



Fall 2024 Foundation Focus

News from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City

The Future Starts Today

As we emerge from a busy holiday season, we hope the holidays were meaningful ones for you and your families. In this newsletter you will find a recap of our recent events and activities, including the Foundation for Our Future event that took place on September 18. This community-wide celebration of planned giving is hosted by the Foundation every two years to recognize those who have made arrangements to plan for our community's future through a legacy commitment to one or more of our important communal agencies and synagogues. At the event we reported that our future looks incredibly bright with approximately **\$125 million** in future planned gift commitments secured from more than **1,000 donors**, in addition to the **\$89 million** that has already been realized and is currently strengthening our community.



While we are extremely proud of our collective success and greatly appreciative of the generosity of those who have made such arrangements, there is still a lot of work to be done. The future that we all hope to usher in begins with our actions and thoughtful planning today. The wonderful thing about legacy giving is that each of us has the opportunity to consider what makes sense personally, while being a part of a collective endeavor. The Foundation specializes in helping people think through their goals, involving families and professional advisors, and creating customized plans. The best part is that these plans can evolve over time and as circumstances change and can utilize resources that make the most sense from a tax planning perspective. Many legacy plans even involve establishing a fund now, providing current tax benefits through an RMD from a retirement plan or appreciated stock.

The team at the Foundation is always here to discuss your goals and provide ideas for you to consider now or into the future.

Frank Lipsman, President, & Josh Stein, Executive Director



Celebrating Legacy Donors at Foundation for Our Future

Our biennial celebration of planned giving was a great success, honoring the generosity and foresight of the many donors who have made commitments to support the community for generations to come.

On September 18, more than 150 community members came together in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Campus for Foundation for Our Future, the Jewish Community Foundation's biennial celebration of planned giving. The event, which is generously sponsored by the Sam and Lucy Gould JCF Program Fund, honored the more than 1,000 donors, past and present, who have made planned gifts to a Jewish communal agency or synagogue. Their collective generosity and foresight have generated \$89 million in realized planned gifts, and another \$125 million in future planned gifts that will strengthen the community for generations to come.

The evening began with dinner and drinks, followed by remarks of gratitude from JCF President Frank Lipsman and Executive Director Josh Stein. Guests then enjoyed the Foundation's signature Endowment Book of Life signing ceremony, which recognizes donors who have made permanent commitments of \$10,000 or more to local Jewish organizations. The evening concluded with the option to attend a private production of Victor Wishna's "Tree of Life" play in The J's White Theatre.

The Endowment Book of Life was created in 2003 under the leadership of former JCF Executive Director Susie Goldsmith. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has periodically held special signing ceremonies where individuals and families who have invested in the financial sustainability of Jewish institutions and programs sign the book and add to it their stories and remembrances of love, connection and inspiration.

At this year's event, 13 new Book of Life signers brought the total number of individual signers to 328. The 2024 class of signers included Elizabeth Appelbaum, Lewis and Carol Berey, Bill and Robin Carr, Sam Devinki, Martha Gershun and Don Goldman, Kathy Krigel Hawley, Judy Jacobs, Norman Kahn, Jr. and Diana Winyard, Andrea Poisner-Corchine in memory of Larry Poisner, Mary Beth Rohlf, Lisa and Ken Schifman, David Spizman and Karen Loggia, and Wallace Weber.

Gershun's mother, Gloria Gershun, was one of the first signers of the Book of Life 21 years ago. "Back then," said Gershun, "we didn't have \$5,000 in a lump sum to open a Donor Advised Fund. A few years later when I was working for Eddie Feinstein at H&R Block, I mentioned that Don and I were going to sell some stock for charity and pay the related taxes. Eddie said, 'What do you mean pay the taxes? You need to open a Donor Advised Fund at the Jewish Community

Foundation.”

Gershun and Goldman have plans for a gift upon their death to the Foundation to be distributed to charities they have chosen. “Don and I would like to use some of our financial resources to make the world a better place,” she said. “We feel that the Foundation is most resonant with our values and our interest in efficiency, tax management and legal compliance.”

Spizman, currently the Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement at Village Shalom, was serving on its Board of Directors when he and Loggia first learned about the Bushman Community Endowment Program, a 10-year initiative to promote legacy giving that succeeded in identifying hundreds of donors and millions in planned giving commitments. The Create a Jewish Legacy Initiative supported by the Sam and Lucy Gould JCF Program Fund at the Foundation, has made the creation of many additional planned gifts possible.

“Karen and I are big supporters of teaching our kids about the value of community,” said David. “The Foundation provides a concierge service which helps us be more planful in our philanthropy.”

For Poisner-Corchine, signing the Book of Life was an opportunity to honor her beloved father Larry Poisner, whose kindness and generosity shaped her values. “My father supported the Jewish Community Foundation so that he could contribute at the highest level to make the broadest impact,” she said.

Before adjourning for the play, playwright Victor Wishna shared some of his writing inspiration and provided context for how the play fit into the Foundation for Our Future event. He told the audience, “The play – whose themes revolve around the idea that we are all part of a larger Jewish story – is a good fit for tonight. We never know what form our legacy will take, which is why we build it.”

For information about how to support the community through a planned gift, contact Suzanne Dicken at the Jewish Community Foundation at (913) 327-8286 or sdicken@jcfkc.org.

Foundation for Our Future Photo Gallery



Endowment Book of Life

At the Foundation for Our Future event, thirteen new pages were added to the Foundation's Endowment Book of Life, a collection of reflections, histories and hopes for the future expressed by members of our community. Hear, in their own words, why these generous donors have made planned gifts to support the community.



David Spizman & Karen Loggia

We both grew up with parents active in the Jewish and broader communities. We realize that doing our part to repair the world enriches our own lives and is one of the best ways to demonstrate Jewish values to our two sons, Shaefer and Elliot. Whether it is volunteering or giving financially, the Jewish Community Foundation helps educate and support us on ways we can strengthen our Jewish community.

Mary Beth Rohlf

Although my family is not Jewish, I grew up swimming at The J, attending theatre events and watching my brothers participate in activities there. As a kid, I enjoyed The J because it was fun.

As an adult and an employee of The J, I appreciate The J for what it does in the community and for what it represents. It's a place where people from diverse backgrounds gather, learn, play, and connect. The J is also about creating community across faiths and cultures. These relationships enrich our lives, build bridges where otherwise there might be divides, and allow us to show love to our neighbors. I hope my legacy gift to The J helps - in a small way - to ensure its place in our community for years to come.





Wallace Weber

I am relatively new to the area and appreciate the acceptance by the Greater Kansas City Jewish community.

One of my more recent mantras is:

*There is a time for learning,
There is a time for earning,
And, there is a time for giving
back.*

To see more Book of Life entries
visit bookoflifekc.org.



Meet our 2024-2025 B'nai Tzedek Youth Council

This group of creative teens meets monthly to engage their peers in philanthropy and learn about community needs.

The B'nai Tzedek Youth Council recently met for its first meeting of the school year. The Youth Council is comprised of teen participants of the Foundation's B'nai Tzedek program, which introduces youth to the joys of philanthropy. The group encourages their peers to make grants from their B'nai Tzedek funds and helps plan the annual B'nai Tzedek Shuk, JCF's signature youth philanthropy fair.



J-LEAD Volunteer Day at the Mitzvah Garden

Our young adult giving circle participated in a family-friendly day of helping at the garden.

On Sunday, October 6, [J-LEAD](#) members and their families gathered for a sunny afternoon of volunteering at the Mitzvah Garden. This event was open to all J-LEAD members, their children, and guests. Volunteers participated in a variety of projects that keep the Mitzvah Garden running smoothly, including laying compost and milkweed seeds on a trail to attract monarch butterflies, turning apples into cider, and harvesting tomatoes. J-LEAD volunteer outings are aimed to connect members with the agencies and programs that their membership dollars support. J-LEAD has been a longtime supporter of the Mitzvah Garden KC, a volunteer-supported, nonprofit garden that is dedicated to growing community one plant at a time while educating the community about the agricultural roots of the Jewish calendar.





High Holiday Baskets

Every fall, the Foundation assembles and delivers baskets of apples and honey to our agency and synagogue partners and professional advisor friends. We wish them, and all of you, a sweet and happy new year. The baskets are generously underwritten by the David Cohn Family Foundation, in loving memory of Sanford and Barbara Cohn.





Building Blocks

In October, the Foundation hosted our agency and synagogue partners at Mid-America Charitable Gift Planners' Building Blocks conference, where we heard from inspiring presenters, learned about the latest fundraising trends, and networked with other development professionals. It was a fantastic day of networking and continuing education.



A Bittersweet CFO Transition

This fall we said goodbye to long-time CFO Kevin Taylor, and welcomed his successor, Elizabeth Peden.

At the end of August the Foundation hosted a special meet and greet gathering for our communal colleagues to help welcome Elizabeth Peden, JCF's new Chief Financial Officer. Attendees enjoyed delicious Grounded Mobile Coffee and got to learn more about Elizabeth, who is the former executive director of Kehilath Israel Synagogue and has more than 20 years of experience working in the Jewish community.

A few weeks later, Foundation staff gathered for a special lunch honoring outgoing CFO, Kevin Taylor, who retired at the beginning of October. For 24 years, Kevin served the Foundation and the broader Jewish community with competent leadership, efficiency, patience, and his wonderfully dry sense of humor. Though he leaves big shoes to fill, we're confident Elizabeth will carry on Kevin's legacy of professionalism and steadfast dedication to the Foundation.

Community Legacy Fund Core Grants

The Community Legacy Fund aims to support the organizations and programs which have the greatest impact upon the Jewish community.

In its core granting cycle, the Jewish Community Foundation's Community Legacy Fund has awarded \$349,175 to 21 unique Jewish community organizations. These grants are intended to help enhance and maintain the quality of Jewish life in the Greater Kansas City area. Core grants support the general operating expenses (core expenses) central to the accomplishment of an organization's mission. The Community Legacy Fund also makes core grants for unique services not otherwise available within the Jewish community that are essential to Jewish life.

One of the organizations that received funding was Community Kollel of Kansas City, an organization working to bring the beauty and wisdom of Jewish learning and living to the local community through educational opportunities, programs and events. "As we work to relaunch the Community Kollel of Kansas City, the support from the JCF Legacy Fund is essential to our success," said Jerry Bernard, President of Kollel's Board. "On behalf of the Kollel's Board of Directors, we appreciate the Foundation's commitment to supporting organizations like the Kollel that are committed to providing engaging Jewish experiences across our community."

Another recipient was Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care. "This critical funding supports training for our frontline caregivers, a key piece to maintaining our Jewish accreditation as the only accredited Jewish hospice in our area. The support of the Jewish Community Foundation has been instrumental to our ability to serve the Jewish community as a knowledgeable and accredited provider for 20 years now, and we are so appreciative of this partnership," said David Wiley, President and CEO of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care.



Community Kollel of Kansas City, Community Legacy Fund grant recipient

More Value for Your Values

“We’re glad we made the decision to open a [Donor Advised Fund](#) with the Jewish Community Foundation! One of the incentives for us to start the fund was the grant matching program for first timers. They matched our \$1,000 donation to the organization we wanted to support. We continue to appreciate the staff of the Foundation who makes the donation process seamless.” - Ken & Sheila Sonnenschein

Open a new Donor Advised Fund and we’ll match one charitable gift to your favorite nonprofit - up to \$1,000!

[Learn More](#)



2024 Year-End Giving Calendar

In order to best serve you during this busy season, please keep the following deadlines in mind when doing your 2024 year-end giving:

Grants From Your Fund

To ensure delivery of your grant prior to year-end, please submit your grant requests as soon as possible. Because the end of the year is a busy time for our accounting department, we appreciate the early submission of your grant requests. Grant requests submitted by Tuesday at noon will result in a check being mailed by Friday of the same week. The final date to submit grant requests in 2024 is Tuesday, December 24.

Contributions To Your Fund (To be eligible for a 2024 tax deduction)

Checks must be received in the JCF office by 4:30 pm on Tuesday, December 31 or if placed in the mail, postmarked by December 31.

Stock must be received into a JCF account by December 31. Stock transfer times vary, so if you are planning to make a stock gift this year, please contact both your broker and our CFO Elizabeth Peden at (913) 327-8166 or epeden@jcfkc.org to ensure timely handling of your donation. Please notify our office of the security you plan to donate so we can match your gift with your fund.

Please be mindful that fund managers often take longer to process gifts of **Mutual Fund** shares to charitable organizations than stocks. Be sure to initiate these gifts early.

Credit Cards will be accepted any time, but keep in mind that the transaction must be posted to your credit card account by December 31. Credit card company processing times vary, so make sure to initiate your credit card donation early. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Peden at (913) 327-8166 or epeden@jcfkc.org.



Looking for a Hanukkah Gift That Keeps on Giving?

JCF Charitable Gift Cards are a great way to share your philanthropic values with the next generation. Gift cards, which are exclusively available for purchase by JCF Donor Advised Fundholders, are redeemable for a donation to any 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, call (913) 327-8245.

