

J IMPACT

A COMMUNITY BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS



2017 • ISSUE 3

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A Message From Your CEO



**Peter
Blair**

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2017 has been an eventful year at Levine JCC.

We have welcomed more than 300 new members, we have hosted more than 100 events and programs, we have helped select the national award winner for the Jewish Playwriting contest, taught more than 1,000 swimming lessons, and washed more than 5,000 towels.

In these first few months of the new year, we also had our resolve and strength tested. The recent rise of anti-Semitism and hate crimes intended to instill fear, to wear us down, or to cause us to celebrate our faith with hesitation, was felt by our entire community. Rather than allow it to consume us, we simply said, NO; and you joined us in the rejection of this fearmongering by helping to keep us JStrong.

The strength we gained as we read countless letters, email messages, had conversations in our halls and through interaction with faith and elected leaders across our great county and city was indescribable. We asked you to ensure that we were JStrong and you answered with a resounding YES. You said yes to all the things that make us a strong Jewish Community Center – yes to quality Jewish education being offered by our JTots toddler enrichment and JTeam afterschool programs – yes to inclusive community fitness, aquatics and recreation programs – yes to the comprehensive social services of our Oasis program for senior adults – and yes to the Butterfly Project, which provides an opportunity for today's youth to examine the past in order to understand what can happen when individuals and governments fail to take a stand against injustice. By saying yes to all of these, you were a part of your Levine JCC's strength and a part of ensuring that when we experience prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination that they are not allowed to flourish in our community.

Those who intended to make us weaker failed and we are stronger today than ever before. Our security protocols, procedures, infrastructure and staffing were strong and are even stronger now after extensive review and investment. Our membership was strong and is stronger now as you joined us and invited our entire Charlotte community to be a part of the great programs offered at the J and here on Shalom Park. Our programs were strong and are stronger now, as we have experienced growth in our Camp, JTeam, Fitness, Aquatics, and Recreation programs; among others, many reaching towards capacity.

Most of all, our support for our community was strong and is stronger now. We will achieve record-breaking support for our JImpact programs this year. Our Kids Triathlon fundraiser shattered its previous record and will raise 75% more than the previous year, our Camp SOAR will soon fill the halls of your Levine JCC with more Special Olympians and volunteers than ever before, and our Butterfly project continues to thrive, serving over 5,500 students this year.

2017 has been a heck of a year and we have only just begun! Together, we have grown stronger, and have done so even before we open our new outdoor aquatics facilities. We have been blessed to serve the greater Charlotte community through Jewish values since our doors opened in 1986 and will continue to do so for generations to come. Join with us as we celebrate the opening of your new pool and aquatics facilities and swing our doors even wider for the entire community to join us and ensure we are JStrong, together.

We are stronger because of your support. Together, may we go from strength to strength.

Peter Blair

Dear Members,

What an amazing year 2017 has been for the Levine Jewish Community Center thus far. We have welcomed many new members, our camp programs are almost fully enrolled for the summer, and your support of us has been JStrong. We hope our success is a sign that you are pleased with what we deliver to you at the JCC each day.

We are excited about the opening of our new pool and are on track to welcome you Memorial Day weekend. The new outdoor aquatics complex will include the new zero entry pool, a new water slide, increased and improved shaded areas, new furniture, and outdoor seating at the café. You will be proud of your investment.

Those of you who use our tennis facilities and bubble pool, we appreciate your patience during construction and the rerouting over the last few months. We will be restoring normal patterns shortly.

Not only have we invested in new facilities this year but new programs as well. Your Board has been strategically thinking with staff about a deeper investment in adult programing and we look forward to these new programs. Our goal: to broaden our JCC offerings and provide our community with additional engagement opportunities, which will also increase the value of your membership.

I hope you are ready to have a great summer at the J. Whether it's on the tennis courts, at Camp Mindy, the outdoor pool, or the Kids Triathlon, I hope to see you enjoying your summer days at the J!

Jon Simon

LJCC Board President



**Jon
Simon**

Together we STAND UP to injustice.



JSTRONG.*



Together we BUILD our community.

JBUILD*

LEVINE JCC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

If Not For The J...

Update

THANK YOU

for investing in JBUILD;
for investing in your community.

We are
proud to
announce
we've raised
over
\$6,036,000
since the
start of the
campaign.

To date, we have over

665

donors invested in the
campaign, including
significant corporate
support from local
agencies such as
Bank of America, Wells
Fargo, and Carolinas
HealthCare Foundation.

We've also received
Generous Matching Support
for gifts made prior to 12/31/2015 from:

SANDRA & LEON LEVINE
JULIE & HOWARD LEVINE
and LORI & ERIC SKLUT



"My children grew up at the LJCC... and many of their friends today are still the ones they made in Hoopsters, Micro Soccer or just hanging out at the pool. I want that same opportunity for the next generation. I feel strongly about this campaign because just as past generations created a place to shape my J story ... I want to ensure there are future stories to be told."

– RONI FISHKIN
Capital Campaign
Co-chair

GOAL

JAN
2017

EXCEEDED GOAL!

OCT
2014

Our goal was to raise **\$5,950,000**.
Because of YOU, **we exceeded
our goal by nearly \$100,000!**

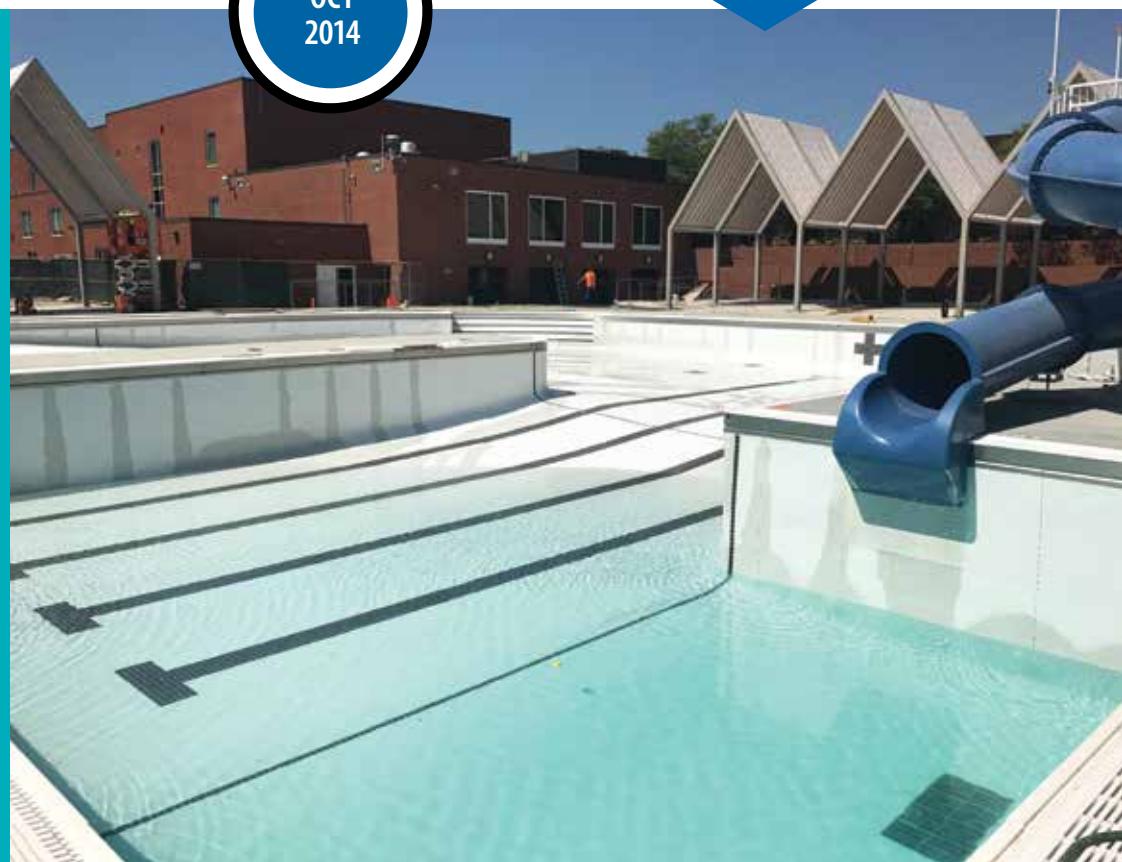
#MAZELTOV

Upcoming Projects for 2018-2020

Capital Campaign funds will support the following projects & renovations:

- ✓ Adult Locker Rooms
- ✓ Gorelick Hall
- ✓ Additional Fitness Space

The filling of water has begun! Next up... filling with families and summer fun!





Moms in Training!



Launched in NYC in 2012, Moms In Training (MIT) is a program for moms committed to reaching their personal goals while helping cancer patients reach theirs.

The Levine JCC became a partner with MIT in 2015 to help culminate the opportunity to bring moms together in the fight against cancer. Over 50 JCC moms have signed up for the 10-week fitness program led by Levine JCC fitness instructors. Beginning each year in April, the Levine JCC offers MIT workouts every Sunday and Tuesday focusing on cardio, strength and overall health and wellness.

Since the program's inception, Moms In Training has raised over \$2.5 million for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society! Charlotte's Levine JCC Moms In Training Team has raised nearly \$50,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in just two years!



JRUN.

Join Group Ex Coordinator, Jenny Crow

Tuesday mornings at 8:15 AM for a group running class.

Learn how to run faster, more efficiently, and injury free. This class focuses on the proper mechanics of running and aims to

help runners of all ages and abilities achieve these goals.

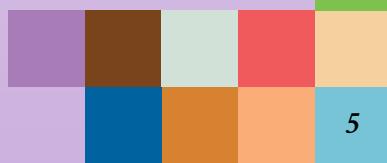
Strength training is incorporated in each workout to build strong arms, legs, and core, all essential to running.



LJCC Member and MIT Honored Hero Elina Kurakin with her son Benjamin (2)

"I joined Moms In Training because I was moved by how motivated the Charlotte community was to support an organization like The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which has a deeper meaning for me. I was diagnosed last year with Hodgkin's Lymphoma when my son, Benjamin was just one year old. After finishing my treatment, I wanted to do something important to help other new moms diagnosed with cancer. I hope that by sharing my story, it will inspire others in a similar fight."

"I will hopefully celebrate soon my first year in remission! Moms In Training has provided an amazing outlet for me to get in shape while being surrounded by an incredible group of moms, all in the fight together to find a cure for cancer! I am grateful that the Levine JCC and the entire Shalom Park community embraced this program with open arms to provide me with an invaluable support system."



Help Out. Do Good. Feel Good.
**SOCIAL ACTION
= LJCC CARES**



Salvation Army's Center of Hope

During the past year, volunteers made more than **500** bag lunches, including peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to be given to the Center of Hope – a homeless center for women & children.



Thank You To Our Volunteers!

The Levine JCC members engage in a variety of social action programming. LJCC Cares brings our community together to live our values of:

tikkun olam = repairing the world

gemilut hasadim = acts of loving kindness

Through LJCC Cares, we provide educational information and opportunities for adults, teens, families and seniors to serve the greater Charlotte community in ways that connect us with others and are motivated by pressing issues of the day.

Volunteers spend hundreds of hours each year participating in a variety of events. We thank everyone who volunteered his or her time and look forward to seeing new faces!

In addition to the Levine JCC Butterfly Project and the Annual LJCC Kids Triathlon, some of the events members participated in include:



Interested in Volunteering with us?

Contact Director of Social Action, Julie Rizzo
julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org

2600
pounds



Greentek Recycling collected box upon box of unwanted electronics for recycling and more than **2600** pounds of paper for shredding. Four large boxes were filled with expired or unwanted medications for Operation Medicine Drop.

Spring Clean Event

Greentek Recycling collected box upon box of unwanted electronics for recycling and more than **2600** pounds of paper for shredding. Four large boxes were filled with expired or unwanted medications for Operation Medicine Drop.

Ronald McDonald House of Charlotte

LJCC Cares volunteers prepared a meal for families residing at the House while their child is a patient at a local hospital. The families are thrilled to have a "home-cooked" meal and the volunteers really enjoyed planning, shopping for and preparing the meal.



Adopt-a-Street

Three times each year, LJCC volunteers walk Jefferson Drive and a portion of Preston Lane and pick up trash to make sure we keep our neighborhood looking beautiful! (photo above)



Bright Blessings

50 LJCC Cares volunteers participated in wrapping birthday gifts and making goodie bags, for birthday parties for community homeless children. (photo lower left)

World Wear Project

Members donated more than **435** pounds of shoes, filling seven large boxes, to be made available to people living in developing countries.

435
lbs. of shoes





MEET RUSSELL DABAK!

Many of you know Russell as an outstanding participant in Camp SOAR – our Special Olympics Athletic Retreat. However, what you may not know is how much help Russell is to the entire LJCC staff. Russell goes above and beyond every Monday in the fitness center, no job is too big or small, from folding towels to cleaning and sanitizing our fitness equipment. His love for people shines brightly every time he is here, acknowledging every member by their name and always with a smile. Russell takes great pride in his job and it shows after he is done.

Thanks to Russell, the Fitness Center is not only clean, but sparkling because of his love for people and his contagious love for life.

Thank you Russell for your inspiration and for all you do!

At the age of about four, before he could speak, Russell's Grandmother Evelyn would sit and encourage him to draw simple objects, like flowers. Russell has an affinity for flowers adding one to his name at every opportunity he can. Russell's flowers are always popping up and have become his infamous trademark.

Last winter, the Foundation of Shalom Park honored Russell's paintings by permanently displaying them in the Hal & Holly Levinson Children & Family Center.



RUSSELL'S 5 FAVORITES:

1. JCC MOMENT...

"Every time I come to the J, I love all the people. It's always a good day and everyone is so nice and kind."

2. SPORTS TEAM...

"UNC Basketball – Tarheels all the way!"

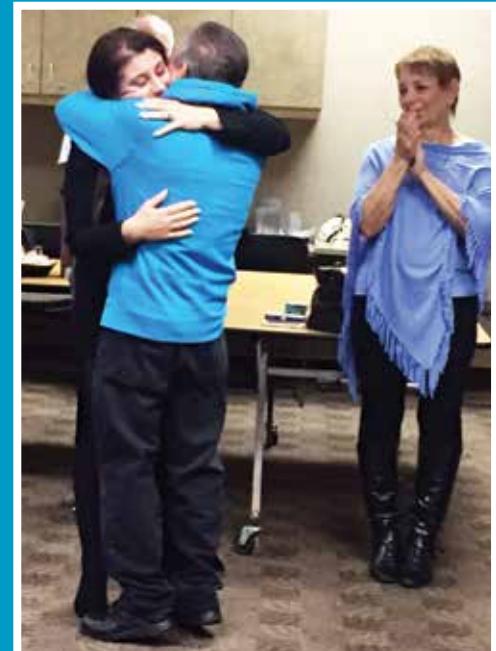
3. HOBBY... "Painting canvas."

(Russell's beautiful artwork is on display in the Hal & Holly Levinson Children and Family Place)

4. FOOD... "Seafood Salad"

5. MOVIE... "Alvin & The Chipmunks"

RUSSELL DABAK



Chai Hopes

KNITTING FOR A CAUSE

Janet Rubin, The “Fuzzy Lady,” Knits 9,000th Blanket!

Every Wednesday morning when you enter the Levine JCC you are greeted by a warm group of women, sitting in the lobby, knitting blankets. Some of these knit blankets are sold but the majority of them are donated to the Levine Children’s Hospital. These women are all part of a group called Chai Hopes. And it goes far beyond the walls of the Levine JCC.

Chai Hopes was started in 2008 by LJCC member Lynn Edelstein. Lynn’s goal is to provide comfort and hope to every child at the Levine Children’s Hospital with a hand-knit blanket.

Chai Hopes welcomes everyone to participate and they are always looking for knitters. About 90% of the people knit from home and either mail in the blankets or drop them off at the Levine JCC.

One of the participants who knits from home is Janet Rubin. About 7 years ago, due to cancer, Janet lost sight in one eye resulting in a loss of depth perception. Once an avid needle pointer, she decided she could no longer see well enough to continue her passion. This is when her friend Lynn suggested she begin to knit for Chai Hopes. Janet had one concern; not being able to fold the ends in on the blankets she created. Luckily she was able to form a knitting partnership with LJCC member Judy Marco who finishes Janet’s blankets by folding all of the ends in.

There is so much passion that goes into each and every single blanket Janet creates. Whenever Janet begins to knit she thinks about the comfort and love the blanket will bring to the child and adds lots of little touches, like fuzzy yarn, making sure it’s soft and cozy. This has earned her the name “Fuzzy Lady”.

This past December, Chai Hopes reached a special milestone. After knitting over 430 blankets herself, Janet knit the 9000th blanket for Chai Hopes. Marsha Scheer had the honor of delivering the blankets to the children’s hospital right in time for the holidays.

.....

*The Chai Hopes volunteers
feel it takes a village
to help make a change and
the JCC is their little village
every Wednesday morning.
They are always looking
for knitters.*



Marsha Scheer (far right) helps the group by delivering the blankets to the hospital.



"Fuzzy Lady" Janet Rubin (center) knitting in action, with Judy Marco (left) & Lynn Edelstein (right)



Join Us!

The LJCC Chai Hopes group
knits together every week:

Wednesdays
9am-12pm
LJCC Lobby

If you would like to participate or
make a donation, please contact

Lynn Edelstein
704-366-6765



Cellucci Family

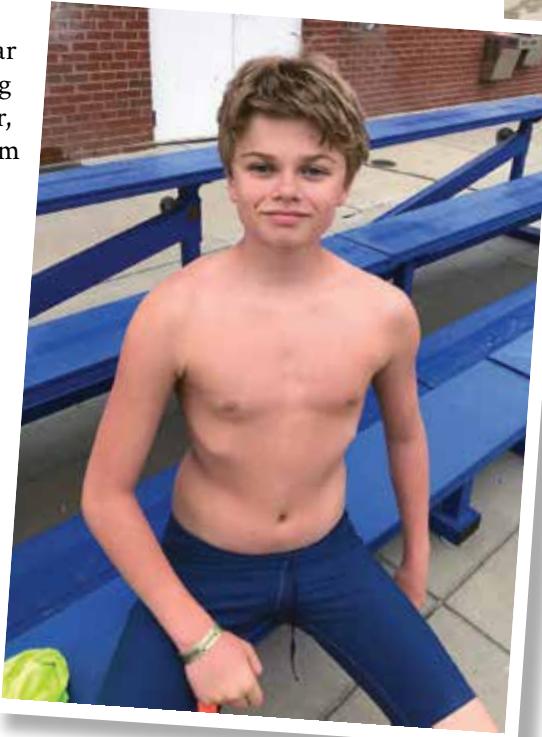
Our son Michael has really benefitted from the structure of team swimming with the Levine JCC. He's always been great in the water and from an early age, has been very comfortable and very at ease when swimming. Swimming has always been something he's done for fun, but Michael professed an interest in joining a year-round program, after participating in a neighborhood swim team last summer.

The neighborhood swim team was the first organized swimming program that Michael took part in, and it lit a fire in him to do more. He started thinking about where else he could swim after the summer program ended. He thought about his middle school team and other swim clubs near our neighborhood. He had also heard about the JCC, and put the JCC Swim Team on the list of groups to look into.

The Levine JCC had a sign-up window that fit perfectly with Michael's schedule for a year round program, so we arranged for a meeting with Coach Cynthia. Michael tested with her, and displayed enough ability to make the team and was delighted to be accepted as a Silver Shark!

He started swimming with the team right away and immediately took to the team structure. Coach Cynthia and the other coaches teach him about how important swimming is, as a life skill to learn. He works hard on mechanics, breathing and conditioning and loves competing at the meets.

Michael is making friends at the JCC too. He is forging bonds with other swimmers and cheers his friends and teammates on as they race. His friends and relay mates do the same for him, which really bolsters his self-esteem. The JCC JAWS swim team creates a wonderful team environment for Michael and all of the swimmers. He is learning important life lessons on how to win and lose as a team, and how to give it his best.



We cannot believe how conditioned Michael is becoming! He swims most week night practices and is becoming very fit. The weekly swim team practices are excellent whole body workouts and the coaches know just what to do to keep the swimmers in good condition, while being race-ready for meets.

The JCC JAWS swim team truly promotes the feeling of community too; as parents feel just as involved in swim team as our kids do. We've made a few friends, watching Michael at practice and at meets, and we really love the coaching staff. You can see their care, dedication, and how much they truly love working with Michael and the swimmers. I couldn't ask for a finer group of adults to coach a team. We are lucky to have them guiding our kids.

Michael has grown so much as a young man over the past few months, and I am certain that a great deal of that comes from his involvement with the JCC JAWS swim program. He is confident in his ability and has a great attitude towards the sport of swimming. His confidence has spread to other areas of his life; in school, and in Boy Scouts. We feel that he has made a strong connection to a sport and a lifestyle that will not be broken.

Thank you JCC! - The Cellucci Family



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

Anonymous (4)
Wilma & Gerson Israel
Judy & Stan August
Shellie & Harvey Barer
Gail & John Baron
Meredith & Michael Baumstein
Lois & Sanford Benjamin
Phil Berman
Glenda & Brian Bernhardt
Elka & Andrew Bernstein
Traci Walker Blair & Peter Blair
Justin Bregman
Suly & Richard Chenkin
Jena Coen
David I. Cohen
Andrea & George Cronson
Deedee & Gene Daumit
Andrea & Jeremy Davids
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Debra & David Van Glish
Judie & Mike Van Glish
Diana Warth
Debby & Evan Weiss
Joanna & Eric Wisotsky
Kim & Marc Wojnowich
Lisa & Scott Yarbrough

Of Blessed Memory (updated 05/02/2017)



"I have so many memories growing up that revolve around the Levine JCC. It is where I learned to swim, where I spent summers at the pool with my friends, and where I had my first job at 14. And, as an adult, it is where I found a community in the ceramics studio. I participate in the Levine JCC's Charlotte Jewish Legacy program because it is important to me that this wonderful place of community is sustained for generations to come."

- JENA COEN

For more information, or to learn how you can be a part of this wonderful and important initiative, please contact

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Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
CHARLOTTE, NC
PERMIT 2827

Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center

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704.366.5007 | charlottejcc.org



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OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

