

Dear JCC supporters,

Hope and the ability to see a better future is the underlying strength of Judaism and what drives the JCC of Greater Albuquerque. This outlook is especially important now, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues longer than we ever anticipated.

At the JCC, we provide excellent programs that touch so many and span the entire life cycle. We provide meaningful experiences and the opportunity for engagement of individuals and families.

We are grateful for your generous gifts that have enabled these impactful programs to continue, even during a pandemic. As we launch new programs and plan for a thriving future, we hope you will continue to support the JCC.

We encourage you to connect, participate, and help us celebrate each other and our amazing JCC! You can create and be a part of our exciting future!



Thank you.

Shelly Prant, JCC CEO

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.

Shining Light In Dark Times

We've all heard of (or played) the children's game, Cops & Robbers. Robbers try to "steal" from Cops, while Cops try to tag Robbers and send them to "jail." For one child who participated in a JCC-provided physical education series this summer, jail isn't just a fun make-believe idea used in a game of tag. To him, jail is prison, where his father currently resides after being arrested for stealing.

The JCC has been providing safe, enriching and fun experiences for children enrolled in APS's McKinney-Vento Homeless program (formerly known as the Title 1 program) for close to 10 years. Children who qualify for

this program are homeless, or are living in non-traditional settings due to economic hardship. During the summer of 2020 a dedicated group of JCC staff visited the McKinney-Vento program daily for two weeks, providing a fun and engaging physical education series. They played games, learned the importance of exercise and caring for our bodies, and most importantly, had a blast! Over the course of the program, JCC staff gained trust and created special bonds with the children.

Other projects completed for McKinney-Vento throughout the years include summer pool parties with BBQ lunch at the JCC's beautiful pool; career days filled with inspiring and informative lectures from professionals in the Albuquerque community; holiday gift drives; school supply drives; and a weekly after-school fitness program.



Fitness Director Susanna Pier and Childcare Director Amber Houghton hold up thank you cards from the McKinney-Vento kids



Real-Life Inspiration



Pe'er Koreh and his family are long time members of the JCC. In fact, the Koreh family has been around since the JCC opened its doors over 20 years ago, shortly after their move to Albuquerque from Israel. All 4 of the Koreh children attended the Solomon Schechter Day School.

Pe'er (which means "beautiful" in Hebrew), is now a high-functioning 33-year-old autistic man. If you've ever been on the JCC's fitness floor when he's in the building, you probably know him. Pe'er is a towering 6 feet 3 inches tall, 250lbs, and as social and friendly as can be.

Over the last 7+ years, Pe'er has worked out weekly with JCC head trainer Josh, and sometimes on his own. Pe'er is focused, disciplined, and a rule-follower. Because of this, he has become incredibly strong and very dedicated to his fitness routine, mastering difficult exercises including a one-handed hand-stand. Pe'er is

a two-time JCC Samson Challenge competitor, and in 2019 received the award for "Most Inspirational Athlete." He also loves to help other weight-lifters by spotting them on their lifts.

"The J provides a social life for Pe'er," his mother Karen says. "He has more friends than I do!"

Although Karen also exercises at the JCC, she intentionally comes separately from her son. She has trust in the JCC and its staff, and feels it is a safe place for him to build his own trust and independence. For this adult man, who in many ways is still quite child-like, the JCC is like a second home, providing a sense of belonging that his mother believes he wouldn't find anywhere else.

"You simply can't buy what the JCC and their staff give to him. At the JCC, Pe'er is just one of the guys," Karen says.



Pe'er competed as a Jock-level athlete in this year's Samson Challenge, held Sept. 26, 2021

Kindness Provides Strength

In 2016, JCC member Marci Powers was diagnosed with Central Nervous System Lymphoma. Prior to Marci's diagnosis, she was incredibly weak and dizzy, could hardly walk without falling, and at her worst weighed 90 lbs. During diagnosis and treatment, Marci spent 77 days hospitalized.

The year of her diagnosis, the JCC's annual Passover Seder featured a Native American guest speaker. During his talk, he gave out healing feathers accompanied by a story detailing how they are to be returned to Mother Earth. Dave Simon (the JCC's CEO at the time) took one of the healing feathers to Marci's home.

Once treatment concluded, Marci felt trepidation in returning to the JCC again due to being weak and lacking coordination and confidence. She didn't know where to begin to return to fitness. She sought out the help of JCC fitness director and personal



Marci releasing her feather into the Florida Gulf

trainer Susanna Pier, who slowly helped Marci to build back her strength, coordination and confidence. Within two years, Marci felt strong enough to compete in the JCC's Samson Challenge with Susanna's encouragement. The goal was to finish the challenge. Much to her surprise, she placed second in her age group.

During a break in her treatments, Marci took a vacation with the healing feather that she had received from Dave, returning it to Mother Earth in the Florida Gulf.

Five years later, Marci is in complete remission and has a new lease on life. She still talks freely about the fellowship and support that the JCC provided during one of the most difficult times in her life. She believes the warmth and kindness of the JCC during her illness and recovery made a difference in her quality of life physically and emotionally.

"You feel a great sense of community at the JCC," Marci said.

Announcement: Gifts Seed New Initiative Jewish Engagement for Youth & Young Families

Our new Youth & Family Engagement director will plan fun, engaging and creative activities for children, families and adults. This will include holiday celebrations for families; youth leadership training; a new 10-day to two-week overnight camp planned to begin Summer 2023; in-house workshops; and programs for breaks from school at the JCC.

This position holds four main goals: To build Jewish identity. To create connections between Israel & the Greater Albuquerque Jewish Community. To Ensure the JCC's presence for generations to come. To inspire Jewish leaders of today and tomorrow.

"Our goal in giving significant leadership gifts is to inspire others to support the future of the Jewish community. Engaging our young people and families will ensure a bright future for us all." Harold & Carole Albert Family, Helen Grevey and Marianne Grevey Fisher

8.3 Acres and Beyond

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

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. The mother of a young family said of the JCC, “I love coming to the J because everyone is welcoming. It is truly inclusive to all. It is a place where you see diversity among both the membership and the staff. We feel comfortable here – it feels like family.”



Donate Now!



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 (505-332-0565 x4450 or 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. Donations can be made via phone at 505-332-0565 x4450.

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.

YES! I want to support ALL programs
of the JCC. Please use my gift to
continue to IMPROVE LIVES!

\$25

\$50

\$100

Other



Donate Now!

