



JCRC

OF GREATER BOSTON

2016 IMPACT REPORT



Photo, above: In New Orleans, Jewish teens from 8 different communities in Greater Boston participated in rebuilding a family home and constructing affordable housing to bring young families to New Orleans. This successful service trip brought together teens already engaged in TELEM programs and new participants.

Front cover: Teens participants in the TELEM: Jewish Youth Making a Difference Together service trip to New Orleans in February pause for a moment before installing a window in a house gutted by Hurricane Katrina.

LETTER

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT



Jeremy Burton, Executive Director



Adam Suttin, President

What a year we've all just endured – as a community, a democracy and a country. The divisions in our already fractured society grew deeper, the rhetoric heated up and most disturbing, we Americans came to view each other more and more, as the “other.” Increasingly, we've retreated to our echo chambers, where our long held views are reinforced by friends, neighbors and carefully curated, partisan media outlets. All too often, we give in to the temptation to turn away from, rather than toward, each other. The places where we can come together as a community, debate our differences with open hearts and mutual respect and act in unison on our shared convictions and dreams, have become few and far between.

Enter JCRC. Throughout our seventy years, we've proudly sat at – and protected – the center of our community. Charged with representing the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston, we've worked diligently to create and nurture a space in which differing perspectives and ideologies can emerge – where all that binds us together can be affirmed. Never has it been more important to uphold this center and to put our shared values into action for the common good.

Our community is blessed with a multiplicity of perspectives and opinions, and an abundance of passion on a range of issues. We may – and do – disagree about the best way to resolve thorny social and economic challenges. But we are one united community when it comes to the need to alleviate poverty and provide civil rights for all. We may – and do – differ on the most effective way to support Israel, but we are united in our love for Israel and our fervent hopes for her glorious future as a Jewish and democratic state.

We're pleased to share this year's accomplishments with you, and to give you a glimpse of the many ways in which we've represented the heart and soul of our community in the public square. The scenes we shared with you last year took place in the schools, senior housing and food programs in which JCRC's hundreds of volunteers regularly engage in service. This year's stories take place in the halls of the State House, in legislative offices and throughout the community, where we organize leaders to take action on the critical concerns of our time. Whether it is through our own lobbying efforts, engaging our community's leaders in public action or participating in powerful coalitions, we are putting our shared values into practice every day. We are building bridges within and beyond the Jewish community, to effect change on the issues that matter to all of us.

Thank you for entrusting us with the sacred responsibility of representing this extraordinary community. Thank you for your leadership, your participation in our work, and your support for all that we do.

JEREMY BURTON
Executive Director

ADAM SUTTIN
President

ADVANCING

SHARED VALUES AND PRIORITIES



JCRC is the representative voice of the organized Jewish community in the public square. With Jewish community leaders, our partner agencies, and the support of donors, JCRC develops and promotes meaningful Jewish service and volunteer experiences; builds strong relationships with civic leaders; and partners with other faith communities on issues of shared concern. Through our work, JCRC advances the values and priorities of the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston in support of the Commonwealth and Israel.

"JCRC continues to demonstrate strong leadership on issues of poverty and economic prosperity for the most vulnerable in our society. JCRC is a voice we can count on to bring a high level of engagement with policy makers and stakeholders that moves issues and opportunity to those most in need. JCRC leverages its time, talent and resources to open doors, drive policy and deliver resources to the most voiceless in our state."

> **SUE BEATON**, THE PAUL & PHYLLIS
FIREMAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



ReachOut! volunteers Hanna Switlekowski, Leah Robins, Liz Brenner, and Josh Ritz enjoy the festive atmosphere at JCRC Celebrates in September.

CENTRAL TO OUR COMMUNITY

JCRC'S SERVICE IMPACT IN 2016-2017



23,500

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME



618.5K

EQUIVALENT DOLLAR VALUE

TELEM	8,000 HR	\$232,000
GBJCL	10,000 HR	\$290,000
ReachOut!	5,500 HR	\$159,500

In Massachusetts,
1 volunteer hour is worth \$29
(per independentsector.org)

FOR EVERY DOLLAR DONATED:

81¢

DIRECTLY TO
PROGRAMS

19¢

TO ADMIN
COSTS



BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

In March, volunteers get into the spirit at a Purim party with residents of Hebrew SeniorLife.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Jack Arbeiter poses with the 2016 Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest Upper Division Winners (left to right) Phuong Nguyen, Annie Muise, and Stephanie Ortiz.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

A ReachOut! volunteer forms a special friendship. Each of JCRC's service programs bring into close connection individuals of different backgrounds and ages.

ADVOCATING

EQUALITY AND ACCESS FOR ALL



ADVOCACY

JCRC advocates for full equality under the law and the full inclusion of people in civil society. This year, we joined with a diverse group of legal, advocacy, community, and corporate partners to effect passage of the landmark Transgender Public Accommodations Bill and Pay Equity legislation. As we celebrate these gains, we acknowledge there is tremendous work to be done to ensure continued progress. We also continue to innovate with our partner agencies and coalitions to strengthen the social safety net and increase investments targeted towards economic growth, healthy living, and vital human supports. While state revenues greatly lag behind the need for services, we work to safeguard public investments and find creative solutions to meet persistent gaps, including helping seniors age in place, giving immigrants and refugees the tools to succeed, developing opportunities for people with disabilities to thrive, and finding stable housing options for a variety of populations.

"JCRC has been an amazing partner of the Catholic school community. As a prodigious advocate for the Commonwealth's non-public school students with disabilities, JCRC has successfully advanced the provision of on-site special education services. In this and in other ways, JCRC has given to these same students a voice. On their behalf, I applaud for its commitment, leadership, and tenacity."

> **STEVE PERLA**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARENTS ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

In February, JCRC proudly honored four outstanding women in leadership. These women shape public policy and change hearts and minds: Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Senator Karen Spilka, Representative Patricia Haddad, and Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, the first openly transgender legislative staffer in the Massachusetts State Legislature and White House staff member. We share their passion for justice, equality, and public service and thank them for their efforts to build a more perfect Commonwealth.

"We continue to partner with JCRC to demonstrate high performing workforce development solutions which are then supported and scaled through public investments. This approach, demonstrating to government what works, and then, and only then, seeking public investment, is how government, public policy, and service delivery works best. JCRC leads the way in making this a reality."

> **JERRY RUBIN**

CEO, JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES



Photos, top: Co-chair of the Legislative Reception, Jesse Mermell, addresses the crowd in the Great Hall of the State House. Bottom: Pictured left to right, Rep. Patricia Haddad, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, Sen. Karen Spilka, Event Co-chairs Freddie Kay and Jesse Mermell

ORGANIZING

AND MOBILIZING OUR LEADERS



EFFECTING CHANGE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

JCRC's Synagogue Organizers support Jewish leaders to effect change in the Commonwealth and beyond. This year alone, hundreds of synagogue leaders participated in key actions through the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), on a range of issues. With their interfaith partners, they organized to pass a bill for individuals once convicted of drug offenses to regain their drivers' licenses, removing a key obstacle to employment. Additionally, synagogue leaders from nine congregations helped secure over 700 votes to successfully pass a Boston city ballot measure that will generate millions of dollars every year for affordable housing.



Photo courtesy of GBIO



ACTING LOCALLY, THINKING GLOBALLY

JCRC is committed to fighting the clear and present dangers of climate change and gun violence. We provided consultation and support to The Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action (MAICCA), which helped pass important legislation to invest in renewable energy including the creation of an off-shore wind industry.

Our work with the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign targets the scourge

of gun violence by cultivating national allies in government and law enforcement. In large part due to this campaign, President Obama sought to leverage federal purchasing power to engage the gun industry and boost the development of “smart” gun technology. At his request, the Department of Justice has released proposed specifications for law-enforcement and military grade smart guns.

“The support of organizers from JCRC has been indispensable to our social justice work at Temple Sinai and GBIO. Over the last five years JCRC has helped us establish community organizing and relationship-building as the core of our leadership of Tzedek@Sinai.”

> **FELICE MENDELL**, TEMPLE SINAI

“We are grateful for the remarkable support of JCRC as we set out to build a new interfaith coalition that brought congregations and faith organizations together to act on climate change in the public arena. Our leaders and members benefited from our JCRC organizer’s savvy and skilled partnership. From JCRC and our JCRC organizer, our coalition and congregational leaders had a chance to learn and practice the essential skills we needed to do our work and successfully negotiate the complex landscape of legislative and public policy. JCRC stepped up and supported MAICCA at a critical, formative time. Thank you.”

> **AMY BENJAMIN**
TEMPLE BETH
ELOHIM AND THE MA
INTERFAITH COALITION
FOR CLIMATE ACTION

GATHERING

TO HONOR & COMMEMORATE



FROM HOLOCAUST TO NEW LIFE: HOW WILL WE REMEMBER?

In May, JCRC and its partners welcomed more than 400 community members to the Community Holocaust Commemoration of Yom HaShoah. At the remembrance, Mary Beth Donovan, the principal of Tenney Grammar School in Methuen, received the inaugural Leadership in Holocaust Education Award. Earlier in her career, Donovan challenged students who denied the Holocaust in her classroom by inviting survivor Israel Arbeiter to share his story and bear witness to history. She committed to make Holocaust education a pillar of her curriculum, and each year, engages scores of students in the Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest.



"There are many obstacles that hinder our efforts. There always have been. It is both humbling and daunting. Yet striving together thoughtfully, with integrity, honesty and intelligence, we at the JCRC have not been deterred. The successes of this organization, achieved the right way, remind us why the effort is so important and why, despite the inevitable stumbles along the way, our victories are to be savored, cherished and celebrated together."

> **STUART ROSSMAN**, RECIPIENT OF THE NANCY K. KAUFMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS

JCRC brings Greater Boston's Jewish Community together to celebrate our strength and express gratitude for our volunteers whose invaluable knowledge and service are integral to all aspects of our work. In May, we expressed our profound thanks to our volunteers and honored two outstanding leaders, Stuart Rossman and Rabbi Barbara Penzner. In September, we celebrated the strength of our community with featured speaker Josh Kraft, who urged the audience to keep finding commonalities, especially in times of political turmoil.

"There are so many parts of our world that are in need of justice, and this room is filled with people who do that work every day. No one of us can take care of all of them. We can beat ourselves up for not doing enough. In my *arba amot*, my small place in the world, I have carved out a place for concern for justice for working people.."

> **RABBI BARBARA PENZNER**, RECIPIENT OF THE WARREN B. KOHN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE



Opposite page: Col. Cranston Rogers of Medway, pictured with his family, salutes the flag at the Community Commemoration of Yom HaShoah in May. Col. Rogers was one of the American soldiers that liberated Dachau in 1945.

Top: Featured JCRC Celebrates Speaker, Joshua Kraft, energizes the audience with stories of perseverance and community pride.

Bottom: Former ReachOut! co-chair Rena Zampieron presents the Nancy K. Kaufman Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership to her father, Stuart Rossman, JCRC past president.

CULTIVATING

CONNECTIONS TO ISRAEL



"Ultimately the goal of our trip was not to solve a problem, or know the answers, but to gain a greater, more nuanced, and authentic understanding of a people, place, and culture."

> SENATE PRESIDENT STAN ROSENBERG

"I learned that my belief in the goodness of people holds firm. I believe more than ever, that goodness knows no geographic, political, national or religious boundaries, even in the Middle East."

> SENATOR JOHN KEENAN



STUDY TOURS

JCRC's advocacy for a safe, secure, Jewish and democratic state of Israel is more important now than ever. Israel Study Tours are a cornerstone component of our strategy to combat anti-Israel sentiment and action by introducing non-Jewish leaders to the complexities and realities of the Middle East. Through ten days of experiences with diverse facilitators, dignitaries, and guides, JCRC engages participants beyond the headlines, and provides them with insights into the lived experiences, fears, and aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians. Participants return with a deeper understanding of the complexities

of the region and a willingness to challenge simplistic formulations.

In December 2015, ten Massachusetts state senators, one-quarter of the entire Senate, traveled to Israel with JCRC. Chaired by Senate President Stan Rosenberg, the trip included multiple opportunities to learn about Israel's successful high-tech sector and the Massachusetts-Israel business relationship; conversations with a diversity of political leaders and academics; and visits to areas of geopolitical significance including the Lebanese-Israeli border, a tour of the seam zone, and a visit to

Moshav Netiv Ha'asarah, a farming community overlooking the Gaza Strip.

Building on our success engaging elected officials and Christian clergy in study tours, in August, JCRC piloted a new audience: civic leaders and political activists from a variety of sectors, including health care, financial services, high-tech, trade associations, and community groups. Diversifying trip offerings to include these participants, all of whom are leaders in their sectors, allows us to further expand support for and connection with Israel among influential Massachusetts leaders.

ENGAGING IN MEANINGFUL SERVICE



LITERACY AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

JCRC's Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) flourishes as a vehicle for sustained service. In the 2015-2016 school year, GBJCL sent 300 volunteers including adults and teens from 29 area synagogues, organizations and businesses to public schools in the GBJCL partner network. Entering our 20th year, GBJCL deepened our commitment to our nearly 30 partner elementary schools by donating hundreds of high quality books. By the end of the school year, we provided over 500 new books to partner schools, a value of nearly \$10,000. We will fully celebrate GBJCL's two decades of service in 2017.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

JCRC creates opportunities for our community to act on our Jewish values through service. In January, nearly 200 volunteers from across the region primed, painted, weatherized, and revitalized sections of Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, the oldest public elementary school in the country. Our team of all ages joyfully participated in the project, enhancing the environment of Mather Elementary School for its students, and the surrounding community.



REACHOUT! YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT

In 2015-2016, ReachOut! experienced its largest increase in volunteers in the program's six years, adding over 50 additional volunteers to service sites throughout Greater Boston. As a result of ReachOut!'s expansion to year-round programming with an eight-week summer cycle, volunteers are even more connected to their service sites and fellow volunteers, forging meaningful relationships with those whose lives they touch.



TELEM: JEWISH YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

This year, TELEM expanded its footprint and identified new ways for teen volunteers to participate in meaningful service learning. Building on our successes with previous service trips to New York, this year we expanded to New Orleans where participants rolled up their sleeves and engaged in home repairs and rebuilds for people whose homes were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. As a result of these experiences, JCRC is emerging as a leader in service trips for Boston area Jewish teens.

"I have been working with the same student for the past year and have seen enormous improvement with his English and math skills. Having left his native Colombia at 16 without his family, he made his way to the U.S. and worked his way up to being manager at Boloco. However, in order to keep his promotion, he has to pass the High School Equivalency Exam. Through my work with ReachOut!, I will help him follow his American dream!"

> **JEFF COHEN**, REACHOUT! VOLUNTEER AT HARRIET TUBMAN HOUSE

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Rabbi Eric Gurvis, Temple Shalom,
West Newton

Pam & David Hallagan
Veronica Heath
Kathy & Edward Hershfield
Hillel Council of New England
Kelsey Hughes
Jewish Family & Children's Services, Waltham
Rabbi Shira & Saul Joseph
Helen & Rudy Kass
The Kempner Family Foundation
Mindy M. & Irving M. Kempner
Joe Kennedy For Congress
The Steve Kerrigan Committee
Hillel Korin
Sheriff Peter Koutoujian
Laura & Ery Magasanik
Sophia & Rick Mann
Jesse Mermell
Jessica & Chuck Myers
National Consumer Law Center, Needham
Judith & Arthur Obermayer
Cerissa & Gary Park
Rabbi Barbara Penzner & Brian Rosman
Thomas Regan
Rachel Rock & Josh Levy
Jessica & Tom Rosenbloom
Nathan Rothstein
Gail & David Schechter
Susan & Stuart Salzberg
Linda & Harold Schwartz
Carl Sciortino
Sue & Joel Sherman
Amy & Barry Shemin
Marni Smilow Levitt & Jonathan Levitt
Marilyn Stempler
The Setti Warren Committee
Pamela & Peter Weil
Kathy Weinman & Cameron Kerry
Jennifer & Amiel Weinstock

\$100-\$499

Nancy & Paul Abrams
Stephane Acel-Green
ADS Ventures
Agulnek Family Fund
American Jewish Committee
Jason Aluia
Jill Arnold
Beth & Adam Badik
Bayer Family Trust
Sarah Benjamin & Joel Samen
William Berman
Stacey Bloom
Boston Jewish Film Festival, Newton
Rebecca Brand
Liz Brenner
Fay & Julian Bussgang
Susan A. Calechman
Congregation Ahavas Achim Men's Club,
Newburyport
Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Newton
Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Newton
Congregation Sha'aray Shalom, Hingham
Consul General of Israel, Boston
Rev. June R. Cooper
Leslie & Alan Crane
Meredith Cutler
Rep. Sal DiDomenico
Honey Doctoroff
Jennifer Dworkin & Daniel Stodolsky
Carol & Lewis Epstein
Trudy & Lester Fagen
Bernadette & Timothy Feeley
Ellen Feingold
Albert H. Fine
Jen Finkler
Abby Flam
Rev. Lucy Forster-Smith
Judy & Jeffrey Freedman
Marion & Stanley Freedman-Gurspan
Rebecca Frost

Leslie & Michael Gaffin
 Caroline Gammill
 Gann Academy, Waltham
 Gateways: Access to Jewish Education,
 Newton
 Generations After, Burlington
 Frances Godine
 Janet & Richard Goldenberg
 Ron Goldberg
 Shirley & Richard Golder
 Stacy Goodman & Ingo Agustsson
 State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg
 Alex Goldstein
 Julie & Philip Gordon
 Wendy Greene & Tim Martel
 Hadassah Northeast, Newton
 Russell Haims
 Leonard & Bonnie Hausman
 Ina & Lewis Heafitz
 Israeli American Council, Boston
 Suzanne Jacobs
 Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Newton
 Jewish Community Centers of Greater
 Boston, Newton
 Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly
 J Street Educational Fund
 Representative Lou Kafka
 Sheryl Kalis
 Barbara & Leo Karas
 Lisa Kasser & Shmuel Sorkin
 Judith & Steven Kaye
 Kathryn Kerstein
 Deeana Klepper
 Alex Klibaner
 Daniel A. Kirschner
 Marjorie Kornheiser & Charles
 Delbaum
 Gila and Bruce Kriegel
 Diana Leader-Cramer
 Jody & Adam Levin
 Karyn Cohen Leviton

Leah Littlefield
 Lowenstein Chartitable Trust
 Jane Matlaw
 Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance,
 Boston
 Adam Marx
 Deborah & Richard McCarthy
 Kathleen McGrath
 Bobby Meth, MD
 Seth Moulton for Congress
 National Council of Jewish Women, New
 York, New York
 New England Jewish Labor Committee
 Christopher Noe
 Suzanne & Andrew Offit
 Naama Ore
 Donna Palley & Steven Scudder
 Heidi & Lewis Pearlson
 Carole & Fred Pritzker
 Eva & Alan Radding
 The Rashi School, Dedham
 Jill & Don Reichman
 Charlene Rideout
 Elizabeth & Eric Ritvo
 Joanne & Jeff Robbins
 Leah Robins
 Senate President Stanley Rosenberg
 Lauren Rosenthal & Howard Learner
 Anida & Edwin Rossman
 Cindy Rowe
 The Martha & Max Rubinstein Family
 Foundation
 Rabbi Benjamin Samuels & Congregation
 Shaarei Tefillah, Newton
 Cynthia Samuelson
 Ranella & Dan Saul
 Klein Schottenfeld
 Andrea Serlin, Serlin Haley LLP,
 Boston
 Susan Shevitz & Lawrence Bailis
 Gail Shulman & Robert Sullaway

Dr. Henry H. Silverman
 Samuel Silverman
 Leslie & Craig Slater
 Marsha & Marc Slotnick
 Philip Small
 Joan Snider
 The Solomon Schechter Day School of
 Greater Boston, Newton
 Michael Solomons
 Phyllis & Adam Sonnenschein
 Barbara & Howard Sorkin
 Jeffrey Stern
 Barbara Strauss
 Marge Sunners
 Reva Tankle & John McArthur
 Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley
 Temple Beth Shalom, Needham
 Temple Beth Zion, Brookline
 Temple Emeth, Newton
 Temple Israel, Natick
 Temple Reyim, Newton
 Temple Shalom, Newton
 Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland
 Temple Shir Tikvah, Winchester
 Temple Sinai, Brookline
 Thrive in 5
 Susan W. Tofias
 Elaine Tung
 UBS Foundation USA Matching Gift
 Program
 Bryna & Branch Watkins
 Pamela & Peter Weil
 Lori & Dan Weinronk
 James P. Whitters III
 Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim



FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPT. 30, 2015

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

CJP Grants	\$2,196,659
Supports from Grants and Foundations	181,500
Individual Donors	457,893
Event Revenue	256,958
Other Income	9,838
Total Support and Revenue	3,102,848

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

TELEM	281,271
Synagogue Organizing	163,388
Community Relations	271,946
Holocaust Programs	106,618
Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy	172,632
ReachOut!	118,360
TOTAL	1,114,215

ADVOCACY

Disability Advocacy	113,628
Anti-Gun Violence Advocacy	94,257
General Government Affairs	419,851
TOTAL	627,736

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

266,815

DNEPROPETROSK

411,183

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES

2,419,949

Administrative and Development Expenses

555,272

Total expenses

2,975,221

NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

\$ 127,627

JCRC STAFF

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Jeremy Burton
Executive Director

Nahma Nadich
Associate Director

Michael Selsman
Chief Operating Officer

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Aaron Agulnek
Director, Public Policy

Emily Reichman
Director, Service Initiatives

STAFF

Jean Connolly
Senior Administrative Assistant

Shoshana Edelson
Program Coordinator, TELEM

Sasha Fastovski
Communications Associate

Barry Glass
*Director, TELEM: Jewish Youth
Making a Difference Together*

Seth Goldberg
Government Affairs Associate

Ariella Hellman
Government Affairs Associate

Julie Hollander
*Coordinator, Young Adult Social
Justice Programs*

Lisa Kessel Friedman
*Executive Assistant to Jeremy
Burton and Events Coordinator*

Rachie Lewis
Synagogue Organizer

Tasha Lipsky
Bookkeeper

Julie Manus
Development Associate

Nancy Marin
Database Administrator

Ben Poor
Synagogue Organizer

Becca Shimshak
*Director, Greater Boston Jewish
Coalition for Literacy*

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JCRC DEFINES AND ADVANCES THE VALUES, INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES OF THE ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER BOSTON IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE.