

# THE FUTURE STARTS WITH YOU

Your JCC is touching the lives of many on a daily basis. Read these inspiring stories to learn more about some of the ways that the JCC is making waves in our community.

**YOU** make the difference for the JCC! Thank you for supporting the JCC of Greater Albuquerque. Each donation makes a difference! **YOU** enable us to continue offering the high-quality programming we are known for in Albuquerque. In addition, due to your generosity, we can offer new and innovative programs that engage new individuals and families.

Your donations impact our community all year long, from a record-breaking summer camp to vibrant programming for our youngest newborns to our oldest adults. Together, we have been able to kindle and cultivate friendships, celebrate Jewish traditions, and strengthen the Jewish and greater community.

Your support ensures we can serve everyone in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. Your support ensures we will have a thriving future at our amazing JCC. I am looking forward to the Jewish New Year of 5783 with strength and optimism!

Shanah Tovah! Happy New Year!  
Shelly Prant, JCC CEO



## A POSITIVE IMPACT



If you've been a part of the JCC family for a while, chances are you have met Kenny. He is definitely one of the standout friendly "faces" of the J.

**Ken "Kenny" Lewis** is a jack-of-all-trades on the JCC campus. Not only is he the JCC Athletics & Leagues Director, he is also a member of the staff-on-duty security team, and a regular referee in both our basketball and volleyball leagues.



*Kenny making the J brighter, one smile at a time*

In early 2022 Kenny ran a youth Basketball 101 clinic for several weeks. Class participant Jude was hesitant coming into the first class. Jude's dad Jeret tried to calm his nerves and coax him into the gym, but Jude still wasn't sure.

Kenny noticed Jude's reluctance right away and quickly stepped in to help. Kenny charmed Jude into joining him one-on-one to practice passing while the rest of the class went through their warm-ups. While they worked on chest and bounce passes, Kenny joked around with Jude and eventually got him to crack a smile. After a few minutes of this, Jude began to relax a bit.

By the end of that first class, Jude was participating and having fun. Over the course of the program, Kenny noticed that not only did Jude continue to come back, but was often first through the door. Jeret told Kenny he was blown away by the change in Jude's enthusiasm after he overcame those first-day jitters.

*These are the types of connections and the positive impact we strive for at the JCC. Thanks, Kenny, for truly embodying our values and mission in the work you do here at the J!*



# STRENGTH ON WHEELS

**Will Schnurnberger and his parents, Howard and Esther,** have been members of the JCC for almost 15 years. Will was just a teenager when his family joined in 2008. His family's interest in the JCC was motivated by the pool, but in the years that have followed, they have enjoyed and benefited from the J in countless ways.

Will, now 30, lives with cerebral palsy. His condition has affected his mobility, and he uses a wheelchair to get from place to place. Swimming and strength training at the J have been an integral part of Will's routine, helping him to build and maintain his strength and overall well-being. As one of Will's main physical supporters, Howard also maintains a strict training schedule at the J.

Will has consistently worked with JCC head trainer **Josh Wichner** for many years, with a focus on strengthening his core to keep him upright in his chair. During the summers, he also spends a lot of time in the pool. Years ago, former JCC swim instructor **Liz Reid** taught Will to swim the entire length of the pool, a feat that both he and his family were thrilled he could achieve.

*Esther recalled, "He started to learn he could move in the pool in ways he couldn't move out in the world. I think it was really a game-changer for him."*

Beyond exercise, Will and his parents have appreciated the sense of community here. *"It's like a second family to me," Will said, smiling. "I have a lot of friends there. I'm always making friends with somebody over there."*

Howard, who accompanies him to his weekly training sessions, echoed Will's remarks. *"The JCC is a place not only for exercise, but also for friends, support, a source of social interaction – everyone knows us and stops to say hi. Will's friends include not only the*



*Howard and Will in the JCC's weight room*

*members, but also the staff. The staff at the JCC have been wonderful to us throughout the years."*

Will and Howard have especially enjoyed connections with a few members and staff in particular. The two connected with JCC member **Brandon Ahrens**, who hosts a local Laurel & Hardy fan club in town that they both enjoy. Will talked about how cool it was to meet former Lady Lobos basketball coach and current JCC member, **Don Flanagan**. Howard plays golf every Wednesday with JCC trainers **Josh Wichner** and **Chris Blackwell**.

*"The J has been attractive to us for lots of reasons," Howard said. "You see the entire age spectrum at the J. It feels welcoming and diverse. It's not at all an intimidating place."*

*"I just want to thank everyone over at the J," said Will. "Thanks for saying 'What's Up' even if I'm not having the greatest of days. I thank everyone for always being such a great support group."*

# EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jewish Care Program (JCP) is moving under the umbrella of the JCC of Greater Albuquerque! The JCP is dedicated to the well-being of our most vulnerable community members, moving them from isolation to connection. The program will continue to provide all the same important Senior & Adult Services, Emotional & Spiritual Support, and Information & Assistance. Services are available to all at no charge. The JCP is dependent on donations to thrive and grow. Your support will provide critical services to members of the community in need. Donations in support of JCP should now be made payable to the JCC of Greater Albuquerque and are 100% tax deductible. If you or someone you know is in need of JCP's services, please contact Jen Dennis at 505-348-4443. For info regarding contributions contact Emily Blaugrund Fox at 505-418-4471 or emilyf@jccabq.org.

## VALUABLE CONNECTIONS

**Harriett Wolf** is no stranger to the JCC. At 90 years old, she has been a part of JCCs throughout her lifetime. Born and raised in Chicago, IL, Harriett worked for several years as the very first full-time summer camp administrator for JCC Chicago in her early 20s. Now, years later, she has found her new community right here at the JCC of Greater Albuquerque.

Harriett and her husband Irv moved to Las Cruces, NM as retirees in 1987, and lived there for close to 35 years before he passed away in 2017. Three years ago, Harriett moved to Albuquerque to be closer to her son David and his family.

**Phyllis Wolf**, Harriett's daughter-in-law, has her own deep connection to the JCC – she has worked as the Chief Programs Officer here for close to 20 years. When Harriett moved to Albuquerque, Phyllis encouraged her to get involved in the robust programming available to seniors here at our JCC.

*"The JCC has opened many doors for me," Harriet said. "At my age, it's very difficult to meet new people and to integrate yourself into their groups. It's hard when there's history, and you come in brand-new. Everyone here on Wednesdays (at Connect 60+ Lunch & Learn) and in the Memoir Writing group has been wonderful."*

She is now visiting several days a week, attending the Fit 2 Move senior exercise classes, Connect 60+ lunch programming, the Memoir Writing group, and most recently, aqua fitness classes. She has also enjoyed



Harriett making Hamantaschen at the Connect 60+ Purim event

many of the special programs & events including Mah-Jongg, Passover Seder, and Bagels & Jazz.

The Memoir Writing group holds a special place in Harriett's heart. *"The people I've met here are very interesting. I gravitate to being around them and I'm very interested in hearing their stories – they fascinate me."* Several of the ladies from this group became fast friends and now regularly meet outside of the JCC to socialize and enjoy lunch together.

Harriett says she is now looking to the future with great anticipation, thanks in great part to the JCC. *"I don't want to be dramatic and say that the JCC has saved my life... but in a way, it has. The J has become an important part of my life, provided me with weekly enrichment and new friends who have welcomed me, and for that I am very grateful."*



# 8.3 Acres and Beyond

Every Day. Every Week. Every Month. Every Year.



Donate Now!

*Your gift to the JCC creates a place for Children, Families, Adults, Retired Seniors, and everyone in between which is: Welcoming. Generous. Safe. Healthy. Stimulating. Engaging. Fun. Nourishing. Professional. Caring. Valued.*

Your gift supports JCC programs and outreach including scholarships for membership, **Family Enrichment Center preschool & summer camp programs**; engaging programming for seniors; **Tikkun Olam** (“repairing the world”) projects; **ACE** (Arts, Culture & Education) programming, both virtual and in-person in these ever-changing times; stimulating children’s programming; food, clothing & supplies for various charitable organizations in our community; and so much more.

Your gift maintains a space rich with beautiful stories and experiences. Experiences like that of member Sheri Miller, who wrote this kind note of appreciation in reference to our personal trainer, Daniel.

*“I hope everyone at the JCC is doing well. I have not had my Dad in for a few weeks now for personal training with Daniel because he has been hospitalized. He is doing better and has spent about three weeks in a rehab hospital. I wanted to let you know how kind Daniel has been through all this. He has sent me texts just to check in and see how my dad is doing. He has cheered along with me as my dad has made progress. The PT/OT at the rehab hospital commended the work Daniel has done with my dad for the last 10 months. My dad learned some good habits and best practices from Daniel and displayed those in his therapy sessions. My dad is set to be discharged back home this Friday and Daniel and I already have a time slot set up for a training session for him next week. As you know, my dad has MS. He is never going to get better, we are just trying to slow down the progression of deterioration by keeping him active. Daniel is doing a first class job helping with that objective.”*



**Life & Legacy** is a program dedicated to ensuring YOUR JCC is here Every Day, Every Week, Every Month, Every Year for generations to come.

Please contact Emily Blaugrund Fox (505-418-4471 or [emilyf@jccabq.org](mailto:emilyf@jccabq.org)) to discuss how you can become a member of the **Life & Legacy** program through your estate plan.

Please return the enclosed mailer with your gift to the JCC. Give online by scanning the QR code above or visit [jccabq.org/donate](http://jccabq.org/donate). Donations can be made via phone at 505-418-4471.

**Double your gifts NOW!** Your gifts will be directed to the J-Forward fund with a 1:1 match thanks to a very generous anonymous donor.