The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

2025
IMPACT REPORT

A Defining Year for Our Jewish Community

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At the close of 2024, we dared ourselves to dream big, to imagine the future of Jewish Lexington. Throughout 2025, we worked to turn vision into impact across our community.

This past year has not been without challenge. Globally, we have witnessed a rise in antisemitism and increasing uncertainty. These realities are not abstract. They impact how we gather, how we feel, and how we show up as a community.

And yet, in the face of it all, we chose to stand united, guided not by fear or anxiety, but by action, purpose, and pride in being Jewish.

Together, we strengthened Jewish life in Central Kentucky. We expanded opportunities for connection and belonging. We supported individuals and families with care and compassion. Through grants and community partnerships, we were able to expand our impact, strengthen key initiatives, and invest in the growth and sustainability of Jewish Lexington. And, we took a transformational step forward, making a meaningful investment in our future through endowment and legacy giving.

This report reflects more than numbers. It reflects what is possible when a community is aligned, committed, and forward-looking.

We are building something stronger, more connected, more resilient. There is still work ahead; there always will be. But we face it knowing that we are not only capable of meeting that moment, we are ready for it. Thank you for joining us and working to shape what comes next.

Together, we build. Together, we invest. Together, we sustain.

Mindy Haas,
Executive Director

FEDERATION LEADERSHIP

Your Federation is run by a dedicated Board of Directors and a Staff who work tirelessly to make a difference in our community. Thank you to the following board and staff members who make our Federation so special!

2025 Board of Directors

Executive Committee
Jill Angelucci - *Co-President*
Aaron Ann Cole - *Co-President*
Adam Parritz - *Vice President*
Erik Schwartz - *Treasurer*
Justin Sadle - *Secretary*
Kathy Stein - *At-Large JCRC*
Ilona Szekely - *At-Large*
Seth Salomon - *Immediate Past President*

Directors
Andrea Grunberger Moore
Mimi Kaufman
Debbie Masters
Sam Mischner
Jeff Newman
Angie Ornstein
Ricki Rosenberg
David Swedler

JFB Staff

Mindy Haas - *Executive Director*
Daniel Baker - *Assistant Executive Director*
Joseph Eskin - *Director of Jewish Community Expansion*
Paula Mertens - *Director of Jewish Family and Community Services*
Joy Fisher - *Outreach and Development*
Susan Voglesong - *Operations Manager/Camp Director*

OUR PARTNERS

Our Community Partners

One of the greatest strengths of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass is the relationships we continue to build throughout Central Kentucky. As an inclusive organization, we are proud to partner with each organization in the Jewish community. Throughout the year, these partnerships helped bring meaningful programs and experiences to life through co-sponsored events, mitzvah projects, educational opportunities, and collaborative community initiatives.

Ohavay Zion Synagogue — Learn Torah, Live Torah, Pass it on with Love!

Temple Adath Israel

Chabad of the Bluegrass

Gan Shalom Preschool

Jewish Student Life

Secure Community Network (SCN)

Jewish Federation of Louisville

Hillel

HADASSAH the power of women who DO

Moishe House

JGO The Jewish Grad Organization

Our Sponsors

We are so thankful to the following business partners for showing their support through program and event sponsorships in 2025.

Blue Grass Community Foundation

Downtown Lexington Partnership

Hicks & Funfsinn Kentucky Lawyers

Hornik Family Foundation

Metromax Realty — Star Performance That Moves You.

Stand Up To Jewish Hate

Salomon & Company — Wealth Consulting Partners

Jewish Heritage Fund

A More Perfect Union — The Jewish Partnership for Democracy

Repair the World

SG Scott Gyebel Central Kentucky

Spotlight: Nearly 100 Programs Made an Impact

In 2025, we made 96 programs a reality, bringing together nearly 2,000 total attendees to engage in Jewish life. We averaged 8 programs per month and saw over 660 unique individuals, showing just how big an impact our programming has in Jewish Lexington.

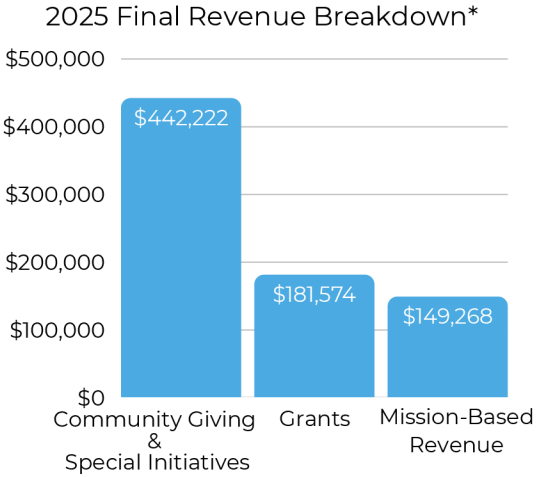
THE GENEROSITY BEHIND OUR MISSION

2025 Revenue: Powered by Our Community

We build, we invest, we sustain. In 2025, our community generated **$773,064** through the Annual Campaign, grants, and event income, reflecting both the strength of our community and the trust placed in our mission.

Our Annual Campaign secured a **4% increase over 2024**, with 107 donors increasing their support.

**As of 12/31/2025.*



Our community believes in sustaining Jewish life through fundraising efforts. **$442,222 raised.**

We are worthy of investment, resulting in grants from partner organizations. **$181,574 raised.**

Our programs bring in valuable support, demonstrating growing engagement and interest. **$149,268 raised.**

Our Endowment and Reserve Funds

In 2025, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass continued investing in both today's needs and tomorrow's future. Through emergency relief efforts, the growth of the Endow Jewish Lexington Fund, and intentional financial planning, our community strengthened the foundation for long-term Jewish life in Central Kentucky.

Led by a dedicated Legacy Committee, our endowment efforts continue building lasting support for future generations, while our reserve fund helps ensure stability, growth, and sustainability for years to come.

Endow Jewish Lexington Fund

$2,135,128 committed

Received as of 12/31/2025: $1,450,985

JFB Reserve Fund

$283,734 total

BG GIVES DAY

$33,000+ Raised

35 Unique Donors

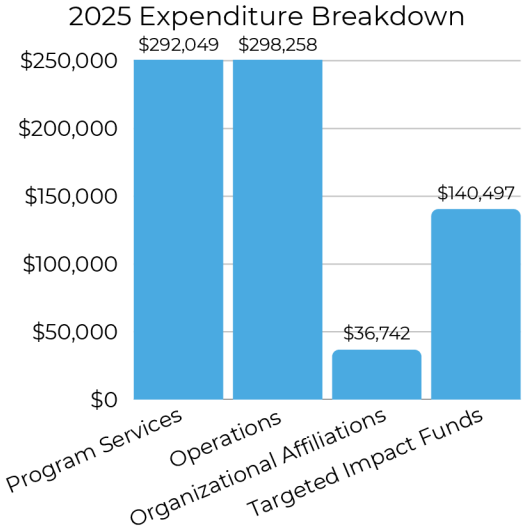
Bluegrass GIVES

BLUE GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

YOUR IMPACT IN ACTION

2025 Expenses: Every Dollar with Purpose

In 2025 we invested into our mission—each dollar carefully directed to strengthen Jewish life, support our community, and sustain our operations with transparency and intention.



JFB makes every effort to keep expenses low while maintaining quality programming and services for all.

Program Services
$292,049

Our community's support is transformed into meaningful impact through programs & services that strengthen Jewish life. More than 44% of our spending directly supports experiences like Camp Shalom, Holocaust education, holiday celebrations, & the dedicated staff whose passion & care bring this work to life.

Operations
$298,528

Behind every program, gathering, & community impact is a strong & reliable foundation that keeps JFB moving forward. Investments in administration, financial stewardship, technology, & training ensure we remain accountable, professional, & prepared to serve our community with excellence & care.

Targeted Impact Funds
$140,497

Donate

We extend our impact by supporting Jewish organizations, individuals, & causes near & far. Through efforts like Mishloach Manot & community giving, your generosity helps us strengthen connections, care for those in need, & ensure that Jewish responsibility & compassion reach far beyond our walls.

Organizational Affiliations
$36,742

We build, we invest, & we sustain. Our partnerships with the Jewish Federations of North America & the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies connect JFB to national resources, expertise, & collaboration which strengthen our local work. These relationships help ensure that Jewish life in Central Kentucky remains connected, supported, & positioned for a strong future.

SUPPORTING TODAY'S NEEDS AND OUR FUTURE

JFCS Jewish Family and Community Services
Lexington, Kentucky

JEWISH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

In 2025, Jewish Family Services entered an exciting new chapter as we officially became Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS), unveiling a new name and logo that better reflects the work we do today and the vision for our future.

As our community and its needs continue to grow, JFCS remains committed to supporting individuals and families through compassionate care, senior case management, crisis support, emergency assistance, aging support programs, and connections to vital community resources.

This transition also positions us for meaningful expansion in 2026, creating new opportunities to strengthen services, deepen partnerships, and broaden the support available to Jewish Lexington and the greater Central Kentucky community.

$2,000
Local Emergency Assistance Distributed

$10,000
Camp/Cultural Experiences Funded

225+
Community resource referrals

510+
Client touchpoints

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE STEWART HOME

JFB staff and its many volunteers bring the story, sounds, and excitement of Jewish holidays to the students at the Stewart Home & School. Songs, food, games, and gifts are shared to help students connect with their Jewish identity and our wonderful community. Founded in 1883, The Stewart Home is a long-standing residential school in Frankfort that serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Emergency Campaigns - Supporting Our Neighbors

Each year, JFB collects funding to aid in emergency relief efforts for natural disasters and other areas where we can help those in need. In 2025, our community supported tornado relief efforts, a community bed donation project, a Jewish response to hunger, and more.

$15,000+ raised
for emergency support

SHARED EXPERIENCES

A strong and connected Jewish community is built through meaningful outreach, engagement, and opportunities for belonging. As Central Kentucky continues to grow and evolve, expanding community infrastructure is essential to ensuring individuals and families can access welcoming pathways into Jewish life. Through initiatives like the Jewish Community Expansion Project, JFB is investing in relationships, programs, and long term strategies that strengthen Jewish connection today while building a more vibrant and sustainable future for tomorrow.

JEWISH COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROJECT

Through the Jewish Community Expansion Project, a grant-funded initiative, JFB continued building new pathways into Jewish life across Central Kentucky and we are proud to share that this transformational work has been renewed for another two years. Throughout 2025, JFB created meaningful opportunities for connection, welcoming individuals and families into Jewish community life through cultural programs, social gatherings, recreation, education, and shared experiences.

Young adult engagement saw tremendous momentum through our **Moishe House Without Walls initiative**, where peer-led experiences helped create authentic and lasting Jewish connections for people in their 20s and 30s. Recreational programs like basketball and pickleball also became important entry points for community building, creating welcoming spaces for connection, friendship, and belonging.

This growth was further reinforced through our community survey*, which highlighted both the increasing desire for Jewish connection across the Bluegrass and the importance of creating diverse, relationship-driven opportunities for engagement. Together, these efforts are helping shape a stronger, more connected, and more sustainable Jewish future for our whole community.

*COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Jewish community survey was the first in more than a decade, engaging **nearly 300 participants** including **nearly 40 individuals unaffiliated** with organized Jewish life. Its insights are helping shape future community planning, engagement strategies, and focus groups launching in 2026.

SNAPSHOTS FROM MOISHE HOUSE W/O WALLS

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

Youth engagement is essential to developing a strong and vibrant Jewish future. Through programs like PJ Library, Camp Shalom, family engagement experiences, and holiday programming, we create meaningful opportunities for children and families to connect with Jewish life. Our work encourages building friendships, strengthening identity, and creating lasting memories. By investing in our youth today, we are nurturing the next generation of Jewish leadership, community, and belonging in Central Kentucky.

CAMP SHALOM

133
Camp Weeks Sold

61
Total Campers

12
Field Trips

Camp Shalom continued to thrive in 2025, creating a summer filled with friendship, discovery, leadership, and Jewish joy. New families joined the Camp Shalom community, young campers built lasting connections, and returning campers continued traditions that make camp such a meaningful part of Jewish life in Central Kentucky. Guided by a dedicated and caring staff team, Camp Shalom provided children with a place to learn, grow, and simply enjoy being together in a vibrant Jewish environment, building excitement and momentum for the future.

SNAPSHOTS FROM CAMP SHALOM

PJ LIBRARY

PJ Library programming continued to create meaningful moments of connection for young families across Central Kentucky in 2025. Through programs centered on wellness, creativity, holidays, and family engagement, children and parents gathered to build friendships, celebrate Jewish traditions, and create lasting memories together. PJ Library helped create welcoming spaces where families could connect to Jewish life in joyful, accessible, and meaningful ways.

147
Monthly Subscriptions

4
Programs

FOSTERING CONNECTION

In 2025, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass continued creating meaningful pathways into Jewish life through programs centered on connection, wellness, culture, advocacy, and celebration. Community members gathered for everything from family engagement and holiday celebrations to educational conversations, recreational activities, and moments of remembrance and reflection.

Programs like Maggid, Sukkah Hop, the community Yom HaShoah commemoration, and Jewish Advocacy Day strengthened Jewish identity and learning, while initiatives such as PJ Library events, yoga, basketball, pickleball, and Mah Jong created welcoming spaces for friendship and belonging across generations. Community partnerships and public events, including Pride celebrations, Holocaust education, and Jewish Heritage Night with the Lexington Legends, showcased Jewish life and pride in the Bluegrass.

These experiences reflected something larger than individual programs. They demonstrated a growing, vibrant, and connected Jewish community where people could find meaningful ways to gather, celebrate, learn, advocate, and support one another throughout the year.

COMMUNITY EVENT SNAPSHOTS

Spotlight: Dancing the Hora at DiverCity

On May 24, Jewish community members and friends performed the Hora at the DiverCity Festival in downtown Lexington. They invited spectators to join, and nearly 40 people participated. Thanks to Bruce and Mary Engel for organizing this effort!

SECURITY IS A PRIORITY

For the first time, Jewish institutions across Lexington aligned around one coordinated security strategy, recognizing that safety is not the responsibility of any one organization alone. It is a collective commitment to ensuring that Jewish families can continue to gather proudly, openly, and safely throughout Central Kentucky.

Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, Temple Adath Israel, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and Chabad of the Bluegrass came together to strengthen and reimagine what community security could look like in Central Kentucky. What emerged was not simply a collection of security upgrades, but a coordinated community-wide commitment to protecting Jewish life for generations to come.

Through a partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN), the Jewish Federation of Louisville, local law enforcement, and federal agencies including the FBI, Lexington secured a transformational $175,000 security investment supporting the community through 2026.

This investment allowed immediate action across the community, including increased security personnel, upgraded cameras and access control systems, AEDs and emergency preparedness equipment, ongoing site assessments, crisis planning, and strengthened coordination with law enforcement partners.

But perhaps most importantly, this effort demonstrated something deeper: the power of a small community standing together with shared responsibility and shared purpose.

While grant funding helped establish and strengthen these systems, sustaining them will require continued community partnership and investment in the years ahead.
This initiative reflects more than physical security. It reflects resilience, unity, leadership, and a commitment to building a Jewish future that is strong, visible, and built to last.

FUNDING OUR SECURITY INITIATIVE

$285,000
in funding over 3 years
for the benefit of
A SAFER LEXINGTON

Through a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Louisville, JFB secured a transformational $285,000 multi-year security grant to strengthen protection across Jewish Lexington. **As the grant moves into Years 2 and 3, community matching support will help sustain this critical investment for the future.**

WELCOME, STUART!

Welcome to Stuart Lowrey, Regional Security Advisor at Jewish Federation of Louisville and Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass for Secure Community Network.

TO OUR COMMUNITY: THANK YOU!

As we close this year's report, we do so with gratitude, pride, and hope for what comes next. The impact reflected throughout these pages is possible because of a community willing to show up for one another, invest in the future, and believe in the strength of Jewish life in Central Kentucky.

The work ahead will continue to be guided by connection, collaboration, and informed planning. Through the relationships we are building and the data compiled through community engagement and participation, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass has a stronger understanding of the evolving needs, interests, and opportunities shaping Jewish life across the Bluegrass. These insights will continue guiding how we expand outreach, strengthen engagement, invest in services, and create meaningful pathways into Jewish life for years to come.

As Jewish Lexington continues to grow and evolve, so will our commitment to supporting individuals and families, strengthening community security, investing in future generations, and building a sustainable foundation for long-term growth.

There is still work to do, and there always will be. But we move forward knowing that together, we are capable of meeting that moment with strength, compassion, and purpose.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping shape the future of Jewish Lexington.

Together, we build. Together, we invest. Together, we sustain.

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