



2023-2024

# JEWISH SOUTH JERSEY COMMUNITY TRACKER



**Jewish Federation**  
of Southern New Jersey  
& OUR FAMILY OF AGENCIES



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# RESOURCES

## JEWISH FEDERATION CONTACT INFORMATION

**856.751.9500 | [jewishsouthjersey.org](http://jewishsouthjersey.org)**

Harold R. Isdaner Building | Weinberg Jewish Community Campus  
1301 Springdale Road, Suite 200 | Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

## GLOSSARY & REFERENCES

### THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY (JFSNJ)

The Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey and our family of agencies supports those in need, enhances Jewish life, and ensures the continuity of a vibrant Jewish community locally, in Israel, and around the world.

### JEWISH FEDERATION AGENCIES

- Katz Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- Jewish Community Properties (JCP)
- Jewish Community Voice (JCV or The Voice)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS)
- JFed Security, LLC

### JEWISH FEDERATION SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

*(local foundations that support JFSNJ as part of their charter)*

- Jewish Women's Foundation (JWF)
- Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation
- Jewish Community Foundation, Inc. (JCF)

**COMMUNITY TRACKER** - A report created by JFSNJ solely based on responses from surveys emailed to synagogues, day schools, emergent organizations, and Jewish Federation agencies and supporting organizations. The tracker is designed to foster conversation with the organized Jewish community of Southern New Jersey about trends, opportunities, patterns, and needs so that we can plan collectively.

**DAY SCHOOLS** - Schools designed to provide children with Jewish and secular education.  
Ages: K-8 and high school.

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOLS** - Schools providing children with Jewish education after public, day, or private school studies. Ages: K-12.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS (ECC)** - Early childhood education programs serving preschool and kindergarten children.

**AREAS OF IMPACT** - JFSNJ programs and services fall into five Areas of Impact: Older Adults, Special Needs, Global Connections, Community Engagement, and Family & Youth. Our Areas of Impact allow us to prioritize, fundraise, and leverage resources to capacity.

## HELPFUL LINK

**[jewishsouthjersey.org/reports](http://jewishsouthjersey.org/reports)** - A link to the Community Tracker and other relevant materials.

# BACKGROUND

The Community Tracker, conducted by the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey (JFSNJ), asks qualitative and quantitative questions to describe our community. The information outlined in this summary is based solely on the responses provided by the organizations that completed the survey. Data collection is done annually.

Data from last year shows an apparent uptick in membership and engagement across the Jewish community. This past year, we faced a new challenge as a result of the devastating Hamas attack on October 7 in Israel, as well as the dramatic increase in antisemitism it unleashed. This report addresses opportunities and needs we have identified as a community.

## INVITED ORGANIZATIONS & RESPONSE RATE



### SYNAGOGUES

Of the 14 synagogues invited (Chabad of Camden & Burlington Counties has two locations), there were 12 respondents. Highlighted synagogues responded:

- **Adath Emanu-El**
- **Chabad Lubavitch of Camden and Burlington Counties**
- Chabad Gloucester
- **Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel (CBTBI)**
- **Congregation Beth El**
- **Congregation Beth Tikvah**
- **Congregation Kol Ami**
- **Congregation Sons of Israel**
- **Temple Har Zion**
- Nafshenu
- **Temple Beth Sholom (TBS)**
- **Temple Sinai of Cinnaminson**
- **Torah Links**
- **Young Israel of Cherry Hill**



### DAY SCHOOLS

Day schools had a 100% response rate for the second consecutive year. All three indicated below were invited and replied:

- Foxman Torah Institute (FTI)
- Kellman Brown Academy (KBA)
- Politz Day School



### JEWISH FEDERATION AGENCIES & SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

#### Jewish Federation Family of Agencies - all replied

- Katz Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS)
- Jewish Community Voice (JCV or Voice)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Jewish Community Properties (JCP)\*

*\*not surveyed as they provide services to institutions, not people.*

#### Jewish Federation Supporting

#### Organizations & Grant Entities- all replied

- Jewish Community Foundation, Inc. (JCF)
- Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation
- Jewish Women's Foundation (JWF)



# WHERE WE ARE

All invited organizations, which include synagogues and day schools, are located in the tri-county area serviced by JFSNJ: Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties.

## LOCATIONS OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

### SYNAGOGUES

#### Burlington County: 5

Congregation Beth Tikvah, Adath Emanu-El, Chabad of Camden & Burlington Counties, Temple Sinai of Cinnaminson, Temple Har Zion

#### Camden County: 8

Congregation Kol Ami, Young Israel of Cherry Hill, Temple Beth Sholom, Nafshenu, Congregation Beth El, Torah Links of South Jersey, Congregation Sons of Israel, Chabad of Camden & Burlington Counties

#### Gloucester County: 2

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel, Chabad of Gloucester County

### DAY SCHOOLS

#### Camden County: 3

Kellman Brown Academy, Politz Day School, Foxman Torah Institute

# WHO WE ARE

Data shows changes in membership from 2023-2024 and is based on self-reported numbers from each organization that responded to the survey in the spring of 2024. Not all organizations completed all questions from the survey and we have learned not all organizations track membership the same way. We will work with synagogues to ensure consistency in numbers in future reports..

## SYNAGOGUE HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Synagogue data from previous years reflect totals from the 11 synagogues that responded in three consecutive years. We continue to see growth year after year.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Households/Families</b>	3,475	3,560	<b>3,978</b>	<b>4,236</b>

**TAKE AWAY:** From last year's Community Tracker, the synagogues that answered the membership questions saw an increase of 258 household/family memberships compared to this year. We have noticed an increase year to year since COVID-19. Membership numbers are not yet what they were pre-pandemic, there were 4,321 households reported in our first Community Tracker in 2017-2018 but we are getting closer as synagogue membership continues to grow.

The following represents seven synagogues that have responded each year since the beginning of the Community Tracker.

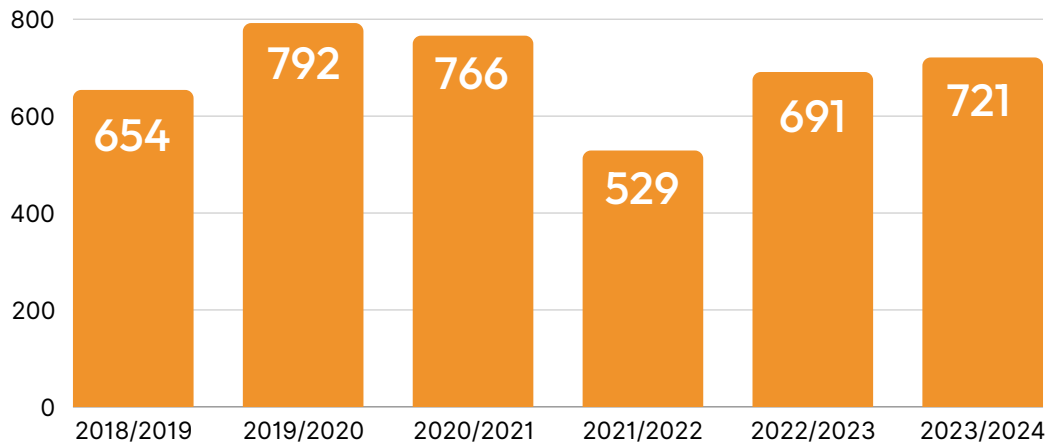
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Households</b>	3,066	3,026	2,721	3,200	3,056	3,606
<b>Individuals</b>	8,284	8,353	6,706	7,166	6,630	8,192

# JEWISH EDUCATION

This section focuses on Jewish education for youth, including supplemental/religious schools, day schools, and early childhood centers. This year, we also surveyed our local BBYO as that has become the primary engagement for local teens. This trend is seen locally and nationally.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS (ECC)

There are seven ECCs in our community: Congregation Beth El ECC, Adath Emanu-El ECC, Kellman Brown Academy, Eric B. Jacobs Early Childhood Education Center (at Temple Beth Sholom), Kol Ami ECC, Politz Day School, and Sari Isdaner Early Childhood Center at the Katz JCC. Two early childhood centers are in day schools, four are in synagogues, and one is at the JCC.



We continue to see an increase in the number of students attending ECC.

### Universal Pre-K

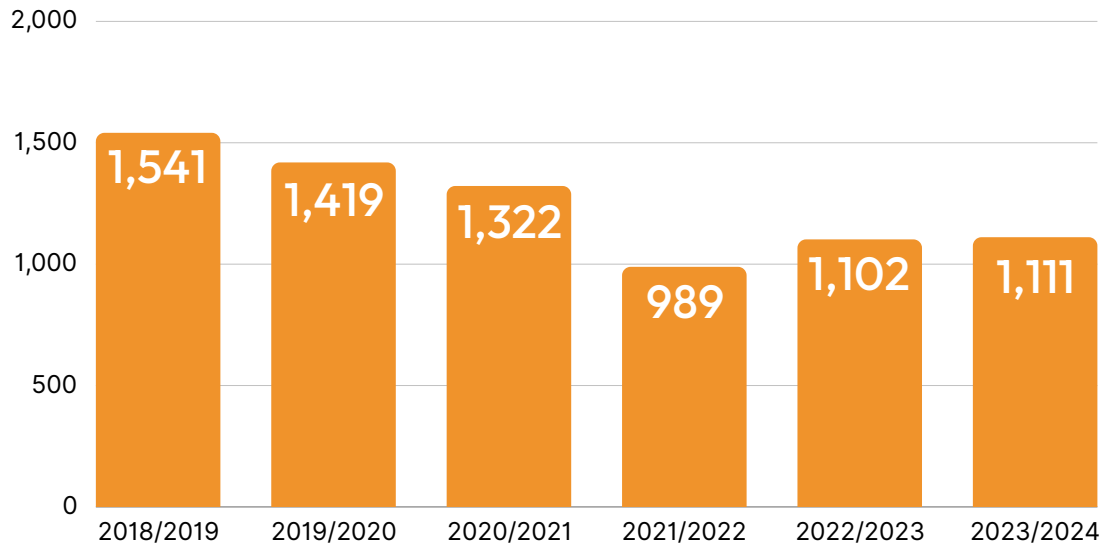
Most of the ECC's in our community include non-Jewish students. Approximately 25% of ECC students are identified as non-Jewish from the five centers that allow non-Jewish students. The two Jewish day schools do not enroll non-Jewish students. This number remained consistent in 2023-2024, 2022-2023, and 2021-2022. Universal Preschool has rolled out in New Jersey. Every K-12 district will offer free preschool for ages 3 and 4 in the coming years. Currently, there are limited spots, growing each year, on a lottery basis. This will impact our early childhood centers' enrollment.

The chart below shows data from previous years and compares it to our current enrollment since we began the Community Tracker. BBYO data is included and we were able to collect data from previous years for a more complete snapshot of teen engagement.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
<b>Supplemental/ Day School</b>	1,777	1,727	1,560	1,236	1,389	1,333
<b>ECC</b>	739	792	766	529	691	721
<b>BBYO</b>	684	596	540	507	457	530
<b>Total</b>	2,516	2,519	2,326	1,765	2,080	2,054

## SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOLS

There are eight supplemental schools included in the 2023/2024 study, seven of which participated in the Community Tracker survey: Temple Beth Shalom Rabbi Albert and Sarah Lewis Religious School, Temple Sinai Religious School, Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Kol Ami Religious School, Adath Emanu-El Religious School, and Congregation Beth El Religious School. All supplemental schools we surveyed are affiliated with a synagogue.



# 152

**students with special needs** benefited from the Saltzman Foundation Jewish Inclusion Grants, which equals approximately 15% of the overall supplemental school student population.



# 21

**students with special needs** celebrated B'nai Mitzvahs this year.

### Informal Jewish Education:

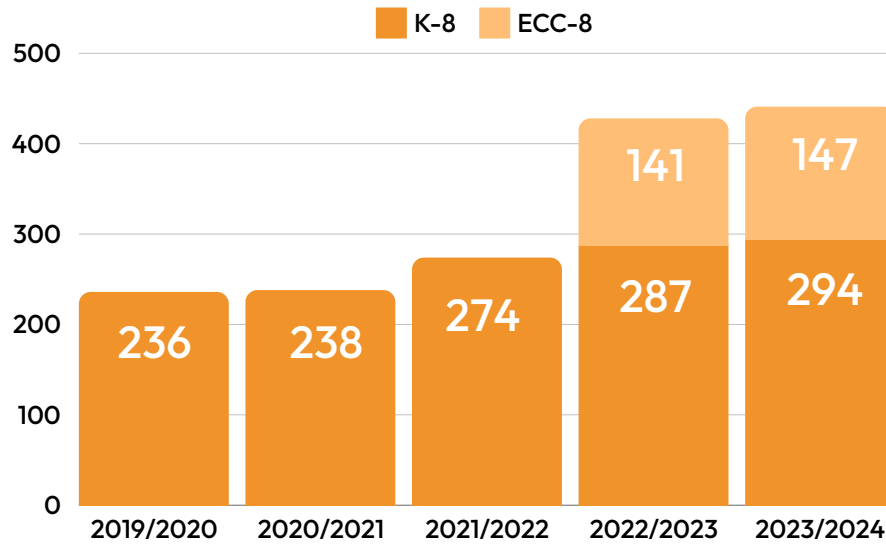
Recent studies indicate that youth groups are a preferred mode of engagement for teens. **BBYO** is the primary program in Southern NJ serving 500 plus teens each year, some of which are synagogue members, some are not. As such, there is some duplication in numbers. Informal education is overtaking formal education, a national trend that our community should pay attention to.

The **JCC Camps at Medford** saw an increase in campers as well. They reported the largest number of campers attended the summer of 2024 than had been seen in 20 years.



## DAY SCHOOLS

Our community has two day schools (Kellman Brown Academy and Politz Day School) that offer grades K-8 and early childhood programs and one high school (Foxman Torah Institute) for grades 9-12.

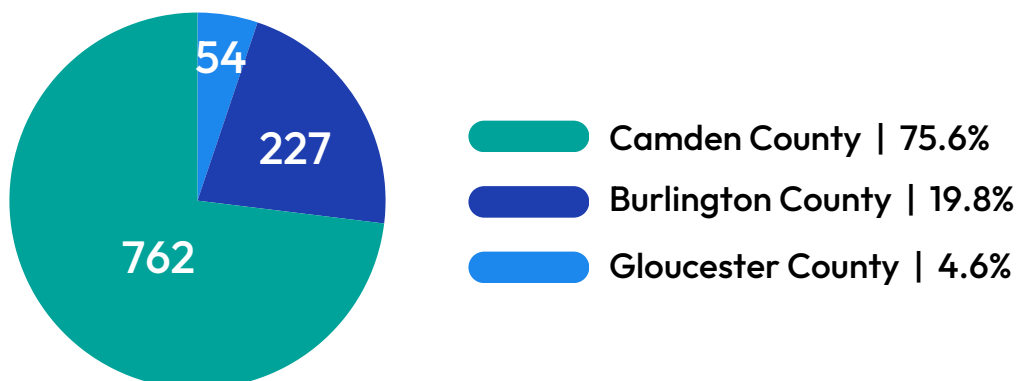


We continue to see an increase in students attending our day schools. To be transparent and not reflect the same data twice in day school and the ECC sections, we now report data to reflect ALL (441) students in the day schools AND students in grades K-8 so the differential the ECC makes can be noted.

	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
<b>Day School</b>	274 (22%)	287 (21%)	294 (25%)
<b>Supplemental School</b>	989 (78%)	1,102 (79%)	892 (75%)
<b>Total Students</b>	1,263	1,389	1,186

- We have 1,186 children in grades K-12 attending an institution of Jewish education in our community. (This does not account for students, particularly high schoolers, who may attend a Jewish school outside our community or formal Jewish education setting).
- Supplemental schools continue to be the preferred choice of Jewish education, although there has been a rise in the number of students attending day schools. Currently, 25% of the student population chooses day schools, which has grown from 10% since we started this tracker.

### The distribution of student population by county:



# JEWISH FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY (JFSNJ)

The Jewish Federation agencies are service providers. They work collaboratively with our synagogues and day schools, but there is always interest and opportunity to better align our efforts.

## AGENCIES:

- Katz Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- Jewish Community Voice (JCV or The Voice)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS)

Our agencies reported a number of "touches" or engagements with community members. This term may underestimate the actual impact. For some individuals, this might be one point of engagement, whereas others may have ongoing or multiple sources for engagement.

	Households	Individuals
<b>JCC*</b>	8,211	15,818
<b>JCRC</b>	2,000	18,000
<b>JCV/Voice</b>	6,000	15,000
<b>JFCS</b>	6,272	7,573
<b>JSHHS</b>	973	NA

*\*The JCC surpassed the number of membership units it had prior to the pandemic. The membership base continues to grow.*

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers are critical to how the Federation and our agencies maximize our impact.

### 12,153+ hours of service

provided by our agency volunteers from October 2022 to May 2023.

# JFSNJ SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS/FUNDING

Several supporting organizations of the Jewish Federation offer grants, awards, and scholarships in our community. Below is information on all funding sources and awards for the past year.

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Jewish Community Foundation, Inc. (JCF)
- Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation (SF)

## JEWISH FEDERATION FUNDING SOURCES:

- JFSNJ Financial Assistance for Jewish Overnight Camp & Teen Leadership
- Jewish Women's Foundation of Southern New Jersey (JWF)

2021-2022 <b>\$3,896,508</b> AWARDED	2022-2023 <b>\$3,900,386</b> AWARDED	2023-2024 <b>\$4,107,485</b> AWARDED
<b>62</b> TOTAL GRANTS AND AWARDS 36 to new organizations or programs	<b>88</b> TOTAL GRANTS AND AWARDS 55 to new organizations or programs	<b>82</b> TOTAL GRANTS AND AWARDS 56 to new organizations or programs
There was a total of <b>145 individual awards</b> for scholarships and financial aid for early childhood centers, day camp, and overnight camp.	There was a total of <b>288 individual awards</b> for scholarships and financial aid for early childhood centers, day camp, and overnight camp.	There was a total of <b>325 individual awards</b> for scholarships and financial aid for early childhood centers, day camp, and overnight camp.

*\*Our local Early Childhood Centers are partners in this program and contribute 25% of the awards. We are grateful to the Saltzman Foundation's generosity, which awards a large percentage of these funds. In addition to these awards, our JCF provides funding distributed through endowment and donor-advised funds.*

Jewish Federation distributes its resources into five Areas of Impact. These Areas of Impact define our mission aligned priorities and how we serve our community, both locally and around the world.

**Breakdown of grants/award funding by Areas of Impact in 2023/2024**  
(self-reported by each organization)

<b>\$1,495,728</b>	<b>Older Adults (local)</b>
<b>\$377,728</b>	<b>Special Needs (local)</b>
<b>\$221,516</b>	<b>Global Connections</b> Donated to our Israel Emergency campaign as a result of the terror attack on Israel on Oct 7
<b>\$789,440</b>	<b>Community Engagement (local)</b>
<b>\$1,428,934</b>	<b>Family &amp; Youth (includes local scholarships, programs, and counseling)</b>
<b>\$4,313,346</b>	<b>TOTAL AWARDS</b>

63 community members sit on the committees responsible for grant distributions.

## LIST OF FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS:

**Overnight camper tuition assistance was provided to families attending eight camps:**

Agudah Midwest - Girls, Camp Bais Yakov, Camp Kaylie, Camp Ramah in the Poconos, Tizmoret Shoshana, URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Academy, URJ Camp Harlam, Camp Poyntelle, TheZone Jewish Overnight Camp

**ECCs and day schools** (tuition assistance): Adath Emanu-El, Congregation Beth El, JCC, Kellman Brown Academy, Congregation Kol Ami, Politz Day School, Temple Beth Sholom

**Day Schools:** Kellman Brown Academy, Politz Day School, Foxman Torah Institute

**Day Camps:** JCC Camps at Medford and Camp Gan Israel

**Synagogues:** Adath Emanu-El, Congregation Beth El, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel, Congregation Kol Ami, Congregation Sons of Israel, Young Israel, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Sinai

**Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey (JFSNJ) & our family of agencies:** JFSNJ, Katz Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service/Lions Gate

**Other:** BBYO South Jersey, Regional Hillels, The Work Group, Moorestown Jewish Association, Raise the Bar Family Services, Friends of Cherry Hill Public Library, Cherry Hill Free Clinic

# QUALITATIVE DATA

Below is the feedback we received from the responding organizations regarding community needs and opportunities:

## **Changes seen in membership this year:**

Three organizations report an increase in membership, while two report a decrease. Of those reporting a decline in membership, one specifically notes seeing less young families involvement. BBYO also reported a decline in members due to the inability to find the names of families to reach out to. Food and financial insecurity continue to be critical problems in our catchment area. We had hoped that post-pandemic more people would re-stabilize but that has yet to occur.

## **Successes:**

Multiple organizations report successes relating to fundraising, Israel initiatives, and increased member involvement. Those with a decline or flat membership see increased participation. We are also seeing success in hiring mental health professionals.

## **Services members request that you cannot provide or must refer elsewhere:**

Organizations feel well-equipped to navigate their members to resources in the community, such as financial support, counseling, social groups, and support for seniors. They are aware of JFSNJ programs that the members can leverage. Due to October 7, there is an increased desire for more Israel education and activism to combat antisemitism. More people in the community are interested in civil engagement.

## **Issues organizations are experiencing that may also be impacting others in the community:**

The majority of organizations report challenges with engaging young community members and/or financial challenges. Organizations indicate membership retention and recruitment concerns. Some organizations highlight the overlap between these concerns, with increasing financial concerns among families.

## **New needs of members:**

Several organizations highlight the change in their members' needs in light of October 7 with increased interest in education, security, and antisemitism. Another common membership interest was inclusion, whether that be for financial needs, marginalized groups, young members, or under-engaged members.

## **Opportunities for collaboration:**

All organizations see a benefit to collaboration with other community organizations for events and programs. Some highlighted collaboration opportunities include social advocacy, education opportunities for youth and adults, and support for older adults. Educational events and programs that support Israel, more involvement on how to combat antisemitism, and interfaith opportunities.

## **Additional comments/ thoughts regarding community opportunities:**

Organizations noted the pressing need to unify the community and encourage participation amongst community members who are currently less active. Large events and robust program offerings create opportunities for unity and togetherness.

# Together, we make an **IMPACT**.

The Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey (JFSNJ), along with our family of agencies, brings our Jewish community together with programming and resources for children, teens, older adults, and individuals with special needs through the generosity and leadership of our community members.

The heart of our mission is to serve the Jewish people of Southern New Jersey, reaching all ages and supporting diverse needs and interests. JFSNJ distributes its resources into five **AREAS OF IMPACT** so that we make an impact in a big way to help everyone.



## **OLDER ADULTS**

We strive to keep older adults engaged in the community with social, recreational, and cultural programming infused with Jewish heritage and values.



## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

We are committed to enhancing the quality of life for members in our community with special needs.



## **GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**

It is our responsibility to advocate for Israel and every Jewish community around the world.



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

We are dedicated to creating lasting and meaningful ways for Jews to connect and strengthen their Jewish identity.



## **FAMILY & YOUTH**

We are passionate about providing family and youth services that enrich both the mind and body.

Learn more at [jewishsouthjersey.org](http://jewishsouthjersey.org)



**Jewish Federation**  
of Southern New Jersey  
& OUR FAMILY OF AGENCIES









# Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

& OUR FAMILY OF AGENCIES



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THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.  
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

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