Global Partners for a Brighter Future

“There is a single Jewish world: intertwined, interconnected.”
Ralph I. Goldman

העולם היהודי—אחד הוא: חלקיشوוריים זה בזה בים חום ומלון תלת הדידה

JDC 2007 ANNUAL REPORT
WITH 2008 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Israel’s 60th anniversary was celebrated by young Israelis from all backgrounds at Gan Alon in Hadera, part of the PACT network of early childhood enrichment programs. (Photo: Debbi Cooper)
Hesed welfare centers that JDC established in cooperation with local Jewish communities provide food and other forms of material assistance as well as the warmth of human companionship to some 188,000 elderly Jews. (Photo: Sarah Levin)
Europe

Siral, a JDC-supported coffeehouse in the heart of Budapest’s old Jewish section, offers young Jewish adults an alternative space for cultural activities and social gatherings. (Photo: Zoltan Szabo)
JDC welfare clients in India benefit from regular home visits from social workers to ensure that their basic needs are met. (Photo: Richard Lord)
Latin America

The Baby Help program in Argentina provides poor Jewish families with essential supplies and an opportunity to celebrate Jewish lifecycle events, like this child’s brit milah. (Photo: JDC)
Safe drinking water was one of the first items supplied by JDC in May 2008 as part of its emergency relief efforts in Myanmar during the days following the devastating strike of Cyclone Nargis. (Photo: JDC)
Like Jewish children around the world on Purim, these costumed “pirates” at the YESOD Jewish Community Center in St. Petersburg, Russia, are happy to perform their own version of the Purim megillah. (Photo: JDC)
On her visit to the Gaza border region in March 2008, JDC President Judge Ellen M. Heller hears how JDC is helping the area’s most vulnerable residents cope with months of rocket attacks. (Photo: JDC)
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In August 1914, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., then U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, cabled Jacob Schiff, the New York philanthropist, asking for $50,000 for the relief of Palestinian Jews caught in the agony of World War I. The money was raised within a month, and in November, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) was established to channel funds being raised to aid Jews in Europe and Palestine by the Orthodox Central Committee for the Relief of Jews, the American Jewish Relief Committee, and the People’s Relief Committee.

Today, 94 years later, JDC still serves as the overseas arm of the organized North American Jewish community. On behalf of the UJC (United Jewish Communities)/Federation system, which provides our primary financial support, we sponsor programs of rescue, relief, and renewal and help Israel address its most urgent social challenges. Fulfilling our commitment to the idea that all Jews are responsible for one another, we address Jewish needs and aid Jews in need around the globe.

The number of people assisted by JDC since 1914 reaches into the millions, and we have had a presence at one time or another in over 85 countries. Today, we provide life-sustaining assistance to nearly a quarter of a million impoverished Jews in the former Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe, even as we continue to help young and old rebuild Jewish communities and renew their Jewish heritage.

In Israel, we have responded to crisis-related needs while helping to enrich the lives of the country’s most vulnerable populations and improve the quality of services available to them. In Argentina, emergency assistance efforts provided critical aid to over 36,000 Jews during the height of that country’s recent economic crisis, while in various African and Asian countries, we enable small Jewish communities to maintain essential services and ensure a Jewish future for their youth. Through the Open Mailbox campaigns and our non-sectarian efforts, we provide a way for Jews to respond to disasters and furnish development assistance worldwide.

JDC today remains a vital instrument of North American Jewry. As the active, on-the-ground expert, we are reaching out to Jewish communities in distress and working to enhance Jewish lives and Jewish life in Israel and around the world.
This has been a year of contrasts. Jewish communities in Argentina and Uruguay continued to recover from the economic crisis of 2001. In Israel, the former Soviet Union (FSU), and Europe, however, the weak dollar and high inflation presented major challenges, resulting in program reductions and a regrettable staff layoff. I had impressive meetings with Prince Charles and Pope Benedict XVI, but I also had sad visits with Holocaust survivors in Lithuania and impoverished Falas Mura in Ethiopia. In Rwanda, I visited the site of the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village, which will provide a permanent home to 500 orphans of the 1994 genocide, and in a small rural village in Ethiopia, I dewormed children at a two-room schoolhouse built by JDC with funds raised by a 17-year-old Jewish youth.

**STRATEGIC VISIONING PROCESS**

A major highlight of the year was the completion of the Strategic Visioning (SV) process and the approval of its recommendations for Israel, the FSU, and Europe. Ninety percent of the Jews JDC serves live within these areas and account for 90 percent of our program budget. The SV report marked the completion of 18 months of intensive and thoughtful work—in the field and in deliberations—by 27 members of the Board, a JDC professional team, and outside consultants. The report sets a blueprint for the next five to 10 years in these areas. The SV Committee has my deep appreciation.

**ISRAEL**

Nine decades after it was founded to aid Jews in Turkish Palestine, JDC, in partnership with the State of Israel, provides assistance to the most vulnerable Israeli citizens—both Jews and non-Jews. The SV report reaffirmed the JDC-Israel model of strategic, innovative partnerships with the government resulting in a systemic impact on the elderly, the disabled, children at risk, and new immigrants.

The importance of the strong program infrastructure we helped create was evident during my visit to Sderot and Ashkelon. JDC, with help from the UJC/Federation Israel Emergency Campaign, has developed outstanding support programs to help the residents of these cities, who have incurred significant emotional, physical, and economic injuries while under months of rocket attacks.

I will not forget the tale of a man in his early 60s, confined to a wheelchair. He is able to drive, but when the 15-second siren sounds, he watches everyone run to a shelter while he remains immobile in his car. For others like him who need help, the ardent efforts of our Accessible Community for the Disabled have resulted in protective shields for bus stations’ improved shelters.

I also visited a day care center for the elderly in Sderot, where JDC has helped with activities and the reinforcement of its physical structure. These centers provide respite and companionship for older people otherwise confined to their homes. When I visited one of the 27 school-based “Havens of Calm” we created to help the youngest deal with stress, the children were building shelters for mice! Even the honor of being President of JDC could not tempt me to hold these “pets”—even if they were Israeli.

JDC also leads the way in its programs for disabled Israelis. I met with members of a new Center for Independent Living in Jerusalem and was impressed with its staff and their ability to assist the disabled in making lifestyle choices. JDC must expand its programs in this area even further.
**FORMER SOVIET UNION**

The SV report reaffirmed JDC’s “fundamental role in the FSU and Europe as working with Jewish communities to build a strong, ongoing, and sustainable connection to Jewish life—one that is grounded in both material security and a vibrant Jewish identity.” In short, the goal is to ensure a Jewish future in the very regions where Nazi and Communist rulers sought the physical destruction and spiritual annihilation of Jews. The 1991 JDC strategic report, issued contemporaneously with the break-up of the Soviet Union, focused on Jewish renewal and the goal of reconnecting these “lost” Jews with the rest of the Jewish world. There was no mention of welfare needs or any hint that the ruble would collapse in 1998 or that pensions and other social benefits would be greatly diminished or disappear. Faced with an unforeseen economic calamity, JDC quickly mobilized a massive support program for the elderly that at its height had 201 Hesed centers and other organizations in 3,000 communities caring for hundreds of thousands of Jews who had no other safety net. The SV report of 2008 restates JDC’s commitment to supporting elderly Jews who are otherwise unable to obtain the basic necessities and to providing for Jewish children in need whenever other resources are inadequate.

With high inflation in the FSU, the weak American dollar, declining overseas allocations in core funding from North American Federations, and the end of the UJC Operation Promise campaign, JDC’s welfare and renewal programs suffered severe reductions in 2007. Client caseloads and support services have been cut. Hesed centers are being closed in rural areas and others are being consolidated. The result is that aged Jews are faced with impossible choices regarding food and medicine. The irony of their sad dilemma is that it is occurring 20 years after the unforgettable rally in our nation’s capital to free Soviet Jewry. The plight of the elderly in the FSU remains a major challenge.

This year JDC assisted 28,000 children, approximately half of the Jewish children in need in the FSU. A major milestone was the creation of a formal partnership with the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews to assist Jewish children in the FSU. As a result, JDC continues to maintain its programs of aid for children suffering from poverty, dysfunctional home environments, disabilities, or illness.

Ensuring a Jewish future for the 1.3 million Jews that remain in the FSU has been a predominant objective of JDC since it reentered the Soviet Union in 1989. Over the past two decades, JDC has created new models to promote self-sustaining, flourishing Jewish communities. They include 107 family retreats with almost 10,000 participants, and 186 Jewish community centers that provide activities for Jews of all ages. Although these renewal programs have also suffered budgetary cutbacks, support for them must continue since they will ensure the survival of Jewish life for hundreds of thousands of Jews.

**EUROPE**

In Central and Eastern Europe, JDC has concentrated on community development and renewal in diverse communities. Program highlights include leadership training, cross-border networking activities, and the outstanding summer camp at Szarvas, Hungary. JDC initiated the European Jewish Community University “without walls” this year. Called Bereshit, it offers students an opportunity to engage in high-level learning with renowned Jewish scholars. JDC also helps support 26,000 Holocaust survivors, and services are provided to over 1,000 Jewish children suffering from poverty or disabilities. However, there are over 3,000 Jewish children at risk in this region without adequate resources.

**LATIN AMERICA**

The Jewish communities in Argentina and Uruguay have continued to assume more responsibility for their own social welfare needs as their recovery continues. I witnessed the dedication of the new Maccabi Noar Jewish Community Center in Córdoba, Argentina, a jubilant celebration and a symbol of that revitalization. JDC has also increased its presence in those Jewish communities dealing with changing situations, such as in Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia.

**AFRICA AND ASIA**

JDC continues to monitor the situation of Jews living in Muslim countries, where it helps remnant communities provide assistance to the aged and ensure a quality Jewish education for their young. In addition, JDC is assisting the remaining Jews of Zimbabwe through the South African Jewish Congress.
**NON-SECTARIAN PROGRAMS**

2007 was a year for many new and expanded non-sectarian initiatives, ranging from programs for the disabled to women's health programs and disaster relief. In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, I met some of the physically disabled people. JDC assists with reconstructive surgery, young people who had been bent over from spinal deformities and were now able to stand tall. It is not surprising that JDC’s Medical Director, Dr. Rick Hodes, was named a finalist in the Championing Children category of CNN Heroes.

JDC, in coordination with Israeli relief organizations and local and international NGOs, is continuing its aid in Myanmar as that country recovers from the devastation of Cyclone Nargis. Within days of the storm, JDC sent food and medicine to the worst-hit areas. JDC representatives were able to secure temporary homes for five Jews whose houses were destroyed, and we have assisted in replacing the roof of the synagogue.

**CONCLUSION**

As it enters its 95th year, JDC continues to strengthen its mission of rescue, relief, and rebuilding of Jewish communities throughout the world. It embodies Jewish care in action for those in need and provides tools and assistance for communities to rebuild and become self-sustaining. It is truly the “Joint”, the connector for the global Jewish family.

JDC could not undertake its work without its exemplary, dedicated staff. It is their creativity, courage, and hard work that nourish our programs. The professional head of this outstanding corps is Steve Schwager. He is on call 24/7. Steve’s knowledge and commitment inform his superb leadership. He has been my partner, friend, and adviser. My other partner, of course, is the JDC Board. Its active engagement in policy decisions, sustained generosity, and compassion have provided the necessary guidance for JDC in its continued assistance to world Jewry. It is with immeasurable pride that I have served as President of this extraordinary organization.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Steven Schwager
areas where Jews are living in danger. Each visit shows clearly that the world Jewish community, acting through the Joint, cares for and values every single Jewish life. The Board and staff have been charged with this responsibility and carry it out with great dignity and respect for the people we serve.

Throughout the year, we have struggled with one financial crisis after another, even though in the aggregate our lay and professional resource development team has raised more dollars than ever before in our history. No one could have predicted the decline that has occurred in the dollar’s value against the ruble, shekel, and euro. The loss in purchasing power is not just a number; it translates into service reductions around the world. Individuals used to getting hot meals in a soup kitchen are now given food packages and must eat at home alone. Programs we developed to help ensure a Jewish future have been cut back across the globe, and services and demonstration projects involving the neediest Israelis have been eliminated.

I could go on and bemoan the fate that our clients have suffered. However, I recently reread some of my predecessors’ comments in past annual reports. One in particular, written in 1947 by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, stayed with me. He said in part, “In our hands lies a great responsibility . . . a responsibility that transcends all concepts of dollars and cents, that involves the saving of human life and the restoration of a people to a decent basis of living.” He went on to say, “In practically every country of Europe today the picture is: tremendous increases in the cost of living, continued need and problems to be faced . . . . We cannot rest and enjoy the good things of life as long as we know our brethren are in need.”

Sixty-one years later, the same situation faces us. We must, in full partnership with UJC and the Federation system, do a better job of getting North American Jewry to understand the needs of Jews who are trying to recover their past in the former Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe—and the importance of our continuing, generous response to those needs. We must open the doors for young Jews around the world to connect to their heritage and their future. At the same time, we must ensure that the elderly can live out their remaining years in dignity.

In Israel, we must help the most vulnerable become an integral part of the Jewish people. We must ensure that the State of Israel is a light unto the nations. In the rest of the world, we must keep the lights on and the phone connected so that every Jew knows whom to call when he or she is in danger, or in need.

We began operating 94 years ago in what is today Israel. We have spread our wings and now provide connections and support in 71 countries around the globe. Our history and our strength lie in the fact that we are one people—and we never forget that. Our lay leadership and staff, working together, can and will accomplish miracles. JDC is ready to be a full partner with our great Federation system to meet Jewish needs wherever they exist.

Speaking of strength, no annual report would be complete without my thanking my partner and friend, our President, Judge Ellen M. Heller. This is Ellen’s final year in that office, and I again want to express my deep appreciation for her incredible efforts on behalf of JDC over the last four years. She has literally been our ambassador to the Jewish and the non-Jewish world. She has traveled hundreds of thousands of miles each year, and everywhere she goes, she represents us with dignity, dedication, and knowledge. I also welcome Dr. Irving Smokler as our next President, beginning December 2008. As we always say, each JDC President has been the perfect person for his or her era, and I know that JDC is once again fortunate in its leadership choice.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the worldwide JDC staff. As we have seen this year in Myanmar and Georgia, each and every member of our staff is a true professional who never hesitates to go in harm’s way if that is what is needed to get the job done.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to be the CEO and Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
### 2007 Global Budget

The following table summarizes JDC’s annual budget with income provided primarily by the United Jewish Communities/Federation System and the extent to which additional funds from various sources have been obtained and utilized. In sum, the JDC core budget of $69.5 million has leveraged another $283.3 million for total expenditures on JDC projects of $352.8 million during 2007.

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<th>(In U.S. Dollars)</th>
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<td>100,000</td>
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<td>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</td>
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<td>SERBIA AND MACEDONIA</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 69,475,561</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 283,275,452</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 352,751,013</strong></td>
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2007 Program Budget Breakdown

By Geographic Area

By Program Area
Israel

Members of this flourishing ETHIOPIAN-ISRAELI family in BEERSHEVA have benefited from JDC’s help at various stages of their lives. (Photo: Peggy Myers)

JDC’S CURRENT FOCUS IN ISRAEL

• Implementing UJC-funded Israel Emergency Campaign programs to address the immediate and longer-term needs of the JDC-Israel target populations who were affected by the Second Lebanon War and those who are living under fire in the Gaza border region.

• Enhancing Israeli society’s ability to provide effective assistance to all citizens in need by:

  Developing innovative programs for children and youth at risk and their families
  Developing models to enhance care for the elderly
  Expanding programs to combat poverty, with an emphasis on assisting chronically unemployed Israelis
  Empowering and integrating vulnerable immigrants
  Expanding programs for independent living for Israelis with disabilities
  Promoting civil society and the voluntary sector and fostering local philanthropy
  Research and development of social services

PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION: STRATEGIC INTERVENTION

RESEARCH: Understanding the most difficult issues challenging Israel’s social fabric.

RESPONSE: Developing an approach that can solve a specific problem.

RECRUITMENT: Bringing in national and local partners to help develop and test this approach.

REPLICATION: Once an approach is proven, JDC helps its partners apply it nationwide, making it an integral part of Israel’s social service system.

EXIT: When replication is complete, JDC exits the program and moves on to its next strategic intervention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>7.28 million</th>
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<td>Jewish Population</td>
<td>5.50 million</td>
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<td>JDC Country Budget</td>
<td>$159,317,725</td>
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JDC programs for Israelis with disabilities encourage independent living, and its accessibility initiatives make visits to Jerusalem’s Western Wall and other historic sites possible for all. (Photo: JDC)
HELPING ISRAEL’S MOST VULNERABLE

Despite Israel’s flourishing economy, over 30 percent of Israel’s children and elderly live in poverty, as do more than 50,000 Ethiopian-Israelis. The effects of recent cuts in the social services area continue to prey on the country’s weakest citizens as the assistance needed to replace slashed benefits is still only partially available.

Ongoing unrest in the Gaza border region and the aftermath of the Second Lebanon War led to an increased JDC intervention for residents of the affected areas. Funds from the UJC/Federation Israel Emergency Campaign (UJC/IEC) have been central to these efforts.

However, the social and economic realities facing Israeli society today underscore the importance of JDC’s “regular" programs, which assist Israel’s most vulnerable: children and youth at risk, hard-to-absorb immigrant groups, people with disabilities, the elderly, and the chronically unemployed.

Recognizing the role of Israelis in assisting their fellow citizens—both in peacetime and in the event of future crises—JDC also continued to work to strengthen and build capacity within Israeli civil society.

JDC represents North American Jewry and others in their ongoing role of supporting and invigorating the State of Israel, its society, and its people. Partnerships with the Israeli government and other agencies—nationally and locally—allow proven JDC programs to become routine elements of services they themselves provide.

CARING FOR ISRAEL’S CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK

JDC’s Ashalim partnership with the Israeli government and UJA-Federation of New York pioneers services on behalf of some 350,000 Israeli children at risk of abuse and neglect. With Ashalim now in its tenth year, the country’s growing number of impoverished families and the security outlook make its mission as important as ever.

Ashalim develops services for youngsters and their families while providing training, skills enhancement, and accessible knowledge for professionals charged with their care. Ashalim enjoys support from the Erika and M. Kenneth Witover Family Foundation.

JDC’s regular programs assist Israel’s most vulnerable: children and youth at risk, hard-to-absorb immigrant groups, people with disabilities, the elderly, and the chronically unemployed.

New Beginnings, a national government initiative, ensures accessible and quality early childhood services. In 2007, Ashalim and JDC pre-piloted projects in six cities. New Beginnings receives major support from the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, the Russell Berrie Foundation, the S. Daniel Abraham Foundation, Robert and Myra Kraft, FEDERATION CJA Montreal, UJIA (UK), the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Jewish Funders Network.

The ECHAD Partnership, a joint effort of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, Ashalim, and the Israeli government, develops and upgrades early childhood programs in the Israeli Arab sector. In 2007, health, education, and welfare plans were reinforced in six locations and child-assessment training for early childhood caregivers upgraded knowledge and skills.

Better Together maximizes existing local services to benefit at-risk children and their families in inner city neighborhoods. In 2007, such services enhanced the lives of 14,000 youngsters in nine locations. Supported by the Dorothea Gould Foundation, in 2008 Better Together will expand to seven cities in northern Israel. Additional funding was received from the Samberg Family Foundation, the Rayne Foundation (UK), the Chais Family Foundation, the Steinhardt Family Foundation, and the Lowenstein family.

Turning Point promoted youth employment and entrepreneurship among some 1,000 youth at risk in 64 locations, through hands-on experience and business courses. Comprised of four elements, Turning Point includes It’s A Deal youth-run business ventures, supported by

Ashalim’s interdisciplinary resource center, Mayda, offers courses for education, health, and welfare professionals; accumulates and disseminates knowledge and innovative approaches; and promotes peer-to-peer learning. In 2007, Mayda received support from the Dorset Foundation and the Avisar family.

To further educate professionals in addressing disenfranchised students’ needs, Ashalim, together with Oranim Academic College, launched a master’s degree program in education for teachers of students at risk.

In 2007, the first Treatment Consultation Unit for special needs victims of abuse opened as part of the Emergency Centers’ network. The Unit provided 40 special needs youngsters and their families with diagnosis, treatment, and guidance services.

Support from the Helen Bader Foundation for The Risk to Opportunity program helps mainstream the youngest special needs children in normative day care centers. The Winning Combination program integrated 45 physically disabled young adults into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and 130 young adults with disabilities completed National Service through Mishlavim. Other services included a national information center and the Friend to a Family volunteer program.

A network of 30 community-based Parent Child Centers (PCCs) helps dysfunctional families with young children by providing intense intervention. The Mobile PCC initiative, supported by Bruce and Dianne Grossman, rotates staff between outlying communities, reaching families in smaller towns and rural locations.

In 2007, the Afula PCC relocated to a new multipurpose campus thanks to Woolf Family support, while a new regional PCC opened in Or Akiva with funding from the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation.

The Nutrition Enrichment and Healthy Living Program promoted healthy nutrition, physical fitness, dental hygiene, and positive body image among children at risk and their families in 11 locations in 2007 thanks to funding from Professor Stanley Mills, Barbara Green Kay, and Jack Kay. The program operated in another three locations with funding from Dorothy Adler through the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, Jack Kay through the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and United Jewish Communities of MetroWest, N.J.

The Beit Lynn Protection Center in Jerusalem served some 1,150 children in 2007. Supported by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Center’s comprehensive services are designed to safeguard child victims of abuse through the diagnosis and referral processes. A second Beit Lynn Center, in partnership with the Safra Children’s Hospital at Tel Hashomer, is due to open in 2008. The first Conference of Protection Centers in Israel brought professionals in the field together to highlight the issue of child abuse, explain the Center concept, and offer networking opportunities.

Ashalim’s Girls on the Map initiative addresses the needs of adolescent girls in distress. Programs such as the ADI Center—supported by Richard and Lois Gunther, the Girls for Girls Mentoring initiative, and an upgraded national network of Warm and Creative Homes provide young women with critical guidance and life skills.
The Weitzman-Albert Education Initiative, a partnership with the government and the municipality of Bat Yam, is changing the lives of Ethiopian-Israeli and other immigrant and veteran Israeli children at the Harel School in that city. In addition to offering smaller classes and extracurricular enrichment and promoting parental involvement, the Initiative provided 90 of the 125 participants with holiday activities this year. The Initiative receives major support from Jane and Stuart Weitzman and Ruth Albert.

Other school-based programs include Merhav, which introduces a multi-professional team approach to help at-risk elementary school students. Merhav in Ashkelon is supported by the Ben and Zelda Cohen Foundation. Merhav in three northern locations is supported by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit through UJC/IEC. The Maleh alternative learning space provides elementary and junior high school students at risk of dropping out with tailored educational support and social reinforcement.

With support from the Laulicht Family, a Children and Youth Center is being built in Ofakim in order to provide afternoon enrichment programs for the town’s children at risk.

FROM POVERTY TO INDEPENDENCE
JDC’s TEVET partnership with the Israeli government tackles poverty by working to reverse chronic unemployment and lack of workforce participation among various population groups. Focusing on the obstacles that face Israel’s un- and under-employed, TEVET targets hard-to-absorb immigrants, the ultra-Orthodox, people with disabilities, Israeli Arabs, and young adults.

Generously supported by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, TEVET also received funding from UJC/IEC to expand its programming in northern Israel.

TEVET increases job readiness by providing participants with “soft” employment skills, in tandem with vocational training and job placement programs. It further increases access to job opportunities by working with local agencies to develop effective employment services. TEVET ensures long-term workplace success by supporting participants and their employers after placement.

In 2007, the CityWorks program helped 12 cities with high jobless rates work systematically to attract employers and promote employment, reaching some 2,700 individuals. Six Ma’avorim employment centers in regional councils and rural areas provided workplace skills, retraining, and job placement services to some 2,500 people.

Using Ma’avorim’s infrastructure, Hizdamnut: Galil Young Adult Employment Program began operations in 2007. Aimed at fulfilling young adults’ employment potential, Hizdamnut is strengthening this economically challenged region by helping it retain its residents. Hizdamnut enjoys major support from UJIA (UK).

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STRIVE in Tel Aviv annually helps approximately 150 chronically unemployed Israeli young adults gain access to greater employment opportunities. With funding from the Botwinick-Wolfensohn Foundation, a second STRIVE center opened in Haifa in 2007. A third will open in Jerusalem in 2008. Follow-up after six months showed that more than 85 percent of program graduates had found jobs and were still employed.

Left: ASHALIM’S SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAMS have created opportunities for young people with disabilities to integrate fully into Israeli society. Right: In HOLON, the MATI SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER is helping Israelis of all backgrounds achieve self-sufficiency.

(Photos: Debbi Cooper)
Employment initiatives targeted Ethiopian-Israelis in Netanya and Ramla in 2007 thanks to support from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco. In addition to job preparation programs, TEVET professionals identified suitable job placements with corporations operating locally.

Eshet Chayil (Woman of Valor), was developed to help Ethiopian-Israeli women integrate into the workforce through job preparation, motivation, and career advancement workshops. The program, supported by Nancy Tellem and Jeanne Newman, has since been adapted to help other populations. In 2007, 220 Kavkazi-Israeli women in eight locations and 140 veteran Israeli women in seven locations benefited from the program. The Avi Hagil (Father of Valor) program targeted 240 unemployed Ethiopian-Israeli fathers in seven locations. Sixty-five percent of program participants are working.

TEVET programs for Haredim (ultra-Orthodox Jews) seek to provide suitable training and employment opportunities for impoverished members of this community that take their cultural and religious needs into consideration.

A range of vocational training courses, supported by the Schimmel Family Foundation, is opening up new fields of employment for Haredim. With support from the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Haredi women have been trained as programmers, aerobics instructors, and hydro-therapists through Tzofia, which also provides them with child care subsidies. Placement rates are 65 percent for Haredi men, and 80 percent for the women.

Support from Aron Abecassis and Eli and Rivka Weinstein makes financial assistance available to participants as they train, as well as funds for Haredim interested in developing small businesses. Aron Abecassis also supports an employment initiative for Moroccans in Ashdod.

JDC’s Haredi Job Opportunity Centers operate in cities with large Haredi populations. The centers provide job placement assistance, career counseling, and short, focused training programs to help Haredi men and women find work and integrate into the workplace. The Zusman Center for Haredi Employment in Jerusalem, supported by Larry and Leonore Zusman, has been joined by centers in Beitar and Ashdod. The latter was renovated with support from the Spearman Family Fund. Seven additional centers will be opened by the end of 2008.

The Gesher program for disadvantaged young adults, which facilitates the successful transition into adulthood of youth raised in Israeli residential facilities, is supported by Nancy and Stephen Grand. The program’s assistance includes housing, which offers participants a stable base from which to plan their futures. In 2007, 73 young adults benefited from transitional apartments.

Re-launched in 2008, IDBelieve is a small business incubator program, operated in partnership with Israel’s IDB Holding Corporation and with support from Nancy and Stephen Grand. Adapted from an international model to meet the needs of chronically unemployed young Israeli adults, IDBelieve utilizes seasoned business professionals to mentor participating young entrepreneurs.

Working with the MATI network of Small Business Development Centers, TEVET helped its target populations set up small businesses in five locations around the country through culturally appropriate, custom-tailored programs. Support for programs for minority women is provided by Dr. Alfred and Mrs. Isabel Bader.

PROMOTING IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

By focusing on education, employment, leadership, and community development, JDC helps immigrants benefit from the opportunities that Israeli society offers.

The country’s 115,000 Ethiopian-Israelis are a particular priority, and JDC’s flagship PACT (Parents and Children Together) program tackles critical educational and social gaps between Ethiopian-Israeli children under age six and their veteran Israeli peers. By promoting

The WEITZMAN-ALBERT EDUCATION INITIATIVE at the HAREL SCHOOL in BAT YAM offers smaller classes and extracurricular activities that are enriching the lives of these elementary school students. (Photo: Vera Etzion)
the enrollment of every Ethiopian-Israeli youngster in a preschool framework and providing culturally sensitive support, PACT helps the children acquire the social and cognitive skills that Ethiopian-Israeli parents—raised in a rural, oral-based society—cannot provide.

Pioneered in Beersheva in 1998 with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, PACT now operates in 14 locations through partnerships with: The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; the Minneapolis Jewish Federation; the UJC Network of Independent Communities; UJA-Federation of New York; the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester; and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington/United Jewish Endowment Fund.

PACT also enjoys support from the Rashi Foundation, the Glickman Foundation, the Skirball Foundation, the Chais Family Foundation, Penny and Harold Blumenstein, the Ruth and Allen Ziegler Foundation, the Joseph and Suzanne Orley Foundation, Thomas F. Secunda, and the Richard S. and Lois Gunther Family Foundation.

In some cities, PACT Plus extends the intervention into elementary and middle school, while in Beersheva, UJA-Federation of New York supports Birth to Bagrut to assist youngsters through high school. In 2007, over 11,000 Ethiopian-Israeli children and their parents benefited from PACT and PACT Plus.

Programs for immigrant youth at risk span the gamut of intervention—from mainstreaming dropouts to promoting excellence. The Minneapolis Jewish Federation is bringing a combination of such programs to Hadera youth through the Prevent and Improve initiative.

Ten additional Supportive Communities were established in northern Israel and the Gaza border region with UJC/IEC funding to enable people with disabilities to maintain their autonomy in the community even during crises.

Educational programs such as Ofek L’Bagrut—supported by the Heyman-Merrin Family Foundation—with 2,700 participants, and From Failure to Excellence help improve matriculation results by targeting immigrant high school students who urgently require extra help to realize their academic potential. Pathways to Bagrut incorporated both these programs to offer 400 immigrant youth from South Tel Aviv, Petach Tikva, and Ramla educational assistance. These programs enjoy major support from the Chais Family Foundation.

The Immigrants Rising to Excellence initiative, also supported by the Chais Family Foundation together with Robert Asher and in partnership with the Society for Excellence through Education (SEE), promotes excellence in the arts and sciences among immigrant students.

Gamla offered volunteer in-home tutoring to 2,500 indigent Israeli youth as well as 350 Israeli Arab and Druze matriculation students. Mirkam provided literacy and language development to 2,500 immigrant kindergarten and elementary school youngsters. A new initiative which aims to change the destiny of Kavkazi-Israeli youth in Beersheva was launched in 2007 with support from UJA-Federation of New York.

Mishol rallies residents to improve the living environment of 15 low income neighborhoods with large numbers of immigrants and impoverished veteran Israelis. Milah Tovah promotes the development of Hebrew-language skills among immigrants. In 2007, 1,500 immigrants, mostly Ethiopian-Israelis, participated in over 90 classes across the country.

Springboard assists new immigrant recruits and their families prior to, during, and immediately after their military service. Working with the IDF and the National Insurance Institute, Springboard served some 2,400 Kavkazi- and Ethiopian-Israeli recruits in eight locations in 2007.

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In coordination with Springboard, the Amir program prepares Ethiopian-Israelis for army life by providing army orientation and testing in a culturally appropriate way. Of 400 course graduates to date, almost 200 have been reassigned to better positions. The Baron de Hirsch Fund, the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, and UJA-Federation of New York provide support for these programs.

JDC’s 22 Centers for Young Adults helped some 30,000 immigrants and at-risk veteran Israelis address education, employment, and social challenges in 2007, helping them to make constructive choices for their futures. The centers received major assistance from the Dorothea Gould Foundation, with additional support from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco and Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. UJC/IEC provided funding for three centers in the conflict zone.

Operation Atzmaut (Independence) provides targeted, family-based support to promote Ethiopian-Israeli families’ integration and independence. Its success was demonstrated when the Ministry of Social Affairs adopted the Atzmaut model as an operational guide for its agencies throughout the country.

In 2007, Atzmaut benefited Ethiopian-Israeli families in 12 cities and targeted Bukharan families in two others. Atzmaut receives support from the Arthur and Joan Holstein Trust, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, United Jewish Communities of Metro West, NJ, the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, the Memphis Jewish Federation, the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, and UJC/IEC.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR ISRAELIS WITH DISABILITIES**

Despite their daily challenges, over 95 percent of Israeli adults with disabilities aged 21 to 65 prefer living an independent life in the community—with family, friends, or on their own—to living in an institutional framework. Accordingly, JDC has developed community-based programs to help respond to the needs of these 400,000 Israelis.

With new legislation reforming the provision of government services, JDC is also working to adapt existing community-based services to accommodate the country’s mentally ill.

In 2007, Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Jerusalem and Beersheba helped approximately 2,500 people with disabilities through peer counseling, advocacy efforts, and the provision of information and practical support. Existing CILs have been supported by Larry and Leonore Zusman, the Greenberg Family of Ottawa, the Pell Family, the Rich Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, and two additional CILs are set to open in 2008.

Twelve Supportive Communities for the Disabled offered people with disabilities access to the formal and informal support needed for independent living in 2007. These are supported by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the Jewish Federation of Nashville, UJA-Federation of New York, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Coast to Coast Federation, and UIA Federations Canada.

Ten additional Supportive Communities were established in northern Israel and the Gaza border region with UJC/IEC funding to enable people with disabilities and their families to maintain their autonomy in the community even during crises.

To increase the involvement of people with disabilities in decisions that affect their lives, JDC helped establish Accessible Communities. In 2007, roundtables in 45 local authorities brought people with disabilities, professionals, and public figures together to identify unmet needs and develop services in response. Following the 2006 war in Lebanon, the program expanded its advocacy role to include the provision of direct emergency assistance. UJC/IEC funding augmented 16 existing communities and established six new communities in northern Israel and the Gaza border region.

Geographical isolation and a lack of physical access to services further complicate the challenges faced by disabled residents in southern Israel. With funding from UJC/IEC, JDC provided day trips and respite care for approximately 900 residents with disabilities in the Gaza border region.
Facing South, a comprehensive report and strategic plan aimed at promoting the status of the disabled in the Negev, was released in 2007. As part of this plan, On the Move, a regional transportation network, will improve accessibility to services and opportunities for people with disabilities. A grant from Eliot Cohen established The Judith Cohen Accessibility Program, which launched the network’s preliminary stages.

Masira (Journey) continues to develop culturally tailored programs and improve accessibility to services and entitlements for Israeli Arabs with disabilities, while also effecting attitudinal changes within Israeli Arab society. In 2007, 10 NGOs increased services to 4,000 Israeli Arabs with disabilities and their families in 19 locations.

HELPING ISRAEL’S ELDERLY AGE WITH DIGNITY

Since 1969, JDC’s ESHEL partnership with the Israeli government has pioneered services to enhance the quality of life for Israel’s elderly. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the Glickman Foundation provide significant funding for JDC-ESHEL programs.

In 2007, over 200 Supportive Communities helped 37,500 elderly live independently in their own homes and neighborhoods. Recognizing the program’s cost effectiveness and the benefits of “aging in place,” the Israeli government subsidizes membership dues for low-income elderly. JDC-ESHEL is working with the government to expand the network to 300 communities by the end of 2010.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2009, JDC’s ESHEL partnership with the Israeli government has developed a wide range of supportive services and life-enhancing programs for ISRAELI SENIORS. (Photo: Debbi Cooper)
Supportive Communities receive funding from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Joseph and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Trust, the Nash Family Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

As part of its mission to help Israeli elderly live independently, JDC-ESHEL continues to enhance its range of community-based services. Over 180 existing day care centers for the elderly provide key support and personal care services, as well as social activities.

During the 2006 conflict, many centers in northern Israel were closed due to lack of adequate shelter space. In 2007, UJC/IEC funding financed safety upgrades at five facilities in the Gaza border region. The Adele and Isidore Becker Day Care Center in Hadera and a center in Kiryat Ono benefited from support from Adele Becker.

For elderly in need of full-time nursing care, JDC-ESHEL continues to upgrade existing and build new facilities, while overseeing the implementation of new government standards on quality of care in residential facilities.

With support from the Glickman Foundation, JDC-ESHEL helped introduce quality assurance and international certification processes in Israel’s homes for the aged and day care centers. The Glickman Prize for Excellence and Quality of Care for the Elderly is awarded annually to an employee or group of employees in recognition of creative efforts to increase the standards for excellence in elder care.

A new home for the aged is being built for Israeli Arabs in Afula with support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, while existing homes have been renovated and equipped with funding from the Rita Allen Foundation. JDC-ESHEL’s Home Hospice of the Valleys was established with support from the Shiffman Family Support Foundation to provide comfort, dignity, and respect to the terminally ill during their final days.

Employment provides the elderly with social interaction and income supplements. Accordingly, JDC-ESHEL employment programs and centers, together with Hands on Tzedaka, assisted seniors seeking work in seven locations in 2007. These efforts will be extended by a master plan for sheltered and open market employment for the elderly that is being developed in cooperation with the Office of Pensioners’ Affairs. Job placements, short-term training programs, and entrepreneurial opportunities will be offered to seniors interested in, and capable of, re-entering the workforce.

JDC-ESHEL’s Glickman Center for Education and Training in Tel HaShomer annually trains 3,000 professionals and paraprofessionals working in the field of aging. The center’s work is complemented by its northern region branch in Kiryat Bialik. Support from the Holstein Trust offered indigent medical residents the chance to retrain as geriatric physicians.

In response to high poverty rates among Israel’s elderly, Beseva Tova works to improve the living conditions of, and provide subsidized health services for, impoverished elderly Israelis who are living on welfare benefits. Beseva Tova reached people in 31 communities in 2007, with support from the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation, the Pratt Foundation, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, the Jewish Funders Network, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Arthur Brody, the Douglas and Judith Krupp Foundation, the Arison Foundation, Inc., and the Yahel Recanati Fund. UJC/IEC funding allowed Beseva Tova to expand to 12 communities in northern Israel and the Gaza border region.

With violence toward the elderly an increasing phenomenon in Israeli society, JDC-ESHEL has placed greater emphasis on this topic. A telephone hotline for victims of elder abuse operated in cooperation with ERAN received an average of 600 calls monthly in 2007, and training efforts and a newly published manual helped professionals and volunteers detect and treat victims of abuse and neglect. Funding from UJA-Federation of New York led to the development of citywide elder abuse prevention programs in Afula, Bat Yam, Beer Sheva, and Jerusalem.

Health promotion improves seniors’ quality of life by maintaining and restoring functional abilities. In 2007, programs focused on accident prevention and educating medical staff about incontinence. JDC-ESHEL’s mobile dental care program was developed in response to the prohibitive cost of dental treatment for those who are living on meager monthly social security stipends. In 2007, significant support from John Hagee Ministries through the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston provided critical dental care for more than 170 Holocaust survivors.

Using drama as a medium, the Witness theater program involves Holocaust survivors in a therapeutic process designed to help them come to terms with their past, while engaging youth in an educational dialogue.
Currently operating in 28 locations, the program will be launched nationally in 2008 with support from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Additional handbooks published in 2007 dealt with health promotion for the elderly, seniors’ legal rights, and caring for Holocaust survivors.

Through activities geared to empowering the elderly and providing rewarding ways for them to contribute to society, some 14,800 seniors engaged in volunteer efforts in 2007. Such initiatives are set to expand in 2008.

Many elderly, particularly immigrants, lack the support of family or a local social network, thus magnifying the loneliness of old age. The Warm Homes program serves elderly immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia, providing them with companionship and support through weekly meetings and get togethers.

**STRENGTHENING ISRAELI SOCIETY**

Given current social and economic realities, JDC has been increasing its efforts to expand Israel’s social services capacity and strengthen its civil society in order to better address social needs. JDC training programs aim to improve the effectiveness of government policymakers and top nonprofit sector personnel, thereby enhancing their ability to design and deliver efficient and responsive services.

JDC’s AMEN program is changing the face of Israeli youth volunteerism. Operating in 43 communities, AMEN offers over 200 attractive new volunteer frameworks that match the interests and skills of youth and young adults with community needs. Since AMEN’s inception, more than 47,000 youth have contributed almost four million volunteer hours to a wide variety of projects. AMEN receives support from UJC/IEC, Nora Lee Barron, the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, the Stephen S. Wise Temple of Los Angeles, and the B’nai B’rith Youth Organization.

Thanks to support from Ron and Marilynn Grossman through the Grossman Family Foundation, AMEN will expand over the next five years, recruiting volunteers from disadvantaged populations as well as Israeli Arab and Bedouin communities. Youth volunteer professionals will gather at the first annual Grossman Family Foundation AMEN Conference in 2008.

Working with local government and NGOs in 30 locations, MATOV develops and coordinates the capacity of various agencies to care for people in need at all times. In 2007, MATOV received support from Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and UJC/IEC.

The KESHET initiative promotes tri-sector collaboration and strategic partnerships among local government, businesses, and NGOs, cultivating strong working ties that will benefit the community. Currently operating in 15 municipalities, KESHET is a partnership effort of JDC, Zionism 2000, and Sheatufim: The Israel Center for Civil Society.

The Penni and Stephen Weinberg Center for Lay Leadership in Israel, established together with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Services, the Israel Association of Community Centers, SHATIL, the Israel Civic Leadership Association (ICLA), Sheatufim: The Israel Center for Civil
Society, and Matan-Israel’s United Way, aims to enhance the culture of social responsibility by developing and promoting lay leadership in Israel. With support from Penni and Stephen Weinberg, the center offers training programs to help lay leaders improve the governance of Israeli non-profit organizations.

Through Mashmout: In-Service Training for Directors of Non-Profit Organizations, executive directors of Israel’s leading NGOs can improve their leadership capabilities and their understanding of Israel’s burgeoning non-profit sector. With support from the Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, Mashmout will continue to develop the organizational effectiveness of over 80 directors of leading Israeli non-profits in 2008. Support from the Meyerhoff Funds is also enabling JDC and ICLA to advocate for the conditions needed to ensure the continued growth of Israel’s voluntary sector.

As Israeli philanthropy grows, so does the need for planned and strategic giving. In 2007, JDC, together with the Meitav Financial Group and Israeli philanthropist Jacob Burak, launched the Midot Israel Charity Rating Initiative to evaluate the effectiveness of Israel’s non-profit organizations and make the findings accessible to the public. Midot aims to improve the quality of third sector services and strengthen Israel’s reputation as a worthy target of philanthropic funds. JDC also supports the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Center for the Study of Philanthropy in Israel.

Since 1984, JDC-ELKA has provided tailor-made training courses to over 2,500 senior government officials. The courses are designed to enhance the management and organizational skills of social policymakers in both local and national government.

In 2007, with support from UJC/IEC, JDC-ELKA provided consulting services to senior officials in 26 municipalities in northern Israel, in cooperation with the Home Front Command. Funding from UJA-Federation of New York continued to build the Kiryat Shmona municipality’s capacity to deal with future emergencies. Similar consultation and training programs for municipal officials were supported by Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston in Sderot, the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in Acco, and FEDERATION CJA Montreal in Sha’ar Hanegev.

The Year of Community Volunteerism program offered an alternative voluntary program for citizens aged 18 to 22 who do not serve in the Israel Defense Forces, specifically targeting young Israeli Arabs. With support from the Gandyr Foundation and the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, the program promotes a sense of civic involvement among participants.

In 2007, in close coordination with Druze leaders, JDC continued to impact Israel’s Druze community through higher education and career development efforts for youth and young adults, as well as professional forums for mayors, school principals, and senior municipal personnel working in the social services. Funded by a visionary grant from Henry (z”l) and Edith Everett, these programs receive ongoing support from Edith Everett.

The Larry and Lenore Zusman-JDC Prize is awarded annually to encourage and recognize individuals or staffs who exhibit excellence in the creation and implementation of social service programs in Israel.

JDC’s priority programs in Israel have benefited from support from Marc Suvall.

JDC’s AMEN program is changing the face of Israeli youth volunteerism. Since AMEN’s inception, more than 47,000 youth have contributed almost four million volunteer hours to a wide variety of projects.

**RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND THEIR AFTERMATH**

With funds from UJC/IEC, 2007 saw the continuation of JDC’s New Galilee Initiative and efforts to strengthen social resilience both in northern Israel and in the Gaza border region. These programs also received support from the Samueli Foundation. Interventions for children and youth were operated primarily through educational environments in order to secure the
broader outreach to youngsters, their parents, and teachers.

JDC devised several age-appropriate therapeutic programs to help Israel’s youngest citizens cope with trauma. Havens of Calm offers a soothing physical environment where children learn coping strategies. In the kindergarten-based *Hibuki* program, children alleviate stress by becoming caregivers to soft puppy dolls. Similarly, the Red Color Song, sung by children and teachers during and after rocket warning sirens, employs self-therapy methods to help children cope with their fears and anxieties.

Funding for these and other programs designed to minimize the conflict’s effects on children was provided by UJC/IEC, UIA Federations Canada, the Wilf Family Foundation through the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, Carol and Irv Smokler, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, UJA-Federation of New York, UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey, and United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, VA.

Both conflict regions sustained harsh economic blows. To help invigorate their perennially depressed economies, JDC is addressing the underlying challenges that keep employment and incomes low. Programs aimed at creating new employment sources and assisting existing and new small businesses are being implemented with support from UJC/IEC and UIA Federations Canada.

In many cases, the war’s outbreak highlighted a lack of crisis preparedness on the part of government and local agencies. In 2007, with UJC/IEC support, JDC offered expert consultancy to municipal service and volunteer organization directors in over 20 locations. Yuval: Helping the Helpers, supported by the Jewish Federation of

The *HIBUKI* (or Huggy Bear) program developed by ASHALIM helps instill a sense of confidence and control in kindergarten-aged youngsters, alleviating their stress during periods of crisis. (Photo: Debbi Cooper)
Greater Atlanta, operated 12 emergency teams in five northern and six Gaza border locations. Together, they helped 270 participants in first-response emergency crews manage their own conflict-related stress.

UJC/IEC funds are also helping national non-profit agencies that complement government services in caring for vulnerable populations improve the effectiveness of their emergency operations.

JDC's integrated regeneration strategy for Kiryat Shmona—supported by UJA Federation of New York—is a considerable investment in the city’s future. The broad range of programs touches all sectors of the community, with a particular focus on employment.

JDC programs designed to cultivate volunteerism and non-profit sector coordination have also expanded. Two Volunteer Centers opened in 2007, with five more scheduled to open in 2008. These programs received support from UIA Federations Canada, the Stephen Wise Synagogue of Los Angeles, and Nancy Simches.

Supportive Communities for the elderly and the disabled and the Accessible Community program expanded with support from UJC/IEC, UIA Federations Canada, UJA Federation of New York, Henry Taub, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Foundation, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, and UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey. Operation Atzmaut and Mishol—with support from Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston—assisted vulnerable immigrants who were further challenged by the security situation, while the Centers for Young Adults helped younger immigrants.

**OUR FEDERATION PARTNERS**

JDC thanks the Jewish Federations of North America, our partners in helping build Israel’s capacity to care more effectively for its citizens in need: Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado; Columbus Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas; Jewish Federation of Delaware; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay; Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; Jacksonville Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City; Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; Memphis Jewish Federation; United Jewish Communities of Metro-West, NJ; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; FEDERATION CJA Montreal; Jewish Federation of Nashville; UJA-Federation of New York; UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey; Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert Area; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Jewish Federation of Pinellas County; United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh; Jewish Community Federation of Richmond; Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester; Jewish Federation of San Antonio; United Jewish Federation of San Diego County; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle; Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona; Jewish Federation of St. Louis; United Jewish Federation of Tidewater; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington/United Jewish Endowment Fund; Jewish Federation of Washkenaw County; UJA Federation of Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk; UJC Network of Independent Communities; and UIA Federations Canada.

**The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute**

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH RESEARCH**

Established in 1974, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute is the leading center for applied social research serving Israel and the Jewish world. The Institute seeks to link research and action by developing systematic, relevant, and trusted information on social needs and intensively

**CHOIRS and other organized activities at DAY CENTERS and SHELTERS in SDEROT and ASHKELON helped lift seniors’ spirits during months of rocket attacks. (Photo: JDC)**
engaging strategic decisionmakers and implementers in order to improve the effectiveness of social services, policies, and programs. The Institute works closely with voluntary organizations, including JDC-Israel, JDC-ESHEL, Ashalim, and the Jewish Agency, as well as with national and local government, including the Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, and Health, and a number of municipalities and regional councils. In addition to providing a unique way for Israeli government officials and Diaspora Jewish leaders to examine critical social issues in Israel and around the world, the Institute is engaged in a wide variety of cooperative projects with Jewish organizations and North American Jewish Federations.

In 2007, after receiving a major grant from the Cleveland-based David and Inez Myers Foundation, the Institute was renamed The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute. Additional major gifts have enabled the Institute to increase its endowment fund and name the Engelberg Center for Children and Youth, in honor of Al and Gail Engelberg, and the Smokler Center for Health Policy Research, in honor of Carol and Irv Smokler. Other special funds established by Institute Founders include the Mandell Berman Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities, the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Professional Collaboration and Development, the Connie and Bert Rabinowitz Fund for Creative Breakthrough Research, and the Gantz Zahler Fund to Support Seminars on Child Welfare.

**ENHANCING SERVICE PLANNING FOR A GROWING ELDERLY POPULATION**

The Center for Research on Aging provides up-to-date information and analyses that assist policymakers and service planners in developing community services, addressing health and social needs, and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for the aging. In 2007, the Center continued to aid overall service planning for the elderly in Israel and other parts of the Jewish world.

The Institute continues to evaluate innovative community programs that are helping the elderly remain in their own homes. In 2007, the Center completed a literature review that examined the unique needs of elderly women in the areas of health and social welfare and reviewed examples of community programs and services developed abroad to address those needs. It continued to assist in the development of the Supportive Community Program for the elderly, focusing on the evaluation of new services being developed to address the unmet needs identified in previous Institute studies.

The condition of aging Holocaust survivors in Israel remained an important national issue in 2007. As a result of its ongoing research, the Institute has been the major source of data on this subject. It was therefore able to help the Israeli government and the organizations responsible for caring for these survivors identify needs and mobilize resources to address them—effectively and in “real time.”

**SUPPORTING THE PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, AND EVALUATION OF HEALTH CARE REFORM**

The Smokler Center for Health Policy Research seeks to provide objective data and independent analysis to improve the organization, delivery, and financing of health services, and help health care providers and insurers do more to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

The Center continues to be Israel’s major source of information on how consumers view their health care services. In 2007, the Center fielded the seventh round of the biannual survey monitoring the general population’s experience with health plan services. It focused on the new second-tier supplemental insurance policies and on the interface between primary and mental health care.

For several years, the Center has been carrying out studies of health care manpower. It recently completed a major study of why certain medical specialties are having difficulty attracting young physicians, and what can be done to improve the situation. In 2008, the Smokler Center is planning to launch Israel’s first-ever national survey of nurses, with the objective of informing policy on their training and deployment.

The Institute is engaged in ongoing collaborative work with the World Health Organization and other international bodies, and it continues to serve as an important vehicle for cross-national learning on health care reforms. It is responsible for the Israel country reports to the European Observatory of Health Care Systems and serves as the Israeli partner in the International Network for Monitoring Health Reforms.

In 2007, Center activities were generously supported by Andrea and Michael Dubroff.
IDENTIFYING AND UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Engelberg Center for Children and Youth is devoted to helping government ministries and service providers make the most effective use of limited resources, and advance important reforms of the service system to promote opportunities for young Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, with a special commitment to the disadvantaged.

The Center played a major role in the Prime Minister’s Committee for Disadvantaged and At-Risk Children and Youth, providing both leadership and information for the committee’s deliberations. The broad reform in services that the committee subsequently recommended is now serving as the basis for new government policies.

Major reforms are being implemented in the child welfare system to improve its responsiveness to abused and neglected children. The Center has been assisting the Ministry of Social Affairs in its efforts to achieve a better balance between out-of-home and community-based child welfare services, while enhancing the communities’ ability to provide services more compatible with the needs of children and families. This reform effort includes the decentralization of resource allocations and was based on lessons learned from a national experiment, conducted in 11 local authorities, that was initiated by the Ministry in partnership with the Center and Ashalim.

In the field of education, the Center completed a national survey of primary and junior high schools that examined the strategies employed in working with low-achieving students and the special programs introduced by NGOs and government agencies. The study highlighted key needs of the system, especially the need for more effective teacher training.

In 2007, the Center continued to work with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland to help the Israel Defense Forces Education Corps address the needs of disadvantaged soldiers. Engelberg Center activities were generously supported by Annie and Arthur Sandler and the Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Foundation.

ENSURING THE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF NEW IMMIGRANTS

The main objective of the Center for Research on Immigrant Absorption is to help Israel successfully integrate its more vulnerable new citizens. The Institute makes a special effort to include immigrant populations in the research studies undertaken by all of its various divisions. These national studies provide comparative data on the well-being of immigrants and veteran Israelis that is central to program and policy development. In addition, the Institute initiates special studies of specific immigrant groups.

For the past several years, the main focus has been on two groups that have been experiencing considerable difficulty in the integration process: immigrants from the former Soviet Union (FSU) and immigrants from Ethiopia. The Center will continue to monitor the integration of youth from the FSU through special analyses of the national Health and Risk Behaviors among School Children survey. In addition, the Institute is continuing to evaluate the national From Risk to Opportunity program, which
is attempting to address the severe problem of delinquency among immigrant youth. In 2007, the Center will also continue the evaluation of the PACT (Parents and Children Together) program for Ethiopian-Israeli preschool children, in cooperation with the coalition of Jewish Federations, as well as the evaluation of the Ethiopian National Plan, which aims to promote educational achievements and integrate marginal youth into normative frameworks.

**SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Center for Research on Disabilities and Special Populations is dedicated to improving the quality of health care, education, and rehabilitation services available to the disabled. Policies regarding the disabled and service delivery strategies have been undergoing dramatic changes in recent years, and the research program is focusing on national and local efforts to implement these changes effectively.

One of the major challenges facing the education system is to achieve a more appropriate inclusion of disabled children in regular schools. The Center, with the support of the Mandell Berman Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities, is assisting in the implementation and monitoring of the law that provides services for children with disabilities who are being integrated into regular classes. In 2008, with support from the Helen Bader Foundation, the Center will also examine after-school activities for children with special needs.

The Institute advises public bodies on the development and implementation of national legislation and government regulations that significantly affect the disabled. The Center served as a professional advisor to the Laron Commission to promote the employment of the disabled on the open market and in supportive employment programs. Among its recommendations were major changes in the system of benefits in order to encourage people with disabilities to join the labor force. In 2008, the Institute will participate in an advisory capacity in the committee responsible for implementing these recommendations.

In 2007, Center activities were generously supported by Andrea and Michael Dubroff.

**PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED GROUPS**

Promoting employment and advancement in the labor force for weak population groups and increasing opportunities for achieving economic independence have recently become major social policy goals. This reflects a concern for the rapid increase in the size of groups that are dependent on various forms of income support.

The Institute is assisting in the strategic planning and evaluation of the TEVET Employment Initiative, a partnership between the Government of Israel and JDC-Israel. It was created to promote innovative approaches to the integration into the labor force of low-skilled, immigrant, Arab, and other disadvantaged groups.

The multiyear evaluation of the government’s major Welfare to Work initiative, one of Israel’s most important and controversial social experiments, continued in 2007. The implementation of the program and the accompanying study, the largest single research project ever undertaken by the Institute, will have far reaching implications for efforts to address poverty and promote independence. The evaluation of the first two years of the program has contributed to a number of significant changes that aim to make the initiative much more effective as it moves ahead.

**CROSS-CUTTING PROGRAMS—BUILDING ON KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN DIVERSE AREAS**

The Institute’s cross-cutting programs deal with issues that relate to more than one of its divisions. They currently focus on quality assurance, manpower evaluation and social planning, organizational learning, cooperation with the Jewish world, Middle East cooperation, and international collaboration. The examples that follow illustrate how programs of this nature engage a wide range
In LOD and in 13 other locations throughout ISRAEL, JDC’s PACT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS offer a variety of support services for ETHIOPIAN-ISRAELI youngsters and their parents. (Photo: Vera Etzion)
of disciplines and organizations, producing a synergetic effect that enhances their impact on Israeli society.

The R.A.F Method (Regulation, Assessment, and Follow-up) for the continuous improvement of quality of care, developed by the Institute, is helping government ministries improve the quality of services through the implementation of an objective, systematic, and uniform method of supervision and inspection. The method is being applied to most residential facilities supervised by the Ministry of Social Affairs, including facilities for children and youth at risk, for juvenile delinquents, for the physically and mentally disabled, and for the elderly. There are two major developments in this area: The first is the expansion of the R.A.F to community services (all services for children at risk and rehabilitative preschool facilities for disabled children), as part of the multiyear strategic plan for ministry wide implementation. The second is the intensification of the Institute’s collaboration with two additional ministries: the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

The Unit for Learning from Success and Ongoing Learning in Human Services works closely with government ministries and voluntary organizations to introduce and advance ongoing learning processes in human service organizations. These processes have a profound impact on the ability to attain organizational goals. With the support of the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Professional Collaboration and Development, the Unit cooperated with the Ministry of Education on the Learning from Success program. This groundbreaking national initiative enables schools and school systems to engage in ongoing learning, thereby improving student achievement and the overall school climate. The Unit also cooperates with the Ministry’s Division of Experimentation and Initiatives, which promotes innovation in Israel’s education system.

In the spirit of the program, the Unit is working with the Abraham Fund and the Israeli police force on efforts to create more cooperation and trust between the police and the Israeli Arab population.

Taub Center for Social Policy Studies In Israel

The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies is an independent, nonpartisan, socioeconomic research institute based in Jerusalem. The Center conducts quality, impartial research on socioeconomic conditions in Israel, and develops innovative, equitable, and practical policy options that will advance the well-being of Israelis. The Center strives to influence public policy through direct communications with policymakers, and by enriching the public debate that accompanies the decision making process.

The Center was established in 1982 under the leadership and vision of Herbert M. Singer, Henry Taub, and JDC. A permanent endowment, which will in future fund the Center, has been created by the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, the Herbert M. and Nell Singer Foundation,
Jane and John Colman, the Kolker-Saxon-Hallock Family Foundation, and JDC.

A cornerstone of the Center’s work is its annual analysis of the government’s social budget. This book-length publication reviews government social expenditures, social service development, and policy options in the major areas of the economy, health, education, personal social services, income security, and cash transfers, as well as the world of work. It has become a valuable tool in the public debate on social policy and is widely distributed to government policymakers and other professionals and to many organizations abroad. It is also presented to the President of Israel. At this year’s presentation, President Peres established a Special Task Force on Reducing Social Inequality in collaboration with the Taub Center and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Taub Center experts meet regularly with government ministers; Knesset members, including those who belong to the Knesset Social Forum; the Prime Minister’s Economic Council; and officials and professionals in the social fields. The Taub Center acts as a valuable resource for nonpartisan analyses and the formulation of policy alternatives in the social economic areas. Annual Center forums bring government officials, field professionals, academics, and business people together to exchange ideas regarding the economy, education, health, and social welfare.

The Center presents its findings to the public through publications, which are also made available to leaders of North America’s Jewish Federations and others overseas. A key source of information on the state of Israeli society, the Center’s English-language publications include: Fast Facts for the Busy Reader; Israel: Social Economic Review; and the quarterly, Social Economic UPDATE.

The Center also works with colleagues in international institutions. In May 2008, it held a second international conference on “Social Policy—Vision and Reality.” Israel’s Minister of Social Affairs, the head of the Prime Minister’s Economic Council, three additional Knesset members, and other officials and academics were among the distinguished participants. They were joined by high-level representatives from the International Monetary Fund, Washington’s Brookings Institution, the Organization for Economic Development, the Netherlands Institute for Social Policy, Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Wharton School, the Urban Institute, and other organizations. Small workshops for experts were combined with several plenary sessions attended by over 200 people. Participants discussed the need to establish alternative approaches to current programs for the poor and the elderly that could be better sustained over time, and the presentations will be published jointly by the Taub Center and the Brookings Institution.

Taub Center experts continue to provide policymakers with the information they need to consider the ramifications of their decisions on all segments of society. By thus improving the policymaking process, they aim to maintain and strengthen social justice in Israel.
The INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (IFCJ)-JDC PARTNERSHIP FOR JEWSH CHILDREN in the FORMER SOVIET UNION is aiding increasing numbers of Jewish children at risk and their families, like these JEISH FAMILY SERVICE clients in MINSK, BELARUS. (Photo: Sarah Levin)

**Countries of the FSU:** Armenia • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Georgia • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan
• Moldova • Russian Federation • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Ukraine • Uzbekistan

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<th>Jewish Population</th>
<th>1.3 million*</th>
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<tr>
<td>JDC Regional Budget</td>
<td>$119,596,9211</td>
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* Some estimates are higher.

1 Figure includes funds allocated by JDC in 2007 for Jewish renewal and welfare programs, for property reclamation, and for the RIT program. RIT is the designation for activities initiated in the aftermath of World War II to bring critically needed support to Jews in Eastern Europe. These funds are now being used primarily in the former Soviet Union.

**JDC’S STRATEGY IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION (FSU)**

JDC programs are designed to support Jews who choose to remain in the region and require assistance in meeting their material, cultural, and communal needs in the FSU’s harsh social and economic environment. To help them, JDC has been reaching out to Jews in over 2,900 cities, towns, and villages in the FSU to:

• Foster self-sufficient Jewish communities capable of meeting their members’ material and communal needs.
• Work with these renascent communities to bring relief to Jews in need.
• Enable Jews to reconnect with their heritage and their people by promoting Jewish knowledge, values, and identity in a spirit of tolerance and commitment to Zionist principles.

**JDC’S OPERATING PRINCIPLES**

In working to help the FSU’s Jews recreate an authentic Jewish life that meets their own needs, JDC:

• Forges partnerships with all sectors of the community and with international bodies that provide help to the Jewish communities.
• Remains impartial and non-partisan.
• Avoids interference in local affairs.
Giving back to the community he first embraced as a young adult, this graduate of the Metsuda leadership training course in Ukraine uses his professional dance skills to attract hundreds of young people to activities at the Kharkov Jewish Community Center. (Photo: James Nobile)
Two decades ago, JDC seized an opportunity. It was an opportunity born of a seismic occurrence that stunned mankind—the collapse of the Soviet Union—and one that JDC had been primed for since its forced exit from the Soviet Union 50 years earlier.

This opportunity, however, was fraught with obstacles. Many elderly Jews were plunged into poverty seemingly overnight, because the pensions that they had painstakingly accrued during their working years lost all validity in the country’s political upheaval. The task of providing sustenance to so many, as the safety net of social services shriveled, was unimaginable. No less daunting was the gaping hole in Jewish knowledge and identification—the result of the domineering Communist government that smothered all expressions of Jewish life.

These pressing needs did not deter JDC; rather, they galvanized it. Starting with one Hesed welfare center, JDC worked steadily to ensure that food, medicines, and winter relief were distributed to Jewish elderly in the major cities and in the remote hamlets of the former Soviet Union (FSU). And even as it was meeting these needs over the past two decades, JDC has continually looked ahead to new frontiers in its work. Its vision includes widespread social and cultural programming to strengthen reborn Jewish communities, as well as training for lay and professional leaders and relief for children in distress.

Today, JDC faces new realities. While economic stabilization in some FSU countries has somewhat mitigated the malnutrition that was prevalent for so many years, JDC must contend with the widening gap between the established Jewish community and the large number of impoverished Jews whose needs remain so great. Additionally, JDC continues to grapple with the dilemma of how to ensure that those elderly Jews who are ineligible for services supported by restitution funding are cared for, despite the limited resources available for this group.

These challenges have created a new staging ground for the development of strategies in pursuit of JDC’s 20-year-old goal: contributing to the emergence of self-reliant and vibrant Jewish communities in the FSU.

The aging Jews of the FSU are no strangers to hostility. The irrational hatred of the Nazis and the callous oppression of the Communist regime spawned a near century’s worth of cruelty toward this victimized population. Today, their lifetimes of endurance and loyalty to their homeland are coming to a close amid poverty, uncertainty, and hardship. Life for most is a life of solitude, because they have long since prodded their children to move abroad in search of greater opportunities.

In most areas of the FSU, a scarcity of resources overshadows the daily routine of the elderly, as they question which purchases will come at the expense of others, be it food, medicines or other forms of care. What is the best strategy for stretching their minimal pensions to cover their needs? What will be less detrimental to their health—a skipped meal or a missed dose of medicine?

It was these very dilemmas that JDC sought to obviate when it entered the FSU in the late 1980’s, for its long-standing aim has been to ensure nourishment, warmth, medical attention, and dignity for impoverished Jewish elderly. From the outset, JDC considered cooperation with local leadership to be an imperative, and its flagship Hesed welfare center—Hesed Avraham and Sonia Rochlin in St. Petersburg—was formed in 1993 in partnership with the local community. Over the last 15 years, JDC has replicated this model, creating 185 Hesed centers that collectively provide material, emotional, and spiritual support to over 187,700 Jewish elderly.

JDC must contend with the widening gap between the established Jewish community and the large number of impoverished Jews whose needs remain so great.
Volunteerism, the soul of Hesed activity, is embodied in the 14,000 volunteers who are indispensable to the implementation of this widespread welfare effort. The establishment of JDC Hesed centers has been a catalyst for the formation of this committed corps, which is fulfilling the traditional Jewish mandate of areivut—mutual responsibility. Individual Hesed centers also benefit from the work of Idud Hasadim, their JDC-created umbrella organization, which provides guidance and advocacy at the government level and disseminates standards for service delivery.

Restitution funding plays a significant role in the implementation of this massive relief effort. The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference), as well as the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), and the German government all provide key funding for these programs. However, these monies may be channeled toward welfare benefits for Nazi victims only, and not allocated to aid the 90,311 elderly Jews in need who are not designated as Nazi victims.

The result is that JDC lacks sufficient funds to serve those pensioners who are ineligible for restitution-funded assistance. And as budgets have lagged behind their compelling needs, JDC has been forced to cut critical services, such as the provision of food, medicines, and home care, that are all that stand between our fellow Jews and utter misery.

In 2006, UJC launched the Operation Promise (OP) campaign, in part to help overcome these funding shortfalls. The campaign succeeded—for a while. OP generated $18 million in additional funds that, together with existing support from North America’s Jewish Federations, enabled JDC to stem the funding deficit and help ensure that these elderly Jews received the minimum levels of assistance required to live with basic human dignity.

But the initial OP funding was time-limited. It expired at the end of 2007. Unless the OP campaign is reignited, the JDC and JAFI allocations are reconfigured, or new funding is secured, JDC will have to deal with a $9 million hole—a massive 33 percent of its already tight welfare budget that is needed to bring succor to these 90,311 Jewish souls.

Nor is this challenge limited to 2008. Without a systemic long-term funding solution, this threat to the well-being of the impoverished Jews we serve will persist year after year, for as long as their suffering continues to call on our Jewish conscience and our Jewish sense of responsibility, of areivut.

The MAZEL TOV PROGRAM, with its expanded basket of SERVICES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS for young children, has brightened the life of this proud but struggling Jewish family in KAZAKHSTAN. (Photo: James Nubile)
Unthinkable though it may be, the JDC Board and its staff have no alternative but to prepare for the severe cuts precipitated by this funding shortfall. The JDC welfare staff is preparing contingencies, struggling with Solomonic choices like which clients will have their home care or medical or food services slashed; how many new clients will be asked to suffer a little longer while their names are on “waiting lists;” and which clients will be told the harshest news of all—that they must learn to do without the vital support that is their lifeline to basic health and dignity. Even as we contemplate these unconscionable steps, JDC remains hopeful that they can be avoided.

JDC funding partners, who have risen to the challenge of securing the health and dignity of “non-Nazi victims,” include the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews-Canada, and World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK). JDC also received significant support from William H. Elson, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Anita Hirsh, the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, the Five Millers Family Foundation, the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation, the Dundi and Lyon Sachs Philanthropic Fund, the Schimmel Family Foundation, and the Viterbi Family Foundation.

As part of its efforts to ensure the welfare of those who are ineligible for restitution funding, JDC recognizes the situation of 7,000 Jewish “blockadniks” who withstood the Nazis’ brutal 900-day onslaught against Leningrad. Funding for these survivors is made possible by the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah (FMS, France), the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund; the JMW Fund; Nederlands-Israelitische Instelling voor Sociale Arbeid (NIISA); Centrale Financieringsactie voor Joods Sociaal Werk in Nederland (Cefina); Vereniging De Joodse Invalide; and Verbond van Liberaal-Religieuze Joden in Nederland (LJG).

All North American Jewish Federations contribute to FSU relief through the UJC campaign. With available “core” funds covering only a small portion of the need, JDC is grateful to the following Federations who made designated allocations of over $100,000 to its FSU relief program: Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; UJA-Federation of New York; Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert Area; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington/United Jewish Endowment Fund; and the UJC Network of Independent Communities.

**PROMOTING HEALTH, HYGIENE, AND A COMFORTABLE HOME ENVIRONMENT**

One of JDC’s landmark achievements has been the creation of an infrastructure for home care services, to ensure healthful and hygienic living for FSU pensioners...
who are unable to provide this for themselves. In 2007, 22,265 bedridden or homebound elderly Jews benefited from a total of 5,225,409 hours of home care, offered by trained caregivers.

JDC also looks after the health of its elderly clients, in the absence of government-sponsored health care. In 2007, 21,200 elderly Jews benefited from medical examinations provided by volunteer Hesed physicians, and 90,707 pensioners received subsidized or free medications. JDC arranged for the loan of 23,615 wheelchairs and other forms of rehabilitative equipment, and widely distributed eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures to its aging clientele.

**SUSTENANCE AND EMPOWERMENT FOR THE MOST NEEDY**

Since it first began working in the FSU in the late 1980s, JDC has endeavored to respond to the fundamental human need for nourishment and stave off the hunger of thousands of elderly Jews. JDC continues today to uphold this commitment, while taking into account that in some areas of the region, increases in pensions have partially alleviated malnutrition.

In 2007, JDC began to fine-tune its resource allocation to ensure that the most impoverished receive adequate food. Similarly, the use of food cards and food vouchers was increased in 2007; these cost-effective methods of food distribution also promote independence among the elderly. In the last year, 46,249 people received food cards enabling them to purchase food from selected vendors; this number is expected to increase in 2008. In remote areas where it is not practical to implement these new methods, JDC distributed 539,248 food packages in 2007. Additionally, it signaled the approach of Jewish festivals through the widespread distribution of holiday packages, which feature traditional foods such as matzah for Passover and honey for Rosh Hashanah.

Meals on wheels continued to bring wholesome nourishment to homebound or bedridden elderly. In 2007, 4,968 clients enjoyed 1,107,304 meals, delivered by Hesed volunteers. In addition, 9,943 mobile elderly benefited from wholesome nutrition and companionship through 870,470 warm meals served in 201 communal dining rooms.

Homebound clients who are able to prepare their own meals benefit from the delivery of fresh food sets, typically composed of chicken, dairy products, and vegetables. Fresh food sets are a cost-effective way for JDC to further client welfare through good nutrition while promoting autonomous functioning.

**RESPONDING TO CRISIS**

For elderly living on fixed incomes, emergencies such as unforeseen medical procedures or urgent home repairs can severely strain household budgets. JDC’s SOS Fund provides one-time assistance to address these needs. Supporters of this initiative include Edgar and Sandy Snyder, in conjunction with the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, who fund its implementation in Moscow and the Ural region, and Superbag Operating, Ltd. The Swiss Banks Settlement ensures that Nazi victims throughout the FSU have access to this monetary assistance.

In specific areas throughout the FSU, winter relief constitutes a form of lifesaving aid. Some 41,586 clients, including a significant number in Georgia and Kazakhstan, were protected from freezing temperatures this year thanks to JDC’s winter relief programs.

**MAINTAINING A LINK TO HUMANITY AND THE JEWISH WORLD**

JDC couples physical support and care with programs to stimulate the mind and restore the spirit of Jewish elderly in the FSU. To stave off the depression that is often born of loneliness, Hesed centers in urban areas invite local pensioners to cultural programs that frequently revolve around Shabbat and Jewish holidays. These events provide opportunities for more independent elderly to come to the aid of their peers through the provision of practical assistance and emotional support. Hesed social clubs and day centers promote social and cognitive functioning by engaging pensioners in creative activities and cultivating friendships among contemporaries and neighbors.

Hesed centers are similarly committed to serving isolated pensioners living in peripheral villages and hamlets. Specially outfitted Hesed-mobiles allow Hesed staff and volunteers to bring food, medicines, and winter relief to Jews in remote areas, along with Jewish newspapers and other materials that reinforce their ties to the wider Jewish community.

**REACHING NEW FRONTIERS IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

In 2007, JDC furthered the growth and application of the Systematic Approach to Budget Allocation or SABA, an acronym that is the Hebrew word for grandfather.
This program allocates resources according to need and heightens the quality assurance component in Hesed delivery.

In conjunction with SABA, JDC also disseminated the guidelines of the Functional Assessment Program developed by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute. This novel system assigns each client a score—based on his ability to perform activities of daily living and the degree of ongoing support from family members—that determines the number of home care hours he or she receives. This conserves funds and assures a targeted response to each client’s needs.

JDC has upgraded the distribution of medications in the FSU and reconfigured its medical program so that local leaders assume greater management control. Beginning in 2007, community leaders in each JDC-designated region put together a list of illnesses and conditions warranting Hesed intervention (based on their own mapping of needs) as well as a list of medications that will be subsidized toward this end. This furthers autonomy at the local level and channels donor funds where they are most required.

Additionally, JDC piloted the medicine card program in 2007. Like JDC’s successful food card system, medicine cards encourage autonomy and streamline service delivery. Hesed clients who are entitled to subsidies on medications due to serious or chronic health conditions use the cards to purchase their required medicines. Clients in locations ranging from Moscow to Bishkek began to benefit from this program in 2007, and JDC intends to replicate it in additional locations in 2008.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS**

In cities throughout the FSU, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) is a beacon for Jews from all walks of life. JDC introduced and has replicated this classic model in the FSU in order to strengthen Jewish communities. Mainstay JCC events include Kabbalat Shabbat gatherings and Jewish holiday celebrations.

In 2001, JDC opened the Nikitskaya JCC in Moscow as part of its endeavor to furnish pivotal FSU urban centers with suitable community facilities. Following renovations in 2006, Nikitskaya reopened in September 2007 with a wealth of new program offerings designed to appeal to young middle-class families and other segments of Moscow’s increasingly established Jewish population. It also instituted a fee-for-service framework. Today, Nikitskaya’s revamped cultural menu is attracting audiences that are diverse in their social status and origin. At the same time, Nikitskaya seeks to augment the Jewish content in all its activities, and its management and educational staff are being trained to implement this goal. The Nikitskaya JCC enjoys ongoing support from UJA-Federation of New York.

Established in St. Petersburg in 2006, YESOD provides a majestic roof for four community organizations and has inspired the development of new educational and cultural initiatives for the city’s Jews. In 2007, YESOD’s varied programs targeting the city’s elite included a lecture by Israeli Nobel Laureate Robert J. Aumann, and a presentation by noted Israeli archaeologist Ehud Netzer.

YESOD’s construction was supported by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Claims Conference, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, the David and Inez Myers Foundation, Eugene J. Rabikoff, and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund of San Francisco. Ongoing activities at YESOD are funded by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County and the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.

**RESTORING THE MOSAIC OF JEWISH LIFE**

JDC’s early efforts to stimulate interest in Jewish life have germinated and differentiated into a rich assortment of renewal programs. This unfolding process is engaging Jews of all ages, inviting them to examine their roots on their own terms and inspiring them to mold the Jewish communities of the future.
In 2007, the Odessa Jewish Campus began operations with support from Nancy and Stephen Grand.

The vision of self-sustaining Jewish communities presupposes the development of self-reliant JCCs. To help JCC directors pursue this goal, JDC encourages the formulation and implementation of business plans for each facility that reflect the community’s needs and sound financial practices. Measures adopted by JCCs to increase their income include the rental of rooms to external organizations and the gradual institution of fee-for-service mechanisms.

**JEWISH RENEWAL IN THE FAMILY SETTING**

JDC’s endeavor to reawaken the spirit of Jewish identity is rooted in its investment in Jewish families—the building blocks of the wider community. In 2007, over 9,500 people took part in 107 family retreats, which enable parents and children to explore the varied facets of Jewish life together in an informal and welcoming environment. Family retreats in Ukraine received support from the Gottesman Fund, and enjoy funding from a group of donors including Beryl Eckstein, David Handler, Randall Kaplan, Richard Nottenburg, Gavin Susman, Tina and Steven Price, Jacob Schimmel, Reagan Silber, and Mark Sisisky.

Extensive staff training takes place prior to each getaway, preparing the teachers and counselors to provide Jewish enrichment and recreational activities as well as opportunities for participants to strengthen family bonds. Funding from the Avi Chai Foundation contributed to educational programs at family retreats.

Jewish kindergartens offer a solid grounding in Jewish and general topics to the FSU’s youngest citizens. Some 2,200 children were nurtured in JDC’s 70 kindergartens in 2007. UJA-Federation of New York enabled JDC to enhance the skills and status of their teachers through training, guidance, and the dissemination of original materials.

**PLUMBING THE DEPTHS OF JEWISH KNOWLEDGE**

Jewish libraries are a gateway to individual exploration of Jewish life. Since JDC’s first shipment of books to the FSU in the late 1980’s, 184 Jewish libraries have mushroomed across the region. Based in Moscow, The House of Jewish Books (HJB) is a major publisher of Jewish content in the FSU and coordinates the distribution of books throughout its massive territory. This past year, HJB dispatched its mobile library to summer family retreats, introducing some participants for the first time to the richness of Jewish literature.

JDC ensures that Jewish students have access to challenging tracks in the academic world. One hundred state universities boast Jewish studies programs, and Jewish academic institutions in nine FSU cities offer higher-level learning of Jewish topics. Among these is the Chais Center for Jewish Studies, named for JDC Board member Stanley Chais. Moscow State University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem jointly operate this prestigious academic program, which enjoys the support of the Israeli government, The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Russian Jewish Congress, and the Avi Chai Foundation.
To strengthen the capabilities of Jewish educators in the FSU, JDC established Sefer, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Education. Since 1994, Sefer has opened its doors to Jewish educators seeking to upgrade their skills in a university setting. Sefer provides information on continuing education opportunities and seminars to some 2,000 academics, and its annual conference is typically attended by over 500 educators from the FSU and abroad. Additionally, Sefer’s stellar international reputation has drawn distinguished professors from Harvard University, Oxford University, and Hebrew University to its International Advisory Council. In 2007, Sefer received support from the Chais Family Foundation.

Hillel: Grooming the Leadership of Tomorrow

Hillel Centers in the FSU, jointly created by JDC, Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, bolster a sense of Jewish identity in young adults during their all-important student years. Hillel’s pool of partners expanded in 2007 to include The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Chais Family Foundation. This pivotal decision is enabling Hillel to expand its reach so that it engages greater numbers of students and to diversify the type of programming it offers to this enlarged audience. By combining human and material resources, the five partners aim to upgrade Hillel’s operations in the FSU and, where possible, expand the locations where student activities take place in order to facilitate an increase in membership among heretofore unaffiliated students.

The roster of programs offered at Hillel branches includes weekly Kabbalat Shabbat gatherings, Jewish holiday celebrations, and student retreats. In 2007, in addition to hosting these traditional options, Hillel broke new ground by offering outreach activities outside the classic FSU locus of the Jewish student club, but rather at clubs and hotspots frequented by Jews, at universities, and in JCCs.

Hillel’s Pilot Cities project has invigorated the cultural landscape in several key cities in Russia and has consolidated Hillel’s position as a leading purveyor of programs for young adults. In Moscow, the project encompasses the launch of university-based Hillel activity, an Internet radio project, and thought-provoking programs for Taglit (Birthright) graduates that are designed to maintain and channel the enthusiasm born of the Taglit experience.

Yekaterinburg’s “Café Hillel” has succeeded in bringing small groups of college students together in popular cafés, encouraging them to network and plan new activities, while summer camps and a new theater project have buttressed Hillel’s presence in Kazan. In Novosibirsk, a social networking Web site at the city’s universities has provided a way of contacting many totally unaffiliated Jewish students, about 40 of whom are now attending Kabbalat Shabbat programs.

Other supporters of Hillel in the FSU include UJA-Federation of New York and Sheila and Stephen Lieberman.

THE IF CJ-JDC PARTNERSHIP: A NEW LEVEL OF OUTREACH TO CHILDREN AT RISK

JDC’s work in the FSU has encompassed relief for Jewish children at risk since 2002. JDC challenged Jewish communities to map the needs of the children in their area and develop actions plans to address them. These action plans became the basis for the Children’s Initiative (CI)—an ambitious program to aid children in distress, whether due to poverty, dysfunctional home environments, disabilities, and/or developmental delays.

Over the course of 2005 and 2006, CI brought about the introduction of the Jewish Family Services (JFS) model in the FSU, which provided aid to 22,000 children. However, JDC had identified some 30,000 children at risk, and it estimated that there were many others—perhaps as many as 50,000—whose needs were not being addressed.

In CHIMKENT, KAZAKHSTAN, parents having difficulty making ends meet are grateful for the food packages, warm clothing, and health care their children receive with support from the IF CJ-JDC PARTNERSHIP, as well as the programs they enjoy at the local JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER. (Photo: James Nubile)
In a groundbreaking step, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews initiated a major partnership with JDC to care for the FSU’s Jewish children. Formalized in 2008, the IFCJ-JDC Partnership for Jewish Children in the Former Soviet Union, built on a substantial 2007 IFCJ grant to support Jewish children in the region, has enabled JDC to provide aid to 28,000 children, increasing the reach of the program by 28 percent.

**ADDRESSING JEWISH CHILDREN’S MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS**

In 2007, IFCJ support, together with local Jewish communities, made possible the following forms of aid:

- A variety of food programs, including meals on wheels, food packages, and food cards, nourished 17,082 children.
- Some 7,800 children benefited from some form of health-related assistance, including medical attention and consultations with specialists, medicines, dental care, emergency surgery, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and rehabilitation equipment.
- To help young children keep warm during the winter despite the freezing temperatures, JDC distributed blankets and warm clothes to 10,078 youngsters, and it provided heating fuel for their homes.
- By implementing home repairs and removing household hazards, JDC ensured a safer living environment for 5,858 young children.

**ENCOURAGING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**

*Mazel Tov*, JDC's pioneering outreach program, is an integral part of the IFCJ-JDC Partnership, providing material assistance to new parents while integrating them into community life. Having expanded its capacity to play a role in early childhood intervention and education, it is also helping to combat the impact of poverty on children’s development. Jewish families in 71 communities are benefiting from this project’s broadening basket of services.

**MEETING SPECIAL NEEDS THROUGH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS**

The IFCJ-JDC Partnership aims to further the achievement and progress of a wide spectrum of special needs children and help their parents overcome the sense of isolation that many experience. Children and parents in Moscow, Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Lvov, Kiev, St. Petersburg, Tashkent, and some areas of Belarus currently benefit from this range of programs.

Partnership-supported day care centers for special needs children provide a nurturing environment that is conducive to healthy growth and development. While their children are constructively occupied, parents have the opportunity to seek employment opportunities and enhance their parenting skills. UJA-Federation of New York also supports the Partnership’s programs for children with special needs in Moscow.

In 2007, children’s programs were further diversified to incorporate an element of volunteerism. In Tashkent, Hillel volunteers are reaching out to special needs families, while parents in Yekaterinburg who have benefited from the Partnership’s aid are now volunteering, in their professional capacities, to aid others in the community.

JDC’s training programs for individuals working with special needs children and their families are contributing to professional advancement for social workers in the FSU. Students who attend the Partnership’s programs in Beltsy, St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Saratov, and Almaty earn full or partial accreditation, while vocational enrichment, provided by experts in the field, is offered in Tbilisi, Minsk, and Moscow.

Programs for children in the FSU continue to benefit from the support of additional donors. These include: the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, William H. Elson, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the Ginsburg Family, Carol and Edward Kaplan, Amy Kaplan, Leonard and Tobee Kaplan, the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, the Merrin Family, Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Eugene J. Ribakoff, the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation, Sidney Silber, the Viterbi Family Foundation, World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, and Superbag Operating, Ltd.
BUILDING RESILIENT JEWISH COMMUNITIES

To facilitate the emergence of self-reliant Jewish communities, JDC has been working to equip lay and professional leaders and community volunteers with the skills they need to enhance Jewish life and meet Jewish needs in their locale. The William Rosenwald Institute for Communal and Welfare Workers in St. Petersburg—sponsored by the William Rosenwald Family Fund and supplemented by regional training centers in other FSU cities—is JDC’s primary mechanism for achieving this goal.

In 2007, the Institute collaborated with JDC to launch Lehava (The Flame), an educational series which propels promising young adults toward community leadership. The program is designed to enhance the participants’ understanding of Jewish topics as well as their marketing skills, and to encourage them to develop sound business plans for novel community projects. The Institute also targeted top-level staff of Jewish organizations, honing their skills in non-profit management with an emphasis on donor relations.

Hesed employees who provide services to the elderly, as well as case managers who work with at-risk children continue to benefit from Institute training programs. The Institute established a branch of Jewish Family Services (JFS) on its premises in 2007, under the umbrella of the IFCJ-JDC Partnership for Children in the Former Soviet Union.

In 2007, the Buncher Community Leadership Program, funded through the generosity of Bernita Buncher and the Buncher Family in conjunction with United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, trained a total of 172 professionals and lay leaders in the FSU. The program reached a wide variety of community workers, including JCC directors, Jewish renewal coordinators, social welfare caseworkers, and youth leaders.

Over the past year, the Buncher Program continued to partner with Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life on educational initiatives for young leaders. Twenty Hillel Jewish Renaissance Fellows participated in a four-day seminar in Moscow that boosted their outreach and interpersonal skills. Additionally, a Buncher-run seminar upgraded the management skills of 17 directors of local Hillel branches; it also provided a forum for directors and graduates of Russian Hillel branches to explore how the latter can contribute to ongoing programming.

With support from UJA-Federation of New York, JDC operates the Grassroots Initiative, a competition that challenges people of varying degrees of affiliation to come up with original programs that can further Jewish identification in Moscow. Launched in 2006, the program offers seminars and mentoring to applicants to help them fine-tune their ideas and prepare their applications. Projects that won grant support in 2007 ranged from the Jewish Fashion House, which shared the work of young Jewish designers with young Jewish adults around the world, to the Bring the Seder Home project, which encourages and prepares people to hold Passover seders at home and invite friends who are more loosely connected to Judaism to join them. To date, the Grassroots Initiative has supported 17 new projects.

NEW ASPIRATIONS IN JEWISH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The Jewish Community Educators Training Program was launched to add a professional edge to JDC’s array of Jewish renewal programming. The project targets community educators at large and medium-sized JCCs who have demonstrated a commitment to Jewish ideals and the motivation to instill those ideals in future generations. Upon graduation, these professionals will be better equipped to reach out to the unaffiliated with attractive new program offerings and to heighten the Jewish component in existing JCC activities.

As a complement to this program, JDC developed the Resource Center in St. Petersburg. The Center creates modular, interactive pedagogic material for use in community educational settings; it also provides mentoring...
ROSENWALD INSTITUTE training programs have helped to professionalize care for elderly HESED CLIENTS like this woman in KISHINEV, MOLDOVA. (Photo: Karen Sandvick)
and guidance for community educators. Also in 2007, JDC continued to work on a new encyclopedia of informal Jewish educational tools.

**STRIVING FOR FINANCIAL SOLVENCY**

As Jewish communities in the FSU mature, JDC envisions them assuming greater responsibility for generating income though local fundraising. JDC seeks to encourage this development, while acknowledging that total independence will not be achieved in the short term. Thus, it has been promoting the adoption of JCC business plans and educating directors in how to position themselves effectively to tap donor funding.

The Moscow School of NGO Management and Leadership aims to inspire individuals to advance community life by assuming leading positions in Jewish organizations, and to equip them to excel in that role. The school—which receives support from UJA-Federation of New York—is currently providing management training to over 200 candidates, including those already employed by small and medium-sized organizations. Courses offered in 2007 focused on public relations, fundraising, and human resources management.

A group of 27 promising young adults who are pursuing careers in the strategic management of communal organizations are currently studying in the Richman Family Foundation MBA+ Program. Since 2006, this challenging educational track has combined academic study at the prestigious State University of Management-Institute of New Economy-Moscow with supplementary courses in non-profit management and Jewish studies.

JDC’s varied Jewish renewal programs in the FSU also enjoy the support of: the Avi Chai Foundation; Alfred R. Bader; Michael G. Jesselson; Joan and Irwin Jacobs; Jonathan W. Kolker; the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited; Sheila and Stephen Lieberman; the David and Inez Myers Foundation; Jacob Schimmel; Gloria Stone; Louis B. Thalheimer; Elizabeth R. Varet; the Wilf Family Foundation; World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK); Diane Wohl; THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

JDC’s mission in the FSU has been to inspire a population that had been utterly severed from its roots and equip it to refashion the fabric of Jewish life. JDC’s mission in the FSU has been to inspire a population that had been utterly severed from its roots and equip it to refashion the fabric of Jewish life. By definition, this is a task subject to evolution.
and change, a fact that is becoming increasingly more apparent as FSU communities take their initial steps on the challenging journey toward self-reliance. As FSU communities mature, JDC is tailoring its response to achieve the correct balance of involvement, guidance, and empowerment.

JDC has been able to adopt its creative approach—one that is sensitive to emerging trends, and one that views challenges as stimulants for novel strategies—thanks to the generosity of its funding partners. Their support enabled JDC to begin to facilitate the recovery of Jewish life in the FSU some 20 years ago, and their continued trust will be pivotal to the ongoing evolution and the ultimate success of this critical endeavor.

OUR FEDERATION PARTNERS

JDC recognizes and thanks the Jewish Federations of North America whose support, via designated community funds through United Jewish Communities (UJC), makes our historic work in the FSU possible: Greater Altoona Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Jewish Federation of Berkshire County; Birmingham Jewish Federation; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Jewish Federation of Collier County; Columbus Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay; Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids; Greensboro Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis; Jacksonville Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Milwaukee Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; Mobile Area Jewish Federation; Nashville Jewish Federation; UJA-Federation of New York; UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey; Jewish Federation of Omaha; Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert Area; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Jewish Federation of Pinellas County; United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh; United Jewish Federation of San Diego County; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; Jewish Federation of St. Louis; United Jewish Fund and Council of Greater St. Paul; Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle; Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona; Springfield, IL Jewish Federation; Syracuse Jewish Federation; United Jewish Federation of Tidewater; Jewish Community Council of Greater Waco; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington/United Jewish Endowment Fund; Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County; UJA Federation of Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk; UJC Network of Independent Communities; and UIA Federations Canada.
**JDC’s Objectives in Europe**

- JDC responds to three different types of Jewish communities: fully autonomous communities, communities arriving at self-sufficiency, and communities on the road to self-sufficiency. JDC’s approach will vary accordingly, offering social welfare services, community development initiatives, leadership programs, and networking activities, as appropriate.

- Relief programs for Holocaust survivors are maintained throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries, with JDC’s elderly welfare caseload in Europe now standing at just under 26,000. JDC also assists these communities in their efforts to ensure that the basic needs of Jewish children are met. By offering welfare programs for children in need, JDC supports their integration into the larger Jewish community.

- JDC employs a holistic approach to community development, looking at each community as an intertwined system of organizations, infrastructures, and population groups. In helping communities engaged in the process of restructuring, JDC aims for the development of a full Jewish community life, with programs that address different needs and efforts to build a more democratic, pluralistic environment.

- JDC provides technical assistance and consulting in the areas of leadership training, planning, networking, fundraising, property management, and the development of initiatives to reach out to different groups within the Jewish population, whether or not they are affiliated with the local community. The JDC International Centre for Community Development at Oxford was created to enrich the body of knowledge in these fields by serving as a think tank and research center, while the Buncher Community Leadership Program offers training opportunities on various levels for communal leaders worldwide.

- JDC promotes mutual assistance by networking communities and working in partnership with pan-European Jewish bodies to address European concerns.
His Royal Highness **THE PRINCE OF WALES** affixes the *mezuzah* at the festive opening of the World Jewish Relief Jewish Community Center in Krakow, Poland, April 2008. *(Photo: WJR)*
**JDC Europe: A Refocused, Continentwide Approach**

Mirroring the EU’s expansion and its ongoing integration of the Central and Eastern European countries, JDC restructured its European operations, putting all of them under one, continentwide umbrella that is able to respond more effectively to the realities, opportunities, and challenges of the new Europe.

To aid in the process of creating a holistic European Jewish community, JDC offers a wide spectrum of activities and services, from social welfare programs for the needy to community development efforts that reinforce Jewish renewal.

Throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries, the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation is partnering with JDC to forge far-reaching initiatives that will ensure essential aid and the opportunity for a brighter future to disadvantaged Jewish children.

JDC Europe has adopted a three-pronged approach or three levels of operation: country by country/community; Regional Clusters; and a pan-European approach. Regional Clusters, developed with generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, link together Jewish communities that have a common geographic, cultural, language, and/or historic base, giving them the critical mass they need to engage in significant Jewish programming. On a pan-European level, JDC is involved in the process of networking Europe’s estimated 1.5 million Jews, building bridges from one community to another and offering a range of opportunities for training, interaction, and professional support.

**Country Programs**

**Hungary**

The elderly have been particularly hard hit by cuts in state spending for health care and drug subsidies implemented by the Hungarian government in 2007 as part of its EU-mandated deficit reduction efforts. Combined with rising prices for food and utilities, these and other service reductions have left many elderly pensioners, especially those who are single, no longer able to cover their basic living costs. Indeed, many Jewish welfare clients today can only afford their daily medicines with JDC’s support, and more are seeking help. At the same time, the weakening of the US dollar means that JDC’s country budget can provide significantly less assistance than in previous years, having declined over 50 percent in value in local terms.

Welfare programs for Holocaust survivors are implemented in partnership with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference), the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), the German Government Funds for Homecare, the Hungarian Gold Train Settlement, MAZIHISZ (the Hungarian Federation of Jewish Communities), and the Hungarian Health Fund. Over 5,500 elderly Jews benefited in 2007 from home care services, medical assistance, meals on wheels or food packages, emergency assistance, and various forms of non-tangible support.

Through the Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation and with help from JDC, over 3,200 elderly received medical care and equipment in 2007 and 2,200 benefited from winter relief, while over 1,300 needy Jews received some form of food support and 115 got monthly cash assistance. The Sela Home for the Disabled, which operates under the auspices of the Ujpest Home, furnished specialized services to 30 Jewish elderly last year.

Of some 11,000 needy Jews in Hungary who do not qualify for restitution-funded services, JDC is currently caring for the 5,000 neediest. Employing a “less to more” policy to address the needs of an increasing number of new clients even as it sees its own purchasing power reduced, JDC has established a new priority of services: support for medicines and utilities has been deemed most critical, followed by food and in-home services. A growing number of clients have also been contributing to program costs, and JDC has been helping to tap additional sources of local funding.

Current economic difficulties have also made life harder for a significant number of Hungarian Jewish children and families. With major support from the Bernard Jaffe Trust, the region’s first Jewish Family Services organization was established in Hungary last year. JDC is working through the Jaffe Jewish Family Service to expand the range of social services and financial support available to help these children and their families, with some 317 individuals receiving some form of aid in 2007. Programs for children in need benefit from major support from the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation.

The Grove Foundation provides generous support for JDC programs in Hungary, with funding for specific activities provided by the Rothschild Foundation Europe and Norfund (the Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries).
The Balint Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Budapest offers a wide-ranging menu of social, cultural, and Jewish content activities in a welcoming and pluralistic atmosphere. From the Eden Club for preschoolers to the Shalom Club for seniors, every segment of the community has a space at the JCC. Balint also host exhibits, concerts, and Jewish holiday celebrations, and its informal Jewish education and resource centers provide teachers, youth leaders, and camp counselors with materials and program support. It is a natural meeting point for local organizations and a partner in JDC regional and pan-European programs, and its “something for everyone” approach, which includes a state-of-the-art fitness club and computer center, was designed to attract the unaffiliated.

JudaFest is a new outreach initiative with the same objective. Aimed at Budapest’s large number of unaffiliated Jews, it was designed to entice people to approach Judaism in their own way. It will feature street festivals, children’s day activities, a Purim parade, and a Jewish film festival, as well as events devoted to literature, theater, music, and other aspects of Jewish culture.

For those already engaged in expanding their Jewish knowledge, Bereshit, JDC’s new European Jewish Community University, was piloted this year in Budapest, to much acclaim. Community members were also eager participants in Hungary’s first Limmud-Keshet experience, which brought some 400 people together last September for this grassroots Jewish study fest. Quickly becoming a tradition, Limmud-Keshet 2008 is expected to attract over 500 participants.

The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland provides major support for the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, which continues to provide the quintessential informal Jewish educational experience for youngsters from all parts of the Jewish world. The camp hosted 1,900 Jewish campers and counselors from 22 countries in 2007, with a similar number slated to benefit this year from Szarvas’ unique mixture of creative Jewish learning activities and summer fun. Generous support from the James H. Becker Endowment Fund for Central and Eastern Europe enables some 100 children from needy families to participate in the Szarvas experience, and World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK) provides important funding for camp programs.

Camp sessions today are run by young leaders, many of whom are graduates of the Szarvas Leadership Empowerment Initiative. Begun as a training seminar for unit heads, the initiative has evolved into a three-year program that is producing young leaders ready to undertake new activities in their home communities. Szarvas also hosts an ongoing series of international training seminars for madrichim (youth leaders). JDC organizes camp experiences for the elderly and special programs for children and adults with disabilities.

Young family in BUDAPEST enjoying a July 2008 JUDAFAEST EVENT, part of a new JEWISH OUTREACH INITIATIVE featuring street festivals as well as cultural programs. (Photo: JDC)

Over 230 participants from 16 countries took part this year in Machol Hungaria, which is held at Szarvas each spring. Europe’s largest Israeli folk dance festival and seminar, this year’s event was a gala celebration of Israel’s 60th anniversary and the festival’s 10th year. Events ran the gamut from a kibbutz style party to a solemn program marking Yom Hashoah. A Maccabi sporting event was held in tandem with the Machol this year, bringing 60 Jewish soccer players from all over Europe to the camp.

Different segments of the Hungarian Jewish community have been using Szarvas’ facilities to run their own programs, including special sessions organized by various religious movements and Jewish schools. A camp session for young families offered a broad mix of activities for some 150 participants, aged one to 40. Most of the parents were themselves Szarvas graduates, and the program was designed to reinforce their community activism.

JDC continues to make a variety of training opportunities available to the community through Leatid Europe and the Buncher Community Leadership Program. In 2007, 12 communal professionals took part in the Tnufa program, a training effort within the Danube region organized by JDC in cooperation with the Buncher Program and Central European University.
Aided by generous support from the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado, the Hungarian Jewish Forum, established with JDC’s help, brings together the leaders of some 18 organizations that represent the full spectrum of Hungarian Jewish life. With assistance from the Buncher Program, the Forum recently held a leadership retreat in Israel that enabled its members to engage in a more intensive dialogue about policies and strategies for their community.

Through its Outreach Network initiative, JDC has been working with a growing number of grassroots organizations, “alternative” groups, and individuals to help build community capacity and facilitate the emergence of a richer and more diverse Jewish life. It offers professional support and technical assistance to help leaders and activists develop a wide variety of programs for those of all ages and backgrounds. It is also helping to build a local philanthropic network that will enhance the financial stability of these organizations. The programs and events that are an outgrowth of this initiative are currently reaching some 10,000 to 15,000 people a month, and the technical advice that JDC provides is helping Hungarian Jewry move closer to its goal of becoming a self-sufficient and self-sustaining community.

**Romania**

While Romania, which entered the EU on January 1, 2007, has seen significant economic growth over the past four years, social analyses indicate that the majority of its population is still suffering. The average worker earns considerably less than his EU counterparts, and the average pension is considered almost impossible to live on. The many Jewish welfare clients who retired before 1989 have pensions that are even lower and cannot support current living costs. As a result, Romania’s lonely and ailing Holocaust survivors must continue to depend on the welfare programs maintained by JDC and FEDROM (the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania).

The Claims Conference and other restitution-related sources—including the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust ERA Insurance Claims, the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah (the French Shoah Foundation), and the German Government Funds for Homecare—as well as the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation provide critical funding for these life-sustaining services.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City and the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, VA, have developed long-term partnerships with Romanian Jewry and furnish vital support for JDC’s programs there. JDC’s activities in Romania are also generously supported by: World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK); the Esther Leah Ritz Living Trust; the Patricia Werthan Uhlmann Foundation; Annie and Art Sandler; Eddyte Roland; Claude and Etty Arnall; Martin Schaffel; the Joseph and Sally Handlerman Charitable Foundation; the Celia Krichman Charitable Trust at the Tidewater Federation; Nancy Marks; and Roger Fishman.

Adjustments were made this year in the social welfare program, which is administered by FEDROM’s Social and Medical Assistance Department. Food packages have been replaced by a voucher system that allows recipients, on their own or with the help of friends or community workers, to choose their own food items at local stores. Vouchers are distributed eight or 12 times a year, depending on whether the client lives in a town with a kosher canteen, with some 1,000 people benefiting from this program. Monthly cash grants are helping to sustain 481 needy elderly Jews, while winter relief enabled some 900 people to defray the high cost of heating fuel this year and purchase warm clothing and non-perishable foods.

FEDROM’s network of nine kosher kitchens provides meals for 180 people who eat at the canteens, 120 residents of the community’s old age homes, and 260 homebound elderly who receive daily hot meals on wheels. Meal deliveries also provide recipients with regular social contact, which is critical to their emotional well-being.

Home care services currently benefit 226 elderly clients, and a Hot Line program staffed by volunteers is helping to serve their needs. Day care centers in Bucharest, Oradea, and Timisoara give the elderly an opportunity to socialize and maintain their ties to the community, with a fourth center scheduled to open in Iasi by the end of 2008. A reorganization is under way at the 120-bed Rosen Home for the Aged in Bucharest, which currently has 110 residents. JDC also supports a 24-bed Jewish nursing home in Arad whose caseload of 14 is expected to increase to 20 by next year.

FEDROM’s Bucharest Polyclinic and the 26 smaller socio-medical centers it maintains around the country supplement the public care system for welfare clients and other community members, and some 1,117 people receive needed medications thanks to funding from restitution sources and donations from WJR and the Kansas
City and Tidewater Federations. WJR and Kansas City also supply FEDROM’s clothing distribution program, which will serve 1,200 needy Jews this year. Project Vision, an Atlanta-based volunteer organization of Jewish ophthalmologists, works with local medical personnel to screen and provide state-of-the-art treatment to elderly people suffering from serious eye ailments, while 60 community members who have difficulty seeing benefit from the activities and assistance offered at the Bucharest Braille Club established by JBI International.

Through the Children in Need program, 90 Jewish children under 18 are receiving food vouchers, clothing, medicines, and school supplies, and parents whose income falls below a certain threshold qualify for financial assistance. The program also seeks to ensure that these needy youngsters have access to informal Jewish educational programs and community activities. In Romania, as elsewhere throughout Eastern Europe, these Children’s Initiative programs are benefiting from major support from the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation.

Bucharest’s new Jewish Community Center (JCC) is situated in a community building beautifully renovated for this purpose thanks to generous support from Linda and Jerry Spitzer. The JCC team of professionals launched a wide variety of programs last year, tailoring them to suit the interests of different age groups, and many have already succeeded in attracting the unaffiliated.

Over 700 people took part in the JCC’s Hanukkah Festival last December, 300 participated in a January Tu B’Shevat program, and more than 600 people joined in Purim festivities this past March. The JCC’s fitness program and its café are already self-sufficient; an average of 120 people of all ages come together each week to welcome the Sabbath; and more than 1,200 attended a JCC concert celebrating Israel’s 60th anniversary. In May, the JCC began publishing a community newsletter; geared initially to Bucharest, it will extend its reach countrywide in 2009.

JCC children’s programs combine fun-filled, interactive activities with informal Jewish education, while programs for older youth are designed to provide an alternative to other forms of recreation available in the city—offering the same quality, but at a more affordable cost and within a Jewish environment. About 150 youth a week have been enjoying the Saturday night party at the JCC café, while special programs on Jewish topics give these young adults an opportunity to expand their Jewish knowledge in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

A sizable group of Israeli university students studying in Bucharest have become regular patrons of the JCC. September 2007 brought the opening of the new Jewish Community Center in Oradea. The Arnall Family provided generous support for this project, funding renovations that have given this strong and growing Jewish community an attractive new gathering place and program venue. From the new day care center for children and mini-kindergarten to the day care center for the elderly, the JCC is already offering a range of activities for all age groups, including a sports facility and a café. In March 2008 alone, over 1,400 people took part in various programs, and the number of regular participants continues to increase.

Last summer, a total of 500 people attended the seven camp sessions organized by JDC at the newly modernized community retreat center in the Transylvania mountains, which was reconstructed and enlarged with major funding from Annie and Art Sandler and support from FEDROM and the Kansas City Federation. Sessions were geared to different segments of the community, including children, young families, and senior citizens, and they were staffed by an enthusiastic, newly trained group of local madrichim (youth leaders). Training programs and
camps for students are generously supported by Martin Schaffel. The camp’s inclusive environment and pleasant setting make for an ideal Jewish experience, with many of the participants celebrating Shabbat there for the first time together with family and friends.

This summer, the camp session for youth is offering a totally new concept—The Amazing Race—which should add a heightened sense of adventure to the program. FEDROM and JDC continue to support the activities of the Organization for Jewish Youth in Romania (OTER) and its local clubs. Over the past year, JDC has been begun to reinvigorate club activities in cities where there are, as yet, no JCCs.

The Weinberg Balkan Black Sea Gesher Regional Institute in Bulgaria this May had a delegation of 85 young adults from Romania. Their participation helped them connect with their contemporaries in neighboring countries and set the stage for a weekend program with young leaders from Bulgaria. Teams of volunteers from each country organized what proved to be an amazing series of program discussions and Jewish-centered activities, including an Oneg Shabbat with the Bucharest community.

JDC facilitates Romanian participation in a variety of other regional activities, including—with support from the Tidewater Federation—the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, and the Machol Hungaria Israeli dance festival. It also provides a range of training opportunities for the community. A Buncher Community Leadership Program session for FEDROM board members and other leaders was held in Israel in May 2008, the latest in a series of Romanian training cycles. To help move the community toward self-sufficiency, JDC helped FEDROM establish property management systems, providing expert guidance and training to maximize the potential benefits from this main source of communal income.

JDC supports the work of a visiting Chief Rabbi and a young, Romanian-born rabbi who returned to serve the community last September, following his rabbinical ordination at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York in June 2007.
Romania’s first *Limmud* Jewish study fest was held in Timisoara in April 2008, during the Passover holiday. Over 120 people of all ages attended, and lectures and other activities were conducted by people from the local communities. Organized by a large group of volunteers, the one-day event helped the community gear up for the three-day countrywide *Limmud-Keshet* conference scheduled for November, with mini-*Limmud* in Iasi and Bucharest planned in the interim. Three pilot sessions of *Bereshit*, JDC’s new European Jewish Community University, were held in Bucharest in the first half of 2008, with a total of 280 participants. The sessions generated much excitement, with people looking forward to future installments.

**Poland**

While Poland continues to make social and economic progress, rising living costs have added to the financial stress felt by the elderly and other weaker population groups. The Central Jewish Welfare Commission, comprised of representatives of the country’s five major Jewish organizations, manages the social services that sustain many of Poland’s elderly Holocaust survivors. JDC continues to help fund these efforts, along with the Claims Conference, the Swiss Banks Settlement, and other restitution-related sources. It also provides the Commission with professional support and guidance, and has been helping to implement a new information system and update services.

JDC has been working with the Union of Jewish Religious Communities of Poland (JRPCP) and the local communities to ensure that, as property restitution increases, their financial support for the welfare program and other activities continues to expand. In partnership with international property management consultants, JDC has been helping the community track over 5,500 property restitution claims, and it has organized training seminars in property management for local community leaders.

In addition to JRPCP, which maintains synagogues, coordinates religious services and holiday celebrations, and operates the community’s kosher kitchens, JDC works in partnership with other local Jewish organizations, furnishing varying degrees of financial and/or technical support. Among them are the TSKZ, the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews; *Chabad*; Beit Warszawa; local communities; and the new Jewish student organization, ZOOM.

Cash assistance payments were distributed by the Welfare Commission to some 700 survivors in 2007, and walkers, hearing aids, vitamins, and personal care items were made available as needed. The commission also helped cover the cost of urgent home repairs, rent, winter heating bills, sudden medical expenses, and transportation for those with limited mobility. Eight kosher kitchens operated by JRCP served free meals to needy, mostly elderly Jews last year, with operating costs covered locally. JDC funds the purchase of kosher meat and supplies matzah and other Passover foods.

With funding from the Claims Conference and JDC, medical care is provided for elderly survivors, and through its central dispensary in Warsaw, the Jewish community delivers prescription medications throughout the country. Homebound welfare clients are served by a home care program funded last year by the Claims Conference, the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah, and the German Government Funds for Homecare, and rehabilitation retreats have been organized at the Srodborow-Akiva Kohane campsite. Day care centers and clubs for seniors in various cities offer physical therapy programs as well as opportunities for the elderly to overcome their isolation.

Volunteers recruited and trained by community social workers are aiding this effort by making regular visits to some 120 elderly clients. The success of this local initiative led JDC to base its Volunteer International Exchange Program (VIP) in Poland. This international forum was developed with support from the James H. Becker Endowment Fund, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, and the Remembrance, Responsibility, and Future Foundation, and it seeks to encourage volunteerism throughout the region.

The Children in Need program provided some 120 Jewish children with food, clothing, medicines, school supplies, and access to camp and other Jewish educational programs last year, and families in dire need received help paying their rent and heating bills. The Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation is providing generous support for this program, which is working to expand its reach and put additional emphasis on integrating these children into community activities.
The Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Children’s Summer Camp in Rodowo, which is generously supported by the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation, is one such program. Children from impoverished families are being helped to participate in this increasingly popular venue, joining other Jewish youth for summer fun and a valuable Jewish learning experience.

Thanks to generous support from Martin Schaffel, informal Jewish educational activities for the younger generation received a big boost in the past year. Youth clubs in the larger cities were revamped and supervision upgraded, a new coordinator was hired, cooperation with local Sunday schools was expanded, and a new team of madrichim (youth leaders) was trained and put in place. The results of this heightened activity were fast to appear, with 90 children taking part in the Sarasota summer camp last year, and six counselors and 60 campers attending the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, supported by the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs & Desert Area. So far in 2008, a winter camp held at Rychwald in February drew 47 participants, and attendance at Rodowo this summer is expected to double.

For young adults and the middle generation, JDC is working with a variety of local partners to develop creative outreach activities and Jewish learning opportunities with a pluralistic bent. Some 300 people are expected to participate this October in Poland’s first Limmud-Keshet conference, and Poland has been increasingly well represented at the Baltics Limmud and other regional programs, especially those geared to students. Community members over the past years have benefited from a range of leadership development activities organized by JDC, including special segments of the Buncher Community Leadership Program, Leatid seminars, and other training opportunities.

Street festivals open to the general public are also proving to be an excellent venue for reaching the unaffiliated, since programs staged there are more likely to attract those reluctant to attend a community-based event. During last year’s Singer Festival in Warsaw—an annual event celebrating Isaac Bashevis Singer and the city’s Jewish cultural heritage—a festive family picnic featuring Jewish foods, music and dance performances, and activities for children in one of the city’s main squares attracted some 2,500 people over a four-hour period, 750 of whom were estimated to be Jews. JDC will continue to emphasize innovative “JCC without walls” programs of this nature that take activities to the people, with street festivals planned for three cities in 2008 and a “street Passover seder” in the works for Warsaw in 2009.

The Krakow community was brimming over with excitement this past April, as Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall arrived in the city’s historic Jewish quarter to inaugurate the World Jewish Relief Jewish Community Center. The project was made possible through the patronage and generosity of His Royal Highness and the major support of World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), in collaboration with the local community and JDC. The new, five-story facility includes a day care center for the elderly. The JCC will serve as a gathering place and programming venue for the local community and Krakow University’s Jewish students, and it is expected to become one of the country’s main engines for outreach and community development.

The Baltic Countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania

The reform policies that provided good macroeconomic indicators in all three Baltic countries also produced social hardships, especially for elderly pensioners, and the economies in Latvia and Estonia in particular are currently experiencing a “hard landing.” The substantial depreciation of the dollar, EU standards that have made program operations more costly, and the Baltic countries’ high inflation rates (the highest in Europe) have combined to create budgetary shortfalls that the local communities are struggling to cover in a variety of ways.

Over 4,500 needy elderly Jews across this region depended last year on Jewish community welfare services that were developed with JDC’s help. These include food assistance, medicines and medical care, home care services, winter relief, and help with essential home repairs. The use of supermarket food cards in place of food packages was expanded in 2007; a newly established hot meals program in Lithuania served 150 needy elderly; and a regional summer camp held in Parnu, Estonia, provided a welcome respite for 120 Jewish seniors. Throughout the Baltics, the Warm Homes program, patterned on the FSU...
model, furnishes hot meals and companionship to otherwise isolated seniors. Community social workers receive ongoing professional training, and a new regional welfare director is working to upgrade service standards.

The majority of welfare clients in the Baltic countries are aging and increasingly frail Holocaust survivors. The expanded services they require have been generously supported by the Claims Conference, Sweden’s Baltic Forum, the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah, and other restitution-related sources.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, through its strategic partnership with the Baltic Jewish communities, is helping to support many of the cultural and educational initiatives that have transformed Jewish life in this region, and are key to the growth and development of these communities.

There was a 30 percent increase last year in the number of vulnerable Jewish children assisted throughout the Baltics as part of JDC’s Children’s Initiative—which now benefits from support from the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation—and greater emphasis was placed on school success, support for families, and community integration. Thanks to generous funding from Neil Kadisha, 243 children received a full basket of services, including food, medicines, school supplies, and scholarships for community activities, while hundreds of others benefited from subsidies that allowed them to take part in community life. The substandard housing situation of some Jewish families in Lithuania led to the provision of basic home improvements, and one-time emergency assistance aided 166 children in dire need.

Thanks to generous support from the George I. Adler-Jack A. Frydrych Charitable Fund for the JDC Children’s Initiative, the Adler Feeding Program is ensuring that hundreds of children from birth to 17 years of age continue to receive the nourishment they need despite their families’ financial difficulties. Operating through the Jewish schools and the local Jewish welfare organizations, the Adler program also provides its young clients with vitamin supplements and special food packages before Jewish holidays.

The Jewish communities that JDC helped revitalize in Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius are now serving as resource hubs for the smaller communities, and all three have reached a critical stage on their road to self-sufficiency.

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A JDC resident consultant has been working in Tallinn since October 2007, helping to add Jewish content to existing programs and develop new ones. With generous support from the Posner Family through the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, a new floor was added to the Dor VaDor Jewish Community Center in Tallinn, which is regularly frequented by some 700 community members. The Posner Floor provides more space for extended youth and young adult activities, a specially equipped room for the Children in Need program, and a venue for larger community events. The community’s growing financial independence was underscored by the initiation of a fundraising drive and an increase in JCC membership fees to cover the increased maintenance costs resulting from the building’s extension. Estonia has also implemented the first stage of a fees-for-services policy, with some activities now completely financed by the participants.

The new Jewish kindergarten in Tallinn has grown rapidly in size. It is proving to be an excellent tool for attracting young families to the community and adding to the enrollment at the Jewish school. Some 50 youngsters are now benefiting from this joint venture of JDC, the local community, and the Tallinn municipality.
The launch of the Yachad program in 2007 was a major step in the growth and development of the Estonian community. Combining a mini-Limmud with a countrywide General Assembly, Yachad was both an enriching Jewish learning experience and an amazing exercise in community democracy and transparency as elections were held for the community board. More than 12 percent of the country’s known Jews attended the November event, coming together as a community to celebrate the past and prepare for the future. A newly appointed professional team is now receiving support and coaching from JDC.

JDC is also developing a leadership training track in Latvia, which will benefit lay leaders and four recently hired professionals. Youth activities in Latvia have been completely revamped, with a new youth department opened at the Alef JCC in Riga and a youth coordinator hired to oversee three different programs: Ilan, for children 7 to 13; Bash, for youngsters 13 to 17; and a school for madrichim (youth leaders). A new preschool program, called Motek, is already serving 30 young children. The success of this revitalization is reflected in the record number of children (140) who attended the local winter camp, and the increased number participating in the regional summer camp. Activities for university students have also been re-energized, and a new, volunteer-run program was created for families with young children that has been attracting over 150 participants.

A second Jewish Book Fair, complete with artistic happenings, was organized in Riga, and a community university was organized for the second year in coordination with Latvia University’s Jewish studies department. Inclusive communitywide holiday celebrations, funded by JDC and local donors, are drawing hundreds of participants. In fact, some 2,800 people took part in activities linked to last year’s Hanukkah Caravan, which traveled throughout the country.

In Lithuania, the renovation of the JCC in Vilnius was completed last year thanks to generous support from the Adler-Frydrych Charitable Fund. Over 500 people attended an “open doors” event, and the JCC played host to a gathering of European JCC professionals. Lithuania continues to lead the way in terms of programs for youth and the middle generation. The Ilan Children’s Club, which serves some 250 youngsters, now offers weekday workshops as well as weekend programs that combine Jewish learning with other courses and recreational activities. The Knafoim Club for teenagers has also expanded, and the Dubi early childhood program—which served as a model for preschool activities elsewhere in the Baltics—added summer and winter day camps. To make the Vilnius Jewish kindergarten an attractive and viable alternative for families throughout the city, the Adler-Frydrych Fund donated a van to facilitate the youngsters’ transportation.

The Gesher Club in Vilnius is the prototype for the Gesher initiative, a programming model for young adults and the middle generation that is supported by the Los Angeles Federation and now includes the Lithuanian cities of Kaunas and Siauliai, as well as counterpart groups in Estonia, Latvia, and Poland. Since participants vary in age from 25 to 60, segmenting Gesher activities by age groups and interests has become an important goal. A program for young businessmen is a recent offshoot, with a newly launched series of business lunches a popular success.

The members of this young family in Vilnius, Lithuania, are beneficiaries of JDC’s Children’s Initiative, which was able to assist a greater number of vulnerable Jewish children last year throughout the Baltics. (Photo: JDC)

Gesher was also the launching pad for JDC’s Judaism Come Home program, which was generously supported by Susan and Jack Frydrych and the Adler-Frydrych Fund. Some 150 families participated in the initial effort, which entailed a year of Jewish learning sessions to help families bring Jewish traditions into their homes and daily lives. Participants received a kit of essential Judaic items, including a prayerbook and Hebrew Bible, Shabbat candlesticks, a Hanukkah menorah, and a Passover Haggadah and seder plate. About 210 families took part in the Sedarim at Home offshoot of this initiative, proudly conducting their own Passover seders this year for family members and friends.
Through *Leatid* Europe and the Buncher Community Leadership Program, JDC makes training opportunities and follow-up coaching available to Baltic Jewish community leaders. Many potential leaders have been nurtured through the *Radima* Baltic School for Youth Counselors/*Madrichim*, which is generously supported by the Los Angeles Federation. *Radima* alumni are now playing active roles in their communities, helping to run youth club activities and holiday celebrations, and planning, organizing, and running the *Olameinu* Baltic Jewish Summer Camp.

*Olameinu* has become a key Jewish educational experience for hundreds of children in this region, and it, too, is made possible by the Los Angeles Federation’s strong support. Last summer’s camp was held in Lithuania, with three sessions needed to accommodate over 600 eager participants. For most of the youngsters, *Olameinu*’s quality programming is the culmination of a yearlong educational process carried out by local youth groups, and it is complemented by locally held winter camps that also benefit from Los Angeles Federation Support. The fact that it is entirely run by local leaders is one of *Olameinu*’s most significant features, for it constitutes a model of local empowerment and self-sufficiency. An additional 120 Baltic youngsters took part last year in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary.

In five short years, the Baltics *Limmud-Keshet* conference, a partnership effort of JDC, the Baltic communities, and the Los Angeles Federation in collaboration with *Limmud* International, has gone from 400 to an amazing 1,200 participants, many of whom had no previous Jewish affiliation. Hosted once again by the Lithuanian community, this past February’s study fest had over 150 workshops, most of which were taught by local Jews. A specially tailored track kept the 250 children in attendance enthusiastically engaged throughout the weekend; this reflected the care taken by the 90 volunteers who organized this grassroots event.

With generous support from the Rothschild Foundation Europe and the Los Angeles Federation, mini-*Limmud* programs are now being held throughout the year in individual Baltic communities. Additional venues for studying Judaism in an open and pluralistic way have also been meeting with popular success; organized with JDC’s help throughout the region, they include various forms of individual and holiday-centered Jewish study.

### The Balkan Countries: Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Macedonia

*Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in this region, see the JDC IDP section of this Annual Report.*

War and its aftermath in various parts of former Yugoslavia produced significant ongoing welfare needs in many of the Balkan Jewish communities, which JDC has responded to with generous help from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), the Claims Conference, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), the Swiss Banks Settlement, and the Alzheimer Foundation.

Over the past year, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Slovenia, JDC furnished monthly cash assistance payments to a declining population of needy Jewish elderly, and it strove to assure a decent minimum income to a much smaller number of younger Jews with disabilities who could not adequately provide for themselves. It also sought to provide essential medical care for Holocaust survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia, and to do the same wherever possible for other community members in need (chiefly in Serbia). Following Kosovo’s declaration of independence, JDC provided cash relief to a small group of 50 Jews living in Prizren to help them get through the past winter, and it is supporting their children’s participation in the Jewish community camp in Croatia this summer.

The scope and impact of the welfare programs established in the Balkans under crisis circumstances often differed, dependent as they were on local conditions and available resources. But the fact that one population might receive more help and another, equally needy, less was of secondary importance at a time of critical need. With the cessation of hostilities, the end of trade sanctions, and the beginnings of economic recovery in the region, JDC has begun to re-evaluate these programs to assure fairness and equity across the board.

Meanwhile, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, JDC is helping the Federation of Jewish Communities provide modest monthly assistance payments this year to 15 needy elderly Jews, and 63 people received special grants in 2007 to cover emergency needs. New clothing, medicines, and personal hygiene items contributed by overseas donors are made available for distribution to needy Jews and to public institutions and charities.
With support from the Claims Conference and JDC, home care was furnished in 2007 to 202 homebound and often bedridden elderly Jews. These services were provided through a non-sectarian program maintained last year by La Benevolencija, the Sarajevo Jewish community’s cultural and humanitarian aid organization, with generous support from Dr. Alfred Bader and JDC’s Bosnia “Open Mailbox.” Over 525 poor, isolated, and often chronically ill elderly from all national and ethnic backgrounds were aided in 2007. With help from the Austrian National Fund for Holocaust Victims, medical and safety equipment is loaned to survivors, and physical therapy is made available to them in their homes.

As part of JDC’s Children’s Initiative, JDC is providing food vouchers in Bosnia and Herzegovina to about 45 Jewish children from impoverished families. JDC’s Perspektiva Initiative, a job training and placement program for unemployed members of the Sarajevo community, had seven participants in 2007. The program also serves as a support club for job seekers frustrated by the country’s continuing economic difficulties.

In Serbia, JDC and SAVEZ (the Federation of Jewish Communities) furnished regular financial assistance to 25 Jewish elderly in 2007, and 192 survivors received special grants to meet urgent needs. One-time relief was given to an additional 12 elderly Jews and to three families with infants. The Belgrade community’s kosher kitchen provided 10,000 meals to more than 80 homebound elderly last year, and it served over 2,000 meals in its dining hall. The community’s free medical dispensary filled over 200 prescriptions a month in 2007, and a food voucher program aided over 300 needy Jews. Thirty-five seniors are benefiting from the programs and services offered at Belgrade’s new day care center, while home care was provided to 20 needy elderly last year, and 18 survivors from Serbia took part in the Bulgarian community’s Golden Age Camp.

Through the continuing generosity of Dr. Alfred Bader, a soup kitchen in the Jewish community building in Novi Sad has been serving 75 free meals a day to exceptionally needy people from all ethnic backgrounds. New clothing and other goods-in-kind provided by WJR and
JDC are distributed by SAVEZ to Jews in need and to public charities in Serbia, and food vouchers are being provided to 70 needy Jewish children and their families.

Both in Serbia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, JDC programs for Jewish children in need are benefiting from major support from the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation.

Thanks to government restitution policies regarding communal property, the Jewish community of Macedonia is fully self-sufficient and is responsible for its own welfare programs, educational activities, and religious life.

In Croatia, too, a watershed restitution settlement made with the government in 2000 enabled the Zagreb community to assume financial responsibility for its welfare programs and its cultural activities. The additional assistance now required by increasingly frail Holocaust survivors—including but not limited to medicines, food, medical services, home care, and emergency help—is funded by the Claims Conference, ICHEIC, and the Swiss Banks Settlement. The Zagreb community has also been increasing its support for the Lavoslav Schwarz Home for the Aged, an 80-bed facility that serves Jews from all of former Yugoslavia. This has enabled JDC to gradually reduce its own financial support for the Home, even as it continues to work with the leadership to increase operational efficiency.

The reclamation of nationalized communal properties is still an unsettled issue in this region, with progress varying from country to country. While Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to pass restitution legislation, JDC has been aiding community efforts to uncover and document nationalized or forgotten Jewish properties. In Serbia, the local communities are expected to file dozens of claims in the coming months, following last year’s enactment of a far-reaching restitution law. JDC continues to back these research and documentation efforts, and where real estate is already in community hands, its Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF) helps underwrite and manage property development in order to maximize the potential income.

Camp programs are another way to promote cross-border connections. With JDC’s support, the Zagreb community has for the past four years organized an all-former Yugoslav Jewish children’s camp at Pirovac, the community campsite where similar programs nurtured earlier generations of Yugoslav Jewish youth. The camp, which has been sponsored in part by Jan Weil and the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama, hosted 110 children from Croatia and other parts of former Yugoslavia last summer, including 35 youth from Serbia and Macedonia.

A partnership of WJR, the Weil Family Foundation, and JDC financed the participation of 15 Bosnian youngsters in the Pirovac camp and enabled 10 others to attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. They were joined there by 45 campers and counselors from Serbia and Macedonia (whose participation was supported by WJR) and by 15 campers from Croatia. An additional 20 Serbian youngsters took part in 2007 in the Jewish community summer camp in Bulgaria, while a nonsectarian program supported by Dr. Alfred Bader brought 55 special needs children to Pirovac last year.

Pirovac is also the site for an annual all-former Yugoslav gathering of students and young adults, many of whom are active participants in JDC’s regional programs. Macedonia itself played host last May to the Weinger Balkan Black Sea Gesher Institute, which brought some 350 young people from 13 countries together on Lake Ohrid in Struga. The three-day event, which had

“Keep the Jews together” has been a JDC policy mandate since the early 1990s, when Yugoslavia first began to break up into its constituent parts. Today, throughout this region, JDC encourages Jewish communities to participate in cross-border experiences that it helps to facilitate and support. These events strengthen ties among Jews and are of particular assistance to those living in the smaller, more isolated communities. Held during Sukkot each fall on the Croatian island of Hvar, the weeklong Beyachad festival brought over 300 Jews from all parts of the former Yugoslavia together in 2007 for a celebration of Jewish culture. JDC’s more recently adopted Hanukkah Caravan celebrated this eight-day festival last winter in a different community each night.
“Responsibility” as its theme, was funded by JDC, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, and local communities.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central Alabama Federation has been generously supporting Jewish renewal efforts and an expansion of community building activities, including new programs and classes for women and youth. JDC continues to support the Sarajevo community’s two Sunday schools, and it sponsored the participation of two youth leaders in programs held last year at Paideia, the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden. Connections, the WJR women’s group, awarded scholarships to four outstanding Bosnian Jewish students in 2007. JDC sends a Jewish educator (and former Sarajevan) back from Israel each year to lead High Holiday services; he also travels to the smaller communities to lecture on Jewish topics. Sarajevo’s special Passover seder this year was, as always, attended by government leaders and members of the diplomatic corps.

In Croatia’s outlying communities and in Slovenia, JDC supports Jewish educational and cultural programs for different age groups, holiday celebrations, and the purchase of Jewish resource materials. It continues to furnish the community in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with kosher food and religious items from Israel, and it finances the regular visits made by their Rabbi, who lives in nearby Trieste. JDC also helps Jewish youth in Slovenia take part in regional and pan-European Jewish events.

Held in Belgrade, Serbia, and open to Jews from all of former Yugoslavia, the area’s first Limmud-Keshet conference garnered much excitement last November, as did a large family Pesach seminar organized this past April in Lepenski Vir. Both were part of JDC’s efforts to expand programming for the middle generation and help young families intent on building a more meaningful Jewish home. JDC continues to support “text-based” weekend study retreats given by Serbian graduates of Paideia, and it helped the Jewish community of Vojvodina in northern Serbia offer a regular lecture series and courses on Judaism.

The Belgrade community’s youth center is the main venue for training, learning, and recreational activities for Jewish students and youth, and its computer lab is used by all age groups. JDC funds the outreach activities of the Belgrade rabbi who serves as spiritual leader in both Serbia and Macedonia. It also supplies these communities with kosher foods, including Passover matzah, and various religious items. In Macedonia, JDC furnishes training and educational materials for Hebrew classes and other educational and cultural programs in Skopje.

Machol Hungaria drew 24 people from Serbia and Macedonia last year, as Israeli folk dance groups throughout this region continue to attract community enthusiasts and those new to Jewish life. Lay and professional leaders throughout the former Yugoslavia have benefited from JDC training opportunities, including those offered by the Buncher Community Leadership Program and Leatid Europe. JDC has also facilitated their participation in regional activities and pan-European programs, and it has been encouraging Jews throughout the region to expand their Jewish horizons and solidify their connections with the wider Jewish world.

Slovakia
Slovakia’s sustained economic growth will enable it to become the second of the new EU member states to adopt the euro, an event that is scheduled to occur in 2009. Meanwhile, the Slovak koruna continues to strengthen against the dollar, and global increases in food and energy prices have led to a steady rise in the cost of living. To alleviate the hardship this poses to the elderly and to others living on fixed incomes, the government raised average pensions by 25 percent over the past year.

Funding from the Claims Conference and various restitution-related sources helps provide for the welfare, medical, home care, and emergency assistance needs of the community’s aging Holocaust survivors. A cash
assistance program maintained by UZZNO, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Slovakia, in partnership with JDC has been aiding 56 sick, disabled, and destitute Jews born after the Holocaust. Caseload numbers are expected to increase further as inflationary pressures continue, and UZZNO is now covering about 70 percent of the program costs. The budgetary shortfall in these and other community programs caused by inflation and the decline in value of dollar-denominated funding is being covered locally through grants from the Slovak Compensation Fund—the Slovak government’s compensation to the Jewish community for confiscated heirless properties—and rental income from restituted properties.

With support from the Claims Conference and help from JDC, the Bratislava community’s home care program, staffed by a nurse and a social worker, aided 160 elderly, sick, and disabled survivors last year, most of whom are becoming progressively frailer. In a similar program in Kosice, two full-time nurses have been aiding 100 survivors, half of whom are immobilized or over 90. The Bratislava kosher kitchen, with support from JDC, served an average of 2,980 hot meals a month in 2007 to the elderly and to other needy community members. That number includes meals prepared for the Ohel David Jewish Home for the Aged and the Chabad kindergarten, as well as 55 daily meals on wheels. In Kosice, the kosher kitchen served 503 meals each month.

Clubs for seniors in Bratislava and Kosice offer year-round cultural and social activities, while a summer rehabilitation camp gave 34 homebound elderly a welcome holiday and a chance to take part in Shabbat activities and other Jewish programs. JDC supports these efforts, along with the activities of the Hidden Children’s Society. In Bratislava, Club Yachad offers programming for the middle generation, bringing adults aged 35 to 55 together for bi-monthly meetings and social gatherings. That city’s new Mercaz Jewish Community Center began operating in 2007. Housed in a renovated, restituted property, the facility will eventually include a ground floor center for the elderly, meeting and activity rooms, a space suitable for gatherings, and a Jewish library.

Annual income from the Slovak Compensation Fund is financing 42 reconstruction, cultural, educational, and remembrance projects this year, as well as programs and services for survivors. The latter includes a major grant for the Ohel David Home and support for Or Chaim’s health care programs, which benefited 808 of the country’s 1,010 survivors in 2007. JDC has been encouraging the communities to submit grant applications to help them offset rising program costs; it has also been encouraging them to apply for interest-free loans from its own Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF). The loans are used to renovate returned communal properties to maximize their income-generating potential. The Bratislava community is in the process of repaying a seven-year SELF loan that it used to develop two centrally located properties that should eventually produce enough income to support a range of programs.

JDC sent 26 participants from Slovakia to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, last year, with four taking part in pre-camp training for madrichim (youth leaders) in Hungary and two participating in leadership training for unit heads in Israel. Many Szarvas alumni now play key roles in the social, cultural, and informal Jewish educational programs that JDC has been helping the local communities organize and support.

Included among these is the Bratislava community’s Moadon, which began as an after school program with Jewish content for some 50 youngsters and benefits from the generous support of the James H. Becker Endowment Fund. The Moadon organized a summer camp and work-shop for 25 children in 2007, as well as a new weekend program with six to eight seminars a year for two different age groups: children aged 6 to 12 and their parents, and older youth aged 12 to 17. The Moadon also began subsidizing the enrollment of Jewish children at a private kindergarten, with provision made for including Jewish learning activities in the curriculum. In January 2008, a Mother-Child Center with playgroups for toddlers was initiated, part of the community’s ongoing effort to meet the needs of different segments of the Jewish population and attract the many unaffiliated Jews to the community.

Other new programs developed with this aim in mind include a bi-monthly Jewish education seminar with a more liberal approach. Also inaugurated this past January, it is taught by a rabbi from the UK and has been attracting over 30 regular participants, aged 20 to 50. A Tu B’Shevat celebration this winter emphasized a broader environmental awareness, and a Maccabi sports weekend that combined skiing and Jewish programming also proved popular. Open to all age groups, the latter attracted 120 people, while
a young adults’ seminar organized in Komarno drew some 50 young people from six small communities near the Hungarian border.

A Slovak cantor from Israel presided over High Holiday programming last fall, as JDC continued to support a variety of religious activities, including rabbinical outreach efforts in the provinces, communal Passover seders in seven communities, and other Jewish holiday celebrations and cultural programs. Some 340 people of all ages, for example, attended the gala, communitywide Hanukkah celebrations organized last winter in Bratislava. JDC subsidizes the shipment of religious items and imports Passover matzah for the whole community, while UZZNO provides kosher wine and arranges distribution throughout the country.

The Slovak Union of Jewish Students, with 400 members, continues to benefit from JDC’s support. Its 130 active participants help organize a variety of programs, including winter and spring seminars and camps and a Purim Ball that was attended this year by 350 youth and adults. JDC’s Weinberg Danube Region activities have also been engaging local youth, and, even more important, young adults who had drifted away from the community after their teen years.

JDC continues to promote the participation of young leaders and community professionals in regional and pan-European programs that will expand their horizons and furnish them with an opportunity to learn from professionals and interact with their peers. The director of the Or Chaim program and a social worker, for example, took part in its social welfare conference in Amsterdam last November. Various community members have been participating in the Volunteer International Exchange Program, Leatid Europe seminars, the new Czech/Slovak Limmud, and other conferences and activities that have widened their exposure to the larger European Jewish community and helped broaden their involvement in Jewish life.

Bulgaria

Shalom, the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, organizes cultural and educational programs for the community and operates an extensive network of social welfare services for elderly Holocaust survivors and other Jews in need. These services benefit from major support from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), the Claims Conference, the Swiss Banks Settlement, the German and Spanish governments, and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. WJR, the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston maintain a close partnership with Bulgarian Jewry, helping to fund a variety of programs. JDC continues to furnish Shalom with financial support and professional assistance, and it has been working with the community to develop a local fundraising initiative. The latter took on added importance last year, when the community’s loss of a significant restitution case made it clear that it could not expect to achieve self-sufficiency on the basis of property restitution alone.

Cash assistance and winter relief were provided by JDC, in cooperation with Shalom, to 980 elderly and disabled Jews in 2007, with the Jacksonville Jewish Federation helping to support the winter relief effort. Shalom is beginning to manage the welfare caseload for all age groups this year, with funding from restitution sources and JDC earmarked for clients meeting specific criteria, and the community covering the cost of serving other needy Jews.

Some 52 elderly take part regularly in exercise programs and social and cultural activities at the day care center in Sofia, which is located in the Beit Ha’am Jewish Community Center (JCC), and 137 benefit from the center’s hot lunch program. Ten kosher canteens in the smaller, provincial communities furnish some 250 needy elderly and disabled Jews with nutritious hot meals and an opportunity to socialize with their peers. Home care services offered by Shalom with support from the Sofia municipality and JDC benefited 45 people in 2007, providing them with meals on wheels.
and regular visits from medical professionals and community volunteers.

Nearly 1,000 elderly Jews received needed medicines, vaccinations, and vitamins last year; free medical consultations were provided to seniors at Beit Ha’am; and clothing was distributed to 1,100 people with support from WJR. WJR subsidizes the community old age home in Sofia, which is at full capacity with 24 residents, and JDC provides staff training and technical support.

Health and fitness programs and social and cultural activities are offered year-round at clubs for seniors, while three “golden age” summer camps gave over 200 lonely elderly Jews a much-needed break from their regular routines. Dental exams were offered at the Jewish school to both children and seniors, and 100 children from low income Jewish families received flu vaccines and other important immunizations. As is true elsewhere in Eastern Europe, JDC programs for children in need benefit from major support from the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation.

Through a non-sectarian after school program supported by the Kate Morrison Fund, some 250 children from a Sofia orphanage receive nutritious snacks and a chance to take part in extracurricular activities. Local Jewish youth leaders volunteer their time to run this program on their own.

A newly hired program director is expanding existing activities and developing new programs at Beit Ha’am and at Sofia’s second JCC. Called Beit Shalom, the latter was opened in 2006 in a restituted building that was renovated with generous grants from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, WJR, and other donors, and an interest-free loan from JDC’s Strategic European Loan Fund.

To strengthen family participation in JCC activities, a new, interactive children’s center has been established in a specially refurbished room at Beit Ha’am. The center combines age-appropriate programs for young children with parallel activities for their parents. A JCC after school program offers informal Jewish learning activities for 120 students at the Jewish school, a specially designated public school whose official foreign language is Hebrew. A Family Club and the Club for the Middle Generation offer a variety of Jewish-centered activities and Shabbat and holiday celebrations. Film programs, concerts, Israeli folk dancing, Jewish study groups and educational activities, a café, training seminars, and business and professional groups are some of the JCC offerings that have been attracting different segments of the community.

The Youth Center in Sofia offers daily activities for children, teenagers, and students. Its young leaders work together with community professionals to run a Jewish Sunday school program, educational seminars, and the Hadracha College, which offers a two-year leadership training and Jewish educational program for youth counselors. Led by a dynamic young man who was recently elected president of the Sofia community, the center succeeded in reengaging a vital group of young adults in community life.
Fifty local youth took part in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, last year, while 250 youngsters attended the local Jewish summer camp in Kovacevtzi. JDC helps support B’nai Brith Youth Organization and Hashomer Hatzair activities that involve some 100 teenagers.

JDC provides religious supplies and materials to support holiday programs, and it furnishes kosher meat for the community canteens. Local programming has placed increasing emphasis on Jewish learning, young families are coming together for monthly Shabbat dinners and twice-yearly retreats before the major Jewish holidays, and the community rabbi has been involved in educational activities for adults and youngsters at Beit Shalom.

A new program, called Judaism in Nature, is helping people explore Jewish texts that relate to current environmental issues and social concerns. Part of the regional strategy to promote Judaism from the “bottom up,” the program was conceived and is being implemented entirely by local volunteers, with special seminars scheduled for appropriate Jewish holidays like Tu B’Shevat.

With support from the Kansas City Federation, the community held its first Limmud-Keshet conference in 2007. The massive, grassroots Jewish study fest drew nearly 10 percent of Bulgarian Jewry, with over 600 participants. Their willingness to pay for this event demonstrates the value this program holds for Jews in this region, and a second conference will be held in 2008.

Bulgaria recently played host to the 2008 Weinberg Balkan Black Sea Gesher Regional Institute, which was held in Nesember. Over 400 students and young adults participated in this event, the largest number taking part in this regional gathering to date. In addition to attracting 45 young people new to the community, the enthusiasm

"Judaism in Nature" is part of a regional strategy to promote Judaism from the “bottom up.” The new program was conceived and is being implemented entirely by local volunteers.

CAMP PROGRAMS pioneered by JDC throughout this region have proved to be one of the most successful informal Jewish educational tools, like this FAMILY CAMP (left) held in CRISTIAN, ROMANIA in July 2008, or the OLAMEINU BALTIJEWISH SUMMER CAMP, which was held last year in LITHUANIA. (Photos: Debbi Cooper, JDC)
generated by this event led a group of local young leaders to plan a weekend visit with their peers in Romania that proved to be a rousing success.

Local Gesher participants were also responsible for developing a regional Web site, and a group of young adults recently launched a new youth-oriented magazine. JDC continues to emphasize training opportunities and mentoring programs for young leaders, some half a dozen of whom are now on the Sofia community board. JDC also facilitates the participation of community representatives of all ages, both lay and professional, in its training programs and pan-European events and seminars.

Czech Republic

JDC offers technical assistance and support to local communities and organizations important to Czech Jewry, and it oversees the implementation of a series of aid programs for Czech Holocaust survivors financed through the Claims Conference. These programs subsidize medical treatment, provide medical equipment and home care, and aid those facing urgent one-time needs. JDC also furnishes training for social welfare professionals.

With modest technical assistance and fundraising help from JDC and generous support from the Rothschild Foundation Europe, the Prague Jewish community has completed the renovation and conversion of the historic HaGibor building into a spacious, modern 80-bed Jewish old age home. JDC is facilitating professional staff training, as well as the development of community-oriented outreach activities at the day center that will be part of this facility.

The Jews of the Czech Republic in general, and of Prague in particular, have created an array of relatively small organizations, each of which represents a different stream or facet of Jewish life. JDC brought representatives of a wide range of these independent groups together to plan and coordinate the first Czech-Slovak Limmud-Keshet conference. Some 150 enthusiastic young and middle generation Czech and Slovak Jews took part in this four-day Jewish study fest, which was held in Moravia this past May.

With funding from outside donors and in other ways, JDC helps support Bejt Elend, an independent, informal Jewish educational program for children centered in Prague. Begun as an after school program, Bejt Elend now includes bar/bat mitzvah training and a youth club, with arts activities, English courses, and recreational outings attracting some 70 regular participants. JDC has at times provided special subsidies to enable children from hard-pressed families to take part in these activities. It is Bejt Elend that now organizes the participation of Czech youngsters each year in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, with over 40 campers and counselors benefiting from the Szarvas experience last summer.

JDC has enabled Czech lay leaders and communal professionals to participate in Leatid Europe seminars and other training opportunities, and it has strengthened the participation of Czech students and young adults in the activities of its Danube Weinberg Region. Its recent engagement with the Czech Union of Jewish Students has helped Union leaders reinvigorate their program of events. A highly successful Purim Ball coordinated by the Union to raise funds for the synagogue in Teplice (a dynamic community that features young leadership) was one result of these efforts, as was a series of “Purimspiels” performed in the provinces by the Jewish Children’s Theater of Prague. Both initiatives were supported by JDC.

JDC is a member of the Advisory Committee of the government-sponsored National Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims, and last year it helped the Fund raise money to restore a historic synagogue in Usov. JDC’s own Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF) has enjoyed considerable success in the Czech Republic, helping to strengthen the Jewish communities in Liberec and Karlovy Vary by enabling them to renovate restituted communal properties.

With JDC’s quiet encouragement, the Federation of Czech Jewish Communities recently launched an intensive one-on-one cantorial training program for volunteer students living in various cities and towns. This effort is of special importance in provincial communities like Brno that no longer have access to a rabbi. JDC will continue to leverage the strong ties and effective relationships it has established with a broad spectrum of local groups and institutions to help bring them together in support of new initiatives that can expand and enhance Czech Jewish life.

Germany

According to government figures, there are 200,000 or more Jews living in Germany today, making it one of Europe’s four largest Jewish populations. This number represents a ten-fold increase since the early 1990s,
with almost all the new arrivals coming from the former Soviet Union, attracted by the country’s generous social welfare benefits and its economic opportunities.

At the same time that Germany opened its doors to these Jewish émigrés, it also enacted a law requiring its constituent states to absorb new immigrants in direct proportion to their population. As a result, there are now some 104 Jewish communities scattered throughout the country, most of which lack the critical mass, infrastructure, and resources needed to develop a healthy Jewish communal life. This presents a formidable challenge in terms of community integration. The difficulty is compounded by the limited Jewish knowledge and experience of many of the émigrés, which makes it harder to merge their needs with those of the veteran Jewish population.

Thanks to major support from Stanley Chais and the Chais Family Foundation, JDC has been able to expand its efforts in Germany in recent years. Working at all times in partnership with, and at the invitation of, local communities and institutions, it has helped to develop a range of pluralistic frameworks and programs that can serve as multiple entry points into Jewish life. To overcome the problem of numbers, it has encouraged the development of regional programming, and city-based programs with a regional impact. JDC’s involvement in these programs varies, serving in some cases as a professional consultant, in others as a program partner. In addition to funding from local sources, generous support for various activities has been provided by the Rothschild Foundation Europe and other donors.

Special emphasis is being placed this year on new programming for young adults and young families. “JCC without walls” activities like the Jewish Coffeehouse, which was developed originally in Dusseldorf and now operates also in Cologne, have been attracting university students and an expanding group of rising young professionals who represent their communities’ future. Other programs, like social meetings in a newly designed lounge, bring young adults together with members of the middle generation, which also benefits from social and cultural activities of its own.

In the first half of 2008, young families in various localities took part in six dynamic all-day programs and two three-day weekend outings. The programs were implemented by visiting teams of teachers and other professionals and involved activities as diverse as scouting, Jewish text study, Shabbat celebrations, dance, and yoga. The Bambinim early childhood program, launched originally in Berlin, was extended to Duisberg, and parallel meetings were developed for parents. JDC has also been supporting a new publication, Familienmentsch, which was developed by local young leaders for use in Jewish family education.

Libraries stocked with both German-and Russian-language Jewish books have been made available to local communities along with training programs for librarians, and the Jewish Book Fair in Duisberg has become a prestigious annual event. Offering an alternative approach to Jewish identity and personal issues, the Uhrsprung Project launched a series of participatory programs in different cities. The Jewish Film Festival in Dusseldorf has become one of the most attractive Jewish events in the area, and the Dialog program is helping to strengthen connections among Jews and Jewish communities in Karlsruhe and the southwestern region.

Special Buncher Community Leadership Program sessions have been organized for community leaders both locally and in Israel. Communities have also taken part in Leatid Europe seminars and local Leatid programs, all of which have been helping them to better serve the needs of this dynamic Jewish population. UJA-Federation of New York has provided generous support for many of these leadership training efforts.

Albania

Although its economy has been growing in recent years, Albania remains a very poor country. Consequently, the regular cash assistance that JDC is providing to three elderly Holocaust survivors is of special significance, and as the cost of living rises, it becomes a vital means of support. JDC monitors the country’s economic situation, and it sends or brings in medicines and medical supplies that are not available or too expensive in Albania. It maintains regular phone contact with the members of this tiny Jewish community, trouble shooting and providing ad hoc solutions for special medical problems and other urgent needs. Since the Albanian lek has been sharply affected by the weakened dollar and some program expenses are covered in euros, there has been a drop of at least 20 percent in the buying power of JDC’s country budget.

Staff visits are usually timed to coincide with Jewish holidays, which are celebrated with JDC’s support and
are almost the only occasions that the community comes together. JDC’s country director was in Albania during the High Holidays last September and conducted a special activity for Rosh Hashanah. To help community members maintain ties with the wider Jewish world, JDC sends in Jewish materials in Italian, the second language of most Albanian Jews; it also supplies matzah for Passover and other religious items. When younger members of the group go abroad to work or study, JDC provides them with contacts in the local Jewish community to help keep their Jewish identity alive.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Developed in association with the local communities and with generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Regional Clusters link together Jewish communities that have a common geographic, cultural, language, and/or historic base.

The Weinberg Balkan Black Sea Gesher Region includes Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, and Macedonia. The Danube Weinberg Region is comprised of Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Southern Germany, Northern Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Via Baltica Region spans from Helsinki through the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to Poland and Northern Germany.

By creating these clusters or frameworks, JDC aims to provide these communities (many of which are quite small or isolated) with the critical mass they need to engage in significant Jewish programs and activities. Regional Clusters encourage interaction and networking among different age groups and segments of each community—as well as a sharing of ideas and resources. They offer a range of educational and training opportunities that foster community building.

Regional Clusters encourage interaction and networking among different age groups and segments of each community—as well as a sharing of ideas and resources. They offer a range of educational and training opportunities that foster community building.

The Gesher Students’ and Young Adults’ Institute remains the Balkan Black Sea region's premiere annual event, helping to connect and empower young Jews and broaden their Jewish knowledge. Over 350 young people took part in last year’s Institute, which was held in Macedonia, while the 2008 event brought over 400 together in Nessember, Bulgaria, this past May. Danube region activities included the Connecting Horizons leadership seminar; the WING: Winter International Gathering for Young Leaders, which had some 250 participants; and Open Jewish Stage theatrical events; while Via Baltica programs emphasized regional summer camps for children and the elderly, training programs for counselors, and special programs for young adults.

PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMS

JDC works in partnership with a variety of organizations to organize a series of pan-European conferences, as well as forums devoted to particular spheres of communal life. Following the first European Symposium on Jewish Children in Need, three intensive training seminars were conducted over the past year by the JDC-Jewish Communities International Centre for Children. The series focused on serving children's needs in inclusive Jewish communities, and 20 child care professionals—teachers, psychologists, and social workers—from 14 countries in Europe and the former Soviet Union completed the sequence.

In cooperation with the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC), JDC organized the 3rd Annual European Jewish Conference on Social Welfare and Sela Forum in Amsterdam last November. Hosted by the Netherlands’ Jewish welfare organization, the conference focused on the mental health of the elderly and on providing psychosocial support for their families.
JDC and ECJC also collaborate on the Arachim Conference. Initiated 15 years ago, Arachim brings leading European Jewish educators (mainly principals and directors of Jewish studies) together to discuss topical issues.

Thirty directors of Jewish high schools throughout Europe came together in Budapest in February 2008 for a conference on Jewish identity organized by JDC and the Alliance Israelite Universelle. The 3rd European Conference on Jewish Community Centers will be held in Bucharest in December 2008. It is being organized by JDC in collaboration with the European Association of Jewish Community Centers, FSJU, Jewish Care (UK) and the World Confederation of Jewish Community Centers.

Described in many of the country sections above, JDC's Limmud-Keshet programs are conducted in cooperation with Limmud International. They benefit from generous support from the Chais Family Foundation, as well as local funding.

With pilot sessions launched this year in Budapest and Bucharest, Bereshit, the European Jewish Community University, is JDC's newest Jewish renewal program. Generously supported by the Thalheimer Foundation and other donors, Bereshit offers a high-quality, university-level curriculum with a pace and intensity more often associated with academia than an open university. Participants are offered the chance to learn about Judaism “from the beginning” (hence the program title) through modern times, via lectures from some of Israel’s top university professors.

The program is designed to be pluralistic and inclusive, with lectures and texts made available to participants in their native language and a Web site (Bereshit.org) that is multilingual. Bereshit adds a new layer to JDC programming, a higher step that complements its existing informal Jewish educational initiatives.

JDC International Centre for Community Development at Oxford (JDC-ICCD)

The Centre aims to enhance the quality, depth, range, and creativity of Jewish community development work across Europe through applied research, educational seminars, and the generation of knowledge.

Two major research projects were initiated by the Centre in 2008, and the results will be published later this year. The first is a survey of 300 European Jewish leaders and opinionmakers that is designed to elicit the organized Jewish communities’ current and future priorities. It will deepen JDC’s understanding of the key issues facing the European communities, and help inform its leadership training strategies.

The second survey is a study of contemporary Jewish identity in Eastern Europe that will be used to improve outreach efforts in this region’s rapidly changing communities. Some 1,500 interviews are to be conducted in Warsaw, Bucharest, Riga, and Sofia; these are intended to shed light on respondents’ Jewish beliefs and practices, as well as their level of communal involvement.

In partnership with Oxford University, the Centre conducted two executive education seminars in 2007. The three-day programs focused on social entrepreneurship and partnership management and drew top communal professionals. Continuing its series of study visits, the Centre brought Eastern European Jewish community development professionals to the UK last year, where they explored program models with their London counterparts. Workshops subsequently held at Yarnton Manor gave participants an opportunity to analyze the programs they had seen and explore their potential application in their home communities.

To provide a theoretical underpinning for the Centre’s endeavors, its Knowledge Generation project has undertaken the first of a series of interviews with top thinkers on community and identity.

The Buncher Community Leadership Program

Established in 1989 as a partnership of the Buncher Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, and JDC, the Buncher Program provides training and mentoring opportunities to Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe, Germany, the former Soviet Union (FSU), India, and Latin America. As it approaches its 20th anniversary, it can point with pride to the many Buncher alumni who hold key positions today in Jewish communities worldwide. Under the leadership of Bernita Buncher, the program has acquired new energy and vision in recent years.

Operated by JDC, the program’s manpower development and training structure offers a series of intensive seminars and workshops that are conducted in the participants’ own language, and held both in Israel and in their local communities. An average of 12 to 15 seminars are conducted each year, with recent sessions targeting individual communities, young leaders, and those engaged in specific fields of communal endeavors. Mentoring sessions, consulting services, and follow-up seminars for alumni are part of the framework, which,
in addition to developing core competencies in various fields, aims to strengthen the participants’ Jewish identity, affinity for Israel, and commitment to communal service. The program’s impact has been magnified by scholarship funds that have enabled university students in Argentina, Europe, and the FSU to complete their studies while engaging in volunteer work in their communities.

**Leatid Europe—The European Center for Jewish Leadership (ECJL)**

Leatid Europe brings together senior Jewish leadership—professionals, lay leaders, and rabbis—from Europe and the former Soviet Union for seminars and workshops that expand their Jewish knowledge and hone their management skills. Leatid is a JDC initiative begun in 1992 with support from ECJC, local communities, World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), and France’s Fonds Social Juif Unifie. Nearly all of today’s European Jewish leaders are part of the Leatid family.

Leatid’s longstanding programs include its Top Leaders Seminar, offered annually to presidents and senior leaders of Jewish communities and organizations; its Leaders XXI program, which is designed for board members and other decisionmakers; and its Seminars for Senior Professionals. Leatid’s training program for rabbis continues its non-denominational emphasis, with seminars in management and communications skills planned for both Liberal and Orthodox rabbis in 2008.

Leatid’s 2007 alumni seminar was held at Yarnton Manor in cooperation with JDC’s Oxford Centre. Led by a top professor in the field of planning, it focused on future scenarios for European Jewry. City-specific workshops and seminars are conducted for European communities and organizations that request them, and Leatid has been conducting training seminars in conjunction with other JDC-supported activities.

**Jewish Programs—Internet-based Community Development**

Jewishprograms.org is JDC’s family of Web-based resources for Jewish educators and community professionals, which can be accessed 24/7. The Web sites are available in English, French, Spanish, and Russian, and offer regularly updated materials developed by experts in education and Jewish studies. In 2007, some 90,000 professionals from 99 countries downloaded content from these sites to enhance community programs or add to their own knowledge and skills. With an average of 7,400 users a month (peaking to 12,000 during holiday periods), the total number of professionals accessing the sites in 2007 represented a 35 percent increase over the previous year.

In rhythm with the Jewish calendar, Morim.org; Madrichim.org; and JCCenters.org publish e-newsletters with articles of interest and activities geared to that month’s holidays and notable events. Usage statistics show that these newsletters are widely used, indicating that more and more Jewish professionals are finding valuable resources at Jewishprograms.org.
Africa & Asia

The teachers at the JDC-supported Jewish girls’ school in Djerba draw their inspiration and guidance from school founders David and Tsevia Kidouchim. (Photo: JDC)

### Jewish Population and JDC Country Budget

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Jewish Population</th>
<th>JDC Country Budget</th>
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*Including Hong Kong.

Note: Jewish population figures are approximate.

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### JDC’s Objectives in Africa and Asia

- **In North African countries where the Jewish populations are slowly but steadily diminishing in size, JDC helps communities maintain the institutions necessary for Jewish life. Consolidation of facilities is encouraged so that communal resources can be used most effectively.**

- **Ensuring that children throughout this area have access to Jewish education wherever possible is a primary JDC objective.**

- **To enable the Jewish aged, sick, and poor to live with dignity, JDC provides various forms of social welfare assistance and institutional support. Those in need represent an increasing proportion of these populations.**

- **In communities with sizable populations of young Jews, like India, JDC emphasizes cultural and educational activities that strengthen Jewish identity.**

- **JDC has helped rescue entire Jewish communities, and it continues to work to ensure the safety and well-being of all Jews who reside in volatile areas.**
Students at the one-room Jewish school for girls in Zarzis, Tunisia, that is maintained by this 100-member community with JDC’s help. (Photo: JDC)
AFRICA & ASIA

MOROCCO

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in Morocco, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

A sharp drought-induced drop in agricultural output, which necessitated wheat imports at rising world prices, contributed to a slowdown in Morocco’s economic growth rate last year, as did its continued dependence on foreign energy supplies. Nevertheless, the government is working in a variety of ways to stimulate the economy, reduce poverty and social differences, and improve education and job prospects for Morocco’s youth, all of which it sees as critical to domestic security and development.

In 2005, King Mohammed VI launched the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), a $2 billion social development plan aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment and improving living conditions in urban areas. With help from JDC-IDP and in partnership with Amicale Marocaine des Handicapes (AMH) and the US Wheelchair Foundation, the Moroccan Jewish community has been able to play a role in this National Initiative, importing 1,100 wheelchairs for distribution among needy and disabled children and adults.

The first 50 chairs were distributed in Casablanca on November 7, 2007, with community leaders joining Morocco’s Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs, the Governor of Casablanca, the Mayor, and other officials at a prestigious and moving ceremony. The second distribution took place in Fez on November 18, Moroccan Independence Day. In addition to wheelchairs, various pieces of medical equipment were presented to the Central Hospital of Fez. Similar distributions will be made throughout 2008 in other towns and in distant villages where the disabled do not have access to clinics, orthopedic centers or social support.

Appreciating the importance of the Jewish community’s involvement in this National Initiative and hoping to extend its impact, the members of a JDC-IDP mission to Morocco last May provided generous funding for an additional partnership effort with AMH. Donors included JDC Board members Alan Rothenberg, Nora Lee Baron, Andrea Dubroff, David Goldberg, and S. Lee Kohrman, as well as non-Board member mission participants. This second IDP project involves a mobile unit that specializes in the manufacture and fitting of prostheses, staffed by professionals who will reach out to the disabled in small towns and villages across the country.

Within the Jewish community itself, November 2007 brought the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fred and Velva Levine Community Residence. The Levine’s generous response to a JDC appeal for help is enabling the community to solve a problem that it has been struggling with for years: the critical need to relocate those of its elderly welfare clients who have been living in unsafe neighborhoods and extremely rundown conditions. The 32 apartments planned for this four-story residence will provide decent housing and secure living conditions for some 60 welfare recipients. Located next door to the Casablanca Old Age Home and close to the OSE clinic, the new residence will also give these clients access to needed medical and social services. The community is also making a substantial contribution to this project, and construction is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2009.

JDC continues to help the Jewish community provide its members with a range of essential services, although the substantial decline of the dollar against the dirham over the past year has translated into less income for sustaining vital Jewish institutions. And while the attempted bombings by militant Islamists in Casablanca in March and April 2007 did not change anything for the country or the community, they did highlight a worrying rise in extremism. Coupled with threats of future attacks, the incidents underlined the need to take more concrete security measures to protect Jewish schools and institutions, thereby adding to their overall financial burden. The community has been striving to raise local funds to cover funding shortfalls as well as the rising cost of living, and it is sensitive to the particularly burdensome impact the latter has had on poor and middle income families.

With support from JDC, the community provided monthly cash assistance to 155 people in Casablanca in 2007, and to 59 people in the provinces. Food parcels for Passover and the High Holidays were distributed to 280 individuals; 40 people—double the previous year’s number—needed emergency grants to help pay rent and utility bills or meet other urgent needs; and student aid was provided to 46 needy young adults. With the help of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, winter relief services were provided in 2007 to 100 welfare clients in Casablanca and another 21 in the provinces.
At the beginning of 2008, JDC arranged for a professional social worker to come to Morocco to assess the community’s welfare program. The consultant was also asked to help update social services by conducting interactive team workshops and training seminars for those engaged in providing care. Forty-six elderly and ailing clients with no immediate family members left in Morocco to care for them were assisted in 2007, and JDC is seeking extrabudgetary contributions to expand home care services to meet this growing need.

JDC helps the community maintain a stately old age home in Casablanca that had 50 residents last year, and it is currently looking for outside support to fund a needed modernization effort. A weekly activity program for residents of the home attracts some non-resident seniors and includes exercise sessions, outings, musical programs, and holiday celebrations. JDC helps the Tangier community maintain the Laredo Home for the Aged, which had 14 residents in 2007, and it supports a shelter in Fez with four residents.

With support from JDC, OSE (Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants) provides regular medical services to needy Jews and emergency care to middle income families who cannot afford costly private medical care and hospitalization. Its services in 2007 included a comprehensive clinic in Casablanca with specialists in cardiology, pediatrics, gynecology, dentistry, radiology, ophthalmology, urology, psychiatry, geriatrics, and physiotherapy. With a caseload of 927 registered patients, the clinic handled over 2,230 referrals last year as well as 38 emergency interventions, and the special diabetes clinic funded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation provided 63 diabetics with treatment, medicines, and follow-up care.

Through an in-house facility at the Casablanca old age home, OSE provides 24-hour medical supervision and nursing care, when needed. It also undertakes preventive measures for the elderly and vulnerable, providing screening tests for cardiovascular disease, biannual mammography, and flu vaccinations. Medical outreach services and medicines were furnished to 65 welfare clients in the provinces, and OSE shared with JDC and the Casablanca community the cost of providing 74 people with specialized treatment in private clinics or abroad. OSE also provides school health services, including vaccinations, checkups, and first aid care, for some 700 Jewish schoolchildren in Casablanca.

At the JDC-supported OZAR HATORAH SCHOOL in CASABLANCA, MOROCCO, the tutorial classes that JDC pioneered are now considered an essential part of the curriculum and have contributed greatly to the students’ success. (Photo: Rozy Aalam)
Through its scholarship fund, which received generous support last year from Patricia Werthan Uhlmann, the Celia Krichman Charitable Trust, and the Naomi Eisenman Endowment Fund, JDC assisted 151 of those children in 2007, helping youngsters from poor and low income families continue to attend Jewish day school. The three Jewish school networks in Casablanca that depend on JDC’s support—Alliance (Ittihad), Ozar Hatorah, and Chabad (Lubavitch)—are helping to maintain the vibrancy of community life in that city. To ensure that they continue to provide Jewish youth with a high quality Jewish and secular education that can serve them well in Morocco or elsewhere, JDC has been working to enhance computer literacy at the schools and facilitate teacher training and professional development.

JDC pioneered and continues to support two special education programs. Tutorial classes in secular studies at the Ozar Hatorah school enabled 36 under-achieving students to catch up to their normal class level last year, while children whose families have returned to Morocco from abroad received help with their French and Hebrew studies. Special classes for those with learning difficulties at the Alliance Maimonides High School and the Alliance Primary School benefited 99 Jewish and non-Jewish youngsters last year, children who have some form of learning or emotional disability or impaired sight or hearing. JDC seeks extrabudgetary help to continue these programs, which are now regarded as essential parts of the community’s educational system.

With a dynamic new director at the helm, the DEJJ (the Departement Educatif de la Jeunesse Juive au Maroc) youth club in Casablanca has been attracting some 70 to 100 children and older youth each day to its year-round program of sports, cultural, and social activities. That number climbs to over 300 during Jewish holidays and the summer months, when families living abroad return home to spend time with their extended families. JDC supports DEJJ activities and has been helping children from low income families attend its summer day camp as well as the camps, weekly activities, and Jewish holiday programs of the Jewish Scouts. JDC is currently looking for donor help to continue these efforts—which can mean so much to Jewish youngsters in this historic community.

Lighting the Hanukkah menorah in **TUNISIA** at the Jewish old age home in **LA GOULETTE**. *(Photo: JDC)*
TUNISIA

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in Tunisia, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

JDC’s presence and its continuing support for vital Jewish institutions and services in Tunisia bolster the spirit of this small Jewish community even as old age claims an increasing number of its members. Monthly cash assistance is now being provided to fewer than 25 poor elderly Jews living in or near Tunis, Sousse or Sfax, while home care is furnished to those who are disabled.

In partnership with the Jewish community of Tunis and the Claims Conference, JDC continues to subsidize medical care, including major medical expenses, for some 70 needy elderly Jews. (Claims Conference funding is rooted in Tunisia’s occupation by the Nazis during World War II.) Here, too, the number assisted is dropping rapidly as the years pass.

The Jewish old age home in La Goulette, a suburb of Tunis, which operated at its full 42-bed capacity for many years, now has fewer than 35 permanent residents. Elderly Jews in Tunis strongly prefer to live on their own, even when their physical and mental capabilities have diminished. Recent admissions have all arrived as medical emergencies, and those who recover return as soon as possible to their own homes, often against medical advice. As the community increases its participation in La Goulette’s operating costs, JDC has been gradually reducing its own substantial subsidy. Every two months, JDC sends a volunteer psychiatrist from Marseilles to visit and oversee the psychiatric care of the residents, about half of whom are mentally frail.

At the other end of the age spectrum, JDC continues to ensure the viability of the local Jewish schools, helping to modernize their facilities and enhance their teaching capabilities. Despite its small enrollment (down to about 45 students in 2007-2008) and the passing last December of its revered founder, Rabbi Nissim Pinson, the Pinson (Chabad) School in Tunis continues to fill the critical need for Jewish education in that city. For the first time in many years, the school had enough adolescents to form a high school class. JDC has arranged for a pedagogical consultant and teacher trainer from France to make periodic visits to the school to ensure that its quality of instruction remains high. Through the generosity of Roger Fishman and World ORT, a computer learning center was installed last year on the top floor of the school. Inaugurated by JDC Board members during a November 2007 mission, this new computer facility has quickly become the school’s pride and joy.

To provide Jewish youth with a high quality Jewish and secular education, JDC continues to ensure the viability of the local Jewish schools, helping to modernize their facilities and enhance their teaching capabilities.

At JDC’s December 2007 Board meeting, David and Tsevia Kidouchim, the founders and principals of the Torah V’Hinukh schools on the island of Djerba, were honored for their lifelong educational achievements. The vital institutions of Jewish and secular learning they first established some 60 years ago include a Jewish kindergarten for boys and girls, the first school in Djerba for girls, and a secular studies program for boys that supplements their yeshiva education. All kindergarten and school activities are conducted in Hebrew. Funding is provided primarily by JDC, and enrollment continues to grow. There were 224 students this past year in the kindergarten and girls’ school, and a total of 167 boys were enrolled in the two yeshiva programs that JDC helps fund.

With strong support from Albert Reichmann, Kurt Rothschild, and other donors, JDC subsidized a major renovation and expansion of the main Djerba Yeshiva in 2007, adding four new classrooms, a dining hall, new sanitary facilities, and an office for the rabbi. It also constructed new classrooms for the Torah V’Hinukh kindergarten. With the help of the Bellock Philanthropic Fund, JDC funded the construction of up-to-date facilities for an early childhood program for youngsters aged 18 to 30 months. JDC also provided new playground equipment for this nursery as well as for the kindergarten.
Thanks to the Aryeh and Raquel Rubin Targum Shlishi Foundation, JDC was able to install a new computer learning center at the Torah V’Hinukh School, which will be part of a program promoting electronic Jewish learning. Through the generosity of Jenny Luboff, Jewish school children in Djerba as well as in Tunis have been receiving regular medical check-ups and dental examinations.

JDC helps the 100-member Jewish community of Zarzis (situated southeast of Djerba on the Tunisian mainland) maintain a nursery/kindergarten as well as separate schools offering religious instruction for girls and boys. Approximately 45 children attend these institutions on a daily basis. Students from both Zarzis and Djerba have been scoring well on the prestigious Jerusalem Exams in Hebrew Language and Literature; these are conducted annually by the Hebrew University and the Jewish Agency for Israel in cooperation with JDC.

During the course of the past year, JDC brought several local teachers from Tunis and Djerba to France to participate in a seminar on Jewish education conducted by the Andre Neher Institute. It also sent a sizable shipment of textbooks and other resource materials to Tunisia to bolster the curricula of the Jewish schools. All of these efforts are in keeping with JDC’s determination to ensure a quality education and a brighter future for this region’s Jewish youth.

Thanks to a grant from the Cahnman Foundation, JDC is also active in preserving the Jewish patrimony of Tunisia. With the foundation’s help, the historic Rebbe Eliezer Synagogue in Hara Kebira is being restored to its original beauty for use by modern-day worshippers.

**TURKEY**

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in Turkey, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

The Turkish Jewish community has always been self-sufficient and remains so today, despite the fact that the high cost of maintaining enhanced security measures has been taxing its resources. In addition to helping Turkish Jewry strengthen its ties with other Jewish communities, JDC has been furnishing the technical support and seed money needed to upgrade services and institutions, enhance leadership development and training efforts for Jewish youth, and formulate new responses to emerging needs. More than 200 Jewish families have moved in recent years to Kemar, a northern suburb of Istanbul, and community leaders have been working on a plan to extend the communal infrastructure in order to provide services in that area.

Members of last spring’s JDC Board mission to Istanbul and Izmir visited programs that have benefited from JDC’s technical aid. These include the day clinic and rehabilitation center at the Ohr Hahayim Hospital in Istanbul, whose new geriatric wing was constructed with the generous help of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. JDC helped enhance occupational therapy programs at the Haskoy Jewish Home for the Aged, and over 300 seniors have been participating in expanded cultural programs and social activities at the Istanbul community’s Golden Age Club.
In addition to helping Turkish Jewry strengthen its ties with other Jewish communities, JDC has been furnishing the technical support needed to upgrade services and institutions, enhance leadership development and training efforts for Jewish youth, and formulate new responses to emerging needs.

Enrollment at Istanbul’s K-12 Jewish day school has grown substantially in recent years, aided by a marketing campaign developed with JDC’s help that included the establishment of “satellite” kindergartens to attract families living in different parts of the city. In keeping with the community’s policy of assuring that every child who wishes to attend the school can do so, scholarship aid was provided this year to over 180 children. The Weinberg Foundation has renewed its generous commitment to this scholarship effort, which is an important source of support for this key community institution.

JDC has been allocating a small budget to assist with social welfare cases in Istanbul and Izmir, and the Economic Unit that it established and funds continues to aid unemployed community members who have been relying on community support. The Unit offers employment counseling, training programs, and small business development assistance, and it succeeded in placing 107 applicants in new jobs last year. JDC conducted an advanced seminar in resource development for top lay and professional leaders at the beginning of 2007, and it has been helping the community launch local and international fundraising initiatives to meet its growing needs.

Two JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteers were again based in Izmir in 2007-2008. They have been working with the community to enhance family programming and informal Jewish educational activities. JDC enabled 25 youngsters from Izmir to attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, last year, and it is sending a similar number again in 2008. JDC facilitates and subsidizes the participation of Turkish community members in the Leatid and Buncher leadership training programs, and it has helped them take part in and host Weinberg Black Sea Gesher Region activities for students, young leaders, families, and business people. Working in cooperation with the Gesher program, the community joined with JDC and the Jewish Agency for Israel to establish the Hadracha College, a new leadership training program for Jewish youth.

Sixty madrichim (youth leaders or counselors) from youth groups in Istanbul and Izmir took part in the inaugural seminar last January. At the year’s final session, 25 young adults (out of 125 participants) were chosen to work on a continuing basis with various community groups—students, young married couples, etc. Members of this core group of trainers will be receiving scholarship aid in return for their efforts.

With seed money provided by the JDC International Development Program (JDC-IDP), JDC helped the Turkish Jewish community convene a national conference in Istanbul last November that brought together doctors, nurses, teachers, and other professionals involved in caring for hearing impaired and deaf children. The organizers included local universities and NGOs, Israeli NGOs, and the Israeli Foreign Ministry’s development arm. Originally planned for 20 to 30 people, the conference had over 250 enthusiastic participants, all eager to explore new developments in the field. JDC has been seeking extrabudgetary support to enable the community to expand this non-sectarian initiative, and a training program for teachers of the deaf was initiated early in 2008.
OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES

In Egypt, in partnership with the tiny Jewish communities in Cairo and Alexandria, JDC provides cash assistance to some 30 impoverished elderly Jews. It also furnishes health services, as needed, to 30 people in Cairo and 24 in Alexandria, and it shares in burial costs. Whenever possible, JDC sends cantors and other religious representatives to conduct holiday services for these communities, and it continues to supply them with kosher food for Passover and other Jewish holidays.

In Algeria, JDC provided supplementary financial help last year to one elderly and ailing woman in Oran. Despite the uncertain security conditions in the country, JDC has been able to keep track of her situation.

In other parts of the Muslim world, JDC continues to help remaining Jewish communities meet their health, welfare, and Jewish educational needs. In some countries that once were home to large Jewish communities, only a small number of Jews now remain. Such is the case with Syria, with approximately 100 Jews; Yemen, with approximately 250; and Iraq, with a dozen or so. In all three cases, Jews are free to emigrate and chose to stay for personal reasons. While most are living as individuals rather than as a community, JDC continues to monitor their life through various sources.

ETHIOPIA

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid effort in Ethiopia, which has continued to expand over the past year, see the JDC IDP section of this Annual Report.

Since 1999, JDC has overseen a humanitarian assistance program for thousands of Felas Mora who moved to Addis Ababa and Gondar City to await the processing of their requests to go to Israel. In leaving their villages, the Felas Mora abandoned a self-sufficient agrarian lifestyle. Their resulting poverty and long stay in these cities under difficult living conditions exacerbated health problems endemic to the country and led to calls for JDC to intervene. Acting at the request of the government of Israel and the North American Jewish Federations, JDC provided medical and nutritional assistance through two private clinics that it supported and supervised—one in Addis Ababa, the other in Gondar City. Thanks to this medical care and related aid, the health condition of the Felas Mora subsequently improved considerably.

The two JDC-supported clinics operated under the guidance and supervision of JDC’s resident medical director. Their services underwent constant reevaluation, with the goal of providing a carefully conceived medical program whose standards were much higher than the prevailing country norm. Services included routine medical care, lab testing,
health education, a TB treatment program, vaccinations, and a program for pregnant and nursing women. Health facilitators acted as liaisons between clinic staff and the Felas Mora communities.

There were 2,350 people on the clinic caseload in Addis in January 2007, and 6,600 in Gondar. The average number of clinic visits made last year oscillated between 1,000 and 1,500 a month in Addis and 1,500 to 2,000 a month in Gondar. About 100 people in Addis and 375 in Gondar were in the nutritional program at the start of 2007. This was one of the clinics’ most important services, and patients were admitted at the recommendation of clinic physicians, based on set criteria. Underweight children comprised most of the caseload, which also included nursing mothers, pregnant women, TB patients, and adults with special needs. There was also a well-baby program for the youngest children. Major support for these medical assistance efforts was provided by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

Thanks to generous support from UJA-Federation of New York and other donors, JDC was able to continue distributing food last year to families with special needs, the elderly, and the chronically ill. It was providing help to 261 families in Addis early in 2007, and 246 in Gondar. The New York Federation also funded the provision of supplementary food for the families of children in the nutrition program and the inclusion of micronutrients in the children’s diet.

Health education was another important area of JDC involvement, particularly as it related to hygiene and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Health educators and JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteers ran a clubhouse in Addis and worked with teen drama groups in both Addis and Gondar, helping to raise community members’ awareness of health issues by transmitting important information in an engaging way.

During the course of 2007, the government of Israel completed its decision-making process regarding the eligibility for aliya of all the Felas Mora in Addis on their list of possible immigrants. By year’s end, all those whose immigration had been approved had departed for Israel. As a result, JDC began reducing and then phasing out its activities in Addis, and the clinic there was closed in January 2008.

In Gondar, the JDC-supported medical clinic remained open and its supplementary activities continued. Here, too, the number of Felas Mora benefiting from these programs has been growing smaller each month as the Israeli government’s approval process in that city headed toward completion and those accepted for aliya left for Israel. JDC has also provided care and maintenance as well as new clothing and shoes for all departing immigrants.

**INDIA**

*Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in India, see the JDC IDP section of this Annual Report.*

India continues to experience an economic boom, with an economic growth rate of 8.5 percent in 2007 for the second consecutive year. The country’s Jewish population—a tiny percentage of India’s 1.1 billion people—has generally been sharing in this prosperity, and the new opportunities available to the younger generation have been reducing the drive to emigrate.

JDC helps to organize and support Jewish cultural and educational programs, camps, holiday celebrations, and leadership training efforts. It also helps the community care for its poorest members, an important function in a country with little in the way of a social safety net for the quarter of its population still living below the poverty line.

To supplement the meager incomes of the Jewish poor, JDC provides cash assistance to 67 families (or 129 individuals) living in Mumbai (Bombay), Thane, the Konkan villages, Pune, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata (Calcutta). Special holiday assistance is also provided before Rosh Hashanah and Passover, and matzah and fruit is distributed to all welfare clients. Social workers regularly visit the poor and elderly, and meals-on-wheels are delivered twice a day to 20 Jews who live alone and have limited mobility. This year-round service is provided six days a week at modest cost to those who can afford to pay, and free to those who cannot. Small-scale aid was provided last year to 87 people to help cover clothing purchases, home repairs, and other one-time needs. Six of the younger welfare clients are currently in a job training program that should help them secure gainful employment.

In addition to subsidizing welfare clients’ attendance at community events, JDC organizes special programs for welfare families to encourage their participation in Jewish life. An overnight camp for parents and children was held for the first time this past December. The 33 participants clearly enjoyed taking part in various Shabbat...
activities, while talks on Judaism and health issues and games and other fun activities rounded out the three-day retreat. A picnic organized for welfare families last August had 45 participants and included a session on the upcoming Rosh Hashanah holiday.

In 2007, JDC extended limited group medical insurance to eligible welfare families, with 19 families (or 52 people) now covered by the plan. JDC also provides routine medical assistance to welfare clients with the aid of a volunteer doctor, and a monthly medical clinic is held in the Konkan villages. JDC’s annual “open medical camp,” a communitywide screening, treatment, and health education program, was held in Mumbai in December 2007. Attended by 62 people, the program for the first time included screenings for asthma, bone density evaluations, and eye exams. Those diagnosed with cataracts, osteoporosis, asthma or diabetes received prompt treatment. A medical emergency fund maintained by JDC helps pay for catastrophic illnesses and operations; in recent years it has been augmented by local contributions.

Generously supported by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Bayiti is JDC’s small home for the aged in Thane, outside Mumbai. It provides a warm haven for its nine current residents, while more mobile elderly from nearby communities take part in its weekly classes on Jewish topics; its yoga, French, and English classes; and its musical programs and arts and crafts sessions. These “day center” participants join residents for Jewish holiday celebrations, like the Tu B’Shevat picnic that was organized for the first time this past January; held at a local botanical garden, the festive outing gave its elderly participants much pleasure.

Bayiti’s most able residents are encouraged to help in running the home. They are also urged to take part in regular community events and JDC’s programs for more active Jewish seniors in Mumbai. These include a monthly Rosh Chodesh Open House and a Golden Age Club for younger retirees. The latter recently marked its eighth anniversary, holding a four-day overnight camp for 52 people last December.

The Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center (EPJCC) in Mumbai, JDC’s flagship endeavor in India, continues to benefit from the Weinberg Foundation’s generous support. The EPJCC celebrated its ninth anniversary in February 2008, hosting a special program attended by a third of its 300 members. The venue for most of JDC’s communitywide events, the EPJCC offers a range of Jewish cultural, educational, and recreational activities for all ages. These include Hebrew classes and classes in Jewish subjects that appeal to different segments of the community, celebrations and learning opportunities centered on the Jewish holidays, a women’s discussion group, family camps and outings, a Saturday night Film Club that was added early in 2007, and the aforementioned activities for seniors.

The 2007–2008 JDC Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers have been following in the footsteps of their predecessors, enriching JDC programming with a new lecture series on topics like marriage and divorce, organ donation, and conversion and adoption in Judaism. Other new classes recently offered to the community include a study of kashrut (kosher laws and practices) given by a JDC staff member, an introduction to the Talmud, and a class on women in the Bible.

The EPJCC’s informal Jewish education programs for children and youth have also benefited from the work of JSC volunteers. The center’s Gan Katan/Gan Limmudim program for children aged 5 to 12 was expanded last year. It is now offering weekly Sunday school classes in Mumbai and bi-weekly classes in Thane for a total of 35 to 40 children. In a similar vein, the supplementary classes conducted by JCC educators for Jewish students at the Jewish-sponsored (but secular) Jacob Sassoon school in Mumbai are now being held twice rather than once a week. During vacation breaks, two day camps were organized for the younger children in 2007. The May session had “My Jewish Heroes” as its theme; it was followed by a week-long multisite activity, called “Hebrew Across Bombay,” that made learning to read Hebrew its goal. These programs are of particular importance in a community with no formal Jewish school system.

Jewish holiday programming at the EPJCC helps bring the community together on both solemn and joyous occasions, with special activities organized for the children. Thanks to the creativity and energy of this year’s JSC volunteers, Purim celebrations this past March proved especially festive. Young families joined older community members to watch staff members perform a classic Purim shpiel, a comic retelling of the Purim story replete with local humor. The children went on to compete in a spirited costume and talent contest, and all present enjoyed some home-baked hamentaschen.
JDC continues to sponsor communal Passover seders in Mumbai and other localities. *Kol India*, the JDC-published quarterly magazine, now reaches some 1,000 Jewish households throughout the country. It includes accounts of community events and programs as well as Jewish educational features for both children and adults.

The Jewish Youth Pioneers (JYP), the community’s youth group, is based at the EPJCC, where members enjoy having their own small youth lounge. JYP provides its 120 members with a vital meeting point, a framework for expanding their Jewish literacy, and a springboard for involving themselves in communal life. JYP members have taken part in various charitable activities and children’s programs. They have also been spearheading the JCC’s Israel Independence Day celebrations and other Jewish holiday activities, and their soccer tournament last year was a big crowd pleaser.

From 25 to 30 young adults attend a Youth Leadership Training Program run by JDC each year at the JCC, and a youth camp held in Goa in May 2007 had 35 participants. JDC sent three young Jews from India to the 2007 March of the Living, and it continues to facilitate overseas encounters and training opportunities for members of this distant Jewish community. Last summer, younger Indian Jews took part for the first time in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary. Several teenagers participated as campers in the new International Teen program, while two older youth served as counselors-in-training.

The JDC Buncher Program is an important leadership development tool for Indian Jewry, both through the training seminars it holds in Israel and the alumni reunions that are organized each year in India, the most recent of which attracted 20 graduates. In December 2007, four young adults ranging in age from 18 to 29 took part in a weeklong Buncher seminar in Jerusalem. Focusing on issues of Jewish identity, the seminar was designed to bolster the participants’ leadership capabilities, enrich their understanding of Israel, Judaism, and Jewish history, and equip them with the ability to bring their newly gained knowledge back to the community, and especially to their peers.

**CHINA AND MYANMAR**

*Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in China and Myanmar, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.*

Three elderly people in China and six indigent members of the tiny Jewish community in Yangon, Myanmar, currently benefit from JDC’s assistance.
JDC’S OBJECTIVES IN LATIN AMERICA

- As part of its Community Development efforts, JDC aims to strengthen the capacities of the Latin American Jewish communities to address problems that affect them individually or collectively.

- It does this by responding to the communities’ requests for technical assistance and by helping them to engage in strategic planning and restructuring in order to make the best possible use of communal resources.

- JDC promotes regional meetings, cooperative exchange, and coordination among communities, and it assists in the development of the smaller communities.

- JDC works to maximize human resources through training programs for lay leaders, young leadership, and professionals, and it has been helping to strengthen community fundraising capabilities.

- In Argentina and Uruguay, JDC responded to emergency needs by establishing a bridge of support to these communities. It provided various forms of assistance to those in greatest need, helped with job training and employment efforts, and facilitated the merger and restructuring of community institutions.

- In Cuba, JDC is working in partnership with the local community to promote Jewish knowledge, advance the reestablishment of Jewish culture and religion, and rebuild communal structures. It is also helping to meet basic needs for food and medicines.
A JDC NET SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM volunteer spends quality time with the elderly at the Jewish community’s LEDOR VADOR HOME AND CARE CENTER in BUENOS AIRES. (Photo: Richard Lord)
ARGENTINA

Ed. Note: For a description of JDC’s non-sectarian activities in Argentina, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

As Argentina moves forward on its road to economic recovery, the Jewish community has been assuming a larger share of responsibility for helping its most vulnerable members. Pursuant to an agreement made with AMIA (the Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina) and other local partners at the end of 2005, JDC has been implementing a five-year phase down of its financial support for the community’s emergency assistance programs. Buoyed by the country’s economic growth and a continued increase in local fundraising, all local partners have been able to fulfill the financial obligations they undertook under this plan. And they are determined to uphold this timetable as a way of acknowledging the immense support they received from the North American Jewish community in their hour of need. Meanwhile, JDC continues to work with these partners to help those who still depend on the community for assistance.

There were 12,398 social welfare beneficiaries on the emergency assistance caseload in March 2008, compared to 17,517 the previous March and 36,529 at the height of the economic crisis. This decline in numbers is expected to continue, but at a flatter rate, and it is clear that many of those who remain on the caseload require more extensive—and more expensive—services. In addition to children in difficult family situations and the elderly, they include adults with chronic physical or psychological illnesses and those whose lack of appropriate training has made their search for new jobs more difficult. Reflecting the fact that the nation’s growth has had a less positive impact on those at the bottom of the economic ladder, there are also approximately 2,000 new social welfare clients in the community. They have been receiving services from local community agencies and are not part of the emergency assistance network supported by JDC.

Meanwhile, as part of the phase-out plan, the number of social assistance centers in that emergency network had been reduced to 56 by the start of 2008, down from 62 at the end of 2006. The central community pharmacy filled an average of 8,300 prescriptions a month in 2007 (a figure that is now down to just under 6,700); supermarket debit cards enabled needy Jews to purchase food and other necessities; 302 Jewish day school children benefited from the Meitiv hot lunch program; and the Bayit program helped subsidize rent, mortgage payments, and utility bills for 583 Jewish families.

The Baby Help program has expanded its reach to include children aged 4 to 5, providing them with the same quality care that it has been furnishing to newborns, babies, and toddlers in poor Jewish families. The program served 758 children in 2007, supplying them with formula, fortified milk, vitamins, medicine, diapers, baby equipment, and enhanced food supplements for the older children. Baby Help offers supportive activities and counseling for parents, and it helps bring families closer to the community by facilitating their celebration of lifecycle events and Jewish holidays. The program also furnishes prenatal assistance, and its day care center has been a boon to working parents and to those looking for work.
To keep the children who have benefited from the Baby Help program in a Jewish educational framework as they start to enter kindergarten and the primary grades, the Keren Atid Fund has begun offering their families scholarship aid. Established by local and North American Jewish community donors during the country’s economic crisis, the Keren Atid Fund offered revolving loans to Jewish-owned small and medium-size businesses caught in a credit crunch. With regular loans now available from the banks, the donors agreed to change the parameters of the fund to meet other community needs. The families benefiting from these scholarships will be asked to pay back what they can at some point in the future when they have gained the financial capacity to do so.

Developed by JDC during the height of Argentina’s economic crisis, the 13/17 Project continues to provide Jewish teenagers with a nurturing Jewish framework for sports, recreational, and cultural activities during summer and winter school breaks. Many of the 3,587 youngsters who participated last year were from families that are still part of the social assistance network. The teenagers got a nutritious meal, an outlet for their energy, a place to spend time with other Jewish youngsters, an opportunity to take part in activities with Jewish content, and a feeling of belonging to a caring community. Underlining the importance of this program, a recent survey indicated that 60 percent of its teenaged participants had no involvement in any other type of Jewish activity or organization. Over the past year, with the aid of various partner agencies, a monthly Saturday night event was added to this project, giving it year-round continuity.

Support from local donors through Argentina’s Tzedaka Foundation provided an important boost last year to JDC’s Net Scholarship Program, which gives Jewish students at tuition-free state universities much-needed help with their transportation, meal, and book expenses. The added support enabled JDC to expand the number of students assisted from 100 to 160, and to more than double the stipend to $70 a month. The program encourages student involvement in community projects, the most recent of which was the placement of assistive devices in the homes of elderly welfare beneficiaries to prevent falls and other accidents.

Since its establishment in October 2001, the Ariel Job and Business Center has provided a variety of services to unemployed community members, including career counseling, job training, and placement help. By the end of 2007, 5,813 people had found new jobs through the center and over 15,000 had taken part in its training courses. Over 300 micro-enterprises were established with the help of its Small Business Bureau, which furnishes short-term financing as well as assistance in developing business plans. The Subsidized Employment Program (PES) continues to help welfare clients re-enter the job market or find better paying jobs. Developed by JDC and AMIA in 2003 in collaboration with the Tzedaka Foundation and other local institutions, the program helps clients upgrade their skills and encourages companies to hire them by offering a temporary 30 percent salary subsidy. To date, over 1,200 people have secured jobs through this program.

To help recent college graduates and other young adults seeking to enter the business world, JDC partnered with the Ariel Center, Hillel Argentina, and local donors to sponsor the Atid Contest, an annual competition for would-be Jewish entrepreneurs aged 18 to 30. Training seminars helped entrants draw up business plans, and 48 high quality projects were submitted in 2007. The winning proposals earned monetary prizes and were submitted to potential investors on the local and international scene.

The Jewish community in Argentina has been assuming a larger share of responsibility for helping its most vulnerable members, but many of those who remain on the caseload require more extensive—and more expensive—services.
College-age Jewish youth as well as recent graduates are the targets of another new competition cosponsored by JDC and Hillel: the Joint Hillel Tzdek Fellows Contest. It aims to foster community involvement, leadership potential, and a commitment to social action, and has elicited over 30 proposals for volunteer projects that could produce small but significant changes in the lives of various segments of the population.

Reopened in 2006 through the joint efforts of AMIA, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and JDC, the Jewish community’s teacher training college is once again serving the needs of Jewish schools in Argentina and other parts of Latin America. The college has an updated four-year curriculum that includes a six-month stay in Israel, and its third class of students is entering this year.

LeDor VaDor, the community’s new home and care center for the elderly in Buenos Aires, is now operating at full capacity, with 290 clients in its residential home and a staff that has been trained to meet their medical, social, and Jewish needs. The project was developed under local leadership with JDC’s professional assistance, and two-thirds of the cost was raised by the local community. Generous support was also provided by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the David and Inez Myers Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. The multifunctional, centrally located complex includes assisted living units, the community pharmacy, and a new day center for seniors, with services available on-site and through a home care delivery system. LeDor VaDor will be used as a training center for nursing and medical students specializing in gerontology.

To help those who still lack the means to celebrate Jewish holidays on their own, the Be’egachad program arranged communal Passover and Rosh Hashanah celebrations in 35 institutions in 2007, with some 5,500 community members participating. Local organizations have taken over the coordination and financing of the program, with JDC funding the activities held in four of the social assistance centers. The Iaamod program, with JDC’s support, helped 127 youngsters mark their bar or bat mitzvah last year in spite of their families’ continuing economic difficulties.

The Maccabi Noar Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Cordoba moved into its new home in 2007, and it has been institutionally linked to the local Jewish school. JDC helped fund this project and was involved in every facet of its development. The new facility has attracted over 400 new members since it began operating last August, bringing the JCC’s membership total to 1,600.

JDC provided counseling and advisory services as well as leadership training to nearly a dozen other community institutions last year, helping those still engaged in mergers and restructuring as well as those seeking to expand their membership and fundraising base. These efforts mirror the kind of technical assistance that JDC was providing to the community in its pre-crisis days. And they are in keeping with the consultant role that will increasingly characterize the nature of JDC’s work in Argentina as its involvement in emergency welfare assistance phases out.

JDC gratefully acknowledges the major support received for its relief programs and other activities in Argentina from: the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation; World Jewish Relief; UJA-Federation of New York; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; Bank Hapoalim; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Countries; the Tzedaka Fundacion; Howard and Leslie Schultz; Clariden Leu; Safdie Bank; the Tavistock Financial Corporation; and Jane Swergold.

Cuba

Fidel Castro stepped down as Cuba’s president in February 2008, giving his brother, Raul, full control of the country. The change has had little effect so far on the general population or on the country’s small but vibrant Jewish community. The majority of Cuba’s Jews live in Havana, with smaller but active communities in Camaguey, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo, Sancti Spiritu, Santa Clara, and Santiago de Cuba. JDC maintains a support relationship with Cuban Jewry, and since 1991, it has been working with the community to help it revitalize and expand the cultural and religious aspects of Jewish life.

To help meet community members’ humanitarian needs in the face of continuing shortages, JDC collaborates with the Mexican Jewish community, the Canadian Jewish Congress, and other partners. Kosher food is shipped in four times a year, and packages are distributed to community
members before Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Purim, and Passover. The missions organized by the North American Jewish Federations and UJC provide significant additional support for the community. Their number was reduced in 2007 as a result of changes in US government regulations regarding travel to Cuba, and JDC’s ability to expand its programs also remains limited.

Since 1998, mission participants have been funding Shabbat meals for community members attending Friday night services at any of the island’s five synagogues, with over 400 chicken dinners provided in this manner last year. Donations from mission members also support the distribution of powdered milk at the community’s weekly Jewish Sunday school. With funding from a Miami donor, special medicines are sometimes purchased in Buenos Aires and hand carried to Cuba. Along with those brought in by mission participants and other visitors, these medicines are distributed to Jews in need throughout the island via the small community pharmacy that JDC helped establish at the Patronato Synagogue and Jewish Community Center in Havana. One of three synagogues in use in Havana, the Patronato also houses a library, a social hall, classrooms, and a computer and audio-visual facility, and its serves a variety of community needs. Synagogues are also open today in Santiago de Cuba and Camaguey. Over 120 members of the Havana community, both children and parents, attend the Jewish Sunday school. A smaller but similar program operates in Cienfuegos, and Jewish study groups have been active in Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba. Eight celebrations were held last year as part of the JDC-initiated bar and bat mitzvah program, which has been helping Cuban Jewish youth prepare for this milestone event since it was initiated in 2003. Support from the Jewish Federation of Collier County enables JDC to transport community members to the synagogues and other activities in Havana.

With generous support from UJA-Federation of New York and assistance from JDC, the Jewish youth organization and the local communities have been organizing a varied menu of activities, including camp programs for different age groups. The second Cuban National Rikudim

Community youngsters had a special place at the Passover seders conducted in CUBA this past April with JDC’s help. (Photo: JDC)
(Israeli Dance) Festival was held in December 2007, capping a year of spirited activity by local groups. Organized by the youth organization with help from JDC, the festival attracted over 500 people, and all of the island’s Jewish communities were represented.

Computer centers set up by JDC with the help of generous donors in Camaguey, Santiago, and Havana are heavily patronized, and the Havana center is used to produce Menorah, the community’s monthly newsletter, which is distributed throughout the island. JDC furnishes Hebrew- and Spanish-language books, videos and audiotapes on Jewish topics, prayerbooks, and other religious items, and it sponsors communal holiday celebrations in Havana and other localities. It also coordinates visits from rabbis and teachers who have conducted holiday services, enhanced Jewish learning, and helped meet a variety of religious needs. JDC has been collaborating on the renovation of the community’s sole kosher butcher shop; located in Havana, it provides kosher meat to community members under a permit granted by the Cuban government. JDC has also been helping to restore the historic Jewish cemetery in Havana.

**REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

JDC’s Latin America team closely monitors regional developments, particularly in those countries that have been undergoing political, social, and economic change. Its leadership and professional development programs have expanded the Jewish communities’ capacity to prepare for and handle a variety of circumstances, including security issues, and the technical assistance JDC provides as a regional consultant has enhanced strategic planning and strengthened communal institutions. JDC also provides assistance on an emergency basis to communities in need, as it has been doing in Argentina and Uruguay.

**Uruguay:** JDC has been working in partnership with Tzedaka-Uruguay to implement relief programs for community members who were adversely affected by the spillover from the Argentine economic upheaval. Many of these programs were adapted from models used successfully in Argentina. Now that the economic situation in Uruguay, too, has been improving, JDC, acting in conjunction with the local community, has developed a plan to phase out its support for these emergency assistance efforts over the next five years.

JDC’s leadership and professional development programs have expanded the Jewish communities’ capacity to prepare for and handle a variety of circumstances, and the technical assistance JDC provides has enhanced strategic planning and strengthened communal institutions.

Over the past decade, JDC’s resident representatives—successive pairs of Jewish community professionals (usually a married couple) from Argentina—have worked to strengthen and enhance Cuban Jewish life. Madrichim (youth leaders) and older community members have been trained to take on cultural, educational, and religious functions; many of them now teach classes and organize activities throughout the island. The current representatives, who took up their post in January 2007, have been reaching out to the smaller communities, organizing leadership training seminars and other initiatives that will help them become stronger and more autonomous.

Capacity building is part of this plan, and JDC continues to offer leadership training opportunities in a variety of areas, including fundraising, for the Tzedaka Foundation’s board of directors as well as for Tzedaka Women and Tzedaka Youth. The board of directors initiated a new campaign that captured new donors through personal telephone calls, and efforts will get under way this year to develop an endowment fund. Tzedaka Youth is a new commission of young adults aged 30 to 40 that was created to foster fundraising in that age group and cultivate new leaders for the foundation; it has already organized a number of successful events.
Enjoying the play equipment at the new MACCABI NOAR Jewish Community Center in COROoba, ARGENTINA. (Photo: Richard Lord)
Two subsidized workshops were added last year to the Tzedaka Foundation’s employment initiative for welfare beneficiaries, and both led to the development of new micro-enterprises. Training was also provided to clients who had worked in service areas of the economy in order to improve their job prospects. With JDC’s support, Hillel Uruguay’s internship program is helping recent college graduates land their first job, and the local Net Scholarship Program is enabling university students from impoverished families to complete their studies.

Tzedaka’s Lev Gadol program for children from welfare families was expanded in 2007, adding youngsters aged 2 to 4 to its roster of 5-year-olds. The program offers a nutritious meal as well as recreational and learning activities with Jewish content that keep the children occupied each afternoon while their parents work or pursue job openings. The Greater Miami Jewish Federation supports various welfare programs in Uruguay.

JDC continues to offer advisory services to the Ariel School and to the Hebraica-Maccabi JCC, and it is supporting increased fundraising efforts at the community’s home for the elderly in Montevideo. It conducted an opinion survey in the community last year regarding geriatric care, and its professional team is helping to prepare a new strategic plan.

Other Latin American Countries: JDC has been increasing its presence in Jewish communities that are dealing with new scenarios, such as those in Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia. In Venezuela, a new channel was implemented for the exchange of information between JDC senior staff and the Caracas leadership, to help in dealing with complex situations and difficult decisions. JDC staff have been...
spending several days each month in this community, which has been grappling with a host of uncertainties. Additionally, JDC will be advising on the modernization of the home for the elderly in Caracas. Community counseling is also ongoing in Bolivia and in Ecuador, where JDC has recently been advising the Einstein School.

The Ariel Job Center model developed in Argentina has been successfully replicated in other parts of Latin America, with a new center opened last year in partnership with the local Jewish community in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Ariel Center professionals traveled to Mexico in 2007 to take part in the Activa Negocios Expo. Organized by the community’s Activa Foundation, it gave budding Jewish entrepreneurs a chance to showcase their business proposals and submit them to potential investors. In Chile, JDC has been helping the Ariel Center there shift its emphasis to training programs now that the employment situation in that country has improved. JDC has also been advising the Chilean community’s central committee on its planning efforts, and it furnishes training and counseling services to the local board of Jewish education.

JDC provided a training seminar and advisory services to Jewish institutions in Cali, Colombia, last year, and it supported the development of Israeli dance programs in Bogota and Barranquilla. Similar programs were implemented in Guatemala and El Salvador, advisory services were furnished to the Rabin School in Panama, and work intended to strengthen Jewish life got under way in Honduras and Nicaragua.

In Paraguay, JDC has been offering technical guidance to the Jewish community as it strives to professionalize communal services, and much progress was made in the past year. The community now boasts a new rabbi, a community director, and a director of Judaic studies at the local school. JCC attendance has increased as activities there have expanded; information on communal events is being conveyed to all families via a new weekly e-newsletter; and, with support from JDC professionals, the community has succeeded in raising a substantial sum locally for the Jewish school.

Training and other Regionwide Activities: Through Leatid, Latin America, JDC conducted a variety of seminars and management workshops for lay and professional leaders last year, and it continued to furnish in-service training and follow-up coaching designed to meet specific local needs. Over the past year, short training programs were conducted in Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Panama, and Paraguay, and a conference organized in Chile last March brought 20 executive directors of Latin American community institutions together to discuss regional issues. JDC’s Israel-based Buncher Community Leadership Program has also provided a variety of training opportunities for community leaders and activists throughout the region.

JDC’s Latin America team makes different forms of Jewish learning and resource materials available through its Web site, and it uses the Internet to communicate with the more isolated communities. To foster networking and interconnections, JDC helped develop and continues to support a periodic gathering of Latin American lay and professional leaders along the lines of the North American communities’ annual General Assembly or GA. The 11th such gathering, formally known as the Meeting of Leaders of Latin American and Caribbean Jewish Institutions and Communities, will be held in May 2009 in Cartagena, Columbia. It is being jointly organized by JDC and the Jewish communities of Bogota and Barranquilla.

The needs of Jewish seniors were the focus of attention in Buenos Aires last October, as 95 professionals and lay leaders from 19 Jewish institutions in nine Latin American countries came together for a groundbreaking conference on gerontology and Jewish community services for the aging. The first regional meeting of this nature, the conference was organized by JDC in partnership with the community’s LeDor VaDor home and care center for the elderly, the Tzedaka Foundation, AMIA, and Leatid. The director of JDC-ESHEL in Israel was a keynote speaker; he also delivered two public lectures that had over 500 attendees and were organized by JDC in association with the Argentine government. The lectures, as well as the Jewish community conference, drew considerable media coverage, and JDC was publicly thanked for contributing to the training of Argentine professionals. The conference was cited by one community participant as but the latest illustration of JDC’s strong partnership with the Latin American communities in developing and improving services for their members and facilitating positive change throughout the region.
Global Programs

The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda will offer a nurturing home and support network to 500 orphans when it opens its doors later this year. (Photo: JDC)

JDC’s Objectives for Non-Sectarian Projects

- In accordance with the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam (repairing the world), JDC-IDP serves as the overseas arm of the North American Jewish community for non-sectarian development work and disaster response. Its mission is in keeping with the Jewish community’s growing desire to respond as a community to human suffering, particularly following disasters.

- JDC acts to help people in crisis and to build bridges to non-Jewish communities and constituencies. Its non-sectarian work supports its Jewish agenda by strengthening the local Jewish communities in countries where humanitarian work is performed.

- JDC does not use UJC/Federation Annual Campaign funds to support its non-sectarian efforts. Rather, it provides a small amount of seed money that it leverages with funding secured from the United States and other governments, international agencies, and private foundations and donors. Its Open Mailbox is a way for the Jewish and general public to participate in disaster assistance overseas.

- JDC-IDP targets its assistance to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations. In cases of disaster, it undertakes immediate, emergency relief efforts, followed by mid- to long-term development projects that try to achieve sustainable outcomes. Projects are always implemented through partnerships with local organizations and agencies to further developmental goals.

- By utilizing Israeli experts and establishing partnerships, when appropriate, with MASHAV, the Israeli government’s overseas development cooperation agency, JDC helps establish mutually beneficial relationships and enables developing countries to benefit from Israel’s development experience and expertise.

- JDC coordinates the work of the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, which provides a unified Jewish response to international crises on behalf of its constituent organizations. Comprised of US and foreign Jewish agencies, the Coalition represents the full spectrum of Jewish life and gives organizations not involved in international work the opportunity to take part in a Jewish response to manmade as well as natural disasters.

- JDC-IDP focuses its efforts on areas related to JDC’s core social service expertise, and it exports JDC models, best practices, and knowledge.
In the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, volunteers pack rice supplied by JDC for emergency distribution in the hard-hit Irrawaddy Delta region of Myanmar. (Photo: JDC)
Projects have been implemented in partnership with local and international organizations, and in coordination with local authorities. In India, JDC has partnered with the Disaster Mitigation Institute, the VSD Trust, Pondicherry Multipurpose Service Society, World ORT and its local partner–Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, Magen David Adom, Brit Olam/Topaz, and Caritas/Catholic Relief. In Indonesia, JDC partnered with the Dwi Yuna Jaya Foundation and the International Rescue Committee; while in Sri Lanka, it has been working with a renowned local organization, Sarvodaya, as well as with UJA-Federation of New York, the Israel Trauma Coalition, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund, Rotary/Sri Lanka, and the Sunera Foundation. In Thailand, JDC has partnered with Chabad, the Israeli Embassy, the King Foundation, the Prince of Songkla University, and Mom Dusdi Paribatra (President of the Asia Europe Association). In addition, JDC is partnering with a renowned local Thai organization—the Population and Community Development Association, and with MASHAV, the international development arm of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The Jewish Coalition for Asia Tsunami Relief has supported programs in each of the four countries.

The provision of emergency assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) was an early element of JDC’s tsunami response, while helping victims re-establish their livelihoods through such initiatives as the establishment of a fishing cooperative was a key tool in its economic rehabilitation efforts. Local communities have also been rehabilitated through the creation of model villages and community centers. Activities that assist children have been a cornerstone of JDC’s program, and have included the construction of playgrounds and primary schools, teacher training, and healing camps. Lastly, JDC’s efforts have included the provision of much-needed psychosocial support services.

**Azerbaijan**

Working together with Israel’s Magen David Adom (MDA), JDC has supported the establishment of a training room at an MDA emergency medicine center in Baku. Currently, Azerbaijan has no nationwide first aid program covering the schools and other target groups. First aid training and services are used as entry points for disaster preparedness and health education projects, and these services are a proven, cost-effective

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In **HUNGARY**, support from **SUSAN G. KOMEN FOR THE CURE** is enabling JDC to strengthen existing and establish new services for women with breast cancer. *(Photo: JDC)*

JDC acknowledges the contributions of Dr. Michael J. Levinson, Alan E. Rothenberg, and Betsy R. Sheerr to the IDP Project Development Fund and the support provided by the Helen Bader Foundation and the Rita and Harold Divine Foundation for particular IDP initiatives.

**Argentina**

Since the height of the country’s economic crisis, JDC has supported over 40 soup kitchens that have been feeding some 4,000 non-Jewish children and their families. It has also donated medicines and medical equipment, and it is developing training sessions for the staff of homes for the elderly. JDC’s establishment of small businesses, food distribution and nutritional programs, and university scholarships in partnership with Caritas and the University of Buenos Aires have all contributed to long-term economic rehabilitation in Argentina.

**Asia: Tsunami Response Program**

JDC raised over $19 million for its Tsunami Response Program, which is being carried out today in the four countries most severely affected by that December 2004 disaster: India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
way to save lives in an emergency. Together with MASHAV, MDA has run two training programs in trauma management at the center this year for local staff and volunteers, including those involved in mobile units serving remote areas and school outreach programs.

**Bangladesh**

Cyclone Sidr, a Category 4 storm, hit Bangladesh in November 2007; the storm and its tidal surges killed over 10,000 people and affected the lives of over 7 million. JDC and the International Blue Crescent responded to immediate needs by distributing over 300 food and family care packages and securing donations of sweaters and other goods. To facilitate the economic recovery of villagers whose main occupation was fishing, JDC provided 70 boats and helped establish a new fishing cooperative, with training provided in the maintenance and safe use of the boats. JDC’s second program is focusing on hygiene, and will include group workshops on basic sanitation practices conducted by local partners. Educational materials will also be produced and distributed, as will kits containing hygiene products.

**Belarus**

A state institution, the first hospice for the adult terminally ill in Belarus, has been in dire need of new medical equipment that can alleviate the suffering of those with a life limiting illness. JDC is funding the purchase of two oxygen concentrators, which are being manufactured locally. They will be handed over to the hospice at a ceremony that will be attended by government dignitaries and leaders of the Belarus Jewish community. In addition to providing a higher level of palliative care to the most seriously ill elderly in Minsk, this project is raising awareness and understanding of hospice care among personnel at the city’s Hesed Rachamin. It is also developing a partnership between the Jewish community and state institutions that will strengthen the local community.

Minsk’s Hesed Rachamin and JDC have also been involved in efforts to enhance opportunities for disabled young people in Belarus—both Jewish and non-Jewish. The Hesed Raduga (Rainbow) team of disabled young Jewish athletes was an essential part of Belarus’ delegation to the world Special Olympics in Shanghai in 2007, garnering eight medals for the national team. The Raduga program is not limited to sports, but includes special needs dance therapy and an integrated theatre group unique to the region. Operating in an area of the world where institutional care for the disabled is still the norm, the program’s success in integrating disabled youth into regular activities has attracted significant attention from the general public and from special education professionals interested in adopting this model in the general community.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Women’s Health Empowerment Program (WHEP) provides psychosocial support services by and for women with breast cancer and their families, as well as public education programs that encourage the early detection of breast cancer. The program concentrates on three key areas: establishing new educational and psychosocial services for women with breast cancer, offering professional seminars for physicians and health professionals, and providing organizational development training to NGOs. A dedicated local JDC coordinator is bringing women’s associations and mutual support groups from around this divided country together to support changes in the law and in public opinion concerning women’s health needs. To carry out this program, JDC partners with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Ministry of Health, and four local NGOs: Renasansa (Sarajevo), Novi Pogled (Mostar), Iskra (Banja Luka) and Uruzenje zena Tuzla (Tuzla).

In 2007, the program maintained an increasingly active toll-free national SOS Help Line, and it published a resource guide that provides information on breast cancer (including instructions on self exams) and lists medical/peer support resources in each kanton (province) of the country. Educational lectures are being given in 150 high schools in six different regions, with...
the help of four partner organizations and two other NGOs. WHEP's October 2007 conference, the fifth held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was attended by over 80 breast cancer survivors, NGO representatives, medical professionals, and government officials.

The two-day regional conference held in April 2008 was the first time that delegates from throughout the former Yugoslavia had come together to discuss breast cancer. More than 70 participants focused on re-examining the battle against breast cancer, as well as conducting a final mapping of the regional infrastructure currently available to address this issue. The founding meeting of the Society of Senology of Bosnia and Herzegovina (a multidisciplinary association of medical professionals involved in the treatment of breast disease) was held during the conference, and is one of its most important achievements.

In addition to the non-sectarian home care program described in the Europe section above, Dr. Alfred Bader has been providing generous support for a range of humanitarian projects in the former Yugoslavia. One of these is a growing collaboration between La Benevolencija, the Sarajevo Jewish community’s cultural and humanitarian aid organization, and the Center for Self-Reliance (CSR), a local NGO that aims to employ mentally and physically challenged young people. JDC is conducting similar empowerment projects in Banja Luka, where, in coordination with the local Jewish community, it bought a printing machine and upgraded several computers at the Distroficara Institution.

Dr. Bader was also instrumental in helping to support JDC’s creation of The J Fund Network, a series of non-interest-bearing, revolving loan funds that were designed to encourage the employment of individuals with disabilities. Each fund helps local non-profit agencies develop sustainable jobs for disabled or marginalized individuals, and any business or NGO engaged in social entrepreneurship activities and employing handicapped persons may apply for a loan. The loans have a payback period of up to five years and are awarded on the basis of sound business plans and other guarantees submitted by the applicant.

The work is facilitated by a JDC consultant and project director and by local professional bodies. Its operation is coordinated with the Jewish communities of Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Doboj in cooperation with Melacha, the micro-credit loan fund set up by La Benevolencija in Sarajevo. Loans awarded to date have generated demanding yet profitable jobs for muscular dystrophy sufferers, deaf individuals, paraplegics, and the mentally handicapped.

China

In May 2008, China suffered its worst earthquake in more than 30 years. The official death toll was over 70,000; some 374,000 people were injured in the disaster; and some 4.8 million people were reported to have lost their homes. After two weeks, the relief effort shifted from pulling people from the rubble to providing food, medical care, and shelter for the millions of survivors. JDC opened an emergency mailbox to assist victims of the earthquake, and after thoroughly assessing the situation, it will be partnering with the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED) to institute training programs in agro-business development and entrepreneurship in the rural areas of Sichuan that were devastated in the disaster. Support for these efforts has also been received from UIA Federations Canada.

Croatia

The J Fund has also been established in the Jewish community of Osijek, Croatia, where it is supporting the development of sustainable jobs for the physically and mentally handicapped. The Fund is operated with the help of the NOA Savings and Loan Cooperative, a micro-credit loan fund situated in Osijek. Here, too, the generosity of Dr. Alfred Bader was instrumental in helping to support this special fund’s creation.

In cooperation with the Jewish community of Zagreb and with Dr. Bader's support, JDC is underwriting a non-sectarian summer camp session for children at risk. Led by government social workers and arts and crafts specialists from the community, the two-week session is held at the community campsite at Pirovac.

Ethiopia

JDC and the Mother Theresa Care Center have a joint project under way to provide high-quality surgical and medical treatment for orphans in Ethiopia suffering from diseases of the heart and spine. Patients are treated directly by JDC’s Medical Director, referred to Addis Ababa hospitals, or relocated to hospitals outside Ethiopia when necessary. JDC’s Medical Director has also developed unique protocols for treating specific cancers that use drugs that would otherwise be unavailable in the treating hospitals. A major project over the past
two years involved partnering with leading doctors in the US and Ghana to provide complex spinal surgery for 21 patients brought to Ghana by JDC staff. When possible, additional funding is provided for the children’s subsequent education. Generous support for these efforts is provided by the Morton H. Meyerson Family Tzedakah Fund, as well as by the Mary L. and William J. Osher Foundation.

JDC’s Hodgkin’s Disease program is being implemented in cooperation with JDC India, which has been helping to locate medicines that are less expensive than in Ethiopia, and to secure donations from a local pharmaceutical company that produces a highly effective drug. Care is provided by oncologists at the Tikur Anbessa (Black Lion) University Hospital in Addis Ababa. Poor patients (certified as poor by their local neighborhood associations, called kebeles) are treated free of charge. Those above that level of poverty are charged about half the price of the drugs. This money goes into a revolving fund, which is applied to treatments for future patients and helps decrease the dependency on foreign assistance.

In 2007, a number of volunteer medical teams visited Gondar, teaching and providing medical care for varying periods of time. They did so pursuant to a memorandum of understanding that was signed by JDC and the Gondar College of Medicine and Health Sciences (GCMHS) of the University of Gondar in 2005, promoting collaboration between Ethiopia and academic institutions abroad. The agreement initiated an Academic Cooperation Project between GCMHS and Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU), which has provided post-graduate training for GCMHS staff.

To support women who wish to pursue a college education but lack the financial means to do so, JDC is partnering with Italy’s Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation. Four-year degree courses for scholarship recipients are preceded by a preparatory year to help women from poor rural areas. The 75 scholarship beneficiaries to date included nine nursing students who are now working in hospitals back in their home communities. Through a program funded by Italy’s Bruno Zevi Foundation in cooperation with the City of Rome, full scholarships and living stipends have been provided to 20 architecture and urban planning students at Addis Ababa University.

With the support of the Osher Foundation and the Sandler family, JDC has been renovating and building

MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE VARIOUS JEWISH COALITIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF

AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) • ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal • American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors • American Jewish Committee • American Jewish Congress • American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) • American Jewish World Service (AJWS) • American ORT • Anti-Defamation League • B’nai B’rith International • Canadian Jewish Congress • Central Conference of American Rabbis • Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations • Global Jewish Assistance and Relief Network (GJARN) • Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America • Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) • Jewish Communal Fund • Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) • Jewish Foundation for the Righteous • Jewish Fund for Justice • Jewish Healthcare International • Jewish Labor Committee • Jewish Reconstructionist Federation • Jewish War Veterans • Jewish Women International • MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger • Meretz USA • National Council of Jewish Women • New Israel Fund • New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) • ORT • Rabbinical Assembly • Rabbinical Council of America • Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association • Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism • The South African Jewish Board of Deputies • UJA-Federation of New York • Union of American Hebrew Congregations • Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations • United Jewish Communities (UJC) • United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism • Ve’ahavta: Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee • Women of Reform Judaism • Women’s American ORT • Women’s League for Conservative Judaism • World Jewish Relief • World ORT
new village schools serving hundreds of students in the Gondar region. Eager to help, the community is contributing free labor for the building projects. In addition to providing the schools with desks and other appropriate furnishings, toilets and safe running water are being added. Additionally, a number of potable water wells were built in villages throughout Gondar to provide the communities with access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation practices. JDC has also undertaken a new water development project in Dembia Woreda, using appropriate technology to provide irrigation and give local residents the means to engage in sustainable agriculture, cattle raising, and other income-generating activities.

Malaria is an ongoing health concern in Ethiopia, causing up to 20 percent of the deaths of children under five. To help fight this scourge, JDC collaborated with the Gondar Region Public Health Office during last year’s rainy season (when the disease is usually spread) to coordinate the distribution of 1,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to vulnerable patients (mostly pregnant women) at four health centers.

Former Soviet Union—Central Asia

Working with the Hesed network and local health services in the former Soviet Union (FSU), JDC-Israel’s Community Health Partnerships (CHP) provide a framework for promoting volunteerism and sharing the expertise of Israeli health professionals. Professional activities focus on geriatric rehabilitation and the well-being of children. Emphasis is placed on local capacity building through training and the development of professional competency in the following areas: community-based rehabilitation for the elderly, accident prevention, and early pediatric diagnosis and preventive care. Thirty staff members from Hadassah Medical Center and Clalit Health Services took part in three seminars as part of the CHP program in 2007. JDC’s FSU team acted as hosts for the Israeli volunteers, lending their language skills, local knowledge, and operational expertise to the seminars.

Georgia

While new jobs are available in Georgia’s growing economy, refugees, women, and ethnic minorities—the country’s most vulnerable population groups—often lack the education and requisite skills to qualify for them. To help ameliorate this situation, JDC created two highly successful vocational training programs, focusing on those skills most sought after by potential employers.

Working with the Jewish Cultural and Educational Fund, it provided 20 young refugees, 90 percent of whom were women, with high-quality training and official certification in computer and English skills, which greatly enhanced their market ability and employment opportunities. The training included job searching skills, and participants received trauma counseling from a professional psychologist, a service prohibitively expensive for most refugees.

A second vocational training program has been very successful in linking vulnerable Tbilisi residents with specific professions. In the program’s first round, 18 participants, primarily undereducated female heads-of-households, gained dress design and dressmaking skills during an in-depth training and certification course. Following an internship period at a prestigious local garment company, all participants won full-time employment. JDC has expanded the program to give a new start to 64 additional people, and with generous support from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK) and the West Foundation, it will be able to offer job training and employment guarantees to a further 100+ refugees, street children, single mothers, and members of other vulnerable groups. Current courses include advertising and insurance sales, as well as a second round of the dressmaking course, while future series will include

JDC, supported by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is focusing on strengthening existing and establishing new psychosocial services for women with breast cancer and their families. The project is also supported by the Marcia Presky Memorial Fund.
courses in professional food preparation and hotel management.

Georgia has also benefited from the extension of JDC’s Women’s Health Empowerment Program to the country, thanks to the generous assistance of HERA and the John Snow Institute, two implementing partners of USAID’s Healthy Women in Georgia project.

Ghana

JDC is partnering with MASHAV, the Israeli government’s international cooperation arm, to assist in setting up much-needed Mother and Baby Care Units in Kumasi, where the prevalence of HIV is approximately double that of the national figure and about half the pediatric HIV patients are also infected with tuberculosis. Hospitals in the city are overcrowded, lack sufficient diagnostic tools, and face insurmountable infection control problems. Part of the UN Millennium Cities Health Initiative, this program was designed to increase the capacity of Kumasi health professionals to diagnose and treat infectious diseases and care for sick newborns. Nurses from Kumasi are being hosted by Ben Gurion University to add to their training in neonatal care. JDC is assisting with the expenses incurred by local staff on the training programs. The Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Philanthropic Fund has provided important support for the implementation of this program.

Hungary

Breast cancer is one of the deadliest cancers among women in Hungary, with mortality rates significantly higher than the European average. Working with and through local NGOs, breast cancer survivors, and the Hungarian medical community, JDC, supported by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is focusing on strengthening existing and establishing new psychosocial services for women with breast cancer and their families. The project, which is also supported by the Marcia Presky Memorial Fund, is providing organizational development training to NGOs active in this area in order to strengthen services and coordination and ensure sustainability after project support ends. It is also creating a breast health resource guide for public and professional use.

In ETHIOPIA, potable water wells built by JDC in various parts of GONDAR have given local villagers access to safe drinking water. (Photo: JDC)
Emphasis has been placed on activities that increase public awareness of the importance of early detection and the availability of various support services for women and their families. The project utilizes local expertise and provides opportunities for close cooperation among NGOs, medical and health professionals, and Hungarian Ministry of Health representatives. Several NGOs and governmental organizations have joined a special Equal Chances against Cancer project to promote awareness and examinations among Roma women, whose breast cancer rate is three times higher than the national average.

Children from impoverished families living in the Dzsumbuj settlement in Budapest's 9th district suffer from numerous serious developmental difficulties; many fail to complete primary school and it is almost impossible for them to graduate high school or find gainful employment. The Dzsumbuj Association offers services to underprivileged families from several parts of the district. The Tanoda After School Center provides an array of educational and social programs for Roma and other children who live in this area. The program includes a mentor system for the older students and a range of support services for their families. The center recently completed a much-needed renovation, and it has begun a Sure Start early childhood program for children aged 2 to 6 and their parents. The Wolf Family Foundation has provided important support for this project.

**Kashmir**

In October 2005, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, devastating parts of Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, and causing over 73,000 deaths. JDC subsequently raised over $676,000 to aid the victims, and it is has been working with a long-time partner, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in both the Indian- and Pakistani-controlled areas of Kashmir. With JDC support, CRS/Pakistan provided winterized shelters, made from locally available materials, for affected families in the Northwest Frontier Province. JDC also worked with the International Rescue Committee, another long-time partner, to provide winterized bedding kits for 5,000 families in an area that had not received assistance from other aid agencies.

With JDC’s support, CRS/India assisted schoolchildren in ten villages, providing psychosocial support through supervised recreational activities that facilitated the healing process, and furnishing recreational supplies for 20 activity centers. JDC also partnered with the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) to organize cash-for-work activities for the quake victims and help returning survivors replace lost household items and resume family life.

AIDMI is now engaged in a long-term recovery project that seeks to promote disaster preparedness in five earthquake-affected villages, help in the recovery of livelihoods, and support the expansion of community infrastructure and the development of permanent additional shelters.

Through its Village in the Sky initiative in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, JDC has been rehabilitating the hard-hit village of Sarbala, whose schools, medical clinic, and mosque were all destroyed in the 2005 quake. Like other villages at high elevations, Sarbala was inaccessible for many months to government and private relief agencies, and initially received little humanitarian assistance. JDC’s partners in this initiative include the Turkish International Blue Crescent; the Wingate Foundation; and Rapid Relief International, an Indonesian NGO.

In addition to the initial humanitarian assistance provided to some 100 families, project accomplishments to date include the rebuilding of the boys’ and girls’ schools, which serve over 150 children; the completion of two new playgrounds; and the distribution of 250 hygiene kits for preschool children. The health authorities have granted permission for the establishment of a clinic in the village, with municipal authorities committed to staffing the clinic and providing equipment and supplies. Additional contributions enabled JDC to add a safe building training component to the project and to furnish technical assistance for rural housing reconstruction. To date, 29 village reconstruction committees have been established and 200 construction workers have been trained. Plans include the reconstruction of a community facility that will house a kindergarten, an employment training center for women, a space for village meetings, and a mosque.

In the rural areas of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, recreational facilities for children are almost non-existent, and the schools are the only communal places where children gather. Accordingly, five playgrounds are currently being constructed in the vicinity of five village schools in Salmia UC / Muzaffarabad District / AJK, with any land...
that may be needed for their installation donated by people from the local community.

The playgrounds will stand as a tribute to the memory of Ender Baskaya, who was killed in a bomb blast in Pakistan in March 2008. She was a Turkish national who had been living in this area and working on recovery projects since the 2005 earthquake.

**Kenya**

As part of a capacity building and good governance initiative, local authorities in Kenya are now required to develop strategic plans for assessing performance in the delivery of services, especially for the poor. A three-year project developed by JDC in partnership with Kenyan local governments, Israeli agencies, and UN-Habitat TCBB aims to establish Municipal Strategic Planning and Information Units (which were pioneered by JDC in Israel) and a national supporting headquarters in Kenya. These units would upgrade the capabilities of local authorities and help improve the quality of life for the average citizen.

Leaders of municipalities already involved in this project worked with JDC early in 2008 to help bring aid to victims of the riots that engulfed Kenya following its December 2007 national election. At least 1,000 people died and an estimated 250,000 were displaced over the course of the ensuing, month-long conflict. JDC partnered with Israel’s MASHAV to send a shipment of medical equipment and supplies. The assistance was transferred through the Israeli embassy to hospitals in the most affected regions and distributed in coordination with these municipal leaders.

**Middle East**

With a generous start-up grant from the Goldman Fund, the ECHOS (Empowering Communities in Home Safety) initiative has been working to develop culturally appropriate community-based responses to the problem of unintentional injuries in both Israeli and Palestinian societies.

Data on home accidents has been collected through partner organizations and is being analyzed to inform future project directions. The project includes the development of a health promotion brochure and other culturally relevant educational materials, as well as the training of 20 Palestinian health educators. JDC’s partners in this initiative are: Patient’s Friends Society-Jerusalem, Beterem—National Center for Children’s Safety and Health, and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center.

CHERISH, the Child Rehabilitation Initiative for Safety and Health, was conceived to ease present realities for Palestinian and Israeli children, who are often at direct risk of physical and emotional harm. It aims to help children regain their confidence after violent incidents and to strengthen their ability to function in daily life. Focusing on psychological and social rehabilitation, the project has two target groups—the children and their families, and the professional community. Given the widespread exposure to traumatic events in both societies, CHERISH is working to develop community-based activities that address unmet needs among Palestinian and Israeli children while creating opportunities for cooperation within an environment of co-existence.

CHERISH is a partnership of the Israel Center for Treatment of Psychotrauma at Herzog Hospital, the Center for Development in Primary Health Care at Al Quds University, and JDC, with the latter represented by three of its local branches: JDC-Israel, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, and Ashalim.

CHERISH is supported by the US State Department Conflict Management and Mitigation Program, the EU Partnership for Peace Program, the One-to-One Children’s Fund (UK), and Marshall M. Weinberg.

The Child Development Disabilities Forum (Pediatric Rehabilitation Forum) provides an opportunity for Israeli and Palestinian professionals to share information and discuss practical and culturally sensitive ways to assist children with special needs and their families. The cooperation...
inherent in these projects benefits both the professionals and the societies in which they live—by adding to the professionals’ knowledge and skills and developing new services that address common needs.

Moldova
Since 1992, JDC has been working in tandem with state social welfare agencies and local NGOs, orphanages, and hospitals to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Moldova, concentrating especially on programs for the young, the disabled, and the elderly. Periodic deliveries of donated and much-needed goods and equipment enhance collaboration between the Jewish community and local institutions.

The House of Hope and Future in Soroca is a recent beneficiary of JDC support. Based at a social center in the village of Rublenita, it provides food assistance, medical, social, and psychological support as well as rehabilitation gymnastics for some 510 elderly people who reside in the area. Volunteers have been recruited to work with the elderly and help meet other community needs.

The Rainbow Home in Vadul Lui Voda provides a haven for some 35 of the country’s many street children, furnishing them with a cheerful environment and the nurturing support of a caring staff of educational and medical professionals. With help from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK) and JDC, computers and other amenities were added to the furnishings of the home, and the children received warm clothing, winter shoes, linen, colorful bunk beds and curtains for their rooms, play equipment, and supplementary food.

Moldova’s Jewish Family Services teamed up last summer with Esperansa, a non-Jewish NGO specializing in serving children with mental and physical disabilities, to organize the Island of Miracles integrated summer camp in Kishinev. Esperansa provided nine trainers for the camp and arranged for seven families with special needs children from the general community to join the 70 Jewish children and their families at the camp. Volunteer professionals from Jewish Healthcare International of Atlanta provided medical coverage, working with children and parents as well as with local professionals.
Morocco

JDC has been working in partnership with the Moroccan Jewish community, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, AMH (Amicale Marocaine des Handicapes), and the American-based Wheelchair Foundation to send a container of 1,100 wheelchairs and other assistive devices to the community for distribution nationwide. Fifty of these wheelchairs were presented to needy disabled people in Casablanca on November 7, 2007, with Jewish community leaders joining Morocco’s Minister of Social Development and Family Affairs, the Governor of Casablanca, the Mayor, and other officials at a moving ceremony. Widely covered by the media, it included the presentation of a check from JDC to the president of AMH, to help purchase vans for a mobile unit that specializes in the manufacture and fitting of prostheses. The unit will reach out to disabled people living in the countryside who have no access to sophisticated orthopedic care. Funds for this purpose were generously donated by the participants in JDC’s May 2007 Board mission to Morocco.

JDC also partnered with the Jewish community of Fez to purchase medical equipment for a local hospital. At a second wheelchair distribution ceremony, which took place in Fez on November 18, various pieces of medical equipment were presented to a representative of the Central Hospital of Fez.

Myanmar

Cyclone Nargis, one of the world’s deadliest natural disasters since the 2004 Tsunami, affected over 2.4 million people when it struck Myanmar (formerly Burma) on May 2-3, 2008. Ninety-five percent of the affected area’s homes were destroyed and transport and communication networks were badly damaged, rendering many of the worst-hit areas inaccessible to assessment and relief teams. Families displaced by the cyclone migrated in search of food, safe drinking water, and shelter.

JDC established a Mailbox to collect funds to assist the cyclone victims, and it was the first Jewish relief organization—and one of the first foreign agencies—on the ground. JDC also convened the Jewish Coalition for Myanmar Cyclone Relief to ensure that Jewish community efforts to aid the victims of this disaster were effectively coordinated.

Partnering with a network of established local and international NGOs, JDC supported the distribution of relief supplies in remote areas in the Irrawaddy Delta region and the islands west of Laputta. By the end of June, working in coordination with Karym Baptist Convention, World Concern, MASHAV, Israel Flying Aid, Latet, The Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid (IsraAid), Fast Israel Rescue and Search Teams (FIRST), and Civil Society Initiative (CSI), JDC had supported the delivery of aid to over 2,400 families in a dozen villages. It also distributed 10 tons of water chlorination pills. In addition, JDC provided immediate assistance to the local Jewish community and supported the rebuilding of the local synagogue.

Subsequently, JDC has been coordinating efforts to distribute assistance through Pact, an NGO that provides microfinance loans and has developed a broad network of organizations throughout the devastated region. JDC’s representative on the ground is monitoring this operation. JDC has supported the efforts of various Israeli relief organizations, including the provision of rescue and medical personnel and the shipment of ten tons of medicine and medical supplies, which were distributed through the Myanmar Red Cross. JDC is working to rebuild villages in Myanmar with long-standing partner organizations in Sri Lanka, India, and Turkey. Important support for these efforts has been provided by the Skirball Foundation, Anne Heyman and Seth Merrin Family Foundation, the Merrin Family, UIA Federations Canada, the S. H. and Helen R. Scheuer Family Foundation, the Ronne and Donald Hess Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

Peru

The earthquake that hit Peru in August 2007 severely affected towns, villages, and rural areas, killing over 500 people, injuring more than 1,500, and affecting over 80,000 in total. JDC immediately sent a representative to work with the leadership of the Peruvian Jewish community. An emergency committee was set up to organize aid activities; a bank account was opened to receive monetary donations; and a call was made to community members to donate food, clothing, and other supplies. Efforts were coordinated with other international Jewish organizations that also provided assistance, as well as with Caritas-Peru.

The community collected almost 20 tons of material assistance, and a team of eight Israeli physicians and nurses was sent to Peru. JDC raised over $120,000 through its Open Mailbox, a portion of which was allocated to purchase items needed for immediate assistance, including medicine and supplies used by the Israeli team.
A dressmaking course in **Tbilisi, Georgia**, one of the vocational training programs that JDC created to aid refugees, under-educated women, and members of the country’s other vulnerable population groups. *(Photo: JDC)*
The remaining funds will help support the Jewish community’s reconstruction project—the rebuilding of a rural primary school that was severely damaged in the quake. Jewish youth from the León Pinelo School and the Hanoar Youth Movement are already organizing activities for the village children, and Jewish architects and engineers have been training local bricklayers in anti-seismic construction methods using traditional materials.

**Russia**

Through a partnership with Hesed Bencion and the Municipality of Pyatigorsk, JDC has been providing humanitarian aid to refugees and internally displaced persons who fled their homes to escape military conflict in the Northern Caucasus, as well as massive terror acts in the cities of Budennovsk, Kizlyar, and Beslan. Psychological, legal, and medical support; employment training; and food, clothing, and recreational activities have been made available to this vulnerable population.

Breast cancer is the most common cause of death among women in Russia aged 45 to 55. In partnership with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, JDC’s Women’s Health Empowerment Program (WHEP) is working to improve the experience of Russian women with breast cancer and provide support to survivors. The program also seeks to expand educational opportunities that promote early detection. In October 2007, the Women’s Health Empowerment Conference, the first such gathering in Russia, brought 70 government officials, health care professionals, NGO representatives, and breast cancer survivors together in Moscow to try and devise innovative ways to reduce the mortality rate. Earlier that month, WHEP Moscow held an intensive two-day seminar for 21 survivors from five localities, training them to run peer support groups for fellow survivors. With help from medical facilities in their respective cities, the participants set up six support groups, and their activities are now fully established.

JDC acknowledges the major funding for ASYV that has been received from the following supporters: Liquidnet Holdings, Inc. and the Liquidnet Family; Anne Heyman and Seth Merrin Family Foundation; the Merrin Family Fund; the Skirball Foundation; Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation; Segal Family Foundation; Bob and Trudy Gottesman; the Meckler Family Fund Philanthropic Fund; Donald H. Putnam and Susann Kellison; Abigail Taubman; the Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Foundation; Sarlo Family Supporting Foundation; Five Sibling Together Foundation; Tribert Rujugiro; Ingrid Tauber; Howard and Janet Kagan; Esther and Moshe Bronstein; the LeGoff Family Fund; Lawrence & Carol Zicklin Philanthropic Fund; the Weinstein Foundation, Inc.; and Anonymous.

ASYV will be a permanent home to 500 Rwandan orphans, with 125 students graduating from the ASYV high
school each year. The Village offers a holistic approach, using formal and informal curriculums that will address the academic, vocational, and emotional needs of its residents. The vital elements of community, responsibility, and psychosocial support will be provided in order to cultivate a strong sense of self and of social justice among the youth. The Village will also provide a support network and an opportunity for normative development to those who otherwise would not experience any form of family life. An on-site medical clinic will benefit students, staff, and the surrounding community.

ASYV is guided by the Israeli experience in resettling and educating large numbers of orphans following the Holocaust. Based on innovative and proven models, such as the Yemin Orde Youth Village, ASYV is hoping to be an agent of change by bringing together American and Israeli experts to work with Rwandan counterparts and transfer skills in the areas of sustainable agriculture, information technology, education, and trauma relief. ASYV plans to open its doors in late 2008 and attain its maximum capacity of 500 students by 2012.

With generous support from Italy’s Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation, JDC is providing full scholarships and living stipends to 13 young women who completed their secondary school education through its longstanding Rwanda Back to School project. The students have expressed interest in a variety of careers, including engineering, medicine, teaching, nursing, social work, and public administration. The Benishyaka Association, JDC’s local partner in the Back to School project, is monitoring the students’ progress and providing them with practical assistance and psychological support.

**South Africa**

The Ikamva Labantu (Future of Our Nation) project was established in response to the ravaging effects of the AIDS epidemic on South Africa’s children. It aims to expand the reach of The Carers organization by funding the hiring of eight much-needed additional personnel. The Carers are trained community members whose caregiving efforts have been made necessary by the high prevalence of illness and the resulting absence of traditional forms of family support for surviving members of an affected family. Each staff member is based in a different area of the Western Cape and works with local families in their homes. They promote positive child-rearing practices by alleviating risky situations and identifying problem areas or a possible need for intervention. In 2008, Ikamva Labantu is linking and placing community-based workers in the newly opened Family Enrichment Center.

In addition, Ikamva Labantu and Ma’afrika Tikkun (the official outreach arm of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies) are adapting the model of Supportive Communities developed by JDC in Israel to the needs of South Africans.

*Ikamva Labantu and Ma’afrika Tikkun (the official outreach arm of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies) are adapting the model of Supportive Communities developed by JDC in Israel to the needs of South Africans.*
a genuine community, offering them vital support, medical assistance, and social activities that help overcome feelings of isolation and loneliness. A coalition of NGOs has been set up to implement this project, with members visiting Israel to see its Supportive Communities at work and conducting a needs assessment in three potential pilot areas.

**Sudan: Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief**

The continuing ethnic violence in the Darfur region of Western Sudan has been described as one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises, affecting more than 3 million people. More than 2.5 million people have been driven from their homes, creating one of the largest populations of internally displaced people in the world. In June 2004, at the request of active Coalition member American Jewish World Service, JDC convened and continues to coordinate the 24-member Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief. The Coalition has worked to raise awareness of the plight of those affected by the violence, as well as funds to support humanitarian aid efforts. The $900,000 collected to date has been used to support the work of the few NGOs that have been active in Sudan and in neighboring Chad, where many of the refugees fled, fielding programs that have benefited both the refugees as well as their host communities. In addition, the Coalition supports a variety of programs that are assisting Sudanese refugees in Israel with housing and educational opportunities.

**Tunisia**

JDC has been working for several years with the Tunisian Union for Social Solidarity (UTSS), the nationwide, government-sponsored umbrella organization for charitable endeavors. In Djerba, JDC and UTSS have joined forces to help the UTAIM (Union Tunisienne d’Aide aux Insuffisants Mentaux) Day Center, which currently serves 72 mentally handicapped children and young adults—Arabs, Berbers, and Jews. Through UTSS, JDC has provided the center with badly needed classroom materials and educational games. Last summer, JDC supplied the center with a flock of sheep for a market-oriented animal husbandry project that has furnished useful and therapeutic employment for the youth. The flock has now doubled in size, and the project, financed with Dr. Isabel Bader’s help, has sparked additional entrepreneurial activities at the center.

**Turkey**

Organized in partnership with the Institute for the Advancement of Deaf Persons in Israel (the Institute), this JDC project aims to lower the age that hearing impairments are identified in children in Istanbul, and to encourage families with hearing impaired children to begin the rehabilitation process as early as possible.
A holistic rehabilitation program for children and their families will be created, with efforts made to ensure the continued participation of the families in the rehabilitation process. In addition, the project seeks to train and professionalize those treating hearing impaired children, and to increase public awareness of their needs.

A two-day conference held in November 2007 was the first time in Turkey that the issues and challenges facing hearing impaired and deaf children under age six were publicly addressed. Originally planned for 20 to 30 people, the conference attracted over 250 teachers, nurses, physicians, and other child care professionals. Three Turkish NGOs came together to organize the event, and the program was designed in collaboration with the Institute and the Israel Foreign Ministry’s Golda Meir Mt. Carmel International Training Center. The topics covered included audiology, language development, the role of the social worker, and the importance of a comprehensive, holistic approach in dealing with deaf children. A handbook produced by the Institute was translated into Turkish and distributed to the conference participants.

Ukraine
Between November 18 and December 2, 2007, three explosions occurred at the Zasyadko coal mine in the Donetsk region, killing 106 people and leaving more than 150 hospitalized. To help the survivors and their families, JDC provided multipurpose support packages, which included nutritious and non-perishable food items, a two-month course of vitamins, and warm clothing and blankets. In January 2008, Donetsk’s JDC-supported Hesed Tsdaka held a gathering for more than 90 survivors, family members, and rescue service officers to honor the bravery and devotion these people showed during the chain of disastrous accidents. Participants received JDC-donated presents from young Hesed volunteers, who also delivered gift packages to hospitals and homes.

The Zaporozhye region of Ukraine is highly industrialized, causing many residents to suffer from serious illnesses due to air and water pollution. Together with the Zaporozhye Regional State Administration and with the support of World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), JDC opened a family outpatient clinic that aims to expand access to medical care for children and adults in outlying areas. Modern medical equipment was provided for the clinic, and JDC is working to create a model of efficient preventive and primary health care (from family doctors) that will benefit underprivileged families.

Begun in 2004 with support from JDC, the Shalom Hav-erim (Hello Friends) Interethnic Dialogue project is a cooperative initiative of the JDC-supported Zaporozhye Jewish Community Center (JCC), the Zaporozhye Regional State Administration, local NGOs, and the ethnic communities registered in the region. Sharing its rich experience in developing programs for the Jewish community, the JCC has been offering training seminars and technical advice to representatives of these other communities. The project has received four successive grants from the regional government, and its activities, which have been widely covered by the media, keep attracting new local partners. In 2007, the JCC was invited to become a strategic partner in a new project designed to bring governmental, NGO, and other private resources to bear on the challenges facing the Zaporozhye region. This is a joint venture of USAID, the Rusal-Holding Corporation, and OSCE in Ukraine.

Do Good Ukraine! is a Web-based pilot program initiated by JDC’s 2007-2008 Ralph I. Goldman Fellow. It was designed to connect individuals and NGOs with volunteer opportunities in Zaporozhye and Donetsk. Operated in partnership with the Zaporozhye JCC and the Donetsk Hesed, the project, which includes in-person and online training, seeks to promote a culture of volunteerism and establish the infrastructure for an eventual national program.
JDC has also been partnering with the government in Ukraine to provide comprehensive sex education, treatment of gynecological diseases, and psychological support for young women. The program aims to decrease unwanted pregnancies and abortions, reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, foster healthy relationships among teenagers, and encourage discussion and mutual understanding between parents and teenagers. Health professionals trained in these areas provide medical and psychological care to young women and respond to their questions about reproductive health. Additionally, these professionals give lectures and participate in roundtable discussions for health care providers, teachers, and social workers. The project is currently serving over 1,500 young women.

**Uruguay**

In May 2007, the most severe floods to hit Uruguay in 50 years devastated three regions, Durazno, Soriano and Treinta y Tres, leaving more than 12,000 very low income victims in their wake. A state of national emergency was declared by the government, and JDC contributed funds to the local Jewish community to support its distribution of emergency aid. This included hundreds of blankets, mattresses, and pillows, as well as materials for the reconstruction of housing units. These much-needed supplies were distributed in the affected areas in the Jewish community’s name. The mayors of Durazno and Treinta y Tres sent personal letters of thanks to the community, describing the renewed hope their assistance had brought to the flood victims.

**Venezuela**

The country’s critical social and economic situation has dramatically affected its poorest people (some 80 percent of the population), while even those with a regular income are having trouble meeting basic needs. These difficulties have been compounded by food shortages, especially of staples. JDC, together with the Jewish Community of Venezuela (CAIV), is partnering with Caritas-Venezuela to fund two soup kitchens that are serving the most vulnerable populations. The program is based on a similar model that was successfully implemented in Argentina. One kitchen, in the downtown area of Caracas, serves a daily lunch to 125 adults who are living below the poverty line. They are mostly unemployed, homeless or elderly. The second kitchen, which is situated in one of Caracas’ largest barrios, serves lunch to children and teenagers from the local parochial school and the surrounding neighborhood. The kitchen also works with professionals to provide the youngsters with educational enrichment activities.

**Transmigrants**

In 2007, 263 transmigrants were assisted by JDC while in Vienna, with end-of-month numbers varying during the year from a high of 124 to a low of 29, and 77 people on the case-load at the end of December. The average length of stay was three to five months, about the same as in the previous year, with processing running smoothly for most clients not running into additional security checks. The large number and variety of services provided to JDC clients continued in 2007, thanks to very generous support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. This funding made it possible to proceed with JDC’s expanded educational, social, and cultural activities as well as its medical referral and management program, which includes full financial coverage for necessary consultations, examinations, treatment, and medications. JDC works closely with the Vienna Jewish community’s ESBA regarding medical services and with the local Red Cross with regard to medications. JDC provides a social support structure, which includes technical assistance with housing related issues and general services to help clients navigate in their new surroundings.

The educational program includes intensive, contracted English classes at various levels, an offering that has been
much appreciated by clients wishing to get a head start on adjusting to life in the US. Very popular, professionally taught computer classes have also been provided thanks to Los Angeles Federation funding. Given in collaboration with the Vienna community’s Jewish Institute for Vocational Training, these classes, as well as the more occasional Hebrew classes that have been offered, are attended with great seriousness and interest.

Again in 2007, there was a JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteer in Vienna, helping to coordinate and manage a wide range of social and cultural events and activities. Thanks to the Los Angeles Federation, it was possible to take advantage of Vienna’s varied cultural scene, with clients enjoying accompanied visits to museums, concerts, and ballet performances, and city tours and outings. Participation in Vienna Jewish community holiday events and special commemorations as well as Jewish and American holiday celebrations organized by JDC are also features of the JDC program.

Other activities include an extremely popular English-speaking cafe group for young adults, film showings and discussions, lectures, musical performances, chess tournaments, and a variety of social events that offer clients much-appreciated opportunities to get together and relax. The kitchen in JDC’s new office space serves as an in-house “client café,” with JDC staff always available for consultation, and there is a once-a-month open house. “Tea and Cakes with JDC” was offered last fall in the Sukkah kindly lent by the Vienna community, and clients are provided with matzah and wine for Passover.

Again thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Federation, this expanded range of activities has continued in the first half of 2008. While processing time has remained constant (and there have been no rejected cases), the number of arrivals continues to fluctuate with no advance warning, requiring maximum flexibility in the program—a sort of “accordion pattern” of services.

JDC’s Vienna office also provides various forms of support for JDC programs in Central and Eastern Europe, and the JDC Rome office continues its supervision of the entire transmigrant program.

**JDC Jewish Service Corps (JSC)**

The JDC Jewish Service Corps is a unique one-year volunteer opportunity for active, enthusiastic, knowledgeable Jews to serve, and take part in the life of, a Jewish community abroad. Since 1987, JDC has placed over 100 volunteers in more than 16 countries around the world. The program continues to grow, with 11 volunteers placed in 2007-2008 and 14 placements projected for the coming year. In most placements, the challenge is to promote Jewish identity and help the community become more self-sufficient.

Since 2004, JSC volunteers have been joined each year by a Roslyn Z. Wolf Fellow. The Roslyn Z. Wolf Cleveland-JDC International Fellows Program was established in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland through the generosity of the late Ambassador Milton A. Wolf and his children. It was designed to help isolated or re-emerging Jewish communities educate their youth, care for their elderly, and train their future leaders.

For more information and applications see: www.jdc.org/how_volunteer.html.

**JDC SHORT-TERM SERVICE PROGRAMS**

JDC Short-Term Service Programs are connecting North American young adults to the global Jewish community through one- to two-week volunteer programs in a Jewish community overseas. Participants have the opportunity to engage in meaningful service, connect with peers abroad, and learn about the pressing needs of Jews around the world. Participants return home as advocates for the Jewish community they visited, ready to mobilize their friends, families, and communities to help. Since 2003, JDC has sent 312 students on 17 short-term service programs in eight countries.

**THE JDC AMBASSADOR MILTON A. WOLF TRAINING INSTITUTE**

JDC strives to support its professional team by actively encouraging staff members to stretch their professional capabilities and grow as individuals. It invests in preparing them to meet the challenges presented by a rapidly evolving and ever more complex global operating environment. Moreover, it seeks to harvest the rich in-house expertise resident in many parts of its operation to strengthen JDC’s work in all areas going forward.

Toward this end, and in tribute to JDC’s 11th President, the late Ambassador Milton A. Wolf, and his late wife, Roslyn Z. Wolf, the Wolf Family has established the JDC Ambassador Milton A. Wolf Training Institute. JDC will convene an intensive professional training program each year that will engage members of its international staff in a range of educational and team-building activities.
The Institute’s initial session took place in Jerusalem in July 2007, and the 2008 event will be held in New York in September. This flagship initiative is at the heart of JDC’s Global Human Resources Development Program.

**JEWISH COMMUNAL PROPERTY RECLAMATION**

The communal property restitution process in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union began with the fall of the Iron Curtain, when pressure was brought to bear on former Communist bloc countries to return wrongfully appropriated Jewish assets. Either as a venue for community programs and activities or as a source of income, returned Jewish communal property has the potential to put communities on the road to self-sufficiency. But the communities in these regions are only a fraction of their original size, making the question of who is the moral heir to these properties an ongoing point of contention.

“Communal property” includes synagogues, schools, ritual baths, hospitals, land, and cemeteries once owned by a Jewish community, congregation or organization, whether now existing or destroyed. Most often, the properties were confiscated by the Nazis during World War II or seized by the various Communist regimes, a fate that also befall other faiths now pursuing similar property claims.

Under a model developed by the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), this issue has been handled in a partnership between world Jewry and the local Jewish community in each country. Joint foundations have or will be created by WJRO and the communities and income earned from returned property would first be allocated to cover local costs, with any excess going toward meeting global Jewish needs. As a founding member of the WJRO, which was established in 1992, JDC funds the organization’s efforts to reclaim property while acting as a bridge between Jewish communities and international Jewish groups. In several countries—Romania, Poland, and Lithuania—JDC is a member of the foundations that have been established by the WJRO and local Jewish communities to reclaim and manage Jewish communal property.

JDC also directly assists with research, documentation, and legal efforts for restitution in several countries. For this work in Romania, Lithuania, Bosnia, and Serbia, the David Berg Foundation has provided important financial support.

For Eastern Europe's Jewish communities, the reclamation of confiscated property is key to a future of fiscal autonomy. In Prague, Zagreb, and Macedonia, for example, returned properties are already providing the communities there with significant income streams. But in other cities and countries, the return of property has been slower and the financial benefits that may accrue are still on the distant horizon.

But even as properties are gradually returned, the process does not end there. JDC has organized training seminars for community leaders to help them move property management to a more professional level. This should enable them to maximize their community’s potential income and ensure that returned properties do not become a financial burden.

Moreover, because properties are often returned in poor condition, JDC has been helping the local communities devise creative arrangements to fund their renovation or repair. The Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF) provides interest-free loans to Jewish communities to help them renovate or improve their communal real estate in order to achieve the maximum income and value. The program began with pilot loans in Slovakia and Bulgaria and has expanded to include 20 loans made thus far to Jewish communities throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries. These loans enable communities to secure greater financial benefits from their assets and use the income generated for vital community needs. JDC’s Europe-based European Property Management Coordinator assists Jewish communities with property management and the implementation of SELF.

Over the past year, Jon Cummins and Alice Kulick have joined Stanley Chesley, Steven Karbank, Earle Kazis, Richard Mack, David Marshall, Jerome Spitzer, Stephen Taub, Louis Thalheimer, Andrew Tisch, Patricia and John Uihlmann, Glenn Weinberg, and Joseph Wilf in providing generous support for JDC’s Strategic European Loan Fund.

In the former Soviet Union, where Jewish assets were confiscated in the 1920s and 1930s by the Communist regime, returned Jewish property—generally only one building in each city, and usually a synagogue—is providing an anchor for the renaissance of Jewish life. While restitution laws limit the use of these returned properties to communal purposes, their possession obviates the communities’ need for rental facilities and results in long-term savings. Here, JDC assists not only in the recovery of buildings, but also in their renovation as a venue for community activities.
Financial Statements

Independent Auditor’s Report

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. (“JDC”) as of December 31, 2007, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of JDC’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.’s December 31, 2006 financial statements and, in our report dated June 29, 2007 we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 3 to the financial statements, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. changed its basis of accounting for pensions in accordance with SFAS 158.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. as of December 31, 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

July 9, 2008
## UNRESTRICTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Fund</th>
<th>Board Designated Fund</th>
<th>Plant Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>$63,372,514</td>
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<td>$1,112,189</td>
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<td>Time deposit in Israel - interest bearing</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7,082,494</td>
<td>4,399,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments (Notes 8 and 14)</td>
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<td>135,559,467</td>
<td>$15,365,408</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>159,883,263</td>
<td>159,741,693</td>
<td>18,162,585</td>
<td>337,787,541</td>
<td>358,715,642</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
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<td>5,213,165</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5,213,165</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>5,213,165</td>
<td>897,198</td>
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<td>Contributions receivable (Note 13)</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,127,373</td>
<td>20,514,729</td>
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<td>22,642,102</td>
<td>28,145,902</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances to communities, other receivables and other assets (net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of $312,000 in 2007 and 2006)</td>
<td>7,986,048</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7,986,048</td>
<td>866,185</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8,852,233</td>
<td>6,723,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year’s programs</td>
<td>85,055</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>85,055</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>85,055</td>
<td>154,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets-net (Note 10)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>24,292,621</td>
<td>24,292,621</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>24,292,621</td>
<td>15,854,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$32,999,321</td>
<td>$190,452,689</td>
<td>$15,365,408</td>
<td>$24,292,621</td>
<td>$263,110,039</td>
<td>$188,207,123</td>
<td>$23,674,766</td>
<td>$474,991,928</td>
<td>$436,473,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</th>
<th>Annuity obligations (Note 14)</th>
<th>Loans payable (Note 6)</th>
<th>Due to related parties (Note 11)</th>
<th>Total liabilities</th>
<th>Net assets (deficit) (Exhibit 8) (Note 12)</th>
<th>Total liabilities and net assets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>25,767,788</td>
<td>1,340,621</td>
<td>27,756,625</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>53,524,413</td>
<td>183,182,130</td>
<td>$32,999,321</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,270,559</td>
<td>348,376</td>
<td>1,158,511</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,158,511</td>
<td>201,156,556</td>
<td>$15,365,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,688,997</td>
<td>28,915,136</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>61,953,483</td>
<td>155,191,005</td>
<td>$24,292,621</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>33,016,118</td>
<td>337,807,764</td>
<td>$188,207,123</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>95,317,977</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>384,376</td>
<td>346,632,749</td>
<td>$23,674,766</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>89,841,083</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>95,317,977</td>
<td>436,473,832</td>
<td>$474,991,928</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor’s report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
## Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**

(With Summarized Financial Information for 2006)

### UNRESTRICTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Fund</th>
<th>Board Designated Fund</th>
<th>Plant Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>50,241,772</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>50,241,772</td>
<td>48,228,034</td>
<td>$ 98,469,806</td>
<td>$ 99,439,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>9,926,492</td>
<td>2,156,845</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>12,083,337</td>
<td>131,078,226</td>
<td>$ 143,161,563</td>
<td>$ 135,043,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income - exchange gains</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>262,423</td>
<td>221,457</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>483,880</td>
<td>230,936</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>714,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income (Note 8)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>19,706,532</td>
<td>1,526,192</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>21,232,724</td>
<td>15,321,511</td>
<td>71,325</td>
<td>36,625,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actuarial gains (loss) on annuity obligations (Note 14)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>($66,105)</td>
<td>54,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction (Note 12)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>178,658,562</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td>178,658,562</td>
<td>22,125,800</td>
<td>1,747,649</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>262,700,275</td>
<td>16,266,250</td>
<td>125,528</td>
<td>279,092,053</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EXPENSES (EXHIBIT C)

| Program Services |                |             |                       |            |       |                        |                        |            |            |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|                       |            |       |                        |                        |            |            |
| Support Services  |                |             |                       |            |       |                        |                        |            |            |
| Management and general | 12,990,597    | 1,363,305   | —                     | —          | $    | 15,046,200              | —                      | 15,046,200 | 14,243,847 |
| Fund raising      | 2,839,603      | 353,070     | —                     | —          | $    | 3,210,085               | —                      | —           | 2,951,073 |
| Total supporting services | 15,830,200    | 1,716,375   | —                     | —          | $    | 18,256,285              | —                      | 17,194,920 | 17,194,920 |
| Total expenses    | 246,484,121    | 1,793,866   | 62,747                | —          | $    | 249,050,444              | —                      | 241,377,321 | 241,377,321 |
| Change in net assets before other changes | 230,653,921    | 77,491      | 62,747                | —          | $    | 230,794,159              | —                      | 230,794,159 | 224,182,401 |
| Other changes in net assets |                |             |                       |            |       |                        |                        |            |            |
| Transfer for fixed assets and loan payments | (78,057)      | (602,838)   | —                     | —          | $    | 680,895                 | —                      | —           | — |
| Reclassifications | (2,486,140)    | —           | (2,486,140)           | (10,000)   | $    | 2,496,140               | —                      | —           | — |
| Transfer for operating fund programs | 7,940,000     | (7,940,000) | —                     | —          | $    | —                       | —                      | —           | — |
| Pension and postretirement benefit adjustment (Note 3) | —             | (5,545,810) | —                     | (5,545,810)| $    | —                       | —                      | —           | — |
| Cancellation of prior years appropriations | —             | —           | —                     | —          | $    | —                       | —                      | —           | — |
| Change in net assets before other changes | 230,653,921    | 77,491      | 62,747                | —          | $    | 230,794,159              | —                      | 230,794,159 | 224,182,401 |
| Net assets (deficit) - beginning of year, as previously stated | (692,298)     | 1,363,305   | (7,940,000)           | —          | $    | 15,046,200              | —                      | 15,046,200 | 14,243,847 |
| Restatement (Note 10) | —              | —           | —                     | —          | $    | —                       | —                      | —           | — |
| Net assets (deficit) - beginning of year, restated | (709,710)     | (7,940,000) | —                     | —          | $    | 18,256,285              | —                      | 17,194,920 | 17,194,920 |
| Net assets (deficit) - end of year (Exhibit A) | —              | —           | —                     | —          | $    | —                       | —                      | —           | — |

### Change in Net Assets

See independent auditor’s report. The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
### Statement of Functional Expenses

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007**  
*(With Summarized Financial Information for 2006)*

#### PROGRAM SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Relief and Welfare</th>
<th>Health Services</th>
<th>Services to the Aged</th>
<th>Jewish Education and Religious</th>
<th>Education and Manpower Development</th>
<th>Social Development</th>
<th>Multi-Functional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to local communities</td>
<td>$1,088,858</td>
<td>$6,450,926</td>
<td>$4,484,563</td>
<td>$1,975,263</td>
<td>$2,503,964</td>
<td>$656,927</td>
<td>$4,915,024</td>
<td>$22,075,525</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash assistance</td>
<td>3,246,321</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56,832</td>
<td>3,330,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and clothing to the needy individuals</td>
<td>28,427,604</td>
<td>367,947</td>
<td>309,219</td>
<td>91,548</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,833</td>
<td>29,213,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care and rehabilitation</td>
<td>1,291,645</td>
<td>14,731,883</td>
<td>498,832</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>273,331</td>
<td>160,633</td>
<td>16,956,324</td>
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<td>Medical supplies</td>
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<td>1,664,842</td>
<td>3,237</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,668,079</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious, cultural and outreach programs</td>
<td>3,160</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51,934</td>
<td>2,206,343</td>
<td>62,633</td>
<td>1,563,813</td>
<td>1,488,822</td>
<td>1,688,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and scholarships</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>280,263</td>
<td>13,913,012</td>
<td>386,393</td>
<td>600,670</td>
<td>272,060</td>
<td>15,467,398</td>
<td>15,467,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and communal workers</td>
<td>45,489</td>
<td>411,112</td>
<td>142,200</td>
<td>3,269,031</td>
<td>12,627,975</td>
<td>5,742,055</td>
<td>1,982,152</td>
<td>24,220,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy, warehousing, repairs and equipment</td>
<td>1,621,232</td>
<td>95,817</td>
<td>5,363,699</td>
<td>211,275</td>
<td>27,891</td>
<td>3,449,514</td>
<td>7,436,495</td>
<td>18,205,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency assistance and relief</td>
<td>21,411,503</td>
<td>5,837,727</td>
<td>731,436</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>89,536</td>
<td>681,537</td>
<td>826,010</td>
<td>29,587,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home care and personal assistance</td>
<td>242,175</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>22,194,968</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>1,363,155</td>
<td>22,463,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social, recreation and communal organizations</td>
<td>1,619,612</td>
<td>1,186,820</td>
<td>5,738,652</td>
<td>3,187,066</td>
<td>843,126</td>
<td>18,474,704</td>
<td>512,212</td>
<td>31,562,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>519,265</td>
<td>77,570</td>
<td>54,280</td>
<td>7,210</td>
<td>21,610</td>
<td>77,011</td>
<td>653,159</td>
<td>1,410,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$59,531,864</td>
<td>$31,109,907</td>
<td>$39,573,020</td>
<td>$24,897,748</td>
<td>$16,563,128</td>
<td>$31,519,562</td>
<td>$18,341,232</td>
<td>$221,536,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Payroll, social security benefits and consultants</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Telephone and fax</th>
<th>Conferences, media and public relations</th>
<th>Contracted services, supplies and other expenses</th>
<th>Total management and administrative expenses</th>
<th>Interest expense</th>
<th>Total expenses</th>
<th>Less investment management fees deducted from investment income on the statement of operations and changes in net assets</th>
<th>Total expenses as reported on the statement of operations and changes in net assets (Exhibit B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll, social security benefits and consultants</td>
<td>1,433,824</td>
<td>824,221</td>
<td>966,181</td>
<td>1,141,215</td>
<td>503,221</td>
<td>1,640,787</td>
<td>1,014,538</td>
<td>7,523,987</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>120,468</td>
<td>69,250</td>
<td>81,177</td>
<td>95,883</td>
<td>42,280</td>
<td>137,857</td>
<td>85,240</td>
<td>632,155</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone and fax</td>
<td>46,104</td>
<td>26,503</td>
<td>31,067</td>
<td>36,695</td>
<td>16,181</td>
<td>52,759</td>
<td>32,622</td>
<td>241,931</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, media and public relations</td>
<td>7,396</td>
<td>4,252</td>
<td>4,984</td>
<td>5,887</td>
<td>2,596</td>
<td>8,464</td>
<td>5,233</td>
<td>38,812</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services, supplies and other expenses</td>
<td>156,420</td>
<td>89,917</td>
<td>105,403</td>
<td>124,498</td>
<td>54,898</td>
<td>178,998</td>
<td>110,679</td>
<td>820,813</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total management and administrative expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,764,212</td>
<td>1,014,143</td>
<td>1,188,812</td>
<td>1,404,178</td>
<td>619,176</td>
<td>2,018,865</td>
<td>1,248,312</td>
<td>9,257,698</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interest expense | 2,379,958 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Depreciation and amortization | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Investment management fees | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

**Total expenses** | 61,296,076 | 32,124,050 | 40,761,832 | 26,301,926 | 17,182,304 | 33,538,427 | 19,589,544 | 230,794,159 |

Less investment management fees deducted from investment income on the statement of operations and changes in net assets | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

**Total expenses as reported on the statement of operations and changes in net assets (Exhibit B)** | $61,296,076 | $32,124,050 | $40,761,832 | $26,301,926 | $17,182,304 | $33,538,427 | $19,589,544 | $230,794,159 |

See independent auditor's report.  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
### Supporting Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management and General</th>
<th>Fund Raising</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 22,075,525</td>
<td>$ 24,178,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 3,330,153</td>
<td>$ 4,876,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 29,213,151</td>
<td>$ 27,644,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 16,956,324</td>
<td>$ 12,217,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 1,668,079</td>
<td>$ 898,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 5,376,705</td>
<td>$ 7,394,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 15,467,398</td>
<td>$ 12,573,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 24,220,014</td>
<td>$ 20,959,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$ 1,409,721</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 156,636</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 19,772,280</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 27,470,863</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 29,587,749</td>
<td>$ 24,880,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 22,463,143</td>
<td>$ 16,518,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 31,562,192</td>
<td>$ 33,843,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 1,410,105</td>
<td>$ 3,175,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1,409,721</strong></td>
<td><strong>156,636</strong></td>
<td><strong>223,102,818</strong></td>
<td><strong>216,634,249</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>17,148,701</th>
<th>16,280,029</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,425,626</td>
<td>2,199,088</td>
<td>17,148,701</td>
<td>16,280,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>478,650</td>
<td>252,350</td>
<td>1,363,155</td>
<td>1,557,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>276,400</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>548,331</td>
<td>541,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,048,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>1,131,812</td>
<td>1,103,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,335,547</td>
<td>509,599</td>
<td>2,665,959</td>
<td>2,847,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,564,223</td>
<td>3,036,037</td>
<td>22,857,958</td>
<td>22,329,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,379,958</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,379,958</td>
<td>1,888,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>692,298</td>
<td>17,412</td>
<td>709,710</td>
<td>525,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,184,611</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,184,611</td>
<td>1,257,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3,210,085</strong></td>
<td><strong>250,235,056</strong></td>
<td><strong>242,634,972</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1,184,611)         (1,184,611)         (1,257,651)

**$ 15,046,200**    **$ 3,210,085**    **$ 249,050,444**    **$ 241,377,321**
## Statement of Cash Flows

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$24,495,799</td>
<td>$26,692,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used by operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>709,710</td>
<td>525,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>(10,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>(71,325)</td>
<td>(1,808)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gains on investments</td>
<td>(33,062,470)</td>
<td>(29,269,249)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain on annuity obligations</td>
<td>(120,308)</td>
<td>(35,552)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease (increase) in assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>(150,000)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>(4,315,967)</td>
<td>(197,804)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>5,503,800</td>
<td>(10,902,250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances to communities, other receivables and other assets</td>
<td>(2,129,059)</td>
<td>941,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year’s programs</td>
<td>68,968</td>
<td>(83,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>8,415,430</td>
<td>2,920,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to related parties</td>
<td>223,943</td>
<td>169,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash used by operating activities</strong></td>
<td>(431,479)</td>
<td>(9,152,014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of investments</td>
<td>(202,521,107)</td>
<td>(127,123,443)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of investments</td>
<td>255,329,948</td>
<td>134,785,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of fixed assets</td>
<td>(602,838)</td>
<td>(4,701,932)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash provided by investing activities</strong></td>
<td>52,206,003</td>
<td>2,960,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from financing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of loans</td>
<td>$ (30,442,783)</td>
<td>$ (30,285,006)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from loans</td>
<td>27,270,693</td>
<td>34,728,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>71,325</td>
<td>1,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment of annuity obligations</td>
<td>(255,398)</td>
<td>(283,803)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from investment income subject to annuity obligations</td>
<td>385,317</td>
<td>273,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash provided (used) by financing activities</strong></td>
<td>(2,970,846)</td>
<td>4,445,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year</td>
<td>48,803,678</td>
<td>(1,746,322)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents - end of year</td>
<td>$64,486,725</td>
<td>$15,683,047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information

- **Cash paid during the year for interest**
  - **2007**: $2,379,958
  - **2006**: $1,329,868

See independent auditor’s report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2007

NOTE 1 Nature of Organization
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. (JDC) was established in 1914 to channel funds being raised to aid Jews in Europe and Palestine. Today, over 90 years later, JDC is still serving as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, sponsoring programs of relief, rescue and reconstruction primarily to meet Jewish needs around the globe.

JDC is supported primarily by general contributions and funds from United Jewish Communities.

JDC is related to The International Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities, Schusterman-JDC Support Foundation, the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Civilization, Inc., The Thalheimer Family-JDC Support Foundation, Inc., The Center for Jewish Community Development, Inc. through common board control, and AJJDC Real Estate Company Limited (wholly owned subsidiary).

The JDC is a not-for-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of presentation The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis.

Consolidated financial statements Consolidated in these financial statements are the following not-for-profit corporations related through common board control: The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., Center for Advancement of Jewish Civilization, Inc., the Center for Jewish Community Development, Inc. and AJJDC Real Estate Company Limited. All intercompany transactions and balances are eliminated in the combined financial statements.

Use of estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents include investments in highly liquid instruments with maturities when acquired of three months or less.

Investments Investments are stated at fair value as follows:

Publicly traded securities held by JDC Market value
Limited partnership investments which are invested by the limited partnerships in publicly traded securities Market value

The financial statements may include investments whose estimated fair values, in the absence of readily ascertainable market values, have been determined by the investment manager. The methods and procedures used to value these investments may include, but are not limited to: (1) performing comparisons with prices of comparable or similar securities; (2) obtaining valuation-related information from issuers; and/or (3) other analytical data relating to the investment and using other available indications of value. However, because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, the estimated fair values for the aforementioned securities and interests may differ from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the investments existed, and the differences could be material.

Fixed assets Fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation and amortization are recorded on the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the term of the lease. Depreciation and amortization are not recorded in the year of acquisition.

Promises to give Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of their estimated future cash flows. The discounts on those amounts are computed using risk-free interest rates applicable to the years in which the promises are received. Amortization of the discounts is included in contribution revenue. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are substantially met.
Appropriations Appropriations for grants are expensed in the year authorized.

Unrestricted net assets Unrestricted net assets include funds having no restriction as to use or purpose imposed by donors. In addition, resources which are set aside for board-designated purposes are unrestricted.

Restricted net assets Temporarily restricted net assets are those whose use has been limited by donors to a specific time period or purpose. Permanently restricted net assets are limited by donors for investment.

Contributions Unconditional contributions are reported as either temporarily or permanently restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified as unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Functional expenses The costs of providing services have been summarized on a functional basis. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services for which the costs have been incurred.

Exchange rates The U.S. dollar equivalents of the local currencies were calculated either at the actual rates of exchange or at an average of the rates during the year.

Summarized financial information for 2006 The financial statements include prior-year summarized comparative information in total, but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with JDC’s financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2006, from which the information was derived.

NOTE 3 Retirement Plan
JDC sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering its New York staff and overseas foreign service personnel. Prior service cost has been fully funded. JDC’s policy is to fund pension cost accrued. As of December 31, 2007, there were 218 participants. Of these, there are 125 active, 68 retirees and 25 terminated vested. Of the 125 active, 84 are vested and 41 are not vested. The following table summarizes the benefit obligations, fair value of plan assets and the plan’s funded status as of December 31, 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit obligation</td>
<td>$ (31,811,580)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair value of plan assets</td>
<td>24,540,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded status</td>
<td>$(7,270,559)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued pension benefit cost</td>
<td>$ 7,270,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated benefit obligation</td>
<td>24,391,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer contribution</td>
<td>2,363,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits paid</td>
<td>1,329,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net periodic pension cost</td>
<td>2,493,924</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumptions in the accounting were as follows:

- Weighted average assumptions
  - Discount rate: 6.00%  
  - Expected return on plan assets: 7.50%  
  - Rate of compensation increase: 5.00%  

Plan Assets
JDC’s retirement plan assets by category are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity securities</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt securities</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Investment Policies
JDC’s investment policies are designed to ensure adequate plan assets are available to provide future payments of pension benefits to eligible participants. Taking into account the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, JDC formulates the investment portfolio composed of the optimal combination of equity and debt securities.

The expected returns on plan assets are developed in conjunction with actuaries and investment advisors, and take into account long-term expectations for future returns and investment strategy. Amounts are compared to historical averages for reasonableness.
Cash Flows

Estimated Contributions

JDC expects to contribute $2,363,925 to the pension plan in 2008.

Estimated Future Benefit Payments

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, are expected to be paid as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended December 31</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$1,177,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,234,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,478,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,495,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,667,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>11,166,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 158, “Employers’ Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans.” The requirement for implementation for not-for-profit organizations is effective for fiscal year ending after June 15, 2007. Adoption of SFAS No. 158 has resulted in an adjustment to net assets of $6,254,182. In addition an adjustment of $708,372 was made to record the change in the accrued pension benefit cost based on the current year’s actuarial calculation.

NOTE 4 Deferred Compensation

Accounts payable and accrued expenses include approximately $3,600,000 for deferred compensation. JDC offers its executive managers a non-matching deferred compensation plan. Currently, seven executive managers participate in the plan. Participants can opt to defer a portion of their salary into an independently managed investment account owned by JDC. These investments are not part of JDC’s pooled investment accounts. Approximately $2.2 million of the total represents contributions.

NOTE 5 Benefit Restoration Plan (BRP)

The JDC Personnel and Management Committee adopted a “Benefit Restoration Plan” (“BRP”) to restore certain pension benefits to specified executive managers that were reduced due to the limitation contained in the Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93). The BRP attempts to equalize benefits to these managers as compared to all other JDC employees covered by the JDC Employee Retirement Plan (“Retirement Plan”). Under the BRP, the covered employees are entitled to receive a supplemental benefit, paid by JDC, consisting of the difference between the retirement benefit computed pursuant to the BRP and the statutory benefit computed pursuant to the JDC Retirement Plan. The supplemental benefit is reserved by JDC in a separate restricted fund, on a current basis, in accordance with computations made by JDC’s actuary. Currently, three active executive managers and one retired executive manager participate in the BRP. The balance of the BRP is approximately $1.86 million as of December 31, 2007.

NOTE 6 Loans Payable

JDC has a credit line with JP Morgan Chase of $17,500,000. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at .4% above the LIBOR rate. There is no outstanding principal balance at December 31, 2007.

JDC has a revolving credit line with Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner and Smith, Inc., which is renewed every six months. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance based upon the calculation of overnight federal funds, treasury bills and LIBOR. During 2007, the interest rate varied between 5.50-5.65%. The outstanding balance at December 31, 2007 was $25,467,065. The line of credit was renewed on December 31, 2007 through June 30, 2008 with an interest rate of 4.5%.

JDC has a loan agreement with Wachovia Bank for $2,500,000. The loan expires on April 1, 2010. At the time of expiration, a balloon payment for the remaining principal balance plus interest will be due. Interest is fixed at 4.79%. The balance at December 31, 2007 is $2,289,560. Principal payments are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$86,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>90,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,112,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JDC has pledged unrestricted investments at December 31, 2007 with a market value of approximately $3,040,230 for the above-mentioned loan and lines of credit as collateral.

Joint Israel of JDC has Beit Lechem loan for $750,000. The maturity date is August 29, 2014. The current interest rate is 6.875% annually. The interest rate is adjusted every 6 months for LIBOR+1.375%. Repayments are made monthly (fixed amount of $3,125 for the principal; interest amount varies). The balance at December 31, 2007 is $250,000. Principal payments for the next five years and there after are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>62,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>250,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joint Israel of JDC also has Beit Ribakoff loan for $1,200,000. In order to obtain the loan, it was split into two parts. The balance as of December 31, 2007 is $908,511. The first part of the loan is $101,183 and matures on March 22, 2010. The repayment of the principal of the second part of the loan will begin in March of 2010 and extend for ten years. Principal payments for the next five years are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>44,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>44,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>58,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>80,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>80,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>598,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>908,511</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For both loans (Beit Lechem and Beit Ribakoff), a lien has been recorded to the benefit of Bank Leumi.

**NOTE 7 Lease Commitments**

JDC is committed under a lease obligation for office space that was due to expire December 31, 2010. JDC has extended the lease until December 31, 2015 which includes leasing additional office space beginning January 1, 2006.

Minimum rental commitments under the terms of the lease are as follows, subject to adjustments for escalation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$ 940,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>961,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>967,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>988,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,111,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>3,470,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,438,973</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rent expense for the year ended December 31, 2007 was $1,082,573.

**NOTE 8 Investments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Investment</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government obligations</td>
<td>$ 50,242,241</td>
<td>$ 57,499,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Israel bonds</td>
<td>1,591,519</td>
<td>1,922,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>473,915</td>
<td>405,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common and preferred stocks</td>
<td>87,567,526</td>
<td>126,844,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>73,001,363</td>
<td>63,959,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited partnership investments in publicly traded securities</td>
<td>124,910,977</td>
<td>108,083,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>337,787,541</strong></td>
<td><strong>358,715,642</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Investment income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Income</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>$ 4,747,701</td>
<td>$ 4,516,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain on investments</td>
<td>8,404,883</td>
<td>15,664,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized gain on investments</td>
<td>24,657,587</td>
<td>13,604,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment fees</td>
<td>(1,184,611)</td>
<td>(1,257,651)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total investment income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 36,625,560</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 32,528,522</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE 9 Concentration of Credit Risk**

Financial instruments which potentially subject JDC to a concentration of credit risk are cash accounts with major financial institutions in excess of FDIC insurance limits. These financial institutions have strong credit ratings and management believes that credit risk related to these accounts is minimal.
### NOTE 10 Fixed Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headquarters NY</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization</th>
<th>Net</th>
<th>Estimated Useful Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>$1,471,791</td>
<td>$556,458</td>
<td>$915,333</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>400,399</td>
<td>319,583</td>
<td>80,816</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Headquarters NY</td>
<td>$1,872,190</td>
<td>$876,041</td>
<td>$996,149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overseas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization</th>
<th>Net</th>
<th>Estimated Useful Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Land and buildings</td>
<td>$280,500</td>
<td>$41,330</td>
<td>$239,170</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Land, buildings and building improvements</td>
<td>16,793,705</td>
<td>2,123,624</td>
<td>14,670,081</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>147,445</td>
<td>126,112</td>
<td>21,333</td>
<td>15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Soviet Union</td>
<td>Land and buildings</td>
<td>8,975,772</td>
<td>609,884</td>
<td>8,365,888</td>
<td>50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total overseas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$26,197,422</td>
<td>$2,900,950</td>
<td>$23,296,472</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$28,069,612</td>
<td>$3,776,991</td>
<td>$24,292,621</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of January 1, 2007, the net assets of JDC were restated to reflect overseas property not previously reported.

### NOTE 11 Fair Value Of Financial Instruments

The following methods and assumptions were used by JDC in estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

**Cash and cash equivalents** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because the instruments are liquid in nature.

**Time deposit in Israel** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value due to their short-term nature.

**Investments** The fair value is based upon quoted market prices.

**Contributions receivable** The fair value is estimated by discounting the future cash flows using a risk-free rate.

**Annuity obligations** The fair value is estimated by discounting future cash flows using rates currently offered.

**Loans payable** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because JDC can obtain similar loans at similar terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007 Carrying Amount</th>
<th>2007 Fair Value</th>
<th>2006 Carrying Amount</th>
<th>2006 Fair Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$64,486,725</td>
<td>$64,486,725</td>
<td>$15,683,047</td>
<td>$15,683,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposit in Israel</td>
<td>11,482,486</td>
<td>11,482,486</td>
<td>10,300,756</td>
<td>10,300,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>337,787,541</td>
<td>337,787,541</td>
<td>358,715,642</td>
<td>358,715,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>22,642,102</td>
<td>22,642,102</td>
<td>28,145,902</td>
<td>28,145,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity obligations</td>
<td>1,688,997</td>
<td>1,688,997</td>
<td>1,679,386</td>
<td>1,679,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>28,915,136</td>
<td>28,915,136</td>
<td>32,087,226</td>
<td>32,087,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE 13 Contributions Receivable

All unconditional contributions receivable have been recorded at present value. Those receivables that are due in more than one year have been discounted to their present value using a discount rate of 6%. The receivables are due as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$10,815,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$6,502,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$4,985,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$1,853,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$729,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>$750,167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less discount to present value (1,594,874)
Less allowance (1,400,000)
Present value of contributions receivable $22,642,102

NOTE 14 Charitable Remainder Trusts

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s investments include funds subject to charitable remainder trust agreements. Contribution revenues for charitable remainder trusts are recognized at the date the agreement is established, net of the liability recorded for the present value of the future payments to be made to the respective donors and/or other beneficiaries. The present value of payments to beneficiaries of charitable remainder trusts is calculated using a 6% discount rate. Gains or losses resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions and accretions of the discount are recorded as increases or decreases in the respective net asset class in the statement of operations and changes in net assets. The present value of the trusts is allocated to the temporarily and permanently restricted net asset classes as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$22,642,102</td>
<td>$177,178,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>$17,989,585</td>
<td>$14,278,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>$13,048,695</td>
<td>$7,883,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>$13,592,090</td>
<td>$17,989,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>$13,048,695</td>
<td>$10,104,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>$13,048,695</td>
<td>$10,104,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>$13,048,695</td>
<td>$10,104,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$155,191,005</td>
<td>$136,428,615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2007 and 2006, temporarily restricted net assets were released from restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the following restricted purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$51,387,474</td>
<td>$57,913,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>$26,428,176</td>
<td>$15,474,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>$34,007,438</td>
<td>$36,398,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>$18,415,434</td>
<td>$17,444,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>$13,704,737</td>
<td>$11,426,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>$25,000,000</td>
<td>$19,114,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>$12,515,718</td>
<td>$13,406,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For periods after December 31</td>
<td>$1,217,973</td>
<td>$1,598,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$178,658,562</td>
<td>$171,178,956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2007 and 2006 are restricted to investment in perpetuity, the income from which is expendable to support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$4,927,362</td>
<td>$4,927,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>$3,752,189</td>
<td>$3,762,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>$13,592,090</td>
<td>$13,520,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity trust agreements which, upon expiration, will become permanent endowments</td>
<td>$704,749</td>
<td>$650,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$23,326,390</td>
<td>$23,210,862</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fair market value of the investments of the trusts totaled $3,611,718 at December 31, 2007.
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WITH 2008 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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