

COMMUNITY WISH LIST 2023

Make Your Community's Wishes a Reality

Check out The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



Check out our Community Wish List, which highlights activities that allow our community to continue to connect and develop. You can help make wishes come true for our community by partially or fully funding these programs!

YOUTH AND JEWISH LIFE

Jewish Immersive Experiences

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) is a teen-led, staff-empowered youth leadership movement that allows Jewish teens to form meaningful peer connections resulting in lifelong Jewish engagement. BBYO Connecticut Valley Region offers a robust menu of experiences for teens to form meaningful friendships, hone their leadership skills, and participate in Jewish rituals in highly social environments. The most well attended and widely implemented gathering moments are weekend retreats, known in BBYO as regional conventions. These conventions typically take place at hotels during the weekend, engaging hundreds of Jewish teens. What makes regional conventions special is that teens take the lead on planning and implementation, working months in advance to create Shabbat experiences, design engaging and innovative programming, and build other unique experiences including sports tournaments and spirit competitions. Specific speakers to be contracted in the coming year include Holocaust survivors, Israeli art and cultural guides, entrepreneurs, and experts on antisemitism and inclusion.

\$3,600

Chuppah (Chapel)

Camp Laurelwood

Camp Laurelwood seeks funding for seating and facility upgrades to its Chuppah (camp chapel) that is used for Shabbat services. This is a space where campers come together weekly to mark the end of the week as a community.

\$3,500

Hebrew/English Signage

Camp Laurelwood

Camp Laurelwood seeks funding for English and Hebrew signs around campus. The signage would allow camp to enhance its space, instruct campers in Hebrew vocabulary, and increase overall security.

\$2,000



EDUCATION FOR JEWISH YOUTH



Innovation Lab

Ezra Academy

Ezra Academy seeks funding for the construction of its new Innovation Lab. The planned Ezra Innovation Lab will include a reworking of its current maker-space to add film and recording equipment, audiovisual tools, and editing computer stations. Updating the woodworking stations and the addition of a metalworking station will make this an exciting space for student learning. To date, \$11,000 has been raised to fund this project, and construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

\$3,200

Field Trips and Special Programs

Ezra Academy

Ezra Academy seeks funding to expand on its field trip opportunities throughout the state of Connecticut and special programs at Ezra. Currently, major field trips are limited to upper school students in grades 5-8 and are paid for by the families of the students. Additional funding will provide more opportunities for K-8 students to explore different educational and historical experiences throughout the New Haven area and the state, as well as provide opportunities to host visitors and special programs in the classrooms.

\$3,000

JEWISH SPIRITUAL LIFE

Eruv

Jewish Community of Milford

The Jewish community of Milford seeks funding for an eruv, a boundary that enables Jewish compliance with the mitzvah (commandment) of not carrying during Shabbat. The Woodmont Jewish community is a vibrant and growing community, and it has a continuing growth trajectory as well as a warm and welcoming atmosphere for a membership with a wide range of religious observance. The installment and upkeep of an eruv would demonstrably broaden the Jewish community of Milford.

\$3,600

Eruv Programming and Outreach

Jewish Community of Milford

In conjunction with the Milford eruv, there is a need for programming to educate the community on the eruv and marketing to spread awareness of it. Information regarding the eruv is intended to reach existing members and the as-yet-untapped local and distant Jewish population. Funding is requested for dissemination of information, publicity, social media, and publications to spark greater interest, membership, and outreach.

\$3,600



CEMETERIES

Walkway Repair

Jewish Cemetery Association

The Jewish Cemetery Association has an immediate need to repair distressed and unsafe walkways at some of its cemeteries. Repaired walkways will allow visitors to navigate the cemetery safely and will enhance the overall appearance of the cemetery. The funds will allow the Jewish Cemetery Association to continue its mission to provide a decent and dignified final resting place for the deceased (Kevod Ha Met).

\$3,500

Tree Work

Jewish Cemetery Association

The Jewish Cemetery Association has an immediate need for funding to clear out overgrowth and tree limbs. This will help to mitigate falling, shifting, and sinking headstones and footstones, thus restoring honor and dignity to the cemeteries.

\$2,700

Headstones

Hebrew Burial and Free Loan Association

Hebrew Burial and Free Loan Association of New Haven provides graves for those in the Greater New Haven Jewish community whose families cannot afford the cost of traditional burial and for those who have no families or next of kin. Stonemakers provide headstones at a reduced rate of \$625, but some families cannot afford even that cost. Help provide headstones for 5 graves that are currently unmarked or marked only with a plastic temporary marker.

\$3,125

WOMEN IN NEED

Women's Philanthropy

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Women's Philanthropy, a division of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, seeks funding for its Dignity Grows program, which provides tote bags filled with a one-month supply of feminine hygiene products to women in need. These totes cost \$10/tote/month. On average, 300 bags are distributed each month in the local Greater New Haven community through partners such as Jewish Family Service Food Pantry, Gateway Community College, and CT Foodshare. 100% of all donations to this program are put directly into tote bags and the supplies provided in the bags.

\$3,600

(360 tote bags; \$120 funds monthly bags for 1 woman for an entire year)

JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Membership Scholarships

Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven

The JCC of Greater New Haven seeks funding to provide membership scholarships for constituents in the Greater New Haven area who wish to enjoy JCC programs and services but are in need of financial assistance in order to participate. The charge for a single adult membership is \$588/year. A family membership is \$1008/year. There are several other levels of membership as well.

\$ Based on Membership Level



THE ELDERLY AND JEWISH LIFE

Torah Covers

The Towers at Tower Lane

The Towers, an affordable older adult community founded by the Jewish community in New Haven, seeks funding for Torah Covers for its new synagogue. The synagogue is the heartbeat of the community, hosting weekly services and holidays. The new synagogue will feature a beautiful new Ark, and the Torahs must be dressed beautifully and respectfully.

\$3,600

Accessible Bima

The Towers at Tower Lane

The Towers seeks funding for a handicapped accessible Bima (platform) in its new synagogue for those who are wheelchair bound, but who would still like to read from the Torah. The mechanism to raise and lower the Bima does not require electricity. The synagogue is the heartbeat of the community, hosting weekly services and holidays.

\$3,600

MENTAL WELLNESS

Wellness Space

UConn Hillel

UConn Hillel seeks funding to create a Wellness Space in its existing building. Building on the success of the current Wellness Pop-Up program, UConn Hillel intends to create a permanent space for students to engage in multi-sensory self-care and to take private Zoom appointments with their mental healthcare providers. With students reporting high rates of anxiety and stress, there is a demonstrable need for such a space, and other Hillel Houses that have instituted a Wellness Space have reported high rates of usage and student satisfaction. The funds will support the refurbishment of an existing space (minor room renovations and painting) as well as the purchase of furniture (bean bag chairs and warm lighting).

\$2,750

JEWISH UNIVERSITY LIFE

Student Book Club

UConn Hillel

UConn Hillel seeks funding to establish a Jewish student community book club. Composed of 12–15 students, the book club will meet three times per semester to discuss books on a wide range of topics related to Jewish culture and identity. Students at UConn Hillel would like to establish this club to build community and engage in thoughtful literary conversation. The funds will support the purchase of books and food for club meetings.

\$1,000

JEWISH HISTORY

Exhibits

Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven seeks funding for renewed outreach efforts to make its collections more accessible and visible to the community. The collections hold archival material, audiovisual recordings, oral histories, museum objects, and library books that document Jewish culture, institutions, organizations, families, and people in Greater New Haven and their shared history. Costs for this outreach include printing and framing costs, display easels, a traveling display case, and event and promotional materials.

\$2,000



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven
360 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525
www.jewishnewhaven.org
203-387-2424, ext. 316

Jewish New Haven Community Wish List | Updated April 2023

This newsletter highlights current and future activities from Jewish organizations in Greater New Haven that are in need of funding. By funding these activities—either fully or partially—you can help keep our community strong and vibrant. Thank you for your support! If you have a donor-advised fund at the Jewish Foundation you can use that to help fund this community's needs.