JCRC of Greater Boston

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BostonJCRC











LETTER from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT



Jeremy Burton,
Executive Directo



Stacey Bloom

In 1944, shaken by the devastation of European Jewry and antisemitic violence in Boston, 16 Jewish organizations came together to create JCRC. We knew then that surmounting the challenges would take a unified body, connections with people in power, and investment in relationships across racial and ethnic lines. We also knew that the strongest defense against antisemitism includes fighting for civil rights, against hatreds and bigotries of all forms, and for a democratic and pluralistic American society.

75 years later, we are challenged anew with rising antisemitism and threats to the future of our liberal democracy.

We at JCRC have risen to face this challenge, not only by preparing for crises and ensuring that Jewish institutions have the means to stay secure, but also by engaging our community in myriad opportunities to act on our Jewish values by pursuing justice for our neighbors as well as for ourselves.

During our strategic planning process, JCRC asked our stakeholders to describe a single moment affirming the unique value of our Council. They had no difficulty naming one: Our communal response after the horror of the Tree of Life shooting in Pittsburgh, when we gathered on the Boston Common with over a thousand people of all faiths, to mourn the unthinkable loss to our People.

Through our deep, lasting relationships with elected officials, interfaith clergy, and civic leaders throughout Greater Boston, who showed up for us that day and who continue to show their solidarity daily, we work collectively toward an ambitious agenda for the health and vibrancy of our broader Boston community.

While so many are promoting ideological divides, JCRC is amplifying the broad center of our community and honoring the integrity of our civic space. We are challenged – in an increasingly fractured time – to listen and give voice to a broad array of perspectives and interests ensuring that we are authentically representing Jewish concerns in the hardest conversations and the moments of crisis that impact us all.

In 2019, when our civic norms were so profoundly challenged, we heeded the call to lead boldly, to build upon our proud history, and to pursue new, ever more audacious goals, such as increasing solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, expanding our Boston Partners for Peace program, and redoubling our commitment to community relations. We invite you to join us.

JEREMY BURTON

STACEY BLOOM

Executive Director President

from 1945 to 2019



OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS

IN 1945, with the end of World War II, our Council sent the following message to some 2,500 clergy, state and city officials, labor leaders, and others across Greater Boston: "The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston...stands ready to work with other self-respecting groups on programs of public welfare for the cause of peace and on all proposals dedicated to human dignity...As free, enlightened human beings, now victorious over the Axis, may we be done forever with hatred, suspicion and distrust and may we build solidly on the foundation of mutual understanding and mutual respect."

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN:



REDOUBLING OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Recommitting to JCRC's core mission of engaging the Jewish community in public affairs, to build solidarity across the broader community and meet the critical challenges of our times.



INVESTING IN RELATIONSHIPS

Deepening existing relationships and developing new ties with interfaith and legislative partners, strengthening our ability to deliver on our commitments to our community and beyond.



MOBILIZING OUR COMMUNITY'S LEADERSHIP

Expanding JCRC's capacity to respond to community relations crises and leveraging our community's leadership.



RECOMMITTING TO COMMUNITY RELATIONS

JCRC has built deep, enduring relationships with elected officials, clergy, and civic leaders throughout Greater Boston, uniting us at a time of rancor and division.

We've developed the trust to engage in difficult conversations and to leverage our collective power to achieve goals more ambitious than any of us could ever accomplish on our own. And we've stood together in times of need, forming an immediate circle of support for those who are under attack.





SOLIDARITY WITH OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

After the terror attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, in two different mosques, JCRC organized our Jewish colleagues and Christian partners to attend Friday Jumma service at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center mosque in Roxbury. Executive Director Jeremy Burton spoke to the congregation on behalf of our community, bringing words of solidarity and support to our Muslim neighbors here in Boston.

SOLIDARITY LETTER FROM OUR CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

In December, following a spate of antisemitic violence, prominent Christian leaders in Boston – our longstanding, trusted friends and partners – brought together over 1,000 Christian leaders from across Massachusetts to sign a letter decrying violence against Jews: "As Christian faith leaders, we reach out to share our sense of horror and disgust at the terrifying rise in violence against Jews and increasing public expressions of antisemitism," the letter said. "As Christians whose tradition has been and continues to be the source of so much antisemitic terror in history, we carry a particular responsibility to identify, condemn, and resist antisemitism in any and every form."







JCRC organized 300 volunteers for our fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service with ten projects all over **Greater Boston.**

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY IN SERVICE

As a Jewish community dedicated to living our values in the broader civic space, affirming our interconnectedness and responsibility to our neighbors. Volunteers sorted through donations at the Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory, wrote letters to Congress to keep Temporary Protected Status (a designation for people who could not return safely to their countries) alive, and made 60 lasagnas & 70 loaves of banana bread to be distributed to local shelters. Over 50 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to paint and repair the Waltham Haitian Church of the Nazarene, and homes in Mattapan and Dorchester. In 2020, we tripled the number of MLK participants, with a total of 1,108 volunteers.

COMBATING

ANTISEMITISM AND HATRED



CONVENING OUR COMMUNITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

After the worst antisemitic attack in American history, our community did not stand alone. At our vigil for the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, we were supported by federal, state, and local officials, law enforcement, and the leadership of virtually every major Christian and Muslim institution; a testament to the relationships JCRC has cultivated. When an unthinkable act of terror hit the heart of our community, we knew who would be with us — the partners we've come to rely on through the years.

TRANSMITTING MEMORY

As we watch Holocaust denial and ignorance reach frightening proportions, amplifying the voices of survivors and eyewitnesses to history has never been more crucial.

At this year's Yom HaShoah Commemoration, we gathered 300 members of the Jewish community and our interfaith partners to honor the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Centering on the transmission of memory from survivors to the next generation, the commemoration featured Holocaust survivor Janet Applefield and her daughter Deb Milley, as well as the student winners of the 14th Annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest, named for Holocaust survivor and activist Israel Arbeiter.



In this time of heightened vulnerability at home and across the country, JCRC championed an advocacy campaign to urge expansion of a grant program to provide security enhancements to houses of worship, community centers and other vulnerable institutions across the Commonwealth.

In late May, the Massachusetts State Senate passed an amendment to the State budget to increase nonprofit security funding by \$500,000, and soon after, Governor Baker proposed and the legislature adopted an additional \$1,000,000 in funding, with access to these vital grants for all regions of the Commonwealth.

ANTI-BIAS LEGISLATION

JCRC, with ADL, Senator Michael Moore, and Representative Michael Day, designed a proposal that was adopted by the legislature, to provide anti-bias training to help curb hate crimes in public schools across the Commonwealth.





Top: Holocaust Survivor Janet Applefield speaks at JCRC's Annual YomHashoah Commemoration

Bottom: Mayor Walsh and Governor Baker at the Pittsburgh vigil.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH

OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS



"BIJAN and the Jewish community have been there for me through very hard moments."

— BONNY M, ASYLUM SEEKER As the threats against our immigrant neighbors grow, and the paths toward relief narrow, our community continues to step up. Though it often seems as though the challenges are only growing, we have intensified our commitments to solidarity; devoting time, resources, and energy to develop a range of responses to the emerging crisis.

OUR WORK ON THE GROUND 2017-2019

1,500
PEOPLE IN OUR NETWORK:

BONDED

160+

PEOPLE out of immigrant detention



PROVIDED

250

PEOPLE with legal representation



ACCOMPANIED those detained at

1,000+ immmigration hearings



AND HAVE FOUND HOUSING FOR

65

individuals and families





JCRC joined the Driving Families Forward coalition to pass legislation increasing access to drivers' licenses. We continue to advocate for this bill, which would allow anyone to apply for a driver's license, regardless of immigration status, enabling immigrants to drive themselves and their families to work and school, pass driving tests, and get insurance - making the roads safer for everyone.

As part of the MA Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) coalition, JCRC is working to pass the Safe Communities Act to protect the rights of our immigrant neighbors and create standards for law enforcement interactions with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

#FALLFREEDOMDAY

On November 20th, our network was part of a national effort, led by RAICES, to bond 188 people nationwide out of detention in two days. On a rainy Wednesday before Thanksgiving, a group of 10 volunteers from our network bonded a total 17 people out of immigration detention.

"Together with interfaith and synagogue partners, including my own synagogue, we're building robust networks of solidarity and support which have helped individuals and families facing unimaginable decisions and uncertain futures."

— RABBI CLAUDIA KREIMAN, JCRC BOARD MEMBER AND SENIOR RABBI OF TEMPLE BETH ZION IN BROOKLINE

ACHIEVING WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

ON BEACON HILL



STATE BUDGET

For decades, JCRC has championed the values and interests of Greater Boston's Jewish community on Beacon Hill. The 2020 state budget bears powerful testimony to our impact, having leveraged \$10 million to support programs and priorities of the Jewish social service network, benefiting the entire Commonwealth. This year, JCRC led on seven budget priorities, all of which included increases and direct appropriations to the Jewish social service network and beyond. Additional dollars will support our community's longstanding priorities – as well as addressing more recent threats, such as nonprofit security.

THANKS TO JCRC'S ADVOCACY, THE 2020 STATE BUDGET INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING **TOTALS TO SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS:**

Bridges to College To Jewish Vocational Service For statewide model	\$250,000 \$250,000
Transitions to Work	\$250,000
Immigrant & Refugee Training	\$1,250,000
Secure Jobs Initiative	\$2,000,000
MA Pathways to Economic Advancement Initiative	Project Continuity Funding
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	\$856,000
Nonprofit Security Grants	\$1,500,000

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

In March, 150 people from JCRC's vibrant network of allies passionate about justice, equality, and public service gathered together at our 21st Annual Legislative Reception.

We celebrated the efforts made this past year to support our policy agenda and honored four outstanding leaders in government who've helped us respond to the needs of our communities, develop innovative policies, and make the Commonwealth a more inclusive place for all.

"The trip I took to Israel with the JCRC was an eye-opening experience for me."

- LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT REPRESENTATIVE RON MARIANO

"Thank you to JCRC for all that you do to advocate for policies that support civil rights and lift up all Massachusetts residents."

- LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT SENATOR JOAN B. LOVELY

"This organization and these issues are so important, now more than ever...Faith is important. Community is important."

- EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT **GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER**







BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH SERVICE





TEEN AND PRE-TEEN SERVICE-LEARNING

TELEM continues to engage pre-teens and teens in service learning – 741 this past year alone. This year, we offered additional opportunities for participants to join our efforts, through six service day projects.

One of these projects took place on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when TELEM partnered with Jewish Teen Initiative (JTI) for a lasagna and banana bread making activity, benefiting shelters across the MetroWest. TELEM also updated its service learning curricula to respond to changing educational needs and to forge a compelling connection between social action and Judaism.

GBJC



EXPANDING LITERACY ACCESS AND RESOURCES

GBJCL continues to expand its volunteer engagement options to best serve under-resourced elementary schools throughout Greater Boston. This fall, GBJCL distributed thousands of new books from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, with literacy activity kits, into the hands of students throughout Greater Boston. The program also developed a new partnership with Epstein Hillel Day School to support the Lynn Public Schools and partnered with Temple Israel of Boston to serve the pre-school at the Children's Services of Roxbury. Building upon our B'nai Mitzvah book drive project, GBJCL supported a middle school student to raise over \$1,100 for books and, with the help of Wondermore Boston, brought an author visit to Brighton students.

Reach Jut!



YOUNG ADULTS ENGAGING IN SERVICE FOR THE BROADER COMMUNITY

In response to a call from our young professionals who crave more opportunities to volunteer and build their own Jewish community, ReachOut!'s "Drop-in" young adult service programs enable participants to volunteer in ways that fit their busy schedules and join other volunteers for Shabbat dinners and socials. This inclusive model invites a wider swath of volunteers into the ReachOut! community and provides opportunities for them to act on their Jewish values, with likeminded peers. This year, the model has taken off with 40% of our fall cycle volunteers taking advantage of the flexible structure.



CONNECTING ISRAEL TO THE COMMONWEALTH ADVANCING A VISION OF PEACE

In 2019, divisions over how best to connect with and support Israel have become even more pronounced – with even less consensus about Israel's role in American Jewish life.

We at JCRC are working to reverse this trend by expanding our Boston Partners for Peace initiative. In 2019, over 500 Bostonians, many of them young adults, heard directly from Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders at Boston Partners for Peace events, and came away inspired by their work to break down barriers and build a shared future.

Our program fills a void in the community by creating positive, values-based engagement with Israel. Our Shabbat Dinners, book clubs, blogs, and newsletters are designed to engage young adults with messages of hope by amplifying the voices of peacebuilders.

JCRC works to connect peacebuilders with Boston civic leaders and elected officials—including Israel Study Tour alumni Springfield City Council President Justin



JCRC Study Tour with Roots-Shorashim-Judur, a grassroots Israeli Palestinian nonviolence initiative

ISRAEL STUDY TOURS

This year, JCRC organized two Study Tours to Israel for Boston's faith and civic leaders, with 19 total participants, including a first-of-its-kind trip for Boston's labor leadership, organized in partnership with the Jewish Labor Committee. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges facing the region. They returned inspired and eager to share their new perspectives with their communities and to support Boston Partners for Peace. We continue to develop new opportunities for our Study Tour Alumni to remain engaged with our programming, such as our monthly educational webinars on current events in the region.



On March 27th, more than 300 members of the community joined JCRC to hear from Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin, a public opinion expert who provided a critical point of view on the 2019 Israel elections.



"Visits like this make us a better city and a more effective city council."

- CITY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Hurst and Easthampton Mayor Nicole LaChapelle (R), who hosted conversations with peacebuilders about community policing. With the help of Israel Study Tour alum Councilor Ed Flynn, alumni from our partner organization, Hand in Hand Schools, visited Boston City Hall to meet with City Councilors and representatives from Boston Public Schools to discuss improving educational opportunities for students of all backgrounds.

JCRC LEADERSHIP 2019

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The JCRC Council's Community Representatives include the Officers, the Board of Directors, and the following individuals:

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Lynda Bussgang Emily Levine Hanna Switlekov Robin Cohen Joel Loitherstein

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Nahma Nadich Deputy Director

Tamar Davis
Chief Development Officer

Jonathan Dudley Director of Finance & Administration

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Solón Arguello Associate, Development & Government Affairs

Shira Burns
Communications Associate

Eli Cohn-Postell* Director, Israel Engagement

Shoshana Edelson Program Manager, Young Adult Social Justice

Grace Farnan
Program Coordinator, TELEM

Lisa Kessel Freedman Executive Assistant to Jeremy Burton & Events Coordinator

Barry Glass
Director, TELEM

Rachel Goldberg Program Manager, Israel Engagement

Rachie Lewis*

Director, Synagogue Organizing

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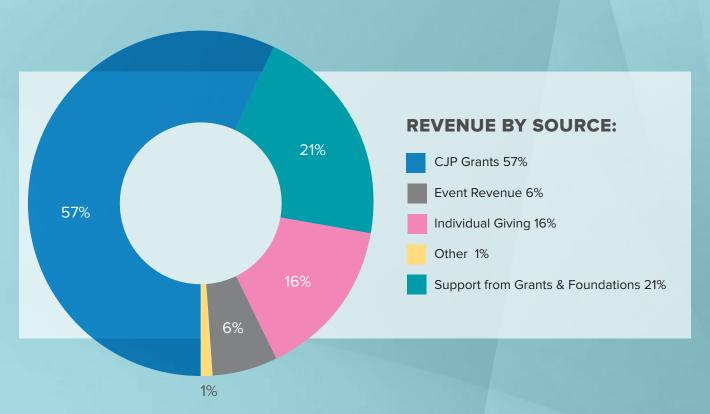
Director, Service Initiatives

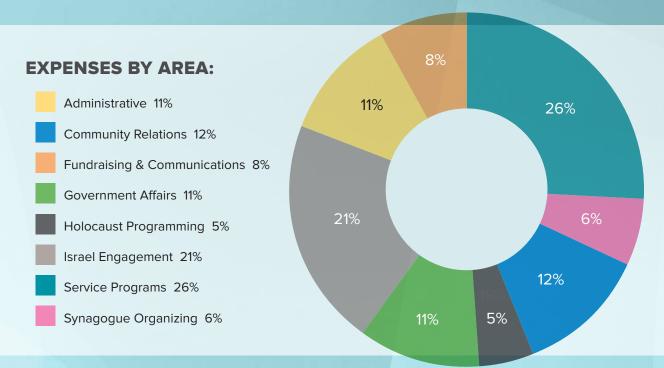
Rebecca Shimshak
Director, Greater Boston Jewish
Coalition for Literacy

*Management Team

JCRC BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE AND EXPENSES - FY 2019





FY18 AND FY19 FINANCIAL REPORTS

	FY 2018	FY 2019
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	¢1.075.07.0	¢1/50/16
CJP Grants Supports from Grants and Foundations	\$1,675,946 145,120	\$1,458,416 532,105
Individual Donors	426,073	399,320
Event Revenue	187,266	147,033
Other Income	17,105	16,899
Total Support and Revenue	2,451,510	2,553,773
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM		
SERVICE PROGRAMS		
Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy	183,212	210,881
MLK Day of Service	21,803	37,671
ReachOut!	135,280	158,814
TELEM	248,194	262,574
Total Service	588,489	669,940
CORE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS &		
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES	200 / 01	1/57/5
Synagogue Organizing Community Relations	260,491 305,487	145,345 295,051
Holocaust Programming	153,426	140,251
Disability Advocacy	103,125	-
General Government Affairs	196,876	279,158
Total Core Activities	1,019,405	859,805
Israel Engagement	504,563	528,118
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	2,112,457	2,057,863
Administrative and Development Expenses	613,198	482,348
Total expenses	2,725,655	2,540,211
Deposit to/ (Spending from) Reserves	(274,145)	13,562
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ o	\$ o

DONOR REPORT 2019

We extend our sincere gratitude to those listed in this report who have chosen to support the Jewish Community Relations Council, including 100% of our voting Board members. This donor report is reflective of gifts made in FY19 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019).

\$100,000+

Combined Jewish Philanthropies The Klarman Family Foundation The Kraft Family and New England **Revolution Foundation** One8 Foundation

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We have made every effort to recognize our donors correctly. Please excuse any typographical errors and omissions. Please direct any corrections and concerns to Tamar Davis at tdavis@jcrcboston.org. Thank you for your support!

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FUND-A-NEED CAMPAIGN SPRING 2020



ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN:

What is the purpose of this campaign?

We are launching an annual "Fund a Need" campaign that focuses on raising funds to benefit JCRC's vital programming in our efforts to combat hate, stand with immigrants and our most vulnerable neighbors, promote peace for Israel, and engage our community in service.

What does "fund a need" mean?

It means that you can choose how you want your gift to help! We have varying tangible projects that need funding, and your gift will ensure that our work continues..

Will this be in addition to a fundraising gala?

No, just like our "no-show" gala last year, we are looking for people to support our work from the comfort of your own home. We will also be sharing videos and stories of how your generosity is making an impact.





EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR GIFT CAN HELP:

\$10,000 allows our synagogue organizing team to raise immigration bonds, free immigrants from detention, and to provide them with housing options upon their release.

\$5,000 funds five Boston Partners for Peace events, where Jewish young adults will hear directly from Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders.

\$3,600 enables our government affairs team to meet with elected officials about the legislative priorities of the organized Jewish community, including leveraging state funding for key services such as Nonprofit Security and job training for immigrants and refugees.

\$1,800 funds a service day at an area homeless shelter where volunteers will do a variety of projects in and around the facility, including: making and baking foods for shelter residents and performing minor home repairs and upgrades, as well as painting.

\$1,000 enables GBJCL to supply books for an in-class library for a Boston-area partner school.

\$500 prepares new docents to transmit memory and foster reflection through tours of the New England Holocaust Memorial.

\$180 supports a ReachOut! Participant's 2-hour service visit to a youth mentoring or meal service program for those in need.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Anniversary Circle: \$10,000+

- Listing in Anniversary Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact Report
- Recognition as Anniversary Circle level on website

Partnership Circle: \$5,000

- Listing in Partnership Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact Report
- Recognition as Partnership Circle level on website

Community Builder Circle: \$3,600

- Listing in Community Builder Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact
- Recognition as Community Builder Circle level on website

Convener Circle: \$2,000

- Listing in Convener Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact Report
- Recognition as Convener Circle level on website

Advocate Circle: \$1,000

- Listing in Advocate Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact Report
- Recognition as Advocate Circle level on website

Civic Engagement Circle: \$500

- Listing in Civic Engagement Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact
- Recognition as Civic Engagement Circle level on

Under 500 Circle: up to \$500

- Listing in Under 500 Circle level of our "Fund a Need" campaign in the 2020 Impact Report
- Recognition as Under 500 Circle level on website

Note: All donations are 100% tax deductible. To support JCRC and our "Fund a Need" campaign, visit www.jcrcboston.org/fundaneed or contact Tamar Davis, JCRC Chief Development Officer, at tdavis@jcrcboston.org or 617-457-8658.