

PRESS RELEASE

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Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City Distributes Over \$1.1 Million to Jewish Community in 2004

Kansas City, MO: The Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City provided more than \$2.2 million in Program and Core Agency Support grant awards to the Greater Kansas City community in 2004. The funds were distributed through 71 Program Grants for direct services to clients and 68 Core Agency Support grants for support for operational expenses.

“Over \$1.1 million of the total was awarded to agencies and organizations serving the Greater Kansas City Jewish Community,” stated Jeanette Wishna, Jewish Heritage Foundation president. “Guided by its mission ‘to enhance the health and human services within the Greater Kansas City community, with a priority to serve the Jewish Community,’ the Foundation Board distributed funds and offered support for services and programs that might not otherwise reach the Jewish community.”

Many different areas of Jewish needs received grant award support. Jewish education remains a priority to the Foundation. The Central Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) received support for SASONE, the Jewish education program for children with special needs. The Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy’s Talmid program for after school tutoring, and the HBHA School Nurse Program for school nursing services and health education, both received awards. Midwest Center for Holocaust Education (MCHE) also received support for improved technology and to broaden its teacher enrichment program and services.

The Jewish Community Center, serving the entire Jewish community, received five awards. The Center received continued funding for the seniors programs and services of its Heritage Center and was awarded a grant for enhancement of the Ma’asim Tovim community service program for 7th and 8th graders. The Foundation also granted the Center funds for Genesis, an outreach program for interfaith couples and families; for continuing programs in the Department of Adult Jewish Learning, and to support the Center’s insurance needs.

The Foundation Board awarded the following grants to agencies that serve Jewish youth: Kansas University Hillel Foundation received funding for its annual financial audit, utility expenses and the Friday Night Shabbat Experiences program. Funding for rent, technology and communication services was awarded to the B’nai Brith Youth Organization.

The Jewish Heritage Foundation maintained its priority to provide support for Jews in need. Jewish Family and Children Services received two grants: one for the Community Support Network, which provides counseling services to Jewish children and their families, and another to support JFCS marketing tools.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City also received two grants that will benefit both young and older adults. One will help support Program Enhancement for Young Professionals, and the other

will continue to fund subsidies distributed by the Jewish Senior Network. Jewish Vocational Service received continued funding for the Career Management Services Program, which provides job support services to Jews seeking employment and support for technology upgrades and expansion. Village Shalom received continuing support for the Assistance Plan to help those who cannot afford senior adult housing.

Many Jewish agencies received support for operational costs. This includes grant awards to Hadassah for rental expenses and upgraded technology, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Communities for technology enhancements, the National Council of Jewish Women for rental expenses and the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City for administrative support.

In addition to these grants, the Jewish Heritage Foundation presented grant monies to agencies serving the general public in the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area, including Jackson, Clay, and Platte counties in Missouri, and Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas.

All grant requests submitted by local nonprofits were considered and reviewed by the Foundation's Grants Committee and Board during the 2004 process. "Our Board worked with diligence and dedication. I am very proud of their effort and applaud their successful work," said Mrs. Wishna. The Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City was created in 1995 with the sale of Menorah Hospital to Health Midwest. Throughout the past ten years, it has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life to the citizens of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area through its support of the area agencies who serve them. "Since our inception in 1995, we have returned nearly \$18 million to the community," said Mrs. Wishna. "We continue the tradition of tikkun olam, and I congratulate the Board on its efforts to serve the community."

A complete listing of 2004 grants awarded is posted on the Jewish Heritage Foundation website, www.jhf-kc.org. Interested parties can also find the Foundation's application on the website.

The Foundation has slightly changed its application process for 2005, and has moved up its deadline for Jewish Program and Core Agency Support grant applications to March 1, 2005. "As a means of giving priority to the Jewish community, we will review and decide on those grants first. Agencies will be notified earlier than usual, and they can have more time for planning," explained Mrs. Wishna. Anyone interested in more information should contact Foundation staff at 816.561.0563 or visit the website, www.jhf-kc.org.

Officers of the Foundation board are: Jeanette Wishna, President; Daniel L. Scharf, M.D., Executive Vice President; Steven A. Gershon, Vice President-Investments; Sheryl T. Davidow, Vice President-Grants; Ann B. Stern, Secretary; and James M. Klein, Treasurer.

Past Presidents of the Foundation are: Donald H. Tranin, Bernard P. Erdman, Rodney T. Minkin, and Joseph L. Hiersteiner.

In addition to the officers and past presidents, members of the Board of Directors include: Barbara M. Atlas, Marilyn Berenbom, Thomas M. Bloch, Stanley J. Bushman, Bunni Copaken, Gustave Eisemann, M.D., SuEllen Fried, Susan L. Goldsmith, Sharon Greenwood, Tom Isenberg, Howard T. Jacobson, Gary Leifer, M.D., Jay Robinow, M.D., Linda Sims, and Stanford A. Zeldin.

Foundation staff is comprised of: Steve Israelite, Executive Director; Beth Gottstein, Senior Program Officer; and Marianne Mantel, Administrative Director.

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