

KEHILLAH FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2023/5783

Strength In Unity





Dear Kehillah:

The Kehillah Fund was founded with the conviction that every Jewish child, regardless of their circumstances, should have access to a high-quality Jewish education, rooted in the Torah's timeless values. We know that education is key to Jewish continuity and is critical to a thriving Jewish community in Chicago and beyond. It is the kehillah coming together that transforms this from an ideal into reality.

Kehillah Fund plays an important role in uniting our community around our shared belief in the transformational power of Jewish education. This was evident to every woman who attended The Symphony of Tefillos, a community-wide achdus event co-hosted by Women of Kehillah and the local chapter of Aneinu in November 2023. The Symphony of Tefillos brought together more than 700 women for tefillah and song. Now, more than ever, we need one another and can benefit from achdus.

My beloved husband, Dr. Yosef Walder z"l, epitomized several core values – humility, kindness, and giving to others with great joy. Kehillah Fund was one of his most cherished charitable causes because of his devotion to achdus and our organization's unique ability to garner the support of a broad spectrum of our community. Kehillah Fund offers its supporters a unifying mission: bolstering our entire community by strengthening the education of every child in the klal.

Thank you to all our ambassadors, donors, Women of Kehillah members and supporters for your generosity and commitment to providing the children in our community with an exceptional education. You each play an integral role in continuing Dr. Walder's legacy and ensuring that our community is dynamic and thriving.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Shira Malka) Walder
Board Chair

2023 AT A GLANCE

\$711,482

RAISED FROM THE
KEHILLAH

1,724

DONORS

771

DONORS GIVING 10+
YEARS CONSECUTIVELY

\$51.35

AVERAGE
MONTHLY GIFT

\$250

AVERAGE
ANNUAL GIFT

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



Dear Kehillah:

In late March, our Kehillah and Chicagoland lost a giant in Dr. Joseph Walder z”l, the visionary co-founder of Kehillah Fund. While I have the privilege to serve as Executive Director of Kehillah Fund and see the impact of Dr. Walder’s generosity up close, I have been reflecting on what a tremendously wide and deep impact he had the world over. He is truly an inspiration and role model for me and the Kehillah Fund team, motivating us to set our visions high in service to the community.

Dr. Walder intuitively understood that we, as individuals, can be part of something bigger. He understood the power of the kehillah coming together—unifying for a common purpose. This past year, I had the opportunity to participate in a few events that, for me, represented the largest gathering of communal Tehillim and the largest gathering of Jewish people that I had ever attended. These noteworthy experiences served as an important reminder that we are all part of something bigger. Coming together is a powerful action, and uniting in this way fortified me and helped me feel connected to Klal Yisroel.

So too, the Kehillah Fund personifies our strength in unity, allowing us to view our contributions as part of something bigger than ourselves. As you look through this report, you will see glimpses of our kehillah, with impact that transcends the individual. Through growth and unity as a kehillah, we’re building a sustainable, stronger future for us and our children. Thank you for your dedication to Jewish education and your ongoing generosity.

With gratitude,

Max Dayan
Executive Director

\$970K TOTAL DISTRIBUTED

Kehillah Fund allocated nearly \$1 million to our schools in 2023 through three primary funds:

\$840K GENERAL FUND

RELIABLE MONTHLY DISTRIBUTIONS PROVIDE A BASELINE OF SUPPORT FOR OUR SCHOOLS. FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED BASED ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE.

\$70K ACHDUS FUND

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BRIDGE THE GAP IN OUR SCHOOLS FOR FAMILIES WHO COULD NOT AFFORD TO MEET THEIR TUITION COMMITMENTS. FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED PER REQUEST TO EACH SCHOOL ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

\$60K RESOURCE FUND

SUPPLEMENTAL AID TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH SPECIALIZED LEARNING NEEDS. FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED BASED ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE.

11

KEHILLAH FUND SCHOOLS

Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School
 Arie Crown Hebrew Day School
 Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School
 Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School
 JCFS Knapp Yeshiva
 Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov-Yeshivas Tiferes Tzvi
 Keshet
 REACH
 Shaarei Chinuch Day School
 Torah Academy of Buffalo Grove
 Yeshiva Ohr Boruch

853

TEACHERS AND STAFF

3,273

STUDENTS

"As parents who didn't have the opportunity to attend Jewish day school ourselves, we deeply understand the transformative power of a Jewish education. It inspires us to see Kehillah Fund dedicated to ensuring that every child who desires a Jewish day school education has the opportunity to receive one."

-Ramesh & Daniel Soleymani,
 Kehillah Fund Ambassadors

OUR
SCHOOLS

For 20 years, Kehillah Fund has partnered with Orthodox, K-8 day schools across Chicagoland, helping these outstanding institutions maximize their impact. Education is fundamental to the Jewish future. Today's well-prepared, happy, and engaged children are tomorrow's leaders. The Kehillah Fund provides fundamental resources that form the backbone of daily school operations. From funding essential utilities to supporting staff salaries, Kehillah Fund helps schools focus on what matters most: Providing quality education to every student.






Hillel Torah
NORTH SUBURBAN DAY SCHOOL
בית ספר הלל תורה



 **TORAH**
ACADEMY


Shomrei Mishneh Day School

KNAPP
SCHOOL
& YESHIVA

JCFS
CHICAGO


REACH
CHICAGO


Keshet
Forever Growing

700+

**WOMEN ATTENDED SYMPHONY
OF TEFILLOS, A WOMEN OF
KEHILLAH EVENT**



WOMEN OF KEHILLAH

Launched in 2023, Women of Kehillah, a special initiative of Kehillah Fund, is led by a diverse group of women representing the breadth of our community. Aimed at crafting unique programs for our school communities, Women of Kehillah functions like a communal PTA, offering women opportunities for involvement in the unifying work of Kehillah Fund.

The Women of Kehillah Steering Committee identified initiatives to enhance the work of our schools and to benefit our teachers, students, and the broader community. The first initiative, chosen with thought for our dedicated teachers and staff to enjoy, was a gift for the teachers' lounge – a countertop ice machine. It was personally delivered with care and a message of hakoros hatov. Each school expressed appreciation, truly cherishing the thought behind the unexpected gift.

The second was a community-wide achdus event for women, co-hosted with the local chapter of Aneinu. It was a tremendous success with over 700 women in attendance. The evening, aptly titled *Symphony of Tefillos*, brought women together from the breadth of our community for tefillah and song focusing on our children, our brothers and sisters in Israel, and Klal Yisroel. One event participant described the event as, “a magnificent, exquisite, inspiring evening,” a sentiment shared by many.



“Through my involvement in Women of Kehillah, I have befriended others from our broad community who are equally committed to supporting Jewish education and strengthening our community. Kehillah Fund has always stood for achdus, uniting us around Jewish education—supporting our future.”

–Miriam Gersten, Women of Kehillah Steering Committee Member



2. MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT

Make a difference by making a one-time donation at kehillahfund.org/onetimegift



1. BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Giving monthly is the best way to support our kehillah. Schedule your monthly gift at kehillahfund.org/monthly



3. LEARN ABOUT OTHER GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

Life insurance, real estate, stock gifts, will gifting and other tax strategies are available at kehillahfund.org/plannedgiving



4. SPONSOR A DAY OF LEARNING

Honor a loved one, a parent, teacher or leader, commemorate a yartzeit, add significance to a simcha, or create a zechus for one's refuah. Learn more at kehillahfund.org/dayoflearning



5. MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT THROUGH AN EMPLOYER MATCH PROGRAM

Many employers match employees' charitable contributions. Gifts from spouses and retirees may also qualify for a match. Visit kehillahfund.org/employermatch



6. GIVE A CORPORATE GIFT

Learn how your business can show support for our community through a gift to the Kehillah Fund at kehillahfund.org/corporategiving



7. WRITE A CHECK

We also welcome gifts by check to Kehillah Fund, 5215 Old Orchard Road, Suite 450, Skokie, IL 60077. All donations are tax-deductible.



8. GIVE FROM YOUR DAF

You can donate to Kehillah Fund from your donor-advised fund (DAF). You may need to search for us in the DAF database using our full legal name, Kehillah Jewish Education Fund or using our EIN 26-3948613.



To learn more, visit kehillahfund.org/donate, call 224.470.2927 or email Max Dayan, Executive Director, at mdayan@kehillahfund.org.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Walder

FOUNDERS

"It's important for the whole community to support Torah education and the Kehillah Fund enables that support to be broad-based. We are grateful to be a part of this communal effort by being monthly donors to Kehillah Fund."

-Shifra & Yitzchok Kolsky, Kehillah Fund Ambassadors

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KEHILLAHFUND.ORG



Kehillah Jewish Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
EIN 26-3948613. All donations are tax deductible.

