



# TRADITION & INNOVATION

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IMPACT REPORT 2017/5778

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THE COMMUNITY**



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COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
*est 1898*



**NCSY**  
*est 1954*



**OU ISRAEL**  
*est 1979*



**YACHAD/NJCD**  
*est 1983*



**OU KOSHER**  
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**SENIOR STAFF**



**CONTACT INFO**

# IN THE BEGINNING: THE ORTHODOX UNION STORY

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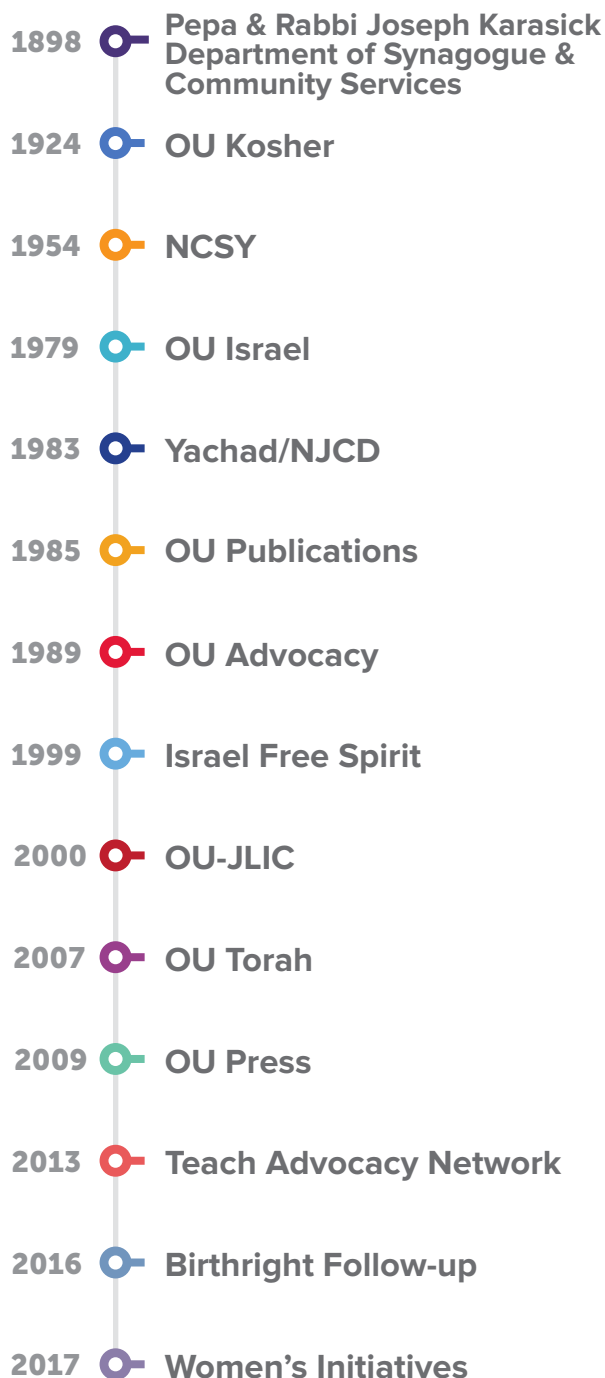
**J**une, 1898: There was an anxious buzz in the sanctuary as Orthodox Jewish community leaders gathered in New York City's Congregation Shearith Israel.

Orthodoxy was facing a serious crisis.

For these new immigrants to America, the future of Torah Judaism in the New World was in question. Access to Jewish education was limited. Teachers were poorly trained, textbooks were inadequate and rabbis themselves often lacked proper ordination. *Kashrut* supervision was faulty, and abuses and violations were going unnoticed. And with Jewish immigrants streaming in from different countries — each with their own traditions — the American Jewish community was becoming only more divided.

There was an urgent need for an organized Orthodox leadership. It was Dr. Henry Pereira Mendes, minister of Congregation Shearith Israel, who felt compelled to lead the effort to unite Orthodox congregations nationwide. In 1898, Mendes called local leaders together, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America was born, established to “speak with authority in the name of Orthodox Jews, and to defend the rights of Orthodox Jews.”

Since then, the Orthodox Union has fulfilled this role well beyond the imagination of its first founders. Each and every day, countless Jews around the world are positively impacted by the work of the Orthodox Union, with its array of religious, youth, social action, educational, public policy and community development services, programs and activities.

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- A vertical timeline on the right side of the page, marked by a central vertical line with colored circles at each year. The circles are in various colors: purple, blue, orange, teal, dark blue, yellow-orange, red, light blue, red, purple, green, red, blue, and purple. Each circle is followed by a year and a description of an event or organization.
- 1898 **Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick  
Department of Synagogue &  
Community Services**
  - 1924 **OU Kosher**
  - 1954 **NCSY**
  - 1979 **OU Israel**
  - 1983 **Yachad/NJCD**
  - 1985 **OU Publications**
  - 1989 **OU Advocacy**
  - 1999 **Israel Free Spirit**
  - 2000 **OU-JLIC**
  - 2007 **OU Torah**
  - 2009 **OU Press**
  - 2013 **Teach Advocacy Network**
  - 2016 **Birthright Follow-up**
  - 2017 **Women's Initiatives**

# MESSAGES TO THE COMMUNITY

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Judaism is viewed in different ways by different people. Some consider Judaism a religion, and the bond of Jewish unity began when the Jewish people surrounded Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah. Others view Jews as comprising a nation, a peoplehood of universal history, sharing a political and social destiny. Others see Judaism as a culture, Jews sharing a common flavor, manifest in art and literature, but also expressed in cuisine and humor.

The Orthodox Union, as evidenced by its programs and initiatives, views Judaism as all the above. Each dimension interdependent, and none fully realizable absent integration with the others. But, as presented by OU activities in this year's OU Impact Report, the single, unifying objective that has guided the Orthodox Union for over one hundred years is to be *mekadesh Shem Shamayim*, to sanctify G-d's Name.

Our community recognizes that each Jew's connection to G-d and religious growth is achieved both as an individual and through the community's collective relationship with G-d. The Orthodox Union is a vehicle through which members

of the community embrace both of these dimensions.

Through government advocacy, the OU aspires to affect the affordability of day school education. Through NCSY, we hope to provide access to Torah education. The OU's Yachad program reflects a commitment to providing all Jews, including the developmentally disabled, full integration into the community. Through OU-JLIC, the Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services, the Women's Initiative and OU Torah, we undertake to enable ourselves and our families, as well as every community member, to pursue growth in Torah study and mitzvah observance, even after concluding formal Jewish education. And through OU

Kosher, we facilitate the world's most widely respected and reliable kosher food certification, enabling Jews around the world to observe kosher dietary laws. We encourage you to participate in the OU programs and initiatives that will be most helpful to your personal religious observance and growth. And we also urge you to join the OU in volunteerism, political activism and financial support, to advance the religious observance and growth of others.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Moishe Bane".

Moishe Bane  
**President, OU**

FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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Since its founding, the OU has proudly enjoyed the community's trust, allowing it to be the standard-bearer of its original mandates: providing synagogue support and kosher food supervision. And it was that trust that made it possible for the OU's kosher supervision business to grow from its first customer in 1924, to over one million products and ingredients under supervision today.

In the 20th century, the OU was able to build a strong, sustainable foundation that would make it possible to develop new and critical programs — such as NCSY (1954), Yachad (1983) and OU Advocacy (1989). As the needs of our community multiplied, so did our array of services. In the new millennium, the OU launched seven major initiatives, including OU-JLIC, the Teach Advocacy Network and, most recently, the new Department of Women's Initiatives.

We would never have been able to grow to over 15 major community programs without the exponential growth in financial support from our dedicated and generous supporters. Today, approximately 2/3 of our program costs are funded by program fees and a diverse group of donors, along with institutions and foundations (many of whom are represented in our expanding Benefactor Circle, listed on page 102), that

represents a powerful and growing bond with the community.

We are immensely grateful to our generous benefactors who contribute \$5,000 or more annually, as well as to the thousands of donors and OU members who have made smaller contributions to all of our programs, including our relief fund for Houston, Atlanta and Florida. And finally, it is important to express our profound gratitude to our 2,000+ OU professionals around the world who are the bedrock of what we do each day to carry out our mission.

As we look forward to another year of service, we can't predict what challenges lie ahead. What we do know, however, is that we share your hopes and dreams and pray with you for a safe and healthy world for our children and our grandchildren: one that is anchored in Torah learning and Torah values.

Over the years, OU programs have touched the lives of many and have enhanced the Jewish community in immeasurable ways. The OU has been honored to serve the Jewish people for over a century, and it is with your help that we'll continue to support and expand our efforts in the decades to come.



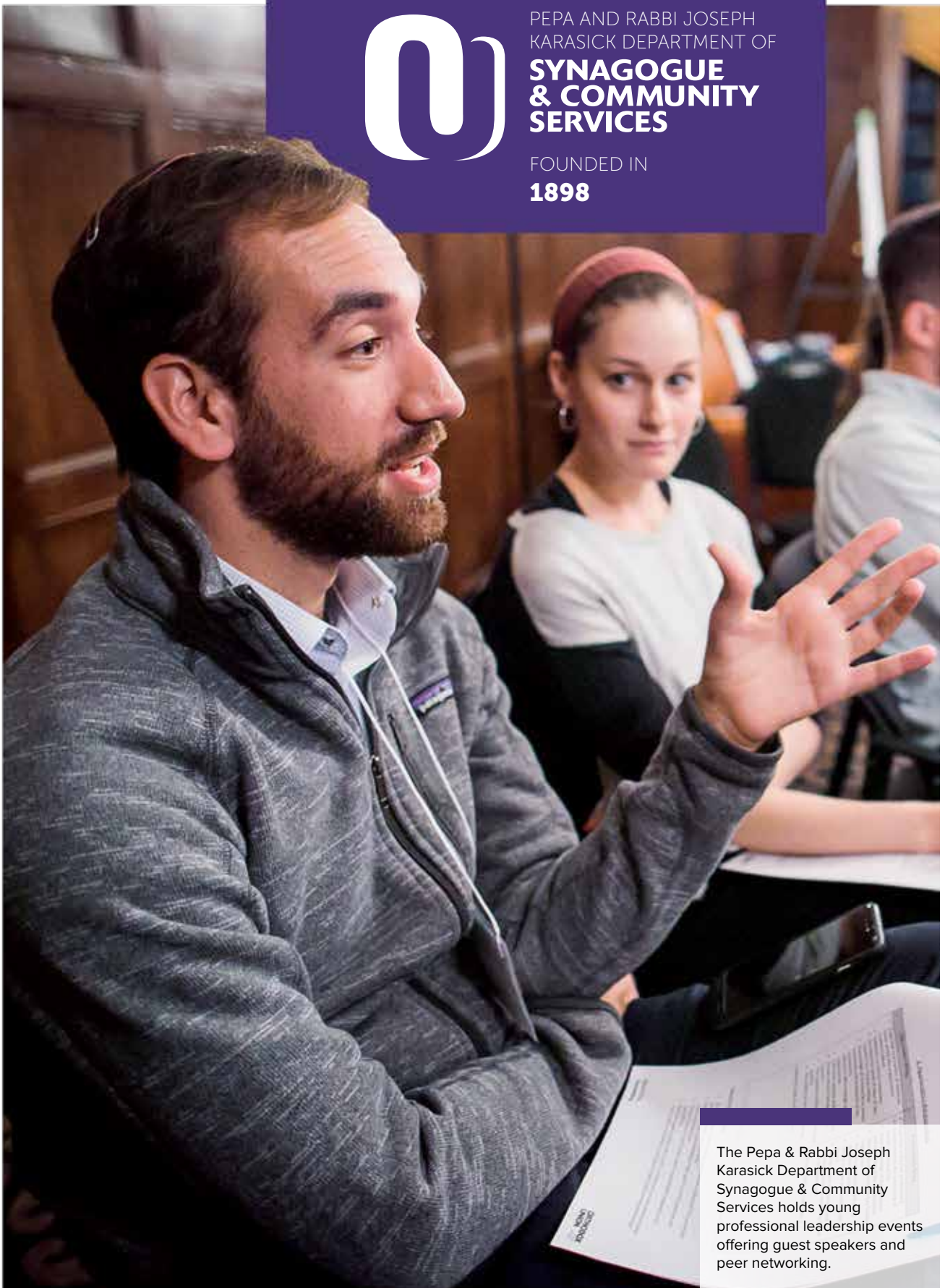
Allen Fagin  
**Executive Vice  
President, OU**





PEPA AND RABBI JOSEPH  
KARASICK DEPARTMENT OF  
**SYNAGOGUE  
& COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

FOUNDED IN  
**1898**



The Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services holds young professional leadership events offering guest speakers and peer networking.



# SERVICE AND SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY

» The **Pepa and Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services** provides programs, vision and support to Orthodox congregations throughout North America. Its goal is to strengthen these communities and member congregations by providing religious, educational, social and cultural programming on timely issues that impact the lives of individuals and families. The Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services also develops a robust network of rabbis, executive directors, youth directors and business experts to share best practices and provide guidance to help communities grow and thrive.





Over 180 community leaders attended the Marriage Leadership Conference hosted by the OU and Shalom Task Force.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS CONNECT COMMUNITIES

The regional directors provide local support to synagogues in strategic planning, leadership training, strengthening youth departments and membership growth. The regional directors also serve as the liaison between OU network synagogues, the Orthodox communities across North America and the programs and services of the Orthodox Union.

### COMMUNITY GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHY MARRIAGES

The Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services partnered with Shalom Task Force to host a “Marriage Leadership Conference” that featured presentations by rabbis, mental health professionals, mediators and attorneys to help communities deal with the myriad challenges couples may experience during marriage.

### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Recognizing the need to engage and cultivate future community leaders, the Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services presents young professional leadership events with guest speakers and peer networking.





OU Executive Directors Conference attendees gain perspective from the "Creating Opportunities for Giving" workshop.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SYNAGOGUE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The OU National Synagogue **Executive Directors Conference (EDC)** is the professional development and networking summit for synagogue executive directors from across North America, focusing on the ever-changing synagogue and community environments and how executive directors help shape synagogue policies.

## THE OU'S CANTORIAL PROGRAM

The OU's cantorial program, **Nusach HaTefillah**, offers an online database of *chazanut* recordings and lectures by world-famous cantors, ensuring that their melodies are accessible to both professional cantors and *baalei tefillah* globally.

“ We hope to continue enriching Jewish life here, and we’re grateful we can count on the OU for helping us do so.”

**Rabbi Yaakov Fisch**  
Etz Chaim Synagogue,  
Jacksonville, FL



**38.4%**

increase in Jewish  
Community Fair  
attendance

## RABBINIC & REBBETZIN CONFERENCES

The Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services regional **rabbinic development conferences** enable synagogue rabbis to better lead their communities effectively in a multitude of ways. The OU also provides conferences and seminars where synagogue rebbetzins can learn, network and share experiences with their peers, discussing the issues and challenges facing the modern-day rebbetzin.

## LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Understanding expectations and accepting responsibilities of volunteer governance is crucial to a board's success. The Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services provides lay leadership programming to train both new and seasoned officers and board members with the necessary skills to empower them to strengthen the synagogue.

**“ Finding so much support has not only been an extremely rewarding experience, it reenergizes me. I bring back new passion to my congregation.”**

**Alan Domb**  
Executive Director,  
Kehillat Shaarei Torah,  
Toronto, Ontario



The Jewish Communities Home, Job & Relocation Fair connects communities throughout North America with young couples, families, retirees and singles who are looking to relocate.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### JEWISH COMMUNITIES HOME, JOB & RELOCATION FAIR

The biennial fair attracts thousands of people looking for affordable Jewish communities. This year, 53 communities from 19 states were represented, along with Nefesh B'Nefesh *aliyah* advisors. The department also provides an array of support services to communities seeking to grow and attract new members.

### OFFERING MORE SPEAKERS TO THE COMMUNITY

To expand the reach of Torah programming to member synagogues, the Pepa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services launched the new **Speakers Bureau** to encourage shuls nationwide to invite top speakers to their hometowns. After years of planning and coordinating hundreds of scholar-in-residence programs, the Speakers Bureau offers a broad array of talented and diverse speakers to communities around the country. Now offering more than 200 speaker choices in 50 genres and 1,000 topics, the Speakers Bureau aims to be a resource for every type of synagogue and community.

“*Mi-kol melamdai  
hiskalti (from  
all my teachers,  
I grew wise)*  
reminds us of the  
value of always  
seeking out new  
teachers from  
whom to learn  
and grow.”

**Rabbi Gedalyah Berger**  
Adult Education  
Coordinator,  
Pepa & Rabbi Joseph  
Karasick Department  
of Synagogue &  
Community Services



## AFTER THE FLOOD, OU HELPS WITH RECOVERY EFFORTS

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It was only 22 days before Rosh Hashana when Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston: more than 50 inches of rain flooded 150 blocks and destroyed over 350 homes in the Orthodox Jewish community.

As the storm's center was making landfall, the OU had already begun to galvanize and coordinate offers of help that began to come in, from money to goods to volunteers. While Rabbi Adir Posy, OU Regional Director of Western States, mobilized efforts and organized with point people on the ground, the OU launched a fundraising campaign. Through its email and social media channels, the OU ultimately raised over \$1.6 million from more than 8,000 people. The campaign also saw over 1,000 people saying Tehillim.

In responding to Hurricane Harvey and then Hurricane Irma only days later, the OU partnered with Achiezer, the Agudath Israel of America, Amudim, Chai Lifeline, Ohel Children's Home and Family Services and the Rabbinical



Council of America. And from within the organization, NCSY sent volunteers, OU Advocacy worked with FEMA to get disaster relief funds, and OU Kosher sent truckloads of food.

The OU worked with Holly Davies, a Houston resident who had already assembled a CERT (Community and Emergency Response Team), FEMA's program which educates volunteers about disaster preparedness. The OU sent her hundreds of volunteers.



The PePa & Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue & Community Services coordinated a national volunteer effort and sent hundreds of people to assist communities devastated by recent flooding.

"I stopped counting after 300," Davies said, noting that people were deployed from all over the world for "muck and gut," tearing up the houses and deciding what to save and how to save it (from sending clothes to the laundry to disinfecting precious china). The money from the OU fundraising campaign proved invaluable in relocating people to apartments, getting them cars, kosher food and supplies.

"I'm so thankful that *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* could find a way to make me useful in all of this," said Davies, who is getting a masters in social work. "What a terrible tragedy to happen – but we had so many volunteers from all over the world, it's just amazing how helpful people are. You can sometimes see the worst in people, but here, coming together, we really see the best that people are."



Inspiring the Jewish Future

FOUNDED IN  
**1954**



The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey brought 475 public school teens from across North America on a four-week transformative tour of Israel, providing them a lifelong connection to their history, their heritage and their people.



# INSPIRING JUDAISM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

» **NCSY**, the international youth movement of the Orthodox Union, is dedicated to connecting, inspiring and empowering Jewish teens and encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and tradition. For decades, NCSY has been at the cutting edge of outreach innovation, finding new ways to show teens that Judaism is relevant and exciting.

## IN NUMBERS

**10,048**

Programs run this year

**24,743**

Total teens reached  
this year

**9,167**

New teens  
reached since  
last year

**1,441**

Summer program  
participants in  
2017

NCSY Summer awards hundreds of scholarships for its programs to ensure money is never an obstacle for those seeking to enhance their Jewish identity.



## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

# \$2Million+

given in summer programs and subsidies

### SUMMER ISRAEL TRIPS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEENS

**The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey (TJJ)** offers an incredible opportunity for public school teens to explore all of the exciting sites that Israel has to offer, while learning about their Jewish heritage. TJJ's success over the years has led to 13 different trips this summer, including the specialty programs TJJ Ambassadors and TJJ Ambassadors Poland.

### JEWISH VALUES ON WINTER BREAK

**National Yarchei Kallah** provides public school teens with the opportunity to study Torah and Jewish values during their winter break. Hundreds of students from across North America gather together for five days of intense Judaic study.

**“ I had the best summer of my life on NCSY GIVE WEST. I made life-long friendships and had advisors who were inspirational and great role models. The chessed on this trip inspired me and changed my everyday life to motivate me to continue giving back to my community and my school.”**

**Sophie Schanzer**  
Edison, New Jersey



Whether on Shabbatons, Yarchei Kallah, or NCSY Kollel's Mechinah track, engaging public school teens with Torah learning has always been the foundation for NCSY's success.

**\$300,000+**

given to NCSY Alumni  
for gap year scholarships

## SOCIAL ACTION MISSIONS

**NCSY's social action** experiences create the foundation for a life of service to the world. Whether responding to natural disasters, delivering food to the poor or running local toy drives, NCSYers gain valuable lessons in giving back to their local and global communities. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, NCSY was one of the first youth groups to send a social action mission.

## SHABBATON WEEKEND CONVENTIONS

**Shabbaton weekends** inspire and educate teens in an atmosphere of Jewish pride and growth. For many teens, these weekends are their first Shabbat experience.

## JEWISH IDENTITY AT PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

NCSY runs 275 **Jewish Student Union (JSU) Clubs** at public high schools in the United States and Canada. The clubs provide Jewish teens with programs that strengthen their Jewish identity and connection to Israel.



Israel ID is the ultimate in-depth Israel experience, combining social action, educational touring and hair-raising adventures for an unforgettable summer experience.

“Traveling all over Israel with Israel ID was the most meaningful summer of my life. I grew exponentially not only as a Jew but as a person. I would advise everyone to come on this program and have the **Best. Summer. Ever.**”

Jordan Benditzson  
Skokie, Illinois

## NCSY SUMMER PROGRAMS

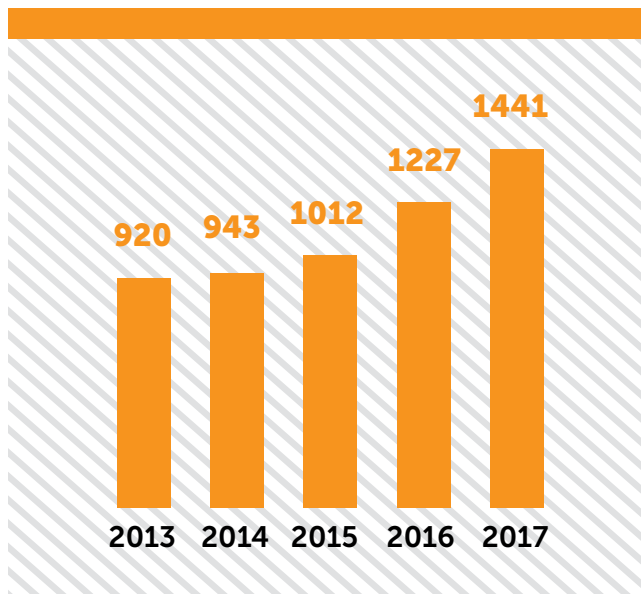
- BILT
- Bnos Kanfei
- Camp Maor
- Camp Sports
- Euro ICE
- GIVE
- GIVE West
- Israel ID
- JOLT
- JOLT Israel
- Kanfei
- Kollel
- Michlelet
- Next Step
- The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey (TJJ)
- The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey Ambassadors
- The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey Ambassadors Poland



# NCSY SUMMER

NCSY Summer is more than just a few weeks away from home. It is one of the most meaningful and memorable experiences of a teenager's life. In 2017, NCSY ran 17 unique summer programs in the US, Israel, Europe and Australia/New Zealand which catered to teens with different interests and backgrounds.

NUMBER OF TEENS ON  
NCSY SUMMER TRIPS



# 17.4%

growth in NCSY Summer programs  
attendance compared to last year



Over 2,000 people, representing participants and staff from NCSY Summer programs in Israel, as well as NCSY supporters and families, came together for an unforgettable night of celebration at Yom NCSY.



## WHAT'S NEW?



### JEWISH WOMEN'S MENTORSHIP

Utilizing the abundance of talented female lay leaders currently in the South Florida Jewish Community, **NCSY Southern's Women's Mentorship Initiative** provides the next generation of leaders with firsthand experience as to what it means to lead the Jewish community. Through a series of skill-building activities, private mentorship sessions and a concluding "Weekend of Reflection," those who currently care for the community will be connected with those who will inherit the reins in the near future.

### JSU LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Acquiring leadership skills. Bringing ideas to life. Taking charge of a program. This is all part of West Coast Region **JSU's Community Leadership Institute**. Instead of having NCSY staff run JSU clubs at high schools across North America, this pilot program trains and empowers student leaders to run their own weekly clubs. Students accepted into the program have received extensive and ongoing leadership training with continual follow-up from JSU facilitators.





# 14%

growth in JSU Clubs around the country, with **34** more clubs than last year

## BIG APPLE ADVENTURE

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Midwest NCSY ran a five-day immersive experience as part of Springboard, a community initiative created with support from the Jim Joseph Foundation, the JUF/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and a consortium of local funders to introduce more teens in Chicago to high-quality Jewish programs. As one parent remarked, “I feel so fortunate that my child received this opportunity to embrace and love her Jewish heritage.”

“**Both NCSY/TJJ for Moms and the JWRP are driven by the same mission: to inspire and empower Jewish moms and teens with core Jewish values, build a better Jewish tomorrow and change the world!**”

Hennie Black

TJJ mom, co-director

## TJJ ISRAEL MISSION FOR MOMS

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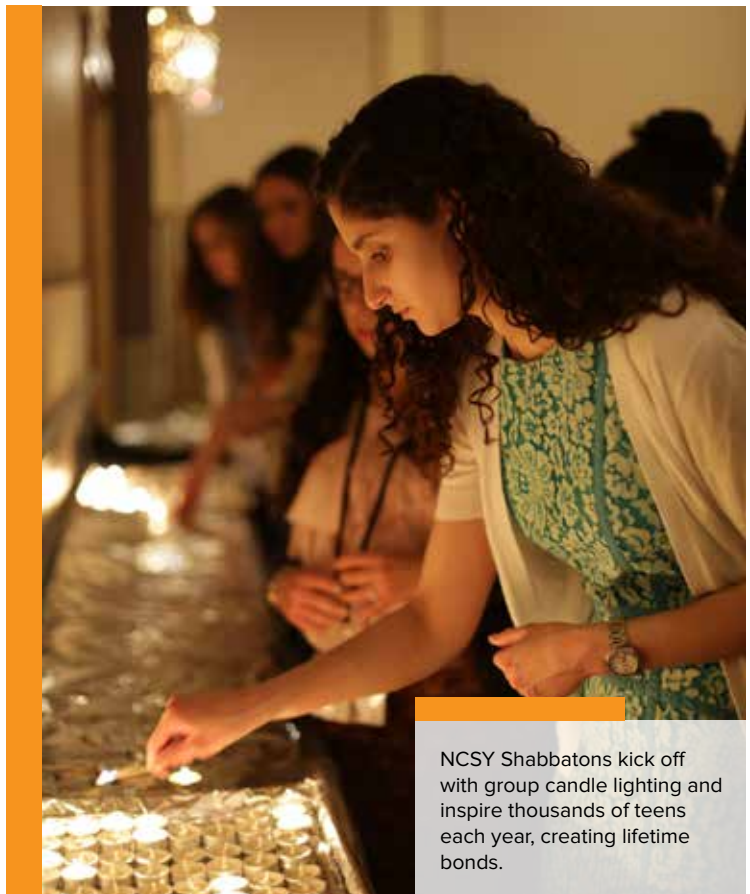
In partnership with the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project (JWRP), NCSY Canada was the first region to lead a ten-day mission to Israel for Toronto-area moms, whose teens went on TJJ. Subsequently, five additional NCSY regions have run JWRP trips for moms.

## MECHINAH MEETS NCSY KOLLEL

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Fifteen young men from public school devoted their summer to the highest levels of learning with the inaugural **NCSY Kollel Mechinah**. Mechinah participants from all educational backgrounds seamlessly integrated into the Kollel program, showing how Torah can simultaneously engage people from all backgrounds and reveal their learning potential.

## NCSY INSPIRED ME TO KEEP SHABBOS



NCSY Shabbatons kick off with group candle lighting and inspire thousands of teens each year, creating lifetime bonds.

A year ago, I found myself on an NCSY Leadership Shabbaton – I didn’t have any religious background, never had a Bat Mitzvah, didn’t know what the five books of anything were. It was right before Shabbos. All the girls were about to light candles and I was standing in the corner. I didn’t know what was going on. The only thing I knew was that I didn’t belong there. I felt disconnected

from everything and I was scared.

**"So promise me you'll light in Germany, and I'll light in LA, and together we'll welcome in Shabbos around the world."**

A girl came up to me and said, "Do you want me to say the *bracha* with you?"

"What's a *bracha*?" was the first thing out of my mouth. She explained it to me, and then, word by word, we blessed the

candles. After, she hugged me and said, "Promise me you'll light every week. Promise me that you'll keep this little *mitzvah* alive."

The next week, at home, I thought, "Well, Sarah told me to light candles, I guess that's what I'm going to do." No one had lit

Shabbos candles in my family for four generations – religion wasn't something you did, let alone an Orthodox lifestyle. I've been lighting candles every week, even though it hasn't been easy.

Last summer, it all came full circle: Right before Shabbos in Austria – we were on the five-week JOLT program going to Poland and Israel too – and I'm about to light candles, and there's this girl Klea, from Germany, standing on the side, scared, the same way I was.

"Hey, do you want me to say the *bracha* with you?" I asked her. We lit together and later I said, "Promise me you'll light every week."

"I can't," she said. "My family's not religious. They won't let me."

She seemed surprised when I said, "Me too. And it's OK because it's your little *mitzvah*. So promise me you'll light in Germany, and I'll light in LA, and together we'll welcome in Shabbos around the world."

We lit candles and texted each other across the globe after that Shabbos. I felt, "Wow, this is what they mean when they say that NCSY inspires the Jewish future."

- Allison at NCSY West Coast's Yarchei Kallah in 2016

# NCSY

## REGIONS & CITIES

### ATLANTIC SEABOARD

Baltimore, MD  
Columbia, MD  
Germantown, MD  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Olney, MD  
Potomac, MD  
Sandy Spring, MD  
Silver Spring, MD  
Towson, MD  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
Allentown, PA  
Ambler, PA  
Harrisburg, PA  
Huntingdon Valley, PA  
Lancaster, PA  
Lower Merion, PA  
Philadelphia, PA  
Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Norfolk, VA  
Richmond, VA  
Virginia Beach, VA

### CANADA

Calgary, AB  
Edmonton, AB  
Vancouver, BC  
Victoria, BC  
Winnipeg, MB  
Hamilton, ON  
Kitchener-Waterloo, ON  
King City, ON  
Kingston, ON  
London, ON  
Ottawa, ON  
Toronto, ON  
Montreal, QC

### CENTRAL EAST

Ann Arbor, MI  
Bloomfield Hills, MI  
Farmington Hills, MI  
Huntington Woods, MI  
Oak Park, MI  
Southfield, MI

West Bloomfield, MI  
Akron, OH  
Canton, OH  
Cincinnati, OH  
Cleveland, OH  
Columbus, OH  
Dayton, OH  
Solon, OH  
Toledo, OH  
Youngstown, OH  
Windsor, ON  
Pittsburgh, PA

### GREATER ATLANTA

Atlanta, GA  
Alpharetta, GA  
Dunwoody, GA  
Johns Creek, GA  
Marietta, GA  
Sandy Springs, GA

### ISRAEL

Beit Shemesh  
Efrat  
Elazar  
Hashmonaim  
Jerusalem  
Kfar Saba  
Maalei Adumim  
Modiin  
Neve Daniel  
Nof Ayalon  
Ramat Beit Shemesh

### MIDWEST

Des Moines, IA  
Buffalo Grove, IL  
Chicago, IL  
Glenview, IL  
Northbrook, IL  
Skokie, IL  
Indianapolis, IN  
South Bend, IN  
Kansas City, KS  
Overland Park, KS  
St. Louis, MO

Winnipeg, MB  
Minneapolis, MN  
Omaha, NE  
Memphis, TN  
Milwaukee, WI

### NEW ENGLAND

New Haven, CT  
Stamford, CT  
West Hartford, CT  
Brookline, MA  
Framingham, MA  
Lexington, MA  
Marlborough, MA  
Newton, MA  
Sharon, MA  
Waltham, MA  
Providence, RI

### NEW JERSEY

East Brunswick, NJ  
Englishtown, NJ  
Fair Lawn, NJ  
Freehold, NJ  
Freehold Boro, NJ  
Hackensack, NJ  
Highland Park, NJ  
Hightstown, NJ  
Livingston, NJ  
Marlboro, NJ  
Manalapan, NJ  
Millburn, NJ  
Montclair, NJ  
Northern Highlands, NJ  
Randolph, NJ  
Teaneck, NJ  
Twin Rivers, NJ  
West Orange, NJ

### NEW YORK

Bronx, NY  
Brooklyn, NY  
Cedarhurst, NY  
Commack, NY  
East Meadow, NY  
Great Neck, NY

Hewlett, NY  
Inwood, NY  
Lawrence, NY  
Long Beach, NY  
Manhattan, NY  
Merrick, NY  
Oceanside, NY  
Plainview, NY  
Port Washington, NY  
Queens, NY  
Roslyn, NY  
Staten Island, NY  
Stony Brook, NY  
Westchester, NY  
West Hempstead, NY  
Woodmere, NY

### SOUTH AMERICA

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Santiago, Chile

### SOUTHERN

Little Rock, AK  
Birmingham, AL  
Aventura, FL  
Boca Raton, FL  
Coral Springs, FL  
Hollywood, FL  
Jacksonville, FL  
Kendall, FL  
Miami Beach, FL  
North Miami Beach, FL  
Palm Beach, FL  
Parkland, FL  
Savannah, GA  
New Orleans, LA  
Charleston, SC  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Nashville, TN

### SOUTHWEST

Austin, TX  
Dallas, TX  
Fort Worth, TX  
Houston, TX  
McKinney, TX

Richardson, TX  
San Antonio, TX

### UPSTATE NEW YORK

Albany, NY  
Binghamton, NY  
Buffalo, NY  
Catskills District, NY  
Mount Kisco, NY  
Rochester, NY  
Schenectady, NY  
Syracuse, NY

### WEST COAST

Phoenix, AZ  
Scottsdale, AZ  
Berkeley, CA  
Beverly Hills, CA  
Calabasas, CA  
Cupertino, CA  
Irvine, CA  
La Jolla, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
North Hollywood, CA  
Oakland, CA  
Palo Alto, CA  
Piedmont, CA  
Sacramento, CA  
San Diego, CA  
San Francisco, CA  
San Jose, CA  
San Mateo, CA  
Santa Monica, CA  
Saratoga, CA  
Sunnyvale, CA  
Thousand Oaks, CA  
West Hills, CA  
Woodland Hills, CA  
Woodside, CA  
Denver, CO  
Las Vegas, NV  
Eugene, OR  
Portland, OR  
El Paso, TX  
Seattle, WA





NCSY Alumni activities, like Bike NCSY, allow former NCSYers to reconnect with old friends, rekindle inspiration and help raise needed funds to provide today's teens with the same great opportunities they had.

# NCSY ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

**NCSY Alumni Connections** helps high school upperclassmen and college students make a smooth transition to the next stage of their Jewish journey. Even after the conclusion of their high school NCSY experience, graduates will be ready to continue their Jewish growth, learning, identity and decision making without skipping a beat. Whether traveling to Israel on a gap year learning program or going straight to a college campus, NCSY Alumni Connections will be there along the way.

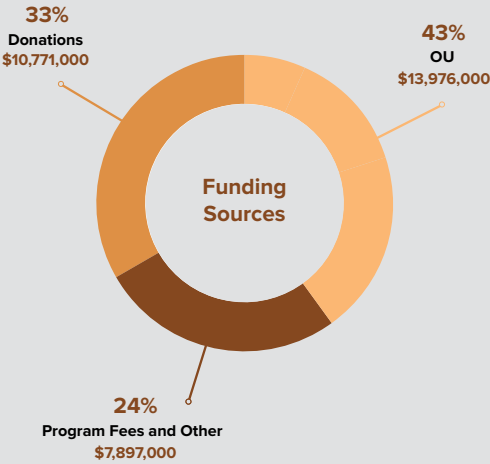
# BIKE NCSY

Bike riding for a cause can be a rewarding and attainable experience, for even the least experienced and youngest riders. This year, NCSY partnered with BikeNY and their Discover Hudson Valley Ride to attract Eastern Seaboard Alumni and their friends from across the region to get active and support NCSY in its endeavors.

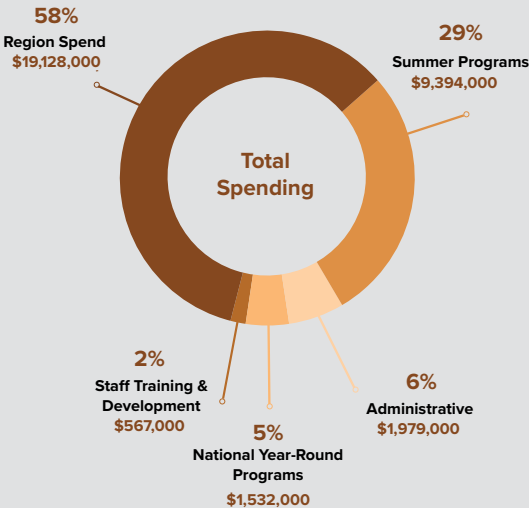
**“ Bike NCSY brings together my passion for cycling with my passion for NCSY Alumni — seeing students continue their Jewish journey after high school.”**

**Rabbi Yehoshua Marchuck**  
Director of NCSY Alumni, who organized Bike NCSY

## NCSY Financials



**Total Funding: \$32,644,000**



**Total Spending: \$32,600,000**

The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program's financials.





טו ישראל

FOUNDED IN  
1979

OU Israel launched JCHAT (the Jerusalem Community Hub for Anglos and Torah) to cater to the young professional community, providing *chizuk*, *shiurim*, social events and rabbinic mentorship.



# HELPING ENGLISH-SPEAKING OLIM AND ISRAEL'S AT-RISK YOUTH

» Based in the heart of Jerusalem, the **OU Israel Center** is a community center which serves as a hub of Torah study, Jewish culture and spiritual growth. OU Israel services both the English-speaking community (tourists and *olim*), as well as at-risk Israeli youth and young adults in disadvantaged neighborhoods throughout Israel.

## IN NUMBERS

**85,000+**

Visits to the OU Israel Center annually for *shiurim*, special events and trips

**546,000+**

Copies of Torah Tidbits are distributed annually

**3,410**

Youth from throughout Israel attend Oraita and Makom Balev monthly programming

**80**

Weekly programs for numerous populations and interests



OU Israel Center events include *shiurim*, social activities and story time for children, helping to create a support network for *olim*.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

### A HUB FOR OLIM

The OU's **Seymour J. Abrams Jerusalem World Center** provides a warm and welcoming environment, spiritual inspiration and a familiar social network for English speakers of all ages. This five-story, 840-square-meter building serves as a hub for Torah study, Jewish culture and spiritual growth that includes many OU programs such as NCSY, Yachad and more.

### KLITA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The OU brand carries familiarity and instant name recognition, especially among Anglo *olim* from North America. This, coupled with its central Jerusalem location, makes the OU Israel Center of vital support for *olim* seeking assistance. With evolving needs over the stages of *aliyah*, *olim* are not always aware of the many resources available to them. The **Klita Mentorship Program** has developed strategic partnerships with many organizations offering services to *olim*, and directs them to these resources.

### HELPING AT-RISK YOUTH

OU Israel operates 22 **Youth Centers**, primarily in development communities throughout Israel, from Kiryat Shmona to Yeruham. OU Israel flagship programs, which include The Jack E. Gindi Oraita Program, Makom Balev and The Pearl & Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center, instill at-risk youth with Jewish values and skills to help them avoid anti-social behaviors and ensure they are on the right path to become contributing citizens of Israel.



The Zula provides a safe hangout space and supportive environment for religious teens going through challenges, including struggling with substance abuse, dropping out of school or a difficult home environment.

## WHAT'S NEW?



### SUMMER FUN AT CAMP DROR

Established in 1995, **Camp Dror** is a two-and-a-half week Orthodox Jewish sleepaway camp located in Israel's northern region for youngsters entering grades 6 through 10. It provides hundreds of boys and girls from Israel and around the world with a unique combination of summer fun, Zionism and Torah learning.

### JERUSALEM COMMUNITY HUB FOR ANGLOS AND TORAH

Recognizing the difficulties young *olim* face finding and joining communities, OU Israel launched **JCHAT - the Jerusalem Community Hub for Anglos and Torah**. The program provides inspiration and connection for young professionals with social events, trips, lectures and rabbinic guidance. JCHAT keeps participants connected via its WhatsApp group and on Facebook.

“ Oraita is a place that you always want to go to, a place that gives you the opportunity to make choices, a place with values, action and contribution to the community.”

Participant from Oraita's Dimona branch



## NEIGHBORHOOD SHIURIM

In the past year, OU Israel began sending its senior faculty members to present regular satellite *shiurim* in a number of communities with large English-speaking constituencies. To date, more than 50 *shiurim* have been given around the country, including in Katamon, Baka, Sha'arei Chesed, Har Nof, Beit Shemesh and Netanya.

## NEW CAMP DROR LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

**The Camp Dror Leadership Program** provides 11th- and 12th-grade girls from around the world a unique summer program that strengthens self-esteem and inspires growth and achievement.

Campers learn about assertiveness, public speaking and group leadership, while also meeting prominent role models.

**“ When I first came to Israel, the OU Israel Center in Jerusalem was instrumental in providing me with a place where I could meet other *olim*, learn Torah and access information about needed resources... Thank you for reaching out to the needs of *olim*. ”**

OU Israel Center participant



OU Israel's Makom Balev (a place in the heart) runs 10 youth centers in development towns, inspiring Israeli youth to become the next generation of young leaders.



## OU ISRAEL PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- ACRE
- ARIEL
- BEIT SHEMESH
- DIMONA
- EFRAT
- ELAZAR
- HASHMONAIM
- HATZOR
- HOLON
- JERUSALEM
- KFAR SABA
- KIRYAT GAT
- KIRYAT MALACHI
- KIRYAT SHMONA
- MA'ALEH ADUMIM
- MODI'IN
- NAHARIYA
- NAZARETH ILLIT
- NETANYA
- NEVE DANIEL
- NOF AYALON
- OFAKIM
- RA'ANANA
- RAMAT BEIT SHEMESH
- RAMAT HASHARON
- REHOVOT
- SDEROT
- TEL AVIV-JAFFA
- TIBERIAS
- YERUHAM



120 teens from OU Israel's Jack E. Gindi Oraita clubs attend a pre-Rosh Hashana educational *selichot* program in Jerusalem's Old City.



## YOU HELP ME THRIVE IN ISRAEL

Even before I made *aliyah*, whenever I was on vacation and staying in Jerusalem, I would stop by the OU Israel Center to take a class or two.

After I moved to Israel in 2016 from Columbus, OH, it became an invaluable asset not only to my learning experience but also to acclimating to my new life in *Eretz Yisrael*. *Olim* can sometimes feel overwhelmed with the transition to a new country, and the OU Center helps smooth that process. Classes in English — from *shiurim* on *halacha* to Pirkei Avot to learning Hebrew — were and are an important way for me to satisfy my thirst for learning. But as a new *olah*, the best part of learning at the OU Center is the opportunity to make new friends — something I very much needed as a new immigrant.

We go on English-language guided trips around the city, visiting meaningful points of interest in Jerusalem. I

remember walking around the Old City and learning about the rich history of King David — it's amazing to be living history.

It was also amazing to meet in person those very speakers I had listened to or watched online when I was living in America.

Every Friday, I look forward to picking up the OU Israel Center's Torah Tidbits, a weekly publication with the *parsha*, *divrei Torah*, Q&A's, inspirational articles by well-known rabbis, a schedule of the weekly classes, upcoming events and other information essential to the English-speaking *frum* community.

***"As a new olah, the best part of learning at the OU Center is the opportunity to make new friends."***

- by Emunah Murray





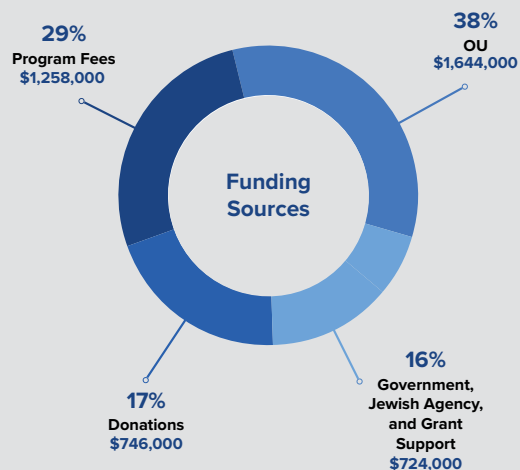
**“ The OU Israel Center provides new and old *olim* a place where connections are built, great lectures on various subjects are delivered, trips are organized and many other activities are provided. We are very fortunate to have this center in Jerusalem we can call our community!”**

OU Israel Center participant &  
JCHAT Committee Member

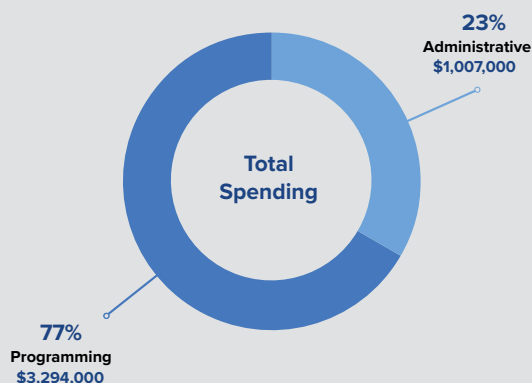
**96%**

**of OU Israel youth program alumni are enrolled in yeshivot/pre-military mechinot/IDF**

## OU Israel Financials



**Total Funding: \$4,372,000**



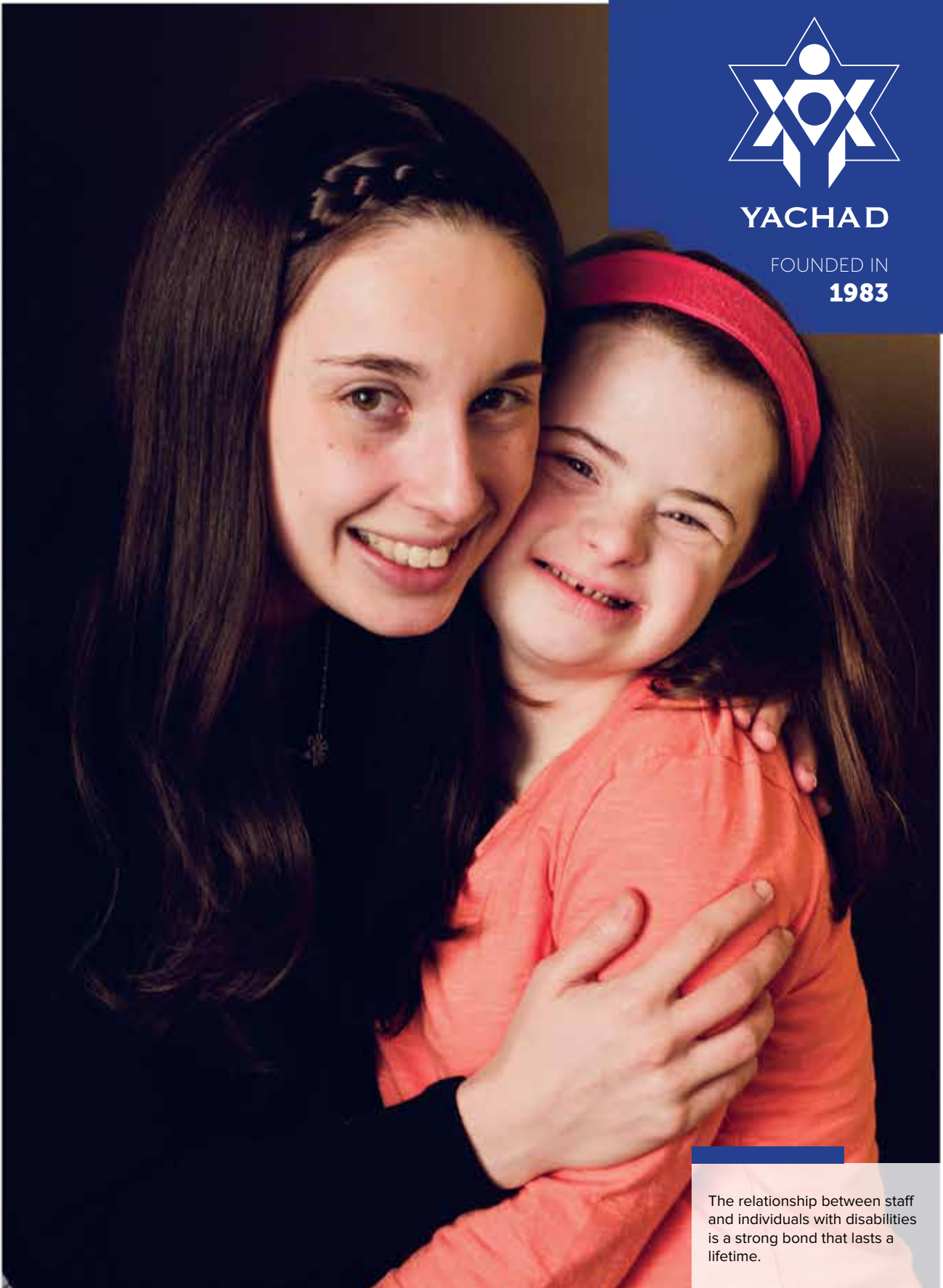
**Total Spending: \$4,301,000**

The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program's financials.



**YACHAD**

FOUNDED IN  
**1983**



The relationship between staff and individuals with disabilities is a strong bond that lasts a lifetime.

# INCLUSION FOR JEWS OF EVERY ABILITY

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» **Yachad**, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities (NJCD), is a thriving global organization dedicated to addressing the needs of all Jewish individuals with disabilities and ensuring their inclusion in every aspect of Jewish life. Yachad helps educate and advocate for a greater understanding, acceptance, outreach and embrace of those with disabilities.

## IN NUMBERS

**615**

Campers participating  
in Yachad's summer  
programs

**157**

Synagogues had  
programming for North  
American Inclusion Month  
(NAIM)

**6,100+**

Mainstream campers  
interacted with Yachad  
campers

**8,000+**

Gift baskets made and  
sold by Yachad Gifts

IVDU's low student-teacher ratios allow for differentiated instruction to meet a child's individual needs best. Each IVDU school specializes in developing everyday life social skills.



## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

**67**  
schools had  
sensitivity training  
or youth programs

### COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAMS

Across the country, Yachad's Shabbatons bring individuals with disabilities and community participants together for prayer, Shabbat meals, singing, *havdalah* ceremonies and more. This engagement creates understanding, respect and camaraderie.

### SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR ALL CAMPERS

Yachad is the largest provider of Jewish camping opportunities for individuals with disabilities, offering a wide variety of programs catered to each person's needs, from Yad B'Yad's tour of Israel to dozens of inclusive sleepaway camp programs.



Yachad participants joined Mordechai Shapiro in the recording of his new song *B'Yachad*, which showcases Yachad's work and impact.



# 99%

of IVDU students passed their  
New York State Regents Exam

## VOCATIONAL SERVICES HELP FIND JOBS

One of Yachad's key programs is its vocational services for adults with disabilities. From counseling and job coaching to job placement services, Yachad's vocational department seeks not only to train and place individuals with disabilities in the workplace, but also to help them find jobs that are at once meaningful and integrated into wider society.

## IVDU SCHOOLS TEACH LIFE SKILLS

Yachad's **Individualized Vocational Development Unit (IVDU) Schools**, located in Brooklyn and now Long Island, New York, offer Jewish students with special needs (ages 5 to 21) a comprehensive and nurturing educational environment. IVDU provides students with the core academic, social and life skills they need to reach their highest potential and develop into productive citizens in their communities.



Yachad summer programs provide opportunities for lifetime connections between individuals with disabilities and their mainstream peers.

# 25

inclusive summer programs offered by Yachad in the summer of 2017

## YACHAD SUMMER PROGRAMS

- Amichai Vocational Integration Program
- Chaverim
- Getaway
- Keshet
- Lavi Yachad Integration Program
- Lavi Vocational Integration Program
- Mesorah Camper Integration Program
- Mesorah Vocational Integration Program
- Morasha Yachad Integration Program
- Morasha Vocational Integration Program
- Moshava Ba'ir New Jersey Vocational Integration Program
- Moshava Ba'ir Toronto Camper Integration Program
- Moshava Ba'ir Toronto Vocational Integration Program
- Moshava California Camper Integration Program
- Moshava California Vocational Integration Program
- Moshava Ennismore Vocational Integration Program
- Moshava Camper Integration Program
- Moshava Vocational Integration Program
- Nesher Yachad Integration Program
- Shoshanim Yachad Integration Program
- Shoshanim Vocational Integration Program
- Stone Vocational Integration Program
- Yad B'Yad Trip 1
- Yad B'Yad Trip 2
- Yad B'Yad Girls



Yad B'Yad participants have the opportunity to tour the entire land of Israel, take part in enriching learning programs and have meaningful volunteer experiences.



## YACHAD REGIONS & CITIES

- Baltimore
- Chicago
- Cleveland
- Dallas
- Detroit
- Houston
- Israel
- Los Angeles
- New England
- New Jersey
- New York
- South Florida
- Toronto

**“ We cannot stop telling our friends and family what a great program this is. You should all be proud of the tremendous *kiddush Hashem* that you are doing.”**

2017 Yad B'Yad parent



Each year, Yachad participants and staff come out to march for inclusion at the Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City.

**WHAT'S  
NEW?** ▶

**“ I am so impressed with the way our students embraced their new friends from Yachad and recognized that each person has unique abilities that allow them to contribute to our community at large.”**

**Ms. Laura Fruchter**  
Director of Academic Support and Chessed  
Coordinator at Central High School

## **YACHAD LAUNCHES IN THE FIVE TOWNS**

Last year, Long Island families approached NY Yachad requesting more services for their loved ones, including an elementary school, adult day and vocational program, and social and recreational programming. Ten months later, NY Yachad was able to meet Long Island's needs. In September 2017, the Long Island branch of Yachad held a celebratory kickoff for the newly opened facility, giving crucial support to people with disabilities and their families in the Five Towns and neighboring communities.

Aside from being an adult day and vocational program, the new facility features a parent support group, therapy room and space for extra programming and support, to ensure the Long Island branch is a welcome place for all members of the community.

## **YACHAD TEAMS UP WITH CAMP STONE**

Last summer, for the first time, individuals with disabilities were hired to work as staff at Camp Stone through Yachad's vocational training program, allowing for more young adults with special needs to be involved in a summer camp experience. This change happened because Camp Stone wanted to see their program culture grow into an inclusion-focused environment, and Yachad helped them make that happen.





## GREAT JOY AT YACHAD WEDDING CELEBRATION

**A**long with the other marriages Yachad has been blessed to celebrate, the wedding of Tamar Schlanger and Chaim Goldman highlights the best of Yachad's mission: promoting inclusion for children and adults with disabilities in the broader Jewish community.

Tamar attends the Manhattan Adult Day Habilitation and vocational training program and works for Yachad in the OU office, perfecting her office skills. Chaim is in the Brooklyn Adult Day Habilitation program and works for Yachad Gifts. He helps with sales in pop-up boutiques and outside supermarkets and plans to work at the new storefront location. They were married in Monsey, NY, last summer.

"This wedding marks a milestone for inclusion in the community — this was the first time a wedding between Yachad members was a large event, and the community really came out to be *m'sameach chatan* and *kallah*," said Dr. Jeffrey Lichtman, International Director of Yachad. "For so many who were there, or saw it shared on social media, this wedding will serve as an inspiration

**"This wedding marks a milestone for inclusion in the community."**

to appreciate our members' very real abilities and support their efforts to work and marry and be part of the community."

Program Supervisor  
Dena Cooperman  
works with both

Tamar and Chaim and says Yachad helped the couple. "As needs arose, we offered support. We try to meet individuals where they are and provide them with the support they need at that particular point in time."

This is key to Tamar and Chaim's story — and that of everyone in Yachad's programs. Not only does Yachad help thousands of individuals with disabilities succeed in life — but it ensures that its members and their families are a vibrant part of Jewish life and active members of their communities.

The Mendel Balk Yachad Adult Community Center provides social programming every night of the week for individuals with disabilities. It also offers activities for family members and the community.



**“ I just wanted to share how much this program is making a difference. Rivka comes home singing and dancing for the rest of the evening. You have put a smile on her face!”**

Parent of a participant in the Mendel Balk Yachad Adult Community Center

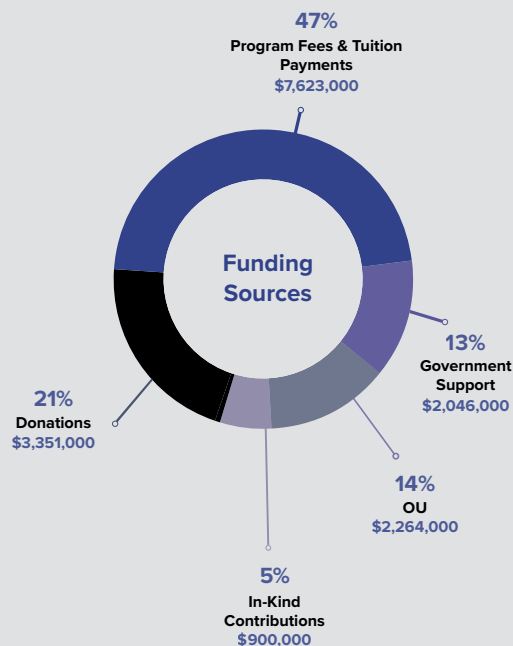
## BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Mendel Balk Yachad Adult Community Center opened last year in Teaneck, NJ, and it offers social and educational programs for young adults with and without special needs. It provides a home away from home, where young adults feel accepted, loved and included. The programs help foster personal growth, friendship, increased independence — and most importantly, a greater sense of community.

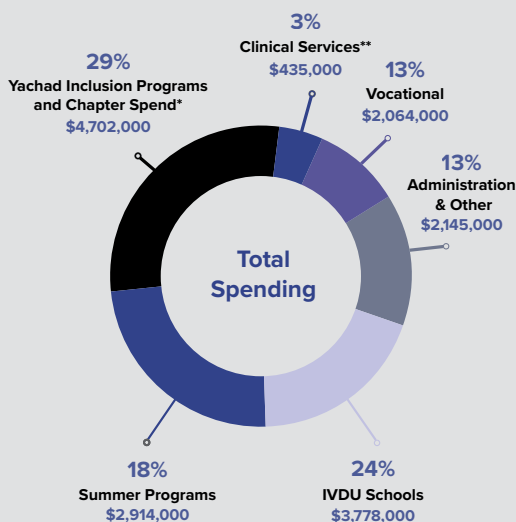
The center is named in memory of Mendel Balk a"n, father of Yachad participant Yoel Balk.

Instead of going home after school or work at 4 PM with an entire night ahead of them and no plans, the center fills that void. Participants can go to a space offering social and recreational opportunities. Members can relax in their “living room,” the center’s social area, painted in soft purples and gray. They can take a game from the board game station, read a magazine or use the computer. The center also has a kitchen station filled with kitchen supplies for the culinary workshop, and multiple weekly programs including art, basketball, pottery, theater and science. Most importantly, it offers activities that people can do together, as a community. The Mendel Balk Yachad Adult Community Center is a dream come true for many families in New Jersey.

## Yachad Financials



**Total Funding: \$16,184,000**



\*Yachad Inclusion Programs includes 750K of in-kind expenses

\*\*Clinical Services includes 150K of in-kind expenses

**Total Spending: \$16,038,000**

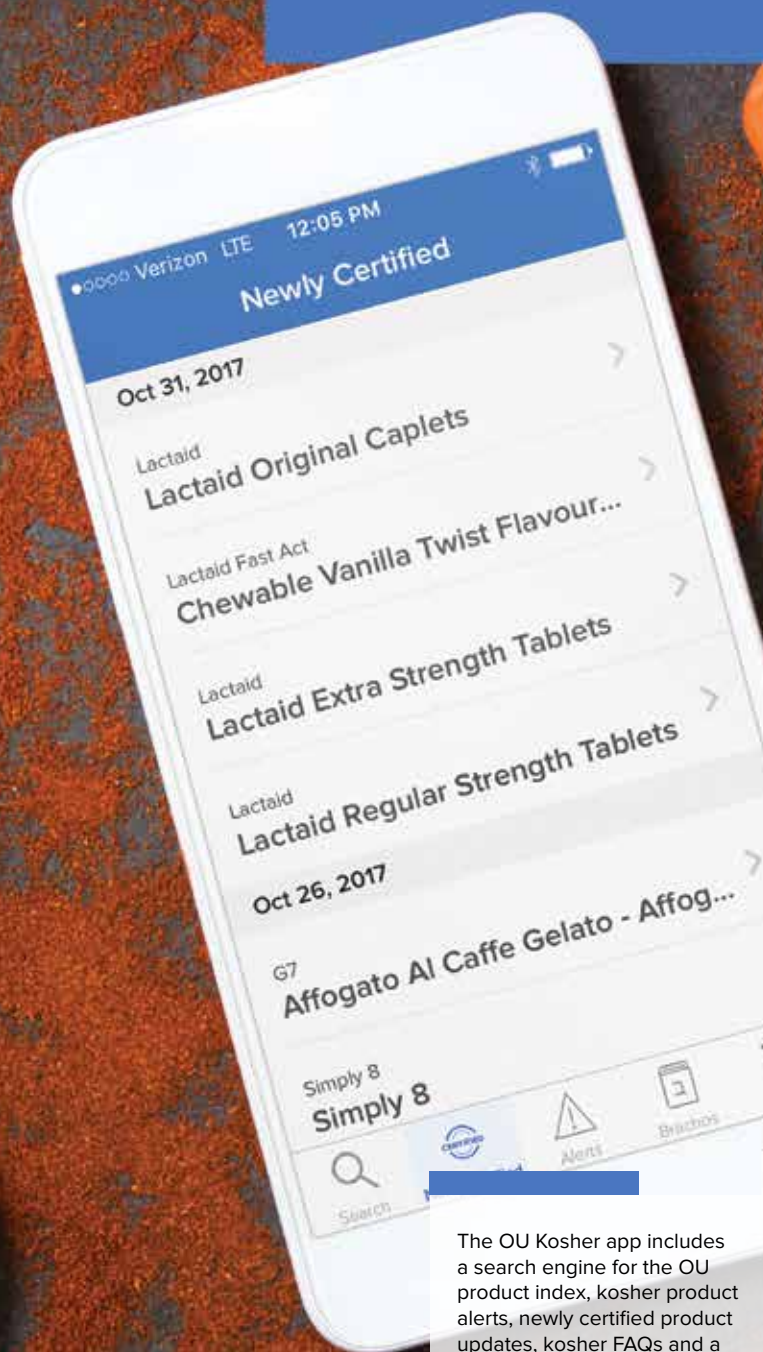
The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program’s financials.





**KOSHER  
CERTIFICATION  
SERVICE**

FOUNDED IN **1924**



The OU Kosher app includes a search engine for the OU product index, kosher product alerts, newly certified product updates, kosher FAQs and a general information hotline.



# GIVING THE COVETED SEAL OF APPROVAL

» Walk down the aisle of any supermarket, and you'll see that the OU kosher symbol appears on nearly 70% of America's kosher-certified food. Called a "coveted seal of approval" by The New York Times, the OU is one of the world's best-known trademarks. Thanks to the 600 rabbinic field representatives located across North America and throughout the world — from Europe to Australia, from China to South Africa — **OU Kosher** combines their expertise in Jewish law with proficiency in modern food production and processes.

## IN NUMBERS

**524,550**

Website views on  
oukosher.org  
during the Pesach season

**1,000,000+**

Products and ingredients are  
OU-certified, in **8,622**  
facilities, in over **90**  
countries

**116,915**

Downloads of the  
OU Kosher app

**5,585**

Pesach calls  
received this year  
— 192 calls per hour  
received on Erev  
Pesach



Rabbi Menachem Genack, OU Kosher Chief Executive Officer, and other rabbinic field representatives are taken for a tour with Dr. Heinz-Jürgen Bertram, CEO of Symrise AG.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

### ADVANCED SEMINARS ON KASHRUT

The Harry H. Beren **ASK OU** (Advanced Seminars on Kashrut) offers numerous *kashrut* educational programs for the benefit of the public, bringing OU Kosher experts to schools and communities throughout North America, as well as offering online *kashrut shiurim* for communities worldwide.

### KOSHER HOTLINE SOLVES PROBLEMS

Each business day, the **OU Kosher Hotline** and **Webbe Rebbe** email service receive approximately 80 inquiries, with questions ranging from current certification news to highly complicated issues requiring real-time assistance. During the Pesach season, the daily inquiries number averages over 450 per day.



# 560%

increase in call volume  
during the Pesach season

Over 12 million American consumers choose kosher food products for reasons related to health, food safety, taste, vegetarianism, lactose intolerance and other dietary restrictions.

## MORE PESACH RESOURCES

OU Kosher invests in additional Pesach resources each year to ensure the desired standards are met for the Jewish community. This includes increased support staff, hours of operation, radio appearances by administrators and the distribution of over 91,000 Pesach Guides for consumers.

## OU KOSHER APP PROVIDES REAL-TIME ASSISTANCE

The **OU Kosher app** is an interactive guide to products certified by the OU, featuring product alerts, a Pesach product guide and a general information hotline for immediate answers to all kosher questions.



“ I had no idea of the other amazing benefits that accompanied getting an OU *hashgacha*. They connected me with suppliers and other people in the food industry domestically and abroad that have helped my business to grow and flourish. The organization supports its customers well.”

Orly G.

of Blends by Orly  
gluten-free flour line

## IN WARSAW, KASHRUT BRINGS COMMUNITY BACK

Warsaw native Curiel Kowalik found himself in a synagogue for the first time at age 16. As a teenager who was raised Catholic, he went on a journey searching for spirituality. He had first joined a Polish Evangelical youth group, which incorporated Jewish practices, such as abstaining from pork and keeping Sabbath on the seventh day.



The Judaic traditions struck a chord. Later, Kowalik and his wife Ora sought to learn more about Judaism. They began attending synagogue, *shiurim* and religious community activities. When Kowalik decided to convert, his mother realized it was time to tell her son the truth about her background: She was Jewish. Like many other Holocaust survivors who returned to Poland, Kowalik's great-grandparents had buried their Jewish identities.

They'd returned to ghost towns devoid of Jews, but not of anti-Semitism. So they kept their dark secret hidden from their spouses, children and grandchildren. "It was a shocking revelation," Kowalik reminisces.

Today, Kowalik heads Warsaw's Museum of the History of Polish Jews Educational Centre and is a co-founder of the Lauder-Morasha Jewish Day School. As a community activist, he trained as a kosher *mashgiach*, studying

the intricacy of the laws of *kashrut* to help Warsaw's growing community.

"There was an urgent need for *mashgichim* here," he says. "With five kosher restaurants opening and a growing number of OU-certified food manufacturers, it was crucial that we had local *mashgichim* who were rigorously trained."



**"Kashrut is the cornerstone of an observant community."**


In 1996, OU Kosher introduced the Harry H. Beren ASK OU Mashgiach Training Program, a summer program which has trained close to 1,000 *mashgichim* worldwide, many of whom serve in leadership positions with kosher agencies across North America, Israel and other Jewish communities around the world. Kowalik is one of these graduates. "Kashrut is the cornerstone of an observant community," Kowalik says. "We're proud to have a vibrant *kehillah* here in Warsaw, thanks to the help of the OU ASK Mashgiach Training Program."

At the prompting of its Women's Branch in 1924, the Orthodox Union began its venture into the field of *kashrut* supervision and certification. H. J. Heinz Company was OU Kosher's first client.

## The Annual Pre-Passover Statement of H. J. Heinz Company

### HEINZ Products are NOT Kosher for Passover

You have seen our advertisements during the years, calling attention to the  on many of our labels. The  is the symbol of endorsement of the UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA.

We remind you again of the fact that the  endorsement applies to the year-round use of our foods and does not include the week of Passover. None of the Heinz Varieties is "Pessadick."

We wish our many friends everywhere a Happy Passover. May this Season of Liberation be the herald of the era of freedom for all mankind!

**H. J. HEINZ COMPANY**  
PITTSBURGH, PA.



**BACK THE  
ATTACK!  
BUY WAR  
BONDS TO  
HASTEN THE  
DAY OF  
VICTORY!**

**HEINZ  FOODS **  
**Strictly Vegetarian**





## PUBLICATIONS

FOUNDED IN  
1985



In addition to the quarterly Jewish Action magazine, OU Publications include the yearly Passover Guide, the NCSY Bencher and the NCSY Haggadah.



# THE HEART OF MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT AND LEARNING

» **OU Publications** take the “People of the Book” tagline seriously. Whether it’s the critically acclaimed Jewish Action magazine, the prominent Passover Guide to kosher products or featured content on OU.org — the Orthodox Union is at the heart of modern Jewish thought and learning.

## IN NUMBERS

**180,000+**

People read the  
Jewish Action quarterly  
magazine

**2.5 Million+**

NCSY Benchers have  
been published

**91,000+**

Passover Guides were  
distributed across  
North America in 2017

**59,280**

People receive the  
OU's weekly Shabbat  
Shalom newsletter



The NCSY Bencher is a popular publication available in print and as a newly developed app.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

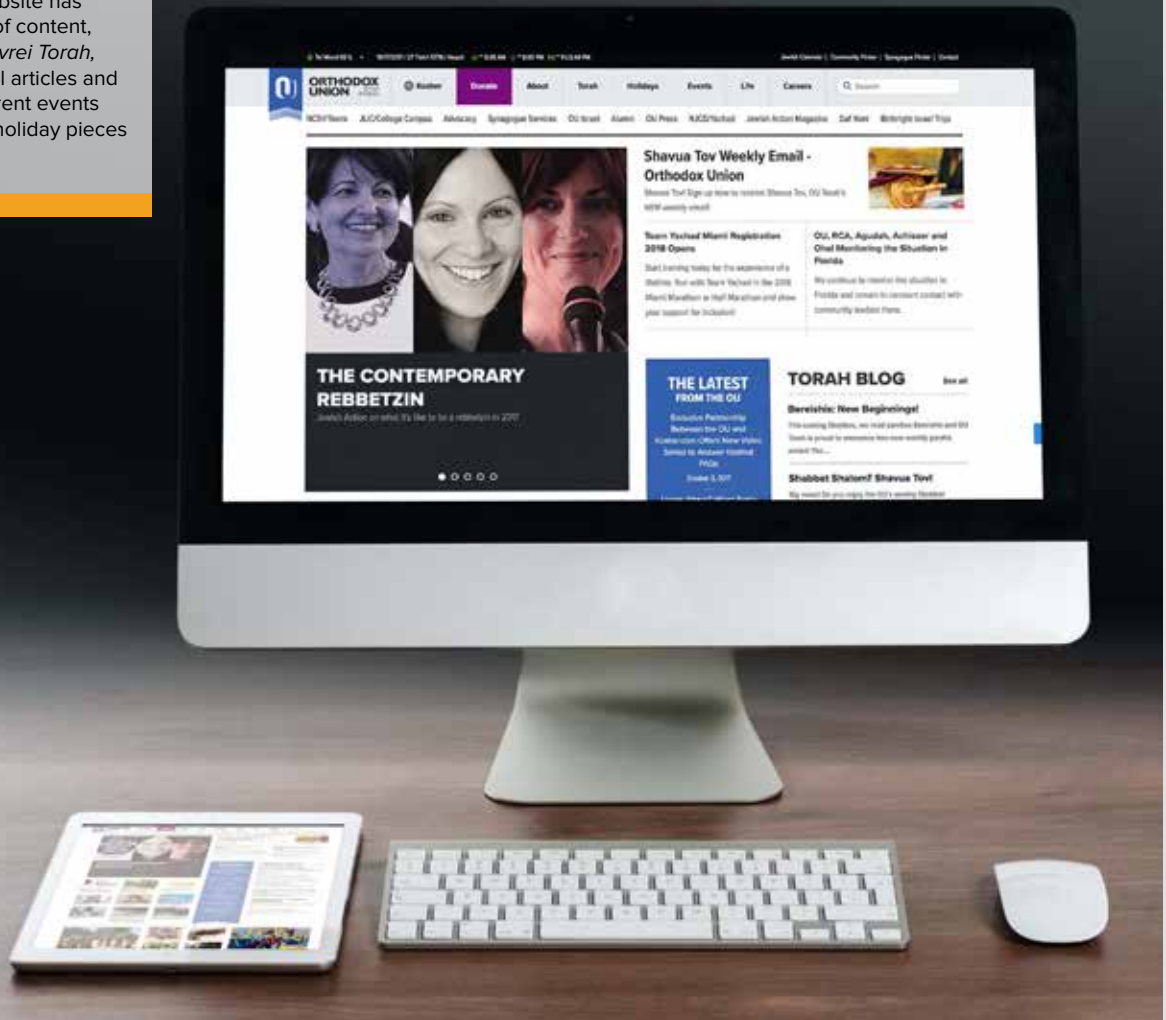
### JEWISH ACTION MAGAZINE

For more than 32 years, **Jewish Action Magazine** has been stoking the national conversation in the Orthodox Jewish community through its features and opinion pieces and has won several major awards for its journalism.

### A RECOGNIZED BENCHER AROUND THE WORLD

**The NCSY Bencher** is a household staple in Jewish homes across the world with over 2.5 million copies printed in three editions: "Ivrit," "Classic" with Ashkenazi transliteration and Spanish language. Also, the NCSY Bencher app allows for those unfamiliar with the liturgy of Shabbat and holidays to study the songs and text and feel at home with Jewish observance.

The OU website has a plethora of content, featuring *divrei Torah*, inspirational articles and stories, current events and news, holiday pieces and more.



## OU ESSENTIAL PASSOVER GUIDE

The **OU Passover Guide** has been a cornerstone of North American Jews celebrating a kosher Passover since the 1950s, with its essential index of kosher-certified foods, guide to kashering one's kitchen for Passover, as well as FAQ's on the intricacies of Passover ritual and *halachic* requirements.

## OU.ORG, THE OU'S ONLINE COMMUNITY

**OU.org** is a world-renowned site for resources and materials on Torah and Jewish thought. Tens of thousands of people visit the site daily to view the latest articles, check the holiday calendar and to search the archives for their desired content.

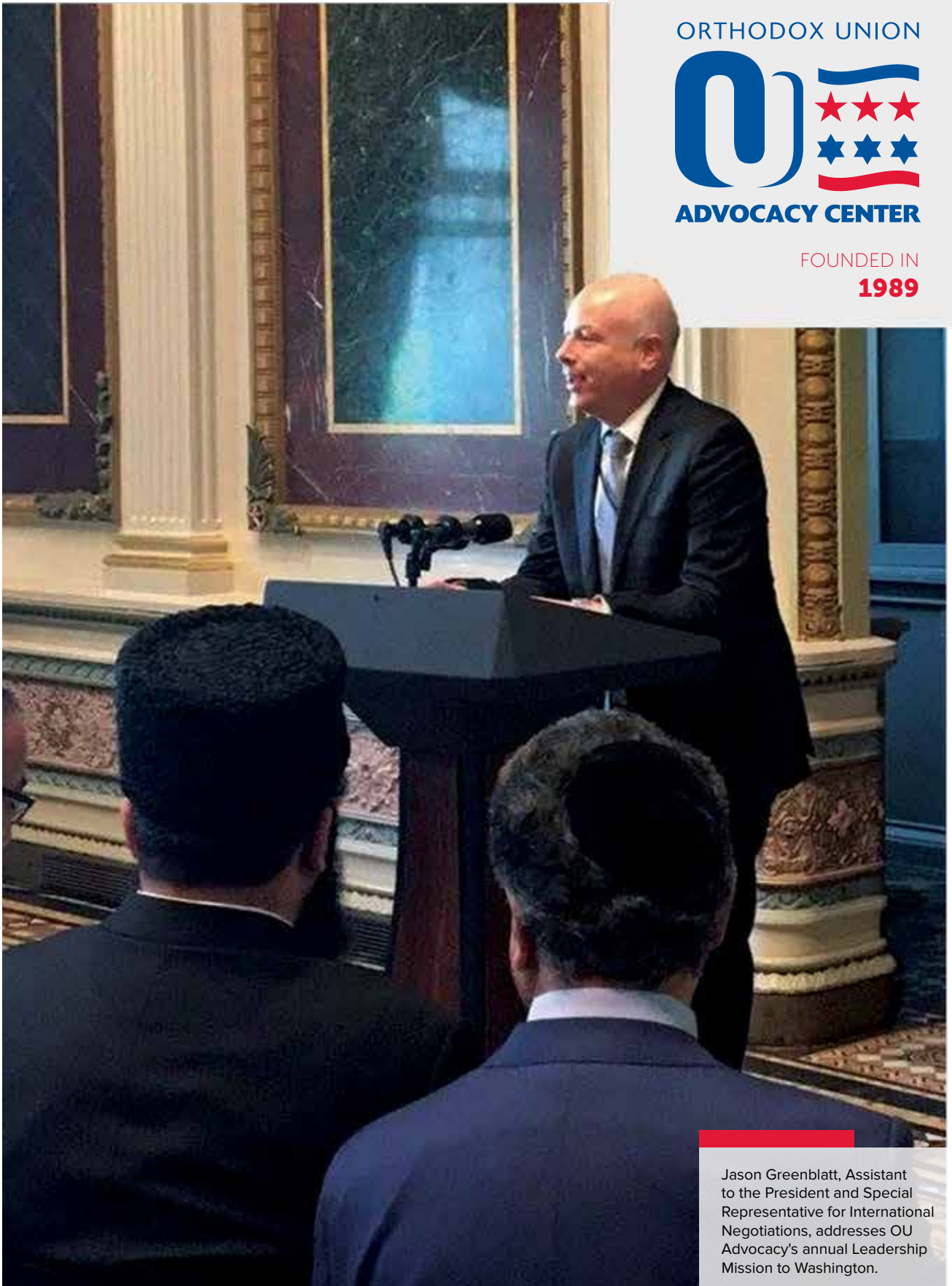


ORTHODOX UNION



ADVOCACY CENTER

FOUNDED IN  
**1989**



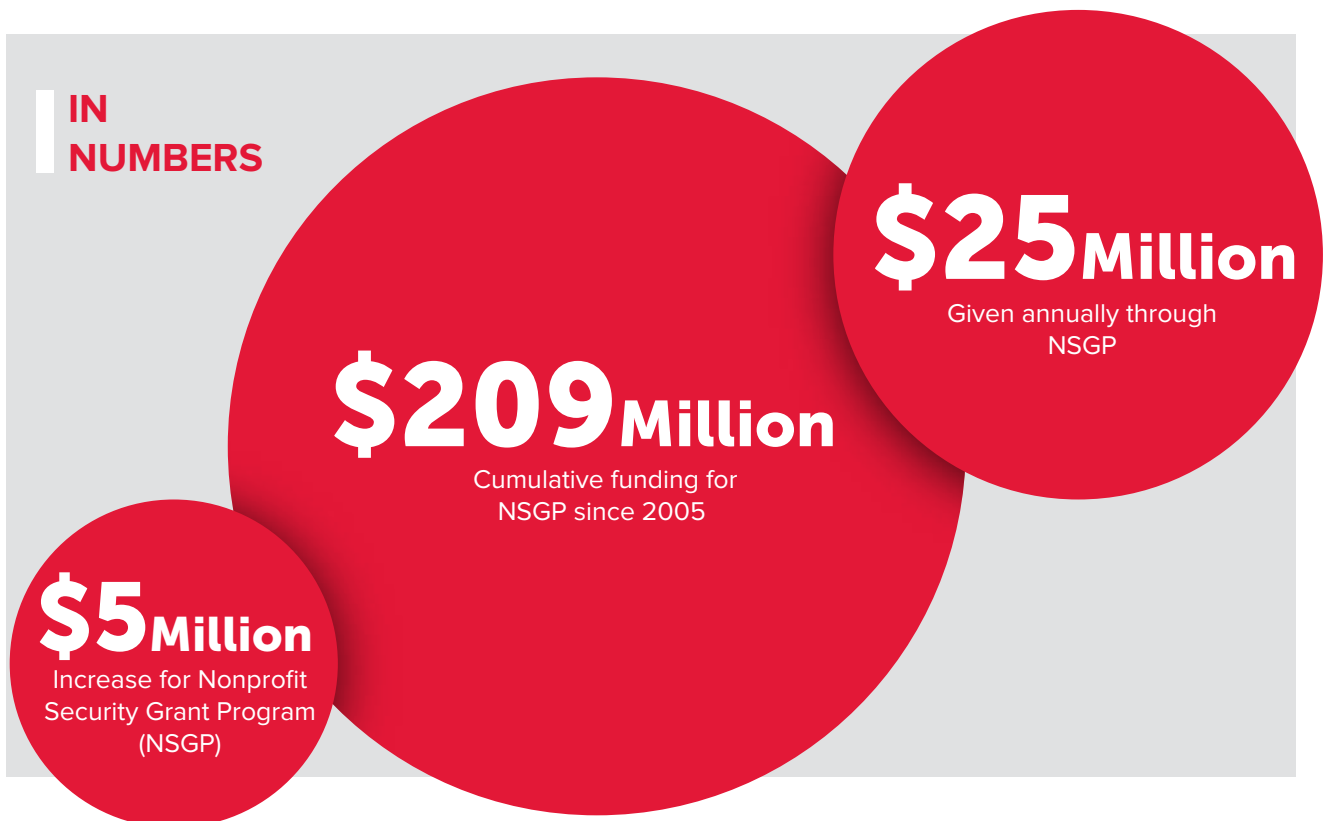
Jason Greenblatt, Assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Negotiations, addresses OU Advocacy's annual Leadership Mission to Washington.

# ADVOCATING FOR OUR VALUES AND INTERESTS BEFORE GOVERNMENT—FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL

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» The **OU Advocacy Center** is the non-partisan public policy arm of the OU, which works to advance the interests and values of Orthodoxy nationwide in Washington, DC, and state capitals. Through its innovative and proactive work, OU Advocacy has made schools more affordable, synagogues safer, bolstered the security of Israel and protected the religious freedom of American Jews.

## IN NUMBERS





(L-R) US Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Ted Cruz (R-TX) were among many of the national leaders to address the OU Advocacy's annual Leadership Mission to Washington.

“ I’ve always been an admirer and a supporter of the OU, so I want to thank you for the good work you do...the work that’s just so important to our community, the work that says ‘I’m proud to be Jewish.’”

US Representative Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SECURITY

OU Advocacy works with federal policymakers to fund and implement the **Nonprofit Security Grant Program**, which is currently providing \$25 million a year to synagogues, schools and other community institutions to ensure their facilities are safe and secure.

### ADVOCATING FOR ISRAEL

OU Advocacy works with the mainstream pro-Israel community to defend the security of the State of Israel and promote her welfare. This important work leverages the OU Advocacy’s unique relationships with policymakers ranging from the president and secretary of state to congressional leaders and the prime minister of Israel.

### SAFEGUARDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The constitutional protection of religious liberty is the foundation upon which American Jewry has thrived. OU Advocacy works in Congress by proactively shaping key legislation and on cases before the US Supreme Court through the submission of legal briefs to defend this essential freedom.





## SUPREME COURT QUOTES OU ADVOCACY BRIEF

When a Missouri church playground was denied funding under a state-funded program, they brought it before the Supreme Court in *Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer*. The OUA filed a “friend of the court” legal brief to impress upon the Supreme Court Justices the real-world implications of this case: that the federal and state constitutions must ensure that religious institutions are not discriminated against in government programs.

In the course of the argument session, Justice Samuel Alito used OU Advocacy’s brief to question the attorney representing the State of Missouri:

"Well, Mr. Layton....I just wanted to ask you about some Federal laws that are highlighted in the amicus brief filed by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and get your reaction whether a program like that would be permissible under the Missouri Constitution."

After being mentioned in arguments, the OUA's brief went on to shape press coverage of the case, as the centerpiece of articles and editorials in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *National Review* and *National Public Radio*.

Last summer, the Supreme Court ruled that the state of Missouri cannot deny public funds to a church simply because it is a religious organization. It is the first time the Court ruled that governments must provide money directly to a house of worship — and this could, in the future, affect funding for private, religious and charter schools.

**68%**  
of United States Senators and Representatives in  
Congress were contacted by OU constituents via OU  
Advocacy Action Alerts



OU Advocacy Executive Director Nathan Diament hosts a Q&A with Israeli Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer.

## GRANT HELPS SYNAGOGUE BOLSTER SECURITY

Last September, Rabbi Michael Bleicher was pleased to learn that his shul, Elmora Hills Minyan in Union, NJ, was awarded funding from FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program to bolster security. The close-knit congregation in northern New Jersey was among many across the country that had faced threats in the preceding months.

"During the past year, terrorism has twice landed near our doorstep: From the terrorist who prayed at the mosque directly across the street to the swastika that defaced the parking lot next to

**"The Orthodox Union has been a champion of expanding school choice...Keep doing what you're doing!"**

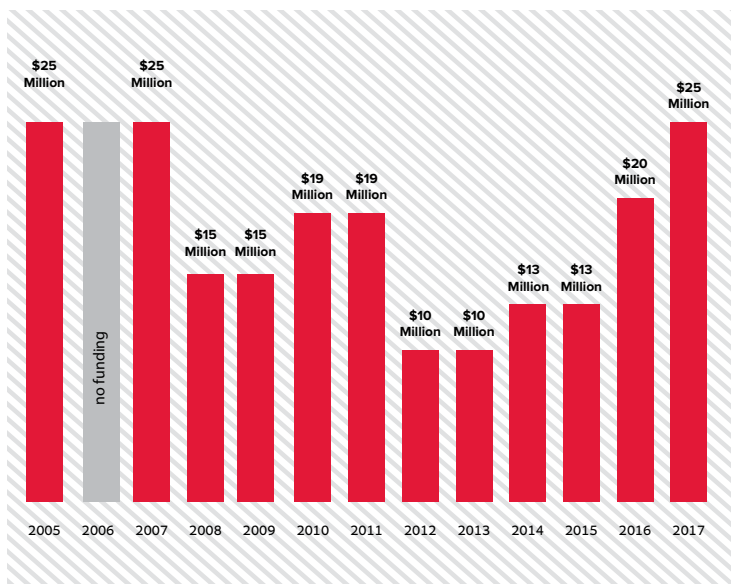
US Representative Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.)

our shul, we were in need of significant funding to make critical improvements to the safety of our congregation," Rabbi Bleicher said.

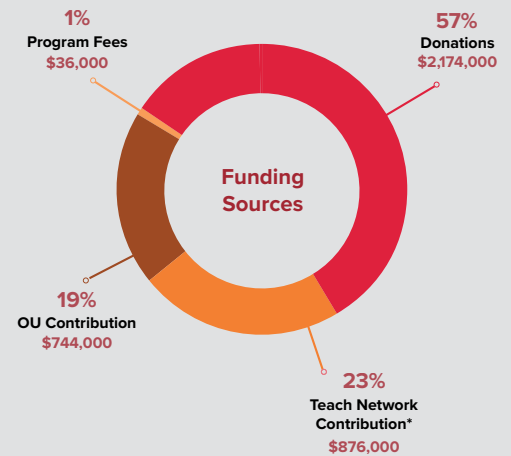
"From bollards and enhanced lighting outside to hardened doors, locks and windows, these improvements would not have been feasible without grant funding," Rabbi Bleicher said. "We thank the OU, specifically OUA Director Nathan Diament, for the years of tireless advocacy in maintaining — even expanding — this critical program for the safety and security of our community."



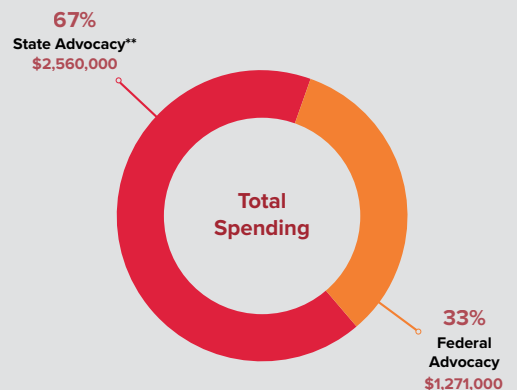
## FEDERAL NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING



## OU Advocacy Financials



**Total Funding: \$3,830,000**



\*Teach Network advocates nationally at the state level. OU Advocacy advocates at the federal level.

### \*\*State Advocacy

|                                 |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| NY: \$1,689,389                 | MD: \$38,813  |
| State Administration: \$110,706 | FL: \$163,242 |
| NJ: \$397,923                   | CA: \$93,866  |
| PA: \$66,110                    |               |

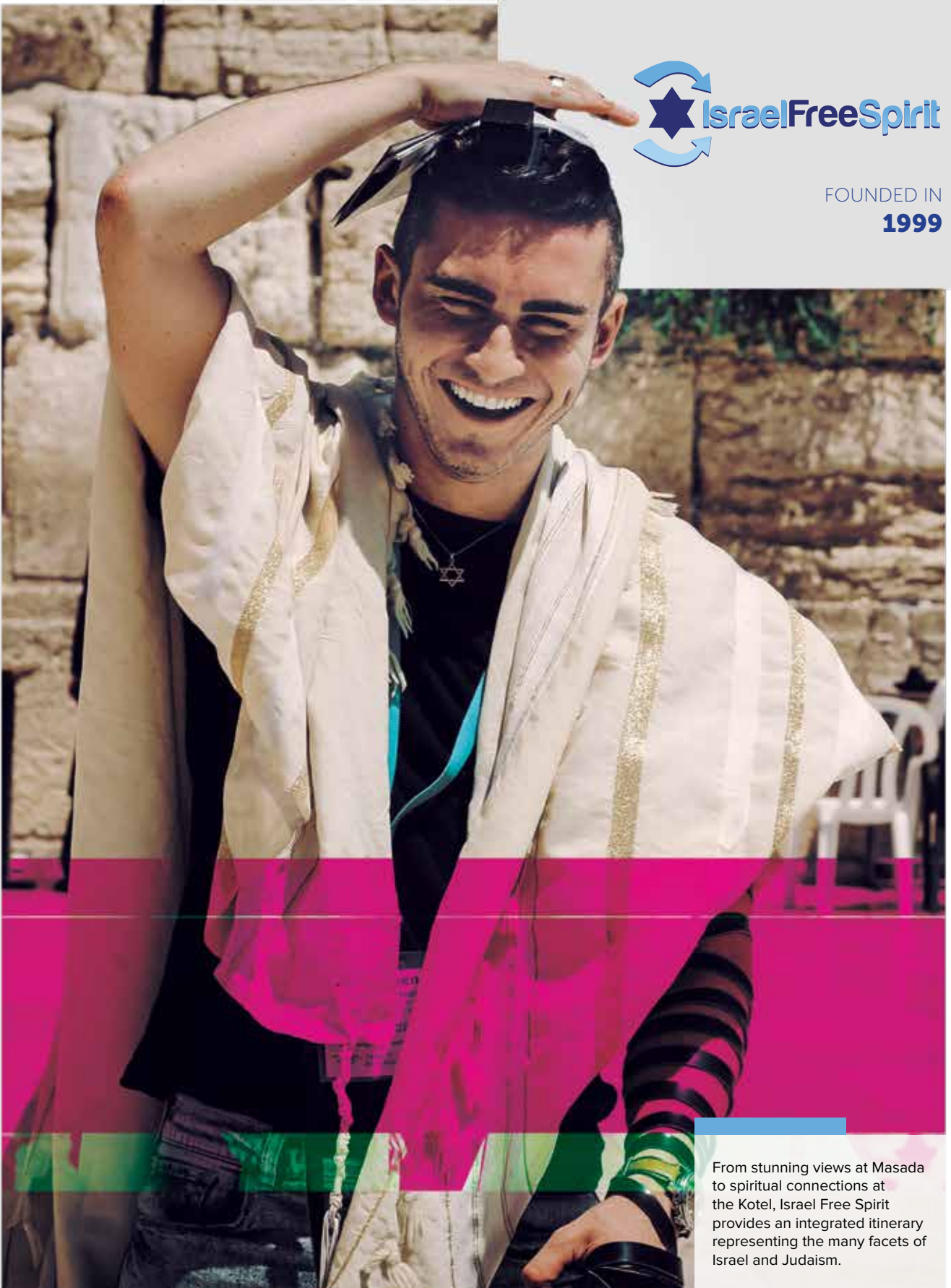
**Total Spending: \$3,831,000**

The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program's financials.





FOUNDED IN  
**1999**



From stunning views at Masada to spiritual connections at the Kotel, Israel Free Spirit provides an integrated itinerary representing the many facets of Israel and Judaism.

# OFFERING AN IMPACTFUL ISRAEL CONNECTION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

» **Israel Free Spirit**, the OU's Birthright Israel program, aims to help keep the global Jewish community relevant, vibrant and growing. In addition to a meaningful Birthright Israel trip, Israel Free Spirit offers Jewish learning opportunities after the program in Israel and back in North America that connect trip participants with their Jewish identity.

## IN NUMBERS

**2,424**

Participants inspired  
on Israel Free Spirit  
trips in 2017

**14,833**

Participants  
since 2010

**825**

Participants had a Bar/  
Bat Mitzvah

**200**

Post-trip  
extensions

Israel Free Spirit participants, who mostly come from unaffiliated backgrounds, explore their Jewish identity for the first time on the trip.

**“ Leading an Israel Free Spirit Birthright trip is like giving a young student glasses to see and connect to their Judaism and Israel for the first time. There is nothing like it in the world.”**

**Devora Jaye**  
Staffer of 12 Israel Free Spirit trips



## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

**“ I never thought a trip across the world would wake a passion inside of me. This trip was the happiest thing I've done in a really long time.”**

**Sydney Cohen**  
Summer 2017 participant

### ISRAEL FREE SPIRIT - BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL TRIP

**Israel Free Spirit** is an official trip provider for Birthright Israel. Every year, Israel Free Spirit provides life-changing trips to Israel for thousands of college students and young professionals from diverse backgrounds, including customized trips catering to NCSY Alumni, Yachad participants, Modern Orthodox applicants and more.

### EXTENDING BEYOND BIRTHRIGHT

Israel Free Spirit offers numerous post-trip extension options, including classes on basic Judaism, unique tours, and housing in the Old City of Jerusalem, with facilities that cater specifically to Israel Free Spirit travelers.



# “ We finally put a face to the Israel story.”

Diana Yusupov  
Israel Free Spirit Summer 2017  
participant



The highlight for many Israel Free Spirit participants is choosing to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, usually held on top of Masada. For many, this represents their first connection to Judaism.

## HAVING A BAR OR BAT MITZVAH IN THEIR 20'S AT MASADA

For OU Israel Free Spirit participants, Masada will be remembered as the place of a moving Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony, in which many participants choose a Hebrew name for themselves and affirm their Jewish identity and unity with the Jewish people.

Many Israel Free Spirit trip participants grew up without any connection to Judaism and weren't given the opportunity to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. It just wasn't an option.

After climbing to the top of Masada, those who chose to celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah stand up in front of their peers one by one and share what this experience means to them. Some participants

declare that they never felt a Jewish connection, never had Jewish friends, and now they have a Jewish family.

For those choosing a Hebrew name, they are asked to declare their new name aloud, accompanied by an explanation of the significance of that name and how it can guide their path forward. “I wanted to learn more about my mother's Hebrew name. My mother passed away when I was four, and that's been very impactful in my life, her Hebrew name was Sara,” shared a participant.

Several participants have been inspired to learn more about Judaism, and some even choose to join the IDF as Lone Soldiers or to make *aliyah*. To many, it is the apex of a life-changing journey.





Every day on the itinerary is packed with activities for a wide range of interests. There's jeeping in the north on winter trips and rafting in the summer.

**“ From this trip  
I learned that  
everyone has the  
power to change  
the world.”**

Ryan Friedman  
Israel Free Spirit Summer 2017 participant

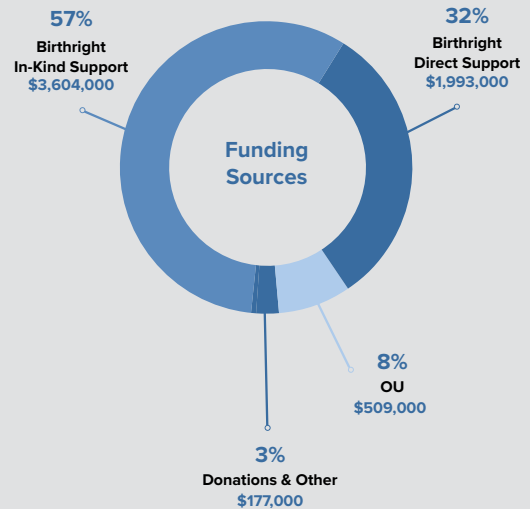
## ISRAEL BROUGHT OUT MY LOVE FOR RELIGION

A day ago, I returned to Ohio from a ten-day Israel Free Spirit trip to Israel. I miss Israel already, and I am looking forward to finding a time to return. I went to Israel with preconceived notions that were totally false. Israel showed me how accepting people can be, Israel showed me how easy it can be to be happy, and Israel showed me that we have a Jewish state for a reason. We may be small, but we sure are mighty.

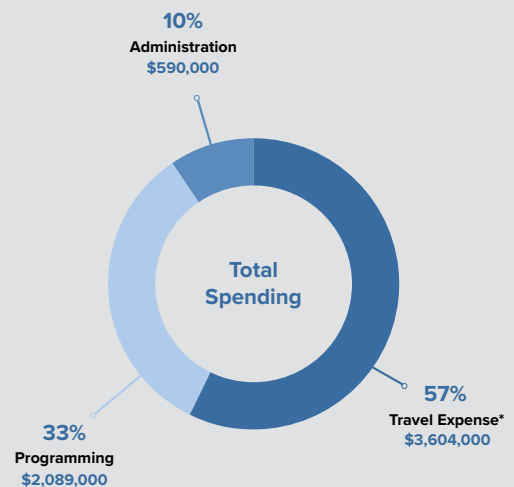
I have always been somewhat embarrassed being Jewish in this society and I have experienced a fair share of anti-Semitism from ignorant individuals. But Israel was magical, it showed me that it doesn't matter what religion you are. You are loved. It brought out my love for my religion. I plan to continue learning about my religion, and I will continue my journey of finding myself in Judaism.

- by Julia M., Summer 2017 participant

## Israel Free Spirit Financials



**Total Funding: \$6,283,000**



\*Travel expense contributed through Birthright in-kind support

**Total Spending: \$6,283,000**

The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program's financials.



# BIRTHRIGHT FOLLOW-UP

FOUNDED IN  
**2016**



To bring the Israeli soldiers who accompanied them on their Birthright Israel trip to North America for a group reunion, Bring Israel Home encourages participants to earn points by completing Jewish and Israel-related activities.

# KEEPING BIRTHRIGHT PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED WITH JUDAISM

» **Birthright Follow-up** offers innovative approaches to transform participants' meaningful Birthright Israel trip into a lifetime connection to Israel and their Jewish identity.

## IN NUMBERS

**25,134**

Jewish activities have been performed this summer alone

**107,855**

Total Jewish activities have been performed on the Bring Israel Home website

**6,204**

People have participated in Bring Israel Home

**750**

Israel Free Spirit Alumni were referred to partner programs

Bring Israel Home reunion participants attend the IAC National Conference in Washington, DC, to meet with influential thought leaders, senior political figures, diplomatic figures, community leaders and prominent journalists.



## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

### BRING ISRAEL HOME—THE POST-BIRTHRIGHT CHALLENGE FOR A REUNION TRIP

What happens after Birthright – after the camels, the Bedouin tents, the impactful Jewish journey – how can participants channel their excitement after they return and remain connected to their Jewish identity?

Enter **Bring Israel Home (BIH)**. BIH is set up as a competition, where groups who recently completed their Birthright trip complete challenges – Jewish and Israel-related activities – to qualify for a reunion trip, where BIH flies in all the Israeli trip participants to the US. Through the BIH website, people can choose from hundreds of activities in areas of Jewish education and experiences, Israel, Shabbat and holidays and culture. On

any given day, Jewish young adults have *chavrutot*, visit Jewish museums and watch inspiring videos.

Last summer, BIH offered the reunion challenge to 2,000 people from 60 Birthright buses who performed more than 25,000 Jewish activities. The goal is to offer BIH to all Birthright Israel participants.

Since its inception with six buses (approximately 280 people), BIH has been growing exponentially, and it's now available to about 3,000 participants each year. To date, there have been 13 reunions, and more will take place this year.





Through the customized Bring Israel Home challenges, Birthright Israel Alumni forge lasting connections with their bus members, the local Jewish community, Israel and Judaism.

## THE MENTORS OF PARTNERS IN TORAH

**Partners in Torah (PIT)** is a one-on-one learning program featuring weekly phone calls with a mentor who is selected based on the participant's profession or another area of interest. PIT is also offered as a challenge on the Bring Israel Home website.

## JERUSALEM U'S FEATURE FILMS

**Jerusalem U** creates and distributes original feature films and film-based educational programs to make Jews feel proud of being Jewish and emotionally connected to Israel.

**“After the Bring Israel Home challenge of culture and attending services, I realize that Israel and Judaism can always have an impact throughout your day.”**

**Ethan**  
Summer 2017 BIH participant



13 Bring Israel Home reunions have been hosted in collaboration with 16 partner organizations. Reunions include meaningful candle-lighting and *havdalah* services.

## BRING BACK SHABBAT

**Bring Back Shabbat** is a program in which Birthright Alumni host Shabbat meals for their peers on college campuses with the goal of making Jewish life more vibrant, inclusive and accessible on any campus in North America.

**7 out of 11**  
Birthright Israel trip organizers already partner with Bring Israel Home to engage their participants when they return from Israel

“ To say the BIH challenge changed my life for the better is no exaggeration: There wasn’t one single event that led me to keep Shabbos, *daven* every day, keep kosher in and out of the home... But the Israel trip, my local community, all the Shabbos invites, the learning programs and certainly the BIH challenge all had a monumental effect.”

Alan Miller  
Summer 2017 BIH participant

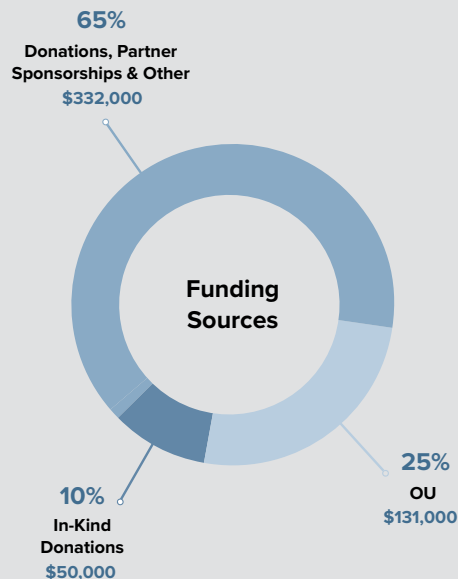
## IDF SOLDIER: I'M INSPIRED BY AMERICAN JEWRY

As a former IDF combat officer who has dedicated four and a half years of my life to the State of Israel, I must point out that before my visit to America, I was very skeptical about the Jewish population living outside of Israel. However, through my journey with **Bring Israel Home**, I have managed to fathom the importance of the Jewish community supporting Israel from abroad. Apart from being greatly inspired by the unique lifestyle of the American Jews, ironically enough, I became even more fascinated by my own culture and religion. The importance of the connection between the Jews living in Israel and those abroad has become very clear to me. I suppose sometimes one must travel far to understand something that is very close. Ever since my exposure to BIH, I have dedicated my time to deepening that bond due to those very experiences. What BIH has managed to create isn't a story to be told or a movie to be watched; it's a full-on experience."

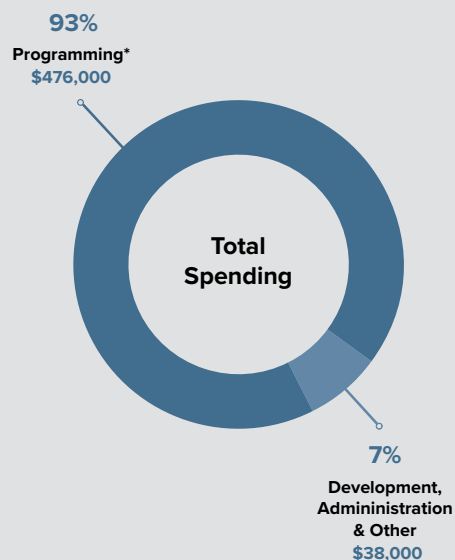
- by Nir Zelig, Summer 2017 BIH participant

**"What BIH has managed to create isn't a story to be told or a movie to be watched; it's a full-on experience."**

## Birthright Follow-up Financials



**Total Funding: \$513,000**



\* Programming includes 50K of in-kind expenses

**Total Spending: \$514,000**

The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program's financials.





Jewish  
Learning  
Initiative  
on Campus



FOUNDED IN  
**2000**



OU-JLIC's programs provide students opportunities to advance their Torah learning on 23 secular college campuses.

# HELPING STUDENTS THRIVE ON CAMPUS

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» Now in its 18th year, the **OU's JLIC (Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus)** is a network of Torah educators spread across 23 campuses in North America and Israel. OU-JLIC strives to advance Torah education and commitment and to provide a spiritual home for Jewish students on campus from all backgrounds.

## IN NUMBERS

**1,422**

Students connected to  
regular Torah learning

**2,509**

Students participated  
in social programs

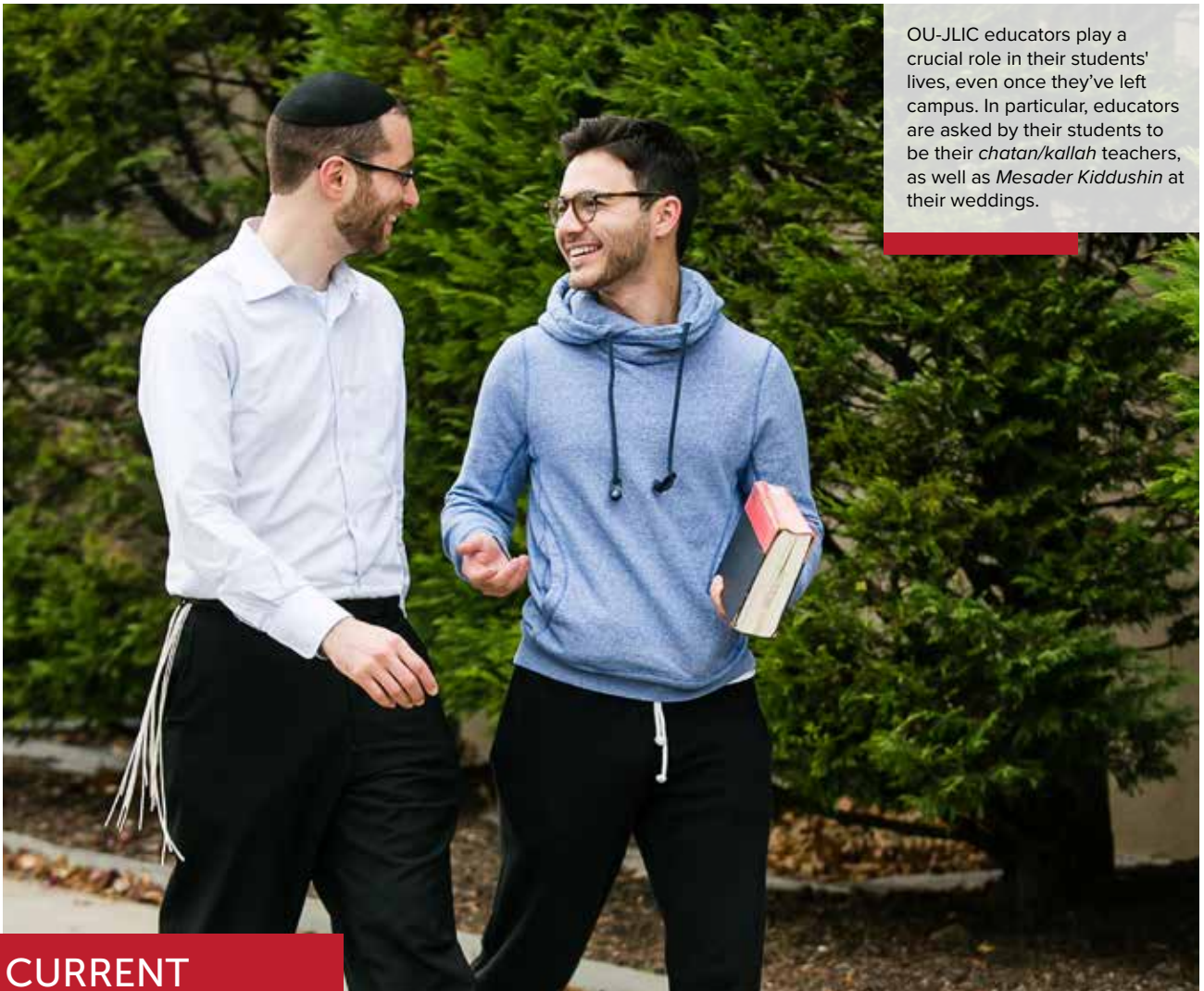
**2,081**

Students received  
counseling from  
educators

**461**

Chavrutot with  
students





OU-JLIC educators play a crucial role in their students' lives, even once they've left campus. In particular, educators are asked by their students to be their *chatan/kallah* teachers, as well as *Mesader Kiddushin* at their weddings.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

**“ They [OU-JLIC educators Rabbi Aryeh and Sharona Kaplan] make me feel like I always have someone to turn to for support in my Judaism.”**

UCLA Student

### COUPLES LEAD ON CAMPUS

A husband-and-wife team of educators leads most of the **Seif Jewish Learning Initiative OU-JLIC** programs. Through their engaging, enthusiastic and welcoming attitudes and perspective, couples present a positive face of Judaism, Israel and religious observance. A married couple's partnership, and the presence of their Jewish family on campus, also show students how to live a joyous Torah, family lifestyle.

### HEART TO HEART CONNECTS STUDENTS

Hundreds of Jewish students share meaningful experiences and relationships with their Jewish peers on campus in the **Heart to Heart (H2H)** network, including weekly Shabbat meals, coordinating intercollegiate Shabbatons and training students to run their own Pesach Seders.





OU-JLIC educators provide their students with *chavrutot* on Jewish texts, as well *halachic* answers to questions that arise while students are on campus.

# 90%

of students said OU-JLIC made a "significant impact" on their Jewish growth at university

**“ I walk around all the time and proudly say that I learn so much Torah at Queens College. I have met so many friends at OU-JLIC events that I would have never met otherwise — girls who have the same passion and drive for learning and Judaism as me. I could never have known that the educators and teachers I was going to meet were going to play such a huge role in my college life.”**

Queens College student

## YAVNEH NETWORK HELPS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Orthodox students face many challenges at secular colleges, from not knowing where to turn for *halachic* advice to dealing with tests scheduled on Shabbat and *Yom Tov*.

That's why the OU introduced a new campus network, Yavneh, a partnership between the OU and the World Mizrahi Movement which will address the needs of Orthodox college students. As part of an effort to help high school students transition to life in college, Yavneh will work closely with other Jewish organizations to create a soft landing for students. Yavneh is committed to developing Jewish student leaders and Torah on campus by creating opportunities for students to grow and impact their campus communities.

- » Yavneh's **Heart to Heart (H2H)** program provides funding for students to host Shabbat meals for Jewish students who would not normally be involved in a Shabbat experience.
- » Yavneh's **Chabura Program** provides students with Torah learning programs and *shiurim* ranging from five minutes to an hour. Since launching at the end of August 2017, more than 300 students have already committed to learning through Yavneh programs.
- » Yavneh's **Fellowship Program** recruited 61 inspired students from 32 campuses around the country to be part of a rigorous leadership development curriculum with weekly assignments, two Shabbatons, an Israel experience and a year-long project to impact their campus community. Some 94 students from 46 different campuses applied the first year. Through these students and their goal of spiritual and religious support, Yavneh will connect thousands of Jews on college campuses and build a movement of students seeking to grow and help others.

## WHAT'S NEW?



OU-JLIC educators provide frequent Torah classes and advise students as they journey through an intense period of personal and religious development.



**EIRUVS THAT OU-JLIC  
HAS BEEN INVOLVED  
WITH CREATING:**

- Binghamton University
- Cornell University
- Johns Hopkins University
- New York University
- Princeton University
- University of Illinois
- University of Maryland
- University of Pennsylvania
- Yale University

**OU-JLIC IS CRUCIAL  
IN MAINTAINING THE  
EIRUV'S KASHRUT AT:**

- Brandeis University
- Rutgers University



**“ Having Corinne [OU-JLIC educator at NYU] as my *kallah* teacher was the best decision I ever made. She explained everything in such a beautiful, sensitive way and even took the time to learn topics beyond *taharat hamishpacha* (family purity) with me, such as hair covering and lighting Shabbat candles.”**

Emma, NYU

## GIVING BACK ON CAMPUS AS COUPLES

**T**hree of the current OU-JLIC couples were so inspired by the couples they encountered on campus when they were students that they became OU-JLIC educators themselves.

### » The Faguets

During law school, Rabbi Nick Faguet realized he was more passionate about Torah than trademarks. He had gained so much from his time at OU-JLIC at UCLA, “I felt almost obligated to pay it forward and inspire others.” His wife Orit was nervous about how she “would fit serious Torah learning into my life at college,” but continued her Jewish education with OU-JLIC.

Now, the couple heads OU-JLIC at Santa Monica College.

“My experiences help direct how I relate to and guide my students,” Rabbi Faguet said. His wife added: “Whenever I look back to my own experience and what OU-JLIC did, it keeps me aware of how vital our work is.”

### » The Kasdans

As OU-JLIC student interns at Brandeis, Sarah and Daniel Kasdan had an opportunity to see “behind the scenes” what daily life looks like for OU-JLIC educators.

“From the outside, it looks like the role of an educator is largely communal, hosting classes and events. But the sheer amount of individual *chavrutot* they would have


in a given week, and all the personal relationships they built, were what showed us how inspiring this work can be,” said Sarah, who together with her husband, Rabbi Kasdan, are OU-JLIC educators at Cornell.

“You really dive into people’s lives at such a pivotal moment when you become an educator on campus,” Sarah said. “We know some of the struggles they face, and we’re also excited to innovate new ideas with our students.”

### » The Najibis

Dr. Rod Najibi is glad he knows how to balance the demands of professional school with a Torah lifestyle. He practices dentistry in Los Angeles, and also serves with his wife Dr. Daniella Najibi as part-time OU-JLIC educators at Western University of Health Sciences.

“Understanding the demands of medical/dental/podiatry school enables me to work around their rigorous schedule and support the students,” he said, noting that his time with OU-JLIC at UCLA inspired him to help others. “I can understand the anxiety one feels before a practical anatomy exam – and that became the perfect ice-breaker at one of our first lunch and learns!” he said. “I really like showing students how compatible Torah life and learning is and how much it can enhance a person’s life.”



Rabbi David and Jenny Eckstein arrived at Johns Hopkins University in the Summer of 2015. Along with their daughter Leora, they enjoy the opportunity to learn with students and be a meaningful part of their lives on campus.

## OU-JLIC CAMPUSES

- Binghamton University
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brooklyn College
- California State University at Northridge
- Columbia University/ Barnard College
- Cornell University
- Greater Toronto
- IDC-Herzliya
- Johns Hopkins University
- Greater Montreal
- New York University
- Princeton University
- Queens College
- Rutgers University
- Santa Monica College
- University of California - Los Angeles
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois
- University of Maryland
- University of Massachusetts
- University of Pennsylvania
- Western University of Health Sciences\*
- Yale University

\*part time

## COLLEGES WHOSE PARTICIPANTS HAVE HOSTED HEART TO HEART SHABBAT DINNERS

- Acadia University In Nova Scotia
- American University
- Baruch College
- Binghamton University
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Cambridge University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Chapman University
- Clark University
- College of William and Mary
- Columbia University
- CUNY City College
- CUNY College of Staten Island
- CUNY Hunter College
- CUNY Medgar Evers College
- CUNY Queens College
- Drexel University
- Durham University
- Florida International University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- Harvard University
- IDC-Herzliya
- Imperial College
- Ithaca College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Johnson & Wales University-Providence
- Lee Strasberg
- Lesley University
- LIU Brooklyn
- Macalester College
- Maida Vale University
- Manchester University
- McGill University
- McMaster University
- Middlesex University
- Mount Allison University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Northwestern University
- Nottingham University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Ohio State University
- Oxford University
- Parsons - The New School for Design
- Pennsylvania State University
- Princeton University
- Queen's University
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rowan University
- Rutgers University - New Brunswick
- St. Andrews University
- St. John's College
- SUNY - Geneseo
- Syracuse University
- The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute
- Towson University
- Tufts University
- University College London
- Université de Montreal
- University at Buffalo
- University of Birmingham
- University of California - Santa Barbara
- University of British Columbia
- University of California - Los Angeles
- University of California - San Diego
- University of Chicago
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Kansas
- University of King's College
- University of Leeds
- University of Maryland - Baltimore County
- University of Maryland - College Park
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Texas - Austin
- University of Toronto
- University of Virginia
- University of Western Ontario
- Washington University in St. Louis
- William Paterson University of New Jersey
- Yale University
- Yeshiva University



MARYLAND



## YAVNEH FELLOW CAMPUSES

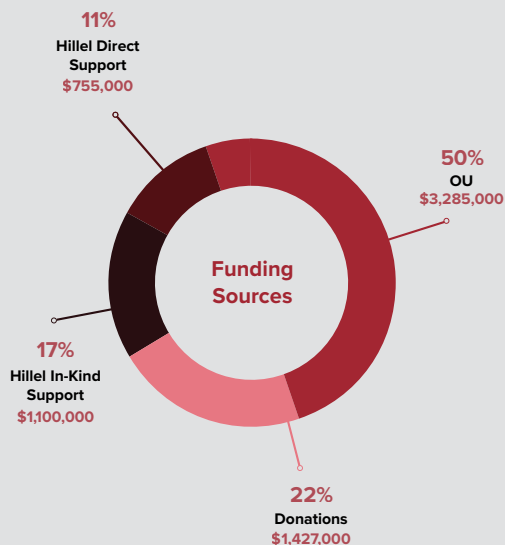
- Arizona State University - Tempe
- Barnard College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Cégep Dawson College
- Columbia University
- CUNY Baruch College
- CUNY Queens College
- Drexel University
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Florida International University
- Florida State University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- LIU Brooklyn
- Muhlenberg College
- New York University
- Stern College for Women
- SUNY - Binghamton
- University of California - Los Angeles
- University of California - San Diego
- University of Chicago
- University of Maryland - College Park
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst
- University of Miami
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Yeshiva University



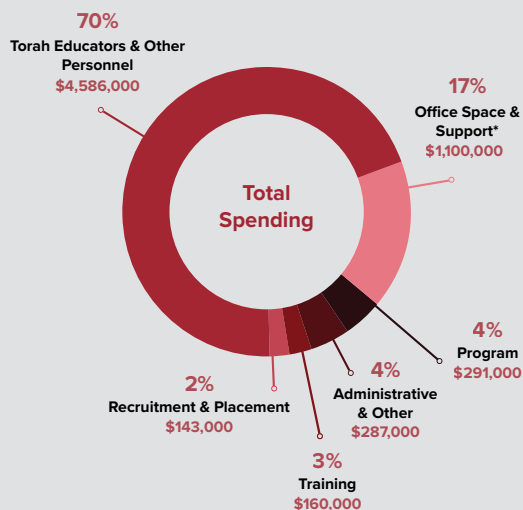
**913**  
unique students  
participated in at  
least one Heart  
to Heart Shabbat  
meal last year

OU-JLIC resources include winter learning programs, summer programs and internships, and campus *halacha* guides.

## OU-JLIC Financials



**Total Funding: \$6,567,000**



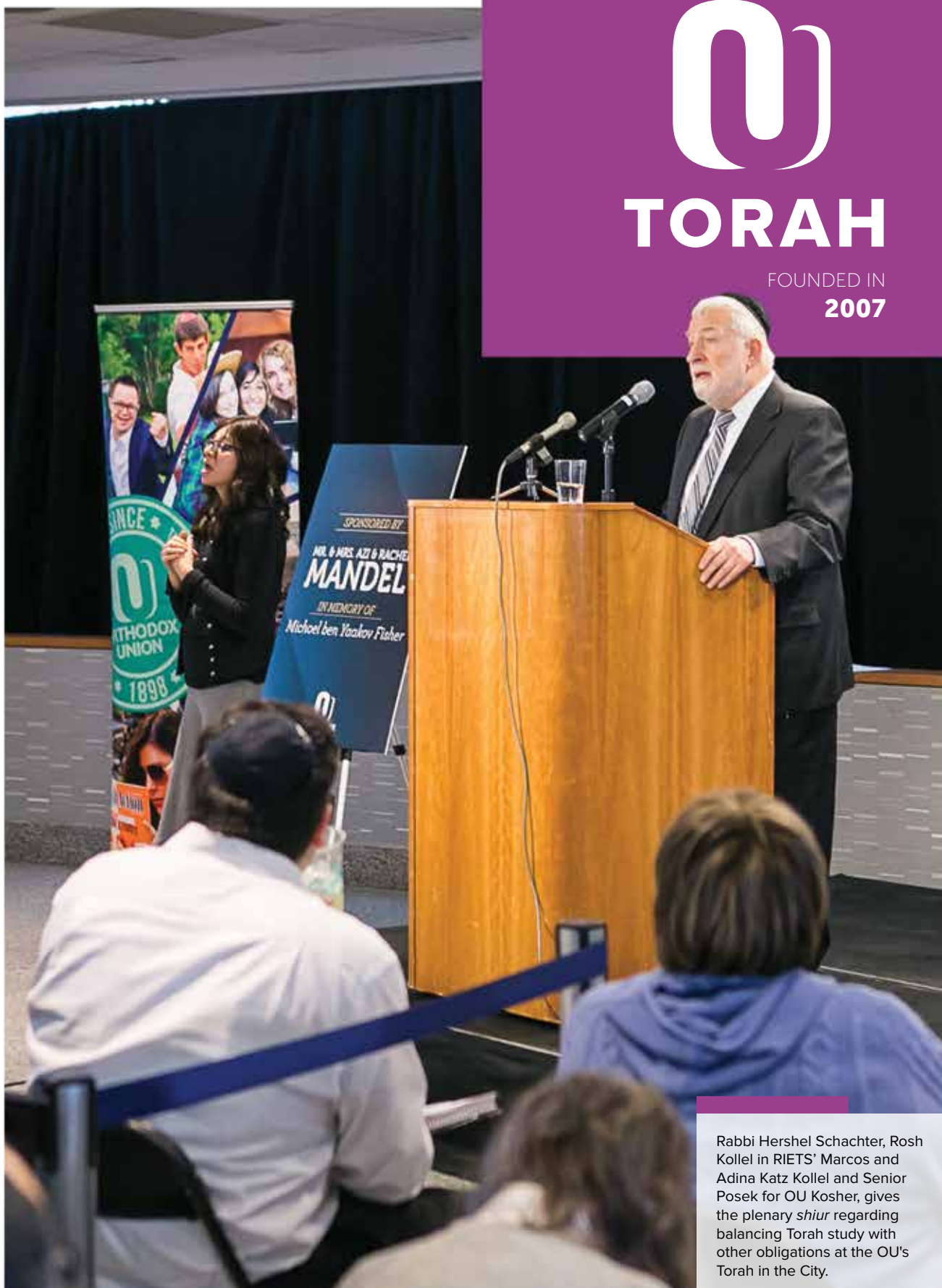
\*Office space & support contributed through Hillel in-kind contribution

**Total Spending: \$6,567,000**

The financial information here includes the total communal impact of OU programs worldwide. In addition, the OU provides significant support for all of its programs through facilities, management and administrative services, e.g. IT, Finance, HR and Communications. Those expenses are not reflected in the program's financials.

# OU TORAH

FOUNDED IN  
**2007**



Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rosh Kollel in RIETS' Marcos and Adina Katz Kollel and Senior Posek for OU Kosher, gives the plenary *shiur* regarding balancing Torah study with other obligations at the OU's Torah in the City.

# MAKING TORAH LEARNING MORE ACCESSIBLE

» **OU Torah** is committed to providing a broad array of Torah study opportunities for both those new to learning and those with many years of proficiency. OU Torah, an online portal with a mobile app, offers myriad topics and teachers in a variety of formats and schedules to maximize user options.

## OU TORAH IN THE CITY SPEAKERS:

- Rabbi Hayyim Angel
- Rabbi Dr. Ari Bergmann
- Chazzan Chaim David Berson
- Mrs. Rookie Billet
- Ms. Raizi Chechik
- Mrs. Avital Chizhik-Goldschmidt
- Rabbi Dovid Cohen
- Rabbi Moshe Elefant
- Rabbi David Fohrman
- Rabbi Menachem Genack
- Mrs. Minna Glick
- Mr. Charlie Harary
- Mrs. Michal Horowitz
- Rabbi Aryeh Lebowitz
- Rabbi Zev Leff
- Rabbi Yaakov Lehrfield
- Rabbi Ahron Lopiansky
- Rabbi Eli Mansour
- Rabbi Ari Marburger
- Rabbi Ilan Meirov
- Rabbi Menachem Penner
- Professor Nechama Price
- Rabbi Yosef Tzvi Rimon
- Rabbi Shalom Rosner
- Rabbi Yonason Sacks
- Rabbi Hershel Schachter
- Rabbi Meyer Schiller
- Mrs. Shira Smiles
- Rabbi Steven Weil
- Rabbi Moshe Weinberger
- Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb
- Rabbi Gideon Weitzman
- Rabbi Mordechai Willig
- Rabbi Yochanon Zweig



# DAF YOMI

## IN-DEPTH RESOURCES

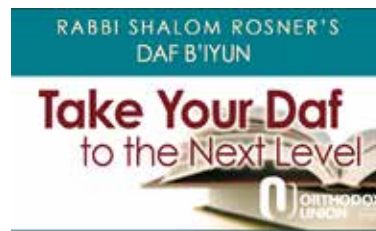
“Over the past few years, I have listened to daf yomi *shiurim* from both Rabbi Elefant and Rabbi Rosner, and they have helped me tremendously to understand those *dapim*. *Baruch Hashem* that the OU makes these resources available to the world.”

Aryeh R.

The OU's Daf Yomi resource section, available on desktop and mobile app, is one of the most comprehensive on the web. Featuring two popular daf yomi teachers, Rabbi Moshe Elefant and Rabbi Shalom Rosner, the OU Torah site also has numerous supplemental daf yomi resources from around the web. Those curated materials include Daf B'iyun, Daf in Halacha from the Bais HaVaad Halacha Center, *Rishonim* and *Acharonim* from Shas Illuminated, point-by-point summaries, quizzes and more.

The study of a daily page of Gemara has become a near-universal means for Jews of all educational backgrounds to connect with higher levels of learning. The OU's myriad daf yomi learning options make the infinite facets of the Gemara available to learners at all levels.

## FROM THE OU:



## CURATED FROM ACROSS THE WEB:



## POPULAR WEEKLY TORAH PORTION SERIES

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The Sages instituted that every Jew review the weekly Torah portion, and OU Torah proudly presents text, audio and video *shiurim* that examine the Torah from all its facets. Popular series include Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks on Parsha, Rabbi Shalom Rosner on Parsha, and Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb on Parsha, plus Shira Smiles, Rabbi Bernie Fox, Harry Rothenberg, OU Israel's Torah Tidbits Audio and many others.

## DAILY TORAH FOR YOUR INBOX

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In order to assist listeners in adhering to daily Torah-study schedules, OU Torah delivers four different series each day directly to thousands of subscribers' inboxes: The OU's Nach Yomi, Shnayim Mikra, Mishna Yomit and Hashoneh Halachos.

## OU HOLIDAYS OFFERS TIMELY INSIGHTS

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OU Torah's sister page, OU Holidays, is the destination of choice for information and inspiration on the *chagim*, from Pesach and the yomim noraim to such contemporary holidays as Yom HaShoah and Yom Yerushalayim. Whether users are looking for how to prepare an *eiruv tavshilin*, the history of Yizkor, or words of encouragement for the Three Weeks, they know to turn to OU Holidays. OU Holidays features many of the same authors and speakers as OU Torah.



The OU's Nach Yomi emails reach almost 3,000 people daily, providing English learning summaries and original perspective on each chapter.

## YOM YERUSHALAYIM TORAH EXPLORATION

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To honor the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification, the OU invited five prominent Torah scholars to share their perspectives on Judaism's religious connection to the Holy City. More than 300 synagogues, schools and other Jewish institutions opted to hear *shiurim* from Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz, Rebbetzin Tziporah Heller, Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter and Rabbanit Shani Taragin.

“ I never had much religious education, so I learned along with my children. We do not live in a Jewish community. I drove my children to Hebrew school every week, getting recordings from the teacher for them to study during the week. I took classes at shul. But all the OU's *divrei Torah* and papers have expanded my knowledge exponentially, and I am now beginning to learn the meaning of the Hebrew words. I am so much closer to *Hashem* and to the Jewish people.”

Virginia P.

## TORAH TAKES THE CITY BY STORM

**B**ack in the day when CDs had just come out, a young man was excited to show his *rosh yeshiva* a CD for learning Gemara. “With this CD, *Rebbe*, everyone will know Torah!” he proudly proclaimed.

The *rosh yeshiva* looked at him and answered emphatically, “With this CD, NO ONE will know Torah!”

We now live in a world way beyond CDs, a world of virtual friendships, virtual classrooms, and even virtual *chavrutot*, where everything is just a click away.

But most Jews still thirst for the real thing -- to learn and teach the way it has been done throughout the ages: transmitted from father to son, mother to daughter, *rebbe* to *talmid*.

That's why the OU offered Torah in the City, a daylong event of face-to-face Torah learning held at Citi Field. Last winter, more than 1,500 men and women from around the New York City metro area attended the dazzling potpourri of *shiurim*, increasing their dedication to religious observance.

**"With this [Torah in the City] event, we begin to expand the OU's outreach to all Jews, emphasizing the importance of Torah study as a means to become closer to G-d."**

**Moishe Bane**  
OU President

Torah in the City offered something for everyone: distinguished male and female Torah scholars and educators at the forefront of contemporary Jewish life delivered 33 sessions. Topics ranged from the spiritual, such as the power of *tefillah*, the sanctity and meaning of *Eretz Yisrael* today, Chassidic thought and *kiddush Hashem*,

to the contemporary, such as healthcare and Jewish law regarding family planning and genetic engineering.

Some of the Yeshiva world's greatest speakers presented, but what made Torah in the City remarkable was the ripple effect brought about by the thousands who attended and were motivated by those inspirational speakers.

“ Your weekly newsletter, articles and podcasts are a breath of fresh air and make me feel connected. I'm proud that you are reaching those of us who are shut in and unable to attend services or take classes in person. I smile every time I read 'Shabbat Shalom' in the subject line and am deeply grateful for all you do.”

Miriam Leah B.





Ms. Raizi Chechik, Head of School at the Manhattan Day School, addresses the crowd regarding Women and Torah Transmission: A Case Study from 19th Century Vilna.



## A PRESS OF OUR OWN

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» **OU PRESS** offers thoughtful and compelling insights on Jewish texts and values. OU PRESS publishes works from great Orthodox Jewish thinkers, including Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau and Dr. Erica Brown.

### IN NUMBERS

44

Titles in the studies of  
Chumash and Tanach

80

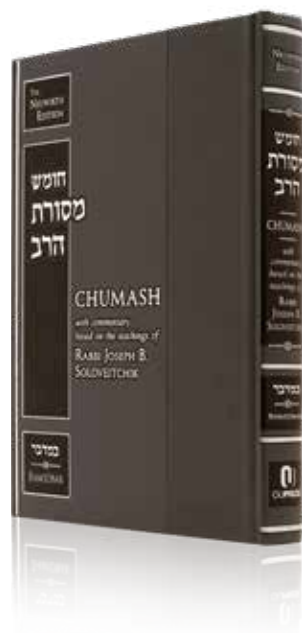
Volumes  
published

35

Rabbi Joseph B.  
Soloveitchik titles

17

*Siddur* and *machzor*  
editions created  
in partnership with  
Koren Publishers

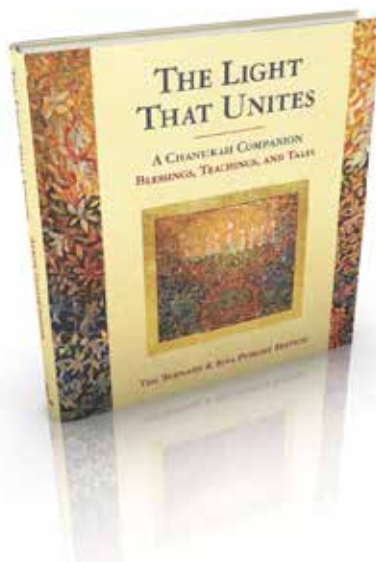


## CHUMASH MESORAS HARAV—SEFER BAMIDBAR—THE NEUWIRTH EDITION

The Chumash Mesoras HaRav Series collects and adapts the writings and teachings of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik to form a seamless commentary that reflects the Rav's intellectual breadth and depth, his exegetical creativity and his timeless insights.

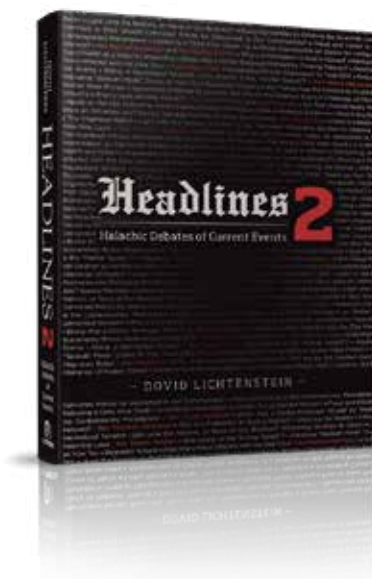
## THE LIGHT THAT UNITES: A CHANUKAH COMPANION

Rabbi Aaron Goldscheider illuminates the themes and customs of Chanukah, with inspirational stories and teachings from esteemed rabbis and sages. Anyone seeking the true spirituality of Chanukah will find a new appreciation for its message of light and unity.



## HEADLINES 2: HALACHIC DEBATES OF CURRENT EVENTS

As with the bestselling first volume of Headlines, Dovid Lichtenstein presents in-depth *halachic* analyses of some of the most vexing present-day issues.







FOUNDED IN  
2013



Students join Teach PA in Harrisburg to thank legislators for educational tax credit scholarship programs. Teach PA is the only Jewish group in the state focused exclusively on increased government funding for yeshivas and day schools.

# SECURING STATE FUNDING FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

» With the tuition crisis presenting the most significant financial challenge for many Jewish families, the **Teach Advocacy Network** works to secure more government support for nonpublic schools. Teach Advocacy lobbies for equitable government funding, tax credit scholarships and education savings accounts to make a difference for Jewish students, families and schools. The network advocates on behalf of yeshivas and day schools in six states: New York, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, Maryland and California, which are home to approximately 90% of yeshiva and day school students nationwide. Each state works to maximize government funding, increase government allocations and garner grants to safeguard Jewish schools.

## IN NUMBERS

**\$85 Million**

for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program in Pennsylvania, providing scholarships for nonpublic school students

**\$307 Million**

for Jewish and other nonpublic schools in New York

**\$40 Million**

for Jewish schools and nonpublic schools in New Jersey

**\$19 Million**

for Jewish schools in Florida

# 90%

of the total students in yeshivas in the United States are represented by the Teach Advocacy Network's efforts



The Teach Advocacy Network facilitates lobbying missions where Jewish day school students visit their state capitol and learn hands-on advocacy lessons.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS ▼

**“Before this experience, I never would have believed that I had the ability to effect this sort of change.”**

**Rena Klein**  
Teach NJS participant

### MAKING DAY SCHOOL AFFORDABLE

Teach Advocacy works to obtain allocations of government funds to support Jewish day schools and yeshivas to reduce costs and make Jewish education more affordable.

### MAXIMIZING GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Teach Advocacy helps schools navigate government programs and applications to make sure they receive the funds they are due. The staff meets with school administrators and boards to review programs and make sure schools receive the federal, state and local funds available to them.

### FINDING FUNDS FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH

New York nonpublic schools may be reimbursed for some of the cost of providing education in the subjects of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), thus easing the tuition burden of a yeshiva or day school education.



# TEACH ADVOCACY NETWORK

## STATE SECURITY HIGHLIGHTS

**\$654,000**

for security at Jewish day schools – the first such grant program in the Sunshine State’s history

**FL**

**\$11 Million**

for New Jersey’s security allocation at nonpublic schools, with increased funding from \$50 to \$75 per student

**NJ**

**\$2 Million**

for security grants at Jewish and other nonpublic schools

**CA**

**\$40 Million**

for security at Jewish and other nonpublic schools, including a new grant program to protect against hate crimes

**NY**

**\$280,000**

in grants to seven Jewish day schools in Pennsylvania to hire police officers

**PA**

**MD**

Passed legislation to authorize the Maryland Center for School Safety to make grants for security-related projects

## ALBANY MISSION RAISES STEM & SECURITY FUNDING

**M**ore than 600 students, teachers and parents across the state — the largest group to ever visit Albany — joined Teach NYS to appeal for STEM (science, technology engineering and math) and security funding.

“I’ve worked in politics a long time, and politicians listen when you make your voice heard,” said Maury Litwack,

Executive Director of Teach NYS. Students and teachers spent the day meeting with legislators such as New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan and Senate Coalition Leader Jeff Klein.

“I aggressively support the religious schools,” said Governor Cuomo. “I’ve given the religious schools in my budget more money than ever before in history. We did that last year, and we’ll do it again this year when we propose even more funding than ever before for the religious schools.”

Founded five years ago, this was the first year Teach NYS successfully advocated for the allocation of STEM funding for nonpublic schools, including Jewish day schools and yeshivas. Security funding saw a giant boost with this year’s allowance rising to \$40 million, up from \$15 million last year. Overall, roughly \$300 million was awarded to nonpublic schools statewide.

**“Our success is directly attributed to the invaluable support of a coalition of schools and yeshivas statewide.”**

Loyal supporters continue to send letters and emails to state legislators to push for additional funding.

“Our success is directly attributed to the invaluable support of a coalition of schools and yeshivas statewide,” said Jake Adler, Teach NYS Director of Government Affairs. “Their daily involvement and commitment to bettering the current state of our youths’ education have enabled us to achieve our goals faster than we could ever hope for.”

WHAT'S  
NEW?



**"I've given the  
religious schools  
in my budget more  
money than ever  
before in history."**

*New York Governor  
Andrew Cuomo*



Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, and Allen Fagin, Executive Vice President of the Orthodox Union, speaking at the Teach NYS 2017 Albany mission. Governor Cuomo has been a steadfast supporter of Jewish schools.



» Teach CA successfully petitioned the California state legislature to allocate more security funding for faith-based institutions. California recently allocated a \$2-million grant for nonprofit organizations to upgrade security in the FY 2018 budget.

» Passage of Safe Schools for All Children Act in New Jersey has increased security funding for nonpublic schools to \$50 per student in FY 2017 and \$75 per student in FY 2018.

» For the first time in Florida's history, \$654,000 was allocated for Jewish school security in 2017, which will help schools across the state strengthen their security in the face of increased anti-Semitic incidents.

# 40%

**of Jewish day school students in Pennsylvania benefit from the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program and the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program**



Governor Rick Scott of Florida greets students at Brauser Maimonides Academy to show support for the Teach Florida Security Bill.



## IMPACT BEFORE & AFTER

Funding has increased from \$572 million between 2008-2012 (before Teach NYS), to \$1.2 billion between 2013-2017 (since Teach NYS began)

**\$572**  
MILLION

2008 - 2012

**\$1.2**  
BILLION

2013 - 2017

## TEACH NYS

### 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

CAP, MSR,  
IMMUNIZATION

**\$217**  
Million

STEM  
FUNDING

**\$5**  
Million

NEW PROGRAMS,  
ENERGY,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND OTHERS

**\$25**  
Million

SECURITY  
FUNDING

**\$60**  
Million

## TEACH CA MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Emek Hebrew Academy
- Gindi Maimonides Academy
- Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy
- Midreshet Shalhevet High School for Girls
- Valley Torah High School
- Yavneh Hebrew Academy
- Yeshiva Rav Isaacsohn/Toras Emes
- YULA Boys High School
- YULA Girls High School

## TEACH FLORIDA MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Beth Emet Elementary School
- Brauser Maimonides Academy
- Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton
- Katz Yeshiva High School
- Rabbi Alexander S. Gross Hebrew Academy
- Torah Academy of Boca Raton
- Yeshiva Elementary School
- Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

## TEACH NJS MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Ben Porat Yosef Yeshiva Day School
- The Frisch School
- Hillel Yeshiva
- Hillel Yeshiva High School
- Ilan High School
- Kellman-Brown Academy
- Lubavitch on the Palisades
- Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls
- Netivot - The Montessori Yeshiva
- Politz Day School of Cherry Hill
- Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva
- Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey
- Shalom Torah Academy
- Solomon Schechter of Greater Monmouth County (Marlboro)
- Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County
- The Moriah School
- Torah Academy of Bergen County
- Yavneh Academy
- Yeshivas Bais Hillel - Passaic
- Yeshivat He'Atid
- Yeshiva of the Jersey Shore
- Yeshivat Noam

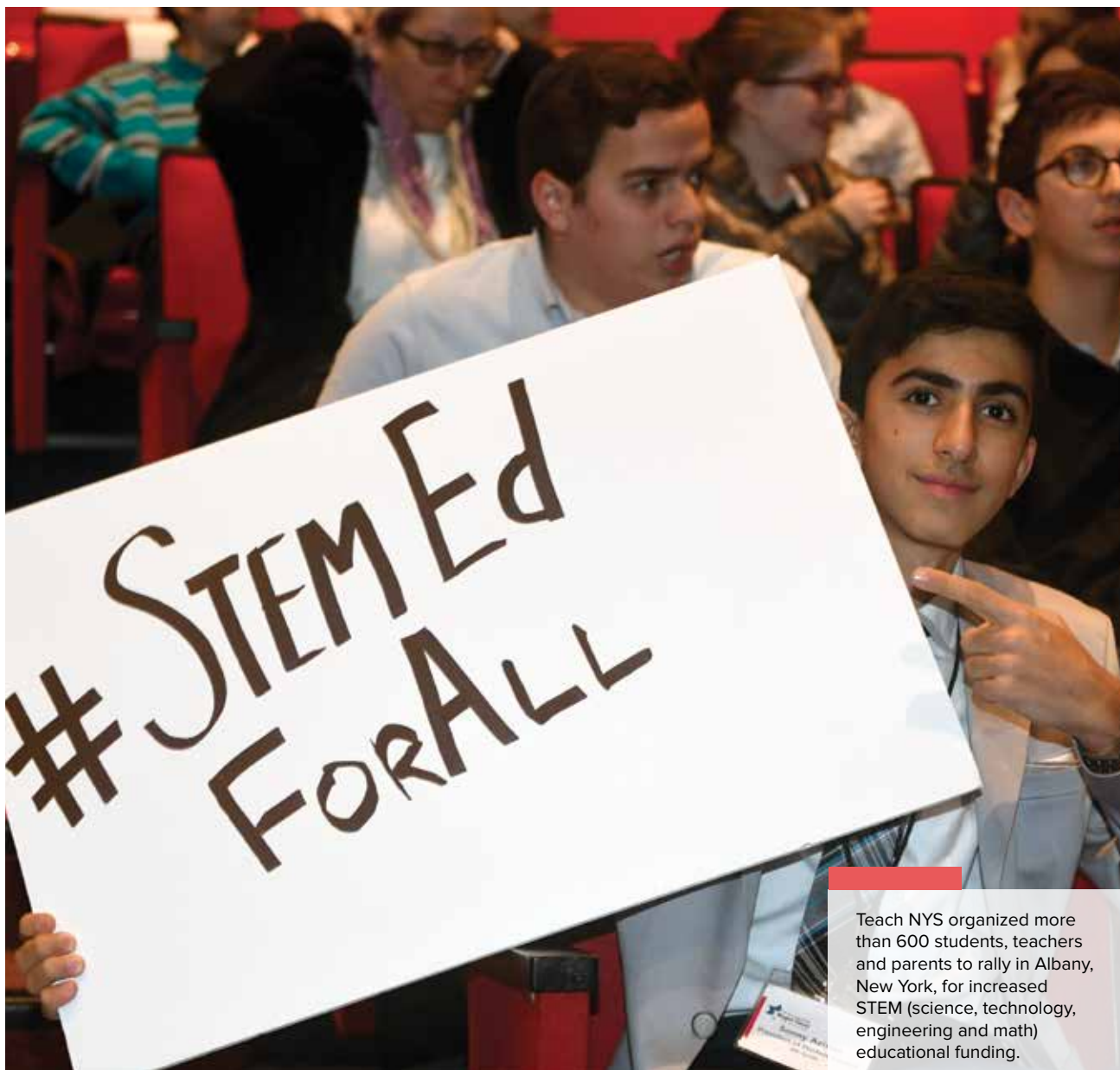
## TEACH NYS MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Adolph Schreiber Hebrew Academy of Rockland (ASHAR)
- Barkai Yeshiva
- Beit Rabban Day School
- Hebrew Academy of Long Beach (HALB)
- Hebrew Academy of Nassau County (HANC)
- Hebrew Academy of the Five Towns & Rockaway (HAFTR)
- IVDU School
- Jewish Foundation School of Staten Island (JFS)
- Luria Academy of Brooklyn
- Magen David Yeshiva
- Manhattan Day School
- Midreshet Shalhevet
- North Shore Hebrew Academy
- Rabbi Jacob Joseph School (RJJ) Boys
- Rabbi Jacob Joseph School (RJJ) Girls
- The Ramaz School
- Rambam Mesivta
- SAR Academy
- SAR High School
- Schechter School of Long Island
- Shulamith School for Girls
- Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan
- Solomon Schechter School of Queens
- Solomon Schechter School of Westchester
- Staten Island Hebrew Academy (SIHA)
- Westchester Day School
- Yeshiva of Flatbush
- Yeshiva of Central Queens
- Yeshivat Darche Eres

## TEACH PA PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- Abrams Hebrew Academy
- Caskey Torah Academy of Greater Philadelphia
- Community Day School of Pittsburgh
- Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh
- Jack M Barrack Hebrew Academy
- Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley
- Kohelet Yeshiva
- Kosloff Torah Academy
- Pereleman Jewish Day School
- Politz Hebrew Academy
- Talmudical Yeshiva of Philadelphia
- The Mesivta High School of Greater Philadelphia
- Silver Academy of Harrisburg
- Yeshiva Schools of Pittsburgh





Teach NYS organized more than 600 students, teachers and parents to rally in Albany, New York, for increased STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) educational funding.

**“ We are building a robust network of schools and parent bodies to work on affordability without sacrificing quality, and hiring top lobbyists to go to bat for our students.”**

**Neil Cohen**  
co-chair of Teach NYS

# FUTURE PROGRAMS

## WHAT'S NEW FOR THIS UPCOMING YEAR? ▼

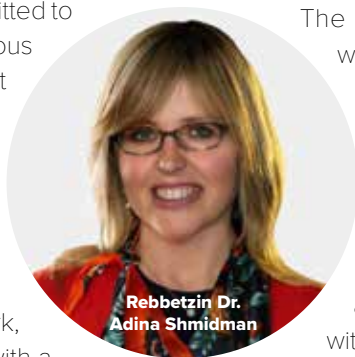
### DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

**I**n order to enhance Orthodox women's engagement in synagogue and community life, the OU has created the Department of Women's Initiatives to coordinate all of the OU's programming for women.

The department will be committed to advancing the spiritual, religious and communal involvement of women at all stages of life and within all segments of the Orthodox community. Rebbetzin Dr. Adina Shmidman, a dynamic community leader for more than two decades in New York, Alabama and Pennsylvania, with a PhD in Educational Psychology and an MS in Education, is the department director.

Department initiatives include fostering leadership roles for women in synagogues and communal life, increasing Torah learning for women and female scholars-in-residence, and engaging teenage girls and youth to

participate in the community. There will also be a focus on women's wellness, synagogue accessibility and mother-daughter relationships. The department will establish a think tank to identify programming for women of every age and marital status.



The department's new programs will be implemented throughout the OU's extensive network of hundreds of synagogues, more than 200 NCSY locations, Yachad's 12 regional chapters and OU-JLIC's 23 campuses, as well as engaging and partnering with local, communal and national institutions.

A substantial budget has been allocated to this new department for salaries, staff and programming in order to create serious opportunities for meaningful leadership and facilitate enhanced religious development for women across the Orthodox world.

**“I’m excited that Dr. Shmidman has agreed to undertake her new role and to shape the OU’s commitment to fostering female Orthodox leadership for the coming decades, and to enhance the religious experience for women across the continuum of Orthodox Jewish life.”**

**Allen Fagin**  
OU Executive Vice President

**“ Given the complexity of the challenges that Jewish communities are facing, I am encouraged by the creation of the OU Impact Accelerator and its potential to provide new solutions and new approaches.”**

**Allen Fagin**  
OU Executive Vice President

## IMPACT ACCELERATOR CULTIVATES ACTIVISM

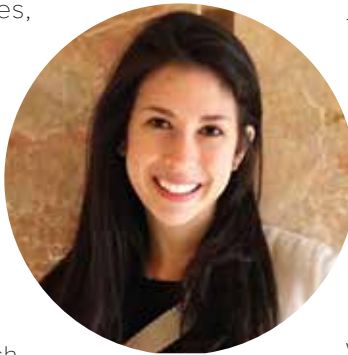
**T**hroughout its long history, the OU has focused on strengthening the Orthodox Jewish community by identifying the community's pressing needs, and crafting solutions to address these needs.

As the world rapidly changes, so too does the nature of the challenges facing the Jewish community; these challenges call for new, innovative and creative approaches.

Accordingly, the OU is launching its Impact Accelerator, created to reach out to, and source solutions from, social entrepreneurs within our community, as we search for the next “big idea.”

The new OU Impact Accelerator will focus on mentorship-based growth for Jewish nonprofit founders. Guided by the principle that business best practices are needed to effectively create sustainable social ventures and scalable social impact, the Accelerator will pair the program's selected founders with successful professionals and mentors.

After completing the initial submission process, those chosen for the Accelerator will receive strategic guidance and support through an 18-month timeline of workshops, funding, consulting, retreats and other resources.



**“ Leveraging our history of building successful programs, I am excited to start working with innovative entrepreneurs to address our communal challenges.”**

**Jenna Nelson Beltser**  
Assistant Director of Innovation

The OU Impact Accelerator expects to attract social entrepreneurs who live in North America and have been operating for at least one year. Applications for participants will open in December 2017. The first cohort will begin in early 2018 with a series of in-person and online learning opportunities.

It is our hope that combining the creativity and grit of social entrepreneurs with the experience of accomplished professionals will be far greater than the sum of its parts. It's expected that the potential synergy, produced

by these new partnerships, will have a meaningful impact on Accelerator participants and the Orthodox Jewish community for years to come, just as the OU's founders and visionaries have had for over 100 years.





## Thank you

for your generous annual support  
of our vital programs, including:

**YACHAD** - Inclusion for people with disabilities

**OU-JLIC** - Supporting Jewish life on college campuses

**NCSY** - Life-changing teen empowerment and inspiration program

**OU ISRAEL** - Outreach to at-risk youth, support for soldiers and olim

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- Educational content, programs, consulting for synagogues and communities

**IFS BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL** - Connecting Jewish youth with their heritage

**BRING ISRAEL HOME** - Connecting the Birthright inspiration to  
everyday life for thousands of trip alumni

**OU ADVOCACY CENTER** - Promoting Jewish interests in the halls of government

**TEACH ADVOCACY NETWORK** - Fighting for Jewish schools to receive fair  
government funding

**OU TORAH** - Providing a broad array of online Torah study opportunities

**OU PRESS** - Publishing insightful and compelling works on Jewish texts



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# CONTACT INFO





## OU

11 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004  
212.563.4000  
info@ou.org  
ou.org

 /OrthodoxUnion  
 /orthodoxunion  
 /orthodoxunion




## OU Kosher

11 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004  
Consumer Hotline:  
212.613.8241  
kosherq@ou.org  
oukosher.org

 /OUKosher  
 /oukosher  
 /OUKosher  
 /user/OUKosher



## OU Israel

22 Rechov Keren Hayesod  
Jerusalem 91370  
02.560.9100  
office@ouisrael.org  
ouisrael.org

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 /OUIsraelCenter  
 /user/OUISRAELChannel




## Jewish Action

11 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004  
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 /JewishAction  
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## OU Advocacy

820 First Street NE  
Suite 730  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202.513.6484  
OUAdc@ou.org  
advocacy.ou.org

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 /ou\_advocacy  
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oucommunity.org

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