

STROUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
IMPACT REPORT SUMMER 2021

*Stories of resilience, hope, and community
made possible by your support*



SJCC.org

Everyone is welcome.

The Impact of Community

by Amy Lavin, SJCC Chief Executive Officer

It's been far too long since we've seen many of you walk through the doors of the Stroum Jewish Community Center. Thankfully, we've seen thousands of faces online and hundreds daily at the J throughout this historic pandemic. There's truly lots to be thankful for, and this Impact Report will highlight many of the inspiring, innovative, familiar, and fun ways this community has infused light into a year of too much darkness.

L.I.G.H.T. guides much of our work at the J. Here are specific examples of the L.I.G.H.T. you've brought into the J over the past 18 months.

Your support ensured the SJCC community stayed linked to one another, while physically apart. **LINKAGE** is key in creating belonging, establishing identity, building community, and perpetuating tradition. Your support kept students in our Early Childhood School connected to their teachers, adults connected to fitness, and the whole community connected to Jewish-inspired films, food, and fascinations.

COVID-19 was a time of constant change, and your support allowed us not just to respond but also to question. When circumstances demanded change, we could ask what is our role? What can the J provide that people need? Do we need to do things the way we've always done them, or can we change or do something better? How do we protect those who are vulnerable and how do we serve those in need? How do we create more connection points for everyone while the world is closing in around us?



► **LINKAGE** *Children in our Early Childhood School celebrate Purim with their annual costume parade, maintaining a decades-long tradition.*



► **INQUIRY** *The J's before- and after-school program expanded to full-day care in 2020, with counselors helping kids connect to online classes and homework, then mixing in fun physical afternoon activities. For many parents, this program meant the ability to return to jobs.*

INQUIRY is the “I” in LIGHT, and your support has fostered a season of exploration.

We are filled with **GRATITUDE** for your steadfast support over the years, and especially in a moment where the world has been shaken—and is still a bit shaky. We are grateful for a community of friends who stand by us and run alongside us as things pick back up.

Your generosity and the strides we have made instill **HOPE**. The post-COVID-19 world will look different. Yet, with your support, partnership, vote of confidence, and strength built through this trying year, we have hope we will be OK. In fact, not just OK. The future will be even brighter, because we have greater belief in and appreciation for our work, the community’s commitment, and our capacity to adapt.

TIKKUN OLAM (repairing the world) has been a guiding light unto itself this year. We’ve been the beneficiary and the purveyor of it. The tons of food and the pints of blood you’ve donated have measurably and significantly impacted our community, saving and enriching lives at a most-vital time. Together with community partners, we’ve carried people through dark days and this community has carried the J through some of its darkest.

L.I.G.H.T. has become the inspiration for and driving principle of so much at the J. And while it may have flickered in the past year, your support, like the Maccabees’ oil, has exceeded our hopes and expectations—a modern miracle. Thank you.

With immense gratitude,



Amy



► Amy (right) with daughter Ally, who worked as one of 30 J Camp counselors in 2020.



► **GRATITUDE** When the J reopened fitness areas for members last July, friends worked out, standing (six feet apart) together.



► **HOPE** Several dozen families participated in a new all-outdoor Purim Scavenger Hunt in 2021. Families followed clues around Mercer Island, leading them to prizes and treats at the J. For many, this type of gathering brings hope for less restrictive holiday celebrations ahead.



► **TIKKUN OLAM** The J’s Kesher Community Garden was the center for our new Mitzvah Corps, a volunteer group committed to providing food to local families experiencing economic challenges tied to the pandemic.

Community Never Closes



Community connections are what make the Stroum Jewish Community Center “the J.” Throughout the past year of experimentation, loss, adjustment, learning, and patience, we have worked to be a constant resource for you, as we revive core programs and create innovative new ones. This adaptation creates new kinds of connections, rich in many different ways.



► KINDERGARTEN

The SJCC Early Childhood School (ECS) brought back kindergarten in fall 2020 to meet the community need for small in-person classes, when other schools were closed. Our kindergarten focuses on early literacy and math skills, along with social-emotional growth. Curriculum aligns with Common Core state standards, so children are ready for first grade and beyond. Jewish values, fostering compassion, kindness, and a commitment to our communities are infused throughout.

“I CANNOT RECOMMEND KINDERGARTEN AT THE J ENOUGH!

My son has had the most incredible year. Every day he is excited to go to school and at pickup when asked, he says his day was ‘amazing!’ I feel very confident he is on track learning all of the same curriculum as he would at public school, and with a smaller class size, more personal attention, and the extra perks of being at the J. We made this choice so he could be at school in person, and it has by far exceeded all of our expectations.”

“WHEN ECS DECIDED

in summer 2020 to open a fully operational kindergarten program, my first thought was that I was thrilled to be able to have my daughter in ANY in-person option and especially at the J where there was continuity in her life during such a tumultuous time. As the weeks and months progressed, it was clear that my daughter wasn’t in just another kindergarten program but one that felt like the ‘gold-standard’ of kindergarten.... We are going to miss the J for her terribly when she is off to first grade next year.”

► ONLINE + HYBRID FITNESS CLASSES

Only a few days after COVID-19 forced business closures, SJCC group fitness classes started fully online. More than 200 people worked out virtually every week. In June 2020, limited in-person classes resumed and continued in fits and starts as we moved through the Safe Start Washington phases. Today we are fully open and have added hybrid classes (in-person classes simultaneously streamed on Zoom) to our fitness class lineup.

“WHAT A SPECIAL PLACE *your classes have in my life during these odd times. This week I actually made all three—Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They help give me some structured exercise and variety I wouldn’t otherwise have. Many thanks for helping us keep in shape despite these oddest of times!”*



ONLINE FITNESS CLASSES

850

TOTAL CLASSES

► MITZVAH CORPS

In March 2020, we saw a crisis coming that would affect thousands in our community: food insecurity. We formed Mitzvah Corps, connected with local school districts and food banks, and then started digging—in our own Kesher Community Garden. We asked people to regularly drop off donations. Holiday programs included even more opportunities to give food. In one year, Mitzvah Corps distributed more than 1,800 pounds of food to neighbors in need.



FOOD DONATIONS

150

POUNDS OF FOOD
EACH MONTH SINCE
DECEMBER 2020

► J CAMP-SCHOOL EDITION

When schools closed, the J opened a new full-day program for school-age kids. As families balanced work and school, the J became a place for kids to spend their days—Zooming into classes, doing homework, being with friends—to the extent permitted at each stage of COVID-19 protocols.

“I WANTED TO REACH OUT *and let you know I am so impressed and blown away with the amount of continuous support that the J is giving my students.”*

First grade teacher, West Mercer Elementary School



J CAMP-SCHOOL EDITION

63

KIDS ENROLLED
IN FALL 2020

virtually TOGETHER

In June 2020 and again in March 2021, the Seattle Jewish Film Festival found new ways to meet our community's needs in the ever-changing virtual landscape. This year's festival brought light, levity, laughter, and learning—wherever someone was streaming the films.

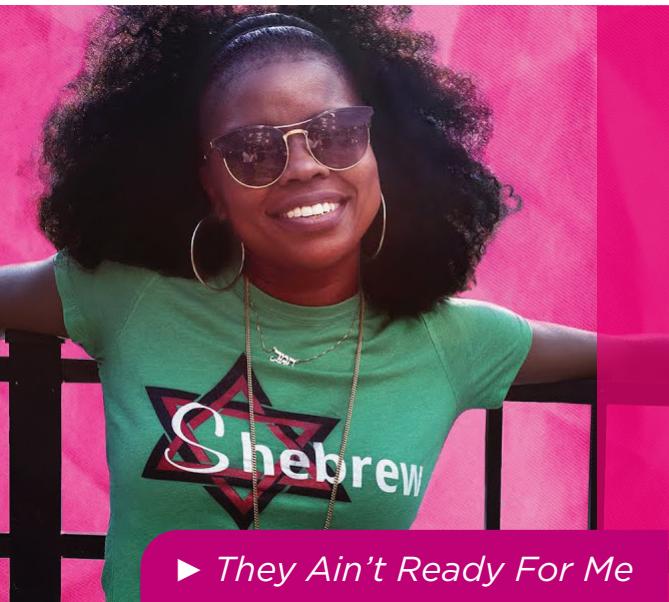
“AFTER ONE YEAR OF ISOLATION,
I was able to share an invisible thread with others outside my household. And cry and laugh freely!”

“I REALLY ENJOYED THE OPPORTUNITY
to connect with my Jewish identity in this way. I'm a convert, so it was special to be able to share these films with my non-Jewish family members and explore Judaism with them. During the pandemic, it's felt difficult to feel connected to Jewish community, and this festival really helped me to do that.”

SJFF 2021

2,648 HOUSEHOLD
TICKETS SOLD

598 NEW PATRON
HOUSEHOLDS



► “**I WAS GREATLY MOVED** by the film ‘They Ain’t Ready for Me,’ especially since I once lived on the South Side of Chicago.... The subject of the documentary was a force for good and I appreciated that the film included her strong beliefs in the Torah and the teachings and rituals of her Jewish faith. She was living them out!!!”



#CommunityNeverCloses

Watch previous SJCC Arts + Ideas events on demand 24/7 on our YouTube channel.

► “**‘THOU SHALT NOT HATE’** was an amazing film. Three out of the four of us have parents who survived the Holocaust. We discussed the film for an hour after.”

► “**‘THOU SHALT NOT HATE’** gave me an opportunity to practice Italian!... I am hoping to find a way to set up a viewing for our congregation in Italy, a small progressive congregation. It may be possible to arrange for the movie in our small town... where we are the only Jews. We have introduced our friends to a number of Jewish traditions and customs.”



► *Thou Shalt Not Hate*



► *The Crossing*

► “**I WATCHED ‘THE CROSSING.’** The next day there was snow on the Douglas Firs which reminded me of the movie. That afternoon I walked in the woods near my home with my mask off part of the time and found myself looking around for other people. I carried more fear of others (who may be carrying COVID) than my usual simple awareness and realized I was carrying the feeling the kids in the movie had.

I thought about what it was really like to have that feeling all the time in Nazi-occupied Europe.”

► “**“WHEN WE NOTICED** ‘The Crossing’ was in Norwegian, we reached out to our friends who speak Norwegian and regularly travel back to the family farm in Norway. They watched the film too, then we had a great discussion via Zoom. They shared family photos and documents with us that related to the area and events portrayed.

We even got to see the uncle’s commendation for being active in the Resistance!”

heads above WATER

The indoor pool is one of the busiest places at the J, running at nearly full capacity nearly every minute this year.

“BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, *my classes and community at the J were a central part of my life. I am so eager to come back, especially to my beloved water aerobics classes with all the old ladies. The connections among us were so valuable to all of us.”*

“I WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOU *for running the aquatics programs at the SJCC and to thank Dallas for all the lessons, his professionalism, and patience with my son. He has become very comfortable in the water and keeps asking to take him to the pool more often. This is huge progress [from before lessons] when he was terrified of the pool and getting his face under the water.”*

“I WANT TO THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN *for the use of the pool and particularly the lift. It is very instrumental in helping my daughter maintain her strength. I want to add that your lifeguards, without exception, are friendly, helpful and courteous.”*

IN THE POOL SINCE MARCH 2020

186

SWIMMERS EACH WEEK
FOR LAP + FAMILY SWIM

500+

HOURS OF SWIM LESSONS



#JumpIn

Take a look at our pool schedule and sign up for swim lessons and adult Aqua Fit fitness classes.





“I WANT TO GIVE A BIG THANK YOU
to all of the folks involved in my son’s swim lessons at the J.
We went to Hawaii this past week and I was blown away
by his skills—he was confidently jumping in the deep end,
swimming across the pool, and generally confident
in his swimming ability. It truly enhanced his experience
there to be so comfortable in the water, and it was a big relief
to us to know he had those skills, for his safety.”



► **PURIM**

ECS students donate food

Financial Snapshot

July 2021



During the past 15 months, we've talked repeatedly about the devastating financial impact COVID-19 has had on the SJCC. More than \$3.2 million in revenue has been lost; membership is down dramatically; programs have been canceled or cut altogether; and programs that continue cost more than ever, due to COVID-19 mitigation protocols.

Yet, if you take a snapshot of today's finances, it would reveal that the SJCC is in a solid financial position. What an odd and also incredible statement to make, given the wildly altered, reduced, and adapted operations. There's no doubt about it: COVID-19 has dramatically changed the J, but thanks to a series of swift decisions, managed risk-taking, and vital philanthropic and government financial support, the J is standing firmly in place to begin the next chapter.

Before COVID-19 hit, the SJCC was in a strong financial position. Programs across the J set revenue records and, for the first time in a long time, we were free from facility debt.

Then the world stopped.

Since the closure on March 15, 2020, the J's finances have changed dramatically:

- ▶ J Camp—while a strong success in the pandemic summer of 2020—ran at less than 20% registration compared to average years.
- ▶ Membership saw a 45% drop in revenue.
- ▶ General enrichment programs, events, classes, and room rentals effectively disappeared.
- ▶ The total impact: \$3.2 million in lost revenue.

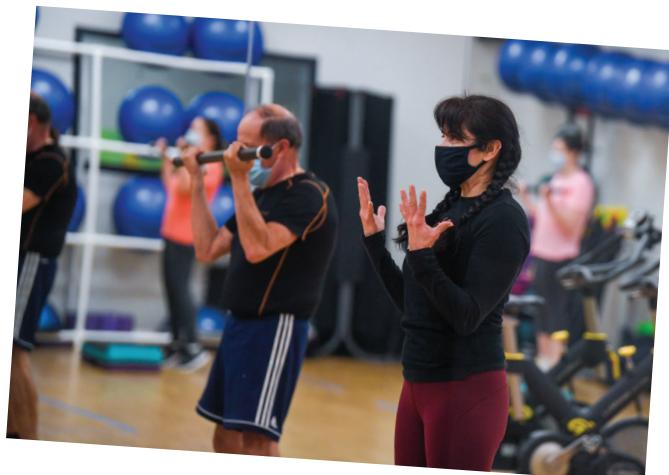
On the flip side:

- ▶ Early Childhood School enrollment held nearly steady with the revival of a kindergarten program and the creation of one outdoor preschool program and one virtual preschool class.
- ▶ Aquatics delivered the most swim lessons in years.
- ▶ Arts + Ideas adapted to deliver intriguing content in inventive ways.
- ▶ Innovative programs—like J Camp-School Edition, a program where kids Zoom into school from the J—brought new revenue opportunities.
- ▶ Grants, foundation gifts, and donor support continue to buoy our agency through it all.

Ultimately, the comprehensive picture reflects an overall agency reduction of about 40% of pre-pandemic business. Staffing adjustments have had to follow, and we remain guarded in new investment areas. Two Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, totaling \$2.261 million, along with your philanthropic support, have filled the gap of lost income and help us start to plan for the next chapter.

While we have learned to run the SJCC differently, it remains the same warm, wonderful home where friendships form, traditions thrive, and community strengthens—in our building and beyond.

**We look forward to the future at the J.
We believe the best is yet to come.**



from fitness member to PROGRAM INNOVATOR

For many members, the J is their place to work out with friends, learn something new, celebrate with friends and family, and a place where their kids have a home away from home.

For Jessi Wasson, membership has grown into a new career—at the J.



Jessi's first love was theater. That's the field she was working in when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

by Jessi Wasson, SJCC Family Programs Manager

I started doing theater when I was 7 and got my first job at a theater company when I was 15. Two decades and two degrees later, my passion hasn't changed. **I have worked in every major theater company in Seattle and on Broadway in a variety of jobs** including crew member, stage manager, company manager, production manager, personal assistant, registrar, and development director.

In March 2020, I was the Company Manager at Village Theatre in Issaquah and Everett, and we were in final tech rehearsals for our world premiere production of "Hansel and Gretel & Heidi & Günter," when we started hearing about COVID-19 in Seattle. Our audiences for the final preview and opening night were told not to come. Instead we performed for a small audience of just friends and family. Since the opening night party was already scheduled, we went ahead with it and embraced the opportunity to spend time with each other before the show closed. Of course, at that time, we thought we'd be back performing for audiences in a month or so. Little did we know.



► **IN COSTUME** Jessi appeared as Jessie from "Toy Story" at this year's Purim Scavenger Hunt.

Theater is one of the very few industries that cannot function without bringing people together—which is why I love it. Everything requires collaboration, compromise, and comaraderie. From a playwright and lyricist writing a musical, to scenic artists creating sets in a shop, to actors rehearsing a dance number, to a show performing for an audience, the industry NEEDS people and social interaction.

Jessi has been a J member for seven years.

I joined the J because I needed a gym and I was really grateful to discover the J's financial assistance program. I love working out around people of all ages. I love how NOT pretentious it is and that everyone is here to feel better.

I've been doing CrossFit (high intensity interval training) for years, and have coached kids, teens, and adults. I'm excited to bring a similar style of workout class, called MISC Fit, to the J's fitness lineup. I love how this format brings out the best in people.

It teaches you to work hard, be resilient, be comfortable with the uncomfortable, and push yourself beyond what you think you can do.

A new job means a closer connection to the J.

In January, I joined the staff. I'm the J's Family Programs Manager, responsible for creating, planning, and executing gatherings and events for families with kids up to 12 years old. This includes holiday celebrations, Arts + Ideas shows for kids, Mitzvah Corps volunteer events, Tot Shabbat, Shalom Baby meet-ups, and more. This summer, I help run the J Camp Counselor in Training program for 9th and 10th graders. In addition to teaching them to be counselors, we focus on leadership, responsibility, independence, and collaboration.

I'm so excited to be one of the people to help bring our J family back together. I'm thrilled to ramp up our celebrations, programs, and events and will use any excuse to plan fun family time. I'm excited to use my big imagination and theater background to create engaging, original, and welcoming events that inspire friendship and build connections in our community. Come hang out with me at the J!



PADDLEBOARDING WITH JESSI

Learn paddleboarding with Jessi this summer at the J. One-week sessions will start on July 26 and August 16.

I started paddleboarding in 2016 and this is my fourth season competitively racing with the Ballard Elks Paddle Club (BEPC). We have races every Monday night from May through September, with longer races most weekends. In the winter we have races about once a month. In 2019, I was awarded with the BEPC Most Improved Award, which is a huge honor for me.



sharing their GIFTS

During a year of uncertainty and fear, with schools, businesses, and gathering places closed and distances between people so isolating, the Giving Initiative for Teens (GIFT) program at the SJCC brought people together with a shared goal: help those who help others in our neighborhoods.

GIFT is part of a national program to teach teens about grant-making, non-profit management, and fundraising—guided by Jewish values.

Thirty-five teens participated in Seattle this year. In their virtual meetings, they selected two issues as their focus: homelessness and racial equity in healthcare. The teens raised money to support their efforts; they found organizations, listed below, that make a difference.



"WE RECOGNIZE OUR RESPONSIBILITY

TO SPREAD HOPE and we are guided by seeking justice and ensuring human dignity to all. Through these values, we will improve the lives of those in our community by combatting homelessness and promoting affordable housing for people of any background. This mission statement explains that two of our core values, human dignity and justice, fall under responsibility. Human dignity and justice aren't optional. We are all responsible for upholding these values in our own lives." Mila S.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE: \$8,000

"Jewish Family Service aligns with our driving value of human dignity for all, and we feel that housing is a big part of human dignity. It gives people control of their lives and a chance to get back on their feet." Mila S.

ATLANTIC STREET CENTER, \$4,677

"Through this Atlantic Street Center initiative, dozens of underprivileged youth in Seattle will attend workshops encouraging mental health help, an aspect of healthcare that can be stigmatized in communities of color. By attending these workshops, youth and their parents will break down barriers in the accessibility of mental health care, and provide a trickle-down effect in their communities." Sandor W.

NEW HORIZONS: \$4,000

"New Horizons goes above and beyond to ensure that homeless youth not only have a roof over their heads and food to eat, but also a positive future ahead of them." Lily M.

FACING HOMELESSNESS \$3,375

"We had the privilege of being shown the window of kindness in action and hearing anecdotes about the block homes and change they have brought. The emphasis on community, growth, and humanization was so powerful and inspiring." Isabelle K.

PLYMOUTH HOUSING: \$2,000

"Plymouth Housing is so passionate about connecting with the local community and strives to provide equitable services so that anyone can have their basic needs met. Plymouth Housing's dedication to helping provide a new start is so inspiring to us." Samantha T.

GIFT GRANTS 2021

\$22,052

RAISED BY
TEENS, WHO
THEN GRANTED
IT TO LOCAL
NON-PROFITS



“RAISING MONEY FOR GIFT HAS TAUGHT ME PERSISTENCE. *We cannot wait around and be patient when there is a job to do, or a fire to put out, or people who need our help. The world is insistent, but we are insistent too.”* Devon B.

“THE GIFT PROGRAM HAS BEEN AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. *I have learned so much about grant writing and the fundraising efforts it takes to build relationships and raise funds. Thank you to all the leaders, participants, and organizations for this fantastic opportunity and I know the skills I have learned will play an integral role as I start my new adventure into college.”* Hannah B.

“THE GIFT PROGRAM HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY to the exploration of our Jewish identities. It allows for us teens to be closer to our Jewish community and to actively pursue and understand our Jewish selves.... We find creative ways to be leaders and to pave the way for greater good and opportunity within the world.” Josh G.



#BeAGift

Now is the time for teens to apply to join GIFT for 2021-22.



#MakeAGift

Support teen philanthropy at the J.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU?

GIFT teens filled vases with sand; each color represents a personal value or belief they cherish.



community IMPACT

A year ago, one of the nonprofit organizations benefitting from a GIFT donation was FareStart, a restaurant that serves meals as part of a work training program for people who are struggling in poverty.

“WITH GIFT SUPPORT, after pausing our program for COVID-19 impacts, we were able to relaunch all of our programs, including youth training, with virtual delivery and new curriculum adapted for the jobs available today.”

“IT'S FANTASTIC THAT TEENS are getting involved in philanthropy at a young age in a way that is meaningful and gives them a sneak peek into nonprofits that many adults don't even have. I generally work with corporate and private foundation donors, not teens. I felt the teens showed an impressive level of professionalism and engagement.”



facing NEW CHALLENGES

by Liam Geisser, J Kids counselor + new UW graduate '21

The best way I can describe the J in one word is: "home." When I was four years old, I started coming to the J for preschool, and 15 years later I returned to work at J Camp. I love coming to work every day to a place where everyone knows everyone and is excited to greet you.

I was delighted to return to J Camp last year for an all but business-as-usual summer. Even though it didn't feel quite the same with all the pandemic-related changes, I never could have imagined it would become an amazing and metamorphic experience for the staff and campers.

The fall brought a completely new set of challenges as the J launched a program for kids to do virtual school with our staff's help. **Adapting to all-online school was difficult for me in my senior year at the University of Washington**—and even harder for the kids. Through all the challenges and stress, the J was one of the few bright spots of the past year, reminding me that one day this pandemic will end, and people will be together again.

Throughout the past year, no other place has been as central to providing me social interaction and a sense of normalcy as the J.

Seeing kids come in every day excited to be out of their houses and with their friends is the best feeling. As much as I have been able to help the J, the J has also helped me find some balance during the pandemic.

► **BUZZING BEES** *Liam gets up close to the new beehive in the J's Kesher Community Garden during Spring Break Camp.*



► A NEW KIND OF CLASSROOM

Liam and other counselors became part-time teacher-helpers and part-time technology problem solvers when Kidstown turned into a study space for kids connecting to online classes in fall 2020.



Thank You!



On March 15, 2020, when the SJCC closed because of COVID-19, we faced an unprecedented crisis. Our organization's primary source of funding is the fees paid for programs and services. With our entire facility closed, programs and services ceased.

Then our community members did something amazing. They stepped up like never before and continued to support the J in our time of greatest need.

In the months of April, May, and June, almost 100 families continued to pay their ECS tuition, providing over \$150,000 in revenue.

These dollars were critical to keeping our ECS teachers close; we were able to recall our staff in late June when ECS reopened. Similarly, countless families of children who were registered for Kidstown, enrichment activities, fitness leagues, and swim lessons donated their pre-paid fees back to the J instead of asking for a refund.

Our members did something very similar. Despite being closed, we continued to receive half our membership fees each month from those who wanted to support the J.

These donations enabled us to pay fixed costs that continued despite the closure. It cost more than \$30,000 a month to maintain the closed building. From the pool, to the electricity, to grounds maintenance, our membership support was a literal lifeline.

Perhaps most impressive, during this time of extreme financial stress for the J, we saw more than 450 first-time donors to our organization. With gifts ranging from \$5 to \$12,000, this incredible outpouring of support not only sustained the J through the crisis, it funded all the amazing work we've been able to do during the pandemic.

Our gratitude for the community's extreme generosity is difficult to describe with words. Through your actions, you not only lifted up the J in our time of need, you also lifted our community. For that—and so much more—we are incredibly grateful.



Support the J



As a donor, you make a huge impact on our SJCC community. We have options to meet every donor's needs, from a cash donation today to leaving a legacy gift in your will. You energize the J's outreach, enhance accessibility, and enrich our welcoming character. By supporting the SJCC—whether you're Jewish or not—you nurture a sense of belonging for people of all ages. We have a variety of ways you can support our work and meet your philanthropic goals. We invite you to find what works best for you.

OUTRIGHT GIFT Donations are the quickest method to provide immediate program and scholarship support. Make your gift online today or request a distribution from your donor-advised fund or charitable checking account.

APPRECIATED ASSETS + IRA ROLLOVERS Many supporters donate appreciated stock as their annual gift, allowing for tax benefits. Stock, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, or qualified IRA rollovers can all fuel the important work we do.

WORKPLACE GIVING When you give through a workplace giving program, your investment to the J can grow. Many employers match 1:1, and some even match 3:1, making your gift go further.

LEGACY SOCIETY Ensure that friendships are forged, generations are linked, and community is strengthened by designating the Stroum Jewish Community Center in your will. Your legacy commitment ensures continuation of our efforts for generations to come.

► TRIBUTES + MEMORIALS

Celebrate a milestone, honor a loved one, offer condolences, or just let someone know you're thinking about them. Make a tribute or memorial donation and we'll send a card on your behalf to let your honoree know of your thoughtful gesture. Circle of Friends Giving Society members can make unlimited tributes for free.

To learn more, contact Jenna Sytman.

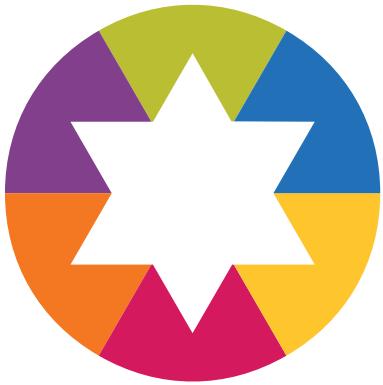


#GiveNow
Make a
donation
right now.

Learn more about opportunities to support the J by contacting our Development Team at 206-232-7115.

Jenna Sytman | Development Director | JennaS@sjcc.org

Jamie Van der Elst | Gift Officer | JamieV@sjcc.org



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Giving Society

When you give to the Stroum Jewish Community Center, you become part of a community of donors united to strengthen our vision, mission, and impact. Our Circle of Friends Giving Society members provide essential support that bridges the gap between program revenue, tuition, member dues, and the full cost of running the J.

Members of the Circle of Friends Giving Society make a cumulative gift of \$1,800 or more in our fiscal year and enjoy special benefits throughout the year. Benefits vary by level, but most include:

- ▶ SJCC building access card, day passes to fitness areas and pool, priority program registration, and invitations to select members-only events.
- ▶ Unlimited Tribute Cards mailed to your friends and family.
- ▶ Recognition in all published lists.
- ▶ VIP tickets to our Annual Celebration + Fundraiser.
- ▶ Complimentary invitations to donor events and programs throughout the year.

To learn more about our Circle of Friends Giving Society, please contact Jenna Sytman at 206-388-1998 or JennaS@sjcc.org.

▶ **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP** Align your business with a brand known to build community by becoming a corporate sponsor. Whether you're our neighbor on Mercer Island or a supporter in the greater Puget Sound region, let's work together to foster the arts, celebrate diverse cultures, support families, and build a stronger community. In 2021, we were delighted to welcome the Samis Foundation back as a Platinum Annual Partner and JayMarc, LLC as a Gold Partner. We are also excited to introduce the inaugural sponsors of J Camp, whose support makes magic happen for all our summer campers. Thank you to JayMarc, LLC, Marc Singer Agency | Farmer's Insurance, The Boutique Lounge, and Mercer Island Pediatrics | Dr. John Schreuder and Dr. Hal Quinn.

To learn more, contact Jamie Van der Elst.



Circle of Friends

We are deeply grateful to our Circle of Friends Giving Society members.

Many on this list increased their annual support to ensure the J's ongoing ability to serve our community during a time of great need. Others are here for the first time, signaling their support to ensuring accessibility of our programs to everyone.

We are humbled by everyone who made such generous contributions to the SJCC and our extended community during the pandemic.

Circle of Giving Society Members make cumulative gifts of \$1,800+ in a fiscal year to the SJCC. Donors included on this list are recognized at the highest cumulative amount for either of these periods: September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020, or September 1, 2020-June 1, 2021.

We strive to publish accurate recognition and apologize for any errors or omissions. To make a correction or a donation, please contact Jenna Sytman at 206-388-1998 or JennaS@sjcc.org.

DIAMOND

Joann and Carl Bianco
Lott Foundation

SAPPHIRE

Donna Benaroya
Harriet Litt
Loeb Family Charitable Foundations
Maritz Family Foundation
Celeste and David Rind
Jantha and Stan Sidell

PLATINUM

Anonymous
Auerbach Family Foundation
Rachel and Garrett Hyman
Joan and Larry Barokas and Family
Margo and Jacob^{z'l} Engelstein
Fisher Family
Eddie Fisher
Kim and Craig Fisher
Lauren and Rodney Fisher
Eric Fisher
Karen and Eli Friedman
Liz and Jordan Friedman
Janet Gray and Brad Rind
Natasha and Rob Greyber
Vanessa and Mark Levine
Sheila Miller and John Rivera-Dirks
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