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attachment: Endowment Challenge Logo

Jewish Organizations Raises Money for Endowments

West Hartford, CT – Today, 10 local Jewish organizations are stronger from new endowment dollars raised through The Endowment Challenge for the Community, a three-year philanthropic initiative of the Jewish Community Foundation offering matching grants up to \$750,000 to 10 beneficiary agencies of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

In Phase I of the Challenge, each agency chose an endowment fundraising goal between \$10,000 and \$75,000 to raise within a three-year time period. Each agency had to raise 10% of this goal by December 31st to qualify. Nine of the organizations met or exceeded their initial endowment fundraising goal, qualifying each of them for the ultimate match of \$75,000.

The agencies participating represent a broad spectrum of Jewish organizations in the community, including Federation Homes, the Jewish Community Center, Hebrew High School of New England, Hebrew Home and Hospital, Jewish Association for Community Living, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Historical Society, Bess and Paul Sigel Hebrew Academy, Solomon Schechter Day School, and Yachad Greater Hartford Community Jewish High School.

“Many new philanthropic dollars are going to work for the Jewish community because of the Endowment Challenge,” said David H. Fierston, Chair of Jewish Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees. “We heartily congratulate our local agencies for their success.”

“We could not be more pleased with the accomplishments of the Endowment Challenge participants,” said Bruce F. Fischman, Development Committee Chair. “Beyond the actual dollars raised, this initiative has shown an overwhelming commitment by community leaders, staff and donors to make sure that our Jewish institutions remain strong long into the future.”

A key feature of the Endowment Challenge is an educational series that provides staff and volunteer leaders with a range of learning opportunities, from general fundraising training to complex gift planning. The next educational session is scheduled for February 10, 2005. Debra Ashton, a nationally recognized planned giving and endowment expert, will give a presentation on how to ask for an endowment gift.

Established in 1972, the Jewish Community Foundation is the central resource for Jewish philanthropy in the Greater Hartford area, with assets of almost \$70 million. In 2004, the Foundation and individual donors distributed over \$2.4 million in charitable grants to a broad range of charitable organizations.

For more information, about the Endowment Challenge, please call the Foundation at 860.523.7460 or visit our website at www.jcfhartford.org.