



2019
ANNUAL REPORT

Our Vision

An engaged, vibrant, and flourishing St. Louis Jewish community, in which individuals live with dignity, meaning, and purpose, and a sense of belonging to the Jewish People, as part of a life well lived.



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From Our Leader

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report! This report attempts to briefly summarize the work that Federation has been doing over the past year, although we wouldn't be able to tell the full story even in 100 pages. Through the support of thousands of donors, Federation has worked throughout this year to fulfill our commitment to create a stronger, more vibrant Jewish community here in St. Louis and around the globe.

This past year saw many milestones. One of the key accomplishments has been the implementation of our 2017 Strategic Plan, creating a new process to engage volunteers in more meaningful roles, putting "needs first" as we raise resources, and implementing an impact mode of accountability for our allocations. We are very fortunate that my successor as Board Chair, Greg Yawitz, in his current role as Vice Chair of Planning & Allocations, has led the effort to transform our community investment process.

Our community investments touched all aspects of our Jewish Community. With the invaluable assistance of the Kranzberg Family Foundation, the Lubin-Green Foundation, the Staenberg Family Foundation and the Women's Auxiliary for Jewish Aged, we have been able to assist more than 100 community partners here and around the world.

Again, there are far too many endeavors to touch on them all, but we were proud to see Covenant Place expand and incorporate the new Mirowitz Center. Jewish Family & Children's Services increased its already comprehensive services in the world of mental health both in the schools and in the community. And the *Jewish Light* has seen tremendous growth since the implementation of our three-year commitment of strategic and financial support. One of the most exciting developments of the year is our commitment to expand and improve the Holocaust Museum & Learning Center for the 21st century. You'll be hearing a lot more about the capital campaign, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Museum.

The year has not been without its challenges. At the end of 2018, we said goodbye to Stephen Cohen, Vice President for Planning and Allocations. And then in 2019, Federation President and CEO Andrew Rehfeld became the president of Hebrew Union College, and Chief Philanthropy Officer Michael Oberlander moved to Israel to make Aliyah with his family. But in change we saw tremendous leadership by senior staff members, who stepped in to lead the professional staff. We were thrilled to name three senior staffers to new roles as Vice Presidents, working with Chief Operating Officer Don Hannon. Karen Sher became VP, Community Engagement; Mindee Fredman took on the role of VP, Community Impact; and Julie Gibbs became VP, Development.

This year we also brought the community together to grieve after two tragedies: the Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh and the Chabad of Poway shooting near San Diego. Federation, along with its community partners inside and outside the Jewish community, found strength in our solidarity to stand up against such hatred.

I mentioned at the beginning our support from thousands of donors. That's a big success story from the past year. Some 4,500 donors contributed to our annual 100 Days to Make an Impact, a number that has been growing despite national trends in the opposite direction. We gauge the success of our annual campaign not just on how much, but how many. I'm very pleased to report that the campaign was successful again this year on both fronts.

For our annual campaign this year, we have chosen the theme, "Our traditions are timeless. Our needs are now." So true. Our vibrant Jewish Community continues traditions that date back to antiquity. And those traditions compel us to act today to respond to so many needs: education, hunger, safety, connectedness, and so much more.

Inside this report, you will find much more about what we do and how we do it. I urge you to look it over and be a part of the critical work Federation is doing in our Jewish Community!

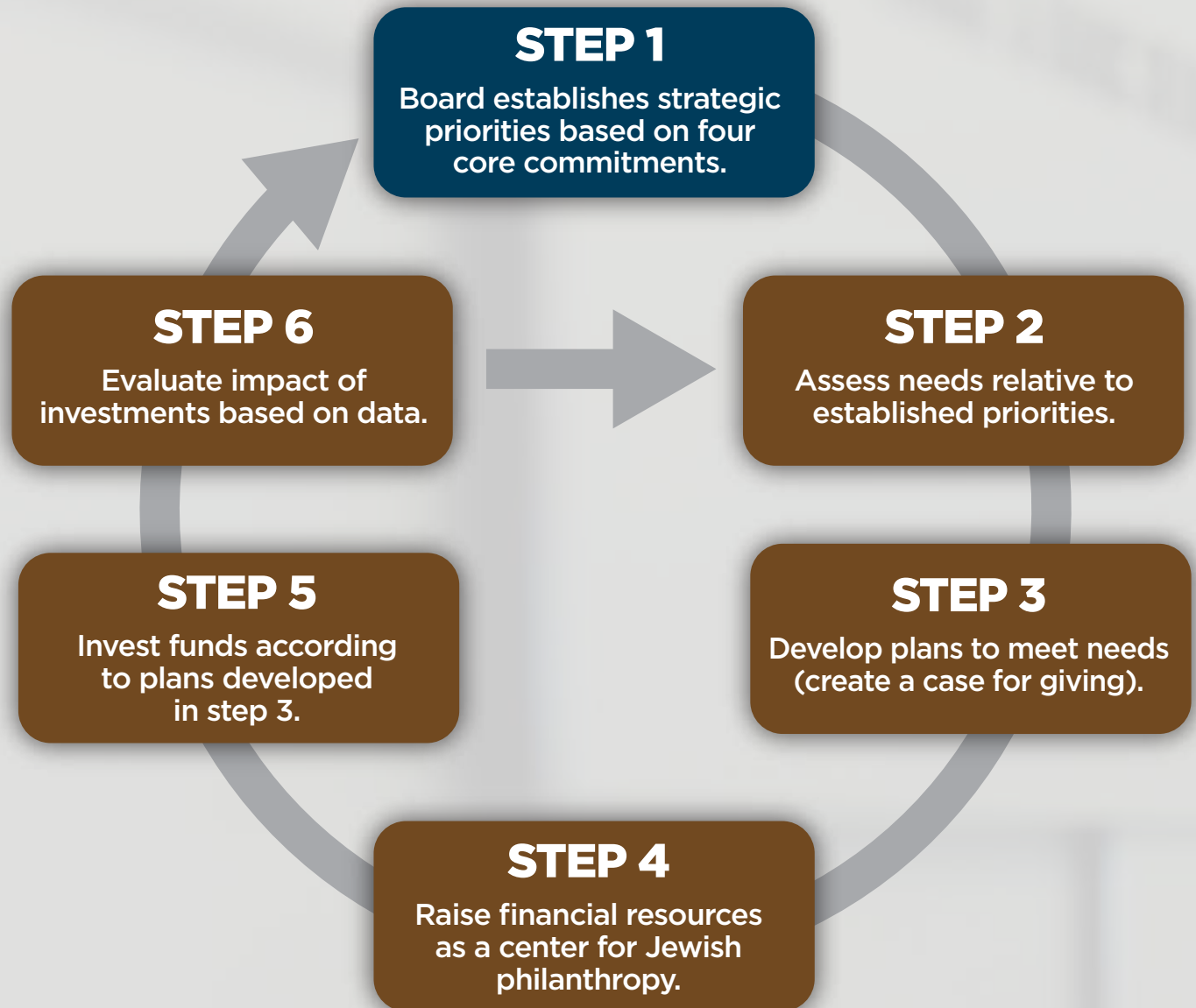
Gerry Greenman, Board Chair



What We Do

Each year, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis works with our volunteer and professional community leadership to assess the needs of our community and establish strategic plans to sustain our vibrant Jewish ecosystem. Through our partnerships with thousands of donors, we raised over \$20 million in 2018 to meet those needs. Our volunteers then lead a community investment process to get those funds working to fulfill our mission through agencies, congregations, organizations, and programs. Our team then evaluates those investments based on the impact they are having here in St. Louis, in Israel, and wherever there is a need. Meeting the needs of the community and philanthropy work has been done since our inception in 1901 and remains the core of our work.

Learn more at
JFedSTL.org/Community-Impact.



Board Established Priorities



Expand and strengthen an engaged, vibrant, and flourishing St. Louis Jewish community

Priorities

Early childhood and families with young children	Knowledge	College students
Elementary, middle, and high school students and their parents	Highly engaged	Adults
Young Adults		Empty nesters
Attitudes		Older Adults
Moderately Engaged		Behaviors
		Unengaged



Strengthen our connection to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide

Priorities

Global Jewry	Support for local engagement	Palestinian/Jewish co-existence
Israeli civil society	Trips for influentials	Urban development in Israeli periphery
Social welfare		Economic development/combating BDS
Israel education		



Secure the well-being and safety of individuals within the Jewish community

Priorities

Safety net for those living in or near poverty*	Disabilities	Economic development
Elderly Jews at risk	Access to care	Physical health
Safety and security	Inclusion	Addiction
Mental health		Abuse
		Hospice/end-of-life-care

*See page 5 for specific details.



Develop the financial & human resources, and infrastructure, needed by our community

Priorities

Recruit and develop lay leaders to serve the Jewish community	Strengthen the organizational capacity of Jewish organizations and service agencies	Address physical building space needs in the Jewish community
Attract and retain high quality professional staff for Jewish organizations	Address needs for effective marketing and communication efforts across Jewish organizations	Financially support national organizations for their basic infrastructure and operations
Promote and increase opportunities for collaboration among Jewish organizations and service agencies		

2018 Total Community Investments

\$14,144,311

This chart outlines all investments from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018, including investments in organizations outside the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and investments in internal initiatives. To learn more about the specific investments and the sources of funding, go to JFedSTL.org/What-We-Fund.

Supporting Foundations, Restricted Endowments and Donor Advised Fund Investments

Annual Campaign and Unrestricted Endowment Investments



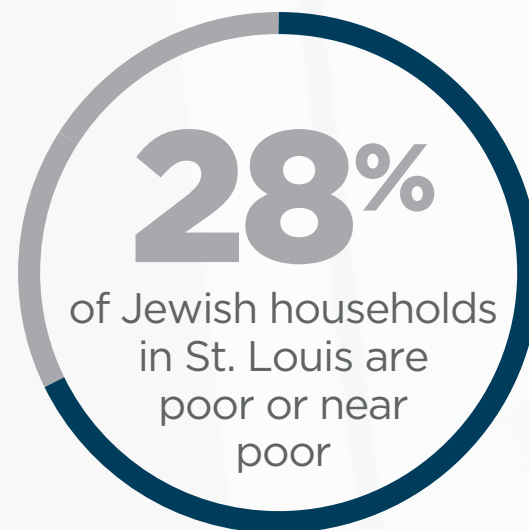
Investment Highlights & Examples



Secure the well-being and safety of individuals within the Jewish community

Priority: Safety Net For Those Living In Or Near Poverty

Community Need: 28% of Jewish households in St. Louis are poor or near poor. There are many challenges facing these households in the Jewish community, including employment, food insecurity and barriers to accessing Jewish life.



Initiative: Jewish Community Employment Services, MERS-Goodwill

Jewish Community Employment Services assists in the Jewish community with overcoming employment challenges while promoting self-sustaining growth and limiting the impact of continuous poverty. Few services are available to help individuals from otherwise middle-class households that have a barrier to employment and need a sense of community, a daily routine, and other assistance in organizing a job search. In 2018 the program served 79 individuals, 42 of whom were new clients. 34 clients obtained employment in 2018, and 85% maintained employment after 90 days.

Investment: \$86,000

Initiative: Expansion Pilot, Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry, Jewish Family & Children's Service

In 2018, the Jewish Food Pantry began a pilot focused on outreach to underserved poor and near-poor Jewish households, with a goal of increasing the number of Jewish households utilizing the food pantry. The 2014 Community Study found that 28% of poor households and 25% of near-poor households reported skipping meals or cutting meal size due to lack of money for food. The pilot program increased hours of operation, opening one evening per week to serve Jewish households by appointment. The Jewish Food Pantry served 312 Jewish households.

Investment: \$12,000

Initiative: Day School Needs-Based Scholarships

Financial constraints should never stand in the way of a child's Jewish education. Each year, Jewish Day Schools grant students and their families needs-based scholarships, but the schools struggle to meet the needs of all their students. In 2018, Federation made a needs-based investment in Epstein, Mirowitz, Torah Prep, Bais Yaakov, and Yeshivat Kadimah. Each school used the one-time funds to meet the needs of their students, mostly for financial assistance.

Investment: \$83,000

View our full investment report at JFedSTL.org/our-work/what-we-fund.

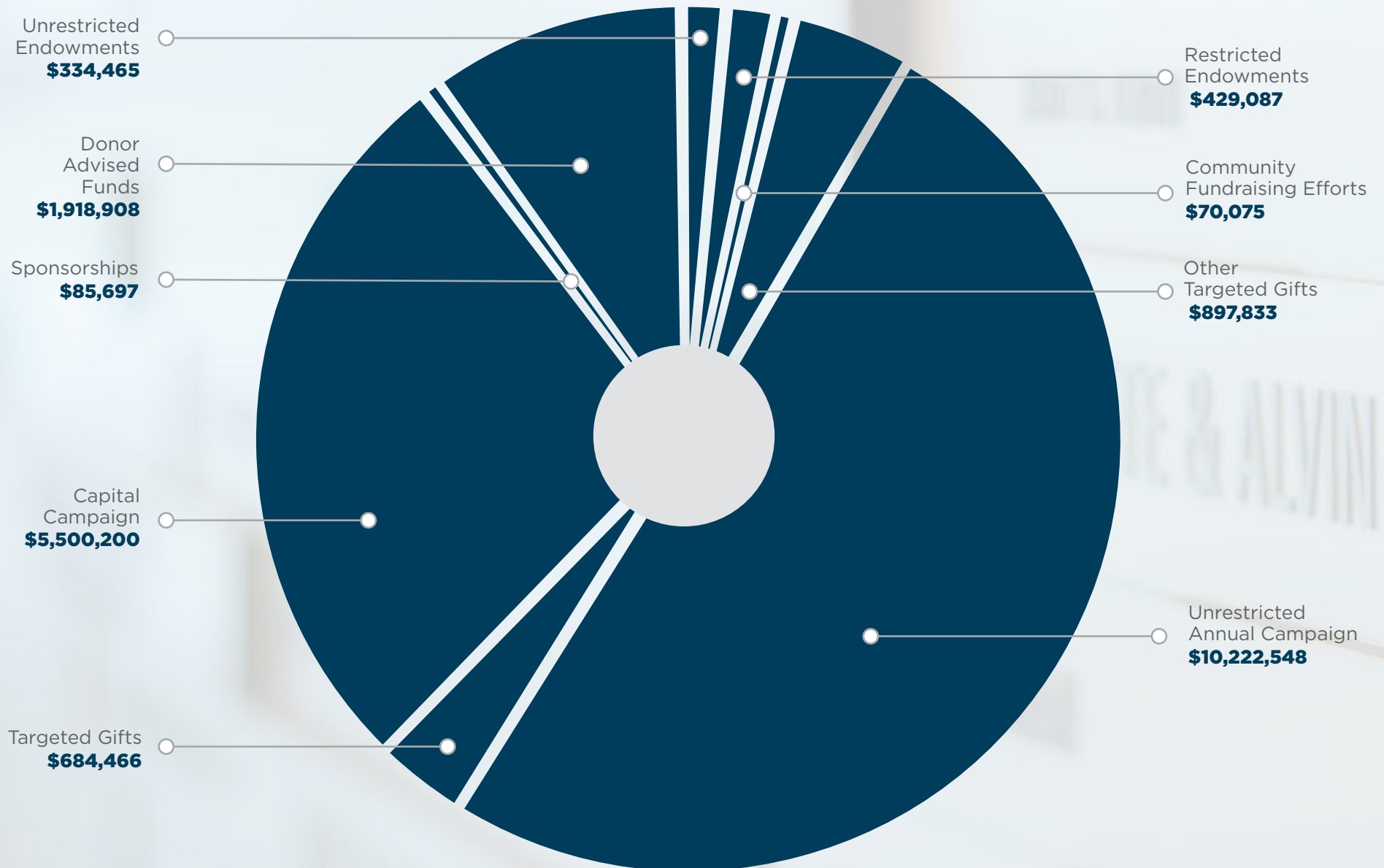
Our Community Partners





2018 Total Funds Raised

\$20,143,279



Community Engagement/ Direct Services

Federation offers the following programs to engage individuals and support our local Jewish ecosystem:

Center for Jewish Learning (CJL)

A community resource to facilitate and convene the Jewish community around issues pertaining to Jewish education and continued Jewish learning opportunities. The CJL also operates the Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library, which promotes the exploration of the rich world of Jewish knowledge and culture through convenient access to an evolving collection of Jewish resources and unique programming.

Holocaust Museum & Learning Center (HMLC)

The HMLC houses a 5,000-square-foot core exhibition that provides a chronological history of the Holocaust with personal accounts of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to St. Louis. More than a half-million visitors have toured the museum during almost 25-year existence. The HMLC also manages the St. Louis Jewish Community Archives providing a historical record of our St. Louis Jewish history open to area researchers by appointment.

Israel Center

Inspiring and supporting engagement with travel to Israel by coordinating trips and missions and consulting with individuals, groups and synagogues to create a meaningful Israel experience and offer funding resources.

Jewish Women's Renaissance Project

Thanks to the generosity of the Staenberg Family Foundation, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis is continuing its partnership with JWRP to offer women with children under 18 years old a 10-day journey through Israel.



Millstone Institute/JProStl

A communitywide approach to engaging, strengthening, and inspiring professionals and volunteer leaders in our community through workshops, seminars, institutional governance training, and Jewish learning opportunities.

Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC)

A non-sectarian program in St. Louis that supports the healthy aging of adults 60+ in their own homes by providing opportunities for meaningful community involvement, increased access to support services and on-site programming.

One Happy Camper

One Happy Camper grants up to \$1,000 to first- through 12th-graders who have never been to Jewish overnight camp. The grant can be applied toward a minimum 19-day session at one of 150+ nonprofit Jewish summer camps.

PJ Library

Jewish family engagement program designed to strengthen the identities of Jewish families and their relationship to the Jewish community through free Jewish books.

The Rubin Israel Experience

Thanks to the generosity of Pam and Ron Rubin, The Rubin Israel Experience is an incredible opportunity for Jewish St. Louisans ages 35-50 who have never traveled to Israel to do so with their peers at no cost. It is the hope and expectation that this unique Israel experience inspires its participants, upon return, to be full of energy and passion for Jewish community involvement.

YPD

Our Young Adult Initiative, YPD, builds and sustains an inspired, thriving community of Jewishly, engaged young adults who are empowered and committed to leadership, development, philanthropy, outreach, and inclusion.



Supporting Jewish community organizations

Federation also offers the following services to organizations:

Community Security

Federation supports a Community Services Director to consult with all Jewish organizations. The Director facilitates training, security reviews, and incident response. The Director also oversees our RAVE/Security Support Platform, an emergency communications platform used to increase situational awareness in case of a natural or human-caused emergency,

Jewish Community Insurance Pool

The Pool helps organizations by providing cost savings and competitive rates for group insurance.





OUR
TRADITIONS
ARE TIMELESS

OUR
NEEDS
ARE NOW

Consolidated Statement of Activity (Period ended December 31, 2018)

	UNRESTRICTED				
	General Operating	Board-Controlled Endowments	Total	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues, gains and other support:					
Pledges:					
Annual Campaign – Undesignated					
Pledges received in the current year	\$ 9,599,695	–	9,599,695	–	9,599,695
Pledges received in the prior year	646,830	–	646,830	(646,830)	–
Pledges restricted for subsequent year	–	–	–	691,564	691,564
Total Annual Campaign – Undesignated	10,246,525	–	10,246,525	44,734	10,291,259
Annual Campaign – Designated	6,000	–	6,000	326,000	332,000
Total Annual Campaign	10,252,525	–	10,252,525	370,734	10,623,259
Friends of the Holocaust Museum Campaign	261,535	–	261,535	–	261,535
Building Renovation	–	–	–	–	–
Less amounts derived from board-controlled funds	(822,785)	(1,974,142)	(2,796,927)	–	(2,796,927)
Net campaigns	9,691,275	(1,974,142)	7,717,133	370,734	8,087,867
Contributions, bequests and gifts	144,840	802,931	947,771	6,224,690	7,172,461
Government grants	48,500	–	48,500	–	48,500
United Way of Greater St. Louis, Inc.	145,056	–	145,056	–	145,056
Other grants	158,913	–	158,913	195,000	353,913
Services to Beneficiary Agencies	28,227	–	28,227	–	28,227
Other income	616,574	–	616,574	–	616,574
Investment income	(453,369)	1,260,713	807,344	416,916	1,224,260
Net gain (loss) on investments	8,393	(3,993,873)	(3,985,480)	(2,462,005)	(6,447,485)
Change in value of split-interest agreements	–	–	–	(148,756)	(148,756)
Net assets released from restrictions:					
Program	2,042,045	(1,194,279)	847,766	(847,766)	–
Other 609,425	609,425	–	609,425	(609,425)	–
Building Renovation	1,231,188	–	1,231,188	(1,231,188)	–
Reclassification from Board-Controlled Endowments, net	2,590,733	(2,590,733)	–	–	–
Total revenues, gains and other support	16,861,800	(7,689,383)	9,172,417	1,908,200	11,080,617
Appropriations and expenses:					
Allocations					
Unrestricted					
Local Agencies	2,460,000	–	2,460,000	–	2,460,000
Israel and Overseas	1,325,000	–	1,325,000	–	1,325,000
National Agencies	512,343	–	512,343	–	512,343
Strategic Program Grants					
Ensuring the Jewish Future	20,651	–	20,651	–	20,651
Caring for Jews in Need – Domestic	28,439	–	28,439	–	28,439
Caring for Jews in Need – Overseas	790,671	–	790,671	–	790,671
Community Engagement	2,211,710	–	2,211,710	–	2,211,710
Endowment and Foundation Distributions					
Beneficiary and other local agencies	352,206	1,322,472	1,674,678	232,707	1,907,385
National agencies	4,487	2,232,837	2,237,324	–	2,237,324
Distributions to charitable organizations	430,269	1,790,787	2,221,056	–	2,221,056
Total appropriations	8,135,776	5,346,096	13,481,872	232,707	13,714,579
Expenses					
Program					
Planning & Allocations	1,255,787	–	1,255,787	–	1,255,787
Direct Services	4,549,921	–	4,549,921	–	4,549,921
Operating					
Philanthropy	2,331,789	–	2,331,789	–	2,331,789
Management and General	1,095,856	79,536	1,175,392	–	1,175,392
Total expenses	9,233,353	79,536	9,312,889	–	9,312,889
Total appropriations and expenses	17,369,129	5,425,632	22,794,761	232,707	23,027,468
Changes in net assets before pension changes	(507,329)	(13,115,015)	(13,622,344)	1,675,493	(11,946,851)
Pension related changes other than net periodic cost	108,290	–	108,290	–	108,290
Changes in net assets	(399,039)	(13,115,015)	(13,514,054)	1,675,493	(11,838,561)
Net assets at beginning of period	(3,034,012)	71,588,955	68,554,943	60,227,458	128,782,401
Net assets at end of period	\$ (3,433,051)	58,473,940	55,040,889	61,902,951	116,943,840

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has moral and legal responsibility for direction, management, and control of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

Officers

Gerald P. Greiman, *Chair of the Board*
Greg Yawitz, *Vice Chair of Planning & Allocations*
Harvey N. Wallace, *Immediate Past Chair of the Board*
Robert Newmark, *Vice Chair of Endowments & Planned Giving*
Timothy Stern, *Vice Chair of Campaign*
Mark Zorensky, *Vice Chair of Finance/Treasurer*
Les Serman, *Vice Chair of Strategic Planning*
Emily Stein MacDonald, *Vice Chair At-Large Secretary*

At-Large Directors

Katherine Green
Betsy Gallop Dennis
JJ Flotken
Susan K. Goldberg
John Greenberg
Stephanie L. Gross
Gianna Jacobson
Neil Jaffe
Kenneth Kranzberg
Michael Lefton
Michael Litwack
Ruth Raskas
Rabbi Brigitte Rosenberg
Donn Rubin
Carol Staenberg
Toby Warticovschi
Henry Webber
Second Immediate Past Chair of the Board:
Patricia F. Croughan

Ex-Officio Directors

Douglas Baron (Chair, Planning & Allocation's Building a Vibrant Jewish St. Louis Subcommittee)
Burt Garland (Chair, Planning & Allocation's Enhancing St. Louis' Attachment to Israel Subcommittee)

Sherry Shuman (Chair, Planning & Allocation's Israel and Overseas Initiatives Subcommittee)
Susan Schlichter (Chair, Planning & Allocation's Supporting Local Individuals in Need Subcommittee)
Bonnie Solomon (Chair, Women's Philanthropy)

Board of Trustees

Jewish Federation of St. Louis' Board of Trustees is a community board. All Officers and Directors listed above are members of the Board of Trustees.

The following groups are also members of the Board of Trustees:

At-Large Elected Trustees

Francine Balk
Lisa Graivier Barnes
David Belsky
Stuart Block
Evan Buxner
Ben Cherry
Charles Deutsch
Alan Fine
Sue Fischlowitz
Susan Godwin Kofkoff
David Kaslow
Ken Ludmerer
Susan Matlof
Jean Margul
Galia Movitz
Nina Needleman
Rabbi Hershey Novack
Gerald Padawer
Craig Rosenthal
Rabbi Michael Rovinsky
Michael Rubin
Michelle Rubin
Victoria Singer
Ellen Schapiro
Pearl Serota
Todd Siwak
Jeff Sparks
Michael Staenberg
Karen Suroff
John S. Wallach
Jane Roodman Weiss

Ex-Officio Trustees

The following groups serve as Ex-Officio Trustees:

Council of Life Members

Ilse Altman (Of Blessed Memory)
Terry Bloomberg
Lee Bohm
Paul R. Cahn
Patricia F. Croughan*
Julian Edison (Of Blessed Memory)
Alyn Essman* (Of Blessed Memory)
Marilyn Essman (Of Blessed Memory)
Marilyn Fox
Harris Frank*
Henrietta Freedman (Of Blessed Memory)
Thomas Green* (Of Blessed Memory)
Sheila Greenbaum*
Siegmond Halpern* (Of Blessed Memory)
Harvey Harris*
Harvey and Terry Hieken
Bill Kahn (Of Blessed Memory)
Mont Levy*
Leslie Litwack
Michael Litwack*
Lynn Lyss
Robert Millstone*
Sanford Neuman*
Michael Newmark*
Heschel Raskas*
Barry Rosenberg
Jay Sarver*
Alvin Siteman
Nancy Siwak*
Richard W. Stein
Morris Sterneck* (Of Blessed Memory)
Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman
Harvey N. Wallace*

*Past Board Chair

Current Agency Board Chairs

Dov Axelbaum (Esther Miller Bais Yaakov High School)
Jim Deutsch (Covenant Place)
Laura K. Silver (St. Louis Jewish Light)
Barbara Green (Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School)
Jill Belsky (Jewish Family & Children Services)
Darryl Jones (MERS Goodwill)
Joe Pereles (Jewish Community Relations Council)

Greg Siwak (Jewish Community Center)
Aviva Raskas (Yeshivat Kadimah High School)
Dov Zeffren (Torah Prep School)
Joanna Trachtenberg (Mizzou Hillel)
Melanie Winograd (Epstein Hebrew Academy)
Penny Alper (WashU Hillel)

Federation Committee Chairs

(not serving as Directors)
Ronnie Brockman (Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library)
Jonathan Deutsch (Millstone Institute)
Cathy Goldsticker (Audit Committee)
Tom Margulis (Investment Committee)
Fran Poger (Holocaust Museum & Learning Center)
Randi Schenberg (JProStl)
Evan Glantz (Young Professionals Division)

Annual Campaign Representatives

Brad Gross (Major Gifts Chair)
Myrna Hershman
Matt and Jessica Litwack (Young Ben Gurion Society Chairs)

Rabbinical Association Representatives

Rabbi Michael Alper (Association of Reform Rabbis)
Rabbi Noah Arnow (St. Louis Rabbinical Association)
Rabbi Micah Buck-Yael (Conservative Rabbinical Association)
Rabbi Yosef Landa (Orthodox Rabbinical Council)

High School And College Student Representatives

Julian Albright (JCRC Student to Student Program and University City High School)
Sophie Chervitz (Yeshivat Kadimah High School)
Ari Cotler (Hillel at Washington University in St. Louis)
Sam Slaughter (Hillel at Maryville University)

Note: All Chief Executive Officers of Community Partner Agencies receiving a local core investment and Day Schools are invited to attend each meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Staff

Don Hannon
Chief Operating Officer

Karen Sher, MAJCS, MA, MSW
Vice President, Community Engagement

Julie Gibbs
Vice President, Development

Mindee Fredman, MSW, MAJNM
Vice President, Community Impact

Dawn Beasley
Human Resources Manager

Scott Biondo
Community Security Director

Mallory Brown
Resource Assistant, Marketing

Emily Bornstein
Director, Community Investment & Evaluation

Amanda Bowles
Graphic Designer

Jean Cavender
Director, Holocaust Museum & Learning Center

Lory Cooper
Manager, Programs & Logistics, Holocaust Museum & Learning Center

Therese Dolan
Grant Writer

Colleen Doyle
Resource Assistant, Community Impact

Marci Mayer Eisen, MSW
Director, Millstone Institute

Diane Everman
Archivist, St. Louis Jewish Community Archives

Beth Feldman
Development Associate, Professional Society

Darlene Flinn
Resource Assistant

Joel Frankel
Director, Campaign Operations

Jody Gerth
Associate, Israel Center

Lisa Gjerswald
Resource Assistant, Community Engagement

Randy Grass
Security Officer

Lynn Harris
Major Gifts Officer

Joan M. Hirst, MA
St. Louis NORC Outreach, Support & Volunteer Specialist

Richard Jackoway
Communications Manager

Lori Kabrun-Berry
Senior Associate, Community Impact

Tzivia Levin Kalmes
Manager, Organizational Governance

Nava Kantor
Associate, Community Impact

Laurie Kolo
Senior Accountant

Beth Koritz
One Happy Camper & Teen Tzedek Coordinator

Lorraine Landy
Assistant Librarian, Brodsky Library

Jayne Langsam
Development Associate

Sarah Z. Levinson
St. Louis NORC Manager

Cyndee Levy
Director, Center for Jewish Learning & Brodsky Library

Jennifer Baer Lotsoff, MSW
Director of Family & Young Adult Engagement

Samantha March
Digital Communications Specialist

Diana Matthis
Manager, Technology & Central Services

Emily McLean, CPA
Controller

Laura Press Millner
St. Louis NORC Activities Coordinator

Yuko Morima-Yerby
Resource Assistant, Development

Julie Mueller
Accounts Payable

Marlene Mueller
Central Services Coordinator

Rabbi Tracy Nathan
Senior Educator, Center for Jewish Learning

Becca Near
Coordinator, Young Adult Engagement

Carla Pruitt
Security Officer

Karen Rader
Director, Israel Center

Dan Reich
Curator & Director of Education, Holocaust Museum & Learning Center

Julia Ruvinov
Senior Accountant

Anita Sanders
Welcome Desk Coordinator

Kathy Schmeltz
Resource Assistant, Center for Jewish Learning

Terri Sever
Grant Database Administrator

Katie Sheldon
Specialist, Donor Services

Lois Smith
Database Administrator

Brad Soble
Staff Accountant

Penny Taylor
Creative Manager

Virginia Thornhill
Senior Accountant

Nancy Tully
Senior Director, Marketing

Cynthia Wachtel
Shlichut Program Supervisor

Stacy Wagerman
Manager, Women's Philanthropy

Michael Weaver
Facilities Manager

Nikki Weinstein
Director, Community Assessment & Planning

Jim Wetzstein
Security Officer

Shirley Wise
Registration & Database Specialist

Lori Wishne
Director of Planned Giving & Endowments

Anna Marie Womble
Executive Assistant

Jewish Holidays 5780

Note: Holidays Begin at Sundown of the Previous Day.

Sep 30-Oct 1, 2019

Rosh Hashanah

Literally meaning “Head of the Year,” Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish calendar. It begins a 10-day period of repentance and prayer which ends on Yom Kippur. We celebrate the holiday with services and apples dipped in honey to symbolize the hope for a sweet year to come.

Oct 9, 2019

Yom Kippur

The Day of Atonement is the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, marking the end of the 10 days of repentance. It is spent in fasting and fervent prayer. Sounding the shofar signals the holiday's end.

Oct 14-15, 2019

Sukkot

This harvest festival is named for the temporary dwellings, called Sukkot, decorated with fruit and vegetables, set up to recall the booths in which the Jews lived during their journey from Egypt. The holiday is marked by processions with the lulav (palm branch with myrtle and willow) and etrog (citron).

Oct 21, 2019

Shemini Atzeret

The day after Sukkot is Shemini Atzeret, which is combined in Israel with Simchat Torah, nominally a separate holiday; thus, there is no partaking of meals in the sukkah, nor use of the lulav and etrog. The special prayer for rain is recited during the musaf service.

Oct 22, 2019

Simchat Torah

Outside of Israel, the day after Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah marks the end of the annual Torah reading and the beginning of the cycle for the coming year. It is celebrated with singing, dancing, and merry processions of people carrying Torahs and children waving flags.

Dec 23-30, 2019

Chanukah

In 167 BCE, the Maccabees led a band of Jews in a successful battle against the occupying Syrian-Greeks, who had desecrated the Second Temple's eternal light. Miraculously, one day's supply of oil lasted eight days, until more could be found. The Chanukah menorah is lit for eight nights to celebrate that miracle. Children play dreidel, and foods fried in oil are customary.

Feb 10, 2020

Tu B'shevat

This holiday, the New Year of the Trees, marks the coming of spring. It is celebrated by having picnics, planting trees, and eating fruit.

Mar 10, 2020

Purim

The Festival of Lots recalls the rescue of the Jews of Ancient Persia from annihilation at the hands of Haman, who cast lots to choose this day for his plot to kill the Jews. Queen Esther and her uncle, Mordechai, foiled his plan.

On Purim, the Megillah of Esther is read, and the holiday is celebrated with festivity, costumes, and noisemakers. Hamantashen are the traditional food, mishloach manot (gift packages) are exchanged, and money is given to the poor.

Apr 9-16, 2020

Pesach

The Exodus of the Jews from Egypt is celebrated with the eight-day festival of Passover. Ridding the home of chametz (leavened food) and eating only unleavened items commemorate the haste in which the former slaves fled Egypt, leaving them too little time for their bread dough to rise. Jews retell the story of the Exodus during their Passover Seders.

Apr 21, 2020

Yom Hashoah

Also known as “Holocaust Remembrance Day,” Yom HaShoah is marked by memorials and dedications to those who perished in the Holocaust.

Apr 28, 2020

Yom Hazikaron

Israel's National Memorial Day honors veterans, fallen military personnel, and victims of terror.

Apr 29, 2020

Yom Ha'atzmaut

Israel Independence Day is celebrated festively by Jews around the world, commemorating the Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948.

May 22, 2020

Yom Yerushalayim

Jerusalem Day commemorates the liberation of the city of Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War.

May 29-30, 2020

Shavuot

This holiday marks the end of the Counting of the Omer. It recalls Moses' receiving of the Torah. The Megillah of Ruth is read, and all-night Torah study is customary. Dairy food, honey, and floral decorations are traditional.

Jul 30, 2020

Tisha B'av

This solemn day is a reminder of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, which occurred on the same Hebrew calendar date. It is traditional to fast.

Congregations

Agudas Israel Synagogue

Orthodox
8202 Delmar Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63124
314-863-8978

Bais Abraham Congregation

Orthodox
6910 Delmar Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-721-3030

Central Reform Congregation (CRC)

Reform
5020 Waterman Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-361-3919

Chabad of Greater St. Louis

Orthodox
8124 Delmar Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-725-0400

Congregation B'nai Amoona

Conservative
324 S. Mason Rd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
314-576-9990

Congregation Neve Shalom

Jewish Renewal
1240 Dautel Lane
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-863-4366

Congregation Shaare Emeth

Reform
11645 Ladue Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-569-0010

Congregation Temple Israel (TI)

Reform
1 Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-432-8050

Kol Rinah

Conservative
7701 Maryland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-727-1747

Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Orthodox
650 N. Price Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-991-2100

Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Community

Reconstructionist
2 Millstone Campus Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-775-7780

Temple Emanuel

Reform
12166 Conway Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-432-5877

Tpheris Israel Chevra Kadisha (TICK)

Orthodox
14550 Ladue Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63017
314-469-7060

Traditional Congregation

Traditional
12437 Ladue Rd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
314-576-5230

U.City Shul

Orthodox
700 North and South Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-863-7485

United Hebrew Congregation (UH)

Reform
13788 Conway Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-469-0700

Young Israel of St. Louis

Orthodox
8101 Delmar Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-727-1880



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