A COMMUNITY BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS

2016 • ISSUE 2
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Dear Members,

I hope you enjoy this edition of Jimpact, our spotlight on the impact that your Levine JCC is having in our community. This impact would not be possible without your support and I want to thank you for supporting your Levine Jewish Community Center. Thank you for taking the time to understand our story and our efforts to have an impact on not only the present, but also for the future. Thank you to those of you who have already come forward to make a donation to JBuild, our Capital Campaign.

We are in the “home stretch” of our LJCC Capital Campaign. I am incredibly grateful to all of you who those of you who have already come forward to make a donation to JBuild, our capital campaign.

On December 31st we will conclude the campaign. Just as important as reaching our monetary goal, is the number of members who participate. Our fundraising goal is one I want to accomplish. I hope you will encourage your friends to come forward and support your Levine Jewish Community Center.

We are in the “home stretch” of our LJCC Capital Campaign. I am incredibly grateful to all of you who have participated and shown how much you care about this amazing facility.

In this coming year you will see us invest heavily in your member experience as we recently unveiled our new Family Locker Rooms and in the Summer we will open our new outdoor Aquatics facility, anchored by the new Star Pool. You will also see continued investment in our programming for Adults and in the Visual and Performing Arts programs for our entire community. These investments, coupled with our sustained support for our Sports, Fitness, Aquatics, Early Childhood, School Age, Teen, and Senior programs, help to foster our strong and vibrant Jewish Community. These future and continued investments will ensure that we are Putting the J at the front and center of our community.

I hope that you will join me this year at the J in investing in our community. I hope that you will join your neighbors and your friends in the journey of figuring out what role you play in our community’s story. Every one of us has our own ‘IF NOT FOR THE J…’ personal story… Would you have met the other moms strolling their babies through the halls? Would you have met your personal trainer and made healthier, lifestyle changes? Would your children have dressed up for the Purim carnival? Or gone to Camp Mindy?

Jon Simon
LJCC Board President

Peter Blair
CEO

La Shana Tova,
Peter Blair

Director of Community Engagement
Charlotte’s population is predicted to grow an astonishing 47% by 2030.

Your Levine JCC has DOUBLED in size over the past decade, and currently serves over 9,500 members.

We receive 30,000 member visits per month, with over 45,000 visits per month in the summer. These figures continue to grow from year to year.

Did You Know...

4 Camp Mindy Renovations
Check out the beautiful improvements that our young campers enjoyed & thrived in this past summer!

Family Locker Rooms
PRE-makover photo; come see your NEW locker rooms in October!

Outdoor Pool Enhancements
Breaks ground!

366 athletes and 450 volunteers participated this June. The extraordinary dedication and effort it takes to make the week successful is awe-inspiring...

For the past 16 years, the Levine JCC has hosted and provided a free week of camp for Special Olympics. The 16th Annual Camp SOAR was another overwhelming success! For that we thank all of our Volunteers and Sponsors for your invaluable contributions. You have captured the unique spirit that makes Camp SOAR a wonderful experience for campers and volunteers alike.

We are grateful for your commitment and hope you will join us again next year. Mark your calendar, June 12-16, 2017 Camp Soar is a week-long, free camp for athletes with special needs.

3,600 BINGO prizes donated and won!
240,000 BOWLING PINS knocked down!
1,520 slices of PIZZA consumed!
350 mini-BIRDHOUSES decorated!

"Everything is POSITIVE, everything is UPLIFTING. It’s because of our volunteers and the community and the athletes that we’re able to do what we do."
— BOB BOWLER, CAMP DIRECTOR

"I love Camp SOAR because you aren’t judged here. In the real world, people judge you because you’re different. But not at Camp SOAR. At Camp SOAR, everyone is the same and there is no judgement."
— BREA NEELEY, SECOND-YEAR ATHLETE

"Camp is so rewarding. It is the best week of the year!"
— STEPHANIE GARNER, LJCC SPORTS DIRECTOR

Donate Today! www.charlottejcc.org/capitalcampaign

Your Capital Campaign Dollars Have Been Hard At Work...

#GOALS
Just under 90% of goal!

$5.9 MILLION RAISED!

If Not For The J...

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN VISION
This Capital Campaign will shape the future of your Levine JCC by allowing us to meet the changing needs of our growing community for many years to come. Our hope is that your J will continue to be the leading community center in Charlotte, not just for your family today, but for many generations in the future.

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If Not For The J...
On June 5, 2016, the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center – with the help of staff, a lay committee and more than 65 volunteers – hosted the 5th Annual LJCC Kids Triathlon, sponsored by the Charlotte Knights. This amazing event benefits pediatric rehabilitative services at Levine Children’s Hospital and its Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program.

This special event is about more than just good, fun athletic competition – it is about giving back. Children of all ages, athletic abilities and cultural backgrounds – from the greater Charlotte community – participate in swimming, biking and running for a cause. Money is raised through both corporate sponsors and individual participants. Prizes are awarded to the top three fundraisers each year!

More than 650 people from the community attended this year’s event, including 194 participants, seven of whom were from the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program!

“An amazing day for my four kids. We are so proud to be part of the LJCC that does such amazing things for the entire community.”

“This is always one of our favorite events. So a huge ‘thank you’ to all of you for not only organizing a great fundraiser, but an event that our kids look forward to every year!”

“We had the best time at the triathlon. Our son did so well and we are thrilled to be a part of it!”

“Thanks for doing a GREAT JOB on this year’s Kids Triathlon. It’s the best organized race we do; all of the volunteers are so helpful and warm and you do a great job with the fundraising motivation as well as day of logistics.”

“Just wanted to say ‘thank you’ for an awesome event on Sunday. It was well organized, and ran so smoothly. Our family & friends had a great experience. My daughter still hasn’t washed off her numbers yet!”

Former Carolina Panther Muhsin Muhammad attended the event – he took photos with the participants, signed autographs and handed out medals to participants after crossing the finish line!

“I just wanted to say ‘thank you’ for an awesome event on Sunday. It was well organized, and ran so smoothly. Our family & friends had a great experience. My daughter still hasn’t washed off her numbers yet!”

“We love the Kids Tri and it gets better every year!”

“We had the best time at the triathlon. Our son did so well and we are thrilled to be a part of it!”

“Thanks for doing a GREAT JOB on this year’s Kids Triathlon. It’s the best organized race we do; all of the volunteers are so helpful and warm and you do a great job with the fundraising motivation as well as day of logistics.”

“This is always one of our favorite events. So a huge ‘thank you’ to all of you for not only organizing a great fundraiser, but an event that our kids look forward to every year!”

Middle Carolinas HealthCare System Levine Children’s Hospital Adaptive Sports & Adventures Program

Special Thanks to Our Generous Sponsors!
OUR MISSION
To enrich and prolong the quality of life for all seniors regardless of religious affiliation.

Oasis is more than just a senior center. We are a family. Oasis welcomes all adults ages 50 and over from the Greater Charlotte area, to gather, to socialize, to pursue intellectual stimulation, to participate in physical and health promotion programs, and to eat nutritious meals together.

Oasis meets five days a week and every day is different. Over 1000 programs are offered each year by Oasis, fulfilling our holistic wellness goals for all members in our community. The program is a vital part of ensuring senior happiness in our community. The community formed in Oasis minimizes the challenging and often difficult transitions of aging through active involvement and connection with a network of peers via social activities, educational opportunities, and physical fitness. Oasis is made possible through the generous scholarship support for participant memberships, transportation subsidies, and lunches for those in need. We are pleased that in our history we have not turned anyone away for financial reasons.

Oasis is the only senior enrichment program in the area that provides free transportation to participants. By ensuring that we are meeting the needs of all Seniors, especially those who have difficulties getting out of their homes, we are meeting the needs of those in our community who are the most vulnerable; as their access to socialization and physical activities is greatly limited by their inability to drive themselves.

Oasis reminds us, that there is a big difference between simply living and being alive. In Oasis, the members of our community of a more distinguished age build and strengthen their relationships, for the need for strong relationships doesn’t end as we age, rather they grow more important. Many of our participants have lost their spouses, or have moved from other cities, and they come to Oasis to write the next chapter in their life journey. With the help of many volunteers, we help to write that chapter through active engagement in programming which stimulates our minds and bodies. Programs such as Exercise of the Mind, Painting & Beyond, Current Events, Judaism for the Curious, Senior Exercise Classes, Health Insurance counseling, and Kosher lunches are the backdrop to the stories we write together.

With the continued support of our community members, our passion to ensure the seniors in our community live happy and healthy lives through their engagement in Oasis will continue. We hope to see you soon.

Photos by Peter Safir

We thank STANLEY P. GREENSPON for his generous support of Oasis.

**ENRICH * ENLIGHTEN * ENJOY**

Spoke with over 80 new people interested in senior adult programs at LJCC.

During this past year:

- 1200+ Kosher meals served to seniors, through the generous support of Stanley P. Greenspon
- Doubled (2x) our staff and hired a full-time Senior Adult Program Coordinator to expand programming for aging adults.
- Provided over $2500 in scholarships for seniors in need with help from donors.

Over 600 unique seniors attended social and enrichment events.

Monthly Field Trips
Exercise Classes
Painting Classes
Game Days
Craft Activities
Movies
Guest Speakers
Seminars
Kosher Lunches

We thank STANLEY P. GREENSPON for his generous support of Oasis.
Judy Kalier

When I became a member of the Levine JCC, I never could have imagined how much the J would enhance my life. At age 77 I now work out 3-4 times a week and have found many ways to reconnect with the Jewish community. I love the J because I am always greeted by the friendliest staff that encourages me every time I walk into the building. The JCC fitness staffer Brent Miller has really made friends while helping the community during his Fridays’ Community Service. Overall through the camp summer program, I have gone on many fun trips swimming and JForce Youth. By being in the teen camp summer program, I have gone on many fun trips swimming and JForce Youth.

Jode Feinberg

The JCC has impacted me more than most could imagine. Because of my experience at the JCC, I have met some lifelong friends, peers, and even adults who to this day, I will always remember! The best part of being a teen at the J was without a doubt, teen camp. Every day at teen camp was a new and enjoyable adventure that I wish I could still be a part of today. Now that I have gotten too old to be a counselor and hopefully give kids the amazing experiences that I had as a camper, I am so thankful to the JCC for giving me such memorable years as a teen. It’s something I will never forget!

Alana Pries

Being a teen at the JCC has impacted me more than most could imagine. Because of my experience at the JCC, I have met some lifelong friends, peers, and even adults who to this day, I will always remember! The best part of being a teen at the J was without a doubt, teen camp. Every day at teen camp was a new and enjoyable adventure that I wish I could still be a part of today. Now that I have gotten too old to be a counselor and hopefully give kids the amazing experiences that I had as a camper, I am so thankful to the JCC for giving me such memorable years as a teen. It’s something I will never forget!

Georgia Engleharty

I have had a blast participating in the JCC programs. My world has expanded in the category of performing arts as well as learning how to maximize my athletic potential both in swimming and JForce Youth. By being in the teen camp summer program, I have gone on many fun trips and made friends while helping the community during Fridays’ Community Service. Overall through the Levine JCC activities, I have strengthened in my abilities as well as reaching out to the community and creating lifetime memories.

The J Story

If not for the J...

tzedakah * traditions * legacy

Create Your Jewish Legacy

A FCJC program

Through the Charlotte Jewish Legacy Program, you can make a difference in our community for years to come. Please consider joining the many who have already committed to leave a Legacy Gift ensuring that generations of Jewish families continue to have a strong and vibrant community to call their own. Endowment funds will help provide for continuous growth and long term capital improvements.

Thank You

...to our LJCC Legacy Donors

Sandra & Leon Levine
Laura & Marc Lewis
Annie & Harrison Lord
Rose & Abe Luski
Karen & Gary Maniloff and Family
Pam & Scott Menaker
Staci & Darren Mond
Elia & Martin Mather
Brenda & Floyd Patten
Harriet & Mark Perl
Debora & Ed Piser
Dena & Michael Rafler
Melissa & Steven Raphael
Jennifer & Andrew Rosen
Chantal & Dya Rubin
Michael Scharf
Elaine & Marty Schefflin
Larry Schwartz
Melva Segal
Maxine & Gary Silverstein
Stephanie & Jon Simon
Anne & Michael Sinzheimer
Lori & Eric Sklar
Stacey & Ira Slomka
Marilyn & Harry Swimmer
Karen & Jeff Tuck
Debra & David Van Glish
Jodie & Mike Van Glish
Dobby & Evan Weiss
Joanna & Eric Wionský
Kim & Marc Wojnowicz
Lisa & Scott Yarbrough

“The Lord Family

“We want to do everything we can to keep Charlotte’s Jewish community thriving. The JCC is where we’ve made our friends, where we’ve raised our children, and where we’ve made our home. We can’t imagine a Charlotte without the ICC in it, and we want this special place to be around for every Jew who enters Charlotte.

The Legacy program offered us the perfect opportunity to give beyond our current means, and even beyond the time when we are physically able. We love that this final act of TZEDAKAH not only leaves a Jewish legacy for our community, but also serves as an enduring example for our children.”

For more information, or to learn how you can be a part of this wonderful and important initiative, please contact Shellie Barer, Executive Administrator 704-944-6744 shellie.barer@charlottejcc.org
Years on the Park