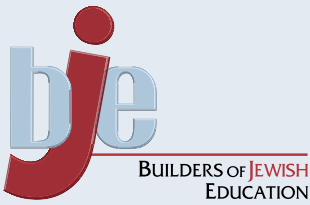




ANNUAL
REPORT
2012 - 2013

BUILDERS OF JEWISH
EDUCATION

Jewish Education from Generation to Generation



Our strength as a people is rooted in teachings and experiences that connect Jews and Jewish communities across time and place.

That is why, since its inception in 1937, BJE has focused on strengthening Jewish education in Los Angeles “*mi-dor le-dor*,” “from generation to generation.”

This Annual Report features several of BJE’s stellar programs, which have an immediate impact on today’s Jewish community as well as a lasting effect by inspiring the “next generation.”

You will read about how a BJE service helped parents of an autistic child find appropriate Jewish educational experiences; how a teen service program led one participant to offer her bat mitzvah guests a chance to work on a project to benefit the U.S. military; and how taking part in March of the Living with BJE eventually led a young woman to join the Peace Corps in Africa, among other stories.

We also pay special tribute in this report to Janet and Jake Farber, the embodiment of “*mi-dor le-dor*,” in their lifelong commitment to the Jewish community and in imparting the values of Jewish education to their three children and eight grandchildren.

BJE will continue to ensure that Jewish education leads to meaningful outcomes, for individuals, families and for the community as a whole, for generations to come.

BJE’s success is a collective effort, and we deeply appreciate all the individuals and organizations that partner with us.

Thank you for your generous and ongoing support,

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JKidLA

Lisa and Adam Kaufman swiftly found the perfect Hebrew school for their 12-year-old son as a direct result of BJE's online guide to diverse Jewish resources, known as JKidLA.

To be sure, this was no simple feat.

The Kaufmans' son, Max, has Asperger syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder, and they reside in Rancho Palos Verdes, a suburb that does not offer a full range of services for Jewish children with special needs.

"This is the most useful website," Lisa Kaufman said of JKidLA, a unique combination of an extensive online presence and actual human "concierges," providing customized information about a broad range of Jewish resources across the Los Angeles region. The program aligns with BJE's multipronged mission surrounding Jewish education: boosting quality, increasing access and encouraging greater participation.

"The site is constantly updated, easy to navigate and links to programs," Kaufman said, allowing her to locate the Nes Gadol program, situated close to the school Max attends daily, and specifically designed for children with autism and other special needs to experience the joys of Jewish learning.

Meanwhile, for the Manfredi family, who relocated in 2012 from Montreal to the Los Angeles area, JKidLA's concierge service also proved to be a "blessing." Sandra Bitton-Manfredi reached out directly to one of the concierges – one serves Los Angeles south of the Santa Monica Mountains, the other handles the Valley areas – for help in navigating myriad choices, from choosing a synagogue to finding one's "like-minded" Jewish community.

The service streamlines an overwhelming situation, Bitton-Manfredi said. BJE helped her to "open one door after another" so that she could find a home in an appropriate school district for her three children – Lana, 10, Simon, 12, and Vanessa, 16 – connect with a synagogue, and choose Jewish youth activities and camp.



The Kaufman Family



The Manfredi Family

Bitton-Manfredi now volunteers three days a week at the Shalom Institute, a camp and conference center in Malibu. As she looks out the window at children playing, she shares how she eventually approached the head of the Institute, Bill Kaplan, to inquire whether he knew Rachel Donitz Kaplan, BJE's Valley Concierge who proved so invaluable to her. (It turns out they are husband and wife.)

There is an "incredible feeling of coming full circle," she said, adding that especially "if you're completely new to the area, the concierge service is a beacon of help and hope."

*JKidLA can be found
@JKidLA.com and on:*

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Teen Service Learning

If Daniela Mirell had to impart just one Jewish value, she would teach that a spiritual life reminds individuals that they comprise a world greater than themselves.

This insightful lesson formed the thesis of her middle-school winning entry in the 2012 Milken Family Foundation's Jewish Educator Awards Student Essay Contest, held in partnership with BJE. Daniela won an unrestricted gift of \$1,800 for her school, Sinai Akiba Academy, as well as a \$500 contribution for her to direct to the charity of her choice.

She felt inspired to give the \$500 back to BJE, in no small part because of her experience with BJE's Teen Service Corps, through which she volunteered at a Los Angeles homeless shelter in the summer of 2012.

"We went to the Midnight Mission to serve food," said Daniela, now a ninth-grader at Harvard-Westlake School, who took part in the BJE program again in summer 2013. "These people have nothing. To make their day by giving them food made them happy and made me smile."



Daniela Mirell, Jesse Nadel, and Henry Platt participating in the 2012 Teen Service Corps

Daniela also pointed to her summers at Camp Ramah and her Jewish day school-based experiences such as traveling to Israel and helping at-risk youths as influencing her worldview. She takes the lessons of Jewish service learning to heart.

"If everyone in society would embrace their ability to reach out to God, both quietly and in helping others, they would act more appropriately and find more value in the acts they perform," Daniela wrote in her essay.

She already has her sights on Stanford University; her mother as well as her two siblings are alumni. "I wore an article of Stanford clothing every day during the school year," said Daniela, whose unfolding future will certainly be worth watching.



Shani Yakov's experience in BJE's Teen Service Corps inspired her to help American soldiers, not just during the summer of 2012, but also at her bat mitzvah reception.

Through the BJE program – in connection with Operation Gratitude, which seeks to lift morale in the U.S. military community – Shani, of Sherman Oaks, helped to craft 1,000 parachute cord bracelets that soldiers can use in the field for tourniquets, harnesses and repairs. At her bat mitzvah party six months later, she invited guests to weave more than 50 bracelets, saying, "I thought it would be fun for other people to make and would also be a mitzvah."



BJE also helps teens to reframe such community service in terms of Jewish service learning. Alisha Pedowitz, BJE's Teen Experiential Education Specialist and Program

Alisha Pedowitz Leader of BJE Impact (the Center for Jewish Service Learning formerly known as Sulam), guides young people to reflect on their contribution in a Jewish context, rather than view it as a one-time action, and find ways to integrate their experience into their lives.

2012 Teen Service Corps serving food at the Midnight Mission



"Teenagers are at a critical age, when they're figuring out who they want to be in the world," said Pedowitz, who helps lead a constellation of BJE teen programs that explore the potential to create immediate impact – and to spark a lifelong passion to make the world a better place ("tikkun olam").

For instance, so that other young teens in the Los Angeles area can conceive meaningful "mitzvah projects," usually done in connection with b'nai mitzvah celebrations, BJE Impact is developing a digital toolkit and online work space called "StepUp!" to help guide students and their families in the creation of meaningful projects, and to help teens identify areas of interest, ranging from domestic violence prevention to elder care. It will also be a resource for Jewish educators to track their students' progress and reflect on their work.

BJE Impact

BJE recently rebranded its service learning center and website as BJE Impact to reflect the on-the-ground outcomes to emerge from the center and its online space. "We are helping Jewish teens discover what impact they want to make in the world, while also being a resource for parents and educators to facilitate this process," said Alisha Pedowitz, BJE's Teen Experiential Education Specialist and Program Leader of BJE Impact.

Follow BJE Impact on 

Responsive Classroom



Mrs. Odelia Gabay and her students

Students at Or HaChaim Academy have learned to problem-solve respectfully, and help their friends do the same, as a direct result of one of BJE's professional development programs: Responsive Classroom.

Educators from more than a dozen BJE-accredited schools across the Jewish denominational spectrum participated in one or both of two week-long programs on the Responsive Classroom approach, focusing on social, emotional and academic growth in a strong and safe school community.

Teacher Odelia Gabay of Or HaChaim, an Orthodox Jewish day school in North Hollywood, has used the Responsive Classroom concept of "interactive modeling" to teach her students to notice and internalize expected behaviors, such as washing hands before eating.

She also has given her classroom a more "homey" atmosphere by holding a morning meeting, another concept the teachers learned from the BJE-sponsored workshops. "Everyone has a designated day to share," Gabay said. "Even shy kids get used to it." For instance, a child whose parents were divorcing found the ritual of the daily meeting comforting," she said.

Principal Deborah Raskin of Or HaChaim, which extends through eighth grade and has more than 300 students, said that about 15 teachers from the school participated in the BJE-organized professional education seminars.

These teachers and those from other BJE schools learned of Responsive Classroom's guiding principles, which include recognizing the importance of the social curriculum and understanding that the greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction. They studied additional concepts, such as engaging their students' families as partners.

Raskin said that as teachers use the Responsive Classroom approach of academic choice, students become more engaged in their own learning. The balanced and consistent nature of Responsive Classroom allows "for all learning, secular and Judaic, to stay alive throughout the whole day."

In addition, she said, the morning meeting framework allows for a smooth transition into the day. "As a result, teachers say they are able to understand their students better and engage them more fully. Thus, students are able to accomplish more learning," Raskin said.

Gabay, for one, had the families of her students contribute to the class' mitzvah tree by writing down on a leaf the good deeds their child had performed. When the tree became full – about the time of Shavuot (the Festival of Weeks) – the class learned about the holiday's nature-related concepts and celebrated with a party in a nearby park with cupcakes that formed the shape of a tree.

"Change is good," Gabay said. "Things don't have to be done the same way they were 10 to 15 years ago."

Funding from private donors and the Jewish Federation is leveraged tenfold by enabling BJE to assist 21 schools, located within the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) boundaries, to access more than \$1 million in professional development and student academic support funds through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act administered by LAUSD (No Child Left Behind).

March of the Living

When Nicole Pampanin took part in BJE's March of the Living, she had no idea that it would influence her decisions to volunteer at an orphanage in Ghana and eventually work for the Peace Corps in Madagascar.

This BJE experience "was one of my first international trips and definitely opened my eyes to the fact that there was more to the world than the San Fernando Valley, where I was born and raised," said Nicole, who will serve in the African island nation until 2014.

Each year, BJE invites Jewish teens – as well as Holocaust survivors – from across the Los Angeles region to take part in the march from Auschwitz to Birkenau that serves as a silent tribute to all victims of the Holocaust, on Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

After spending a week in Poland visiting other sites of Nazi persecution; former centers of Jewish life and culture; and places of contemporary Jewish interest, participants travel to Israel the following week to celebrate Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day). In Poland, teens study the roots of prejudice, intolerance and hate; in Israel, they nurture a lifelong attachment to Judaism and the Jewish state.

Through BJE and the March of the Living, teens such as Nicole weave such profound events in Jewish history as the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel into their own personal connection to the Jewish people.



Nicole Pampanin with Paula Leibovics on the BJE March of the Living



Nicole Pampanin with English Club in Madagascar

Nicole was invigorated by seeing history first-hand, as well as by the relationships she forged. During her BJE March of the Living experience in 2007 she became close to Paula Leibovics, one of the Holocaust survivors on the trip, to whom Nicole refers as her "adoptive grandmother."

"She amazes me all the time with her sense of giving," said Leibovics, a survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau, whose feelings for Nicole are mutual. "She's my first 'adoptee'; I love her."

In addition, BJE works to ensure that the teens' experience continues after the flight home, with an alumni network and guidance in translating new insights into meaningful action.

Nicole, who created a Hillel chapter while at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon as well as studying abroad in Kenya and Tanzania, plans on spending her life "advocating for causes that are important to me and helping underprivileged children," adding, "I would love to continue traveling and experiencing all that this amazing world has to offer."

The 2013 BJE delegation included nine survivors and 161 teenagers, who joined 10,000 other Jewish teens from more than 40 countries in remembering the past, while marching toward the future.



(l. to r.) Jacob Nober, Micah Getzug, Nick Rivera and Jamie Klein on the 2013 BJE March of the Living

Nick Rivera deeply wanted to participate in the 2013 BJE March of the Living. To make his wish a reality, he held garage sales and raised other funds to supplement the scholarship he received from BJE and The Jewish Federation.

His fundraising proved so successful that he donated the excess income to help other teens take part in the March. Nick said the BJE program provided him with a fresh view of the worldwide Jewish community, represented by delegations from around the globe. "The survivors on the trip made the trip more real," he added. "We weren't visiting museums; the stories we heard on the trip made everything more real and more worth it."

Debbie Rivera, Nick's mother, said that her son's determination and eagerness to learn as well as the "amazing generosity of BJE" made the trip possible. Nick came away from the March "wanting to help and educate others and change the world," his mom said. "Thank you BJE for giving us this gift!"

Janet and Jake Farber



Photo by Bill Aron

“My grandparents exemplify what it is to take an active role in one’s education, that is, to seek out education rather than let it find me,” said Max Farber, a grandson of Janet and Jake Farber and participant in the 2013 BJE March of the Living.

“You have to do as well as say.”

Janet and Jake Farber live by this core principle.

The Farbers, honorees for their ongoing service and dedication to Jewish education at BJE’s Gala December 15, 2013, have served as pillars of the Los Angeles Jewish community since the founding of the State of Israel. (The couple has since been to Israel more than 50 times.)

They embody the Jewish concept of *“le-dor va-dor,”* “for all generations,” through their deep ties with the Jewish community, as well as through the values they have instilled in their three children and eight grandchildren.

“We were both brought up that we always have to help others,” Janet said. While the Farbers, both native Angelenos, grew up under different circumstances – Jake was raised in an Orthodox household, while Janet lived in a Yiddish-speaking home that was less religious – they share a core commitment to giving back to the community.

“My parents are the quintessential philanthropic leaders in Jewish education. They have been incredible role models for my generation and my children’s generation,”
said Nadine Lavender, the Farbers’ eldest daughter.

Both also stressed that strengthening Jewish education helps to ensure Jewish continuity. Their longtime involvement with BJE is no accident; they fully appreciate that the organization serves Jewish schools of all denominations, and the Farbers support Jewish learning in its many expressions.

A sampling of the Farbers’ involvement: Janet is Past President of BJE and of Adat Ari El’s Sisterhood. She also has served as Past President and Campaign Chair of the Women’s Department of The Jewish Federation’s Valley Alliance and is a past Board member of the Federation. Currently Janet serves on the Valley Alliance Board. Meanwhile, Jake, who still goes to his business office several days a week, has served as Federation Chairman of the Board and Campaign Chair, Camp Ramah President, American Jewish University Board member, as well as Vice President of Adat Ari El, where he is an Honorary Lifetime Board member. Jake also currently serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Home for the Aging. Both Janet and Jake are strong supporters of AIPAC.

The children of these “tzedakah heroes” inherited their parents’ commitment to the Jewish community, and have contributed in their own unique ways. Nadine Lavender is Governing Board Chair of Adat Ari El Day School; Howard Farber is the Founding Board President and a current Board member of New Community Jewish High School; and Rochelle Cohen is incoming Chair of the Valley Alliance, among other positions.

All eight grandchildren take part in Jewish communal life, with Cohen’s eldest daughter, Maya, assuming an important professional role as Program Leader of BJE’s March of the Living.

Without a doubt, Janet and Jake have both inspired their own family and invigorated the Los Angeles Jewish community, for generations to come.

As Jake said, “When you’re a committed Jew, you must stay involved in the Jewish community to ensure Jewish continuity.”



BJE honored Marc Rohatiner, visionary and influential advocate for Jewish education, at its Gala, held January 17, 2013. Rohatiner, the immediate Past President of BJE, was instrumental in guiding the agency during its strategic planning process.

Also recognized were: The Marilyn and Kenneth Friedman Family Jewish Learning Community of Adat Ari El for its innovative use of digital game-based learning for Jewish education, and New Community Jewish High School for its accelerated achievement of Jim Joseph High School Affordability Initiative endowment benchmarks.



New Community Jewish High School Honorees: Betsy Berger, Scott Zimmerman, Elana Rimmon Zimmerman, Dr. Bruce Powell, Harold Masor with presenters from the Jim Joseph Foundation: Dr. Charles "Chip" Edelsberg and Dr. Sandra Edwards



Marc and Lynn Rohatiner



Adat Ari El Honorees: Christine Prell and Johannah Sohn with BJE presenter Phil Liff-Grieff



Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

BJE President Donna S. Nadel and her husband, Paul, graciously opened their home for a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta to thank members of BJE's donor societies. In addition to a sumptuous Mexican feast and live mariachi music, BJE donors enjoyed a photography exhibit and talk by Bill Aron, the renowned photographer of Jewish life worldwide. Rhea Coskey chaired the event.



From right: Donna S. Nadel, Bill Aron, Rhea Coskey, Gil Graff, Miriam Prum Hess



Photographer Bill Aron



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BJE gratefully acknowledges the essential support of the donors and organizations whose generosity enables BJE to provide ongoing services and programs to enhance quality, increase access and encourage participation in Jewish education.

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**BJE gratefully acknowledges the generosity of those that have made
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Greta Bayer	Renee & Phalen "Chuck" Hurewitz
Sandy & Max Candiotty	Rabbi Glenn Karonsky
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**BJE is grateful to be the recipient of generous
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Hyman Bolotin ^{z"l} *	Sydney M. Linden ^{z"l}
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 To discuss Legacy designation or Endowment opportunities at BJE,
 please contact Miriam Prum Hess, (323) 761-8334 or mprumhess@bjela.org.

z"l: of blessed memory

BUILDING DAY SCHOOL ENDOWMENTS

We acknowledge with appreciation donors
 who contributed funds between July 1, 2012 and
 June 30, 2013 to the Simha and Sara Lainer
 Day School Endowment Fund or to enable BJE to
 bring the Generations Program to Los Angeles.

Simha and Sara Lainer Day School Endowment Fund

is a joint project of BJE and
 The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles:

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Marnie & David Nagel

The Ziegler Family Trust

Generations LA

is a joint project of BJE, the Partnership
 for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE)
 and the AVI CHAI Foundation:

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Sheila & Aaron Leibovic

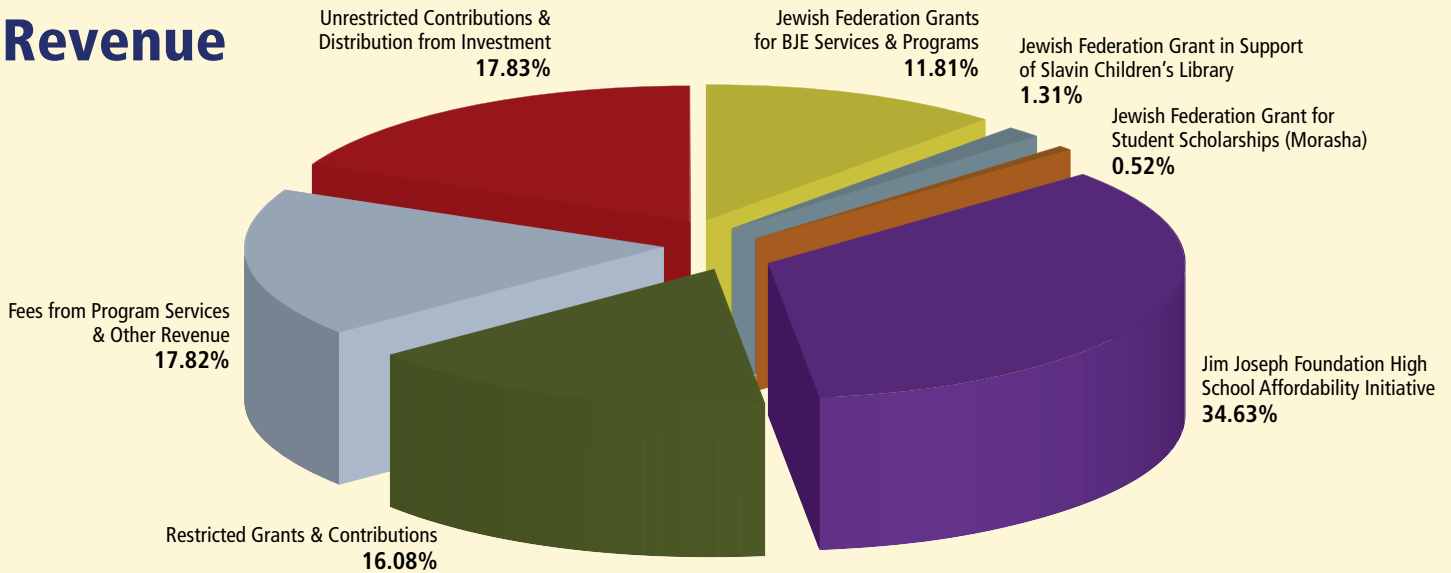
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Financials at a Glance

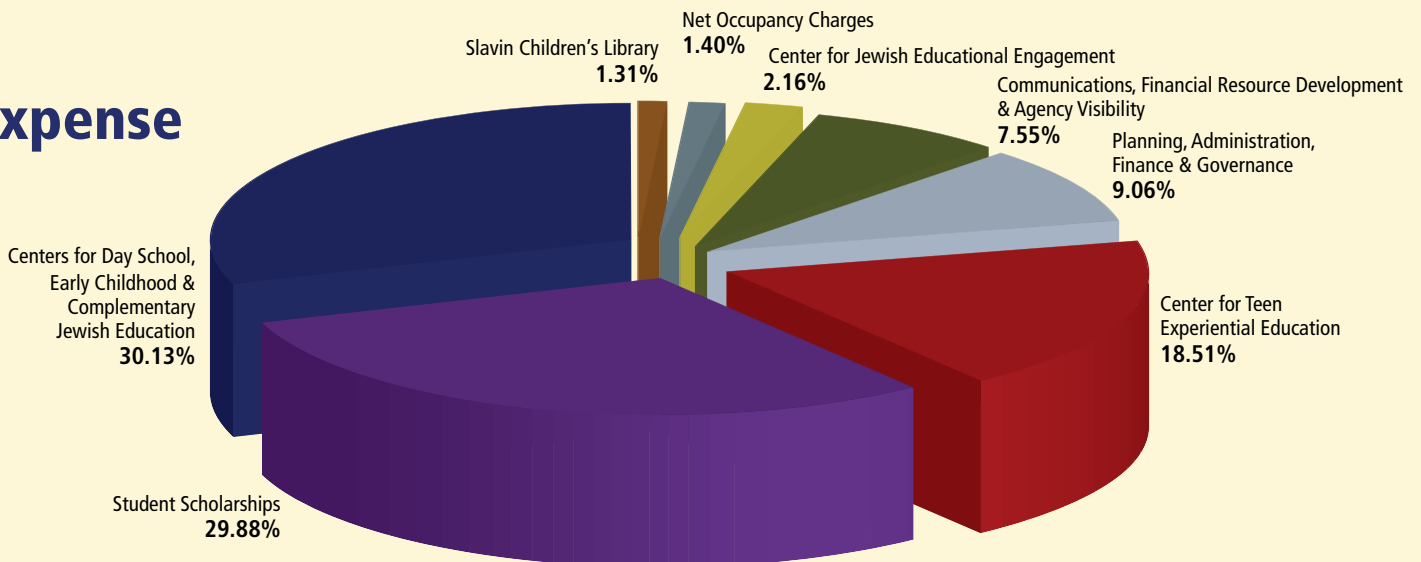
FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 (unaudited)

Revenue



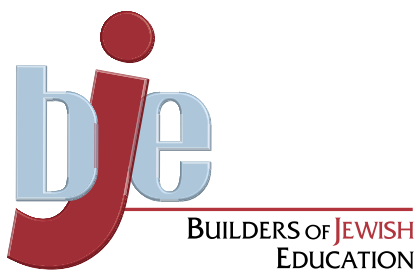
Jewish Federation Grants for 2012-2013 BJE Services & Programs	\$ 809,988
Jewish Federation Grant in Support of Slavin Children's Library	90,082
Jewish Federation Grant for Student Scholarships (Morasha)	36,000
Jim Joseph Foundation High School Affordability Initiative*	2,374,368
Restricted Grants & Contributions	1,102,677
Unrestricted Contributions & Distribution from Investment	1,222,856
Fees from Program Services & Other Revenue	1,221,668
TOTAL	\$6,857,639

Expense



Centers for Day School, Early Childhood & Complementary Jewish Education	\$2,065,958
Center for Teen Experiential Education	1,269,275
Center for Jewish Educational Engagement	148,292
Student Scholarships	2,049,050
Slavin Children's Library	90,082
Communications, Financial Resource Development & Agency Visibility	517,722
Planning, Administration, Finance & Governance	621,206
Net Occupancy Charges**	96,054
TOTAL	\$6,857,639

*In conjunction with The Jewish Federation **Net (Subvented) Rate for Occupancy at Jewish Federation's Goldsmith Center




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