Cleveland Hillel Foundation

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ANNUAL REPORT

2018 / 2019

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CULTIVATING JEWISH LIFE ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

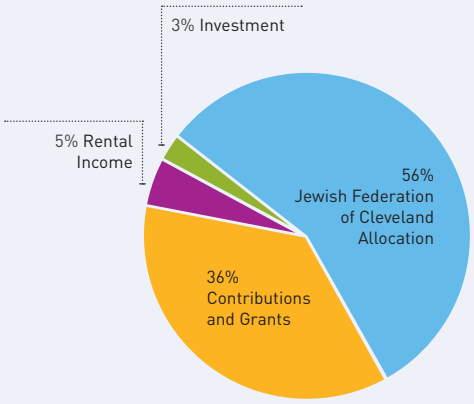
LETTER *from* JARED & STEVE

STEPHEN A. MONTO
President

M. JARED ISAACSON
Executive Director

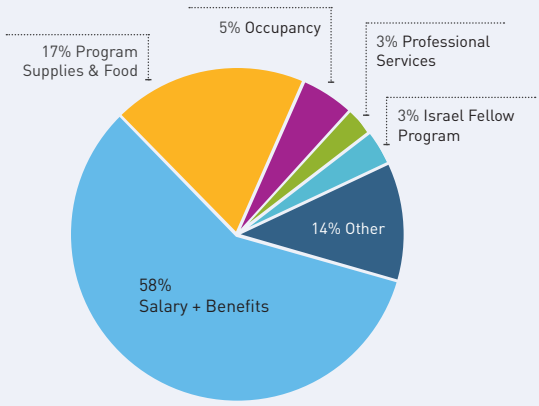
2018/2019 OPERATING FINANCIALS

OPERATING REVENUE - $1,145,222



SOURCES OF REVENUE

OPERATING EXPENSES - $1,224,543



USES OF REVENUE

The Audit report for the year ended June 30, 2019 is available on our website. The audit was performed by BDO USA, LLP. Please see the Audited Financial Statements for complete financial information.

Dear Cleveland Hillel Friends, Supporters, Fans and Family,

For seventy-one years, the Cleveland Hillel Foundation has served the needs of Jewish students on our campuses. Throughout that time, our work has reflected the same guiding principles – including a commitment to Jewish values of community, continuity, innovation and inclusivity. While our core ideals remain unchanged, we recognize the need to adapt with the times to stay relevant and serve our students effectively.

As we've refocused our student engagement strategy, we consider alternative approaches, such as meeting with students on and off campus (outside of the Hillel building) so that we reach the maximum number of students in ways they find personally meaningful. Over the past year and as we look ahead, our engagement and Jewish education initiatives will complement our most popular existing programs and help us to identify new programs that appeal to students on all of our eleven campuses.

During the 2018-19 school year our religious and social programming model shifted to one that is completely student-driven, which ensures attendance and participation. For example, a student committee at Case Western Reserve University redesigned our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat services to a music filled experience embracing students of denominations. The result has been an inclusive, well-attended, highly engaging, and meaningful service.

Thanks to an increased embrace of data analytics across the Hillel movement, we recognize that students impacted by high-level engagement opportunities will stay involved with Jewish life well after their campus careers. Rather than just scheduling programs and hoping for the best, we set high-reaching aspirational goals to increase the breadth and depth of our connections to Jewish students. Inspired by Hillel International, our culture has shifted to one focused on data and results, which helps Cleveland Hillel to enact fact-based decision-making. This practice enhances all that we do – from program evaluation to budget analysis – and we are pleased to share that our programming and organizational operations have significantly benefited from this thoughtful approach.

While we have employed new strategies to our work, we have maintained our longstanding focus on Jewish learning, which remains a key method of engaging with our faith, history and tradition. Strengthening Jewish identity through informal Jewish education drives Hillel's mission and is infused into all of our focus areas; including programming, outreach efforts, and immersive experiences.

These are indeed exciting times for Cleveland Hillel! Throughout the school year we proudly serve as a "home away from home for our students (and throughout the Summer with our signature Summer Internship Program) and our building is consistently filled with students studying, hanging out with friends, noshing, napping on our comfy couches and bean bag chairs, and seeking advice and support from our staff.

We are constantly asking ourselves: how can we do better for our students? As our partners, we invite you to work with us as we answer that question –thus deepening Jewish life on all our campuses. Our friends and supporters play an integral role in our work, and we are grateful for your support in our life-changing work.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN A. MONTO
PRESIDENT

M. JARED ISAACSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HILLEL CAMPUS LIFE

Undergraduate Programming

With a comfortable space, plentiful snacks and student-driven programming, we offer students a Jewish "home away from home" on campus. Throughout the past school year, we provided social and religious support, observing and celebrating Shabbat and holidays, including weekly Shabbat services led by a popular community leader accompanied by various student musicians, followed by a delicious meal; Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; Sukkot, which was observed with Sukkah construction, decoration, meals and activities at BW, CWRU, CSU, JCU and Oberlin; and Passover Seders at CWRU, Oberlin, and JCU, along with daily meals and activities. Events focused on social engagement, Jewish and interfaith education, community service and culture. For the first time, we partnered with Repair the World to lead a successful service trip to Houston, where students served the community as they continue to rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. We look forward to expanding on program successes as we look ahead to the future!

"When I first came to Oberlin, I was barely starting to think of myself as Jewish. I didn't even know if I was Jewish enough to exist in Jewish spaces – let along pray in Jewish Spaces. Today I'm a member of Oberlin Hillel's student board, am a regular participant in Hillel events like weekly Shabbat services and community gathering. Oberlin Hillel has been an extremely welcoming environment – it has truly come to feel like a family, and I'm grateful for this community!"

Julia P., Oberlin College
Class of 2019

JCLE Graduate Student & Young Professionals

JCLE creates a sense of community and meaningful Jewish experiences for Cleveland's Jewish graduate students at Northeast Ohio universities, including medical and law schools, and twenty-something (21-29 years old) young professionals throughout the region.

Over the past year, JCLE continued to help graduate students and young professionals through social, educational, and cultural programming. This helped twenty-somethings in Cleveland to build relationships, engage in Jewish life and connect with the Cleveland Jewish community, the Jewish people and Israel.

"Hillel has given me the opportunity to connect with Jewish students and young professionals in Cleveland. Having the opportunity to enjoy a Shabbat dinner has been really important; as someone new to Cleveland, finding this Jewish identity and network has been essential for making me feel at home."

Jody A., CWRU School of Law
Class of 2019

FACT FINDERS TRIP

Building Support on Campus

In an effort to build support and understanding for Israel on the CWRU campus, we led our first Fact Finders trip this past May, bringing 19 students to Israel. Sponsored by the Macabee Taskforce, this trip gave students leaders (both Jewish and non-Jewish) an opportunity to engage and explore Israel's beauty and complexity in a personal way, enabling them to speak as an advocate after returning to campus. Students discussed different topics regarding Israel including history, culture, human rights, and political issues. We plan to offer this trip annually.

"Traveling to Israel offered an amazing chance to learn about the geopolitical issues and explore lands I had only ever read about. Getting to be completely immersed in the cultures of the melting pot of Israel was a unique and a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Chloe M., CWRU
Class of 2020

Summer Internship Program

In the 11th summer of our Summer Internship Program, we connected 34 interns from 14 colleges and universities with 29 employers in a range of industries across Cleveland. In addition to gaining important professional experience, participating undergraduates spent time networking, connecting with community leaders, and exploring Cleveland's unique neighborhoods, including University Circle, Midtown, Gordon Square Arts District, Ohio City and Downtown.

"Hillel's Summer Internship Program has provided a ton of 'real life' accounting experience. I've gained skills and knowledge that I never could have received in a classroom setting, and my internship at Jewish Federation of Cleveland far exceeded my expectations."

Jenny S., *OSU, Class of 2021*

Israel On Campus

Israel programs and activities are vital to the foundation of Cleveland Hillel, and we are committed to fostering balanced, informed dialogue about Israel on our campuses. We provide every Jewish student with an opportunity to explore and build an enduring relationship with Israel. Students are encouraged to participate in Taglit-Birthright Israel and Onward Israel.

"Being a part of Case for Israel has given me the chance to connect to Israel, while still being in the Diaspora. Being around other people passionate about Israel, listening to Israeli songs, and making Aroma (iced coffee) for Israel Fest gave me a taste of Israel on the Case Quad. Now while I'm visiting Israel, I have been thinking and smiling about that day, especially when I go to Aroma."

Alex B., CWRU, *Class of 2022*

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

Our generous investors enable Cleveland Hillel to make a difference in the lives of Jewish young adults, by providing meaningful, engaging programs and experiences. We are grateful to all of our alumni, the faculty and staff on campuses where we provide Hillel programs, community members, foundations and philanthropic funds, businesses and of course the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for their constant support and partnership.

$10,000 AND ABOVE

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$2,500-$9,999

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* Of Blessed Memory

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MISSION STATEMENT

To engage and empower Jewish young adults through exceptional programming and experiences that foster active Jewish life on and off college campuses and in the Cleveland Jewish community.

VISION STATEMENT

To help insure that every Jewish young adult will have a lifelong Jewish identity and a commitment to Jewish life and community.

Cleveland Hillel Foundation

THE ALBERT and NORMA GELLER
HILLEL STUDENT CENTER AT
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALBERT GELLER

We are saddened by the loss of Albert Geller this past year. He will be remembered for his commitment to *tikun olam*, including the generous gift that enabled us to build the Albert & Norma Geller Hillel Student Center at Case Western Reserve University. The relationship Cleveland Hillel and CWRU had with Albert was special, as his career started out with Fish Furniture on Euclid Avenue. His philosophy was: "you only go through life once, so make a difference," and Albert undoubtedly left an enduring legacy for current and future young Jewish adults with his gift to Cleveland Hillel.

@clevelandhillel

Facebook.com/ClevelandHillel

2018-2019

- 736 coffee dates & meetings
- 19 students on fact finders trip
- 55 shabbat dinners
- 150 hamantaschen baked
- 14,999 puzzle pieces put together & 1 lost
- 339 passover meals served
- 2 students play music at weekly shabbat services
- 262 hours of tikkun olam
- 450+ student engaged with israel
- 43 student leaders & interns
- 375+ students at high holiday programs
- 74 lbs of apples picked for rosh hashanah
- 40 israel programs
- 7 talliot sewn
- 108 dozen bagels eaten