The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

**Building pillars of strength to**
**Engage, Support, Lead, and Sustain our community.**

# 2023
# IMPACT REPORT

# A Note From Our Leadership

*Building Together on our Four Pillars*

Our shared Jewish values serve as a guiding light through the uncertain and challenging times we face in our community, Israel, and the world. These values inspire us to take meaningful action: nourishing the hungry, caring for the most vulnerable, safeguarding our community, and spreading kindness. Federation is the heart of our community, bridging connections and making a difference. In 2023, a dedicated team of community members united to develop a new strategic vision for our Federation. From these discussions, four key initiatives, known as Pillars, were established to guide our mission and shape a vibrant future for our community through addressing current needs and ensuring long-term success and resilience.

## Pillar 1 - ENGAGE

Through our diverse programs, we shape the lives of young adults, strengthen the Jewish identity of young families, and foster community connections. Engagement initiatives, including events, camps, and collaborations, bring our community together and enrich our shared experiences.

## Pillar 2 - SUPPORT

Jewish Family Services (JFS) provides crucial aid to those in crisis as well as our most vulnerable community members. Our support extends through a range of well-care services, working in collaboration with numerous local, national, and international initiatives to deepen our impact. By offering time, financial support, and resources, we uphold our commitment to Jewish and humanitarian causes.

## Pillar 3 - LEAD

Our leadership development programs, school curriculum integration, and advocacy efforts ensure that our community's voice is heard, our values are promoted broadly, and that future leaders develop the tools they need to represent our community. In these times of rising antisemitism, our support for Israel and dedication to combating hate are more critical than ever.

## Pillar 4 - SUSTAIN

We focus on ongoing strategic planning, fundraising, and governance to secure our community's future. The Endow Jewish Lexington Fund and our strategic campaigns ensure that we remain resilient and capable of adapting to new challenges. We strive to sustain the vitality of Jewish Lexington through careful planning and strong leadership.

Whether you're just discovering our efforts or have been a steadfast supporter for years, we hope this Community Impact Report inspires you to deepen your involvement with your Federation. Together, we can harness the power of collective action to create lasting change. We stand by you, for you, and for the greater good. Thank you for enabling us to make a meaningful impact!

Mindy Haas
*Executive Director*

Seth Salomon
*President*

> **"We stand by you, for you, and for the greater good."**

**Seth & Erin Salomon, Eli Crane & Jill Rappaport**
At "A Midsummer Night's Shpiel"

**Big smiles for Camp Shalom!**
Field trip to Living Arts & Science Center

# JFB Board of Directors

Thank you to the 2023 members of the JFB Board of Directors for their commitment to our mission and for working alongside the staff and numerous volunteers to unite, empower, and improve our Jewish community.

**Executive Committee**

Seth Salomon - *President*
Aaron Ann Funfsinn - *VP/Secretary*
Jill Angelucci - *VP/Secretary*
Joshua Shapiro - *Treasurer*
Justin Sadle - *At-Large*
Angie Ornstein - *Past President*

**Board of Directors**

Evalyn Block
Jana Brooking
Bruce Broudy
Mimi Kaufman
Fran Mandel
Sam Mischner
Ricki Rosenberg
Ilona Szekely

Our Board of Directors at the 2023 Annual Meeting & Awards

# JFB Staff - Making A Difference In Our Community

The daily operations of Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass are conducted by our seven-person staff. Only three members of the staff are full-time employees. All staff members work frequent evenings, weekends, and some holiday events, well beyond their expected hours, in order to make sure the programs and services you know and love function as planned for Jewish Lexington.

Mindy Haas - *Executive Director*
Daniel Baker - *Assistant Executive Director*
Paula Mertens - *Director of Jewish Family Services*
Joseph Eskin - *Director of Jewish Community Expansion*
Susan Voglesong - *Youth Program Manager*
Carly Conatser - *PJ Library Coordinator*
Joy Fisher - *Outreach Coordinator*

Team JFB!
Susan, Joseph, Paula, Joy, Mindy, Daniel & Carly

**We're dedicated to making sure JFB is seen in our community. Your staff works to make a difference by partnering with, volunteering for, and/or supporting the following organizations and programs.**

Alpha Phi Omega National Coed Service Fraternity, Inc.
Alpha Zeta Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega at UK
Alzheimer's Association, Walk to End Alzheimer's
American Heart Association
At The Well - Global New Moon Circle
Bluegrass Aging Consortium
Bluegrass Care Navigators
Bluegrass Parkinson's Alliance
16th District PTA – Fayette County
Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Fayette County Cooperating Preschool
Fayette County Health Department
Fayette County Public Schools
God's Pantry Food Bank
Habitat for Humanity
Independent Transportation Network (ITN) Bluegrass
Kentucky Antisemitism Task Force
Kentucky State PTA
Lexington Chapter of Hadassah
Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
National PTA
Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies
Ohavay Zion Synagogue
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
Temple Adath Israel
The Lexington Human Rights Council

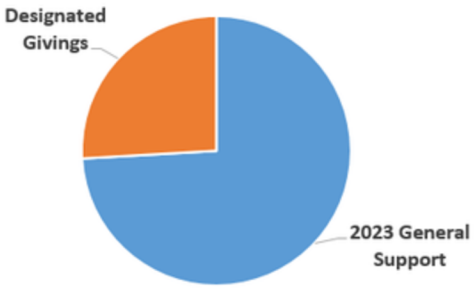
# By The Numbers - 2023 Annual Campaign Revenues

The Annual Campaign is the battery that keeps Federation running. With the gifts we receive, we make a difference in Jewish lives locally, in Israel, and around the world. When you give, please give generously!

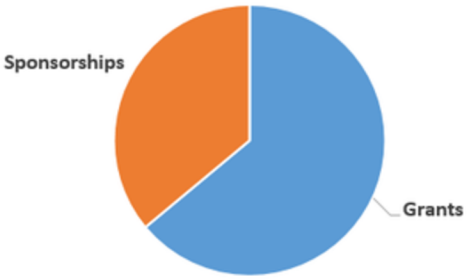
Revenues are not limited to the dollars you give through pledges, monthly donations, or yearly gifts to our Community Giving Campaign. We also receive sponsorships and grants, income from program and event tickets, and funds for our reserve accounts held at Blue Grass Community Foundation.

## 2023 REVENUES

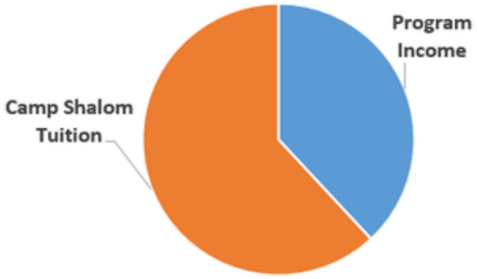
### 2023 Annual Campaign Revenue



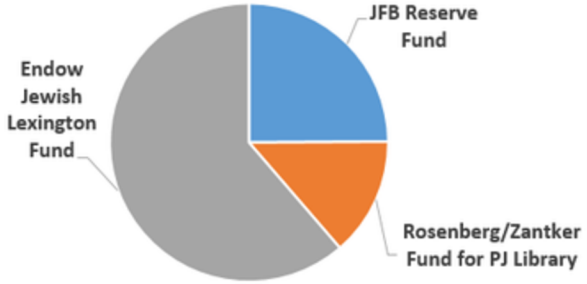

### 2023 Grants & Sponsorships Revenue




### 2023 Program Revenue




### 2023 Reserve & Foundations




| Revenue | Total |
|---|---|
| Designated Giving | $139,224.18 |
| General Support | $398,000.00 |
| **2023 Annual Campaign** | **$537,224.18** |
| Sponsorships | $26,291.39 |
| Grants | $14,822.54 |
| **2023 Grants & Sponsorships** | **$41,113.93** |
| Camp Shalom Tuition | $17,911.51 |
| Program Income | $11,014.95 |
| **2023 Program Revenue** | **$28,926.46** |
| Rosenberg/Zantker Fund for PJ Library | $117,101.10 |
| JFB Reserve Fund | $211,735.75 |
| Endow Jewish Lexington Fund | $521,371.19 |
| **2023 Reserve & Foundations** | **$850,208.04** |

## Emergency Relief

In 2023, JFB raised funds to support the following relief efforts:

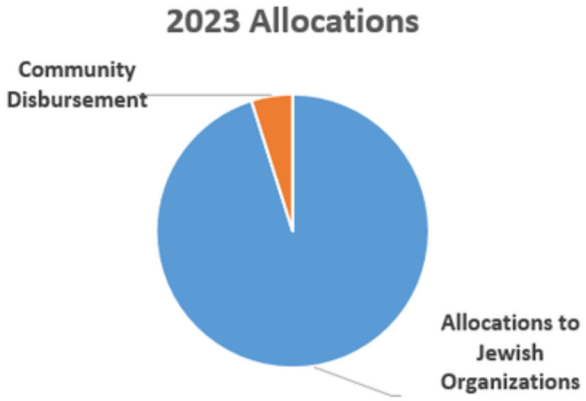
**Israel Relief: $53,910**
**Refugee program: $10,600**
**Ukraine: $5,521**
**Hawaii Fire: $3,820**
**Chabad of Louisville Fire: $1,800**
**Turkey/Syria Earthquake: $800**

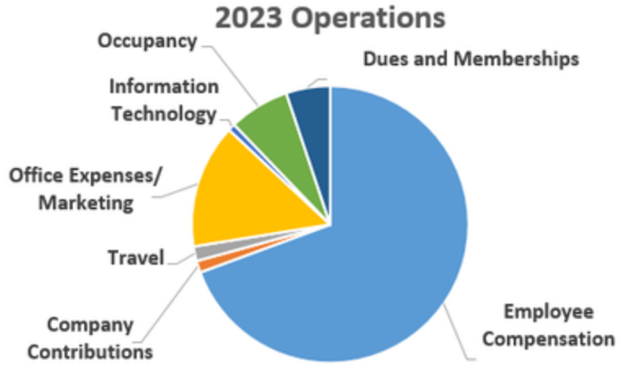
# 2023 Expenses - Your Contributions At Work

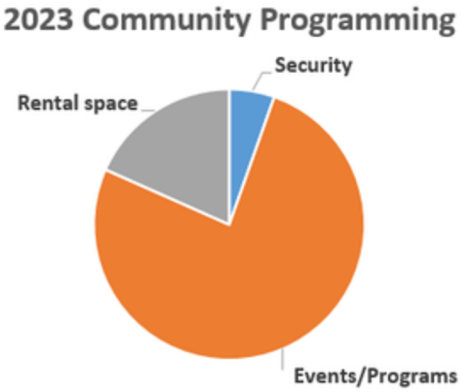
It's no simple task to plan more than 50 programs in a year, pay part-time and full-time staff, maintain office rent and utilities such as internet or phone service, and allocate funding to local organizations as well as national and international affiliates.

This expense report highlights a small glimpse into the major costs required to keep your Federation moving. Every year, expenses increase, and your generous support must be stretched further and further to make ends meet. Please make this a regular consideration in your annual giving to JFB!

| Expense | Total |
|---|---|
| Community Disbursement | $3,952.94 |
| Allocations to Jewish Orgs. | $76,895.15 |
| **2023 Allocations** | **$80,848.09** |
| Company Contributions | $5,580.52 |
| Employee Compensation | $281,475.40 |
| Travel | $6,892.41 |
| Office/Marketing Expenses | $58,871.84 |
| Information Technology | $3,425.45 |
| Occupancy | $28,618.45 |
| Dues and Memberships | $20,838.00 |
| **2023 Operational Expenses** | **$405,702.07** |
| Events/Programs | $33,955.20 |
| Security | $2,400.00 |
| Rental Space | $8,162.42 |
| **2023 Community Programming** | **$44,517.62** |




2023 EXPENSES

## Your Dollars Make A Difference

Thanks to the hard work, dedication, and innovative spirit of our incredible team, we have achieved unprecedented growth and reached new heights in our financial performance.

- ✓ Expanded Campaign Efforts
- ✓ Sustained Growth in Endowments
- ✓ Enhanced Grant & Sponsor Partnerships

## Endow Jewish Lexington

Our endowment ensures a lasting source of support for Jewish Lexington. Our goal is to raise $4 million, and we are proud to share that we are already halfway there at **$2,027,628**!

# All About Advocacy

Through a number of programs and initiatives, our Board and Staff work to strengthen our advocacy efforts locally, in Israel, and around the world. Through our strategic partnerships with state and local leaders, as well as university collaborations, we strive to bring about positive change in our world and to assist those in need. Here is a look at a few of our 2023 advocacy efforts!

## Israel

JFB proudly stands in support of Israel. In 2023, we kicked off the year with vibrant Israeli Youth Programming. Our partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel brought the dynamic Shinshinim to Lexington, who spent an unforgettable weekend with teens from OZS and TAI. The excitement continued with the Tzofim (Israeli Friendship Caravan), who captivated the community and enjoyed a fun-filled day at Camp Shalom in July.

We ended the year on a powerful note, with over 200 people gathering in solidarity at the TAI Stern Mersack Social Hall shortly after the Hamas terror attacks in southern Israel. Our community rallied together to raise an impressive $53,910 in emergency aid. Notably, $20,000 was raised in collaboration with our community's own Ira Cooper and QED Medical, providing essential headlamps for IDF field surgeries.

עם ישראל חי

**$53,910 raised for emergency Israel support!**

**Sheila Jelen reflecting on the impact of October 7.**
Solidarity Gathering for Israel

## Joint Statement for Peace

On December 12, JFB Executive Director Mindy Haas, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Chair Justin Sadle, Rabbi Shani Abramowitz (OZS), and Rabbi David Wirtschafter (TAI) joined City Council members, business leaders, Muslim and Arab community leaders, Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton, and others in a joint statement for peace regarding the Israel-Hamas war.

> **When the violence spills over into our country, with extremist attacks on Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities, Lexington says not here.**
>
> *-An excerpt from the Joint Statement for Peace*

## Student Antisemitism Forum

Our Youth Engagement program held a forum for middle and high school students with FCPS Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB), & FCPS Superintendent Demetrus Liggins, to discuss their experiences with antisemitism in our schools.

**Tzofim - Israeli Scouts**
Performing for our kids at Camp Shalom!

## Holocaust Education

JFB collaborates with the UK Holocaust Education Initiative to provide essential resources, expertise, and community connections, enhancing our ability to deliver high-quality Holocaust education across Kentucky. Together, we are committed to educating future generations, promoting tolerance, and combating antisemitism.

**$4,500 in support to Holocaust Education Programming**

# Jewish Family Services: Working for You!

In 2023, Jewish Family Services (JFS) made significant strides in supporting our community and assisting those in need. Our dedicated efforts included: facilitating community referrals to ensure individuals received necessary support; providing emergency funds to those facing financial hardships; distributing camp and Israel scholarships to enrich the lives of our youth; and connecting with community organizations to broaden our impact and reach.

**446+**
**calls, emails, and visits to clients seeking resources.**

**165**
**referrals to community support resources.**

**$2,020**
**in scholarships for Camp and Israel programs.**

**$1,900**
**given to clients and community members in need.**

Paula at the Stewart Home!

## JFS Committee

Thank you to the volunteers who served on the JFS Committee in 2023 and helped support the work of Jewish Family Services in our community!

Fran Mandel, *Chair*
Connie Loventhal
Dawn Vermey
Mimi Kaufman
Laura Schachman

## Above and Beyond

**In addition to client work, JFS Director Paula Mertens plans 4 holiday programs for the more than 30 residents of the Stewart Home & School in Frankfort. She also serves on multiple boards and committees around the state, and partners with several charities, expanding JFS' reach so it goes above and beyond for anyone in need.**

# Youth Engagement: Camp Shalom and PJ Library

Lexington's Jewish youth have a number of opportunities to meet other young Jews, to engage in Jewish life, and to have fun! Through our PJ Library program and Camp Shalom, we provide great opportunities for learning, connection, and growth which will impact our Jewish community for generations. Additionally, our Youth Program Manager has worked with Fayette County Public Schools to ensure Jewish representation in its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) initiative.

## PJ Library

In 2023, PJ Library organized 14 programs, including community collaborations with Ohavay Zion Synagogue and Temple Adath Israel, home-hosted Shabbat events, and various family-friendly activities. The program focused on the programming for our PJ Our Way readers (ages 9-12). PJ Our Way subscriptions grew from 24 to 38, an increase of 14. We are so excited to see where we will go from here!

**153**
**active enrollments**

**107**
**families represented**

## Camp Shalom

Three weeks of kid-friendly activities, adventurous field trips, and meaningful Jewish connections make our summer day camp an unforgettable experience and a long-time cherished tradition in our community. In 2023, 51 children had the time of their lives! The excitement in the community has led to expanding the program to a 4-week camp in 2024.

**99**
**camp weeks sold**

**51**
**participants**

**45%**
**growth over 2022**

# 2023 Events and Programs

This year, we proudly hosted over 50 programs and events, bringing the Jewish community of Lexington closer together like never before! From cultural celebrations to educational workshops, each gathering strengthened our bonds and enriched our collective experience.

**A Midsummer Night's Shpiel**
**Adventures in Aging**
**Ales and Illusions**
**Americans & the Holocaust Exhibit Opening (Georgetown)**
**Annual Meeting and Awards/Campaign Kick-off**
**Camp Shalom**
**Camp Shalom One Day Camp**
**DiverCity Festival**
**Family Purim event and Megillah Reading**
**GenAxes**
**Global Day of Jewish Learning**
**Grazing Boards 101**
**Hanukkah in Warsaw Watch Party**
**Hanukkah Market**
**Heart Health with Hadassah/JFS**
**Holiday Lighting Festival in downtown Lexington**
**Israel Scouts Caravan (Tzofim)**
**Israel Solidarity Gathering**

## Women's Philanthropy on the rise!

**Our Women's Philanthropy division so a major increase in activity this year. From introspection at photo collage to art appreciation at the UK Art Museum, Jewish women in the Lexington area gathered together to share fun and engaging events. With over 65 attendees ranging in age from 21 and up, JFB is creating unique and engaging opportunities for women's intergenerational mentorship and connection.**

## 50+ programs and events uniting Jewish Lexington!

**JFB held its first Hanukkah Market event at Rock House Brewing on December 3rd. Nearly 20 vendors participated by selling their pottery, paintings, jewelry, food, knits, and more - showcasing the beauty and creativity of our Jewish community. The event allowed more than 100 community members to purchase Hanukkah and holiday gifts for their loved ones. We can't wait to do it again in 2024!**

Lexington's Hanukkah Market

**Jewish Heritage Month at the Ballpark**
**JFB at PRIDE Festival; Drag Fundraiser**
**JFB Presents: Ariel Elias**
**Maggid: A Jewish Storytelling Initiative**
**Matzah Bake and Bag**
**Middle School Antisemitism Discussion**
**MLK Walk and Commemoration**
**PJ Family Havdalah**
**PJ Our Way Pool Party**
**PJ Our Way Roblox Party**
**PJ Tu Bishvat Hike**
**Shine A Light Hanukkah Event**
**Simchat Torah Celebration**
**Stewart Home Holiday Celebrations**
**Sukkah Hop**
**The Jewish Experience**
**YBJ Brews with Jews**
**YBJ Shabbat Dinners**
**Yom HaShoah Commemoration**

## Something for everyone!

# Program Highlights

Having more than 50 programs and events in a year is a lot of work, but we love doing it! Bringing Jewish Lexington together is a privilege we don't take lightly. These highlights from 2023 show a wide range of fun and excitement for our community!

**The 2023 Annual Meeting and Awards featured a thank you to outgoing board members and recognized several community members for their outstanding contributions to JFB and our community. We were proud to present Bob and Judy (z"l) Baumann with the 2023 Legacy Award - a small token of appreciation for their years of dedication to strengthening Jewish Lexington for the benefit of all.**

Justin Sadle, Bob Baumann, Mindy Haas & Angie Ornstein

## 2023 Awards Recipients

**Lynn Furness**
The Hoffman-Rosenberg President's Award

**Ilona Szekely**
Cookie Wenneker Volunteer of the Year Award

**Jordan Heller & Jordan Brennan**
Young Leadership Award

**Bob & Judy (z"l) Baumann**
2023 Legacy Award

> **Our community could not exist for a day without its volunteers.**
>
> *-Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks*

**Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass has made a strong commitment to honoring and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. On July 1st, Jewish Lexington extended PRIDE month with a "Cherry Pop" at Crossings bar in Downtown Lexington. The "Cherry Pop" fundraiser featured Josh Shapiro and Angie Ornstein getting drag makeovers and performing for the crowd. Tips from the night were donated to JFB. Later, JFB donated $2,000 to the Imperial Court of Kentucky, which fundraises and supports LGBTQ+-focused charities in the Commonwealth.**

Josh Shapiro as "Boybra Streisman" and Angie Ornstein as "Hanukkah Lewinsky"

# Program Highlights

JFB worked hard in 2023 to combat antisemitism and make Jewish Lexington visible - letting everyone know that we are a diverse, thriving, vibrant community and proud to be part of the fabric that makes up central Kentucky. JFB received a grant from the Shine A Light initiative to support our efforts to raise awareness about antisemitism during the Hanukkah season and beyond. These funds allowed us to purchase yard signs that were distributed around the community, and we coordinated public menorah lightings once again in downtown Lexington to spread the light and joy of the holiday. Plus, we had plenty more opportunities to bring everyone together throughout the year, including a special Camp Shalom fundraiser and a comedy night!

JFB Staff with Governor Andy Beshear!

**These yard signs could be found around Lexington throughout the month of December. As antisemitism continues to rise around the country and the globe, Lexington is dedicated to fighting hate and Shining A Light on antisemitism.**

In June, we enjoyed cocktails and a Bluegrass Mystery Theatre performance during "A Midsummer Night's Shpiel" at LexArts as we honored Camp Founder Kathy Feinberg by raising funds for the future of Camp Shalom!

Lexington's hometown celebrity Ariel Elias making us laugh in January!

# Our Jewish Community Partner Agencies

We introduce ourselves as an inclusive agency working with and for the entire local Jewish community. As such, we're proud to work with all of our community partners to co-sponsor events, collaborate on mitzvah projects, and participate in educational programming. Thanks to our local Jewish Community Partners for their constant support of Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass!

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

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

Chabad of the Bluegrass

Jewish Student Life

Hillel

HADASSAH the power of women who DO

## We are PROUD to work with our community partners!

Big smiles at the Stewart Home!

### Camp Shalom Goes Swimming!

**One of our campers' favorite field trips includes a swimming adventure at the Woodland Park Aquatic Center. Each week, as long as the weather permits, the Camp Shalom staff gather towels and pool floaties and bring the campers to the pool for a fun summer outing. Additionally, Camp Shalom staff organized outings to baseball games, the Living Arts and Science Center, breakout/escape rooms, and more. The 3-week session in 2023 featured 9 field trips which all turned out to be a big hit among campers and their families.**

**JFNA represents 146 independent federations and a network of 300 communities across the continent!**

## Jewish Federations of North America

We proudly belong to the Federation movement. Among the top 10 charities on the continent, Federations protect and enhance the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and *Torah* (Jewish learning).

# Our Local Affiliates

JFB proudly collaborates with a number of local organizations to be able to provide the highest quality of support, services, and programs to our community.

Arbor Youth Services
Blue Grass Community Foundation (BGCF)
CivicLex
Community Response Coalition of Kentucky (CRCKY)
Downtown Lexington Partnership
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee
Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)
God's Pantry Food Bank
ITN Bluegrass
Jewish Heritage Fund (JHFE)
Kentucky Nonprofit Network
Kentucky Refugee Ministries
Lexington DiverCity Festival
Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD)
Lexington Human Rights Commission
Lexington League of Women Voters
Lexington Police Department
Lexington Pride Center/Lexington Pride Festival
NAACP-Lexington
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAKY)
Stewart Home & School
United Way of the Bluegrass

**Following the Hamas terror attack on Israel in October, members of Lexington's Jewish community traveled to Washington, DC on November 14 to join over 290,000 attendees at the March for Israel, organized by several Jewish organizations including Jewish Federations of North America. The event was a peaceful gathering and a call for the release of all of the hostages taken by Hamas. It served as a reminder of our community's strength and resilience in the face of hate.**

Ilona Szekely, Daniel Baker, Ricki Rosenberg, Simone Salomon, and Paula Mertens

Emilie and Gaby love our Camp kids!

## TOGETHER we are EXTRAORDINARY!

### Engaging Our Community

JFB is working to bring our Lexington Jewish community together to celebrate Judaism. From connecting over a beer to hearing stories to celebrating Israel and holidays, we are working to create connecting and engaging experiences for the whole community. Please join us at one of our many events throughout the year!

# Our National Affiliates

In our affiliation with Jewish Federations of North America, we partner with the following organizations and are proud of the work they do in our community and across the world.

American Jewish Committee (AJC)
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America
Israel Action Network (IAN)
Israel Bonds
Jewish Agency for Israel
Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)
Keshet | For LGBTQ+ Equality in Jewish Life
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
PJ Library/Harold Grinspoon Foundation
Secure Community Network (SCN)

# Thank You, Jewish Lexington!

Throughout 2023, we have been so thankful for YOU, Jewish Lexington. Every time you attended one of our events or volunteered on a committee, you inspired us to do even more for our community. Your generous contributions made possible a wide range of valuable experiences, programs, and events enjoyed by Jews of all ages.

In every hug, every high five, and yes, even every Facebook “like,” we felt the love and passion you have for Jewish Lexington. YOUR support motivated us to strengthen the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, ensuring we could better support the community we cherish.

In moments of joy and times of sorrow, when we came together, we proved that we could overcome anything. Your generosity, support, and kindness from friends and neighbors have made all the difference. We are immensely proud to be part of Jewish Lexington, and we hope you are too! **Thank you for making 2023 an unforgettable year of community and connection.**

The “Sukkah Hop” at TAI’s Front Lawn

# Our Sponsors

We are so thankful to the following business partners for showing their support through program and event sponsorships in 2023!

REPUBLIC BANK

BLUE GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON PARTNERSHIP

HICKS & FUNFSINN KENTUCKY LAWYERS

HORNIK FAMILY FOUNDATION

Jewish Heritage Fund

SALOMON&COMPANY WEALTH CONSULTING PARTNERS

SHINE A LIGHT

# The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS

As One, we are **Am Yisrael** - the People of Israel.
Join us as we continue to provide for the needs of our ever-changing community.
Help us as we combat rising antisemitism and hate in all its forms.
Work with us, as we build a Jewish community which will last for generations to come.
Together, we can do all of this. **As One.**

## 2024 ANNUAL COMMUNITY GIVING CAMPAIGN

**As One, we can make anything possible.**
Help us continue to make a difference in 2024.

Please give generously!

Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass
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www.jewishlexington.org
859-268-0672