



Memphis Jewish Federation: FED 101

What is a "Jewish Federation"?

- Jewish Federations are umbrella organizations committed to building and strengthening Jewish communities locally, in Israel, and across the globe. Through fundraising and granting to community partners, as well as their own direct service programs, Federations are uniquely poised to make an impact.
- As the central agencies for their local Jewish communities, Federations convene the community for leadership development, strategic planning, and communal celebrations and commemorations.
- Federations establish relationships with regional leadership, including elected officials and law enforcement agencies. When the need arises, they reach out and draw on those relationships to form coalitions that address pressing needs.
- Each Federation is part of JFNA, a network of 150 Federations in communities throughout North America. Through a partnership with JFNA, Federations allocate a percentage of funds from their Annual Community Campaigns to agencies that support Federation priorities in Israel and overseas: Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and World ORT.
- The impact of Federations' gifts to Israel and overseas agencies includes meeting basic needs, such as providing food packages, medical care, and emergency assistance, as well as supporting Aliyah to Israel and reaching out in a myriad of other ways, such as supporting at-risk communities and strengthening Jewish identity and engagement.



What does Memphis Jewish Federation do?

- Care for vulnerable community members through our support of Wendy and Avron Fogelman Jewish Family Service (FJFS), Plough Towers, and Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab;
- Operate a Senior Services Collaborative, with broad agency and community member representation, to address the needs of the Memphis Jewish senior population;
- Support Jewish education in Memphis through grants to our Jewish day schools, religious schools, and youth groups;
- Connect Memphis Jewish community members to Israel through trips and missions, grants to teens and young adults for Israel programs, local Israel-themed programming, *shlichim* (emissaries from Israel), and our people-to-people partnership with the city of Shoham in Israel;
- Engage young families through PJ Library, a monthly gift of high-quality Jewish-themed children's books and music, and ongoing programming for PJ Library families;
- Offer needs-based scholarships for Jewish summer camps and Israel experiences;
- Foster relationships with and outreach to the broader Memphis community and form coalitions to address issues of mutual concern;
- Sponsor and participate in programs that unite the community in times of celebration, crisis, and commemoration;
- Educate, advocate and mobilize the Memphis Jewish community on behalf of contemporary issues facing Jews locally, nationally, and globally, such as anti-Semitism;
- Facilitate Holocaust education and awareness through an annual Holocaust commemoration program, Holocaust art and essay competition for middle and high school students, and organized speaking opportunities for local Holocaust survivors;
- Cultivate leaders and develop new leadership within the Memphis Jewish community through our Kay Usdan Saslawsky Institute for Ethical Leadership, in memory of a beloved lay leader and past president of the Jewish Foundation of Memphis;
- Create a "home away from home" for Jewish college students on multiple campuses through Hillels of Memphis engagement and programming;
- Nourish seniors with daily hot kosher meals at the Memphis Jewish Community Center and Plough Towers and frozen kosher meals delivered to the homebound;
- Welcome newcomers to the Memphis Jewish community with personal outreach, annual brunch, and gift bags of local goodies and helpful resources;



- Plan programming throughout the year to engage young adults;
- Ensure the safety of community members through the efforts of our Regional Security Director, who works with local partners in law enforcement;
- Encourage the development of new and innovative programs to fulfill unmet community needs through our Fedovation Innovation Grants;
- Raise funds to support communities facing natural disasters, e.g., wildfires in California, Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Superstorm Sandy in New York.

How do we do it?

- Unrestricted funding from Memphis Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign helps us accomplish all these objectives and more. We count on a dedicated team of volunteers to help us raise funds to ensure that we can continue to provide these critical services.
- In order to determine the most efficient and impactful use of funds, we perform needs assessments and focus groups to survey the community and gather important information about demographics, community members' knowledge of and access to programs and services, and unmet needs.
- Funds are granted to our local partner agencies by Federation's Grants Committee, comprised of a diverse group of individuals chosen for their passion and commitment to work on behalf of the entire community. The committee also manages Fedovation Innovation Grants, which may be granted to any local agency or an individual with a fiscal sponsor agency.
- This year all new gifts and increases to Health and Human Services will be matched 50%. This match goes until December 31, 2020.
- Recognition societies show our appreciation to significant donors in various categories: Lion of Judah for women's philanthropy; the Ben-Gurion Society for young professionals; Maimonides for healthcare professionals; and Cardozo for legal professionals.