



JUF ENGAGEMENT REPORT: 2026

# Connecting our Community

Inspired by Jewish values, we are a welcoming and inclusive community, with diverse opportunities to engage in life-enriching Jewish experiences from baby to Bubbe.

Jewish United Fund  TOGETHER *for* GOOD

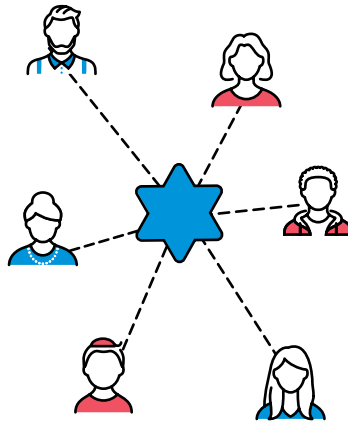
# We give community members of all ages the chance to connect, serve, lead and learn.

JUF continues to answer our community's call for increased opportunities to meaningfully celebrate Jewish identity and gather in Jewish places and spaces.

39 percent of Chicago-area Jewish community members took part in **programs offered by JUF and its partner agencies in 2025.**

15,500 adults participated in **Jewish education programs.**

Fueled by JUF's Tikkun Olam Volunteer network (TOV), **12,400 people volunteered 250,000 hours** of their time to serve the greater community.



JUF conducted its first-ever **Civic Leadership Development Program**, a groundbreaking initiative where individuals learn how to lead in the community from a Jewish perspective.

JUF provides **support to teachers** offering classroom instruction to nearly 800 students enrolled in Hebrew language courses in Chicago-area public schools.

4,300 older adults participated in **social, cultural, and educational enrichment** programming.

## Our dynamic programs engage students and young people in Jewish life.

Beginning at summer camp and extending beyond their college years, JUF's innovative programs help young people develop their Jewish identities while creating lasting memories and friendships.

**57% of Jewish college students** in Illinois—3,800 students in all—participated in Hillel programs.

**Silverstein Base Chicago** provided a welcoming space and a home away from home to more than 1,400 undergraduate students and young adults.

6,400 **teens engaged** in Jewish programming.

Even during a time of war, 705 teens and young adults **traveled to Israel** on JUF-supported educational trips, a 19% increase over last year.

## We make Jewish education more affordable and accessible.

JUF is supporting Jewish students, campers, and their parents with foundational experiences to educate, engage and empower the next generation.



3,600 local **Jewish Day School students** received scholarships and/or tuition assistance from JUF-supported day schools.



1,600 **preschoolers** received \$2.3 million in scholarships and subsidies for summer camp and early childhood education experiences.



More than \$1 million in need-based scholarships or incentives went toward **Jewish summer camp** experiences for 900 children.

# We bring together thousands of Jewish young adults and families.

Young adults, including those starting new families, choose from a diverse catalog of Jewish experiences and events offered by JUF and its partner agencies.

13,500 **young adults** engaged in programs provided by JUF and its agencies.

5,400 **young families** participated in programs and events hosted by JUF and its agencies on three or more occasions—an increase among repeat visitors of more than 78%.

7,700 families received **free, monthly books** celebrating Jewish life through PJ Library and PJ Our Way.

Through programs including activities hosted by **jBaby and JUF's Russian-speaking Jewish Division**, more than 1,270 young families found community with JUF.

5,000 people attended **Shabbat dinners** throughout the community.

More than 550 programs and events, **from playgroups to parenting workshops**, were designed for young families.

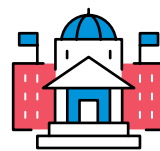


# We advocate for our community's key priorities.

From classrooms to the Capitol, we raise our voices on behalf of the Jewish community, strengthen ties with members of other faiths and urge lawmakers to support our policy goals.



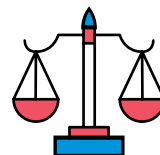
Since 2023, **worked with nearly 100 administrators** from school districts representing more than 400,000 students to give them tools to support Jewish students, teachers, and families.



**To help voters in our community make informed decisions**, interviewed candidates for state and federal office and published responses to JUF's candidate questionnaires.



Hosted interfaith dialogues with members of **Chicago's Catholic, Presbyterian and Lutheran communities** and have co-convened a national gathering of Jewish and Evangelical leaders for 18 years.



**Drafted and steered passage of state law** to ensure that Illinois schools avoid scheduling major events on cultural and religious holidays or observances.

JUF. Bringing people together. **For good.**

# JUF engagement by the numbers:



**250,000**

volunteer hours.



**5,000**

people attended Shabbat dinners.



**57%**

of Jewish Illinois college students engaged with Hillel.



**900**

children received scholarships or incentives for Jewish camp.



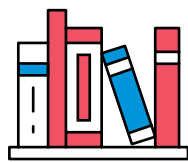
**705**

trips to Israel for teens and young adults.



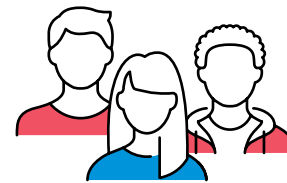
**550**

programs and events for young families.



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