



Telling Our Story



Every week, thousands of people come to the JCC. As you can imagine, they come for many reasons—for physical fitness, to catch a film or lecture, learn a new skill, make new friends or get together with old ones.

What may not be as evident, however, are the behind-the-scenes efforts that enable families in need to be part of our JCC community. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the JCC is able to give out over half a million dollars in annual scholarships to people who are struggling financially. Maybe it's the woman you see in spin class, your child's best friend, someone you conversed with in the café or even your next door neighbor. Maybe it's because someone lost their job, had a family crisis or encountered an unexpected illness. Whatever the case, when it comes to people in need, the JCC is proud to offer scholarships that can provide them with a glimmer of hope and the warmth of a caring community so they can maintain some normalcy while navigating difficult times.

Stephanie, who grew up in Englewood, came to the JCC all the time as a teen. Unfortunately, in her adult years, Stephanie's life hit a rough patch and in a very short period of time, she and her husband divorced, she lost her home, and her mother, who was her back-up caregiver, moved to Florida. Emotionally broken and struggling financially, Stephanie was left the sole provider and caregiver for her four-year-old daughter, Jackie, and for months, the two of them were virtually homeless, staying with friends and family until she was able to save up enough money for a small apartment

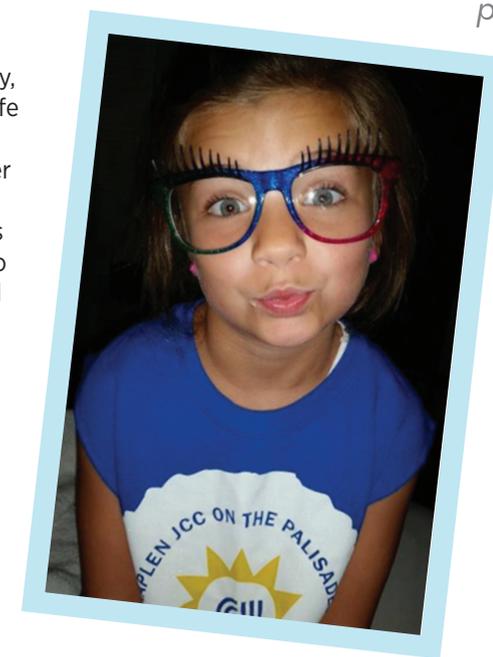
in Tenafly. Needing to work full time and with the school year ending, Stephanie knew she had to find a summer plan for Jackie. Thinking back on all her happy memories as a teen at the "J," she thought of the JCC.

"I didn't know what to expect or if I could ever afford to send Jackie to camp at the JCC, but when I shared the stressful circumstances I was facing with the membership director, she told me about the JCC scholarship program.

Through the program, Jackie was able to have a camp experience that she just loved! The staff was caring and attentive, she was busy and entertained all day while I worked, and she made friends easily.

“With all I was going through, the JCC was my ray of sunshine, providing me with some peace of mind that

I didn't dream was out there for me. I can't thank the JCC enough for providing such security for us. It's a rare thing to find these days and I am so grateful.”





Sharon and her husband moved to our community from Israel in 1997. Her husband began a small business providing IT services to a small, highly-specialized market. The business began to grow and they started a family—a daughter and two sons. There was not a lot of extra money to go around, but Sharon and her husband decided to

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make membership at the JCC a family priority because they wanted to build bonds with their local Jewish community. The JCC became their home-away-from-home. All three children attended the nursery school, and spent their

summers at the Neil Klatskin Day Camp. Then, the economic crisis struck, and everything changed. Her husband's clients were all faced with frozen budgets and they had no income whatsoever for more than a year. With a ten-year history at the Center, Sharon went heart-in-hand to Membership Director Robbie Fried, to see if there was any way her family could remain connected to the Center they loved, and thanks to the JCC Scholarship Fund, they could.

“The JCC has helped shape our lives as a family. I would have been heart-broken to lose our membership and it would have been stressful for our children. I was really overwhelmed to discover how quickly the JCC responded with support when we really needed it.

In today's world, it is rare to find people who really listen and care. But the JCC went above and beyond to demonstrate how much *IT* cared and I was really touched. Fortunately, the economy has recovered for my husband's business and we are on our feet again. So when Robbie asked if I needed renewed scholarship support, I was so pleased to tell her no, that we could once again cover our costs. We went through a rough patch and the JCC saw us through it, which I'll never forget. We are now proud contributors to the Scholarship Fund so other families in need can benefit the same incredible way we did.”

Randi shares Stephanie's sentiments. A few years ago, her son Josh was suddenly thrown out of his daycare and declared a danger to himself and others. Josh found the help he needed at the JCC Therapeutic Nursery and Randi and her husband find it hard to put into words the impact that the Nursery has had on their lives.

“We had no idea why Josh was suddenly having violent temper tantrums in school, seemed afraid of everyday sounds and was terrified of walking into a pre-school classroom. Ultimately Josh was diagnosed with high functioning autism. We were desperate to set our son up for success and petrified we wouldn't have the means to do that. The staff at the JCC was incredible; they immediately took us into the Therapeutic Nursery program, and into their hearts. Josh was taught how to feel safe in the classroom once again, learned valuable social and pragmatic language skills in his speech sessions, and the sensory integration sessions in his occupational therapy became a lifeline for him. Today Josh successfully attends our public school's preschool program where he is able to follow normal classroom routines with no issues. None of this would have been possible without the generous scholarship grants we received from the JCC. We will be forever grateful for the help we received for ourselves and our son.”

It is the JCC's hope to always serve as a warm and welcoming Center to all who come through our doors, especially in times of need or distress. We truly thank the generosity of our supporters, who contribute to our Scholarship Fund and make it all possible. If you are interested in making a donation or would like to learn more about our Scholarship Fund, call Jeff Nadler at 201.408.1412.

tributes

Looking for a way to mark a special occasion such as a wedding, anniversary, bar/bat mitzvah, or a birth of a child, or to honor someone's memory? Make a donation to an individual endowment fund in their honor! All gifts over \$18 are recognized with a card to the recipient and listed in this publication. For more info or to make a tribute please contact Fran Koszer at 201.408.1404 or visit jccotp.org and click “Donate.”

ATHLETIC FUND FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

From Avi Lewinson and Susan Shlanger to Mirta and Jorge Quintana in memory of their uncle

BATYA BARZELAY ISRAELI CULTURE AND ART FUND

From Sharon and Doug Potolsky to Esther and Shmulik Mazor in honor of Danny and Carmel's wedding

From Gineen Weiss to Esther and Shmulik Mazor on their son Danny's marriage to Carmel

From Robin and Alan Miller to Ofira Mor and Family in honor of her daughter Abigail's Bat Mitzvah

From Robin and Alan Miller to Esther and Shmulik Mazor in honor of their son's marriage

ANDREW P. BECK MEMORIAL FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

From Fran and Jerry Koszer to Robert Freeman in memory of Aunt Marion

BERNSTEIN-SLOTE MEMORIAL FUND FOR SENIOR COMPUTER LITERACY

From Bob and Carol Slote-Bernstein to Dr. Adina Gordon wishing her happiness in her new home

From Bob and Carol Slote-Bernstein to The Lesser Family in memory of Irma Lesser

RINA BIALER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

From Stella and Alan Fass to Bonnie Wilson in memory of her father Mitchell Wilson, with deepest sympathy

CAMP DREAM STREET-PEARL SEIDEN SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER AND OTHER BLOOD DISORDERS

From Lindsay Obsbaum and Larry Sanders to Bernice Caspert in memory of Herbert Caspert

From Pearl Seiden to Esther and Shmulik Mazor, Mazel Tov on the marriage of their son Daniel to Carmel

From Pearl Seiden to Bonnie Wilson in memory of her beloved father

From Pearl Seiden to Sharon and Peter Kestenbaum, Mazel Tov on Lori's engagement

From Marie Gonzales to Lisa Robins and Family in memory of Herbert Caspert and Murray Robins

From Susan and Alan Solomont to Norman and Steven Seiden and Family in memory of Barbara Seiden

From Judy and Jack Rosenthal to The Robins Family in memory of Herbert Caspert

FELICE DALGIN MEMORIAL FUND FOR DANCE ARTS

From Maggie Kaplen to Abigail Mor in honor of her Bat Mitzvah

DAVIS FAMILY CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN MEMORY OF JOHN IGNATIUS DAVIS

From Benay and Steven Taub and Family to Debbie and Gerald Davis in memory of Debbie's mother Rosalind Goodman

From Jodi and Mark Epstein to Deborah Davis in memory of her beloved mother Rosalind

From Mindy and Howard Lavin to Debbie Davis in memory of her mother Roz Goodman

From Robin and Alan Miller to Deborah Davis in memory of her beloved mom Rosalind Goodman

NORMAN EISENBERG MEMORIAL FUND FOR PERFORMING ARTS FOR BIKUR CHOLIM

From Carol Schulter and Samantha Eisenberg to Shelley and Benjamin Levy in honor of Jena's engagement

From Carol Schulter and Samantha Eisenberg to Robyn and Avery Rosenfeld in honor of David's graduation from Binghamton University

From Carol Schulter and Samantha Eisenberg to Sharon and Doug Potolsky in honor of Scott and Becca's marriage

From Carol Schulter and Samantha Eisenberg to Esther and Shmulik Mazor in honor of Danny and Carmel's marriage

ELEANOR & EDWARD EPSTEIN CAMP TIKVAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

From Jodi and Mark Epstein to Sharon and Doug Potolsky, Mazel Tov on the marriage of their son

RONALD L. & MERYL GALLATIN CAMP HAVERIM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

From Cheryl Edelstein to The Shanahan Family in memory of Mike Shanahan

GOLDMAN-PITTEL FAMILY FUND FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

From Stephanie and Andrew Pittel to Debbie Davis in memory of her mother Rosalind Goodman

From Stephanie and Andrew Pittel to Lynne Klatskin in memory of her mother Claire Proctor

From Stephanie and Andrew Pittel to Dana and Jim Adler in honor of Harrison Adler's induction into the IDF

SARAH GOTTESMAN LUBIN PROGRAM FOR CREATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS

From Avi Lewinson and Susan Shlanger to Esther and Shmulik Mazor, Mazel Tov on the marriage of Daniel and Carmel