

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



 Jewish Federation
ORANGE COUNTY
2025 IMPACT REPORT

Our Purpose

Jewish Federation of Orange County exists to amplify Jewish life and sustain the Jewish future in Orange County, Israel, and globally.



A Message From Our Leadership

Dear Friends,

For 60 years, Jewish Federation of Orange County has stood at the heart of our community, convening, responding, and strengthening Jewish life in moments of celebration and in moments of challenge. As we reflect on 2025, we are reminded that the strength of our community has never rested in any single program, but in our shared commitment to one another.

2025 called upon that commitment in profound ways.

We invested in the next generation through programs that nurture Jewish identity from early childhood through emerging leadership. We supported individuals and families facing hardship with dignity and care. We strengthened inclusive spaces where every member of our community can belong. And at a time of rising antisemitism, we advanced a coordinated and strategic response, expanding education, launching SecureOC with our community's first Community Security Director, and equipping institutions and leaders to respond with clarity and confidence.

We also stood in unwavering solidarity with Israel. Through collective action and trusted partnerships, our community's generosity translated into lifesaving aid, trauma care, and long-term recovery support for Israelis facing extraordinary challenges.

Each of these efforts reflects something deeper than activity or accomplishment. They reflect responsibility to protect what is precious, to care for those in need, and to ensure that Jewish life in Orange County remains vibrant and resilient for generations to come.

As we mark six decades of impact, we do so with gratitude. Gratitude for the people who lead through Women's Philanthropy, Solomon Society, NextGen, and the Rose Council. Gratitude for the donors, partners, volunteers, educators, and clergy who make this work possible. And gratitude for a community that continues to show up, not only when it is easy, but when it matters most.

Together, we carry forward a legacy built over 60 years — and we do so with confidence in the future we are building, side by side.

With appreciation,

Patty Seyburn
Board Chair

Stephanie Epstein
*Chief Operating Officer &
Acting Chief Executive Officer*

Our Programs

Jewish Federation of Orange County convenes, engages, and leads the Orange County Jewish community and its partners, leveraging its resources to enhance and sustain Jewish life, assists people in need, mobilizes on issues of concern to the local Jewish community, and strengthens the bond with Israel and Jewish people globally.





Strengthening Jewish Identity

Jewish identity is not formed in a single moment — it is nurtured over time through learning, relationships, and meaningful experiences. From early childhood through emerging leadership, Jewish Federation of Orange County invests in programs that help individuals and families connect to tradition, community, and one another. By expanding access, deepening engagement, and cultivating belonging, we fulfill our shared responsibility to ensure that Jewish life in Orange County remains vibrant, resilient, and rooted in values for generations to come.

PJ Library

PJ Library remains a powerful entry point into Jewish life for families across Orange County. By delivering free, high-quality Jewish children’s books each month, the program helps parents and caregivers introduce Jewish values, traditions, and stories in ways that feel accessible, joyful, and deeply personal. For many families, PJ Library is their first step toward deeper engagement with Jewish life.

In 2025, **1,520 children received over 20,000 PJ Library books**, sparking conversations around Shabbat and holidays while nurturing pride and curiosity. Through storytelling, children see both windows into new worlds and mirrors of their own Jewish identity.

PJ Library also strengthens the broader community. Federation delivered **125 new baby bags** in partnership with synagogues, rabbis, camps, and Jewish organizations, welcoming families at the very beginning of their journey. Families gathered at **17 PJ Library events**, including the Little Latkes Hanukkah Party at Pretend City, where 122 attendees — including 26 first-time PJ Library families — celebrated together.

PJ Library has helped our family bring Jewish traditions into our home in ways that feel joyful and natural. It’s become part of how we connect to our community.

— PJ Library Parent



Ongoing engagement deepened relationships across neighborhoods. Through **34 OC Parent Connector meetups**, one-on-one outreach, and “Get Together” grants, 131 families participated in local havurot, Shabbat gatherings, and community meetups that foster lasting connection.

PJ Library reflects our shared responsibility to nurture Jewish identity from the earliest years, laying the foundation for a vibrant Jewish future in Orange County.

Passport to Jewish Life

Jewish life endures when every child has the opportunity to participate, to learn, and to belong. Passport to Jewish Life ensures that financial barriers do not stand in the way of meaningful Jewish experiences for children and teens across Orange County. Through need-based grants, Federation helps young people fully engage in formative moments that shape identity, confidence, and lifelong connection.

Since its launch in 2007, Passport to Jewish Life has provided more than \$1.8 million in grants, opening doors for **3,351 local children**. Each grant represents more than

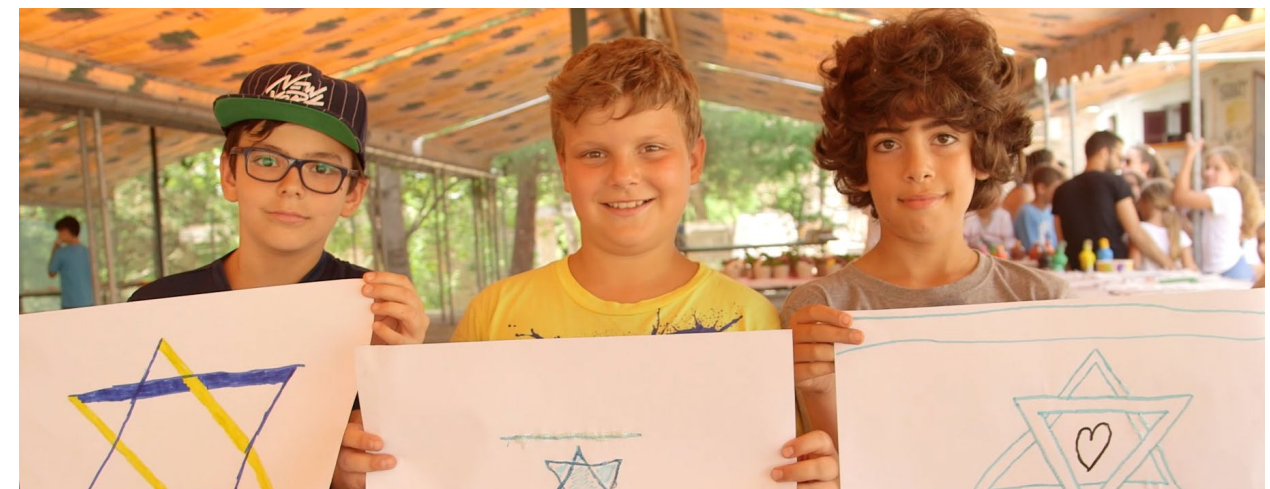
financial assistance — it reflects our shared responsibility to make Jewish opportunity accessible to all.

In 2025, **108 local children** participated in Jewish summer camps, youth retreats, leadership programs, and educational journeys to Israel because of Passport to Jewish Life. These immersive experiences strengthen Jewish identity, build resilience, and foster lasting friendships rooted in community and tradition.

By investing in the next generation, Federation is not only removing barriers today but helping to shape a vibrant Jewish future for Orange County.

Because of Passport to Jewish Life, I was able to go to camp and connect with other teens who share my values. It changed how I see myself as part of the Jewish community.

— Passport to Jewish Life Participant



Teen Engagement & Wellness Initiative

Adolescence is a formative and often complex stage of identity development. The Teen Engagement & Wellness Initiative supports Jewish teens across Orange County by creating spaces for connection, resilience, and leadership during a pivotal time in their lives.

In 2025, **1,678 teens** participated in programs conducted by our partner organizations: Camp B'nai Ruach, CTeen OC, OC Hillel's JUMP, Jewish Educators Association Orange County's Teen Mental Wellness Retreat, and Merage JCC's JTeen. Programming focused on strengthening Jewish identity, navigating difficult conversations, building emotional resilience, and fostering healthy community relationships.

Through partnerships with local organizations and trained facilitators, teens gained tools to lead with confidence and clarity, both within Jewish spaces and beyond. The initiative also provided wellness-centered support, helping teens process the broader social climate while maintaining a strong sense of belonging.

The Teen Engagement & Wellness Initiative reflects our shared responsibility to nurture the next generation not only as future leaders, but as whole individuals. By investing in teens today, Federation is strengthening the resilience, confidence, and connection that will sustain Jewish life for years to come.



NextGen

The future of Jewish life depends on engaging the next generation with purpose and connection. NextGen brings together Jewish adults in their 20s, 30s, and early 40s to build relationships, explore identity, and develop pathways to leadership within the Orange County Jewish community.

In 2025, NextGen engaged **304 participants** across **24 events**, creating meaningful opportunities for connection through social gatherings, volunteer service, and educational programming. These experiences foster belonging, strengthen peer networks, and inspire emerging leaders to take an active role in sustaining Jewish life locally and globally.

Through hands-on service projects, leadership development opportunities, and philanthropic engagement, NextGen serves as a bridge into deeper Federation involvement, helping cultivate the next generation of communal leaders.

NextGen reflects our shared responsibility to nurture connection at every stage of life. By investing in young adults today, Federation is strengthening the leadership pipeline and ensuring that Jewish life in Orange County remains vibrant and dynamic for years to come.

NextGen helped me find my place in the Jewish community. It turned connections into friendships and involvement into purpose.

— NextGen Participant



Strong communities depend on thoughtful, capable leaders. Launched last August, the Leadership Initiative brings together emerging leaders from across Orange County's congregations and Jewish organizations, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and support to help guide Jewish life for years to come.

The inaugural cohort includes **19 participants** committed to strengthening Jewish life in our region. Through a full-day Opening Retreat, 10 educational workshops, leadership salons, and personalized coaching, participants engage deeply with topics such as board governance, financial management, and the broader Orange County Jewish organizational ecosystem. Learning sessions have featured respected community and national leaders, including executive coaches, rabbis, and past Federation leadership, ensuring participants are grounded in both practical expertise and Jewish values.



The program is already producing tangible results: three cohort members have already stepped into leadership positions within the Orange County Jewish community organizations, marking an immediate investment in the future leadership of our community.

The Leadership Initiative reflects our shared responsibility to cultivate leaders who will serve with clarity, confidence, and purpose. By investing in leadership development today, Federation is strengthening the resilience, continuity, and vitality of Jewish life in Orange County for generations to come.

This program challenged me to think bigger about my role in shaping Jewish life in Orange County.

— Leadership Initiative Participant



During a time of grief, Lifelines eased a burden we didn't know how we would carry. That support meant everything to our family.

— Lifelines Recipient



Community Support and Social Services

A strong community is measured not only by its celebrations, but by how it responds in moments of vulnerability. Jewish Federation of Orange County's Community Support and Social Services programs provide a vital safety net for individuals and families facing hardship, aging with increased needs, or seeking inclusive spaces for belonging. Through compassionate care, essential services, and strategic partnerships, Federation fulfills our shared responsibility to ensure that every member of our community can live with dignity, security, and connection.

Lifelines Social Services

When members of our community face financial hardship, medical challenges, or unexpected loss, they need to know that support is available — reliably, discreetly, and with dignity. Lifelines Social Services ensures that individuals and families in Orange County can turn to Federation during moments of vulnerability.

In 2025, Lifelines provided financial assistance and referrals in dozens of cases, responding to a growing number of requests for burial assistance as well as emergency support and counseling resources. These services offer stability during some of life's most difficult moments, ensuring that no family must navigate hardship alone.

Much of this work happens quietly, but its impact is deeply felt. By maintaining this essential safety net, Federation fulfills our shared responsibility to care for one another, not only in times of celebration, but in moments of profound need.



People with Disabilities Program

A vibrant Jewish community is one in which every individual is welcomed, valued, and able to participate fully. Jewish Federation of Orange County's People with Disabilities Program advances inclusion by supporting initiatives that foster independence, dignity, and meaningful engagement in Jewish life.

Through programs such as Jeremiah Society, Mandel House, and the Horwitz Family House, Federation helps create supportive environments where individuals with disabilities can build life skills, form lasting friendships, and participate actively in community life. These initiatives provide structured programming, residential support, and social opportunities that promote both personal growth and belonging.

Inclusion is not an add-on to Jewish life — it is fundamental to it. By investing in accessible spaces and inclusive experiences, Federation fulfills our shared responsibility to ensure that every member of our community can access Jewish connection, contribute their unique gifts, and live with dignity.



Violins of Hope: Honoring Resilience Through Music

In May and June 2025, the Albert & Rhoda Weissman OC Jewish Arts Fund of Jewish Federation proudly sponsored Violins of Hope presented by Philharmonic Society of Orange County, a moving series of performances and educational programs featuring restored violins once owned by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. The initiative brought together survivors, students, and community members to experience music not only as art, but as testimony.

Holocaust survivors were invited to participate in dedicated programming, including special gatherings that honored their stories and resilience. For many, the music evoked memory, survival, and continuity, transforming instruments once silenced by history into living expressions of hope.

Violins of Hope exemplified Federation's commitment to caring for survivors not only through essential services but also through meaningful cultural experiences that affirm dignity, legacy, and belonging. By bringing generations together through music, the program reinforced a powerful truth: remembrance is not passive — it is a shared responsibility.



The music brought back memories — some painful, some beautiful. But most of all, it reminded me that our stories are still being heard.

— Holocaust Survivor

Holocaust Survivor Program

Caring for Holocaust survivors is one of our community's most sacred responsibilities. Through Jewish Federation of Orange County's Holocaust Survivor Program, in partnership with Jewish Family Service of San Diego, we provide comprehensive, trauma-informed support to survivors living in Orange County — helping ensure they can age with dignity, security, and connection.

In 2025, **145 Holocaust survivors** received direct assistance, including 10 new survivors who joined the program this year. We also honored the memory of 16 survivors who passed away, each life a testament to resilience and strength.

Federation's Holocaust Survivor Program delivered more than **83,000 hours of care**, including homecare, food vouchers, dental care, medications, medical equipment, prepared meals, medical and dental copayments, socialization with transportation, and funeral expenses. These services provide stability and peace of mind, allowing survivors to live safely and with dignity in their own homes.

Beyond essential care, survivors experienced moments of joy, remembrance, and community through holiday gift bags, birthday recognitions, a Rosh Hashanah Café Europa luncheon, and special cultural programming. With fewer survivors among us each year, our responsibility to provide care, comfort, and connection becomes even more urgent. Through this program, Federation honors their lives not only in memory, but in action.

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



Combating Antisemitism

In an era of rising antisemitism and growing polarization, vigilance, education, and coordination are essential. Jewish Federation of Orange County addresses antisemitism with strategy and purpose, strengthening institutions, equipping leaders, and fostering understanding across our region.

Through initiatives that expand education, build partnerships, and enhance community security, Federation works to ensure that Jewish life remains visible, proud, and protected. This work is proactive and sustained, grounded in the belief that confronting hate requires preparation and collaboration.

Combating antisemitism is not the responsibility of any one program. It is a shared responsibility, one that calls on our community and partners to stand and work collectively.



Rose Project

The Rose Project serves as Jewish Federation of Orange County's initiative to combat antisemitism through education, partnership, advocacy, and coordinated response.

Rose Project convenes Jewish organizations, civic leaders, educators, and community partners to strengthen awareness, deepen understanding, and ensure that antisemitism is addressed with clarity and resolve. Through policy engagement, cross-sector collaboration, and proactive relationship-building, the initiative works to create safer and more informed environments across Orange County.

In 2025, Rose Project continued to expand its educator engagement efforts and strengthen partnerships across institutions that influence public life. By equipping leaders with resources, fostering informed dialogue, and supporting coordinated responses to incidents, Rose Project advances a measured and united approach to confronting hate.

Combating antisemitism is not the responsibility of any one organization — it is a shared obligation. Through the Rose Project, Federation helps ensure that our community remains prepared, connected, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges.



When we present, you can see understanding shift in the room. It reminds me that education really does make a difference.

— Student to Student Ambassador

further strengthened the Jewish leadership pipeline, connecting high school ambassadors with college mentors. Student to Student also elevated educators by launching the Educator Upstander Award, sending a local teacher to the Classroom Without Borders Poland Seminar, an experience that inspired expanded Holocaust education engagement.

Student to Student reflects our shared responsibility to stand proud, visible, and informed. By empowering teens to educate their peers, Federation is building resilience in our schools and investing in the next generation of Jewish leadership.



Student to Student

Education remains one of the most powerful tools to combat antisemitism and build understanding. Through Rose Project’s Student to Student program, Jewish teens serve as ambassadors in classrooms across Orange County, sharing their lived experiences, Jewish identity, and personal stories to foster dialogue and dismantle harmful stereotypes.

In 2025, Student to Student teen ambassadors reached more than **6,500 students and teachers** through **152 presentations at 35 schools**, including 11 new partner schools and organizations.

The ambassador cohort expanded to **75 teen leaders**, strengthening the pipeline of young Jewish leaders prepared to speak with clarity and confidence.

The program deepened its impact through leadership workshops with OpenDor Media, equipping teens to navigate difficult conversations and respond thoughtfully to antisemitic rhetoric. A new partnership with OC Hillel



SecureOC

Security is foundational to a thriving Jewish community. In the fall of 2025, Jewish Federation of Orange County launched SecureOC, a countywide security initiative designed to serve more than 60 Jewish community organizations and congregations. The launch included the hiring of our community’s first Community Security Director, establishing dedicated leadership to coordinate safety efforts across Orange County.

SecureOC strengthens institutional readiness through security assessments, training programs, threat awareness briefings, and close coordination with law enforcement partners. By centralizing expertise and fostering collaboration, the initiative ensures that synagogues, schools, and Jewish organizations are equipped with consistent protocols, shared intelligence, and best practices to address evolving risks.

This work is proactive, strategic, and ongoing. SecureOC reflects our shared responsibility to protect the people, spaces, and experiences that sustain Jewish life. By investing in preparedness and coordination today, Federation is helping ensure that Jewish life in Orange County remains both welcoming and secure for years to come.

Our Impact in Israel

The bond between Orange County and Israel is enduring, strengthened in moments of joy and tested in times of crisis. In response to the ongoing war in Israel, Jewish Federation of Orange County mobilized quickly, joining the coordinated emergency effort of Jewish Federations across North America to deliver immediate relief and long-term recovery support.

Through collective action and trusted partnerships on the ground, our community's generosity translated into lifesaving aid, trauma care, medical readiness, and resilience programming for Israelis facing unprecedented challenges.

Support Focus Areas

- Emergency response and essential supplies
- Care for vulnerable populations
- Trauma and mental health services
- Hospital and medical infrastructure
- Community recovery and economic stabilization
- Operation Rising Lion

We want every Israeli to know that the North American Jewish community has their backs, and will continue to step up in meaningful ways, whether that means supporting hospitals, upgrading conditions in public bomb shelters, or helping evacuees and victims of terror.

— JFNA

Operation Rising Lion: Turning Solidarity into Action

When war erupted in Israel, the Jewish Federation system responded immediately. Through Operation Rising Lion, funds were deployed rapidly to address urgent needs, from lifesaving emergency supplies to trauma-informed mental health support and hospital readiness.



Jewish Federation of Orange County contributed \$180,000 to this effort, ensuring that our local community played a direct role in strengthening Israel's response and recovery.

Through trusted partners including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, The Jewish Agency for Israel, and frontline medical institutions, aid reached families facing displacement, communities impacted by missile attacks, and vulnerable populations requiring ongoing care.

Operation Rising Lion demonstrates that solidarity is not symbolic — it is operational. It reflects our shared responsibility to stand with Israel not only in words, but through sustained, coordinated action.

Our Partners in Israel

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

The Jewish Agency for Israel

Access Israel

ALEH

Latet

Leket Israel

Pitchon Lev

Israel Trauma Coalition

Mashabim (CSPC)

ELEM

Sahar

Israel Volunteering Council

Yedidim

Lev Echad

Shinua Hevrat

Or Movement

Israel Association of Community Centers (IACC)

Soroka Medical Center

Impact at a Glance

\$180,000

Jewish Federation of Orange County contribution

\$13,050,500

Total Jewish Federations of North America emergency campaign



Our Community of Giving

A vibrant Jewish community is sustained by those who choose to lead with generosity. Through Women's Philanthropy, Solomon Society, and our broader Annual Campaign, Jewish Federation of Orange County brings together individuals who understand that strengthening Jewish life is a shared responsibility.

Our Community of Giving reflects a collective commitment to care for one another, stand with Israel, and invest in the future of Jewish life. Each gift — whether through leadership giving, hands-on service, or sustained annual support — helps ensure that Federation can respond to urgent needs, nurture Jewish identity, and protect our community.

Women's Philanthropy

Women's Philanthropy is a community that leads with purpose, generosity, and responsibility, strengthening Jewish life locally, globally, and in Israel. Rooted in the Jewish values of *Tzedakah*, *Tikkun Olam*, and *Ahavat Israel*, Women's Philanthropy engages, empowers, and inspires community members to shape a vibrant Jewish future through their time, talent, and treasure.

In 2025, Women's Philanthropy in Orange County **raised over \$1.55 million**, rallying the generosity of more than 780 women donors in support of Federation's Annual Campaign and key programs. The community celebrated 105 Lions of Judah, including 13 new Lions, strengthening a growing base of women leaders committed to sustaining Jewish life for generations.

Beyond fundraising, Women's Philanthropy demonstrated leadership through hands-on service and engagement. Mitzvah Mavens volunteers supported families at Ronald McDonald House, served meals at local soup kitchens, celebrated Rosh Hashanah with Holocaust survivors, decorated the Heritage Pointe Sukkah, and prepared Thanksgiving meals for families in need.

Women's Philanthropy reflects our shared responsibility in action — women coming together to lead with intention, strengthen community, and ensure that Jewish life continues to thrive.

Women's VOICES

More than an event, Women's VOICES is a powerful expression of collective leadership. In 2025, over 300 attendees gathered to celebrate Women's Philanthropy and advance Federation's mission.



The evening featured bestselling author Jennifer Weiner and honored Jane Brenner as Woman of the Year, recognizing her leadership and commitment to the Jewish community. Together, attendees reaffirmed a shared commitment to nurturing, sustaining, and inspiring Jewish life.

Women's VOICES embodies the strength that emerges when women lead together, transforming generosity into impact and vision into action.

Solomon Society

Solomon Society is a brotherhood of leaders and philanthropists who step forward with purpose and responsibility. Members commit to giving at least \$1,250 annually to Jewish Federation of Orange County's Annual Campaign, strengthening Jewish life locally, in Israel, and around the world.

In 2025, more than 200 members **raised over \$1.2 million** in support of Federation's work.

Beyond their financial leadership, members translated Jewish values into action through hands-on service initiatives, including Eight Nights of Light, serving meals to families and veterans across Orange County and engaging in meaningful interfaith outreach.

Solomon Society members also gathered for more than eight in-person events and traveled together in solidarity to Israel and Mexico City, deepening their understanding of the global Jewish community.

Solomon Society reflects our shared responsibility in action — men leading together to ensure that Jewish life in Orange County remains vibrant, connected, and resilient.



Late Night

In September, Solomon Society hosted Late Night, the largest Jewish men's gathering in Orange County. Featuring headliner Jay Leno, MC Elon Gold, and honoring Mensch of the Year Julian Mendez, the event brought together over 300 men and raised more than \$500,000 in support of Federation's mission.

Late Night is more than an evening of entertainment — it is a powerful demonstration of collective leadership and philanthropy. When men gather with purpose, the impact extends far beyond a single event, strengthening the entire community.



Financial Impact

Responsible stewardship is central to our mission. Jewish Federation of Orange County is committed to transparency, accountability, and the thoughtful allocation of community resources. Every dollar entrusted to Federation supports programs that strengthen Jewish identity, care for those in need, combat antisemitism, and stand with Israel.

The financial overview below reflects our commitment to sustainability, strategic investment, and responsible governance in service of our community.*

63%

Jewish Engagement
and Community
Building

9%

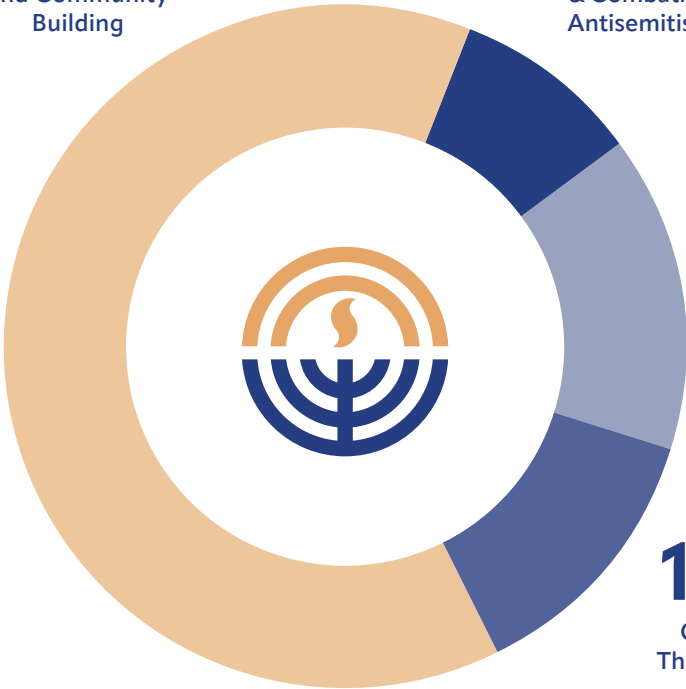
Community Relations
& Combating
Antisemitism

15%

Israel, Overseas &
National Partners

13%

Caring for
Those in Need



* Unaudited financials. Most recent audited financials available at JewishOC.org.

Total Dollars Raised:
\$4,972,237

Total Dollars at Work:
\$4,832,986





We are grateful to you – our leaders, donors, volunteers, and community partners – for your dedication and support in 2025. Together, we nourished Jewish identities, cultivated Jewish journeys, and enhanced Jewish life here and around the world.

Your dedication to live generously allows us to impact individuals in Orange County, Israel, and beyond. Thank you for the important role you play in amplifying Jewish life and for your commitment to our Jewish future.

Samueli Jewish Campus

1 Federation Way, Suite 210, Irvine, CA 92603-0174

JewishOC.org

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY