

- Welcome
- Featured Story
- Emerging Leaders
- New Faces @ the Foundation
- Grants in Action
- New Funds



Summer 2024 Foundation Focus

News from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City



Smooth Sailing Through Summer Transitions

Dear friends,

This has been a year of transitions at the Jewish Community Foundation. After such an unprecedented streak of employee longevity at JCF, we realize that even the Foundation is not immune to change. Fortunately, our team is committed to their personal roles as well as the greater success of the Foundation and the community. This dedication enables transitions to happen smoothly.

We have been impressed with the speed with which Suzanne Dicken, director of philanthropy, has integrated into the Foundation and is now a productive and valuable resource to our fundholders, both current and prospective. She has been developing meaningful relationships and we encourage you to reach out and introduce yourselves. Elizabeth Peden, who is succeeding CFO Kevin Taylor, joined the staff July 1st and is already showing a great understanding of how we can maintain the consistent and stable work behind the scenes as well as customer service that have been critical to our brand and reputation. We will have ample time to reflect on Kevin and his impact on JCF in the coming weeks, but simply put, he has been a treasured resource and a significant part of the Foundation's growth and professionalism. Thank you, Kevin, for all you have done and will continue to do during this transition.

While JCF has experienced these transitions, we also see the landscape rapidly changing around us within our community organizations. It speaks to the need of a strong, stable and thriving Foundation to help our critical partner agencies and synagogues weather storms and transitions of their own. We are steadfast in our mission to provide valuable support, advice and expertise.

Amidst change, we seek to maintain the highest degree of excellence and to find even more ways to better serve you. If there is anything we can do to enhance our efforts or you have input, we would love hearing from you.

Enjoy your summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Lipsman". The script is fluid and cursive.

Frank Lipsman
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Stein". The script is bold and stylized with large loops.

Josh Stein
Executive Director



Putting the Heart in Heartland

Donors across the country choose to open or maintain their charitable funds at the Jewish Community Foundation because of our renowned personal service and connection to the Kansas City Jewish community.

While the majority of JCF fundholders live and give in Kansas City, the Foundation is honored to serve a growing contingent of fundholders across the country. Many of these donors have learned that the Foundation offers benefits they can't get anywhere else, such as unparalleled customer service, positive investment performance, trusted philanthropic expertise, and a direct connection to Kansas City's dynamic charitable landscape.

For many fundholders who were born in Kansas City but have since moved away, the Foundation is a valuable form of connection to their hometown. Maintaining or opening their Donor Advised Funds at JCF ensures that they remain linked to the Kansas City Jewish community and are able to easily and efficiently support their favorite organizations - in Kansas City and across the country. Many find that giving through the Foundation helps establish or continue a legacy of giving that honors Kansas City's values of kindness and generosity.

A number of our fundholders have no prior connection to Kansas City, but are drawn to the Foundation because of our reputation for excellent service and charitable giving expertise. Many also appreciate that our fees are reinvested into the local community. Unlike many large corporate Donor Advised Fund providers, JCF's administrative fees are used for the greater good and help support programs that engage and educate the next generation of givers. This, along with our creative and personalized strategic solutions, has positioned JCF as the preferred choice for those seeking a reliable and responsive philanthropic partner.

For more information about JCF Donor Advised Funds please contact Suzanne Galblum Dicken at sdicken@jcfkc.org or (913) 327-8286.

Serving Fundholders Far & Wide



“We have had a Donor Advised Fund at the Foundation for many years, even though we no longer live in Kansas City. Because of outstanding investment returns, terrific staff, and wonderful customer service, we would never consider moving our fund elsewhere!”

- Cynthia Gensheimer, Denver, CO



“While I haven’t lived in Kansas City for many years, it will always be my hometown. When I decided to establish a Donor Advised Fund, it was easy to choose JCFKC — in addition to serving as an ongoing connection to the city, the fund is substantial, well-managed, and highly respected. My DAF experience also maintains my connection to Kansas City’s Jewish community. As a donor, fees are minimal, the online interface makes it easy to make new and recurring grant recommendations, and the staff is easily accessible when I have questions.”

- Dana Bettinger, Seattle, WA



Inspiring the Next Generation of Philanthropists

JCF's B'nai Tzedek Shuk brought together teens for an evening of fun, friends, and philanthropy.

On April 4th, the Foundation welcomed teens and their families to our 18th annual youth philanthropy fair, the B'nai Tzedek Shuk. This popular event is a highlight of the Foundation's philanthropic programming which unites teens with Jewish communal organizations for an evening of learning, connection, and fun. The theme of this year's Shuk was "A New Era of Giving: B'nai Tzedek's Version," a reference to the influential musician and philanthropist Taylor Swift. The event was planned and executed by the B'nai Tzedek Youth Council, a hard-working cadre of teens that meets monthly to engage their peers in philanthropy.

Teens met with representatives from Jewish organizations and heard about each nonprofit's meaningful work. To maximize engagement, the fundholders participated in an exciting scavenger hunt to learn interesting facts about each organization represented. Nearly 40 representatives from 17 local nonprofits participated in the event. Beth Miller, donor specialist at Village Shalom, shared about her first Shuk experience: "I was thrilled to represent Village Shalom at the Shuk this year - it was my first, but it will not be my last. It is inspiring to see the teens get excited about philanthropy!"

For more information about the B'nai Tzedek program, contact Tracie Holley at (913) 327-8284 or tholley@jcfkc.org.



“Making a gift from my B’nai Tzedek Fund has been such a meaningful way to donate money to causes I care about. Especially when I was younger and didn’t have very much money of my own to donate, having a fund set up was so helpful.”

— Shoshana Fisher, B’nai Tzedek Youth Council Member



J-LEAD Celebrates 2024 Grant Cycle

JCF's young adult giving circle awards grants to impactful community programs.

The Jewish Community Foundation's J-LEAD program, a giving circle for adults in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, recently completed their 2024 grant cycle in which they collectively granted \$22,630 to five important community programs. The group met in May to view presentations from organizations seeking funding and learn how their support could make an impact. After robust dialogue and thoughtful consideration, the giving circle voted to fund the following programs this year:

- JCRB|AJC: Campus Initiative - \$5,000
- Jewish Vocational Service (JVS): New Arrival Cell Phones & Service - \$5,130
- KU Hillel: Jayhawks for Israel - \$5,000
- National Council of Jewish Women: Back to School Store - \$3,500
- Sasone, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater KC: Teen Leadership Training - \$4,000

On June 4th, J-LEAD members, JCF staff, and representatives from the organizations receiving funding gathered for the program's annual Grants Celebration. The event took place at Chicken N Pickle in Overland Park and was an engaging evening of education, connection, and celebration of the group's collective impact. Leadership from each grantee organization had the opportunity to speak about their program and thank J-LEAD for its funding.

"J-LEAD is supporting Jayhawks for Israel which is our brand new, student-led initiative to engage students on campus in Israel advocacy and education, and provide the support Jewish students need given the current environment," said Ethan Helfand, new executive director of KU Hillel, in his presentation to the group. "The support that J-LEAD gives allows our work on campus to thrive. I am so grateful that the first official thing that I get to do in this job is to be here tonight to thank you for helping us do this work."

In addition to grant making, J-LEAD meets several times a year for educational programs, volunteer opportunities and social events. If you would like more information about J-LEAD, contact Suzanne Galblum Dicken at 913-327-8286 or sdicken@jcfkc.org.



“J-LEAD is a great opportunity for young Jewish leaders to give tzedekah and make a positive impact on local organizations that serve great causes in our community. Participation in J-LEAD provides its members with an outlet to gain more experience with the grant application assessment and selection process, to have a vote on how one’s charitable funds are making an impact, all while developing great friendships with others in the Jewish community.”

— Kris Zeid, left, pictured with fellow J-LEAD co-chair Bradley Friedman

JCF Says Goodbye to Longtime CFO Kevin Taylor, Welcomes Elizabeth Peden to Role

Kevin's notable tenure of competent leadership and outstanding service has set up Elizabeth for future success as CFO.

After nearly 24 years of exemplary service, Kevin Taylor is retiring from his position as chief financial officer of the Jewish Community Foundation this fall. Taylor's steady leadership, trusted stewardship, and strong commitment to the organization have been instrumental in shaping the Foundation's growth over the past two decades. Beginning in July, Elizabeth Peden, former executive director of Kehilath Israel Synagogue, succeeded Taylor as our new CFO. Taylor and Peden plan to work together for the next several weeks to ensure a smooth and successful transition.



"I have enjoyed the unique combination of nonprofit accounting and investment analysis that working at the Jewish Community Foundation brings," said Taylor. "My favorite part has been the honor of being entrusted with the assets of the Foundation. I often pause and think about the years of hard work, ingenuity, and risk taking that our donors endured, manifesting finally in the form of a generous donation to the Foundation. I've never lost my sense of awe over what it all represents."

“Kevin has been such a valuable asset to JCF that it was difficult to imagine how we would ever replace him,” remarked Frank Lipsman, president of the JCF Board of Trustees. “Fortunately, our excellent search committee brought Elizabeth to us and we are thrilled that a seasoned professional will assume responsibility for the financial matters critical to the operation of JCF. We are very sad that Kevin’s 24-year tenure at JCF is coming to an end, but we are excited to welcome Elizabeth to the team.”

Peden has worked in the Jewish community for more than 20 years and has served as executive director of Kehilath Israel Synagogue for the past 17. She has a master’s degree in accounting, as well as a CPA certificate. Peden’s background in fiscal, facility and personnel management will be valuable assets in her new position at the Foundation, as will her strong relationships within the Jewish community and her enthusiasm for serving others.

“I was drawn to this position for the opportunity to assist people with their tzedakah and to work with a great group of donors, volunteers, and professionals, making a difference in this world,” said Peden. “In my new role, I hope to assist in strengthening and growing the Foundation for the benefit of the community. It’s about giving people the tools and resources to fulfill their charitable goals and the joy of helping them make our world a better place.”

Meet Suzanne Galblum Dicken



Suzanne Galblum Dicken took over as the Foundation’s director of philanthropy in March, succeeding Josh Stein who was promoted to executive director. She works closely with fundholders and nonprofit partners to strategically reach charitable goals and build essential resources for the future.

Prior to joining the Foundation’s team, Suzanne was the vice president of strategic development at Byrne Pelofsky + Associates where she managed a diverse portfolio of nonprofit clients. She is a Kansas City native and graduate of Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy and Indiana University. Suzanne and her husband Austin, a veterinarian, live with their two young daughters in Prairie Village. She was among the first participants in the Foundation’s B’nai Tzedek program which introduces B’nai Mitzvah-age teens to the joy of philanthropy. “B’nai Tzedek underscored for me the important role of my generation and those that come after in sustaining and strengthening the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam,” said Suzanne.

“What draws me to the Foundation is its unwavering commitment to maximizing philanthropic impact for both donors and the agencies they support,” said Suzanne. “I’m enthusiastic about directly engaging with donors and philanthropists and facilitating their understanding of the transformative power of giving. I firmly believe that deeply engaged donors contribute not only to the strength of the organizations they support but also to the creation of enduring positive change.”

To connect with Suzanne, please contact her at sdicken@jcfkc.org or (913) 327-8286.

Get to Know New JCF Trustee, Brian Block



“When I moved to Kansas City from New York 14 years ago, the transition to a smaller city was challenging. However, the warm support from the Jewish community here was instrumental in making that move smoother and more welcoming. This experience underscored for me the importance of actively supporting and investing in our local Jewish community. As a trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation, I am committed to preserving our cultural heritage, fostering a strong sense of belonging, and ensuring the continuity of our traditions and values. The Foundation plays a crucial role in this by supporting Jewish education, culture, and social services, and by providing essential resources and grants to local organizations. Their efforts help sustain and grow our community, allowing us to thrive and support others in their own transitions and journeys.”

- Brian Block



Smarter Giving Site Visits

JCF's new site visit program brings fundholders behind the scenes of area nonprofits to see their impact in action.

The Foundation recognizes the importance of fostering connections between fundholders and the charitable organizations they choose to support. We recently began our Smarter Giving Site Visit program to help fundholders learn more about local organizations and see the real world impact of their generosity. So far, we've toured HappyBottoms, Pawsperity, Blaqout KC and Northeast Community Center, and have visits planned to Jewish Vocational Service and Reconciliation Services/Thelma's Kitchen. It's been exciting to visit these facilities, meet their knowledgeable staff, and see the great work they're accomplishing. For more information on site visits, contact Beatrice Fine at (913) 327-4618 or bfine@jcfkc.org.

Supporting “Healing Hate”

In April, members of the Foundation Family had the honor of attending the screening and panel discussion of “Healing Hate,” a powerful new documentary featuring Mindy Corporon and Sunayana Dumala. The film explores how tragic events - namely, the 2014 shooting at the Jewish Community Campus and Village Shalom and the 2017 shooting at Austin’s Bar & Grill in Olathe - brought the women together and led to them establishing organizations that work to prevent hate crimes by fostering understanding and promoting inclusivity. The film was made possible in part by JCF’s Ronald & Susan Goldsmith Philanthropic Fund and Community Legacy Fund.



Community Legacy Fund Grants

Announcing the 2024 Innovation & Emergency Cycle grant recipients.

The Jewish Community Foundation's Community Legacy Fund has awarded \$73,472 in innovative and emergency grants. The grants will support high-quality, new programs that provide an innovative approach to an existing or emerging community need, or respond to financial or humanitarian emergencies.

The Community Legacy Fund is comprised of permanent endowments from which grants are awarded to community agencies whose applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Foundation's Grants Committee and Board of Trustees.

Community Legacy Fund grants were awarded for the following programs:

- The J: Technology for Emergency Notification and Social Hall Upgrade
- JCRB|AJC: Fighting Antisemitism in the Workplace
- Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City: See KC
- Jewish Vocational Service: Intrater Scholarship Fund to Benefit JVS
- National Council of Jewish Women: Repro Shabbat

In addition to innovation and emergency grants, the Community Legacy Fund also provides annual core grants which support operations central to the accomplishment of an organization's mission or for funding unique services not otherwise available within the Jewish community that are essential to Jewish life.

For more information about the Community Legacy Fund, please contact Beatrice Fine at bfine@jcfkc.org or (913) 327-4618.



Our Community Legacy Fund recently made a grant to support See KC, an innovative program of the Jewish Federation which brings in out-of-towners to explore Kansas City.

New Funds

Community Legacy Funds

Harry & Alice Statland Legacy Fund

Donor Advised Funds

Amy & James Acri Donor Advised Fund

Aimee & Steve Bernstein Family Fund

Suzanne Bettinger Fund

Michael R. Block & Kerry H. Cosner Donor Advised Fund

Victor & Linda Frost Philanthropic Fund

Randi Weill Haith Donor Advised Fund

Kathy Krigel Hawley Donor Advised Fund

Joe Porter Donor Advised Fund

Henry Sosland Donor Advised Fund

Kate Sosland Donor Advised Fund

Zachary Sosland Donor Advised Fund

Charitable Gift Annuities

David Goodman & Janis Rovick Charitable Gift Annuity

Restricted Funds

Kathy Krigel Hawley Lion of Judah Endowment

Custodial Funds

Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy Endowment #2

Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation L'Dor V'Dor Fund

Lawrence Jewish Congregation Frances Degen Horowitz Fund