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## GRATITUDE FOR LAY LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS

The OU's lay leadership includes numerous men and women who serve as devoted commission and board members.

In addition to their financial generosity, they invest their invaluable time and wisdom advising and encouraging the OU's staff and professional leadership regarding a panoply of initiatives, programs, and communal challenges.

These dedicated, passionate individuals have earned the gratitude of both the OU and the entire community, since all that the OU accomplishes is dependent upon this indispensable partnership.

# n a ame



# COMMITTEES

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The Executive Vice Presidents serve as ex-officio members of all committees and commissions, except the Audit, Nominating, and Board Resource Committees.

The OU President is an ex-officio member of all committees and commissions, except the Nominating and Board Resource Committee.

\* Deceased

\*\* Committee / Commission Chair

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# באש אתה עתיד לבנותה

# **BUILDING OUR FUTURE WITH PASSION**

Klal Yisrael does not sit back.

Avraham defined our path of service to each other and to the world as he waited at the door of his tent, intently scanning the horizon for the next opportunity to make a difference, to share material support and kindness with strangers and to teach them the way of G-d.

This OU Impact Report demonstrates vividly how this spirit of Avraham—the fire in the belly to serve man and G-d—is alive and well in Klal Yisrael. At the Orthodox Union we are privileged to experience a constant rush of the best of the social and spiritual entrepreneurship that is the hallmark of our people. Complacency has no place here. Our teams across all departments are constantly dreaming of ways to develop, deepen, and advance the level of material service and religious uplift we offer. You, our generous investors, have eagerly and inspiringly helped us to achieve those constantly expanding visions of Torah and *chessed*. And every single week, community members with that same fire in the belly reach out to us with their version of Klal Yisrael's next "big idea."

We are privileged to spend our days at the center of this incredible and dizzying enterprise known as the Orthodox Union. Our trademark and standard-setting role as the world's largest kosher certifying agency has enabled us to build the foundation for the OU's myriad efforts to assist and uplift every portion of our community. And while that foundation is finite, it serves as the basis for your investment in our expanding and potentially limitless efforts and impact.

You, our generous investors, have eagerly and inspiringly helped us to achieve those constantly expanding visions of Torah and *chessed*.

It is our commitment to do our part to meet Klal Yisrael's most pressing needs, to represent Klal Yisrael to itself and to others, and to profoundly enhance the relationship of Klal Yisrael to Torah and Mitzvot.

It is our commitment to do our part to meet Klal Yisrael's most pressing needs, to represent Klal Yisrael to itself and to others, and to profoundly enhance the relationship of Klal Yisrael to Torah and Mitzvot. But we need your help. We need your ideas, we need your investment, and—most of all—we need you and the fire in your belly to serve man and G-d.

צרכי עמך מרובים; the needs of the Jewish people are boundless. But so are our energy and drive. We feel privileged to join you at the פתח האהל, scanning the horizon for the next opportunity to act for the benefit of Klal Yisrael. We pray that HKBH grant us all the life, wellness, strength, and resources to accomplish that.



MOISHE BANE President



**RABBI MOSHE HAUER** Executive Vice President



**RABBI DR. JOSH JOSEPH** Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



# PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

The OU Advocacy Center is the nonpartisan public policy arm of the OU that advocates on behalf of the Orthodox community nationwide. Through its federal advocacy in Washington, D.C., and in state capitals, the OU Advocacy Center advances the values and interests of our community and ensures that Klal Yisrael thrives.

\$5.5B in COVID-19 relief for all Jewish and other nonpublic K-12 schools

# \$1**8**0M

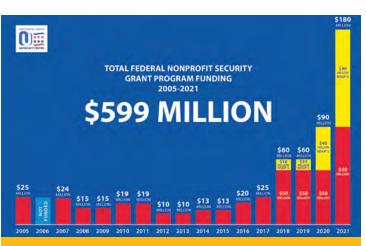
for security for day schools, synagogues, and other nonprofits through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program—a 100% increase from 2020

# \$599M

cumulative funding OU Advocacy has helped secure year after year for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program since 2005 to protect day schools, synagogues, and other nonprofits

### KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE AGAINST ATTACKS

Ensuring our schools, synagogues, and other foundational community institutions are safe from the threat of terrorist attacks is paramount to the OU Advocacy Center (OUA). In 2021, OUA successfully worked with elected officials to increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which provides grants to day schools, synagogues, summer camps, and other nonprofits, and is currently working to increase this allocation to \$360 million for 2022.



As attacks against Jews soared nationwide, OU Advocacy helped double FY 2021 funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

## **COVID-19: FIGHTING FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

### **SECURING \$5.5 BILLION FOR SCHOOLS**

Throughout the pandemic, the OU Advocacy Center worked tirelessly with bipartisan lawmakers in Congress to ensure federal relief provided billions of dollars for America's Jewish community and charitable organizations nationwide to weather the economic hardships wrought by COVID-19. That included \$5.5 billion specifically for Jewish and other nonpublic K-12 schools.

### Provisions secured for our community in 2020-21 include:

- Expanding the availability of forgivable loans under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to nonprofit charities that employ more than 500 people, including large Jewish day schools that weren't initially eligible for PPP funds, and obtaining a second round of the loans (which nonprofits could access)
- Ensuring that the maximum amount of PPP funds were available for synagogues and schools
- Dramatically expanding the federal Child Tax Credit
- Extending unemployment insurance support and the Employee Retention Tax Credit
- Providing funding for COVID-19 vaccine distribution and testing
- Increasing funding for food assistance

The New York Times

Tucked into the \$1.9 trillion pandemic rescue law is something of a surprise coming from a Democratic Congress and a president long seen as a champion of public education—nearly \$3 billion earmarked for private schools. Jewish leaders in New York have long sought help for their sectarian schools...

OU Advocacy Center Executive Director Nathan Diament with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. The agency administers the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which OUA helped create 16 years ago.

### The New York Times

The pandemic relief bill includes \$2.75 billion for private schools. How it got there is an unlikely political tale, involving Orthodox Jewish lobbying, the Senate majority leader and a teachers' union president.

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School buses for a private school in Brooklyn last year. The Orthodox Jewish community in New York City lobbied Senator Chuck Schumer to add funding for private schools to the stimulus package. Spencer Platt/Getty Images

'In emergency contexts, whether they're hurricanes, earthquakes, or global pandemics, those are situations where we need to all be in this together,' [Diament] said. 'Those are exceptional situations, and that's how they should be treated.'

–OU Advocacy Executive Director Nathan Diament, commenting on the relief package, as quoted in *The New York Times* 

# SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING ISRAEL

OU Advocacy works to support the security and welfare of the State of Israel and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. When the Biden Administration allocated \$235 million in aid to the Palestinian Authority (and other entities that support the Palestinians), OUA sent a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and had virtual meetings with senior State Department and White House officials, expressing concern for U.S. aid that undermines the goals of peace and security and supports Palestinian intransigence and anti-Israel animus.

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS



Meeting with U.S. Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) as part of OU Advocacy's Unite and Advocate Campaign.



Meeting with U.S. Representative Lee Zeldin (R-NY) as part of OU Advocacy's Unite and Advocate Campaign.

## UNITE AND ADVOCATE: NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT ANTISEMITISM

When Israel faced a sudden and unrelenting bombardment of rockets fired from Gaza by Iran-backed Hamas in May 2021, many in Congress—some of whom represent our communities failed to solidly stand up for Israel's right as a sovereign nation to act in self-defense. As we then witnessed a surge in violent attacks on American Jews nationwide, many elected officials were either complacent or very slow to denounce these anti-Jewish attacks.

To address this lack of action, OUA launched its "Unite and Advocate" campaign, organizing meetings between members of the Orthodox Jewish community and their elected representatives in Congress. During these many sessions, OU community members and activists pressed for the denunciation of anti-Jewish violence in the United States and for concrete steps to bolster Jewish community security.



OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Moshe Hauer speaks at the FBI Newark Division/Field Office's August 2021 launch of a national hate crimes awareness campaign that OU Advocacy helped facilitate to increase reporting of antisemitic attacks. (Photo courtesy FBI)

## OU JOINS NATIONAL VIRTUAL RALLY TO COMBAT ANTI-JEWISH ATTACKS AND VITRIOL

Responding to the surge of attacks perpetrated against Jews across the United States following Hamas's attacks on Israel in May, the Orthodox Union united with the Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Federations of North America, and other Jewish organizations to co-sponsor a virtual Day of Action Against Antisemitism on May 27. OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Moshe Hauer, who delivered the opening prayer, joined a vast array of Jewish communal and other faith leaders, celebrities, and top-ranking elected officials to denounce antisemitism and highlight the importance of taking steps to ensure the safety of America's Jews. The rally came just after meetings between OU Advocacy Executive Director Nathan Diament and the White House and Department of Homeland Security to discuss recommendations to raise awareness of—and put a stop to—antisemitism nationwide.

## PRESSING THE WHITE HOUSE TO ACT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

In May 2021, OUA joined with other major Jewish organizations to ask President Biden to take steps to address the surge in antisemitic attacks in the aftermath of Hamas's attacks on Israel, and to implement the following:

- Appoint an Ambassador at Large to monitor and combat antisemitism, which came to fruition shortly thereafter
- Combat antisemitism on college campuses by preserving the 2019 Executive Order on Combating Antisemitism
- Reestablish and fill the position of White House Jewish Liaison, another request that was soon fulfilled
- Hold a White House-convened conversation on antisemitism that includes stakeholders from the Jewish community, as well as key officials from the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and the FBI
- Additionally, OU Advocacy Executive Director Nathan Diament met with top administration officials and key federal agencies to discuss the threats against America's Jews and urge a multipronged approach to address antisemitism

The positive impact of the OU Advocacy Center for our community was more profound than ever in the past year. **OUA delivered COVID-19** relief funds to schools and shuls, expanded the legal protections for our religious rights, obtained essential funding for security grants to keep us safe, supported the State of Israel, and fought the wave of growing antisemitism. OU Advocacy makes a difference in the most important ways.

–OU Advocacy Chairman, Jerry Wolasky

### **OU ADVOCACY CENTER FINANCIALS**

## IN THE SUPREME COURT: A MAJOR WIN FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

At the conclusion of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020–21 term, the high court handed down a consequential ruling that upheld fundamental constitutional protections for religious liberty. The 9–0 decision in the case of *Fulton v. the City of Philadelphia* held that Philadelphia violated the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause by conditioning a Catholic social welfare agency's ability to participate in the city's foster care system on the agency taking actions that directly contradict its religious beliefs.

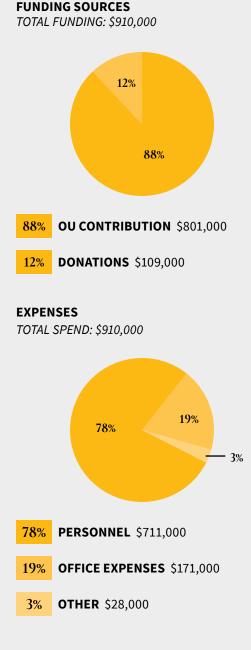
Ahead of the ruling, the Orthodox Union joined with other major American religious groups to urge the Supreme Court, through a "friend of the court brief," to uphold religious liberty in this case.



OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Moshe Hauer and OU Advocacy Executive Director Nathan Diament meet on Capitol Hill with U.S. Sens. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and James Lankford (R-OK), co-founders and cochairs of the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism.

## NEW FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM TO HELP SCHOOLS AND SHULS UPDATE AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

OUA led the reintroduction in Congress of the Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act, which would create a \$50 million pilot grant program to support shuls, day schools, and other nonprofits in making energy efficiency improvements to their buildings. OUA and its allies crafted this legislation and worked with legislators to build support for its passage as part of the larger infrastructure package Congress is currently considering.



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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.



# ADVOCATING FOR DAY SCHOOLS AND YESHIVOT

### **RECORD-BREAKING FUNDING**

Masks, quarantines, and plexiglass did not deter Jewish day schools and *yeshivot* from operating at full capacity this past school year, whether in person or remotely.

Teach Coalition paved the way to help our schools and families operate at full strength, and take complete advantage of state and federal government funding throughout the year. Our advocacy for groundbreaking state funding of STEM teachers, school security, state-mandated scholarships, government grants, and CARES Act funding brought in record government funding to Jewish schools in 2021.



## FIGHTING FOR MORE SCHOOL SECURITY FUNDING TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

As antisemitic incidents rise around the country, Teach Coalition's efforts to increase government resources to secure Jewish institutions are a top priority. In addition to maintaining vital security programs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Teach Florida championed an increase in security funding and for the first time, schools can use these funds for security guards. In New York, Teach Coalition successfully advocated to include cybersecurity upgrades as an allowable use following cyberattacks on Jewish schools in Long Island.



Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) security guard on duty protecting students and faculty.



### **INCREASING STEM FUNDING FOR TEACHERS IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY**

Teach Coalition ensured the continuity of a groundbreaking STEM funding program for New Jersey day schools and *yeshivot*. Participation in the program grew over 300% in year two (2021), and schools throughout the state are lining up to participate in year three. Teach NYS lobbied for a major increase in STEM funding, growing the program from \$30 million to \$40 million. One hundred and thirty New York day schools and *yeshivot* received \$4.5 million in reimbursements for STEM teachers.

## HELPING SCHOOLS MAXIMIZE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Teach Coalition's government maximization team ensures that our schools successfully apply government funding programs available to them. The team offers a series of services to Teach Coalition member schools, including grant writing and review, reimbursement claims, and more.



Students at Kushner Academy participating in a STEM lesson.

\$45M 6,000 150+

increased STEM funding for nonpublic secular education in New York and New Jersey

Jewish day school and yeshiva students received scholarships in Pennsylvania and Florida

Teach Coalition member schools opened for in-person instruction despite the pandemic's challenges

## TEACH AMBASSADOR NETWORK: SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY

Today, more than 250 lay leaders are Teach Ambassador Network members who are building strong relationships with key elected officials in their state. These connections are vital to Teach Coalition's advocacy efforts. Elected officials are invited to visit schools, participate in events, and even enjoy a Shabbat meal. These high level, personal relationships ensure that elected officials appreciate our community and the need for well-funded, safe and strong nonpublic schools.

"Being a part of the Ambassador Network has opened my eyes to the difference I can make in my own backyard. My relationships with elected officials proved to be vital over the past few months. With schools in our area opening, closing, and then reopening again, I engaged with elected officials about our communities' needs and they were so thankful to have that insight."

-Tzippy Schwartz, Teach NYS Network Member, Lawrence, NY

"When you see reports that show how much money schools have been able to get since Teach Florida started and you look at a school's budget, you see that because of this funding, a school has good fences or more guards on site. That doesn't come from hours and hours of volunteer work; that comes from someone like me receiving an email from Teach, then sharing it with people who care about it."

-Jeni Chokron, Senior VP of First Horizon Bank, Teach Florida Network Member





Teach NYS activist Zev Safran escorting Assemblymember Nathalia Fernandez on a school visit at SAR Academy in Riverdale, NY.

From left to right: Jill Ellman, Teach NYS Regional Field Director; Assemblymember Nathalia Fernandez; Rabbi Bini Krauss, SAR Head of School; Zev Safran, Teach NYS activist

# TEACH COALITION ACTIVISTS

### **GETTING OUT THE VOTE MATTERS**

Whether it's voting, reaching out to elected officials, or broadcasting our messaging, Teach activists make our voice heard with governors, state legislatures, local elected officials, and our community.

Thousands more people joined the Teach movement and our voter rolls this year, and we see the results! Voter turnout in the 2021 NJ primary election and NY mayoral primary exceeded that of the general community. Despite state budget woes due to the pandemic, Teach activists helped pave the way for record government funding in many of our states and breakthrough expansions in state scholarship and STEM programs in Florida and New York.

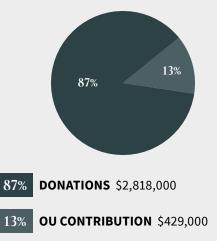
Ready to stand up for Jewish schools and *yeshivot*? Join the movement at **www.teachcoalition.org/join**.



### **TEACH COALITION FINANCIALS**

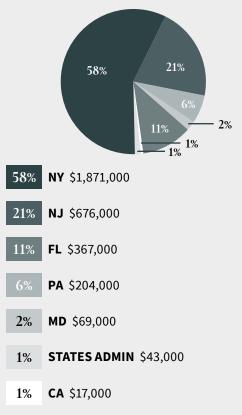
### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$3,247,000



### EXPENSES

TOTAL SPEND: \$3,247,000



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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.



# CALCULATING OUR IMPACT

### AND UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMUNITY

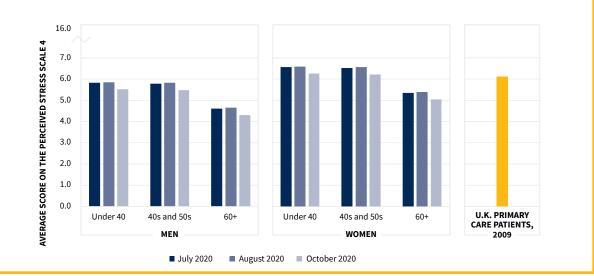
The Center for Communal Research evaluates the OU's impact on the communities it serves while producing actionable insights and growth opportunities for the organization's professional staff. Our research also helps inform the OU's larger strategy, ensuring that impact is at the core of our endeavors.

"The Center for Communal Research seeks to model the importance of incorporating data collection into our community's decision-making processes."

-Yehuda Neuberger, Commission Chairman

### **IDENTIFYING THE EFFECT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

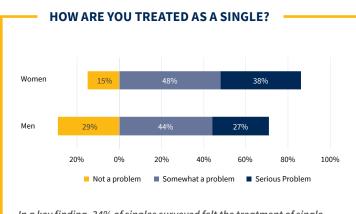
The Center has completed several important studies, including the COVID-19 Community Portrait Study, which measured the pandemic's impact on Orthodox Jews in four communities throughout the United States. Findings were used to help direct OU initiatives. In particular, the Center learned that it was younger women, not older adults, who were most affected—in terms of mental and emotional health—by the coronavirus pandemic.



### YOUNGER WOMEN WERE MOST AFFECTED BY THE PANDEMIC

# ILLUMINATING THE EXPERIENCES OF SINGLE ORTHODOX MEN AND WOMEN

The Center's Shidduch Crisis Study brings the voices of single Orthodox men and women to the fore, explaining what they are seeking in a spouse, how they date, how they feel, and what they want from the Orthodox community.



In a key finding, 34% of singles surveyed felt the treatment of single men and women was a serious problem in their communities. Women were more likely than men to perceive their treatment as a problem.

### **COLLABORATING WITH PEW**

Dr. Michelle Shain, assistant director of the Center, served as an advisor to the Pew Research Center for their influential study, Jewish Americans in 2020.

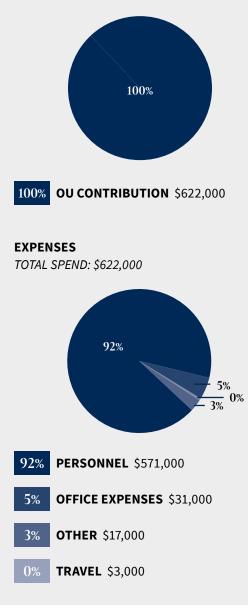


Dr. Michelle Shain addresses religious polarization throughout the Jewish community at a Pew presentation hosted by the Orthodox Union.

# OU CENTER FOR COMMUNAL RESEARCH FINANCIALS

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

TOTAL FUNDING: \$622,000



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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.



# COMMUNITY PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

The Department of Community Projects & Partnerships works to enhance Jewish communal life on a national scale by strengthening community leaders, organizations, and infrastructure; by confronting ongoing communal challenges; by responding to crises and natural disasters; and by empowering change through education, bringing Torah values to life. The department reaches these goals by connecting and collaborating with Jewish lay leaders and industry experts.





## STRENGTHENING PARENTS, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

Recognizing the importance of the health of the family unit to the health of the entire Jewish community, the OU has built an educational and experiential framework to guide parents in their irreplaceable roles in the lives of their children. Partnering with experts in the field, the Empowered Parenting Initiative focuses on the importance of the home environment and how parents model their values.

The initiative includes research-based programs that will be evaluated, and where appropriate, replicated and scaled throughout the country.

The first year of this initiative has successfully launched in pilot cities. Led by professionals, courses include Guiding Good Choices, a curriculum from the University of Washington's Center for Communities that Care; The Digital Citizenship Project, which teaches parents how to best interact with technology, ensuring a safe online experience; and the Healthy Habits Hub, which encourages modest changes that families can make to create positive results.

# LIVING SMARTER JEWISH: FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Providing the Orthodox community with financial education, practical tools, and coaching, Living Smarter Jewish works to create a pathway toward a healthier financial future for our families and community. The focus includes:

- The Torah value of living responsibly and within one's means
- Platforms to help individuals take control of their finances and achieve financial literacy
- Financial literacy curricula for Yeshiva day schools and parents
- Coaching to help with family budgeting

## **GROWING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES**

### ON THE ROAD WITH THE COMMUNITY FAIR

In this audio series, created in partnership with OU's International Jewish Community Home & Job Relocation Fair, radio hosts Nachum Segal and Miriam L. Wallach interviewed leaders of 34 communities representing 14 states as part of "Road Trip." The series provided a look at the opportunities and amenities of "out-of-town" Orthodox Jewish communities for those interested in moving.

### LEADERSHIP SEMINARS: GROWING COMMUNITY

A new series of webinars for community leaders focuses on promotion, marketing, and other necessary strategies to help grow and strengthen local communities while preparing for the upcoming Virtual Community Home Relocation Fair.



Rabbi Chaim Loike, Rabbinic Coordinator, OU Kosher, shows a live bird at the SPIRIT program, "Behind the Scenes: How the OU has Spearheaded the Preservation of the Mesorah of Kosher Birds."



# FOCUS ON RETIREES:

### SPIRIT: STAYING INSPIRED

The SPIRIT Initiative—begun in 2013 for active retirees, empty nesters, and baby boomers-has seen tremendous growth in participation and engagement over the last year in its online weekly programs. With 6,000 participants from 35 states and 19 countries, SPIRIT has offered over 100 virtual programs on topics ranging from mental health, nutrition, memory enhancement, Jewish history, kashrus, finance, and more.

### **HELPING FAMILIES** DURING PESACH

Supporting needy families in the community during the Passover season, the 2021 Maos Chitim Campaign allocated \$330,000 of donated funds to 77 organizations across the country.

### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

In partnership with 15 organizations throughout the United States, the OU highlighted Mental Health Awareness Month. This included resources to help parents have an open dialogue with their children, as well as to help people navigate COVID-19 and domestic abuse.

## **BRINGING VACCINATIONS TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

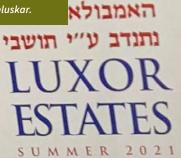
After convening a discussion between leading vaccine experts and our *poskim*, and as an extension of OU's original guidance about vaccinations in December 2020, the OU partnered with community rabbonim, leaders, and organizations such as JOWMA to create a national vaccine education and awareness campaign. In addition to the national campaign, the OU mobilized local efforts including partnering with Hatzalah for a vaccination day in Brooklyn, helping hundreds of people to get vaccinated.

### **ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS** MONTH

CCSA INC.	PROJECT AMUDIM
CHAI LIFELINE	RCA
THE DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP	RELIEF
PROJECT	SHALOM TASK FORCE
MAGEN YELADIM	
INTERNATIONAL	SOVRI HELPLINE
MASK	YESHIVA
OHEL	UNIVERSITY
	NATIONAL COUNCI
OUR PATH	OF YOUNG ISRAEL
PENIMI	

OUNCIL SRAEL

Rabbi Simon Taylor, National Director of Community Projects & Partnerships, volunteered at a vaccination drive in Brooklyn at Hatzalah headquarters with pharmacist Ambar Keluskar.



לעילוי נשמת שלמה יהודה בן אברהם יעקב ז"ל

19102

## THE ORTHODOX UNION FAMILY RELIEF MISSIONS

### PRIORITIZING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

In the summer of 2021, the OU launched family Relief Missions in conjunction with NCSY's Teen Relief Missions to provide families with volunteer opportunities to strengthen the bond and build trusting relationships between parents and children. These hands-on leadership experiences help children build confidence and a connection to their families and their Jewish identity.

### Past missions aided communities in:

- North and South Carolina
- Iowa
- Long Beach (NY)
- Louisiana
- Puerto Rico

### Future mission locations include:

- Bahamas
- Houston
- Pittsburgh
- Rwanda

### NCSY Teen Relief Missions included:

- Creating, planting, and maintaining community and urban gardens, with a percentage going to food banks.
- Working on both long and short-term projects on Dr. Shira and R' Josh Tennenbaum's farm.
- Partnering with Habitat for Humanity and the MLK Center to rebuild the Center chairman's home, lost to Hurricane Sandy.
- Visiting a community in need and partnering with local groups to help them rebuild. Celebrated Shabbat and immersed in the local culture while there.





Hurricane Ida.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to live and model our Jewish values. I am very proud to be a part of a program that not only inspires its participants but is also a tremendous Kiddush Hashem.

We are honored to sponsor the NJ NCSY missions in memory of Rose and Fred Distenfeld.

-Gershon Distenfeld, Relief Missions supporter

BRS high school students clearing debris from the front lawn of a home in New Orleans damaged by Hurricane Ida.





# EMPOWERING Social Entrepreneurs

Built on mentorship-based growth and early-stage funding, the OU Impact Accelerator identifies and advances promising Jewish nonprofits who will strengthen our communal landscape.

### FOUNDER'S STORY: REACHING MILLENNIALS

MY TZEDAKAH FUND

After working in Jewish nonprofits for 10 years, Carly Friedman, 32, recognized a problem: Charities were not targeting her generation—millennials. At the same time, as charities focus mainly on big donors, these nonprofits lose out on small, recurring revenue streams. My Tzedakah Fund covers all the bases: automated monthly giving, which keeps givers involved and creates stability for charities, and built-in social incentives that gamify the giving process, which appeals to millennials. Just as Carly launched her platform, she was accepted into Impact Accelerator. "It was tremendously helpful," she said. "The mentors went above and beyond for us, providing invaluable advice and solidifying our direction. I don't know where we'd be without Impact Accelerator."

### TWO ACCELERATOR VENTURES NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Two member ventures of the OU Impact Accelerator's Cohort I— GrowTorah and Work At It—were listed on Slingshot's "10 to Watch" list, which names organizations and projects in North America that are making positive change and responding to current needs.



The OU Accelerator, Cohort III

From left: Carly Friedman (My Tzedakah), Faigie Zelcer (Penimi), Yael Davidowitz (Last Kindness), Miriam Leah Gamliel (ATARA), Esther Leah Marchette (ATARA), Rabbi Yaacov Deyo (Torah Live: City of Gold), Rabbi Arieh Friedner (TIBC) at the OU Accelerator on-site retreat in August 2021 at the OU Headquarters

# **COHORT III: THIRD GROUP OF NEW VENTURES**



### MY TZEDAKAH FUND Founded: 2020

A *tzedakah* subscription service that aggregates and automates charitable giving, empowering every Jew to give the most charity possible, and ensuring financial sustainability for Jewish charities.



### **LAST KINDNESS** *Founded: 2021*

An intervention-through-education project of the National Association of Chevra Kadisha aimed at stemming cremation among American Jewry, which is close to 50% and rising.

### **TORAH LIVE:**



### TORAH INSTITUTE BEYOND CAMPUS Founded: 2019

A virtual Beit Midrash for college students that provides a community of spiritual growth and Torah study through classes, discussion groups, matched learning, and mentorship.



### ATARA (THE ARTS & TORAH ASSOCIATION) Founded: 2016

A network of Torah-observant female creative and performing artists that builds community and encourages professional advancement in the arts aligned with Torah values.



### **THE CITY OF GOLD** Founded: 2014

A self-paced, gamified educational platform for children to craft their own journey through Torah learning by completing a playlist of short films, infographics, quizzes, and real-world challenges.



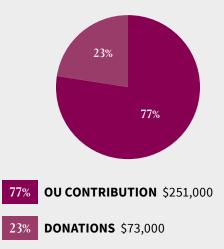
**PENIMI** Founded: 2013

Empowering Jewish youth to live lives as Torah-true individuals in the digital age through workshops and trainings to educators and parents across the globe.

### IMPACT ACCELERATOR FINANCIALS

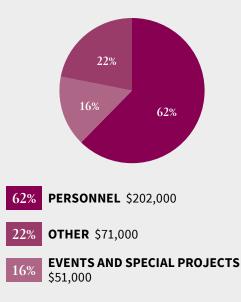
### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$324,000



### EXPENSES

TOTAL SPEND: \$324,000



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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.



# A PLACE WE CALL HOME

Since 1979, OU Israel has been making a difference in Israel, enriching the lives of children and adults, immigrants and native Israelis, visitors and residents, soldiers and civilians.

OU Israel's five-story building in central Jerusalem is home to classrooms, event halls, and more than 80 weekly programs that attract Jews of all affiliations. Through social connection and spiritual inspiration, OU Israel's goal is to maintain and invigorate each individual's Jewish heritage while fostering Jewish pride and unity.

### **ZULA: SUPPORTING AT-RISK YOUTH**

Since 2000, when it opened with five kids and a guitar, The Pearl and Harold Jacobs Zula Outreach Center—"the Zula"—has been a home for thousands of troubled teens, most from religious homes. Counselors and social workers create a safe space, building trust and encouraging kids to get in touch with their spiritual side and to reconnect with their Jewish roots and Jewish pride.

### CHAIM'S STORY: SAVED BY ZULA AND MUSIC

For Chaim, music has been an anchor in his often conflicted and tumultuous life. Now living in Israel, Chaim grew up in an ultra-religious family in New York. When he broke from his community, Chaim had no formal education or professional training, making it difficult to find gainful employment. At his lowest point, when Chaim was living on the streets with no place to go, he became connected to the Zula. There he found acceptance—and music.

Chaim was quick to make use of the Zula's music room and its equipment to mix tracks, jam with the Zula band, and even learn the violin, an experience that left him recharged and rejuvenated. "When I play music all my worries seem to fade away," he said. "I have profound gratitude to the Zula for giving people like me the chance to come together, doing something we love."



# 860

youth receive counseling and special programming to help them recover from PTSD suffered during Operation Guardian of the Walls

2,318

participants in 19 OU Israel Youth Centers from Kiryat Shmona to Dimona



questions answered by the OU Israel Gustave & Carol Jacobs Center for **Kashrut Education** 

signature annual events and the first communal activity following pandemic closures.

# **CREATING POPULAR CONTENT FOR ALL AGES**

### THE 'Y' (YERUSHALAYIM) CHRONICLES

This Torah Tidbits exclusive comic strip focuses on Jewish values and connects young readers to Eretz Yisrael/Yerushalayim.

### **KASHRUT EDUCATION VIDEO SERIES**

This series of informative videos featuring Rabbi Ezra Friedman, Director of OU Israel's Gustave and Carol Jacobs Center for Kashrut Education, presents entertaining and clear content on a variety of kashrutrelated topics.

### **KIDS KOLLEL**

For children of English-speaking families, this new program offers virtual activities that are entertaining, informal, and educational.

### **HEBREW ON THE GO**

Hebrew on the Go is a new initiative which provides young Olim families and their school-age children with immersion in Hebrew and Israeli culture through a variety of outdoor community activities and gatherings.



## **OU ISRAEL MILESTONES**

2021 MARKS CAMP DROR'S 25TH SUMMER AND ITS LARGEST YET:



campers (147 girls, 107 boys), 54 of whom are part of the Fagin Leadership Program





3rd

Annual Torah Yerushalayim (in memory of David and Norma Fund Z"l)—a day of Chizuk during Aseret Yimei Teshuva was held on Sunday, September 12. Due to pandemic-related guidelines, this signature OU Israel event was offered as a global broadcast.

# **OU ISRAEL YOUTH CENTERS**

### HELPING TEENS HEAL FROM TRAUMA

OU Israel's Youth Centers have provided counseling, *tiyulim*, and volunteer and activism opportunities for nearly 900 atrisk youth who were severely affected by the rioting and the recent war with Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Programs like the PTSD Phototherapy Initiative help give these kids a sense of fulfillment and self-esteem, and an opportunity to express themselves through photography.

OU Israel Youth Centers (The Jack E. Gindi Oraita Program & Makom Balev) works with at-risk children and teens coping with violence, crime, and poverty in 19 branches across the country.

# OVERCOMING ADVERSITY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

### **NITZAN'S STORY**

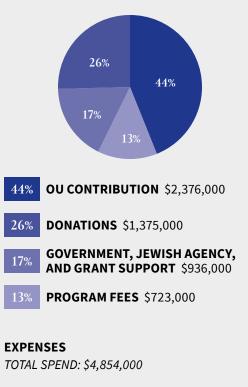
Born during a rocket attack in Sderot, Nitzan began life in a reinforced bunker at a hospital in Ashkelon. A constant in her life was the blaring of the Red Siren Alert system, letting her and her family know they had just 15 seconds to make it to safety. Growing up in such an environment, Nitzan suffers from extreme PTSD and can't even leave the company of her parents without suffering a panic attack.

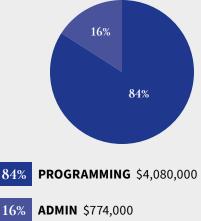
Nitzan has found respite at OU Israel's Youth Center in Sderot. With the care and guidance of her counselor, Nitzan has been able to overcome her anxiety through enrichment and empowerment activities like the PTSD Phototherapy Program, where she has been able to finally express her pain through photography. Now an avid photographer, Nitzan can be seen taking pictures throughout Sderot, searching for the beauty within her chaotic life.

### **OU ISRAEL FINANCIALS**

### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$5,410,000





Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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# OUR HOMELAND, OUR FUTURE

Israel Free Spirit Birthright, the OU's Birthright Israel program, aims to keep the Jewish community vibrant by connecting our young adults, sharing the magic of Israel, and strengthening engagement in Jewish life.



## FIRST BIRTHRIGHT TRIP BACK TO THE HOLY LAND

In late May 2021, Israel Free Spirit became the first Birthright Israel trip to return to Israel post-pandemic, bringing a group of 17 fully vaccinated young adults from diverse Jewish backgrounds to Israel for eight days, where they toured Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Masada, the Golan Heights, and the Dead Sea. The summer continued with 17 more Birthright Israel trips arriving through Israel Free Spirit. As the first group allowed into the country, Israel Free Spirit was recognized in many media outlets, from Arutz Sheva to Oregon Jewish Life.

For many participants, touching the Kotel on Birthright, often for the first time in their lives, is the realization of a dream passed down from generation to generation within their own families.



Israel post-pandemic.

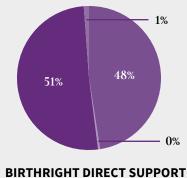
One of the greatest rewards I've received as a member of the OU board is seeing our Israel Free Spirit program up close and personal. It's difficult to express in mere words the life-altering change one week can make in the lives of young adults in their connection to their Jewish roots, their homeland, and their fellow Jews.

-Esther Williams, Commission Chair

### **ISRAEL FREE SPIRIT FINANCIALS**

### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$1,117,000



51% \$568,000

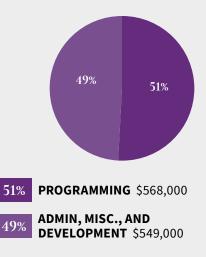
48% **OU CONTRIBUTION \$531,000** 

1% **DONATIONS** \$13,000

**PROGRAM FEES &** MISCELLANEOUS \$5,000

### **EXPENSES**

TOTAL SPEND: \$1,117,000



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# A CRITICAL VOICE IN ORTHODOX JEWISH LIFE

INTELLIGENT. RELEVANT. THOUGHTFUL.

Founded back in 1985, *Jewish Action*, a full-color glossy quarterly magazine, continues to adhere to its original mission: "to project the interests, concerns, and values of the Orthodox Union and the Orthodox world." Reaching 180,000 readers across North America and Israel, *Jewish Action* explores the issues that are important to the Orthodox reader with thought-provoking and insightful essays and articles by some of the most prestigious writers and thinkers in the Orthodox world.



Sign up to become an OU member at **ou.org/membership** and get a free subscription to this award-winning magazine today!

### AND THE WINNER GOES TO...

### In 2021, *Jewish Action* won five Rockower Awards for Excellence in Jewish Journalism—considered the Pulitzers of the Jewish world.

The awards were presented virtually by the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA).

Winning articles include "Nicotine Is Back. Now What?" by Rachel Schwartzberg, which provides an in-depth look at vaping among Orthodox teens, and "Converso Cuisine: Chanukah Recipes Dating Back to the Days of the Inquisition" by Barbara Bensoussan, about a woman who discovers her secret Jewish roots. Other winning articles include Ahuva Reich's "The Age of Anxiety," on the rising anxiety among schoolage children, and "Being Mindful on Campus," also by Ahuva Reich, which explores how mindfulness is helping young people on campus cope with stress.



### EXPANDING OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE

In 2020, Jewish Action launched an online newsletter featuring content from the print version as well as gems from its rich archive. In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month in May, the magazine published a special digital edition focusing on mental health and the Orthodox community.

Sign up for our newsletter at jewishaction.com!



# STRENGTHENING SYNAGOGUES

With the mission of enhancing and supporting synagogue life, the OU Pepa and Rabbi Joseph Karasick Department of Synagogue Initiatives supports the largest network of Orthodox synagogues across North America.

The centrality of the synagogue to the Jewish people and its impact on Jewish life is paramount, and for many, the synagogue is the portal of entry into their Judaism. The synagogue, or shul, is the place where we encounter and connect with Hashem, each other, and ourselves.

# 400+

daily calls to the Tehillim line, totaling 222,464 since 2020

303+

proposals from shuls in 34 states submitted to the "Back to Shul" Challenge Grant, \$1.7M funds requested



synagogue challenge grant for innovative ideas to invigorate and stimulate congregants to re-embrace synagogue life

### **PROVIDING CHIZUK**

What began in 2020 as a response to COVID-19, the OU Daily Tehillim and Chizuk call evolved into a powerful and popular tool for individuals throughout the world to learn Torah and pray together. Whether in response to terror attacks in Israel, natural disasters in America, or simply to connect with other Jews, the Tehillim call continues today with over 400 callers daily from North America, Israel, and Europe.

Grant winner Congregation Darchei Noam brought 3rd to 8th grade girls to shul to learn new skills that would be used for a joint chessed project.



#### **OU CRISIS TASK FORCE**

When crises hit our communities, whether they be natural disasters or other traumas, the OU stands ready to galvanize its resources to support communities in need. In the recent tragedy in Surfside, FL, the OU was in communication with all of the relevant stakeholders—from nonprofits and shuls to local, state, and federal agencies—to provide a comprehensive plan of assistance.

Volunteers pack food and supplies for the survivors and rescue workers of the Surfside building collapse. Synagogue Initiatives helped coordinate other organizations and volunteers.

#### LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

With a focus on supporting and strengthening shul rabbanim—which ultimately leads to stronger shuls and stronger communities—a variety of programs have been developed. These include:

- Rabbinic Chaburas: A program bringing together community rabbis from across North America for mutual support, to learn from one another and become a network.
  10 chaburas with 74 rabbis
- Leadership Consulting: Staff are available to consult with communal leaders on a wide range of issues including strategic planning, crisis management, and operations.

"Throughout our many phone calls, the OU validated our concerns, added expertise, and allowed us to have the whole picture. I feel very strongly that it is thanks to our conversations, we came to the best solution for our shul."

-Youth Director

"I have been privileged to personally see the great work of the OU staff in my community. Whether it is supporting rabbis, other lay leaders or the community as a whole, the OU is positioned to make an impact the way no other organization can."

-Scott Krieger, Board Member, Los Angeles, California, OU West Coast President

#### **COMING BACK TO SHUL: OU CHALLENGE GRANT**

As our communities began to look beyond the pandemic, the department launched a "Back to Shul" challenge grant program. The program aimed at supporting congregations as they developed ideas to bring their members back to the shul campus. The OU awarded 32 grants of between \$2,000-\$5,000 for unique and replicable proposals. Over 300 submissions came in from 32 states, from tiny *shteibels* to large community shuls.





# STRENGTHENING **KASHRUT STANDARDS**

OU Kosher combines expertise in halacha with an understanding of modern food production to ensure that kosher food meets the highest quality kashrut supervision.

Thanks to the over 850 rabbinic field representatives located across North America and throughout the world-from Europe to Australia, and from China to South Africa-the OU Kosher symbol now appears on the labels of nearly 70% of America's kosher-certified food products.

1,261,754 58,450

**OU-certified products** 

inspections conducted

May 2020-April 2021

103

countries with **OU-certified facilities** 

From left to right: Rabbi Reuven Herzog, manager of Kedem operations, Marlboro, NY, and Rabbi Nachum Rabinowitz, senior rabbinic coordinator, OU Kosher, discuss kosher wine-making at the Kedem Winery as part of an All Daf video series. The program was featured on the Kosher Encounter Virtual Seminar.



New Sersey. I noto, men Nitter

A very important part of the OU's mission is educating people about *kashrut*. All of us should be knowledgeable about what the *halacha* requires.

-Rabbi Moshe Elefant, COO, OU Kosher

# OU KOSHER COMMUNITY RELATIONS: KASHRUT EDUCATION & SUPPORT

#### **ASK OU VIRTUAL SEMINARS**

Over 2,000 people participated in the OU Kosher Community Relations Department's multiday seminars. Topics included:

- New Frontiers in Kosher: UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco: This seminar focused on OU Kosher's latest certification work in the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco, and provided information about kosher travel in this region.
- Kosher Encounter: This 4-day live webcast was broadcast from the kitchens of the Wall Street Grill in downtown New York City, Patis Bakery in Lyndhurst, NJ, and OU Kosher's headquarters. Seminars included practical discussions about wine, food service, bakeries, and the *kashrut* of fish.

#### **YESHIVA DAY SCHOOL VISITS**

Working to educate and engage high school students in the laws and practical application of *kashrut*, ASK OU sends representatives to schools for in-class demonstrations.

#### **KOSHER HOTLINE AND WEBBE REBBE**

Averaging over 200 inquiries a day throughout the year and close to 1,000 a day during the Pesach season, calls to the OU Kosher Hotline continue to climb, along with emails to Webbe Rebbe and questions posted on social media. Inquiries range from current certification queries to complicated issues requiring real-time assistance.

#### KOSHER APP: TEVILAS KEILIM, PAS YISROEL, BRACHOS, AND BUG CHECKING

More than a resource for product searches, the OU Kosher App includes a wide range of *kashrut* resources, including a *tevilas keilim* guide, a Pas Yisroel list, a guide to bug checking in a variety of fruits and vegetables, *brachos*, and more.

#### **KOSHER-CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGY GUIDE**

OU Kosher certifies several appliances including GE refrigerators and ovens with "Enhanced Shabbos Mode" to be used in tandem with the Shabbos Keeper. The guide on **OUKosher.org** provides a listing with model information.

# THE ULTIMATE PASSOVER DESTINATION: THE HOTLINE AND THE GUIDE

In the month preceding Passover, traffic to OU Kosher's website increases by over 300%, and hotline hours are expanded to meet the demand as questions flood in through all channels. OU Kosher also distributes over 70,000 copies of the *OU Guide to Passover* to homes, synagogues, and colleges. Featuring an up-to-date list of kosher-for-Passover products and interesting and informative content, the guide continues to be one of the OU's most popular publications.









"For me the OU, over the years, has been the leader in kosher certification. The consumers really look at the OU as being the leader and very trustworthy."

-Michele Mullen Raske, Founder & CEO, SOS CoPacking Solutions



Rabbi Eli Eleff, OU Kosher RC and Managing Director of OU Kosher Community Relations Department, gives a presentation on kashrut to high school students at the Torah Academy of Bergen County. The OU Kosher Community Relations Department provides educational programming for yeshiva day schools.







# **KEEPING IT KOSHER DURING COVID:** 58,450 INSPECTIONS IN 103 COUNTRIES

"I credit our team's ability to quickly adapt for allowing OU Kosher to maintain its high standards throughout COVID. Many of these changes have been integrated with the way we operate and will strengthen our certification going forward."

-Rabbi Menachem Genack, CEO, OU Kosher

Change and adaptability continued behind the scenes as OU Kosher successfully navigated an unpredictable environment. While the use of technology evolved from the beginning of the pandemic, it was the strength of the relationships between OU Kosher and its client companies that made the transition possible.



The 'OU' label carries a halo invoking a diligent manufacturing process and reliable ingredient sourcing. It's an ethical responsibility to make products our population can trust and enjoy.

-Julie Senko, President, Steuben Foods

# OU KOSHER PROVIDES CUSTOMERS WITH MORE THAN SUPERVISION

*Kashrut* is a partnership between the OU and the companies it certifies. Little is of more importance than the OU's relationship with its client manufacturers. To help build and maintain these relationships, the OU continually adds new services to support its business customers.

#### **COPACKER/MANUFACTURER LISTINGS**

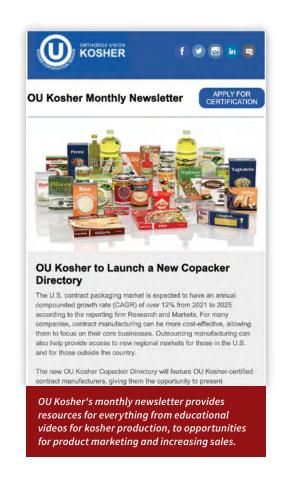
OU-certified companies looking for specialized contract manufacturing can find a suitable service for contract manufacturing.

#### **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

This publication offers production and marketing resources to support all aspects of kosher production.

#### **NEW PRODUCT MARKETING**

Through its network of programs and marketing channels, the OU helps companies with newly certified products spread the word.





# **INSPIRING TEENS**

### TO CONNECT WITH THEIR HERITAGE

NCSY is proud to play an important and trusted role in the lives of thousands of Jewish teens each year. Immersive learning and social programs connect teens with their Jewish identity and foster self-confidence.

Education, retreats, and summer travel experiences nurture a lifelong relationship and connection to Jewish heritage and the State of Israel. Learning Torah with exceptional educators, as well as leadership and volunteer opportunities, empowers NCSY teens to become peer role models and committed leaders of the Jewish community. NCSY strives to meet teens where they are—emotionally, spiritually, and geographically—through a full spectrum of programming for public and day school teens across 500 North American cities and three continents.

# 27,000+ 2,425 249

teens reached annually (17,125 during COVID-19) across 500 North American cities and three continents

teens participated in 23 NCSY summer programs with over 1,443 teens in Israel

public high schools across North America at which NCSY operates Jewish Student Union (JSU) clubs



## MORE FUNDING, MORE TRIPS, MORE MEMORIES

As part of its mission to connect and inspire young people, NCSY has run immersive summer programs for Jewish teens in Israel for the past 40 years, providing over \$1.5 million in scholarships and sending over 1,000 public school and Jewish day school students to Israel each year.

Thanks to the generous grant from the Marcus Foundation, RootOne—powered by The Jewish Education Project—NCSY provided \$3,000 travel vouchers to participants, dramatically increasing the number of teens who were able to attend NCSY Summer in Israel programs by 40%. This summer, NCSY responded to the ever-changing border and vaccine guidelines to safely bring 1,443 teens to Israel for one of the most transformative experiences of their lives.

# \$3 MILLION GIFT ESTABLISHES **KATZ FAMILY PUBLIC SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

#### DRIVING IMPACT FOR JEWISH STUDENT UNION PROGRAM

Avi and Becky Katz, longtime Jewish communal leaders, established a multi-year, multimillion dollar national initiative focusing on NCSY's Jewish Student Union (JSU). A network of after-school Jewish clubs in public high schools, JSU is a stepping-stone for teens in public high schools who want to connect with their religious and spiritual identity through strong Jewish role models, experiential Jewish learning, and community.

The Katz Family Initiative includes the creation of a new position of National Director of JSU, which will be held by Devora Simon, formerly the Silicon Valley NCSY/JSU Director; it will also fund a JSU Presidents' Conference designed to give students the resources to drive engagement in their own JSU clubs. In addition, the Katz Initiative will fund four new programs designed to improve student retention and help students transition to Jewish programs beyond JSU club meetings. The Katz Family Initiative is expected to transform what JSU can do for the Jewish people by building meaningful relationships with each teen and developing the next generation of Jewish leaders.



# **NCSY ISRAEL**

meaningful chessed trips, touring the land of Israel and, most of all, fun.

#### SERVING TEENS THROUGH EXPANSION

NCSY Israel provides spiritual inspiration and relatable role models to teens who have emigrated from North America. Programs operate in five chapters: Jerusalem, Gush Etzion, Bet Shemesh, Modiin/Chashmonaim, and Ra'anana. Building on local chapter events, NCSY Israel programming is expanding with three regional Shabbatons and monthly regional Latte & Learning programs. The introduction of a new staff role, Aliyah Integration and Absorption, will support teens and aliyah.

"Four weeks on NCSY Summer changed my life. The chance to explore Israel, deepen my relationship and connection to Judaism, and make lifelong friendships has been amazing."

–Amelia, Glenbrook South High School (JSU Public School Student)



# **JEWISH YOUTH PLEDGE:**

THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

As a complement to the Jewish Future Pledge—a moral and financial commitment to the Jewish people—Southern NCSY has launched the Jewish Youth Pledge.

By signing the pledge, teens commit to strengthening the Jewish people and the State of Israel, showing family, friends, and communities that their passion for the Jewish people will carry on throughout their lifetimes.

I hereby pledge to act today and throughout my lifetime to strengthen the Jewish people and the State of Israel. I make this commitment because I have a responsibility to ensure that my generation writes the next chapter of the Jewish story and remains a strong link in the chain of generations.

-Jewish Youth Pledge



# IT WAS AN NCSY SUMMER TO REMEMBER

#### **BRINGING AMERICAN TEENS TOGETHER IN ISRAEL**

After teens' lives were disrupted due to the pandemic, NCSY knew it was essential to bring back Israel experiences for teens in an extraordinary way. Recognizing that summertime is a pivotal time for NCSY teens to connect with their heritage through informal education that inspires religious growth, NCSY brought together hundreds of teens for an inspirational Yom NCSY. The event was held at Live Park in Rishon LeZion and featured Jewish music sensations, Shlomo and Eitan Katz.

Yom NCSY included a dedication of an NCSY Summer Sefer Torah, which will be housed at NCSY Kollel's campus in Beit Meir. In the days leading up to the grand event, the scroll, along with its *sofer*, traveled to the NCSY Kollel campus where teens from all different religious backgrounds had the opportunity to write the final letters of the scroll. The event raised nearly \$128,000 toward scholarships for next summer's NCSY programs.

# SUMMER 2021 NCSY/JSU PROGRAMS

ANNE SAMSON TJJ	ISRAEL ID				
ANNE SAMSON TJJ AP	JOLT ISRAEL				
ANNE SAMSON TJJ ACTION	JSU GO				
ANNE SAMSON TJJ WEST	KADIMA LAVI				
CAMP KESHER	KOLLEL				
CAMP SPORTS	MICHLELET				
GIVE	MYC ISRAEL DISCOVERY				
GIVE WEST	NEXT STEP ISRAEL				
HATZALAH RESCUE	ROAD TRIP				
IMPACT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CAMP KAYLIE	KOAD IKIF				





Laizer Kornwasser, National Vice President of the OU and Co-Chairman of NCSY Youth Commission; Rabbi Dr. Joshua Joseph, Executive Vice President and COO of the OU; Tiffany Yankovich, National Development Director of NCSY; Becky and Avi Katz, guests of honor; Rabbi Micah Greenland, International Director of NCSY; Moishe Bane, President of the OU; and Mitchel Aeder, Chairman of NCSY.

## **GRAND GALA CELEBRATES CHAMPIONS OF JEWISH IDENTITY**

More than \$670,000 was raised at the NCSY's National Gala & Ben Zakkai Reception this year, which fêted communal leaders who have invested in programs that have fostered Jewish continuity and identity.

Over 300 supporters attended the party in person while hundreds more watched it virtually. The guests of honor were longtime NCSY supporters Becky and Avi Katz of Teaneck, NJ. Mr. Katz is the chair of the OU's Board of Governors and has also chaired NCSY's board. The celebration also honored Home Depot founder Bernie Marcus and hospitality titan Mike Leven as "Champions of the Jewish Future."

Also recognized were The Nachum Segal Network's President and Host, Nachum Segal, and General Managers, Miriam L. Wallach, for their continued partnership with NCSY; Isabelle Novak for her halfcentury of devoted service to NCSY; Rabbi Daniel and Leah (Feuerstein) Feldman from Teaneck, who received the Enid and Harold H. Boxer Memorial Award; and Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, who received the Rebbetzin Ella and Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik Memorial Award. In addition, the evening showcased NCSY's 25th Annual Ben Zakkai Honor Society Scholarship Reception, which honored the legacy of Ben Zakkai member Ari Kahn.

All the Gala honorees' commitment to the continuity of Jewish heritage inspires the NCSY team daily to find better ways to connect with teens in the most meaningful and impactful manner possible.

### NCSY LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE

#### NEW NCSY LOCATIONS: AUSTIN, TEXAS, AND PARK CITY, UTAH

#### SOUTH AMERICA Argentina

Chile

#### ATLANTA

Alpharetta Atlanta Chamblee Duluth Dunwoody Johns Creek Marietta Milton Roswell Sandy Springs

#### ATLANTIC SEABOARD

Baltimore Cherry Hill Greater Washington Greater Philadelphia Northern Virginia Richmond

#### CANADA

Calgary Edmonton Hamilton Montreal Ottawa Thornhill Toronto Vancouver

#### **CENTRAL EAST**

Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus Detroit Pittsburgh Windor, Canada

#### ISRAEL

Beit Shemesh Gush Etzion Jerusalem Area Modi'in Ra'anana

#### MIDWEST

Chicagoland Kansas City Memphis Minneapolis North Shore Saint Louis

#### **NEW JERSEY**

East Brunswick Englishtown Fair Lawn Highland Park Metro West Teaneck Twin Rivers West Orange

#### **NEW YORK**

5 Towns Brooklyn Great Neck Long Beach Manhattan Merrick Oceanside Plainview Port Washington Queens Roslyn Syosset Westchester West Hempstead

#### NORTHEAST

Albany Greater Boston Greater Hartford Rochester Stamford

#### SOUTHERN

Asheville **Boca Raton** Broward Charleston Charlotte Columbia Greater Miami Greenville Jacksonville Myrtle Beach Orlando Palm Beach Parkland / **Coral Springs** Raleigh Savannah South Miami

#### SOUTHWEST

Austin Boulder Dallas Denver Houston San Antonio

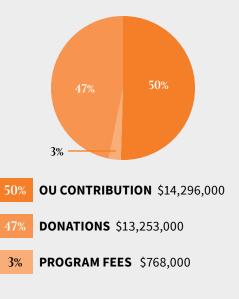
#### WEST COAST

Arizona East Bay LA - City LA - Valley Las Vegas Orange County Portland San Diego Seattle SF & Marin Silicon Valley Utah

#### **NCSY FINANCIALS**

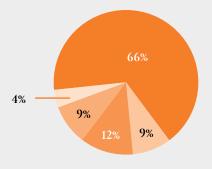
#### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$28,317,000



#### **EXPENSES**

TOTAL SPEND: \$23,917,000





Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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.



# TORAH INSIGHTS COME TO LIFE

OU Press publishes popular and scholarly works that reflect the broad spectrum of Orthodox Jewish values in the contemporary Jewish community. In 2021, OU Press published a number of important volumes from outstanding thinkers.



#### YIDDISH DISCOURSES ON THE RETURN TO ZION AND JEWISH DESTINY

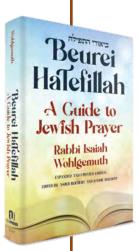
By Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Edited by David E. Fishman

This volume consists of discourses delivered by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, "the Rav," at conferences of the Mizrachi Organization of America between 1944 and 1967. A synthesis of homiletics, religious thought, and commentary on current events, these discourses far transcend the confines of political speeches to address profound questions of Jewish destiny and reveal a previously unknown stage of the Rav's religious-Zionist thought. Non-Yiddish speakers will welcome the news that OU Press is currently preparing an English translation of this important work.

#### BEUREI HATEFILLAH: A GUIDE TO JEWISH PRAYER— EXPANDED AND UPDATED EDITION

*By Rabbi Isaiah Wohlgemuth Edited by Asher Reichert and Rashie Reichert* 

Rabbi Isaiah Wohlgemuth (1915–2008), for decades a beloved teacher at the Maimonides School in Brookline, Massachusetts, was renowned for his course on Jewish prayer, or *Beurei HaTefillah*. This work conveys the meaning and underlying structure of our prayers as well as the *halachot* and history of the Siddur. Rabbi Wohlgemuth's students attest to "hearing his voice" whenever they pray because of the indelible impression he made upon them. With the publication of this volume, Rabbi Wohlgemuth's wisdom and teachings can be shared by all.





FOUNDATION

OF FAITH

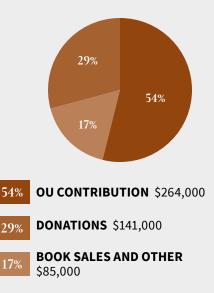




#### **OU PRESS FINANCIALS**

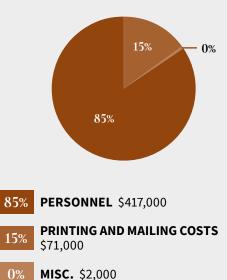
#### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$490,000



#### EXPENSES

TOTAL SPEND: \$490,000



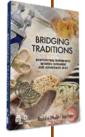
Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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FOUNDATION OF FAITH: A TAPESTRY OF INSIGHTS AND ILLUMINATIONS ON PIRKEI AVOT

Based on the Thought and Writings of Rabbi Norman Lamm Edited by Rabbi Mark Dratch

The latest volume in Rabbi Norman Lamm's growing library of works consists of his penetrating reflections on Pirkei Avot. In this volume, we experience Rabbi Lamm's characteristic eloquence, his mastery of Jewish thought, and his ability to draw upon that knowledge to explicate Judaism's ideas and ideals. This work will undoubtedly be warmly welcomed as a classic of Jewish thought and an exegesis by the ever-growing number of those who appreciate Rabbi Lamm's unique voice.



#### BRIDGING TRADITIONS: DEMYSTIFYING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEPHARDIC AND ASHKENAZIC JEWS

By Rabbi Haim Jachter

Rabbi Jachter, a Sephardic synagogue rabbi who is himself of Ashkenazic descent, applies his unique expertise to explicating an encyclopedic array of divergences between Ashkenazi and Sephardi *halachic* practice. This book is essential reading for all Jews interested in understanding their own practices and appreciating those of their neighbors, and in seeing the full mosaic of *halacha* created through the diversity of its parts.



# SUPPORTING STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

Now in its 21st year, the OU-JLIC's (Seif Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus) network of Campus Directors provides support for students at 25 campuses in the United States, Canada, and Israel. OU-JLIC fosters an ongoing commitment to Torah study and lifestyle and a warm, welcoming home for Jewish students on campus.

# **REACHING COLLEGE STUDENTS**

#### TRAINING NEW CAMPUS DIRECTORS

A yearlong Fellowship for Campus Professionals trains couples who are interested in advancing Jewish education, leadership, and community for college students in North America. Open to couples living in Israel and America, the intensive training consists of group meetings, support, and hands-on work with college students. The program offers an annual stipend with all related expenses paid.



total unique participants in spring 2021

*kallot*, 653 *chattanim* taught by directors and were *mesader kedushin* at 280 weddings to date

significant relationships with students in the Spring 2021 semester



# THE WHAT AND WHY

#### ADDRESSING CHANGES IN JEWISH LIFE ON CAMPUS

OU-JLIC professionals on campus help young college students navigate the many challenges and influences they face day to day, including a sharp increase in anti-Zionism and antisemitism. College campuses have become the front lines for the struggle to maintain positive Israel sentiment and Jewish identity. In addition, students are affected by society's attitudes toward gender and sexuality, while Jewish demographics continue to shift.

# OU-JLIC DIRECTORS IN THE COMMUNITY

While a typical college campus is self-contained, cities such as Los Angeles, Toronto, and Atlanta have multiple campuses within the same community. In these cities, directors live in the communities they serve, which allows them to reach students across many campuses and stay in close contact with their alumni as their lives progress through graduate schools, marriage, and their own families. Los Angeles campuses include UCLA; California State University, Northridge; Santa Monica College; and Western University.



volunteer for seven weeks.

OU-JLIC West Coast Campus Directors serving UCLA, Western University, Santa Monica College, and California State University of Northridge (CSUN). From left: UCLA Campus Directors Rabbi Aryeh and Sharona Kaplan; Santa Monica College educators Rabbi Nick and Orit Faguet; Western University Campus Directors Dr. Rod and Dr. Daniella Najibi; and California State University, Northridge Campus Directors Rabbi Bryan and Sondra Borenstein at OU-JLIC West Coast's annual fundraiser.

## OU-JLIC WEST COAST ALUMNI TURNED CAMPUS DIRECTORS

Rabbi Nick (SMC), Orit Faguet (SMC), and Dr. Rod Najibi (Western) are OU-JLIC UCLA alumni who grew up in LA and now live and work with OU-JLIC in LA. Dr. Daniella Najibi (Western) is an alum of UCLA Dental School. Rabbi Bryan Borenstein (CSUN) grew up in the Los Angeles Valley and Sondra Borenstein (CSUN) grew up in Ventura County.

"We are so privileged to have the Kaplans in our life! They have been integral to our religious growth, and both of us benefited greatly when we were students at UCLA. Rabbi Kaplan and Sharona have helped us so much with our *shana rishona* including pre-wedding classes, day of the wedding, and all *sheilos* after! We are so grateful to them and OU-JLIC for everything they do for us."

–Yonah and Molly Reback, alumni couple who live in the community where Rabbi Aryeh and Sharona Kaplan are OU-JLIC directors at UCLA

"Some find it hard to find their place Jewishly in Brooklyn, and though there are many shuls and schools there, many of them are the same flavor. Our OU-JLIC Program serves as a community base in Brooklyn. Word has spread that this is a young community where students and young families fit in."

-Rabbi Reuven Boshnack, OU-JLIC Brooklyn rabbi





OU-JLIC Atlanta directors Rabbi Ben and Rachel Atwood live within the Atlanta community and serve Emory, Georgia State, and Georgia Tech campuses as part of a part-time pilot program.

# **ATLANTA: NEW KIDS IN TOWN**

In partnership with the Hillels of Georgia and Emory Hillel, the OU is piloting a part-time OU-JLIC program to serve the Atlantaarea Jewish community. The new OU-JLIC couple, Rabbi Ben and Rachel Atwood, will be working with Atlanta-area students from Emory University, Georgia State, and Georgia Tech. They will be providing Beit Midrash learning, Shabbat programming, social events, and pastoral care.

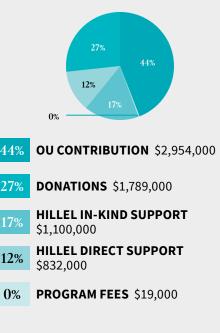
> OU-JLIC has continued to provide an incredibly warm environment for college students searching for spiritual surroundings in an increasingly secular and often hostile college campus environment... Our efforts in maintaining and strengthening the relationships between our educators and students during COVID have been truly remarkable!

> -Moshe Smith, Chairman of the OU-JLIC Commission

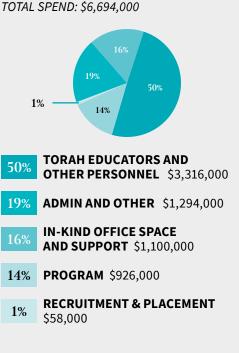
#### **SEIF OU-JLIC FINANCIALS**

#### **FUNDING SOURCES**

TOTAL FUNDING: \$6,694,000



#### EXPENSES



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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# LIFELONG TORAH LEARNING FOR ALL

Torah Initiatives comprises a broad array of innovative and impactful Torah programming. With the vision of a community where every Jewish adult makes *limmud ha-Torah* a central part of their life, Torah Initiatives is increasing accessibility to high-quality, sophisticated, and vibrant Torah. Diverse approaches and formats provide study opportunities for those from every community and affiliation to further develop their relationship with God through Torah.

# 2,000+ 8,000+ I20

people signed up for the "7 masechtos in 8 months" challenge

daily All Daf users

*semichas chaver* locations on 5 continents



# CHARLIE BREDA: 7TH GRADE DAF YOMI MAGGID SHIUR

A bar mitzvah boy from Teaneck, New Jersey, has become a *maggid shiur* with the help of All Daf, the OU's innovative Daf Yomi app.

Charlie Breda was inspired to take up Daf Yomi after attending the Siyum HaShas in January 2020 with his father and brother. He joined the Daf Yomi club at his school, Yeshivat Noam; when the school closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19, Charlie suggested to the club's rebbe, Rabbi Rosalimsky, that they take the Daf Yomi club on Zoom. Due to time conflicts, Charlie took over the Zoom *shiur* from his rebbe and began leading a daily *daf shiur* for his friends, using the OU's All Daf app to prepare the material.

All Daf staff learned of Charlie's achievements when Charlie messaged his story to the All Daf team.

"It's a remarkable story of a regular kid relentlessly pursuing the seemingly impossible," said All Daf Director Rabbi Moshe Schwed. "It's stories like these that remind us of the reason we created and invest in All Daf: to enable more people to access quality *shiurim* from wherever they find themselves in the world." "I'm a 7th grader and have been doing the Daf Yomi since the start, and without All Daf I would not be able to keep going. All Daf has really given me the experience of learning and really understanding the daf each and every day. All Daf has even given me the courage to give a Daf Yomi *shiur* to my friends. Thank you All Daf and mazel tov on one year!!!"

-Charlie Breda, 7th grade Daf Yomi maggid shiur

# **ALL PARSHA**

#### A NEW, FREE TORAH APP THAT BRINGS TORAH HOME

Building on the success of the All Daf platform, All Parsha is the next addition to the "All Torah" app family. Featuring curated content and a clean, user-friendly interface that allows users to stop guessing on



what/who to listen to, All Parsha offers world-class speakers, including Rabbi Yissocher Frand, Rabbi Moshe Hauer, Rabbi Shalom Rosner, Rabbi Moshe Elefant, and Rabbi Yisroel Reisman; audio and video classes; and everything users need to connect to the weekly Parsha. Other resources include daily Chumash with Rashi highlights, in-depth Meforshai HaParsha, Shnayim Mikra progress tracking, parsha sheets, and much more.

**LESSONS FROM THE** 

TZ'ENAH UR'ENAH

Mrs. Shira Hochheimer

# ALL DAF

#### **BRINGING THE DAF TO EVERYONE**

**FUNDAMENTALS** 

**ON THE PARSHA** 

R' Aaron Lopiansky

A revolutionary learning platform where users experience the Daf from both an individualized and holistic perspective, All Daf continues to grow in content and popularity, with an average of 80,000 monthly and 10,000 daily users. All Daf's broad range of topics is channeled through feeds that adapt to learners of all stripes and backgrounds, enriching their experience. The platform also features a machine matzah bakery tour and a tour of the Kedem wine factory.



**R' YISSOCHER** 

A Division of the Orthodox Union



# 7 OVER 8: 7 MASECHTOS IN 8 MONTHS

Seder Moed is the most well-known, well-learned part of Shas. Over eight months, Daf Yomi learners had an opportunity to complete seven relatively short *masechtos*. All Daf launched the initiative to encourage Daf Yomi learners and non-learners alike to learn these well-known *masechtos*.

I'm 51 years old, doing the Daf Yomi for the first time, and I began the cycle with you from Brachos. Thank you for guiding me on this journey, I'm enjoying learning more than ever.

-All Daf Learner

Rabbi Efraim Twerski, Rav of Congregation Khal Chasidim, speaks at an All Daf siyum for masechta Yoma.





# **TACHLIS MEDIA**

# • TACHLIS

#### PROVOCATIVE AND ENTERTAINING

**TachlisMedia.org** is a podcast network with content that creates context, inspires, and informs listeners, anywhere and at any time. In addition to creating new shows, Tachlis partners with established programming to offer people something that is *frum*, fun, and thought-provoking.

#### **GIANTS**

Front row seats to dialogue with the Torah Giants of our time. From personal to psak, hear it all directly from the source.

#### **18FORTY**

By addressing contemporary issues openly and honestly, 18Forty expands conversation, deepens understanding, and elevates the experience.

#### **JEWISH HISTORY SOUNDBITES**

Tour guide, lecturer, and Yad Vashem researcher Yehuda Geberer brings the world of pre-war Eastern Europe alive.

#### SATURDAY TO SHABBOS

Saturday to Shabbos presents real-life stories of people who've made their own journey to Jewish observance, the obstacles they overcame, and how the journey transformed them.

> There's nothing more freeing than waking up each day knowing that I'm not going for the gold statue, but that I'm trying to use my abilities, talent, and passion to put Torah values into the work that I do.

-Saul Blinkoff, Saturday to Shabbos guest









# SHOSHANA GROSSMAN NACH YOMI

The OU's Shoshana Grossman Nach Yomi started its first two-year cycle in 2007, featuring shiurim by acclaimed teachers of Torah supported by a daily email. In its seventh cycle, Nach Yomi took a giant step forward with the introduction of Torat Imecha Nach Yomi from the OU Women's Initiative. This innovative project introduced all-new daily shiurim exclusively from renowned female lecturers, invigorating Nach Yomi to a level not seen since its inception. And, just as the original Nach Yomi led to the daily Shnayim Mikra on parsha, Torat Imecha Nach Yomi has spawned a sister series in the form of Torat Imecha Parsha.

# **DIRSHU MISHNAH BRURAH**

Rabbi Aaron E. Glatt, MD, has become a familiar name in the Jewish community since, as an infectious-disease specialist, he has been instrumental in our community's response to the ongoing international health crisis. But Rabbi Dr. Glatt is also acclaimed as a prolific teacher of Torah. For six years, he has delivered a daily shiur on Mishnah Brurah, the Chofetz Chaim's magnum opus, according to the Dirshu Mishnah Brurah calendar. Nearing the completion of its first cycle, this series has familiarized hundreds of regular listeners with many intricacies of practical halacha. For those who don't follow it daily, it remains a valuable resource on OU Torah, clearly explaining topics throughout the Mishnah Brurah.





Rabbi Dr. Aaron E. Glatt, MD, MACP, FIDSA, FSHEA, Chair, Department of Medicine, Chief, Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiologist at Mount Sinai South Nassau, Associate Rabbi, Young Israel of Woodmere.



## DAILY LEARNING EMAILS

OU Torah currently offers four daily emails. Each includes a concise, easy-toread synopsis of an indispensable work of Torah study.

- Shnayim Mikra (on parsha, at the rate of an aliyah per day)
- Nach Yomi (a chapter a day)
- Mishna Yomit (two *mishnayot* per day)
- HaShoneh Halachos 2: Mishneh Torah (featuring two halachot a day), a valuable resource on OU Torah, clearly explaining topics throughout the Mishnah Brurah

# SEMICHAS CHAVER

REAL WORLD LEARNING PROGRAM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



Now in 120 locations worldwide, the Semichas Chaver Program ("SCP") is the fastest growing practical *halacha chabura* (group of Torah study partners) in the world, spanning five continents. With a specialized focus on the ethical meaning of *halacha*, the program is rich with content that can easily be shared with family. Upon completion of each topic and successfully passing a written exam, every member receives a certificate of accomplishment and *divrei bracha* signed by HaRav Hershel Schachter, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, and HaRav Zalman Nechemia Goldberg.





#### **120 SCP LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE**





Rav Elyada Goldwicht, right, congratulates SCP member at a family graduation dinner.

What amazes me is that someone coming off the street with no religious background, who has not been through the Yeshiva system, can really learn with this program.

-SCP participant, Boca Raton, FL

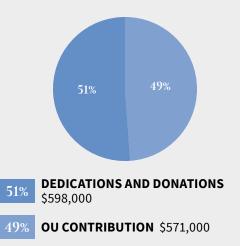
I found that learning halacha in-depth really affects every aspect of your life. It definitely enhances it.

-SCP participant, Woodmere, NY

#### **OU TORAH INITIATIVES FINANCIALS**

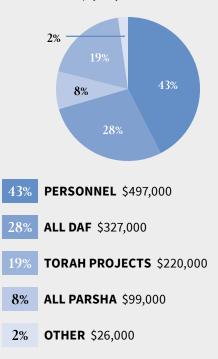
#### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$1,169,000



EXPENSES

TOTAL SPEND: \$1,169,000



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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# EDUCATION AND INSPIRATION FOR WOMEN

The OU Women's Initiative works with Orthodox communities worldwide to identify and address women's spiritual, educational, and communal needs. Through a range of innovative Torah learning opportunities as well as leadership training for women in communal positions, the Women's Initiative supports women in their myriad roles and stages of life.

5,700+ daily Torat Imecha Nach Yomi subscribers 1,900+

weekly Torat Imecha Parsha subscribers



monthly Rosh Chodesh Virtual Lunch 'n Learn subscribers

# TORAT IMECHA NACH YOMI

#### BRINGING WOMEN TOGETHER THROUGH LEARNING

Since launching in January 2020 as part of the Shoshana Grossman a"h Nach Yomi program, this daily Nach podcast, dedicated by Eta Brandman Klaristenfeld in memory of her aunt, Malka Nussbaum, Malka Esther Bat Tzvi Yoseph, brings together over 5,700 subscribers worldwide. Women scholars deliver *shiurim* on the books of Prophets (Nevi'im) and Writings (Ketuvim), geared toward learners of all levels.



#### NOTED EDUCATORS PRESENT MONTHLY SHIURIM FOR ROSH CHODESH LUNCH 'N LEARN





Mrs. Shira Hochheimer, Data & Technology Coordinator, WITS, Baltimore, MD, delivers "How to Create Impactful Virtual Presentations."

# THE ART OF SPEAKING

More than 60 female lay leaders in North America and Israel participated in "The Art of Speaking," a three-month-long virtual advanced public speaking training seminar led by professional speakers and executive coaches. At the end of the program, every participant presented a five-minute talk on a topic of her choice. Following the seminar's completion, WI invited graduates of the program to serve as presenters for the annual "Counting Toward Sinai" pre-Shavuot series, putting the skills they learned to use.

I just want to thank you, and all those who have been tirelessly working to put together a program that gives *chizuk*, is practical, and informative. I have been gaining much, and have already incorporated changes.

–Mrs. Tamar Nusbaum, participant in "The Art of Speaking," President, Ani Tefillah (OU Impact Accelerator alumna)

# **VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES**

#### SHOWCASING JEWISH WOMEN ROLE MODELS

Originated by Meira Ives, a junior at YULA Girls High School in Los Angeles, InfluenceHER is a monthly virtual program for 11th and 12th grade students. With over 150 participants from 14 high schools across North America, the program introduces girls to Orthodox Jewish women who are making an impact on the Jewish community and the world at large in unique ways. Meira developed the idea to highlight women role models in the Orthodox community. Presenters have included Olympic-qualified runner Beatie Deutsch and U.S. Ping-Pong champion Estee Ackerman.



#### Sponsored by the Gindi family of Los Angeles.

#### ALIT: SUMMER BEIT MIDRASH

Featuring popular female Torah speakers as well as up-and-coming lecturers, a virtual summer Beit Midrash program brought intensive, in-depth Torah study to women. Made possible by a grant in honor of Max and Yetty Monderer A"H from the Emanuel and Helen Adler Foundation, program topics included Jewish history, Tanach, Tikkun HaMiddot, and Halacha.

The Mission (Free-willed moral development)	How the Mission Is Fulfilled (Avodeh)	Sphere of Activity (Brache)	Tree	Leaving Home RSRH Commentary on Benetic 28:3-4	Coming Home Bereshis 35:11-12	Self					
חבישה and exercise control over it	Acquisition and transformation of property	Earth	Fruits	יותן לךולורעך אתך לרשתך את אתך לנגיד? And may He grant to you and to your seed with you. that you may inherit the land	לךלך האת הארץלך אמתהא אמל the land i will glee to you*	ግቤ Body	ג Remove 5	x figi(	1		
ומלאו את הארץ and fill the earth	Extending blessing to others	Society	Branches	יוחיית לקחל עמים" עמים" so that you become a community of peoples	רויה להל גוים "הירה לתלי "A nation and a community of nations shall come into being from you"	Emotions	imake	" "Be f		נשמה Soul	
ורבו and multiply	Forming and Educating Children	Home	Trunk	יירבך" and make you numerous	יורבת" and multiply"	ראש-שכל Head	mentary	of Ra		rsch	
115 Be fruitful	Development of self	Marriage	Rootstalk	יימרך" MayGodmake you fruitful	a. Beta	Soul	all Strahtliger				

Ms. Sarah Lipman teaching The Infinite Value of the Individual: Themes of Sefer Bereshit Through the Commentary of Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch, ALIT Virtual Beit Midrash.

#### WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FINANCIALS

#### **IDEAS & INSPIRATION: TORAH LEARNING**

Participation continues to rise in the ongoing text-based and experiential video and audio *shiurim*, which focus on each upcoming holiday through the lens of art, architecture, travel, history, literature, and psychology.



#### **VIRTUAL SUMMIT: POST-COVID STRATEGIES**

Over 150 women from dozens of communities around the world attended the OU Women's Initiative Virtual Leadership Summit in May, where they networked and strategized with the focus on navigating the post-COVID-19 transition.

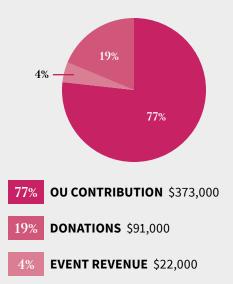
#### THE OU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE





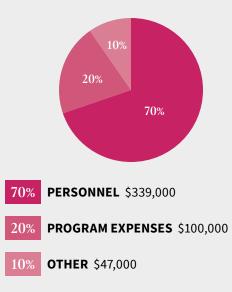
#### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$486,000



#### EXPENSES

*TOTAL SPEND: \$486,000* 



Through COVID-19, program spending decreased. Alternate programs replaced many in-person programs. Most have resumed in FY '22.

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.



# A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

Yachad, an international organization, is dedicated to enriching the lives of Jewish individuals with disabilities and their families by enhancing their communal participation and connection to Judaism through social and educational programs and services.

# INTRODUCING REACH: A ONE-OF-A-KIND RESOURCE AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Where do Jewish families turn to access services for their child who is diagnosed with an intellectual, developmental, or learning disability? REACH (877-REACH-52) is a New York-based resource and referral service staffed with professionals that helps families access and understand the best options for their loved one. Support includes government-funded services, summer camp programs, early intervention, special education, recreational programs, and so much more. The goal is to make REACH a resource for the global Jewish community.

# 550+ 2,000+ 4,000+

participants in summer camps and programs

holiday-themed boxes sent to Yachad participants including divrei Torah and holiday-related items and activities

programs offered through Yachad on Demand virtual platform



IVDU Girls' School students ir the school's beit midrash.

# BOYS' BEST FRIEND: YACHAD BACHUTZ

Yachad Bachutz—a summer program set on a farm in Upstate New York—is a perfect haven for teenage boys. Throughout the summer, boys helped care for goats, cows, chickens even Golden Retrievers (which the farm breeds); they also led visitors on guided tours. The program helped teach campers about responsibility and the value of hard work as they grew socially and emotionally and developed confidence.

Teenage boys help care for animals at a farm on the Yachad Bachutz summer program.



## IVDU: INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION, HELPING CHILDREN REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

Located in Brooklyn and Long Island, IVDU is one of the largest special education Jewish programs in the country. IVDU offers students with disabilities (ages 5 to 21) a comprehensive and nurturing educational environment, providing the core Judaic and General Studies academics, social, and life skills needed to achieve their highest potential and develop into productive citizens in their communities.

With four divisions and a total of 130 kids and 150 staff members, IVDU is open year-round. IVDU students in the upper school are placed on an individualized track where they will either get a Regents diploma, intensive career training, or both. Students are not graded and can graduate anytime up to the age of 21. In 2021, 4 boys and 11 girls graduated; some are off to yeshiva and seminary, some on the way to college, and some are working in the jobs that they chose through IVDU's career training program.

The staff at IVDU are not just here to educate students. They continually look for ways to help them develop skills and confidence needed to be successful in life. For example, to some students, learning to ride a bicycle is a dream beyond their reach. IVDU staff decided to help students in both elementary and upper school accomplish this dream. In the upper school division, IVDU staff also taught students graphic design and how to run an Amazon business.



IVDU Boys' School students at the bima.

I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the awesome summer that my daughter has had. I have no words to express my gratitude. She had an unforgettable summer. Thank you again and again.

-Yachad Summer Parent



## A TRIATHLON TO REMEMBER

Over 200 athletes from across the New York tristate area participated in the first Yachad/IVDU triathlon in New Jersey's American Dream mall. The professionally designed triathlon course included a distance run through the mall that was mapped out by the official course measurer for the New York City Marathon. The bike racers rode on stationary bikes and the swim event took place in the mall's DreamWorks Water Park. The triathlon gave IVDU students a memorable and joyful experience of camaraderie while raising awareness for IVDU schools as well as funds.

You have changed the entire trajectory of Asher's life. He is in Teaneck right now at his second party of the week. He has never been invited to a social gathering of any sort before in his life. Asher's whole demeanor is different since he got home. He is calmer, happier, and more self-assured.

-Yachad Summer Parent

## JEWISH UNION FOUNDATION (JUF): CREATING INDEPENDENCE

Dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, JUF offers an array of services that help individuals achieve greater independence, make immense personal strides, and become better able to participate in the full spectrum of life. Services include Day Habilitation, Supplemental Day Hab, Vocational Services, Supported Employment, Community Habilitation, and Respite.

#### **COMMUNITY HABILITATION**

Centers in Long Island, Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Staten Island provide a staff member for each individual.

#### DAY HABILITATION

Operating in Brooklyn and Long Island, Day Hab programs emphasize social skills development, life skills training, and vocational preparation. Staff members work with participants at their level, helping them to become more independent.

#### FAMILY RESPITE

Families with a child with disabilities have needs few of us can imagine. Respite allows parents to care for their other children and themselves.

#### **VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

Vocational staff and job developers compose a comprehensive vocational plan to help each person achieve their goal of employment.

Jewish Union Foundation is a provider agency of the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).



#### YACHAD'S 1ST SEFER TORAH

History was made on October 3rd as Yachad celebrated its first Hachnasas Sefer Torah, which is dedicated in loving memory of Debbie Cohen Z'L, the motherin-law of Ken Saibel (Associate Director, Yachad International), who spent her life as a teacher within the special needs community.

To the left of the sofer: Mr. Stan Cohen, who donated the Torah for his late wife, Debbie Cohen; behind Stan on left: Ken Saibel, associate director of Yachad; Mindy, his wife and Stan and Debbie's daughter; to their right: Lisa and Irv Schwarzbaum, Stan and Debbie's daughter and son-in-law.

> Families at a West Coast shabbaton in Los Angeles. This and other respite programs are an opportunity for families to take time off the constant care of their children with disabilities.



## **JAKE ROSENTHAL: A YACHAD STORY**

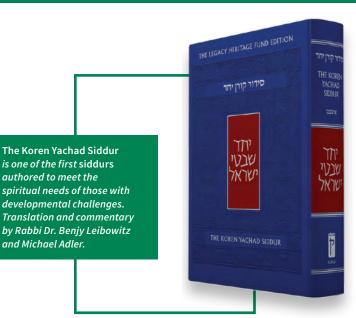
Twenty-five-year-old Jake Rosenthal is funny, irreverent, curious about the world, intensely loyal, and a lover of music and bowling. He's an older brother to Maggie and Sophia. And he has autism. At Yachad, Jake is appreciated for who he is, not for what he has. "They see through the disability to the essence of my son as a human being," says Karen Rosenthal, Jake's mother. "They treat him with incredible respect."

Through Yachad, Jake—who received his nourishment through a feeding tube until age 10, only began walking at 3, and talking at 5—has developed a sense of selfesteem, an inner voice, and an ability to accept life on life's terms. "That's the closest thing to a miracle that can happen," Karen says.

Something else Yachad has given Jake: a chance to identify and connect with other Jews. Before Yachad, Jake lived in and participated in non-Jewish programs, and Karen and her husband, Shawn, didn't know if Jake would ever care about Parsha, or davening, or even know what these things meant. He now fully embraces his Jewishness—he loves shul, Yachad Shabbatonim, and the Jewish holidays.

Indeed, Yachad's Jewish approach is what really sets the program apart. "You sense that the staff appreciates the value, the holiness of Jake's neshama," Karen says. "They don't act like they're doing us a favor. They behave as if it's their life's mission to help individuals like Jake reach their potential. As a parent, nothing could be more meaningful."

The many Yachad programs Jake participates in (from Day Hab to summer programs, weekly outings like Pizza and Parsha and bowling, and the many Zoom groups on Yachad.org during COVID) have also given Jake something most of us take for granted—purpose and community. Not only does Jake have friends in Yachad, but he's also recognized and appreciated in his local community of Woodmere, NY. "People see him not as disabled, but as the funny guy, full of personality, that he is," Karen says. "He's not invisible, he's not separate. He belongs."



#### KOREN SIDDUR: A SPECIAL BOOK FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

After years of effort, OU Press and Koren Publishers issued a unique book: *The Koren Yachad Siddur*, one of the first *siddurs* authored to meet the spiritual needs of those with developmental challenges. With translation and commentary by Rabbi Dr. Benjy Leibowitz and Michael Adler, the *siddur* makes *tefillah* accessible to so many Jews that up to this point had difficulties connecting with their Creator through traditional methods. The *siddur* was delivered to each Yachad member, and the Yachad Siddur Initiative featured a weekly Zoom *shiur* that introduced participants to a part of the *tefillah*. In addition, and in partnership with OU-JLIC and NCSY, Yachad participants were paired with *chavrutot* (study partners) for virtual *tefillah* learning using the Sruly App.

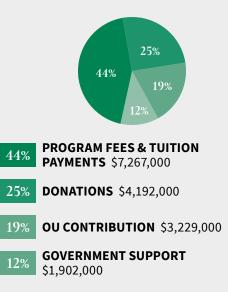
"Every Jew should have the opportunity to deeply connect to Hakodesh Baruch Hu. *The Koren Yachad Siddur* enriches and elevates the communal experience of *tefillah*, enabling even more members of the Jewish community to connect in a most meaningful way."

 Rabbi Shay Schachter, Rosh Beit Midrash at Young Israel of Woodmere and *posek* for Yachad

#### **YACHAD FINANCIALS**

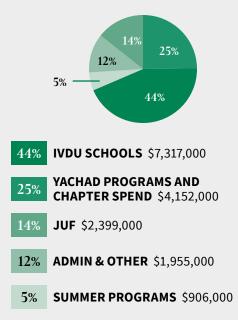
#### FUNDING SOURCES

TOTAL FUNDING: \$16,590,000



#### EXPENSES

TOTAL SPEND: \$16,729,000



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"The Ski-Baton weekend was the most wonderful program you can imagine. I knew then that I'd done the right thing. This is why I give. This memory of a fun and impactful weekend, this good feeling about being Jewish, will stick with these kids for a lifetime."

-Eve Gordon-Ramek, NCSY supporter

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-Lisa & Jonathan Schechter, Englewood, NJ

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> We apologize for any omissions. If you wish to be acknowledged, please contact Elaine Salvit Grossman at: grossmane@ou.org

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