



ANNUAL COMMUNITY UPDATE 2009 - 2010

MISSION AND VISION

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks is to preserve, secure, and strengthen Jewish life and values in our community, the State of Israel, and throughout the world.

The vision of the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks is to be:

- The primary Jewish fundraising organization in our community, that enables us to provide critical assistance to agencies supporting our mission;
- The central organization that brings together agencies and people dedicated to maintaining, enriching, and empowering the Jewish community from generation to generation.

OUR FUNDING PRIORITIES

Caring for Those in Need in Princeton Mercer Bucks

- Critical social service support for people in need including families in crisis, isolated elders, new Americans, individuals with disabilities, and the unemployed and underemployed.



Strengthening Local Jewish Education and Culture

- Jewish learning opportunities for children, adults, and families including synagogue-based schools, day schools, camping experiences, innovative adult learning programs, and music.



Helping Jews in Israel and Around the World

- Global rescue, resettlement efforts, advocacy, and support for vulnerable populations and communities at risk in over 60 countries around the world.

PEOPLE SERVED

In these difficult times, here are a few of the many examples of how our Federation helped support our Jewish community in 2009 - 2010:

- 403 individuals received food pantry packages twice a month as well as food vouchers for grocery stores through Jewish Family and Children's Service;
- Elderly residents were cared for in 137 beds at Greenwood House's skilled nursing home, where approximately 65% of all residents were Medicaid eligible - not covering the full cost of services provided;
- 27 students from Princeton Mercer Bucks received scholarships that enabled them to continue their education at Abrams Hebrew Academy;
- Campers who received scholarships based on financial need increased by over 15% at the Jewish Community Center's Abrams Day Camp.



ALLOCATION RECIPIENTS

Caring for Those in Need in Princeton Mercer Bucks

Greenwood House Home for the Jewish Aged
Jewish Community Center

Jewish Family and Children's Service

Strengthening Local Jewish Education and Culture

Abrams Hebrew Academy
Adath Israel Congregation
Beth Chaim Congregation
Board of Rabbis of Princeton Mercer Bucks
Chabad Community Services
Center for Jewish Life at Princeton University (CJL)
FedWeb
Israel Scholarships Program: Birthright Israel, MASA
LaShir Choir
Principals' Council
Rutgers University Hillel

Abrams Hebrew Academy 8th Grade Tip to Israel
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tzedakah Program
Beth El Congregation
Brothers of Israel Congregation
Chaplaincy Program
College of New Jersey Student Services
Har Sinai Temple
Jewish Community Youth Foundation
New Jersey Jewish News
Rider University Hillel
The Jewish Center

Helping Jews in Need in Israel and Around the World

Jewish Agency for Israel
American Joint Distribution Committee
Jewish Federations of North America

Joint Council on Public Affairs
NJ State Association of Jewish Federations

Community Allocations 2009 - 2010

Helping Jews in Israel and
Around the World**
\$659,220
50%

Caring for Those in Need
in Princeton Mercer Bucks
\$477,298
36%

Strengthening Local
Jewish Education &
Culture
\$180,711
14%

- Caring for Those in Need in Princeton Mercer Bucks
- Strengthening Local Jewish Education & Culture
- Helping Jews in Israel and Around the World



** Includes funds allocated for the Haiti Relief Fund.



About Our Major Recipient Agencies and Programs

Abrams Hebrew Academy, located in Yardley, Pennsylvania, provides a full secular and Jewish Day School education to more than 200 students from nursery school through eighth grade. As a community Day School, Abrams serves a range of pupils from reform to orthodox affiliation. The Abrams educational program culminates with the annual eighth grade graduation trip to Israel.

American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) provides social and community-building services to over 60 countries around the world. It operates 174 emergency food and medical assistance programs throughout the former Soviet Union, provides emergency relief to the “newly poor” Jewish community in Argentina, and offers monthly subsistence grants to elderly impoverished individuals throughout Eastern Europe. It also provides life-sustaining services to Ethiopian Jews in Addis Adaba. JDC works with indigenous leadership in the various countries, empowering them and training them to be self-sufficient.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tzedakah Program, organized through the Federation, gives a tzedakah box to every Bar and Bat Mitzvah teen at their synagogues on the day of their special ceremony to symbolically welcome them as an adult member of the Jewish community.

Birthright Israel is a unique partnership between the government of Israel, individual philanthropists, and Federations. Its purpose is to provide free 10-day educational trips to Israel for college-age students who have not had such an opportunity to date. More than 200,000 students have enjoyed this program and the testimony to its success is the many students who return and engage in intensified Jewish-related activities.

The **Board of Rabbis of Princeton Mercer Bucks** brings together, in a pluralistic setting, rabbis to discuss and act upon Jewish issues that call for unity and action. The executive directors of our major beneficiary agencies join the discussions as non-voting members. The Board sponsors introduction to Judaism courses, community Jewish education, and jointly sponsored Selichot services.

Center for Jewish Life at Princeton University (CJL) serves as the Hillel of Princeton University with a Jewish undergraduate presence of 600 students. A wide range of educational, social and religious programming is offered in a pluralistic setting, designed by the students themselves to provide a “Jewish home away from home.”

Chabad Community Services offers a number of Jewish-oriented holiday programs throughout the year, including a Hanukah “wonderland” gala celebration, a roving “sukkah” mobile, Talmud classes, and a new Jewish day camp.

College of New Jersey Student Services serves the college’s Jewish student population by offering religious, educational and social programs throughout the year.

Chaplaincy Program visits approximately 150 Jewish residents monthly at more than 25 nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Mercer County, speaks with residents one-on-one or in larger groups, and helps with the rituals surrounding Jewish holidays.

Greenwood House Home for the Jewish Aged offers comprehensive residential medical, nursing and nutritional care, and rehabilitation in a Jewish environment. The skilled nursing facility includes a synagogue and a strictly kosher kitchen, as well as a hair salon, library, gift shop, and attractive outdoor patios and gardens. They also operate an assisted living facility, Abrams House, which is an alternative to nursing home care; home care assistance, and hospice care.

Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is the primary recipient of funds awarded by Federations and their counterparts throughout the Diaspora for basic life-sustaining services in Israel. As the precursor to the Israeli government, JAFI continues to serve as the primary coordinator between the state itself and worldwide Jewry. The services provide help to support immigration and absorption, disadvantaged and needy individuals and families, and cultural services.

About Our Major Recipient Agencies *continued...*

The **Jewish Community Center of Princeton Mercer Bucks (JCC)** recently completed its 100th year of providing quality educational, social and recreational programs to members of the Jewish community. While awaiting its new home in the planned community campus, special programs are continuously offered to over 50 teens and young adults with disabilities, as well as Jewish holiday programming, “Night of Jewish Learning,” and “Mitzvah Day”. Its popular summer camp, currently located at Rider University, continues to engage 300 children every year.

Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer serves to preserve, maintain, and ensure the Jewish future. It is charged with providing opportunities for donors to leave legacies and bequests, and to create donor-advised funds that will serve the donors’ philanthropic interests in a tax-advantageous manner that will also help the community.

Jewish Community Youth Foundation (JCYF) is funded by the Federation, the teens, and the Ricky and Andrew J. Shechtel Philanthropic Fund and administered by JFCS. JCYF brings together teenagers from 8th to 12th grade to study tzedakah, engage in an allocation process, and distribute funds to worthy community projects.

Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Greater Mercer County (JFCS) is the primary provider of social services in our community, directly touching the lives of thousands of individuals every year. It provides personal, marital, child and family counseling, while offering emergency financial assistance, a kosher food pantry, and resettlement services. In cooperation with the Jewish Community Foundation, it operates a Hebrew Free Loan Society and a college scholarship fund. JFCS assists individuals re-entering the job market, and also reaches out to isolated and frail elderly residents in our area.

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) (formerly known as United Jewish Communities) is the umbrella organization coordinating the efforts of 157 Federations in North America. JFNA is the auditing and allocation arm of the pooled overseas funds raised by the Federations that are distributed to JAFI and the JDC, and also offers local Federations technical assistance in the areas of fundraising, marketing, financing, and board development. JFNA provides a subsidized speaker’s bureau and organizes missions to Israel and other countries of interest. It brings together lay and professional leadership of the federated communities to discuss and share “best practices” and programs, as well as to coordinate activities that require a national and unified course of action. Additionally, it provides demographic research and analysis, Jewish renaissance programs, and social service advocacy. It is the primary sponsor of the innovative Birthright Israel program and operates a Washington Action office.

Joint Council on Public Affairs (JCPA) is a coordinating body whose members are comprised of 13 national Jewish “defense” agencies (e.g., ADL and AJC), and over 100 local Federations and/or their community relations committees. JCPA brings these groups together to discuss issues of common concern, create consensus, and coordinate advocacy efforts as they relate to the Jewish community.

La Shir Choir is an independent volunteer Jewish Community choir comprised of 40 volunteers who provide choral music concerts centered around Jewish composers and arrangers. They sing almost exclusively in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino and have performed in a number of venues. Last year, La Shir sang in front of nearly 2,000 people.

New Jersey Jewish News is an independent monthly newspaper sent to approximately 5,000 households in the Princeton Mercer Bucks area. The paper includes articles about Federation and local Jewish organizational events and activities, coverage of national and international issues, and editorial analysis and opinions. It is the primary written vehicle for such communication and education in our area.

New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations is comprised of the 11 Federations located in New Jersey, and serves as the primary lobbying organization representing our needs to state and local legislators.

Principals’ Council runs programs for inter-congregational afternoon Hebrew schools that combine Jewish education in a social setting. Congregational educators are also provided with the opportunity to attend teacher professional development sessions.

Rutgers University Hillel provides a full range of educational, cultural and religious activities to the estimated 4,500 Jewish students at New Jersey’s largest state college.

Rider University Hillel, located in Lawrenceville, provides a full range of activities for the Jewish student population.

Synagogue Schools provide afternoon and Sunday classes in Jewish education. Our funds help to offset needed scholarships as well as the additional costs of providing specialized education to developmentally disabled youth at six congregational schools in our area. .