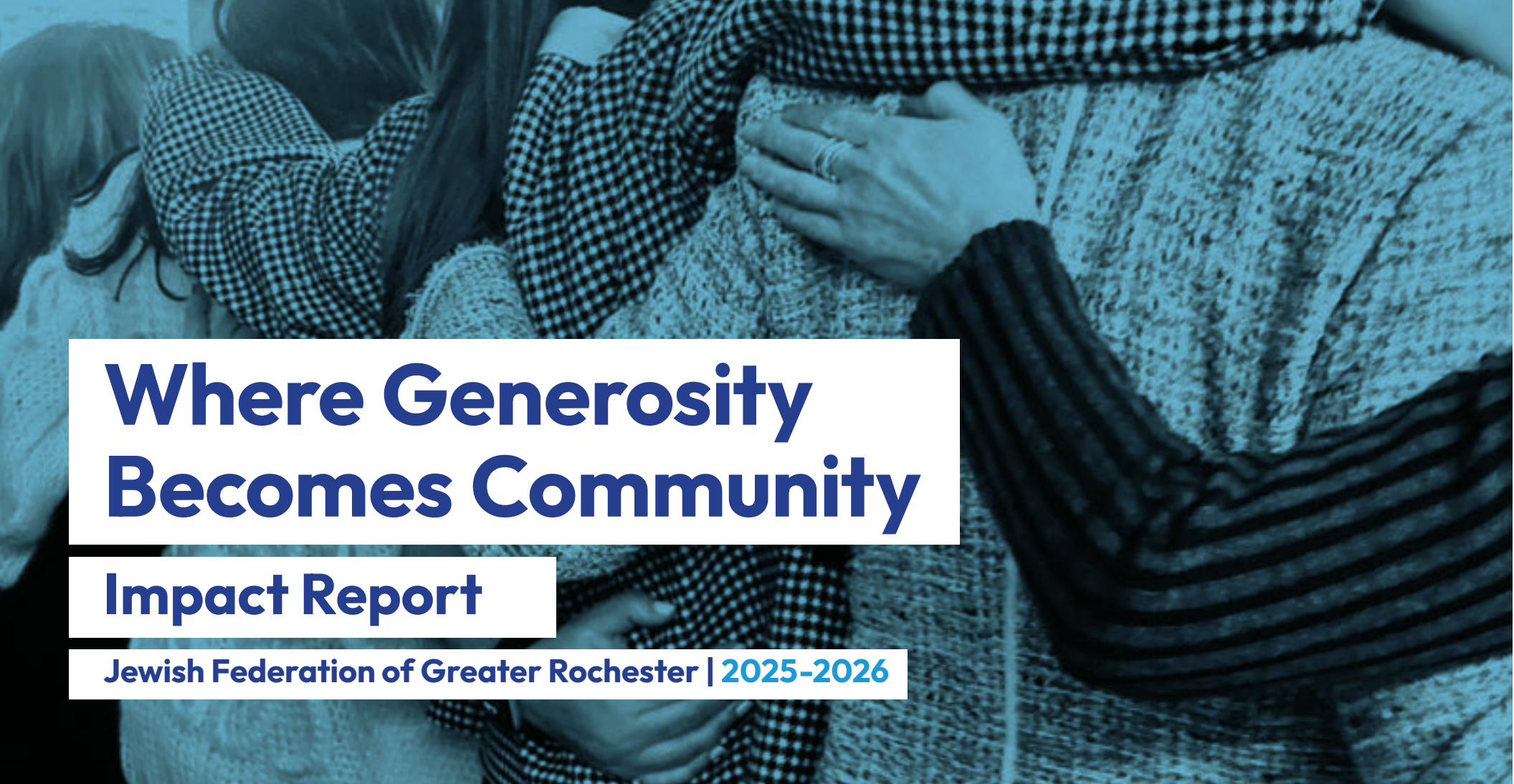




Where Generosity Becomes Community

Impact Report

Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester | 2025-2026



Jewish Federation[®]
of Greater Rochester



Stories of Impact and Resilience

In recent years, the Rochester Jewish community has invested in connection across generations, faiths, and continents. These four stories show how that investment is making a difference in real people's lives.



Where Friendship Across Distance Becomes Peoplehood

A summer program that brings Israeli teens from our partner city Modi'in to Camp Seneca Lake to live, learn, and build lasting friendships alongside Rochester Jewish youth.

Israeli and Rochester teens built relationships, sharing Shabbat dinners, songs, and stories that transformed abstract connections to Israel into real, personal ties.



Choosing Peace Through Listening

An interfaith cooking and conversation program through our Levine Center to End Hate that brings people of different faiths and cultures together.

Jewish and Ahmadiyya Muslim men cooked roti together at a mosque, then shared a meal and meaningful conversation about faith, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and common ground.

Strong Year of Impact

14+
Partnerships

2,300+
K-12 Students Reached

3,000
College Students Supported

50+
JCC Programs Funded

300+
Holocaust Survivors Nurtured



JAY BIRNBAUM LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Finding Your Voice in Jewish Community

Is a cohort-based program that equips emerging Jewish leaders in Rochester with the knowledge, relationships, and confidence to lead in Jewish communal life.

Attorney Jen Aronson found her pathway into Jewish communal leadership and brought that experience back to the legal community, creating space for Jewish visibility where it had never existed.

A community that chooses connection

In 2025-2026, the Rochester Jewish community made clear what we believe: in times of challenge, we grow closer. Dialogue defeats division. Young people claim leadership. We remember difficult history, and it makes us braver.

The Federation doesn't make these transformations happen alone. We create the conditions for them: the programs, the partnerships, the safe spaces, the resources. But the real work happens when people show up. When they listen, learn, create, and connect. When they stand up for what's right.

Scale of Your Impact

\$4.3M

Annual Campaign Raised

\$227K+

Total Scholarships

\$300K+

In Security Support

\$4M

Foundation Distributions

Your support is what writes these stories.



ZIKARON

From Knowledge to Courage: A Teen's Journey

A Holocaust education program for eighth- and ninth-graders that culminates in a trip to Washington, D.C., including a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Eighth-grader Ethan Rittenberg joined the program and came home changed: more proud in his Jewish identity and more willing to speak up when antisemitic remarks surface.



Where We Invest Locally

Through these annual resources, the Federation supports the organizations that are the heartbeat of our community:

Education & Leadership:

- Hillel at SUNY Geneseo, Nazareth, University of Rochester, and Rochester Institute of Technology
- Hillel Community Day School
- Jay Birnbaum Leadership Development Program
- PJ Library (over 736 books distributed for free to families and schools)

Care & Community:

- Jewish Family Services
- Jewish Home
- Louis S. Wolk JCC
- Local Israel initiatives and grants

Safety & Education:

- Levine Center to End Hate
- Campus Hillel programs
- Security enhancements through ROCStrong

International Partners: Global Reach

Our community support enables Jewish organizations in Israel and worldwide to provide essential support for Jews in need:

- The Jewish Agency for Israel
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
- World ORT
- iRep (Israel Relief & Emergency Fund)

Through these partnerships, Rochester's generosity reaches Jews facing poverty, displacement, emergency, and persecution around the world.

We work to build a strong Jewish future in Rochester, Israel, and worldwide through philanthropy, engagement, education, and advocacy.

BY THE NUMBERS: HOW YOUR GENEROSITY BECOMES STORIES OF IMPACT

The Federation's work reaches far because of the generosity of our community. In 2025-2026, we stewarded meaningful resources toward lasting impact.

Total Community Investment 2025-2026:

\$5,107,970

Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs

\$3,800,020 board approved

Israel Emergency Campaign

\$135,000

Grants to Community Organizations

\$605,000

ROCStrong Security Initiative

\$436,000 from over 291 donors

Partnerships & Sponsorships

\$104,350 from corporations

Other Community Support

\$27,600



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