



# IMPACT REPORT

## 2025– 2026

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this past year at Cleveland Hillel, we are filled with pride in our students, staff and community partners. We are deeply grateful for your support in creating a welcoming, safe, and enriching environment for the students we serve across 11 colleges and universities in Northeast Ohio. This past school year continued to be filled with uncertainty and challenges, yet **Cleveland Hillel has remained a steady presence across all of our campuses.** This year, 720 Jewish undergraduate students connected with Hillel through meaningful experiences in Jewish life, learning, leadership, and community. Through a variety of student driven programming, our multi-campus model continues to meet students where they are – literally and figuratively! We offered more than 400 programs throughout the school year including High Holiday services, Shabbat dinners, weekly Bagel Brunches, our Songleaders Summit, and our **19th Annual** Summer Internship Program.

Three of our biggest areas of focus have been **expanding our graduate student programming**, opening the **Oberlin Hillel Student Lounge** (our temporary “home” as we raise funds to purchase a permanent home for Hillel at Oberlin), and **meeting our students’ needs with extended hours** at the Albert & Norma Geller Hillel Student Center. **This work is a core part of how we care for students – not just as scholars and emerging young professionals – but as whole people.**

This coming school year will be a year of transition and growth as we onboard a new executive director, purchase and open the Oberlin Hillel House, and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Albert and Norman Geller Student Center at Case Western Reserve University, all while we provide innovative Jewish student programming every week. We’re excited to strengthen the relationships that make this work possible by celebrating the people who sustain our mission, and building even more intentional spaces for belonging, meaning, and joy on all our campuses.

In the words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z”l, “Jewish faith is learned and taught, lived and experienced, in community.” Thank you for being an essential part of our Hillel community. It’s through the support of partners like you that we are able to invest in hundreds of Jewish students who walk through our doors each year.

Best,



**JENNIFER COHEN**

Board President



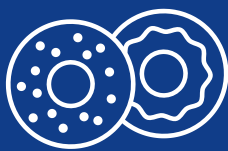
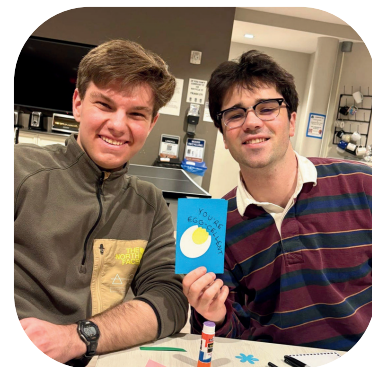
# HILLEL BY THE NUMBERS



**720**  
INDIVIDUAL  
STUDENTS  
REACHED



**413**  
EGGS SERVED  
DURING PASSOVER



**1,379**  
BAGELS SERVED



**328**  
ONE ON ONE  
INTERACTIONS

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR

**Bagel Brunches** are one of our favorite ways to connect with students – we often joke that they come for the lox and stay for the community! After gathering twice a week at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), this popular tradition expanded as a brand-new innovation on campus at Oberlin and Cleveland State University (CSU) on a weekly basis. Across all of our campuses, these gatherings have been consistent, welcoming spaces where students connect, unwind, and build lasting Jewish communities.



Our **Passover programming** brought students together across campuses to celebrate traditions and build connections. We hosted vibrant first-night Seders at Case Western (CWRU) and Oberlin, followed by student-led second-night Seders, which we supported through stipends to empower students to host meaningful holiday meals in their own homes. Throughout the week, we kept students fed and connected with weekday Passover lunches at both CWRU and Oberlin, alongside nightly dinners at CWRU. From traditional holiday meals to creative campus events like Oberlin's *Prince of Egypt* watch party, Passover this year blended campus traditions with student leadership and joy.

**Graduate student programming** reached new heights and meaning this year, driven by a focus on our local professional and graduate communities. Throughout the year, we met grads where they are with targeted programming, hosting regular graduate student Shabbats, lively cocktail hours, and dedicated holiday celebrations for Purim and Chanukah. By tailoring these events to the unique pace of graduate life, we have built a thriving, supportive network where future professionals can easily connect and stay grounded in the Cleveland Jewish community.



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**307**

TOTAL DONORS

**\$300K**

DOLLARS RAISED

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT

Thank you for being the foundation of everything we do here at Cleveland Hillel. Your investment in our mission creates a true sense of belonging for every student we serve. Because of your generosity, our amazing Jewish students across our five campuses have a dedicated space to connect, explore their Jewish identities, and step confidently into their roles as future leaders. As we look back on the impact of this past year, we are profoundly grateful for your partnership and inspired by what we will continue to build together.

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