

Community Wish List

Fall 2025_Updated 12-23



**JEWISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF GREATER HARTFORD



This newsletter highlights activities you can partially or fully fund to keep our community strong, vibrant and resilient. Thank you for your generous support!

HUMAN SERVICES

Kosher Needs Assessment Jewish Family Services (JFS)

Food insecurity is on the rise in our Jewish community. JFS is conducting a study that will analyze data about this issue. Your grant will support research that will help JFS determine how to provide services to combat food insecurity, while raising awareness about an important concern.



FULLY FUNDED

JFS Community Outreach Materials Jewish Family Services

You can help JFS increase awareness about its services. Please consider a grant to support the printing of various community outreach materials (i.e., pens, postcards, banners) that will educate people about JFS at community events.

\$3,000

OUTREACH

Bridge of Support: Standing with Jewish Military Families Mandell Jewish Community Center (JCC)

Help the JCC work with the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council to send holiday packages to Jewish military families. The packages are sent 4–5 times a year with items from recipients' wish lists.

FULLY FUNDED

Mpowered: Strength, Knowledge Mandell Jewish Community Center

Your grant will empower women to navigate menopause and beyond with confidence and clarity through a year-long program. Known as Mpowered, the program offers talks led by experts, support groups, and fitness and nutrition coaching.

\$3,000



SOCIAL ACTION

March of the Living Voices of Hope (VOH)

Your grant can help subsidize an interfaith leader's opportunity to join VOH's 2026 March of the Living trip.

\$3,000

Antisemitism Today Voices of Hope

VOH wants to provide schools with updated resources and curricula to teach Holocaust lessons. Your grant for this initiative will have an immediate impact on combatting antisemitism.

FULLY FUNDED

Minds in Motion: Engineering & Robotics Lab

New England Jewish Academy (NEJA)

Minds in Motion is a hands-on STEM course for middle and high school students to explore engineering and robotics through creative problem-solving. Your grant will support the purchase of a 3D printer, robotics kits, and key materials such as sensors, motors and microcontrollers. Students will design, build and code their own projects.



FULLY FUNDED

StrongStart: High School Strength & Fitness Club

New England Jewish Academy

StrongStart is a student-centered fitness program designed to promote strength, confidence and healthy habits among high school students. With your grant, NEJA can purchase training rigs, free weights, barbells, benches and accessories to transform a basic space into a fully equipped workout facility.

\$2,500

Imagination Playground

Solomon Schechter Day School

With your support, Schechter will transform ordinary play spaces into hubs of creativity and collaboration! For example, soft, oversized blocks in a variety of shapes will encourage children to build, design and invent together. The playground will promote inclusive learning experiences for children of all abilities.

\$3,000

Robotics Curriculum

Solomon Schechter Day School

Schechter is excited to launch a new robotics curriculum! Your grant will invest in teaching students mechanical, electrical and computer engineering, along with software development and mathematics.

\$3,000

Stages of Identity: A Jewish Storytelling Lab

University of Hartford Hillel

You can support a creative arts workshop series where Jewish students explore their heritage and identity through theater, storytelling and performance. Led by a professional storyteller, participants will craft original monologues, scenes or spoken word pieces that culminate in a community showcase.

\$3,000

Boston Jewish Heritage Trip and Learning Trip

University of Hartford Hillel

Your grant will help fund a full-day trip for 20–25 students and two staff members to explore Boston's rich Jewish cultural and intellectual heritage through guided visits to a Jewish tavern and house of learning.

\$3,000

Performing Arts

UConn Hillel

Students are eager to receive more programming that features Jewish musical groups, comedians and guest speakers at Hillel. Your grant will help purchase a set of risers/staging equipment to improve visibility and professionalism for these performances.

\$1,800

Chicken Soup Hotline

UConn Hillel

Your grant will launch a chicken soup hotline on campus! Parents and families can order homemade soup and other comfort items, which will be delivered by Hillel staff to students who are sick and need a taste of home. Funds will support the purchase of soup ingredients, tissues and socks.

\$1,500

ARTS & CULTURE

Capturing History

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford (JHSGH)

Oral histories are the backbone of JHSGH's collection, an absorbing glimpse into history. JHSGH wants to make future recordings even more engaging by recording interviews and events on video. Please consider a grant to help JHSGH purchase a digital video camera, lenses and accessories.

FULLY FUNDED

Help Us Set the Scene

Jewish Historical Society

JHSGH wants to create an area in its office for conducting on-camera interviews. Your grant will help pay for two chairs and professional lighting that's also portable for off-site interviews.

\$3,000

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Jewish Association for Community Living (JCL)

Therapeutic horseback riding is a great therapy modality for people with disabilities. Your grant to support this type of therapy will provide many benefits for participants, including an increase in balance, sensory input and improved motor skills.



FULLY FUNDED

Music Therapy

Jewish Association for Community Living

Music therapy is beneficial for people with disabilities as it supports communication, emotional expression and social engagement through rhythm and sound. JCL coordinates music therapy in partnership with the JCC. Your grant will support an impactful program not only to individuals served by JCL and the JCC but also to individuals served by other agencies.

FULLY FUNDED

Young Adults with Special Needs - Musical Havdala Social

Friendship Circle of Greater Hartford

Young adults with special needs and local college students will celebrate together during hands-on, musical activities. Your grant will bring warm, happy feelings of Judaism to life for all participants while engaging the particular needs of each participant.

FULLY FUNDED

Sukkot in the Circus - for Families of Children with Special Needs

Friendship Circle of Greater Hartford

Please consider a grant to fund a fully inclusive holiday celebration for families with children with special needs. Sukkot in the Circus will connect children with disabilities and teenage volunteers in a supportive, nonjudgmental environment where they can feel the joy of Judaism through entertainment!

\$3,000

For more information, please contact Michael Elfenbaum,
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