

Community Wish List

Summer 2026



**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

Celebrate in the Sukkah

Jewish Federation

Celebrate in the Sukkah brings together 60–80 adults (ages 21–45) and their families for a festive Sukkot gathering, hosted by a West Hartford family. Your grant will help create a joyous experience by providing dinner, refreshments, family-friendly activities, and the welcoming touches that will make every guest feel at home.

\$3,000



Storage Solutions

Jewish Family Services

The logistics of moving more than 1,000 pounds of food each week through the Anja Rosenberg Kosher Food Pantry is stretching Jewish Family Services beyond its office space. Your grant will provide closets and shelving solutions, improving the flow in the food pantry, clinical offices, Holocaust survivors' services – and so much more.

\$3,000

Courageous Conversations: Equipping Rabbis for Complex Times

Jewish Federation

The Spertus Institute will present a training that equips rabbis with practical tools and strategies to navigate difficult conversations with congregants about current events. Your grant will support a training that fosters thoughtful dialogue, empathy, and community cohesion during challenging times.

\$3,000

English Lessons for Refugees

Jewish Family Services (JFS)

JFS provides English lessons for 43 refugees from 10 different countries. Your grant will ensure that these life-changing classes continue, giving refugees the language skills and confidence they need to thrive.

\$3,000

Basketball Shooting Machine

Mandell Jewish Community Center (JCC)

A basketball shooting machine at the Mandell JCC would create a vital training resource for children, teens, and adults, strengthening community connection across ages and skill levels. Your grant will help the JCC purchase this training tool, which increases practice efficiency and supports clinics, team practices, camps, and leagues.

\$3,000

EDUCATION

Cameras and Communication Equipment

New England Jewish Academy (NEJA)

Your investment in a camera and video equipment will empower NEJA students to elevate their visual storytelling skills while gaining hands-on experience with industry-quality tools. Most importantly, it will give students the opportunity to showcase their work and celebrate their accomplishments!

\$3,000

Outdoor Equipment

New England Jewish Academy

NEJA is seeking grants to purchase age-appropriate equipment for older elementary students, such as a gaga pit and tetherball, so they can enjoy playing together in engaging outdoor spaces.

\$3,000



SOCIAL ACTION

Sharaka

Voices of Hope

You can help underwrite the costs of bringing a panel of speakers to our community from Sharaka (partnership in Arabic), a nonprofit that fosters understanding between Israelis and Arabs. Through Holocaust education, Sharaka confronts extremism, radicalism, and antisemitism while connecting the lessons of the Holocaust to current events. Find out more at www.sharakango.com.

\$3,000

Descendant Training Program to Provide Historical Context to the Holocaust

Voices of Hope

Your grant will support a training program for newly engaged descendants of Holocaust survivors who are joining our Speakers Bureau. The program will prepare speakers to teach not only about the Holocaust, but also the history of antisemitism and the Jewish people, providing students with essential historical context.

\$3,000

ARTS & CULTURE

Israel Symphony Orchestra in Concert with Local Singers - part of JLive!

Mandell JCC

Support the Israel Symphony Orchestra (ISO), the resident orchestra of the Israeli Opera. As part of its Fall Outreach Tour, featuring the Opus 5 Woodwind Quintet, ISO hopes to raise funds here to support ISO musicians impacted by war. The JCC will host a concert with local singers and supported by congregations.

\$3,000

History Comes Out to Play

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford (JHSGH)

Help JHSGH share local history via immersive, interactive multi-media presentations on a touch screen kiosk at a local organization (ex: JCC, Federation lobby, NEJA, Schechter.) Your grant will let curious visitors engage with our community's rich history.

\$3,000

History Goes on the Road to Build Bridges

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

Enable JHSGH to create a popup mobile kiosk for organic, grassroots engagement and exploration at non-Jewish events and organizations in Greater Hartford. Stories will come alive with video, text and music, offering bite-sized learning that fosters understanding across communities.

\$3,000



SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Community Giving Kitchen

Friendship Circle

Your grant will support individuals with and without special needs coming together to prepare and package meals for local families. They'll build friendships and life skills, and experience the joy of giving back.

\$3,000

Moms' Night Out

Friendship Circle

Give parents of children with special needs a chance to unwind! Your grant will enable parents to connect with other parents who can relate to their challenges during an evening of leisure.

\$2,800

Music Therapy

Jewish Association for Community Living (JCL)

Music therapy provides proven benefits, including improved emotional well-being, stronger communication skills, and reduced feelings of depression. Your grant will allow JCL residents to experience these benefits.

\$3,000

Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Jewish Association for Community Living

Therapeutic horseback riding is a beneficial therapy modality for people with disabilities. Your grant will offer life-changing experiences to JCL residents, including improving balance and strengthening motor skills.

\$3,000



OUTREACH

Community Guest Shabbat

University of Hartford Hillel

Community Guest Shabbat is a new monthly initiative that brings students together with inspiring leaders from the broader Jewish community. Your grant will provide the essential supplies that make these gatherings warm and memorable, including quality linens, napkins, drinkware, and serving pieces.

\$1,200

Jewish History Trip to the Lower East Side

University of Hartford Hillel

Your grant will support a trip to New York City for 20 students to the Tenement Museum or Ellis Island, allowing participants to explore Jewish history and feel more deeply connected to their Jewish identity.

\$2,780

Taste of Celebration Series

UConn Hillel

Support a multifaceted food and Jewish holiday experience that engages students for the first time outside of the Hillel building. Students will share traditional Jewish foods and celebrate Jewish culture.

\$2,000

Boker Tov Cafe

UConn Hillel

Boker Tov Cafe is a popular hangout and study spot. You can enhance this cafe by funding a coffee/espresso machine and upgrade of daily snack options, which will attract and retain students at Hillel.

\$2,500

For more information, please contact Michael Elfenbaum, Vice President of Community Engagement, melfenbaum@jcfhartford.org, or (860) 523-7460.



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