

Community Wish List

Winter 2025/Updated Feb. 25



**JEWISH
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
OF GREATER HARTFORD



This newsletter highlights activities you can partially or fully fund to keep our community strong, vibrant and resilient. Thank you for your generous support!

HUMAN SERVICES

Support Victims of the LA Wildfires

Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford

Three Jewish Federations in California have opened a relief fund to help those affected by the fires in the Jewish and general communities. Please visit <https://www.jewishhartford.org/wildfires> to learn how you can support people in need.

Training to Effectively Work with Children with Special Needs

Mandell Jewish Community Center (JCC)

Since the pandemic, the JCC has observed a larger and growing number of children with special needs, including psycho-social concerns. Your grant will fund trainings for preschool teachers, camp counselors and other staff, so they have the tools and skills they need to holistically address the needs of children.

\$3,000

Rock Steady Boxing for Parkinson's Disease

Mandell JCC

The JCC wants to offer Rock Steady Boxing, an evidence-based program designed to impact the systems and slow progression of Parkinson's disease. This well-known program is offered nationwide, but not in our area. Your grant will cover licensing fees and instructor training.

FULLY FUNDED

Community Food Insecurity Data

Jewish Family Services

Many of our neighbors are experiencing food insecurity. However, there has not been a thorough study to find the extent of food insecurity issues in kosher households in CT or even how many households keep kosher or would prefer to keep kosher. Your grant will fund the costs of JFS working with researchers to learn about these needs and how JFS staff can address them.

\$3,000

Replace Broken Computers and Replace Technology

Jewish Family Services

JFS has a staff of behavioral health clinicians and case managers, many of whom are using old computers in need of replacement, but JFS has run out of technology funds. Your grant will allow JFS to cover the cost of devices and software that will improve its ability to support the community.

\$3,000

OUTREACH

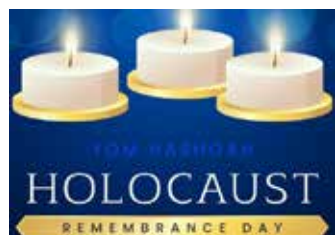


Image designed by FreePik

Holocaust Remembrance Day Trip

UConn Hillel

Please consider a grant to send 45 UConn Hillel students to New York City to attend activities for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Students will see The Book of Names at the United Nations and hear testimony from a survivor.

FULLY FUNDED

OUTREACH

Spring Shabbaton with Other Area Hillels

UConn Hillel

Your grant will provide a first-of-its-kind offering from UConn Hillel, an off-campus Shabbaton for students! This spring Shabbaton is for 30-50 students, who are eager to make Jewish connections outside of UConn. The event will be done in partnership with the Hillels at University of Hartford, Trinity College, Connecticut College and Yale University.

FULLY FUNDED



EDUCATION

STEAMfest

Solomon Schechter Day School

Support STEAMfest at Schechter, a celebration of months of student work in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, infused with Judaic Studies. This program culminates in a family-friendly event where students showcase their creativity and dedication through interactive exhibits, hands-on workshops and demonstrations tied to the themes of Jewish history and holidays. Your grant will help highlight student achievements, celebrate Jewish values and inspire our community!

\$3,000

Imagination Playground

Solomon Schechter Day School

Help Schechter purchase an Imagination Playground - a collection of giant strong, lightweight blue blocks. These materials spark curiosity, encourage problem-solving, and allow for collaborative indoor play, social interaction, and FUN! They inspire children to design their own inventions, environments and activities, especially during the winter months. Imagination Playground is child-directed and open-ended, encouraging self-expression through deep, joyful play.

\$3,000



Purim Party Bus

JTConnect

JTConnect's Purim Party Bus brings students from throughout Greater Hartford to celebrate Purim on a fun and festive party bus that brings teens to many synagogues in the community to take part in their celebrations! Students and staff are in costume as we celebrate, ensuring our teens hear the whole Megillah and bring their amazing energy to the synagogue communities throughout the area!

\$2,000

Shavuot Night Live

JTConnect

Shavuot Night Live is a partnership program between JTConnect and Young Israel of West Hartford. The event will connect educators and clergy from throughout the community and bring the custom of Tikkun Leil Shavuot to life through all night study sessions and fun teen programming! Your grant will help teens celebrate and learn together.

\$2,000

ARTS & CULTURE

Student Ambassador Program

Jewish Historical Society

The Jewish Historical Society is piloting a program for high school and college students to engage them in all aspects of its mission. Activities include board and committee participation and taking an active role in programming and outreach to peers and parents. Your grant will help students gain experience and connection to the Jewish community and understand the importance of knowing our past.

\$3,000

Help Us Tell Our Story

Jewish Historical Society

The Jewish Historical Society holds a large collection of digitized oral history recordings covering the history of Greater Hartford's Jewish community. Your grant will pay for research and testing ways to integrate audio players and headphones into physical exhibits. In the ideal outcome, exhibit guests could press a button on an exhibit panel to listen to an audio recording.

\$3,000

SENIORS

Gardening Club

Federation Homes

Many Federation Homes residents enjoy socializing together while gardening in the spring and summer. However, most residents cannot physically garden on the ground anymore. Your grant will help purchase at least ten new raised garden beds, so residents can grow and eat their own vegetables and herbs while spending time together with friends.

\$3,000



Flower Arranging

Federation Homes

Federation Homes residents love creative projects and frequently ask about bringing back the flower arranging classes. Your grant will subsidize classes taught four times a year by professional floral arrangers. Residents can bring their floral arrangements to their apartments and enjoy their new creations!

\$1,800

SOCIAL ACTION

#Fake Images Exhibit

Voices of Hope (VOH)

This April, VOH will host an exhibit at the Mandell JCC highlighting mis- and disinformation about the use of propaganda during the Holocaust and today. The exhibit provides the learning tools to be a critical consumer of images and propaganda. Your grant will cover costs to bus students to the exhibit and to print exhibit materials.

\$3,000

Anne Frank - The Exhibition

Voices of Hope

VOH is hosting a trip to Anne Frank - The Exhibition in New York on March 16, 2025. The exhibit is the first-of-its-kind in the United States and offers the opportunity to explore a full-scale recreation of the annex. Your grant will subsidize the trip for students, educators and community members.

FULLY FUNDED

For more information, please contact Michael Elfenbaum, Vice President of Community Engagement, at melfenbaum@jcfhartford.org or (860) 727- 6187.

