



Federation – Synagogue
Connections



The bond between the Jewish United Fund/

*Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and
the synagogues of Chicago's Jewish community is*

strong and vibrant.

All of our institutions benefit from this vital partnership—

but ultimately, it is the community that benefits most of all.

Community Building



JUF's **TOV Volunteer Network (TOV)** works with congregations to promote volunteer activities in the Jewish and general Chicago communities. TOV works with synagogue social action chairs to plan Mitzvah Days and Mitzvah Fairs; speaks to religious school classes about volunteering; and helps guide students in planning their service projects and incorporating mitzvot into every step of their bar/bat mitzvah and beyond.

Whether congregants are interested in traveling to Israel, the former Soviet Union, Europe or Latin America, they probably can find a **JUF Mission** to take them there. Destinations change from year to year, but wherever there is Jewish community, there are JUF Missions, which offer the opportunity to travel with other Chicagoans to visit Jewish communities all over the world, explore our roots and see our JUF dollars at work. A JUF Mission is a seamless, quality experience that allows unique access to special sites, programs and speakers.

JUF hosts **community-wide events** with congregations throughout the year, including the annual Israel Solidarity Day/Walk with Israel and Yom HaAtzma'ut celebration and Holocaust Remembrance Day observances.

To welcome newcomers to our Jewish community, look to JUF's **Shalom Chicago** program. The Shalom Chicago Welcome Package is an essential information packet that includes a copy of the *Guide to Jewish Living in Chicago*, the most recent edition of *JUF News*, a complimentary three-month JCC membership and information on activities in the Jewish community.

The **Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)** works with congregations and provides speakers on major community issues – whether it is the threat of a nuclear Iran, effective ways to advocate for Israel, the effect of changing demographics on the Jewish community or how our community can be more responsible stewards for the environment. The **JCRC/Hillels Israel Initiative** works with students, faculty and administration on college campuses, as well as with high school students and in residential summer camps. They provide Israel education that reveals the rich and complicated fabric that is Israel, going beyond the conflict while providing advocacy programs and helping frame responses to anti-Israel propaganda that may arise. The program includes scholarships for students to attend national leadership conferences and study abroad programs in Israel, as well as sponsoring the IsraLimmud Education and Advocacy Fellowship for undergraduates and graduate students/recent post college graduates.

Each year, JUF's **Young Leadership Division (YLD)** partners with various synagogues to provide a young adult event, such as comedy nights and speed-dating. This gives both organizations the chance to meet new participants and offer a different kind of program to the community. YLD also co-sponsors a community-wide Passover seder each year.

JUF/Federation is partners with **coalitions of congregations and synagogue councils** in different parts of the Chicago area. The Cooperative Jewish Council (CJC), a partnership of JUF/Federation's South Suburban Community Services Office, four south suburban congregations, four Jewish service organizations and the Anita M. Stone Jewish Community Center, promotes affiliation among its respective organizations while enhancing the efficient delivery of services that strengthen the south suburban Jewish community. The JCC's Sidney N. Shure Kehilla Program promotes affiliation in the Lincoln Park/Lakeview neighborhood, offering young adults under 30 joint memberships in congregations of all denominations, plus the Florence Heller JCC, for one low fee. JUF/Federation provides financial support to the West Rogers Park Jewish Community Council, an organization of synagogues and other community organizations in West Rogers Park that aims to attract young Jewish families and enhance the quality of local Jewish life. The West Suburban Service Project serves 14,000 Jews living from River Forest and Oak Park to Naperville and Downers Grove, linking five JUF/Federation agencies with local synagogues.

Direct Services



The **Synagogue Federation Commission** is dedicated to enhancing the vitality of Jewish life in metropolitan Chicago by nurturing collaboration across the community and strengthening from within synagogues, agencies and Federation partnerships. The Synagogue Federation Commission Institute sponsors workshops and programs for lay and professional leadership focusing on common issues confronting congregations and Jewish organizations, such as membership recruitment and resource development, even helping several synagogues to successfully apply for Homeland Security Funds.

Facilities Corporation is the real estate arm of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and one of its goals is to reduce facility maintenance costs. Facilities Corporation has a Master Contracts program, which is made available to congregations as a community service, where buying in bulk results in lower costs and improved service. The program includes contracts (grounds care, snow removal, elevator service, fire safety systems, waste removal, uniforms, pest control, window washing, backflow valve-testing and certification) and special volume pricing (office supplies, appliances, furniture, business cards and ice melt).

A cooperative effort of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and Children's Memorial Hospital, the **Chicago Center**

for Jewish Genetic Disorders provides public and professional education and prevention strategies for Jewish genetic disorders and genetic mutations associated with hereditary cancers. The Center offers educational presentations geared to clergy, synagogue professionals and congregants of or near child-bearing age, as well as subsidized genetic screening programs to congregants who wish to start families.

JUF/Federation's **Legacies and Endowments** professionals are available for endowment consultations—including how to begin, market and build an endowment program. The Federation also administers **charitable gift annuities** to participating congregations. Congregations which are willing to establish a separate Endowment Foundation – similar to the Federation's affiliate and beneficiary agencies' model – are welcome to invest their assets in the Jewish Federation Pooled Endowment Portfolio.

To support Jewish educational programs that are above and beyond religious and Hebrew schools' current budgets, the **Congregational Enrichment Initiative Program** provides more than \$160,000 annually to congregational supplementary schools affiliated with the Community Foundation for Jewish Education and Associated Talmud Torahs.

Grants to the Religious Movements

JUF provides direct grants to Progressive (Reform), Masorti (Conservative) and Modern Orthodox programs in Israel and in Kyiv, Ukraine. In addition, JUF has provided grants to national rabbinic seminaries, including: Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, the Jewish Theological Seminary, Reconstructionist College of America and Yeshiva University. At the local level, JUF has provided grants to the Reform and Conservative regional offices for innovative and special projects.

Early Childhood



JUF **Right Start** is a landmark program that aims to make Jewish early childhood education more accessible and affordable for parents, and engage young families in Jewish life. The project—the first in the nation—helps offset the cost of Jewish preschool and daycare with a one-time voucher to qualifying families.

JUF sends a complimentary **Shalom Baby** gift package to the family of any local Jewish newborn up to one year old. The Shalom Baby package includes a copy of *Mazel Tov: Baby's First Record Book*, a certificate welcoming the baby into Chicago's Jewish community, a coupon valid at any Jewish institution, and materials on how to create a Jewish home.

Family & Teens



JUF's teen website (www.juf.org/teens) provides information on everything Jewish for teens, including local community programs, youth movements, city-wide events, volunteer opportunities, overnight camps, travel and Israel programs and scholarships.

A unique partnership between families, synagogues and JUF/Federation, **SKIP: The Send-a-Kid-to-Israel Partnership** is designed to make an Israel experience a natural part of a child's Jewish education. Children can enroll as early as third grade and as late as sixth grade for this special savings incentive program to help high school and college students participate in an Israel Experience program.

The Gift of Israel establishes a special account in a bar/bat mitzvah celebrant's name to save funds towards an Israel Experience during high school or college. When the account reaches \$1,000, JUF/Federation provides \$180 as a matching gift towards that child's Israel Experience.

Through the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Israel Experience Certificate** program, each local Bar or Bat Mitzvah receives a \$120 certificate toward a future

Israel Experience as a gift from JUF/Federation. Approximately 1,500 certificates are awarded each year.

To supplement other Israel program funding, JUF/Federation provides both **need and merit-based scholarships for Israel Experiences and need-based scholarships to attend participating Jewish residential summer camps.**

In addition, JUF's **Camp Coupons** help children earn up to \$360 toward their first year of Jewish residential summer camp by enrolling in specific Jewish activities, such as participating Jewish preschools, religious schools, and Jewish day camps. Each year, thousands of Camp Coupons are awarded to children across the Chicago metropolitan area.

Voices: The Teen Giving Circle is a program to help 9th- to 12th-graders learn how to make a difference in the world through philanthropy and grant-making. The group acts as a real foundation, with a budget of \$25,000, setting goals, developing grant guidelines and requesting proposals for unique programs around the world. **KOLOT: The Israel-Centered Teen Giving Circle** brings together 10th- through 12th-graders from Israel and Chicago to learn about philanthropy, grant making and Israeli society, with \$25,000 to allocate to organizations in Israel. American participants travel to Israel on a fact-finding mission over winter break, and the Israeli participants visit Chicago in the spring to make the final allocations.

Write On for Israel is an intensive, two-year program, sponsored by *JUF News* and the Community Foundation for Jewish Education of Metropolitan Chicago. Write On combines history and politics with hands-on training in writing and public speaking. It is open to 25 exceptional high school juniors who love Israel; write and speak well; can commit to a 2-year extracurricular program in Israel advocacy; and are ready for an Israel experience that goes beyond tourism to actively engage the issues.

Teens can take their summer from ordinary to extraordinary at **Camp TOV**, a week-long, fun-filled program of hands-on volunteer work to serve the hungry, visit the elderly, clean up the environment and learn about Chicago's social service needs. Teens from throughout the city and suburbs of Chicago, in addition to Israeli teens from our Partnership 2000 Region, are brought together for a memorable summer learning experience.

TOV MTV (Monthly Teen Volunteering) is a unique program which allows teens to take part in exciting monthly volunteer opportunities around the Chicago metropolitan area. Specific volunteer programs and opportunities can be planned to cater to youth groups, B'nai Mitzvah children and other Jewish teen organizations.

College Students & Young Adults



The **Kivun Internships** seek to connect Midwestern Jewish residential camps with Chicago's Jewish community, and to help the camps retain well-qualified, experienced staff members who might otherwise opt for a higher-paying summer job. In exchange for a \$1,000 college scholarship, selected individuals work at a four-day internship in Chicago that gives them a taste of the Chicago Jewish community. The interns then create and carry out an innovative camp project, bringing the work of the JUF/Federation to the camps.

Started more than 80 years ago at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Hillel has grown to an international organization, with branches at hundreds of colleges and universities. **The Hillels of Illinois** provide students with an essential connection to Jewish life in college. Students who attend a university in Illinois or who are from Illinois are eligible for exciting programs and opportunities, including the Lewis Summer Intern Program, an 8-week work/study program serving Chicago's Jewish community and hosted by JUF/Federation agencies.

JUF Taglit-Birthright Israel is a landmark program that sends hundreds of young Jewish adults on free trips to Israel, strengthening participants' personal Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish people. JUF sponsors Chicago community Birthright trips, run by Shorashim, that emphasize building a sense of community. Trips are grouped by college and post-college/graduate age levels, and are conducted in the winter and summer. Participants also can choose a Russian Heritage program. Continuing programming encourages Birthright alumni to retain a connection with one another and continue their journey of Jewish discovery through the many options offered by the Chicago Jewish community.

Programs for the Rabbinate



Supported by JUF/Federation, the **Chicago Board of Rabbis (CBR)** serves the congregational rabbinic community and acts as a spokesperson for them on various issues. JUF also co-sponsors the Rabbinic Kallah at the CBR Annual Meeting, as well as the CBR High Holy Day Sermon Seminar.

The **JUF Rabbinic Action Committee** serves as the Jewish United Fund's major vehicle for JUF work with the rabbinate. The committee is responsible for the JUF Campaign amongst the rabbis, and works in tandem with the JUF Congregations & Community Campaign division. The JUF Rabbinic Action Committee conducts an annual Rabbinic Mission to Europe and Israel, as well as an annual Fall Study Institute for the Chicago rabbinate and the senior staff of Federation on current, critical issues. In addition, for the past several years, the Jewish Federation has made it possible, through scholarship funds, for seven pulpit rabbis in our community to participate in the extensive Shalom Hartman Institute program in Israel.

Agency Programs

Jewish communal agencies supported by JUF/Federation work in concert with synagogues in essential ways.

JUF/Federation-supported **incentive grants** for new educational programs are awarded to encourage collaboration among synagogues and other providers of adult education. An Adult Education Network Seminar, led by the **Community Foundation for Jewish Education (CFJE)**, strengthens and enriches synagogue-based adult Jewish education programs. CFJE and **Associated Talmud Torahs (ATT)** support area Jewish early childhood education programs, special education and learning disabilities programs, congregational schools and Jewish day schools, particularly with professional development opportunities and curricular planning.

Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) offers family-life education and discussion groups, often held at synagogues, which help people navigate major life transitions and crises. JCFS sponsors The Chuppah Project, a series of workshops, conducted in cooperation with synagogues, to help prepare engaged couples for life after the wedding. JCFS also provides social workers for congregational early childhood programs and for some after-school programs. **The Jewish Healing Network of Chicago** links people struggling with issues of illness and loss in the Chicago Jewish community to social, health, and spiritual resources. It is a collaborative project of JCFS, CJE SeniorLife, CBR, and JUF/Federation. Since its inception in 2000, dozens of congregations have benefited from Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick) training for congregants.

JCARES is a coalition of Chicagoland Jewish and secular organizations, agencies, rabbis and advocates that collaboratively create, support and influence initiatives and policies to prevent, address and respond to abuse in Jewish homes, families and relationships. JCARES offers training modules for synagogue lay leadership, clergy and professionals to help enable them to sensitively and spiritually address and respond to abused congregants and their families.

Jewish Community Center of Chicago (JCC) partners with synagogues in multiple ways, including the Sidney N. Shure Kehilla in the city, which offers young adults entry into the Jewish community; the Adult Jewish Education Co-op in the northwest suburbs, offering learning opportunities throughout the year; the North Shore Fellowship of Rabbis, which works closely with local rabbis on community educational projects and “green” initiatives with synagogues; “got Shabbat?” in the city and suburbs, offering families engaging programming on Shabbat afternoons; the Council of Jewish Organizations in the Hyde Park/Kenwood neighborhoods, which develops community events and programs; and the Cooperative Jewish Council in the southern suburbs, where JCC and area synagogues co-sponsor learning and holiday events and address political issues and community needs.

JCC also is coordinating a community effort with the support of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and local rabbis to provide chaplaincy services to the Recruit Training Center at the Great Lakes Naval Base.

CJE SeniorLife runs a comprehensive network of community-based and residential programs for individual congregants and congregational memberships as a whole such as The Lakeshore Mercaz: Center for Older Jewish Adults on Chicago’s north side. CJE SeniorLife works closely with four synagogues to develop stimulating, educational topics which are presented at one of these synagogues each month, and provides participants with free transportation.

The Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) Jewish Employment Network (JEN) operates in cooperation with dozens of local congregations to provide job referrals to congregants who are out of work or underemployed. JVS also reaches out to synagogues to make college students aware of scholarship opportunities through JUF/ Federation.

The Jewish Early Childhood Kehillah is a collaborative effort of JUF/ Federation, ATT, CFJE and JCC. Its mission: to enhance the quality of early childhood Jewish education in Chicago through the Jewish Accreditation process, continuing professional development for educators and an annual award for distinguished educators in the field.