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New Britain Temple Leaves Lasting Legacy for the Future

West Hartford, CT – When Temple B’nai Israel of New Britain shut its doors and put its building up for sale this summer, its Torah scrolls went to a local college Hillel chapter, where they will be read each Sabbath, and its memorial plaques were installed at a local day school, where they will be maintained and lit to commemorate the *yahrzeits* (death anniversaries) of Temple members. But a big question remained: What to do with the proceeds of the building sale?

The synagogue’s Trustees received requests for funding from a variety of local charitable organizations but finally decided to establish a scholarship fund that will encourage Jewish young people to expand their participation in Jewish life. The Temple B’nai Israel Legacy Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford will provide assistance to children from former Temple families as well as other Jewish children who wish to attend day school, pursue Judaic studies at the undergraduate or graduate level, and participate in Jewish camping and educational trips to Israel. A portion of the fund will also support the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford, which now cares for B’nai Israel’s memorial plaques.

“Creating a scholarship fund is one of the most rewarding and impactful ways to leave a legacy. Temple B’nai Israel has closed its doors, but its spirit will live on through the generations,” said Doreen Fundiller-Zweig, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation. “So many young people will benefit from the Temple’s foresight and generosity.”

The Temple B’nai Israel Legacy Fund joins more than 20 other scholarship funds at the Jewish Community Foundation, which awarded \$90,000 in scholarships to local students this year.

To learn more about this and other scholarship funds, please call the Foundation at 860.523.7460 or visit our website at www.jcfhartford.org.

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[CAPTION FOR TEMPLE B’NAI ISRAEL-1.JPG]

Estelle Bernstein and Marshall Cohn, Trustees of Temple B’nai Israel of New Britain, present a check to Doreen Fundiller-Zweig, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation, to establish the Temple B’nai Israel Legacy Fund. The fund will benefit young people who wish to expand their participation in Jewish life.

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ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

For 35 years, the Jewish Community Foundation has partnered with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their charitable goals and secure a vibrant Jewish future in Greater Hartford and around the world. The Foundation, which holds more than \$82 million in endowment funds for individuals, families, and organizations in Greater Hartford, awarded more than \$3.3 million in grants to more than 160 different charities this past year.