



WINTER 2019 • ISSUE 8

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A Message From Your CEO



**Peter
Blair**

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STRENGTH: Walking recently into the hallway of the Levine Jewish Community Center, I looked up at the wall and immediately noticed that word, Strength. Strength in Community, Strength in Friendship, Strength in Family, Strength in Health, Strength to Invest – this is such a wonderful reflection of what the Levine JCC in Charlotte is. As we reach the end of 2019 and prepare to enter a new decade, we can celebrate the strength and vibrancy that is our JCC.

With a mission to enrich lives and build relationships through quality Jewish experiences, the LJCC has a proud and long standing history of having a positive impact on its members. Our JCC serves as a home away from home for so many – as the place where friendships are fostered everyday and relationships are built. The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring exceptional

Enriching lives and building relationships through quality Jewish experiences... These simple words are the Mission of your Levine JCC. As the CEO, I reflect upon them frequently. I think about them, challenge our staff to think about them, and ask our Board to analyze them; as we make decisions about where to invest our resources, time, and energy.

It is the central part of that phrase – building relationships – that is our focus as we conclude 2019 and begin 2020; for the ways in which we build relationships in the current day and age is different. While we “can” build community whenever we want, wherever we want, with whomever we want through social media and our smart phones, those communities are “different.” We find ourselves craving human connection, physical connection, and emotional connection in ways that only convening can satisfy.

Here at your Levine JCC we are actively working to foster the building of our community not by focusing on the relationship between you, the member, and the Levine JCC as an institution, but rather, by functioning as a platform for the development of individual relationships between members. The strength

of our community is a function of the density of the web of relationships. Thus, the community is the nexus of these relationships. By forming individual relationships and weaving them into a community, we are able to help to create connections between individuals and within the community as a whole.

Building the relationship is the goal; determining its outcome is not. We hope that you will continue to come and participate in programs and classes, or even just hang out by the pool. When you are here we hope that you will take time to get to know your fellow members, and talk with one another. While you are doing those things, you are creating community; whether you are conscious of it or not.

We recognize that while we structure many activities and programs, it is always you, the member, who determines the meaning. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to ensure that our programs and classes are contributing to a vibrant and robust community.

With passion and dedication,

– Peter Blair

LJCC Board President



Jeff Turk

membership experiences in a welcoming and inclusive environment. As members of the LJCC family, you are valued. With that in mind, the board is continuing its strategic planning initiative to enhance your Levine JCC and your membership experience. Every decision we make is with you, our members, in mind. While we are proud of how strong we are, we look for opportunities to be stronger. We want to exceed your expectations.

You belong here! As we enter into the winter, I encourage you to embrace the warmth and vibrancy of your Levine JCC. Consider participating in one of the wonderful programs offered. Treat yourself, take the opportunity to enrich your mind, body, and, spirit. Build community and by doing so, build Strength.

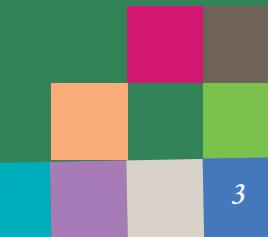
May we go from strength to strength,

– Jeff Turk



Build Community

kehilah קהילה



JBUILD

Update

LEVINE JCC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mazel Tov!

Our goal was to raise **\$5,950,000.**

Together we **exceeded** our goal by more than **\$125,000.**



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.

Recent Capital Campaign Projects

- ✓ Alvin E. Levine Gymnasium Staircase Improvements

Upcoming Projects for 2020

Capital Campaign funds will support the following projects & renovations:

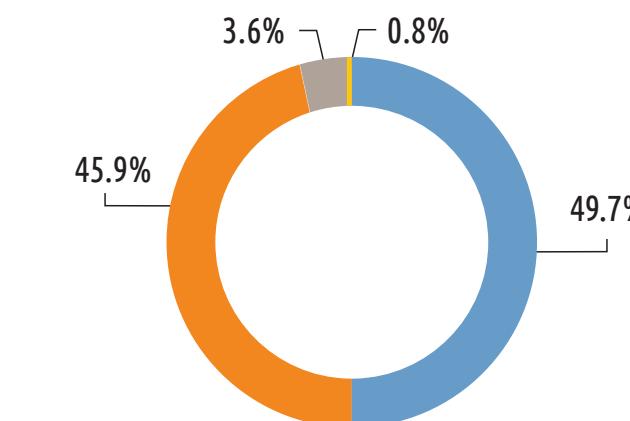
- ✓ Adult Locker Room Renovation & Expansion
- ✓ Women's Steam Room Renovations
- ✓ Massage Room Renovations



Annual Report 2018

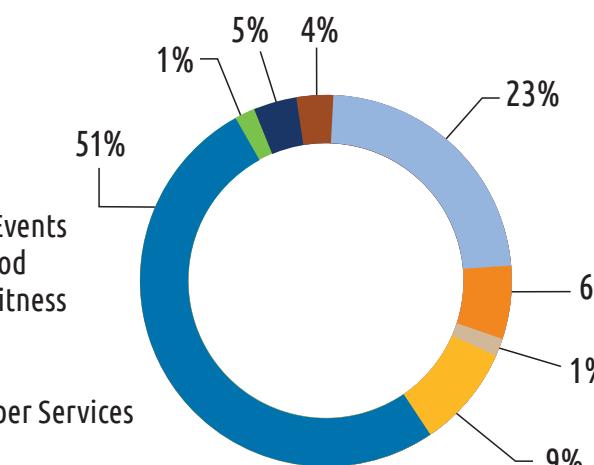
REVENUES

- Programs
- Membership
- Community Support
- Miscellaneous



EXPENSES

- Summer Services
- Seniors & Adults
- Community Service & Events
- Family & Early Childhood
- Health, Recreation & Fitness
- Teens
- Cultural Arts
- Administration / Member Services



2018 By-the-Numbers

4063

CHALLAH Sales

4360

CHARLOTTE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL TICKETS sold in the 2018-19 season

850

SUMMER CAMPERS
2019 Camp Mindy and Sports & Tennis Camps

5668

BUTTERFLIES PAINTED in Butterfly Project workshops during the 2018-19 Academic Year

2748

SENIOR LUNCHES Served

Capital Campaign contact:

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Building a Foundation For Our Community's Future.



JTRI

LEVINE JCC KIDS TRIATHLON

Benefitting Pediatric Rehabilitative Services
at Levine Children's Hospital and the
Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program

On June 2, 2019, the Levine JCC hosted its 8th Annual LJCC Kids Triathlon, benefitting pediatric rehabilitative services at Levine Children's Hospital and the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program. This special event is about more than just good, fun athletic competition – it is about giving back. The event raises funds for these programs, and raises awareness of the services available. Children, ages five through 14, of all athletic abilities and cultural backgrounds participate in swimming, biking and running for a cause. With support from the Leon Levine Foundation and additional corporate sponsors, the 2019 Kids Triathlon was a tremendous success, raising more than \$130,000! Of that amount, more than \$40,000 was raised by the individual participants. Special guest Cam Newton individually congratulated and took photos with all participants who raised more than \$500.

This year five former rehab patients from Levine Children's Hospital participated in the event. The excellent care that they received at LCH enabled them to compete side-by-side with kids who have never suffered a debilitating injury or illness. It was a thrilling sight to see! Read about three of these remarkable children and their journey through rehab and recovery .



MEET ANNIE



Annie was a healthy, active 4-year-old when she sustained a traumatic brain injury from a fall on concrete on July 1, 2017. She was transferred to MUSC Children's Hospital and had emergency brain surgery. She remained at MUSC for

9 days. Once she was medically ready for her next phase of treatment, her family chose Levine Children's Hospital. Annie transferred to the pediatric rehab unit on July 10th.

When she first arrived in rehab, Annie was very nervous and fearful of all the therapy. She required assistance to move around her bed and to transfer from a bed to a chair. She required a lot of help to walk very short distances. She was not able to do any of her age appropriate activities of daily living (ADLs). She had no movement in her right arm. She had some difficulty communicating and required a feeding tube for some of her nutritional needs.

She remained on the inpatient rehab unit for 3½ weeks with her family by her side.

When she went home, she was able to walk up to 300 feet with only supervision needed. Annie's communication improved significantly and she was back to eating and drinking anything she wanted. On August 4, 2017, Annie left the rehab unit with her family and headed back home.

Annie is now an active, fun, and energetic 6-year-old. Her mom said "Annie is living a happy and fun filled life doing all the things a 6-year-old should do thanks to Levine's!". She loves to run, skip, swim, play tennis, and ride her bike. Annie loved participating in the 8th annual Levine JCC Kids Triathlon for the first time!



MEET BO



Bo was a healthy and active 4-year-old boy when he started experiencing flu-like symptoms on Christmas of 2014. He was found to have a brain tumor and was admitted to Duke Children's Hospital for further evaluation on January 6, 2015. Bo had surgery to

remove the tumor on January 7th. He remained at Duke for another 2 weeks until he was ready for his next phase of treatment. Bo's family chose Levine Children's Hospital and he transferred to the pediatric rehab unit on January 21, 2015.

When Bo arrived on the rehab unit, he was weak throughout his body with poor motor control. He required max-total assistance with his bed mobility and to transfer from his bed to a chair. He required total assistance with all his activities of daily living.

Bo worked hard throughout his 3-week rehab stay with his family by his side the entire time! By the time he went home, he was able to walk distances up to 200 feet with only intermittent steadyng required when walking inside and one-hand held when walking outside.

On February 11, 2015, exactly 5 weeks after his brain surgery, Bo headed home with his family. Fast forward to 2019... Bo is now an active and energetic 8-year-old. He plays basketball, lacrosse, and baseball. He is in Cub Scouts, a robotic Lego club, and is a voracious reader. At home, he sets up sports camps for his 2 younger brothers and coaches them through the tough "training sessions".

Bo was so excited to be a part of the 8th Annual Levine JCC Kids Triathlon for the first time with one of his brothers!



MEET BAILEY



Bailey was a healthy and active 8-year-old girl when she began having symptoms of right sided weakness. She was eventually diagnosed with a brain tumor and was admitted to Brenner Children's Hospital on September 25, 2017 for removal of the tumor. Bailey

recovered remarkably well and her neurosurgery team

felt that she was medically ready to go home only a few days after surgery. Her family knew that she was far from being able to do all the things she could do before the surgery. It was decided that Bailey needed an intensive inpatient rehabilitation program. She and her family chose Levine Children's Hospital and Bailey was admitted to the pediatric rehab unit on September 29, 2017.



Bailey remained on the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Levine Children's Hospital for a little over 2½ weeks. She always had a smile on her face and was a joy for all the staff who worked with her. Her parents remained a constant by her side throughout her stay. Bailey worked so hard and had so much fun at rehab. By the time she left, she had met almost all her goals! She was able to walk everywhere with only someone standing by her for safety. She was able to do her activities of daily living with supervision or a little help and her speech had improved. On October 18, 2017, less than a month after having brain surgery, Bailey walked off the rehab floor and went home!

Bailey is now an active, full-of-life 10-year-old. She continues to make improvements and works hard in her therapies. She loves anything sports! She dances, plays soccer and basketball, and is in the running club at her school. She even just ran a 5k! She is an A Honor Roll student and was on the Battle of the Books team through her school. Bailey participated in the Levine JCC Kids Triathlon the past two years and will be back for the 9th Annual Kids Triathlon next year!

SAVE
the
DATE!

9th Annual
Levine JCC Kids Triathlon
Sunday, May 31, 2020
Levine Jewish Community Center

www.ljcckidstri.org

Founded by
Jewish Federation
of GREATER CHARLOTTE

Atrium Health
Levine Children's
 CISAP
adaptive sports & adventures program

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

Levine
JCC
Charlotte

JPRIDE

CHARLOTTE



JPRIDE

Charlotte Pride is the leader in LGBTQ visibility in Charlotte and the Carolinas, collaborating on programs, projects, and activities, including the annual Charlotte Pride Festival and Parade. This past August, staff and members from the Levine JCC, Temple Beth El, Temple Israel, The Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and Jewish Family Services marched in the Pride Parade, sporting JPRIDE shirts.

While the members at the Levine Jewish Community Center come from diverse faith backgrounds, the Levine JCC is founded upon Jewish experiences. One of the most important tenants of Judaism is 'B'Etzelim Elohim,' which loosely translated means that everyone is created in the image of God, therefore all humans are created equal and deserve to be treated as such.

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— SUSAN CHERIN GUNDERSHEIM

One of the most important priorities of your Levine JCC is to be a place of welcome for all. We are vociferous about our acceptance of people of all races, religions, and sexual and gender orientations. Having a presence at the Pride Parade adds to the long list of social action programs the Levine JCC participates in as an organization throughout the year.

Daniel Shelkrot, a JCC member who participated in the Pride Parade said, "Judaism, to me, means freedom. Judaism supports freedom to express who you are and to live your life in a genuine capacity. The mere fact that Judaism supports that means a lot to me and I want to support the effort and help communicate and spread the word that you can be yourself. I believe that hatred is based on ignorance and fear, and I'm not scared.

There's nothing to be afraid of. We're all human."

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Shirts are available for purchase at the LJCC front desk while supplies last!

\$10

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Maccabi Games

The JCC Maccabi Games® is an Olympic-style sporting competition held each summer in North America and is the second largest organized sports program for Jewish teenagers in the world.

Today, over 3,000 teens, ranging from 13 to 16 years of age, participate in the JCC Maccabi Games® each summer.

Team Carolina ambassadors will compete in the 2020 Games in San Diego August 2-7. Being a delegate on Team Carolina takes commitment. Commitment to your JCC, commitment to Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, commitment to family.



SPORTS

Basketball
Baseball
Bowling
Flag Football
Ice Hockey
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Table Tennis
Tennis
Track & Field
Volleyball



"Being involved in the Maccabi Games is an amazing experience! The games bring out a spirit of sportsmanship, friendship, and Jewish values that are only found at the Maccabi games. Every year as I go to a new set of games, I love the excitement as Team Carolina marches in the Opening Ceremonies."

— STEPHANIE GARNER
LJCC Sports Director



2017
Birmingham
16 Delegates

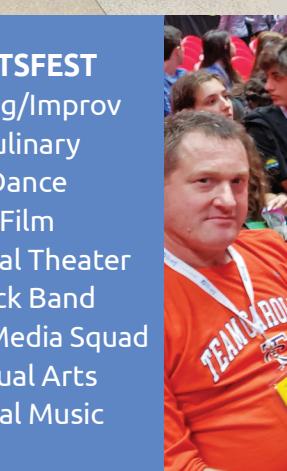
2018
Orange County
17 Delegates

2019
Detroit
21 Delegates



"Maccabi was an incredible life experience for my son and me. Meeting other athletes and coaches from all over the US and beyond who share the common bonds of being Jewish and loving sports allowed us to develop new friendships and create lasting memories. From the opening ceremonies, to friendly athletic, competition and community service; Maccabi created a great sense of Jewish pride and connection."

— STEVE GARFINKLE, Maccabi Parent



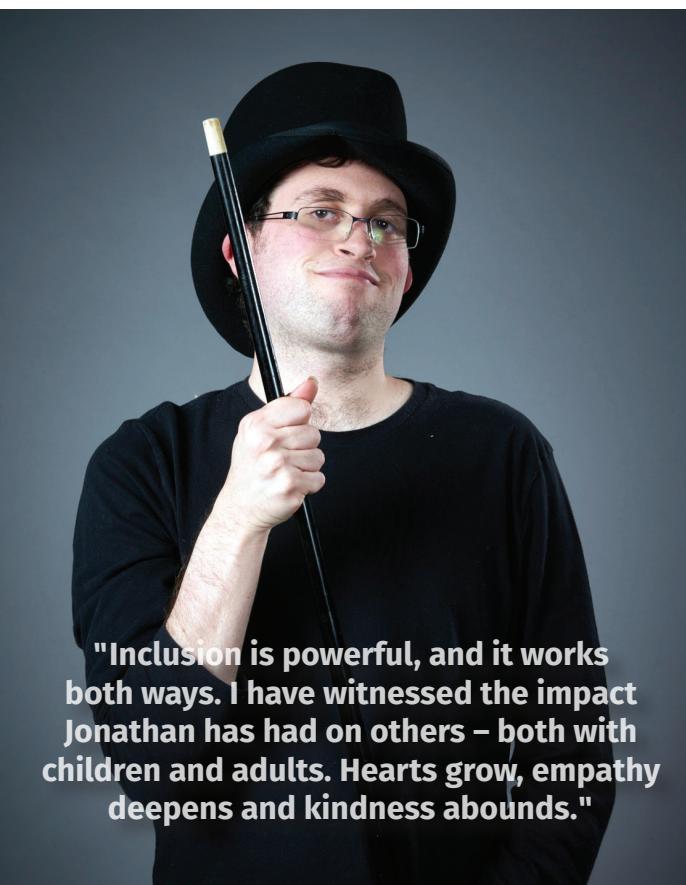
Acting/Improv
Culinary
Dance
Film
Musical Theater
Rock Band
Social Media Squad
Visual Arts
Vocal Music



The Gale Family

"The highlights of our son's year are JSTAGE'S community musical and Upstream Arts. Our son, Jonathan, has always been passionate about all things creative, but because of his autism, he has few opportunities to express himself. While his older sister, Rebecca, went off to her theatrical rehearsals, Jonathan would rehearse elaborate plays, complete with costume changes and music, in his bedroom, alone. For Rebecca, all the practicing culminated in the excitement of a final public performance with a huge cast. Jonathan's final public performance was a solo affair, which always took place in our home, with just the three of us cheering and clapping enthusiastically. We made do.

This changed for Jonathan in 2014, when Susan Cherin Gundersheim and Kayla Piscatelli included Jonathan in the JSTAGE musical. He was over the moon. No longer alone in his bedroom, he was now a part of a community, following directions, learning about discipline and the value of rehearsing, repeating a dance step, a musical phrase, a line of dialogue, until it was right. With JSTAGE, he was now performing



"Inclusion is powerful, and it works both ways. I have witnessed the impact Jonathan has had on others – both with children and adults. Hearts grow, empathy deepens and kindness abounds."

– Caren Gale



UPSTREAM
ARTS

JSTAGE.

in a theater, with a real audience. My husband and I were moved beyond words to see an unfamiliar expression cross Jonathan's face as he took his final bow: pride. And, most importantly, JSTAGE provided Jonathan the opportunity to interact with typical peers who modeled what the social landscape should look like.

Inclusion is powerful, and it works both ways. I have witnessed the impact Jonathan has had on others – both with children and adults. Hearts grow, empathy deepens and kindness abounds. JSTAGE has allowed for countless teachable moments for both Jonathan and all the typically developing cast members who have gotten to know him.

Two years ago, a new program was launched at the JCC, Upstream Arts. Less structured and more improvisatory, this program was the perfect complement to JSTAGE. Because this program is exclusively designed for individuals with special needs, it allows for teaching that targets areas of greater struggle. For individuals with special needs, reading facial expressions or body language can often be challenging. Upstream Arts, with its gifted staff, is masterful at teaching this: by demonstrating, by doing, by acting it out. The staff makes connecting and engagement irresistible.

Through Upstream Arts, our son has also become more empathetic and sensitive when it comes to another person's disability. The special needs community can often feel disconnected and isolated and alone. The program fosters kindness to others and helps to connect individuals and their families with other members of their community.

As a parent of a son with special needs, I am grateful that the JCC is committed to both programs which have been vital for our son's growth. Every parent who has been down this path, looks for opportunities for their son or daughter – a chance to grow, to connect with others. A thank you to the Levine JCC for lighting that path, so other families have a way forward."

tzedakah * traditions * legacy



A FCJC program

Through the Charlotte Create Your 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
Philip Berman
Glenda & Brian Bernhardt
Elka & Andrew Bernstein
Peter Blair
Diana Warth Bregman & Justin Bregman
Bobby Cain
Suly & Richard ^{בָּנָה} Chenkin
Jena Coen
David I. Cohen
Andrea & George Cronson
Deedee & Gene Daumit
Andrea & Jeremy Davids
Aleen & David Epstein
Roni & Glenn Fishkin
Tammy & Ken Goldner
Jennifer Cohen Golynsky & Leon Golynsky
Patty ^{בָּנָה} & Bill Gorelick
Stanley P. Greenspon
Anna Gunsher
Jodie, Michael, Elyssa & Alex Iagnocco
Raizel & Brian Kahn
Dana & Andrew Kapustin
Nancy & Robert Kipnis
Lorrie & Barry Klemens & Family
Elise & Jaime Kosofsky
Alison & Mark Lerner
Susan & Eric Lerner
Gloria & Harry Lerner
Julie & Howard Levine
Marilyn & Harry Swimmer
Karen & Jeff Turk
Amy & Ross Udooff
Ellie & Robert Valenstein
Debra & David Van Glish
Judie & Michael Van Glish
Debby & Evan Weiss
Joanna & Eric Wisotsky
Kim & Marc Wojnowich
Lisa & Scott Yarbrough

^{בָּנָה} Of Blessed Memory (updated 11/2019)



"The LJCC has been the center of our Jewish lives in Charlotte since we moved to town almost 15 years ago. CJP, soccer, interfaith basketball, Purim carnivals, Camp Mindy, Lifeguarding, the CJFF Screening Committee, the LJCC Executive Board, Butterfly Project, Kettle Bells, JForce and so much more... the list keeps growing! We are so grateful for the LJCC and all it has meant for our Jewish lives. It is our pleasure to make the LJCC part of our Jewish Legacy."

– DANA & ANDREW,
DANIELLE, JACOB, & CHARLIE
KAPUSTIN

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

