Touching Lives, Transforming Communities

There is a single Jewish world:
INTERTWINED, INTERCONNECTED. — RALPH J. GOLDMAN

העולם היהודי — אחד הוא: חלקי שורים זה בה תרבועי גמולו וחלו ההדיית

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

2006 ANNUAL REPORT WITH 2007 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
enabling individuals and Communities to thrive

Working with the MATI SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, the TEVET EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE has developed customized programs to help move ISRAELIS of all stripes from dependency to self-sufficiency, while the ARIEL JOB AND BUSINESS CENTER IN ARGENTINA helped community members regain their financial equilibrium in the face of that country’s recent economic crisis.

(Photos: Debbi Cooper; Luis Tomasdy)
An action-packed four-day camp at the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center in Mumbai, India, enabled these children to learn about Jewish heroes—and make them their own. (Photo: Erin Boed)
At the newly opened YESOD JEWISH COMMUNITY HOME in St. Petersburg, Russia, children learn to celebrate Sukkot and other Jewish holidays. (Photo: JDC)
In Uzbekistan and throughout the FSU, the JDC CHILDREN’S INITIATIVE is working to alleviate the symptoms and tackle the root causes that place Jewish children and their families at risk. (Photo: James Nuhite)
The 201 HESED WELFARE CENTERS established in the FSU with JDC’s help are collectively serving over 220,000 aging and vulnerable Jews, helping to ease the pangs of hunger, promoting health and dignity, and providing nourishment for body and soul. (Photo: Vadim Lex)
During last summer’s war in Lebanon, youngsters in the northern Galilee living under constant threat of rocket attacks got a much-needed respite from tension at the RONALD S. LAUDER FOUNDATION/JDC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP IN SZARVAS, HUNGARY. (Photo: László Müller)

helping Israel to alleviate suffering
Tens of thousands of Israelis are still feeling the impact of last summer’s conflict, and it has been especially hard on the children. With funding from the UJC/Federation Israel Emergency Campaign and in partnership with the Israeli government, this kindergarten-based ASHALIM PROGRAM is helping children regain their sense of confidence and control by making them responsible for their own “Hibuki,” a cuddly "Huggy Bear.” (Photo: Debbi Cooper)
In Ahangama, Sri Lanka, JDC’s Jewish Service Corps volunteer, Michal Strahilevitz, does the ribbon cutting honors at the Dharmarama Elementary School, which was rebuilt as part of JDC’s Tsunami Response Efforts. (Photo: JDC)
being a lifeline to the global community

The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village will offer a safe and nurturing environment to Rwandan orphans and serve as a springboard for cultivating a group of educated and motivated local leaders prepared to shape a brighter future for their country. (Photo: JDC)
As Israel marked its 59th birthday, JDC was presented with the highly-coveted Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Society and the State of Israel. The Jewish State’s highest civilian honor, the award is presented each year to individuals, and occasionally institutions, that have made outstanding contributions to Israeli society. (Photo: JDC)
Helping THE Jewish State remain a strong and compassionate NATION.
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JDC 2006 Annual Report with 2007 Program Highlights

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In August 1914, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., then U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, cabled Jacob Schiff, the New York philanthropist, asking for $50,000 for the relief of Palestinian Jews caught in the agony of World War I. The money was raised within a month, and in November, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) was established to channel funds being raised to aid Jews in Europe and Palestine by the Orthodox Central Committee for the Relief of Jews, the American Jewish Relief Committee, and the People’s Relief Committee.

Today, 93 years later, JDC still serves as the overseas arm of the organized North American Jewish community. On behalf of the UJC (United Jewish Communities)/Federation system, which provides our primary financial support, we sponsor programs of relief, rescue, and renewal and help Israel address its most urgent social challenges. Fulfilling our commitment to the idea that all Jews are responsible for one another, we address Jewish needs and aid Jews in need around the globe.

The number of people assisted by JDC since 1914 reaches into the millions, and we have had a presence at one time or another in over 85 countries. Today, we provide life-sustaining assistance to well over a quarter of a million impoverished Jews in the former Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe, even as we continue to help young and old rebuild Jewish communities and renew their Jewish heritage.

In Israel, we have responded to crisis-related needs while helping to enrich the lives of the country’s most vulnerable populations and improve the quality of services available to them. In Argentina, emergency assistance efforts provided critical aid to over 36,000 Jews during the height of that country’s recent economic crisis, while in various African and Asian countries, we enable small Jewish communities to maintain essential services and ensure a Jewish future for their youth. Through the “Open Mailbox” campaigns and our non-sectarian efforts, we provide a way for Jews to respond to disasters and furnish development assistance worldwide.

JDC today remains a vital instrument of North American Jewry. As the active, on-the-ground expert, we are reaching out to Jewish communities in distress and working to enhance Jewish lives and Jewish life in Israel and around the world.
Introduction / From the President

JUDGE ELLEN M. HELLER

Israel

The highlight of 2007 was JDC’s receipt of the highest honor given by the State of Israel—the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Society and the State. The panel of judges observed that “JDC-Israel is an organization motivated by a sense of mission and an unshakable commitment to advancing...the lives of Israeli citizens–Jews and non-Jews, religious and secular, new immigrants and veteran Israelis, from the weaker sectors of society.” The award of this prize to an American organization was without precedent. As an editorial in the Jewish Daily Forward observed, “In recognizing the Joint, Israel honors not only its social service sector but also its overlooked partnership with the Jewish Diaspora.”

The Israel Prize also constituted recognition of JDC’s continuous activities in this region since 1914. There is no greater example of the importance of JDC’s presence in Israel than the aid it rendered during last summer’s military crisis with Lebanon. Mobilizing within hours, JDC’s professional staff provided critical emergency assistance to the elderly and disabled and to families unable to leave the areas under attack. Within days, JDC-Israel was providing meals to those confined to their homes, distributing thousands of emergency kits to the north, and organizing young AMEN volunteers to pack family activity kits that were distributed in the shelters to bewildered children.

Steve and I led a small delegation of JDC Board members to the war zones. In the sweltering heat of summer, we observed the indispensable and heroic assistance JDC staff and volunteers were providing without regard for their own personal safety. JDC’s ability to aid Israel was a reaffirmation of the importance of our strong partnership with the North American Jewish Federation system, United Jewish Communities (UJC), and The Jewish Agency for Israel. We were able to respond as a team because we had a solid infrastructure of experienced personnel already in place—and because of the extraordinary generosity of North American Jews who contributed to the Israel Emergency Campaign. Together, we continue to create an even stronger Galilee and to assist those in the south still subject to Kassam rocket attacks.

Another precedent this year was the JDC Board meeting in Israel this past May. A recent Board survey declared it an overwhelming success, and there is already discussion of having another “on site” Board meeting.

Jewish Renewal

When JDC reentered the former Soviet Union (FSU), its primary objective was to reconnect the Jews in that vast region to their Jewish legacy. In October, the Board approved a resolution reaffirming JDC’s commitment to the Jewish Renewal programs that have been solidifying that “connection” and working to ensure a Jewish future in the FSU and in Central and Eastern Europe. Additional funding has given these renewal activities an expanded impact on young adults and Jewish families. For example, there were over 6,000 participants in the FSU family retreats program, through which entire families are immersed in a 10-day “Jewish laboratory” of culture and education. The 186 Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) now open in the FSU continue to provide varied programs for Jews of all ages and backgrounds, and the Hillel centers are playing an important role in the lives of young Jewish adults. While in Odessa recently, I joined over 500 Hillel members at a multilevel disco for an evening of fast-moving music and dance. The place was literally rocking!

In Central and Eastern Europe, renewal programs have been focusing on the “next generation.” Over 500 young adults attended the recent Weinberg Black Sea Gesher Institute and the Danube Weinberg Initiative, both of which were a great success. Promoting Jewish continuity, networking, and leadership, these programs will be joined next year by the latest JDC innovation—Jewish coffeehouses.

In March, at a gathering in Riga of young people attending three days of seminars on Jewish subjects, I learned how the JDC summer camp had given two of the participants the ability to reconnect to their Jewish roots. One young man had learned he was Jewish at the age of 22 after finding a menorah in the attic of his home. The other, a beautiful young woman, had been told by her maternal grandmother that she was Jewish when she was 14. Both of them were drawn to JDC activities to learn more about their heritage. During my visit, Riga had its first Purim Ball, a sold-out attraction with over 300 participants. That same week, a mini-Limmud at the JCC drew over 200 people. All this occurred one week after the Limmud Keshet conference in Vilnius, a grassroots study fest that attracted over 1,100 spirited attendees. The flame of Jewish life has been rekindled and must continue.
**Children**

JDC has continued to assist Jewish communities in identifying children who face recurring needs resulting from poverty, disabilities, and adverse family circumstances. In Paris in November 2006, JDC and others convened a three-day symposium on “Jewish Children in Need” that was attended by over 140 Jewish community child care providers and lay leaders from 22 countries. There are approximately 50,000 Jewish children in the FSU in need of assistance, many of whom live in terrible poverty and suffer from inadequate nutrition. In partnership with the local communities, JDC, through its Children’s Initiative, has developed model programs for 21,000 of these youngsters.

The importance of these programs was highlighted for me when I visited an impoverished family in Riga. Parents with their two young children lived in a small room on the top floor of a large state-owned apartment building. The family had no bathroom; they shared a toilet and kitchen with 20 other families. The father worked as a painter, while the mother, ill with tuberculosis, was unable to work. The children had problems with their immune systems and lacked normal interpersonal skills. With assistance from JDC, the community was giving medicines and hot lunches to the children and enabling them to attend Jewish school and camping activities. It was clear to me that the Children’s Initiative provides the only prospect that these children may one day have meaningful lives as Jewish adults.

**Jewish Elderly in the FSU**

Maintaining the life-sustaining support provided for the 220,000 impoverished, aging, and long-suffering Jews in the FSU is an ongoing JDC challenge. Those 115,000 who survived either concentration camps or the German occupation meet the criteria for restitution relief from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference), the Swiss Banks Settlement, and other restitution-related funds. The remaining 105,000 do not qualify as “Nazi victims” even though most incurred great suffering as a result of the war. Their food, health care, and other needs are contingent on support from the North American Federation system and other essential JDC partners. For the past 18 months, because of available funding from UJC’s Operation Promise campaign, JDC has been able to equalize the support given to these two groups of equally needy elderly Jews. That funding will cease in December 2007.

**The JDC World**

The Jewish world is flat. No barrier prevents the Jews of North America from coming to the assistance of Jews anywhere in the world. In fact, they have done so repeatedly through JDC. As JDC enters its 94th year, it is operating in over 66 countries. Its relief efforts in Latin America have helped Jewish communities in Argentina and Uruguay recover from financial crises. In October, I will attend the dedication of Buenos Aires’ new multifunctional campus for the elderly, Le Dor Va Dor—a symbol of the vitality of the 225,000 Jews in Argentina. We also continue our care for the remnant Jewish communities in Asia and Africa, especially the small, struggling community of Zimbabwe, where Steve and I met with the approximately 260 remaining Jews. The latest reports reveal critical shortages of food and medicines. JDC continues to monitor the situation in cooperation with the African Jewish Congress.

JDC also serves as the overseas arm of the North American Jewish community’s non-sectarian response to disasters and worldwide development needs. The number of such non-sectarian programs is growing. For example, this past year in Ethiopia, JDC helped farmers recover from unprecedented floods and, with the Mother Teresa Care Center, it developed a major medical intervention program for orphans. In Ghana, JDC is partnering with Israel’s MASHAV development agency to create mother and baby units to combat HIV and tuberculosis; in the Middle East, Project COPE is supporting health service cooperation among Israeli and Palestinian women with breast cancer; and high in the mountains of Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, JDC is rehabilitating a village severely damaged in the October 2005 earthquake.

**Conclusion**

JDC had a banner year culminating with the Israel Prize. Essential to its ability to respond to crisis in Israel and the needs of the greater world Jewish community are its exceptional professionals. These dedicated men and women act with ingenuity, compassion, and at personal peril. Steve Schwager, JDC’s outstanding professional leader, continues to provide vision and diligence in his commitment to JDC’s mission. JDC is fortunate to have him at the helm. He has been my steadfast partner.

Challenges remain. Support must be found for the elderly Jews of the FSU who have experienced so much turmoil and deprivation. Every reasonable effort must be made to help Jewish children at risk. The opportunity to reconnect with their Jewish heritage must be made available to thousands of Jews in Europe and the FSU whose ties have nearly been severed. In the spirit of tikkun olam, we have a responsibility as Jews to help alleviate the suffering and inequities in the world.

For JDC to fulfill its mission of helping Jews in peril, it must remain dynamic, flexible, and ready for unexpected situations. I have complete confidence that our Board, our staff, and our partners throughout the world will continue to ensure that readiness, and that the bond of caring that draws us together will grow ever stronger.
From the Executive Vice-President
STEVEN SCHWAGER

I write this foreword in mid-2007 as JDC begins its 94th year as the worldwide arm of the organized North American Jewish community. The last 18 months clearly tested JDC’s resolve and we came through with flying colors. Our work in northern Israel during the second Lebanon war and in Sderot today is truly JDC at its best. Winning the Israel Prize, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize, was clear confirmation that the Israeli government and Israeli society greatly value our work. More importantly, it shows what can be accomplished when Federations, foundations, and donors channel their philanthropic efforts through JDC. The Israel Prize was awarded not just to JDC, but to all who partner with JDC. I could go on and write about our activities around the world throughout this last year, but I believe Ellen has covered virtually all of the significant events in her letter. I have decided therefore to focus instead on my vision of JDC’s work in the future.

First, despite the hope of our founders, I see no opportunity for JDC to go out of business. Jewish needs around the world will keep us in operation.

Second, I envision one of two scenarios over the next ten years. The worst and least likely case is that we will go from crisis to crisis as we have done in the past in Argentina–Syria–Ethiopia– and the FSU. If this becomes the actual scenario, JDC lay and professional leaders know full well how to respond, and with the help of the North American Jewish community, they will have the resources to do so. We have been battle-tested for over 90 years and will protect Jewish life wherever needed. After all, we are the 9-1-1 of the Jewish world.

The more likely case, however, is that Jewish life will, for better or worse, remain the way it is today. We will continue to have many small crises, but I believe that over time, JDC’s focus in most of the world will move from welfare to our need to ensure a vibrant Jewish future. We will never abandon those in need, but, through a variety of means, we will be able to shift the welfare responsibility to our local partners. On a regional basis, I expect that we will encounter the following:

Former Soviet Union
Our caseload of 200,000+ elderly will continue to diminish and eventually be reduced to tens of thousands. The world Jewish community’s challenge will be to find the resources needed to allow these poor elderly Jews to live out their lives in dignity, without worrying where their next meal or dose of medicine will come from.

At the same time, we will need to radically expand our Jewish Renewal programming so that we can connect to the hundreds of thousands of Jews living in the FSU who remain unaffiliated. Our greatest challenge will be developing and nurturing the middle class and the future leadership of these emerging communities. We must anticipate that JDC, over the long term, will become smaller and less “hands on.” We will be entering a phase in which our staff and total budget will decrease as the local communities take responsibility for many activities currently run by JDC. This transition will not be easy since we will be changing long-standing relationships. Many of our local partners may complain, but we are agents of change, and it is the right thing to do.

Europe
In Europe, we will also be phasing out of welfare as the population continues to age and the communities become self-sufficient, either by virtue of a change in their country’s economic circumstances or through the return of Jewish communal property that was taken by the Nazis and/or the Communists. Here, too, our work will shift to ensuring a Jewish future. It will be difficult since, with the exception of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Hungary, the individual communities are relatively small. Our goal will be to create more viable Jewish regions, using the larger communities as hubs and the smaller communities as spokes. All types of innovative techniques, from blogs to Web sites, will be utilized to keep the Jews of Europe connected.

One critical country will be Germany. We need to ensure that this community of over 200,000 Jews, primarily from the former Soviet Union, remains Jewish. The German government, while providing generous welfare and housing grants, has set up a living pattern for these new immigrants that has scattered them in almost 100 small communities
throughout the country. Small communities that are geographically dispersed are an impediment to the building of self-sufficient communal entities. Here we will see a significant increase in our staff and our programs in order to ensure the Jewish future of these new arrivals.

Israel

I see a continued need for JDC’s activities in the social service arena as the gap between the “haves” and the “have nots” in Israel continues to grow. This means that JDC staff will be called upon to radically expand our research and operational partnerships with various levels of government in order to find economically viable ways to help the growing number of poor. Our lay leadership will need to take the lead in strengthening JDC’s ties to the new generation of extremely wealthy philanthropists emerging today in Israeli society. We must make those blessed with “having” a part of our ongoing commitment to help those who “have not” and to the principle that all Jews are responsible for one another. Together we can ensure that Israel is truly a light unto the nations.

Ongoing Needs

JDC will continue to be the bridge and the insurance policy for small remnant communities like those in Egypt, Syria, Morocco, and Tunisia, and for Jewish communities large and small in Latin America and India. We will work to ensure that the Jews in these countries can live as Jews and maintain a strong connection to the rest of the Jewish world.

Jewish Children

One of my surprising discoveries as CEO of JDC has been our identification of large numbers of poor Jewish children in many communities around the world. No Jewish child today should be without adequate food, clothing, shelter, and the opportunity to be part of the Jewish people.

JDC cannot accept this situation; we must take a major role in ensuring that local Jewish communities throughout the world meet both the welfare and the renewal needs of these children. We must work diligently in every community to ensure that Jewish children at risk do not fall through community safety nets. These children are part of our future and we must not abandon them. Toward that end, I am deeply grateful to Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews for their extraordinary generosity in supporting needy Jewish children in the FSU.

Non-Sectarian Activities

JDC will continue to expand its efforts in moderate Muslim countries. We must build bridges to all of the people who inhabit this world. How small are our numbers—13 million people in a world of many billions! But our culture teaches us the importance of “repairing the world,” and it has become JDC’s mandate to act on our deep sense of responsibility for our fellow human beings.

Conclusion

In rereading what I have written, it is clear to me that JDC will have to remake itself yet again, as it has done countless times in its history. Both our budget and our staff will become smaller in size, but we will continue to have a critical role to play in ensuring a Jewish future for our people throughout the world.

Speaking of our staff, let me take this opportunity to once again express my appreciation, and that of many others, to the entire JDC team—in New York, in Israel, and around the globe. They are true professionals who never hesitate to put themselves in harm’s way if that is what is needed to get the job done. Nowhere has this been clearer of late than in Israel, where Arnon Mantver and his team literally saved thousands of lives during last summer’s war. Each staff member worldwide—whether in Moscow, Vorkuta, Buenos Aires, New York, or Jerusalem—has my thanks and my gratitude for a job well done.

Finally, I want to thank my esteemed partner, Ellen Heller, for her wise counsel and support and for devoting her efforts full time to the Jewish people. The constant give and take of our ongoing lay-professional discussions continues to improve JDC. Together we have accomplished a great deal, but there is still much more to do.

It is an honor and privilege to be the CEO and Executive Vice-President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

August 2007
The following table summarizes JDC’s annual budget with income provided primarily by the United Jewish Communities/Federation System and the extent to which additional funds from various sources have been obtained and utilized. In sum, the JDC core budget of $69.2 million has leveraged another $251.2 million for total expenditures on JDC projects of over $320 million during 2006.

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2006 PROGRAM BUDGET BREAKDOWN

By Geographic Area

- Israel: 48.1%
- Commonwealth of Independent States: 34.1%
- Europe: 6.6%
- Baltic States: 0.9%
- Africa & Asia: 2.8%
- Latin America: 4.2%
- Special Grants: 0.2%
- Transmigrants: 0.1%
- International Development Program: 1.9%

By Program Area

- Services to the Aged: 24.8%
- Jewish Education: 17%
- Health Services: 10.8%
- Manpower Development: 2.7%
- Social & Community Development: 20.5%
- Religious Activities: 1.3%
- Multifunctional: 2.2%
- Relief & Welfare: 20.8%
ISRAEL

Total Population: 7.15 million
Jewish Population: 5.415 million
JDC Country Budget: $147,257,871

JDC’s Current Focus in Israel

• Responding to social needs arising from the Second Lebanon War and the ongoing unrest in the Gaza border region
• Strengthening the effectiveness of Israeli society in assisting citizens in need, including:
  - Developing pilot programs to protect children and youth at risk
  - Developing models to enhance care for the elderly
  - Expanding programs to assist chronically unemployed Israelis
  - Empowering and integrating vulnerable immigrants
  - Promoting volunteerism and philanthropy
  - Research and development of social services

Principles of Operation: Strategic Intervention

RESEARCH: Understanding the most difficult issues challenging Israel’s social fabric.
RESPONSE: Developing an approach that can solve a specific problem.
RECRUITMENT: Bringing in national and local partners to help develop and test this approach.
REPLICATION: Once an approach is proven, JDC helps its partners apply it nationwide, making it an integral part of Israel’s social service system.
EXIT: When replication is complete, JDC exits the program and moves on to its next strategic intervention.
January 2007: In JERUSALEM’S TALPIOT NEIGHBORHOOD, programs developed by MASAD KLITA, a JDC partnership with four Israeli government ministries, are fostering IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION. (PHOTO: DEBBI COOPER)
**Renewed Emergency and Beyond**

Israelis faced war in the north in 2006, while the Gaza border region absorbed a sixth year of rocket attacks. With its long experience in working with Israeli partners on all levels, JDC was able to turn support from the UJC/Federation Israel Emergency Campaign (IEC) into rapid, effective responses to these crises.

Working with Israeli agencies, JDC brought vital emergency assistance to the vulnerable—the elderly, Israelis with disabilities, children, immigrants, and distressed families—who faced the onslaught in their homes or sheltered from it elsewhere in the country.

Some 4,000 AMEN youth volunteers distributed game kits to 16,000 children in bomb shelters, while 17,000 children enjoyed one-day recreational outings away from the fighting. Over 29,000 children whose families fled the north participated in week-long camps operated with the Israel Association of Community Centers. These programs were supported by the Henry Samueli Foundation, Steven and Tina Price, and the Jewish Funders Network. JDC also implemented school readiness camps and after-school activities, reaching more than 36,000 children. And for 3,000 children with disabilities and their families, getaway respites offered temporary relief with support from Dan Schusterman.

The wartime closure of many day care centers for the elderly accentuated older Israelis’ emergency needs. JDC responded with direct assistance, distributing meals and emergency kits and operating telephone check-ins. Funding from the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation helped provide 50,000 elderly with emergency social, medical, and support services, while the Samueli Foundation and Lady Elizabeth Kaye supported respite care for 5,000 elderly.

Israelis with disabilities faced unique challenges: some could not hear sirens; others lacked access to shelters. Working with Israel’s National Organization of Disabled People, JDC assisted 5,000 severely disabled individuals and their families. Updated emergency information kits eased anxieties, and professional and volunteer efforts were coordinated through 36 Emergency Accessible Communities. Respite breaks were also provided with additional support from the Samuel Sebba Trust, the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, Jane and Stuart Weitzman, and the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation.

These and other emergency programs received support from the Bernard Jaffe Trust; Bernice Manocherian; Catholic Relief Services; the Chais Family Foundation; the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation; the Circle of Service Foundation, Inc.; Donald M. Robinson; the Everett Foundation Philanthropic Fund; Gloria Stone; Marvin Simon; the Merrin Family Fund; Thomas F. Secunda; and the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater.

**Toward a New Galilee**

Even before the war, Israel’s north was struggling. In 2005, it was the country’s poorest region outside Jerusalem, and low tax revenues had left many of its local governments unable to respond to residents’ needs even in good times.

JDC’s “Day After” programs aim to help the Galilee recover from the war and prepare for a stronger future. Supported by IEC, JDC’s “New Galilee” initiative is helping to lay the foundation for community resilience, preparedness, and economic growth.
Funding from UJA-Federation of New York has enabled JDC to fashion an integrated regeneration strategy for Kiryat Shmona. The Stephen S. Wise Temple is supporting the establishment of a stronger volunteer infrastructure through AMEN and MATOV.

With attacks on the Gaza border communities continuing, JDC’s IEC-funded responses also include respite care for the region’s elderly and disabled, crisis management support for local governments and NGOs, programs to help children cope with trauma, and security upgrades for facilities such as day care centers for the elderly. Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston provided additional support for these programs.

Growing Poverty Amid Economic Growth

While last year’s war came as Israel’s economy was enjoying renewed buoyancy, near-record poverty levels affected some 25 percent of the nation’s elderly and 30 percent of its children, a phenomenon accentuated by cuts in entitlements made during Israel’s last recession. The war underscored the need to boost the effectiveness of Israel’s social services, even in peacetime.

JDC plays a key role in working with Israeli government and other agencies to develop responses that deal more effectively with these social needs. JDC’s “regular” programs develop improved, sustainable Israeli responses to assist vulnerable target populations—children and youth at risk, hard-to-absorb immigrant groups, people with disabilities, the elderly, and the chronically unemployed. JDC also works to enhance the capacity of government and civil society to assist Israelis in need.

Indeed, in areas of the north where JDC had previously worked with local agencies, the wartime response to citizens’ social needs was prompt and effective. Elsewhere, agencies faced greater difficulties.

JDC’s approach is one of “strategic intervention” based on partnerships. This approach recognizes Israel’s primary responsibility for meeting needs, while providing a significant and appropriate way for North American Jewish Federations and others to join in strengthening the Jewish State.

In 2007, this longstanding JDC role was recognized with the country’s highest honor, the Israel Prize for lifetime achievement and special contribution to Israeli society.

JDC shares its experience and expertise in Israel with others overseas. JDC-Israel’s professionals regularly consult with Diaspora Jewish communities.

Israel also hosted the May 2007 meetings of the JDC Board of Directors. The first ever held outside the United States, they included addresses by Israel’s Acting President and the Prime Minister at the Knesset.

Protecting Israel’s Children and Youth at Risk

Since 1998, JDC’s Ashalim partnership with the Israeli government and UJA-Federation of New York has developed services for the 350,000 Israeli children at risk of abuse and neglect. Tragically, this distressing situation has been growing, exacerbated by the increasing number of impoverished families.

Ashalim strengthens services for these children through a continuum of community-based interventions and by enhancing the ability of community professionals to respond. The Erika and Kenneth Witover Family Foundation supports Ashalim programming.

The Better Together program fosters community-wide frameworks to address children’s needs in some of Israel’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods. By harnessing the capacity of residents and local service agencies, it enables communities to work proactively to revitalize from within. In 2006, Better Together benefited 10,000 children in seven neighborhoods, with support from the Dorothea Gould Foundation and the Steinhardt Family Foundation.

The network of 28 Parent-Child Centers approaches material and emotional needs holistically, assisting children and parents individually and as a family. The model, developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, is generously supported by the Grossman Family
Foundation, the Hassenfeld and Block families, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, and by Bruce and Dianne Grossman for the Mobile Parent-Child Center. In 2007, the Woolf Family Foundation’s support will allow the Afula center to relocate to a new multipurpose campus, while funding from the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation is enabling a new center to open in Or Akiva.

The Beit Lynn Child Protection Center model brings together key response agencies to ensure prompt assessment and assistance for children who have experienced abuse. The Jerusalem center, which assisted some 600 child abuse victims in 2006, will be joined by a second in Tel Hashomer. The Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation provides major support for both centers, and for efforts to replicate the model nationally.

JDC and Ashalim have also helped develop Israel’s network of emergency centers for children at risk. These provide protection and treatment for children in immediate danger, and utilize the innovative Compassion Workshop model to help abusive families develop positive behavior skills. This program is supported by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, which also provided special support for three northern emergency centers during last summer’s war.

Community Day Facilities provide a protective daytime environment for children who require special support due to emotional, physical or scholastic difficulties. For children who must be removed from their parents’ home, nine Community Residential Facilities build on community services and promote parental involvement to facilitate the child’s early return home. Ashalim is expanding programs for youngsters formerly in residential care who lack family support in the community.

Ashalim expanded its Nutrition Enrichment and Healthy Living Program to schools and kindergartens in eight cities, benefiting 7,000 children, while others benefit from the program’s citywide model in Dimona and Afula. The program enjoys major funding from Professor Stanley Mills and Barbara Green Kay, the Kay Family through the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and Dorothy Adler through the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, and it is supported by the S & P Philanthropic Fund, which is also financing the construction of playgrounds in Jerusalem, Akko, and Hatzor.

For the youngest Israelis, Ashalim’s early childhood programs help public health nurses in Israel’s Well Baby Clinics identify at risk babies and toddlers and provide parental guidance. The Nurses’ Initiative empowers nurses to share their expertise: a booklet of “best practices” in preventive interventions was published, while nurses in the Israeli Arab sector are developing local responses for at risk families. Ashalim is also working with Haredi educators to identify and treat ultra-Orthodox children with developmental difficulties.

Ashalim’s ECHAD partnership with the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties addresses gaps in early childhood services in the Israeli Arab sector. In 2006, ECHAD worked in five communities, training 600 preschool teachers and kindergarten assistants, and providing community-based education programs for 200 Bedouin families, parenting workshops for unemployed fathers, and pre-literacy programs for kindergarten children.

New Beginnings, launched in 2007, ensures accessible, quality, and professional early childhood services, focusing on the most vulnerable. The initiative, a JDC partnership with the government and the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, is supported by the Jewish Funders Network.

Many Ashalim programs are school-based. Merhav and Adam work with struggling elementary school youngsters and Maleh with those in 60 junior high schools, boosting at risk students’ self-confidence and academic performance, and enhancing their personal development. Adam will reach 30 schools by the end of 2007. Merhav in Ashkelon is supported by the Ben and Zelda Cohen Foundation.
JDC’s TEVET partnership with Israel’s government fights poverty by promoting employment among the estimated half-million Israelis who are not in the workforce.

The new Weitzman-Albert Education Initiative at Bat Yam’s Harel School targets 125 children aged five to seven from diverse backgrounds to promote their academic and social development. With equal numbers of Ethiopian-Israeli, other immigrant, and veteran-Israeli children taking part, the program offers smaller classes and social, cultural, and developmental enrichment, and it promotes parental involvement. The Initiative, a partnership with the government and Bat Yam’s municipality, receives major support from Jane and Stuart Weitzman and Ruth Albert.

Girls on the Map responds to needs among Israel’s estimated 30,000 high-risk adolescent girls through a range of pilot programs. One model, the ADI Center, a community-based alternative to residential care, offers counseling on substance abuse, health, and sexual issues, as well as study opportunities. Last year, 30 young women from the Girls for Girls mentoring program were accepted into National Service and will work in programs for at risk girls.

It’s A Deal, supported by Daniel S. Och, helps alienated youth realize their potential through some 50 youth-run business initiatives. Ashalim and its government partners have also piloted a business initiative for parents of children in residential facilities.

Ashalim helps maximize the integration of youngsters with special needs, and raises awareness of the challenges they and their families face. The Risk to Opportunity program mainstreams special needs youngsters in normative day care centers with support from the Helen Bader Foundation. Other programs enable some 130 disabled young adults to perform National Service and serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), and prepare disabled youth for employment and higher education.

Ashalim also develops services to help families cope with the challenge of caring for special needs youngsters. A national information center provides support to families with autistic children, while Amit L’Mishpacha reduces risk by utilizing trained volunteers to provide home-based assistance to families with special needs children.

To maximize Ashalim’s ability to achieve systemwide impact, Mayda (formerly the National Training Center), a specialized interdisciplinary resource center, shares accumulated expertise with professionals and promotes parental involvement and peer-to-peer learning. Mayda is supported by the Dorset Foundation, as well as by the Morawetz and Avisar families.

From Poverty to Independence

JDC’s TEVET partnership with Israel’s government fights poverty by promoting employment among the estimated half-million Israelis who are not in the workforce. Focusing on obstacles that keep them from employment, TEVET targets hard-to-absorb immigrants, the ultra-Orthodox, people with disabilities, Israeli Arabs, and young adults.

TEVET provides participants with “soft” employment skills, working in tandem with vocational training and job placement programs. After participants are placed, TEVET continues to support both them and their employers to ensure long-term workplace success. TEVET enjoys major support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

Based on a successful American model, TEVET’s STRIVE center in Tel Aviv achieved an 87 percent placement rate among its 150 first-year participants, with many now working in fields such as banking and telemarketing. A STRIVE center opened in Haifa in 2007, and a third is planned in Jerusalem. STRIVE enjoys support from the Botwinick-Wolfensohn Foundation, while UJIA (UK)
supports a needs assessment and employment program for young adults in the Galilee.

IDBelieve fosters self-employment among young adults from disadvantaged or at risk backgrounds. Supported by Nancy and Stephen Grand and the Schimmel Family Foundation and operated in partnership with Israel’s IDB Holding Corporation, IDBelieve provided training, mentoring, and start-up funding to 24 young adults during its first year.

Originally designed to help jobless Ethiopian-Israelis succeed in Israel’s western job market, Reshet now also provides other populations with a continuum of support—vocational training, simulated working environments, job placement services, and ongoing support tailored to participants’ experience and educational level. The Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco supports this and other employment initiatives in Netanya.

Eshet Chaqil (Woman of Valor), another program developed for Ethiopian-Israelis, addresses cultural and environmental obstacles facing immigrant women. By increasing their self-confidence, it helps women in 35 locations find work, enhancing their integration as well as their income.

TEVET and the Ministry of Social Affairs are also upgrading sheltered employment facilities for the disabled to meet new national standards and increase participants’ employability.

Programs supported by Jackie and Bertie Woolf, the Zusman Family, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, and the Schimmel Family Foundation help Israel’s poverty-stricken Haredim acquire marketable skills in fields such as hi-tech and financial services. The Haredi Loan Program, supported by Aron Abecassis and Eli and Rivka Weinstein, provides financial assistance for Haredim during their training and funds for establishing small businesses.

In 2006, the Zusman Center for Haredi Employment opened in Jerusalem. In 2007, five Ma’teach employment centers are expected to help some 3,000 Haredi job seekers—both men and women—find appropriate employment. Additional funding from Aron Abecassis supports an employment initiative for Moroccan Israelis in Ashdod.

CityWorks helps 10 cities with high jobless rates work systematically to attract employers and promote employment. Ma’avarim operates three employment centers offering workplace skills, retraining, and job placement for individuals in the rural sector. Ma’avarim, which included a special program for Israelis relocated from the Gaza Strip and Northern Samaria, will assist some 6,000 individuals in 2007.

Working with the MATI Small Business Development Centers, TEVET customizes business creation programs for immigrants, Israeli Arabs, Bedouin, Druze, ultra-Orthodox, people with disabilities, and young adults. Drs. Alfred and Isabel Bader support entrepreneurship and employment programs for Israel’s minorities.

Supported by Nancy and Stephen Grand, Gesher (the Bridge to Independent Living) helps young “graduates” of residential facilities for children at risk who have no family or community support frameworks. By assisting with housing, training, and job placement, Gesher eases their transition to independent adulthood.

By focusing on education, employment, leadership, and community development, JDC helps immigrants facing long-term integration challenges join Israel’s social mainstream.
The country’s 115,000 Ethiopian-Israelis are a particular priority, and JDC’s flagship PACT (Parents and Children Together) program tackles critical educational and social gaps between Ethiopian-Israeli children aged six and under and their veteran-Israeli peers. By promoting the enrollment of every Ethiopian-Israeli youngster in a preschool framework and providing culturally sensitive support, PACT enables the children to acquire the social and cognitive skills that Ethiopian-Israeli parents—raised in a rural, oral-based society—cannot provide.

Pioneered in Beersheva in 1998 in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, PACT now operates in 14 locations through partnerships with: The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; the Minneapolis Jewish Federation; the UJC Network of Independent Communities; UJA-Federation of New York; the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester; and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington/United Jewish Endowment Fund.

PACT also enjoys generous support from the Sacta-Rashi Foundation, the Glickman Foundation, the Skirball Foundation, the Chais Family Foundation, Penny and Harold Blumenstein, the Joseph and Suzanne Orley Foundation, Thomas F. Secunda, the Richard S. and Lois Gunther Family Foundation, and Nora L. Barron.

In some cities, PACT Plus extends the intervention into elementary and middle school, while in Rehovot, UJA-Federation of New York supports the Birth to Bagrut program, which assists the youngsters through high school. In 2006, some 10,200 Ethiopian-Israeli children and their parents benefited from PACT and PACT Plus. UJA-Federation of New York also supported the Basic Educational Needs Fund in Greater Rehovot in 2006, ensuring 1,100 Ethiopian-Israeli youngsters the resources needed for their studies.

Ofek L’Bagrut, which enjoys major support from the Chais Family Foundation, helped 1,500 Ethiopian-Israeli and 1,200 Kavkazi- and Bukharan-Israeli teens improve their matriculation scores.
Eighty Ofek L’Bagrut students volunteer as mentors for PACT children in four pilot locations. In 2006, more than 1,400 Gamla volunteers provided in-home tutoring for children from Ethiopian and Kavkazi backgrounds; they also targeted impoverished veteran-Israeli students.

To combat high dropout rates among Ethiopian-Israeli and Kavkazi teens, Ogen helped at-risk students in 135 schools overcome the alienation and behavioral and social difficulties that contribute to underachievement and lead them to drop out of school, either completely or through frequent absenteeism. The Caesarea Edmond de Rothschild Foundation supports this and other educational initiatives for Kavkazi-Israelis in Or Akiva.

Immigrants Rising to Excellence promoted excellence among 800 immigrant youth in 23 locations, in cooperation with the Society for Excellence through Education. The program, which is generously support by the Chais Family Foundation and Robert Asher, helps young immigrants realize their potential and changes perceptions among participants, parents, and educators.

Operation Atzmaut (Independence) helps Ethiopian-Israeli families in cities with smaller Ethiopian-Israeli populations move toward self-sufficiency. Atzmaut targets families who have the motivation to become independent but require guidance and support to do so. The program focuses on the family as a unit, preparing parents for employment, enhancing parent-child communications, and boosting children’s academic achievements.

Piloted in Rishon LeZion in partnership with United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ, Atzmaut now operates in nine communities, with support from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, the Lemsky Fund through the Memphis Jewish Federation, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. The model has been adapted to serve the Bukharan community in two locations with support from the World Congress of Bukharan Jews.

Masad Klita, a JDC partnership with four Israeli government ministries, develops other programs that foster immigrant integration. Mishol strengthens tenant associations in seven low-income neighborhoods by promoting dialogue and conflict resolution among immigrant and veteran-Israeli residents. IEC funding has enabled Mishol to help renovate community shelters whose substandard conditions renewed tensions among residents during last summer’s war.

The Milah Tovah program upgraded critical Hebrew-language skills for 1,120 Ethiopians, Kavkazim, and Bukharans in 2006. With support from UJA-Federation of New York, Mirkam uses drama and storytelling to help Kavkazi and other children from the former Soviet Union overcome the cultural barriers that make Hebrew difficult to master, while Hebrew Language Improvement programs worked with 2,500 immigrant students in elementary and junior high schools.

Springboard helps Ethiopian and Kavkazi immigrants succeed during their period of army service, which can be a gateway to Israeli society. A partnership with the IDF, Springboard reaches out to these young adults and their parents before, during, and after their service, and includes a five-week course for new Ethiopian-Israeli soldiers that helps them gain placement in prestigious army roles. Supported by the Gottesman Fund, Douglas J. Rimsky, the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited, the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, and UJA-Federation of New York, Springboard reached 2,600 young adults in seven locations last year, and the program is expanding in 2007.

In 2006, 11 Centers for Young Adults each provided some 800 to 1,200 immigrant and veteran-Israeli at-risk young adults with assistance in making constructive life choices and realizing their potential. The centers’ comprehensive assistance model will extend to 20 locations in 2007, with support from the Dorothea Gould Foundation and Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.
Independent Living for Israelis with Disabilities

Despite the daily challenges they confront, over 95 percent of Israeli adults with disabilities prefer independent life in the community—with family, friends, or on their own—to institutional frameworks. Thus, JDC also targets the needs of the approximately 400,000 disabled Israelis aged 21 to 65.

Working with local nonprofits, JDC has helped establish Centers for Independent Living (CIL) in Jerusalem and Beersheva. Run by and for people with disabilities, CILs are helping an estimated 2,400 people with disabilities to live more independently in the community. A partnership with Israel’s National Insurance Institute and the Beersheva municipality, the program is supported by Larry and Leonore Zusman, the Rich Foundation, the Clore Foundation, the Pell Family Foundation, Roger Greenberg, and the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

Supportive Communities offer services that respond to disabled individuals’ day-to-day concerns. In 2007, the program will expand from 10 to 17 locations, thanks in part to IEC support for disabled residents affected by the security situation. A manual for planning and implementing the program will be completed in 2007.

The Accessible Community, a roundtable initiative, boosts the involvement of the disabled in community life and in decisions that affect them. The forum leads to the development of tailored services for the disabled community locally and nationally, and in 2007 it will focus on issues facing parents with disabilities.

Masira assists disabled Israeli Arabs by improving access to services and entitlements, strengthening community associations for the disabled, and changing community attitudes. In 2007, support from a private foundation and from IEC is enabling Masira to work with 1,500 individuals and NGOs in 15 locations.

IEC funding also supported the new Facing South initiative in southern Israel. Consisting of a regional roundtable and leadership training for disabled activists and directors of relevant NGOs, the initiative will also develop services for the region’s disabled.

Quality of Life for Israel’s Elderly

Since 1969, JDC’s ESHEL partnership with the Israeli government has pioneered services to enhance the quality of life for Israel’s elderly. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the Glickman Foundation provide significant funding for JDC-ESHEL programs.

JDC-ESHEL emphasizes efforts that enable the elderly to live independently for as long as possible. Its Supportive Communities are a case in point, providing social, medical, domestic, and other forms of support to help those living in their own homes cope with the daily challenges associated with aging. In the coming year, a pilot program will introduce volunteer assistance, nursing care, meals-on-wheels, transportation, and physiotherapy into Supportive Communities.

Over 180 Supportive Communities currently operate, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and with support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Joseph
and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Trust, the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation, and The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. A total of 300 are planned, among them models for Israeli Arabs, the ultra-Orthodox, and Ethiopian-Israelis.

The 180 day care centers for disabled and mentally frail elderly offer personal care, para-professional services, and social activities to help clients continue living in the community. JDC-ESHEL is working to upgrade the services and quality of care in existing centers and diversify programming.

For those unable to live independently, JDC-ESHEL partners with other agencies to ensure the availability of institutional care by constructing new facilities and renovating existing homes. With the help of the Rita Allen Fund, homes for the aged are receiving much-needed security upgrades. JDC-ESHEL is helping to bring existing homes up to new government standards and improve the quality of care. These initiatives are supported by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and others.

JDC-ESHEL’s Home-Hospice of the Valleys program—supported by the Shiffman Family Support Foundation—comforted some 150 terminally ill elderly in nine locations last year. UJA-Federation of New York continued its hospice partnership with ESHEL in Beersheva and in a palliative care national training program.

With poverty affecting many elderly, JDC-ESHEL works with the Ministry of Social Affairs to coordinate the involvement of the IDF, voluntary organizations, local and national governments, and local associations for the elderly in Beseva Tova (Aging with Dignity). Last year, Beseva Tova served 15,000 elderly in 15 locations, improving substandard living conditions and providing highly subsidized health services.

Supported by the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation, the Arison Foundation, Inc., the Pratt Foundation, Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and the Yahel Recanati Fund, the program is expanding to seven new locations in 2007.

Health promotion initiatives encourage a healthy lifestyle and help slow physical decline. Over 1,600 needy elderly received subsidized dental treatment, 900 of them in their own homes, through the JDC-ESHEL mobile dental care service, and more than 18,000 people took part in fitness programs and vision, hearing, and balance tests. Accident prevention, preserving cognitive functioning, and issues of incontinence were addressed in various classes.
Following a national survey on elder abuse, JDC-ESHEL—with support from UJA-Federation of New York—piloted a program to improve the prevention, detection, and treatment of this phenomenon. A victims’ hotline established with ERAN fields some 600 calls a month, while training efforts assist those who work with abused elderly. In 2007, a community-based response will be launched and a manual on the subject completed. JDC-ESHEL is also facilitating the implementation of new Health Ministry regulations on elder abuse in residential and health facilities.

With its mission of strengthening Israel’s own ability to care for its citizens, JDC works to enhance the effectiveness of existing government services and to support the nonprofit sector’s growing role in helping the needy.

Volunteering enables elderly people to remain active while contributing to society. Across Israel, 17 projects involve some 15,000 elderly in volunteer roles—from tutoring disadvantaged youth through Gamla to training their peers in the Computers for Every Age program.

Exposing the elderly to computers opens new horizons and helps combat loneliness. Other JDC-ESHEL communications and media programs—a newsletter, film production, and community television—provide outlets for self-expression and creativity.

Employment provides the elderly with social interaction and an opportunity to supplement their incomes. With support from Hands on Tzedaka, JDC-ESHEL employment programs and centers assist seniors who are seeking work in Netanya, Kiryat Gat, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Upper Nazareth, Beersheva, Karmiel, Or Akiva, and at the Glickman Center for Education and Training in Kiryat Bialik. In 2007, new approaches to employment for the elderly, including training, will be implemented.

ESHEL’s Glickman Center for Education and Training in Tel HaShomer annually trains 3,000 professionals and paraprofessionals working in the field of aging. The Center’s northern region branch in Kiryat Bialik received additional support from the Mollie Rosenthal Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of South Palm Beach County. A second branch serving Israel’s southern region opened in Beersheva with support from UJA-Federation of New York. The annual Glickman Prize for Excellence and Quality of Care for the Elderly recognizes innovative programming by employees in private and public institutions.

To better serve Israel’s growing elderly population, JDC-ESHEL, the Israeli government, and the Claims Conference will shortly commence a five-year program to qualify 40 new geriatricians.

Expanding Israel’s Social Service Capacity

With its mission of strengthening Israel’s own ability to care for its citizens, JDC works to enhance the effectiveness of existing government services and to support the nonprofit sector’s growing role in helping the needy.

Cultivating a more effective Israeli civil society is a key strategy for helping to meet social needs at a time of declining government budgets. JDC’s programs in this area are supported by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the Meyerhoff Fund.

Volunteerism has been boosted by JDC’s AMEN program, which mobilizes youth and young adults to serve their communities. AMEN volunteers were an important resource during last summer’s war, and more than 30,000 youth in 20 cities volunteered during the course of 2006. AMEN will expand to 30 additional locations in 2007, with major support from IEC, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater
Boston, and Nancy Simches, while the Grossman Family Foundation is enabling youth from Israel’s most vulnerable communities to become active volunteers.

JDC’s MATOV program identifies needs and maps active service providers in 15 locations, ensuring that these services are coordinated and non-duplicative, and thereby maximizing their impact. Funding for MATOV was received through IEC.

Since 2003, JDC has been working with committees of the Negev’s Abu Basma Regional Council to increase professionalism and improve leadership skills. This initiative, supported by the Alfred and Hanna Fromm Fund, helped bring four new schools to the region in 2006, and two youth centers will open in 2007.

For NGOs serving vulnerable populations, JDC’s Yuvalim—Helping the Helpers increases workers’ ability to cope during extreme turmoil. The program is based on YUVAL, which was developed during the last Intifada to help stress-drained frontline emergency workers, hospital staff, and others. Implemented in Haifa shortly before last summer’s war, YUVAL was cited by Haifa’s mayor for enabling the city to respond effectively during the emergency.

JDC-ELKA, in partnership with the Civil Service Commission, offers management development courses and peer-learning forums for top-level professionals from national and local government and the voluntary sector, while programs for national and local government policymakers foster long-term strategic change. With IEC funding, ELKA provided consulting services for 11 war-stricken Galilee municipalities and for the Sderot municipality. JDC-ELKA’s Partnership Center promotes partnerships among the public, voluntary, and business sectors through inter-organizational and cross-sector training and courses for senior executives.

Supported by Penni and Steven Weinberg, the School for Lay Leadership Development—a JDC partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Shatil, the Israel Association of Community Centers, and VNPS (the umbrella organization of the nonprofit sector)—trains NGO board members and business leaders. Other initiatives include Mashmaut-Maslul—a hands-on management development course run in partnership with Matan (Israel's United Way) and VNPS—which will train 60 NGO directors in 2007. JDC also partners with Matan to encourage corporate philanthropy and volunteerism.

The Continuum of Services capacity building initiative commissioned by UJA-Federation of New York increases responsiveness and
professional capacity among UJA-Federation-funded organizations. JDC coordinates training for these organizations’ professionals and lay leaders, together with Matan, Shatil, and the School for Lay Leadership Development.

The Larry and Leonore Zusman-JDC Prize is awarded annually to recognize excellence among individuals or staffs in Israel’s social services field.

Our Federation Partners

JDC thanks the Jewish Federations of North America, our partners in helping build Israel’s capacity to care more effectively for its citizens in need: Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado; Columbus Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay; Flint Jewish Federation; Jewish Community Fund of Grand Rapids; Greensboro Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis; Jackson Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City; Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; Memphis Jewish Federation; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Milwaukee Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Nashville; Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans; UJA-Federation of New York; UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey; Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert Area; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Jewish Federation of Pinellas County; United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh; Jewish Community Federation of Richmond; Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester; Jewish Federation of San Antonio; United Jewish Federation of San Diego County; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle; Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley; Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona; Jewish Federation of St. Louis; United Jewish Federation of Tidewater; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Jewish Federation of Waco and Central Texas; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington/United Jewish Endowment Fund; Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County; UJA Federation of Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk, UJC Network of Independent Communities; and UIA Federations Canada.

THE MYERS-JDC-BROOKDALE INSTITUTE

The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, established in 1974, is a leading center for applied social research serving Israel and the Jewish world. The Institute seeks to improve the effectiveness of social services and policies by developing and disseminating knowledge of social needs, and of the effectiveness of policies and programs intended to meet those needs. The Institute works closely with voluntary organizations, including JDC-Israel, JDC-ESHEL, Ashalim, and The Jewish Agency, as well as with national and local government, including the Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, and Health, and a number of municipalities and regional councils. In addition to providing a unique way for Israeli government officials and Diaspora Jewish leaders to examine critical social issues in Israel and around the world, the Institute is engaged in a wide variety of cooperative projects with Jewish organizations and North American Jewish Federations.

In 2004, after receiving a major grant from the Cleveland-based David and Inez Myers Foundation, the Institute was renamed The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute. Additional major gifts in that year enabled the Institute to increase its endowment fund and name the Engelberg Center for Children and Youth, in honor of Al and Gail Engelberg, and the Smokler Center for Health Policy Research, in honor of Carol and Irv Smokler. Other special funds established by
Institute Founders include the Mandell Berman Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities, the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Professional Collaboration and Development, and the Connie and Bert Rabinowitz Fund for Creative Breakthrough Research.

Center for Research on Aging
In 2006, the Institute assisted JDC-ESHEL in the development and implementation of its new five-year strategic plan. It also continued to aid overall service planning for the elderly in Israel and other parts of the Jewish world. Through its service on national forums and as a consultant to government decisionmakers and voluntary organizations, the Institute has promoted the utilization of its recently completed studies on End-of-Life Care in Israel, Health Promotion in an Institutional Setting, and Services for the Retarded Elderly.

The Institute continues to evaluate innovative community programs that are helping the elderly remain in their own homes and communities, while ensuring their quality of life. It assisted ESHEL in its evaluation of the Supportive Community program, focusing on the new services added to the program to address unmet needs. The Institute also contributed to the development of a Supportive Community model for disabled adults. It conducted a reassessment of day care centers for the disabled elderly, and it identified programs to assist and support family caregivers.

The condition of aging Holocaust survivors in Israel became an important national issue in 2006. As a result of its ongoing research, the Institute has been the major source of data on this subject. It was therefore able to help the Israeli government and the organizations responsible for caring for these survivors identify needs and mobilize to address them—effectively and in “real time.”

The Smokler Center for Health Policy Research
The Smokler Center’s major thrusts include assisting the government in planning, implementing, and evaluating efforts to reform the health system, and helping health care providers and insurers do more to improve efficiency and effectiveness. In 2006, the Center carried out a national study to assess the quality of preventive mother and child health services. It was also a major participant in the debate on whether responsibility for preventive services should be transferred from the Ministry of Health to the health plans.

In light of rising health care costs and the proliferation of supplemental and commercial insurance, the Center continued its analysis of the potential role of the private sector in financing long-term care services, and of the appropriateness of the long-term care packages being offered by private insurers.

To engage health system leaders in an exploration of ways to reduce the disparities in health care among Israel’s socio-economic groups, the Smokler Center held a national symposium on this topic in May 2006. The Center is also continuing its evaluation of a national program promoting women’s health, sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland and implemented by The Jewish Agency. The focus last year was on evaluating the program’s continuing medical education component, which uses distance learning techniques new to Israel that have implications for manpower training strategies throughout the health field.

A multiyear initiative to address the health needs of the Arab population, which is supported by Andrea and Michael Dubroff, focused last year on improving diabetes care for Arab women, and on making health promotion programs for the Arab population more culturally appropriate.

The Institute is engaged in ongoing collaborative work with the World Health Organization and other international bodies, and it continues to serve as an important vehicle for cross-national learning on health care reforms. It is responsible for the Israel country reports to the European Observatory of Health Care Systems and serves as the Israeli partner in the International Network for Monitoring Health Reforms. The Institute convened various professional seminars last year, bringing together experts from Israel and abroad. One seminar
explored public health emergency preparedness in Washington and New York in light of Israel’s experience during the second Lebanon war. Another examined the nation’s preparedness for flu pandemics, including the implications for national security.

The Center for Research on Immigrant Absorption

To enhance Israel’s ability to successfully integrate its more vulnerable new citizens, the Institute makes a special effort to include immigrant populations in the research studies undertaken by all of its various divisions. These national studies provide comparative data on the well-being of immigrants and veteran-Israelis that is central to program and policy development. In addition, the Institute initiates special studies of specific immigrant groups.

For the past several years, the main focus has been on two groups that have been experiencing considerable difficulty in the integration process: immigrants from the former Soviet Union, especially immigrants from the Caucasus (Kavkazi-Israelis), and immigrants from Ethiopia. In 2006, the Institute completed its evaluation of a pilot program for Kavkazi preschoolers and their families that was implemented in three localities. It continued its evaluation of the Risk to Opportunity initiative, a comprehensive national model that aims to lower the dropout rate and incidence of delinquency among immigrant youth.

In the Ethiopian community, the Institute continued its assessment of the PACT program for young children and their parents, which is being implemented in 14 cities. It began an evaluation of the Ethiopian National Plan, a cooperative effort of UJC, JDC, The Jewish Agency, and the Israeli government that aims to promote educational opportunities for Ethiopian-Israeli youth, and it continued to assess Project Atzmaut’s efforts to strengthen Ethiopian families.

In the area of employment, the Institute continues to monitor how well immigrants from various countries have been integrated into the workforce, issuing a major national report on this subject last year with the Ministry of Absorption.

The Center for Research on Disabilities and Special Populations

In accordance with the worldwide trend to promote the inclusion of the disabled in mainstream society, policies regarding the disabled and service delivery strategies have been undergoing dramatic changes in recent years. The Institute’s research program is focusing on both national and local efforts to implement these changes effectively.

The Mandell Berman Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities is dedicated to promoting the well-being of children with disabilities and their families. The more appropriate inclusion of disabled children in the regular classroom is one of the major challenges facing the system today. With the support of the Fund, the Institute assisted in the implementation and monitoring of a new law expanding assistance for the integration of children with learning disabilities into regular classes. The Berman Fund also supported the Institute’s evaluation of the comprehensive IDUD program to identify and treat children with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), as well as its national study of the effectiveness of parent support groups.

The Institute has been examining the strategies devised to meet the needs of developmentally disabled elderly, and it has been conducting a national survey of disabled persons who suffer from abuse or neglect. It is also working to develop tools for the identification of abuse among disabled individuals.

Having previously uncovered the extensive needs of disabled Arab children, the Institute has been intensifying its efforts on their behalf. In 2006, it completed a major study of disabled Bedouin children, which was supported by Andrea and Michael Dubroff and the Helen Bader Foundation. The study is serving as the basis for designing more effective and culturally sensitive models of care for Bedouin children and their families.
**The Program on Employment**

Promoting employment and advancement in the labor force for weak population groups and increased opportunities for achieving economic independence have recently become major social policy goals. In the framework of the strategic planning for the TEVET Employment Initiative, the partnership between the Government of Israel and JDC that was created to further those objectives, the Institute completed a study of populations not fully participating in the labor market and existing efforts to assist them.

The assessment of the government’s major Welfare to Work initiative, one of Israel’s most important and controversial social experiments, continued in 2006. The multiyear evaluation of this program, the largest single research project ever undertaken by the Institute, will have far-reaching implications for policy and service development. The Institute has also been serving as a professional advisor to the Laron Commission, assisting in the implementation of its recommendations for promoting the employment of the disabled. Promoting employment opportunities for the Arab population, especially among women, has been another important focus of the Institute’s work.

**The Engelberg Center for Children and Youth**

The Engelberg Center for Children and Youth is devoted to promoting the well-being of young Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, with a special commitment to the disadvantaged. It recently played a major role in the Prime Minister’s Committee for Disadvantaged and At Risk Children and Youth, providing both leadership and information for the committee’s deliberations. The broad reform in services that the committee subsequently recommended is now serving as the basis for new government policies.

Major reforms are also being initiated in the child welfare system to improve the system’s responsiveness to abused and neglected children. The Center has been assisting the Ministry of Social Affairs in its efforts to achieve a better balance between out-of-home and community-based child welfare services, while enhancing the communities’ ability to furnish services more compatible with the needs of children and families. This reform effort includes the decentralization of resource allocations and was based on lessons learned from a national experiment, conducted in 11 local authorities, that was initiated by the Ministry in partnership with the Center and Ashalim.

As the culmination of a comprehensive first-ever survey of the needs of Druze youth, which was undertaken with support from Annie Sandler, the Center held a national conference in 2006 that focused solely on this population group. The Center is now seeing to it that the results of the survey are used in planning and developing new services for Druze youth. The Institute continued to work to promote opportunities for preschool Arab children and their families, through its ongoing evaluation of ECHAD, a joint initiative of Ashalim and the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco.

Working with the Ministry of Education, the Center continued to focus on opportunities for disadvantaged and marginal youth in 2006. It also began examining ways to facilitate the transition of disadvantaged youth to adulthood and membership in the labor force. This subject was the topic of the fourth annual Gantz Zahler Seminar on Child Welfare, which is supported by the Gantz and Zahler families. Until now, this issue has not been addressed in a comprehensive way by policymakers and service planners, and the seminar was a first step toward placing it on the public agenda. The Center also continued to work with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland to help the IDF Education Corps address the needs of disadvantaged soldiers.

**Cross-Cutting Programs**

Cross-cutting programs deal with issues that relate to all of the Institute’s divisions and harness their staff members’ knowledge and expertise. They currently focus on quality assurance, manpower evaluation and social planning, organizational learning, cooperation with the Jewish
world, Middle East cooperation, and international collaboration. The examples that follow illustrate how programs of this nature engage a wide range of disciplines and organizations, producing a synergetic effect that enhances their impact on Israeli society.

The RAF Method (Regulation, Assessment, and Follow-Up) for the continuous improvement of quality of care, developed by the Institute, is helping government ministries improve the quality of services through the implementation of an objective, systematic, and uniform method of supervision and inspection. In 2006, the Ministry of Social Affairs decided to implement the RAF system in all residential facilities and community services under its supervision.

The Unit for Learning from Success and Ongoing Learning in Human Services works closely with government ministries and voluntary organizations to introduce and advance ongoing learning processes in service organizations. The Learning from Success program is a groundbreaking national initiative, launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, that enables schools and school systems to engage in “ongoing learning,” thereby improving student achievement and the overall school climate. With the support of the Marshall Weinberg Fund for Professional Collaboration and Development, the Unit continued to develop and expand the program at the secondary school level last year, and it began to introduce the program in the elementary schools.

TAUB CENTER FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES IN ISRAEL

The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel is devoted to monitoring social and economic developments in Israel and providing viable policy recommendations to decisionmakers in the social policy fields. The center was established in 1982 under the leadership and vision of the late Herbert M. Singer, Henry Taub, and JDC. A permanent endowment, which will in future fund the Center, has been created by the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, the Herbert M. and Nell Singer Foundation, Jane and John Colman, the Kolker-Saxon-Hallock Family Foundation, and JDC.

The Center serves as a reliable resource to the Knesset, to government and other national bodies, and to Diaspora leadership. By putting developments in Israel into a wider perspective,
the Center provides up-to-date analyses and perspectives on the Israeli socio-economic scene.

The backbone of the Taub Center’s work is its annual, published report reviewing government social expenditures, social service development, and options for socio-economic policy. It examines trends and developments in the economy, and in the areas of health, education, personal social services, and government cash transfers. Taub Center Area Teams meet regularly to discuss policy issues in their respective fields; their resulting publications are distributed widely to relevant government and voluntary agencies.

In June 2007, the Center convened an international conference on “Welfare Policy—Vision and Reality” with two partners, Washington’s Brookings Institution and STAKES, a European social research institute based in Finland. Experts examined the differences in social services—from ideology to implementation—in the American, Nordic, and Israeli models. Conference participants included Israeli government ministers, Knesset members, representatives of the Bank of Israel, academicians, and various experts from the field.

The Taub Center has also established an important contact within the Prime Minister’s office, having been asked by the special economic advisor to the Prime Minister and head of the National Economic Council in the Prime Minister’s Office to be the Council’s main resource on socio-economic policy. Center experts subsequently prepared a set of position papers on various social policy options that have been very positively received by the Council. As part of the Center’s interaction with the Council, it was agreed that a representative of the Prime Minister’s office will participate in the Center’s regular Area Team meetings.

Taub experts meet with ministry officials at the highest level. For example, a series of meetings with the director-general of the Ministry of Education have led to upgraded cooperation with that ministry as well. Among other items, the Center’s Interdisciplinary Team will serve as a sounding board as new initiatives are planned by the ministry.

The Center has become a regular partner in the meetings of the Knesset’s Social Forum, which bring Knesset members from all factions together for discussions of social issues. Taub Center experts used the opportunity of a Forum meeting to present the major findings and recommendations of the Center’s annual report to key policymakers.

The Center also endeavors to provide Jewish communities outside Israel with an accurate picture that extends beyond the headlines and delves into the issues of social gaps, economic disparities, educational reform, and the like. The Center’s Social Economic UPDATE is a quarterly review of events, policy recommendations, and briefings that serves as an important resource for organizations that have Israel’s social well-being on their agendas. Fast Facts for the Busy Reader, another popular Center publication, is a handy compendium of basic demographic, social, and economic information about Israel. Israel: Social Economic Review 2006 is filled with graphs and charts that examine Israel and its social and economic development. Analyses include international comparisons, selected results from the Taub Center Annual Public Opinion Survey, and comparisons over time of indicators of social and economic growth.

The Center continues to work to influence Israeli policymakers to consider the implications of their decisions on all sectors of society, with an eye to maintaining social justice in Israel and narrowing social gaps.
SPRINGBOARD provides training and guidance to IMMIGRANT YOUTH before, during, and after their army service, helping to increase their participation in more prestigious army tracks and educating their families about military life. (PHOTO: DEBBI COOPER)
JDC’s Strategy in the Former Soviet Union (FSU)

JDC programs are designed to support Jews who choose to remain in the region and require assistance in meeting their material, cultural, and communal needs in the FSU’s harsh social and economic environment. To help them, JDC has been reaching out to Jews in over 2,900 cities, towns, and villages in the FSU to:

• Foster self-sufficient Jewish communities capable of meeting their members’ material and communal needs.
• Work with these renascent communities to bring relief to Jews in need.
• Enable Jews to reconnect with their heritage and their people by promoting Jewish knowledge, values, and identity in a spirit of tolerance and commitment to Zionist principles.

COUNTRIES OF THE FSU:
Armenia • Azerbaijan • Belarus • Georgia • Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan • Moldova •
Russian Federation • Tajikistan • Turkmenistan • Ukraine • Uzbekistan

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<th>Jewish Population</th>
<th>JDC Regional Budget</th>
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<td>FSU 1.3 million</td>
<td>$104,347,274¹</td>
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¹ Figure includes funds allocated by JDC in 2006 for Jewish renewal and welfare programs, for property reclamation, and for the RIT program. RIT is the designation for activities initiated in the aftermath of World War II to bring critically needed support to Jews in Eastern Europe. These funds are now being used primarily in the former Soviet Union.

JDC’s Operating Principles

In working to help the FSU’s Jews recreate an authentic Jewish life that meets their own needs, JDC:

• Forges partnerships with all sectors of the community and with international bodies that provide help to the Jewish communities.
• Remains impartial and non-partisan.
• Avoids interference in local affairs.
Responding to the needs of thousands of impoverished young Jewish families across the FSU, the JDC CHILDREN’S INITIATIVE is helping to assure a healthier, and a Jewish, future for youngsters like this one in UZBEKISTAN. (PHOTO: SHARON FAULKNER)
**SUCCOR FOR INDIVIDUALS,
GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITIES**

Almost two decades have elapsed since JDC reentered the former Soviet Union (FSU) after a forced 50-year hiatus. In some respects, the scope of its mission has changed very little. The poverty suffered by many Jewish elderly, who live on meager pensions that were diminished by a crumbling Soviet government, is as relentless as it is rampant. The need to provide sustenance and medical care is as urgent as ever.

Yet JDC has faced painful dilemmas arising from the limited funds available to help the many needy elderly who are not eligible for services that are funded by restitution sources. As the text that follows will detail, JDC appealed to its North American Jewish Federation partners for support to ensure continued care for these Jews. Their generous response, particularly through the United Jewish Communities’ Operation Promise (OP), narrowed the budget gap significantly. Although OP funding is only temporary and is set to expire in 2008, it has been critical in helping JDC bring these Jewish elderly closer to the level of services funded by restitution sources.

Even as JDC continues this lifesaving relief effort, it is deepening its investment in the community’s infrastructure. JDC’s work in Jewish renewal—ensuring a Jewish future for the Jews of the region—has yielded many favorable developments in the communal sphere.

JDC has witnessed a marked maturation of FSU communities in recent years, a development that bodes well for future self-management. In recognition of this positive trend, JDC is implementing programs that encourage openness to new ideas and strategies and help move communities further along the road to self-sufficiency.

In all its programs—whether as a provider of relief or as a facilitator of independent growth—JDC will continue to require the partnership, support, and vision of world Jewry, who have inspired and motivated JDC throughout this epic journey.

**CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE JEWS**

Their youth and adulthood was suffocated by Communist oppression, their adolescence terrorized by Nazi brutality. Today, their old age is spent in penury as lingering victims of the economic and social shambles that resulted from the fall of the Soviet Union.

On a daily basis, aging Jews in this region ponder how to stretch their paltry pensions to cover their most fundamental needs. “Should I buy food or medicine this week?” they ask themselves. “Or should I skip my pills entirely this month so I will have the money to heat my room?” For many, this struggle is a solitary one, for they are childless or live far from children whom they have encouraged to move elsewhere in search of a better life.

In response to their overwhelming need, and in accordance with the Jewish principle of areivut, or mutual responsibility, JDC established a network of Hesed welfare centers. Since the opening of the flagship facility, St. Petersburg’s Hesed Avraham and Sonia Rochlin, in 1993, JDC has created 201 such centers that collectively serve over 220,000 aging Jews.

These centers provide what is so desperately needed: home care, medicines, emergency relief, food. Additionally, the centers offer the homebound or isolated a link to the outside world, and to the Jewish world in particular, thus piercing the loneliness that so blights their lives. Hesed volunteers—now some 14,000 in number—constitute a vital complement to the work of the network’s professionals. By mobilizing this volunteer corps, Hesed centers have breathed new life into the tradition of mutual responsibility that Communism had all but eradicated.
Individual Hesed centers also benefit from the work of Idud Hasadim, their JDC-created umbrella organization. With representation from every Hesed center in Russia, Idud Hasadim offers guidance to individual centers, liaises with the government, and promotes the dissemination of standards in service delivery.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference) is JDC’s principal partner in this massive relief effort. Along with the Swiss Banks Settlement fund, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), and the German government, it provides major restitution support for programs that care and provide for some 115,000 elderly Jews who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

This restitution funding, however, may not be used to alleviate the suffering of over 105,000 Jews who are not considered Nazi victims. These elderly Jews do not necessarily have “lesser needs.” Rather, they are those whose assistance depends entirely on the Jewish world—on JDC’s North American Federation partners in particular, as well as on donors and foundations across the globe. Despite this crucial support, funding has simply not kept pace with needs. Indeed, chronic annual shortfalls have forced JDC to make impossible choices regarding the scope of its services—dramatically cutting back relief programs for elderly Jewish “non-Nazi victims” who are ineligible for restitution-funded services.

UJC’s Operation Promise campaign was launched to help overcome these funding shortfalls—and obviate the need to make these untenable choices. However, these funds can only have the desired effect if Jewish Federations also maintain or exceed their previous levels of funding for JDC’s FSU relief programs. Any reduction in this basic support would simply cancel out, dollar for dollar, the corrective steps the special OP effort was designed to achieve.

OP significantly alleviated the funding shortfalls, thereby bringing some improvement in living conditions for the elderly. But since the campaign was unable to realize its goals completely, JDC will again face the need to raise additional funds in the coming year in order to fulfill our Jewish obligation to the elderly Jews of the FSU.

The Jewish humanitarian crisis of “non-Nazi victims” has added a new dimension to the generosity of the Jewish world that provides for their benefit. JDC’s partners in this endeavor include: the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews and the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews Canada; World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK); the Legacy Heritage Fund Limited; the Carol and Edward Kaplan Foundation Fund; the Berman Private Foundation; the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation; the Viterbi Foundation; JWM Holland—Dutch Contributions; the Five Millers Family Foundation; and Anita Hirsh.

The renaissance of Jewish life in the FSU is a testament to the passion of the region’s Jews, as well as to the commitment and generosity of North American Jewish Federations.

All North American Jewish Federations contribute to FSU relief through the UJC campaign. With available “core” funds covering only a small portion of the need, however, JDC is grateful to the following Federations who made designated allocations of over $100,000 to its FSU relief program: Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Federation of Las Vegas; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; UJA-Federation of New York; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh; United Jewish Federation of San Diego County; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington; the UJC Network of Independent Communities; and UIA Federations Canada.
Among those ineligible for restitution-funded assistance are over 9,000 Jewish “blockadniks,” survivors of the Nazis’ bitter 900-day siege of Leningrad, today’s St. Petersburg. JDC relief to the impoverished among them is supported by a partnership of European Jewish communities, foundations, and organizations. To provide aid to this unique sector, JDC relies on the support of the following European partners: Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah (the French Shoah Foundation); Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund; Union of Italian Jewish Communities (Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane—UCEI); JMW Fund; Nederlands-Israelietische Instelling voor Sociale Arbeid (NIISA); Centrale Financieringsactie voor Joods Sociaal Werk in Nederland (Cefina); Vereniging De Joodse Invalide; and Verbond van Liberaal-Religieuze Joden in Nederland (LJG).

**Easing the Pangs of Hunger**

Easing hunger has been a major feature of JDC’s relief effort since its inception. In 2006, the Hesed network dispatched just over 956,900 packages—containing staples such as rice, oil, sugar, grains, tea, pasta, and condensed milk—to some 168,028 impoverished elderly. These were supplemented by holiday parcels of timely essentials—like matzah for Passover and honey for Rosh Hashanah—that provide clients with a lifeline to their Jewish heritage.

Hot meals in communal dining rooms offer the mobile elderly hearty nutrition and the opportunity to interact regularly with their peers. Some 11,351 clients benefited from 1,062,507 communal meals in 2006. Hesed centers also distributed 1,373,709 meals-on-wheels to 6,590 homebound clients.

Some homebound clients who are still able to cook for themselves use fresh food sets delivered by the Hesed centers to prepare their own wholesome meals. This cost-effective program promotes independence among the elderly. In 2006, 597,635 fresh food sets—containing chicken, dairy staples, and vegetables—were delivered to 53,008 elderly.

**Promoting Health and Dignity**

The disintegration of health care services that followed the Soviet Union’s collapse left poor aging Jews with few options. To help meet their health care needs, Hesed’s volunteer physicians offered 31,995 free medical consultations in 2006, and 99,869 clients received the medicines they needed at little or no cost from Hesed pharmacies. Eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dentures were also distributed, and 38,836 wheelchairs and other medical devices were provided on loan.

Through its home care programs, Hesed centers ensure dignity for the bedridden and for those who cannot provide self care. In 2006, 22,823 clients benefited from a total of 5,197,941 hours of home care provided by trained caregivers.

**Winter Relief and Emergency Assistance**

To help impoverished elderly survive this region’s notoriously cold winters, Hesed centers provide heating fuel, blankets, and winter clothing and footwear, necessities that would otherwise be far beyond the means of many clients. In 2006, 75,257 Jewish elderly received warm clothing, overcoats, boots, blankets, and heating fuel.

Hesed centers also maintain an SOS Emergency Fund, which offers prompt help for urgent medical and other one-time personal needs, including pressing home repairs. Elderly Jews in Moscow and the Urals benefit from this service thanks to support from Edgar and Sandy Snyder via the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, while the Swiss Banks Settlement funds emergency allocations for Nazi victims. JDC continues to seek additional sources of funding for the SOS program to ensure that Jews throughout the region have access to this kind of assistance.

**Nourishment for Body and Spirit**

While Hesed centers are typically located in urban areas, their reach extends far beyond city limits. Using specially equipped Hesed mobiles, they convey food, medicines, and winter relief to elderly Jews in remote towns and shtetls. And the Hesed professionals who make regular home visits help safeguard the well-being of these isolated elderly.
and provide them with the comfort and reassurance of human contact.

To assist elderly Jews in the cities who are struggling to cope with loneliness, Hesed provides opportunities for social gatherings that offer stimulating programs on Jewish topics and are in tune with the Jewish year. More independent elderly clients and other volunteers provide practical support at these gatherings, furnishing help with personal grooming and other needs.

**Innovations in Hesed Service Delivery**

JDC is constantly seeking new ways to improve the services its clients receive, to promote their autonomy and dignity, and to reduce costs without jeopardizing client welfare. The Food Card program is one such initiative, and it has been meeting with great success. Participants receive a card, or other method of payment such as coupons, with a monthly Hesed allocation, which varies according to need. Using the Food Card, Hesed clients can buy products of their choice (with the exception of alcohol and cigarettes) at their convenience, at stores chosen by the Hesed on the basis of selection and price. The initiative gives clients access to fresher ingredients while restoring their sense of control over personal needs. In 2006, 19,000 individuals benefited from the Food Card program, and this figure is expected to increase in 2007.

In a similar vein, in 2006 JDC piloted SABA (Hebrew for “grandfather,” the acronym stands for the Systematic Approach to Budget Allocation), first in Moldova and then in Ukraine. The program provides clients with a budget that they themselves allocate, in consultation with their caseworker, to services that best meet their individual circumstances and needs. By introducing choice into the equation, SABA greatly enhances client autonomy. At the same time, it enhances the efficiency of Hesed centers and encourages them to maximize their funding resources.

**ENSURING A JEWISH FUTURE**

The renaissance of Jewish life in the FSU is a testament to the passion of the region’s Jews, as well as to the commitment and generosity of North American Jewish Federations. JDC continues to play a major facilitating role in the realization of this vision.

**Jewish Community Centers**

The unique Jewish Community Center (JCC) model developed by JDC in the FSU has become the hub around which much of this community renaissance has taken place. These JCCs are an...
indispensable resource for involved community members and a place for Jews to come together; they are also a key vehicle for drawing unaffiliated Jews into the community circle. The activities they offer for all ages include regular Shabbat and holiday programming, classes, lectures, art exhibits, and theatrical presentations that frequently highlight Jewish themes.

Since 2002, the Capital Cities Initiative has furthered the construction of major facilities in leading FSU cities. It began with the establishment of Moscow’s Nikitskaya JCC, which has succeeded in bringing a wide range of activities to its target population of middle class Jews. YESOD’s establishment was made possible by support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; the Claims Conference; the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation; the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Eugene J. Ribakoff; and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund of San Francisco. The ongoing activities of YESOD are sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County and the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.

JDC encourages local lay leaders to mold each JCC to fit their community’s unique needs. The JCCs have also been developing business plans that can help overcome their fiscal challenges; the plans generally include renting out part of the facility and gradually introducing fees for services.

In 2006, Nikitskaya was closed briefly for renovations, but quickly reinstated a full roster of programming options after reopening, supported by UJA-Federation of New York.

In St. Petersburg, the Jewish community has responded warmly to the opening of the YESOD multipurpose community center. YESOD has been attracting a steady clientele to its ongoing programs and large numbers to its community-wide events. The spacious building provides a home and a uniform address for some of the existing organizations in the area; it is also serving as a catalyst for a host of new initiatives aimed at deepening Jewish knowledge among adults of all ages and affiliations.

In 2006, JCC programs and campuses benefited from major gifts from the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Fund; World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK); UJA-Federation of New York; and Zoltan and Yetta Freeman and family (Toronto).
**Investing in Jewish Families**

In keeping with its belief that a strong Jewish family is the heart of a vibrant Jewish community, JDC enriches family life through a number of initiatives. Prominent among these are family retreats, which reinforce bonds between generations and nurture ties to Jewish tradition in a relaxing atmosphere. In 2006, with assistance from the Avi Chai Foundation, JDC piloted the use of advanced Jewish content at family retreats in Moscow, Minsk, Dnepropetrovsk, and the Volga region. Some 150 specially trained young adults acted as counselors and facilitators during the thought-provoking educational sessions. These programs have benefited from support from the Thalheimer Family.

A growing network of 70 Jewish kindergartens in 28 cities is giving 2,200 youngsters a well-rounded Jewish early childhood education. With a grant from UJA-Federation of New York, JDC provides ongoing training and support for early childhood educators, who also benefit from the publication of new materials.

**Combining lifesaving support for the most vulnerable with a vision of a self-sustaining Jewish community life, JDC has encouraged and aided the Jews of the FSU to formulate their own communal goals and develop their own programs and activities.**

JDC's involvement in the establishment and growth of Jewish libraries began in the late 1980s when it sent its first shipment of Jewish volumes to the FSU. Those early efforts evolved into a major campaign that has brought some 930,000 books and other materials to 184 Jewish libraries in 115 cities.

In a society that places a premium on intellectual pursuits of all kinds, JDC continues to invest in the FSU’s academic Jewish studies programs. Young adults seeking higher-level Jewish education can avail themselves of offerings at 100 state universities, or at Jewish institutions in nine cities, including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, and Kharkov. One such institution, the Chais Center for Jewish Studies, named for JDC Board member Stanley Chais, is staffed by leading educators from the FSU and Israel. The center is a collaborative effort of Moscow State University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and it is supported by the Israeli government, The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Russian Jewish Congress, and the Avi Chai Foundation.

Sefer, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Education, which was established by JDC in 1994, continues to further opportunities for Jewish educators in university settings. Approximately 2,000 academics who specialize in Jewish studies turn to Sefer to learn about upcoming conferences and training programs. Sefer has achieved international status as an academic institution. It has attracted prominent academics from Harvard University, Oxford University, and the Hebrew University to its International Advisory Council, and its annual conference regularly draws over 500 participants from the FSU and abroad.

In 2006, JDC helped launch Limmud FSU, bringing this unique UK-developed model of informal adult Jewish education to this region. The Wilf Family Foundation and the Chais Family Foundation are among those who helped make this empowering Jewish learning experience possible in the FSU.
Hillel: New Directions for a Longstanding Tradition

Created jointly by JDC, Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the FSU’s 27 Hillel centers—which unlike those in the U.S. are not campus-based—provide an outlet for Jewish expression, an avenue for Jewish study, and a Jewish space for young adults at a critical time in their lives.

College students are attracted to the centers’ vibrant Kabbalat Shabbat and holiday celebrations, their creative weekend programs and camps with Jewish themes, and a wide variety of other appealing activities. Inculcating a sense of communal responsibility is a Hillel priority, and the centers are helping to groom a future generation of involved community leaders. In addition to offering a wealth of options for volunteer activities, the centers have made training experiences a central feature of their programming. These experiences both inspire and instruct, giving participants the Jewish knowledge and practical skills they need to organize informal educational activities for other segments of the community.

The annual Pesach Project, in which Hillel members lead communal seders across the region, offers the opportunity for hands-on community work, as do similar endeavors that were inspired by the Pesach Project’s success. These include the prominent involvement of Hillel members in the organization of High Holiday celebrations and Purim and Hanukkah festivities in cities and towns across the FSU.

In 2006, the program’s three founding partners made a groundbreaking decision to join forces with The Jewish Agency and the Chais Family Foundation, under the Hillel umbrella, in order to provide expanded and more effective services for the FSU’s college-age Jews. The new partnership pools the organizations’ resources and expertise to create one large Jewish student organization with greater outreach, more local control and responsibility, and advanced professional development. The new arrangement will also endeavor to move Hillel onto college campuses, where it can reach out more effectively to unaffiliated Jewish students.

Hillel in the FSU is also supported by the Richman Family Foundation, UJA-Federation of New York, and William H. Elson.

A Holistic Approach to Children’s Welfare

JDC’s commitment to those who are most vulnerable extends also to children at risk, and its Children’s Initiative provides a framework for honoring that commitment in the FSU. Launched in 2002, the Initiative evolved from an outreach effort made by JDC to the region’s Jewish communities, inviting them to design and implement programs to address the hardships of disadvantaged children and youth in their midst.

The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) under the leadership of Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein has made a visionary gift to establish the IFCJ-JDC FSU Children’s Programs. This expression of Rabbi Eckstein’s concern and commitment will, over the next four years, ensure a significantly wider implementation of these programs and greater assistance to a much expanded number of children. This gift will also substantially narrow the gap between the extensive needs and the resources available to meet them.

JDC has gathered information on some 50,000 children and their families who may require varying degrees of assistance, and each family’s needs will be more formally assessed in the coming year. Many of these children live in abject poverty, with inadequate nutrition and in dismal or unsafe housing; others are subjected to the emotional trauma caused by dysfunctional family environments. By the end of 2006, JDC was assisting over 21,000 of these children and their families. It was providing one-time grants to cover emergency medical procedures or urgent home repairs; distributing food parcels and winter relief; and helping to nurture the youngsters’ social, emotional, and academic development.

During the past year, JDC restructured the existing Jewish Family Services program to include various outreach efforts, and it is in the process of replicating this model in other locations.
Meeting Children’s Basic Needs

In partnership with local Jewish communities, JDC implemented the following relief measures in 2006:

- About 16,660 youngsters benefited from supplemental nutrition in the form of meals-on-wheels, food packages, or food card programs for their families.
- Over 8,400 children received some form of health-related assistance, including medical attention and consultations with specialists, medicines, dental care, emergency surgery, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and rehabilitation equipment.
- JDC distributed clothes, shoes, and warm blankets to 7,774 at risk children, and winter relief and heating fuel to 1,307 underprivileged youngsters.
- To boost academic achievement, JDC provided some 7,000 children with funding for school books and transportation, and it sponsored after-school enrichment activities for 3,285 youngsters, including those with special needs.

Fostering Children’s Development

The Jewish Family Service incorporates the Mazel Tov program, a longstanding JDC initiative that has been upgraded from its early role as an outreach and welfare vehicle for young families. Through preschool enrichment programs and parenting workshops, the program supports sound early childhood development; at the same time, it identifies at risk families and offers appropriate intervention. The day center program attends to the physical, emotional, social, and developmental needs of children at risk; it also works to help parents improve their financial situation as well as their child rearing skills.

Customized Care for Special Needs Children

The Jewish Family Service enables special needs children to benefit from programs designed to enhance their development and alleviate their families’ stress and isolation. Given the emphasis on local involvement in service design, these programs have taken different forms in different locations.

In Moscow, an initiative supported by UJA-Federation of New York and jointly operated by JDC and The Jewish Agency includes an outreach program that identifies and assesses the needs of children at risk. The initiative promotes the integration of special needs children in mainstream Jewish schools and informal frameworks, and it has cultivated a pool of volunteers who provide valuable assistance to the children and their families.

Project Tikvah in Dnepropetrovsk established a day center for severely disabled Jewish children, from toddlers to teenagers. The youngsters are transported to the accessible facility in specially designed vehicles, and the full-day program includes meals, medications, and age-appropriate educational and enrichment programs.

JDC acknowledges the partnership of those whose support during the early stages of the Children’s Initiative played a key role in its realization. These include: the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews; the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; the Merrin Family; the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation; World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK); the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation; the Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Philanthropic Fund; and the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation.

Non-Sectarian Children’s Programs

Disadvantaged children in the general population are benefiting from several recent non-sectarian initiatives. In 2006, JDC partnered with the municipal authority of Kiev and the government of Ukraine to launch the Talent Workshop project.
The program provides art therapy classes for orphaned children who live in 10 Ukrainian public boarding schools.

In Khmelnitsky, Ukraine, Jewish youngsters involved in the Hesed Besht Beitenu Center—itsel a project of JDC’s Children’s Initiative—sought to raise money for a local hospital that needed bedding, bathing equipment, and diapers to care for abandoned babies until the infants could be transferred to a state orphanage. The youngsters created attractive collection boxes and distributed them, along with an informative flier, in stores throughout their hometown. The two-month campaign, which piqued the interest of local journalists and triggered in-kind donations by a vendor of baby equipment, raised public awareness as well as funds for the cause.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Since its return to the FSU, JDC has operated with a vision of self-directing, self-sufficient Jewish communities capable of assessing their needs, conceiving projects to meet them, and managing the necessary financial and human resources to bring them to fruition. As the FSU’s renaissance communities mature, JDC is building on the achievements of the past 18 years by pioneering programs that will boost the ability of the local communities to forge their own future and bring this vision closer to realization.

The William Rosenwald Institute for Communal and Welfare Workers in St. Petersburg—sponsored by the William Rosenwald Family Fund and supplemented by regional centers throughout the FSU—is JDC’s central vehicle for training welfare workers, volunteers, and lay leaders in the fundamentals of community work. New programs developed by JDC in 2006 coupled leadership training workshops with seminars that fostered an appreciation of the Jewish heritage. The Thalheimer Family and the Whizin Foundation provide generous support for these programs.
The Buncher Leadership Training Program, an initiative funded by the Buncher Family in conjunction with the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, enhanced the skills of 158 community leaders in 2006. Training for many of these leaders extended over several sessions, as in the intensive four-part course held for 21 JCC directors. The program is reinforced by financial support for community projects and voluntary activities undertaken by the graduates.

The Buncher Scholarship Program, established by Bernita Buncher in 2000, has enabled 150 promising young adults to pursue academic studies that contribute to their communal work. In 2006, the Buncher Young Leadership Development Course partnered with Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life to offer a three-part training program to 25 young leaders from the Volga region.

JDC’s annual “best practices” competition encourages excellence in community service and promotes the cross-fertilization of ideas. A grassroots effort, spearheaded by a lay leader, to provide supplementary support to the Jewish elderly in one Moscow neighborhood was among the winners of the most recent competition. JDC also encourages veteran communal professionals to mentor newcomers to the field.

In 2006, with support from UJA-Federation of New York, JDC launched the Grassroots Initiative, which began with a competition challenging loosely-affiliated adults in Moscow to come up with new concepts for programs that would engage the city’s diverse Jewish population. The competition included a training workshop facilitated by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) and yielded 27 entries, six of which have garnered sponsorship grants and are receiving professional guidance to facilitate their implementation. One of the winning projects was a Sunday school for Jews who have recently migrated to Moscow from the Caucasus. Russian-language classes would be offered to attract these Jews and facilitate their integration, while classes in Jewish subjects would reinforce their involvement in Jewish life.

JDC recognizes that the cultivation of local fundraising efforts will serve the communities well in the future and enhance the viability of current projects, even though full financial autonomy remains a distant goal. As a result, JDC has been helping Jewish community centers across the FSU develop business plans. The process is designed to help the centers identify their unique niche in a competitive environment while simultaneously fulfilling their role as engines of Jewish community development.

JDC’s School for NGO Management and Leadership in Moscow, founded with support from UJA-Federation of New York and the Joseph Meyerhoff Memorial Trust, is helping communities acquire the skills they need to implement a business management approach to program planning and operations. In partnership with the prestigious Higher School of Economics in Moscow, the school instituted a new public relations and fundraising course in 2006, as well as a course in general management skills. Both courses incorporate a Jewish studies component that will help to enhance future Jewish community management. A third course, in human resource management, was initiated in March 2007.

In 2006, JDC laid the groundwork for the Richman Family Foundation MBA+ Program. The program is intended for directors of large Jewish organizations and for those identified as having the potential to fill such positions. It allows students to specialize in the management of nonprofit organizations and to take extracurricular Jewish studies courses as they pursue their MBA studies at the State University of Management-Institute of New Economy-Moscow. The university offers both the MBA and the course in nonprofit management.

To move struggling Jewish families closer to self-sufficiency, JDC’s Avoda initiative is targeting unemployed community members and single parents, priming them for entrepreneurial ventures through specialized training programs. This program is complemented by the Aron Abecassis Micro-Enterprise Loan Fund, whose financing gives Avoda graduates in Dnepropetrovsk and Kharkov a chance to apply their new
skills and realize their entrepreneurial dreams. By the end of 2006, the Fund had awarded loans to eight budding entrepreneurs and was considering applications from seven others.

JDC’s efforts to renew Jewish life in the FSU are also supported by generous gifts from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation; the Merle and Barry Ginsburg Charitable Foundation; Jane Weitzman; the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation; the Stone Family Foundation; the Richman Family Foundation; Jacob and Vered Schimmel; and by major allocations from The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; the Minneapolis Jewish Federation; UJA-Federation of New York; and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

LOOKING AHEAD TO A PROMISING FUTURE

Combining lifesaving support for the most vulnerable with a vision of a self-sustaining Jewish community life, JDC has encouraged and aided the Jews of the FSU to formulate their own communal goals and develop their own programs and activities. In this way, JDC has helped the members of this proud but long-suffering Jewish population seize the opportunity to build their own Jewish future.

Jewish people worldwide have much at stake in this endeavor and every reason to help assure its success. JDC’s valued partners—in the larger Jewish world and in the former Soviet Union itself—are as crucial as ever, since it is their support that will cement the achievements that have been realized thus far, and bring us closer to ensuring the Jewish future of this major segment of world Jewry—a goal that surely unites us all.

OUR FEDERATION PARTNERS

JDC recognizes and thanks the Jewish Federations of North America whose support, through United Jewish Communities (UJC), makes our historic work in the FSU possible: Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; Birmingham Jewish Federation; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; Columbus Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas; Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit; Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids; Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay; Greensboro Jewish Federation; Greenwich Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis; Jewish Federation of Las Vegas; Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; Memphis Jewish Federation; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Nashville; UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey; Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans; UJA-Federation of New York; Jewish Federation of the North Shore; Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Palm Springs & Desert Area; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Jewish Federation of Pinellas County; United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh; Jewish Federation of Rhode Island; Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation; United Jewish Federation of San Diego County; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; United Jewish Fund and Council of Greater St. Paul; Jewish Federation of St. Louis; Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle; Syracuse Jewish Federation; UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; Jewish Federation of Waco and Central Texas; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington; Jewish Federation of Washkenaw County; UJA Federation of Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk; Youngstown Area Jewish Federation; UJC Network of Independent Communities; and UIA Federations Canada.
The Shabbat lights are kindled in Uzbekistan—and the glow warms hearts throughout the Jewish world. (Photo: James Nubile)
Europe

JDC Program Budget

| EUROPE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & REGIONAL FUNDS | $ 3,094,120 |

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<th>Jewish Population</th>
<th>JDC Country Budget</th>
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Note: Jewish population figures are approximate.

JDC’s Objectives in Europe

• JDC responds to three different types of Jewish communities: fully autonomous communities, communities arriving at self-sufficiency, and communities on the road to self-sufficiency. JDC’s approach will vary accordingly, offering social welfare services, community development initiatives, leadership programs, and networking activities, as appropriate.

• JDC’s elderly welfare caseload in Europe surpasses 35,000. Relief programs for Holocaust survivors are maintained throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries. JDC also assists these communities in their efforts to ensure that the basic needs of Jewish children are met. By offering welfare programs for children in need, JDC supports their integration into the larger Jewish community.

• JDC employs a holistic approach to community development, looking at each community as an intertwined system of organizations, infrastructures, and population groups. In helping communities engaged in the process of restructuring, JDC aims for the development of a full Jewish community life, with programs that address different needs and efforts to build a more democratic, pluralistic environment.
As they welcome the Shabbat at the RONALD S. LAUDER FOUNDATION/JDC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CAMP in SZARVAS, HUNGARY, campers release balloons with their special wishes inside. (PHOTO: LASZLO MULLER)
JDC EUROPE: A REFOCUSED, CONTINENTWIDE APPROACH

In January 2007, Bulgaria and Romania entered the European Union (EU), the most recent of the former Communist bloc countries to join. Mirroring the EU’s expansion and its ongoing integration of the Central and Eastern European countries, JDC has restructured its European operations, putting all of them under a new, continentwide umbrella.

The new JDC Europe department seeks to respond more effectively to the realities of this new Europe and the opportunities and ongoing challenges that it presents. To aid in the process of creating a holistic European Jewish community, JDC offers a wide spectrum of activities and services, from social welfare programs for the needy to community development initiatives that reinforce Jewish renewal.

JDC Europe oversees Eastern, Central, and Western Europe and the Baltic States. Accordingly, it has adopted a three-pronged approach, or three levels of operation: pan-European, regional clusters, and country by country/community.

On a pan-European level, JDC is involved in the process of networking Europe’s estimated 1.5 million Jews. It reaches out to communities all across the continent, building bridges from one to another and helping them create a “Jewish common market.”

Regional Clusters include: the Weinberg Black Sea Gesher Region, the Danube Weinberg Region, and the Via Baltica Region. These clusters are frameworks for European Jewish communities that have a common geographic, cultural, language, and/or historic base. By creating these clusters, JDC aims to provide these communities (many of which are quite small or isolated) with the critical mass they need to engage in significant Jewish programming, networking, and interaction.

COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Hungary

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in Hungary, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

Over 5,000 elderly Jews benefited in 2006 from an array of welfare services that included: emergency assistance, kosher meals-on-wheels for homebound clients and dry food packages for those capable of cooking for themselves, home care and home nursing services, medical assistance, and various forms of non-tangible support. Programs for Holocaust survivors are implemented in partnership with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, the German Government Funds for Homecare, the Hungarian Gold Train Settlement, MAZIHISZ (the Hungarian Federation of Jewish Communities), and the Hungarian Health Fund.

With JDC’s aid, the Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation (HJSSF), its local partner, provided special cash grants for medical expenses and emergency needs in 2006 to about 115 elderly Jews. An information database is being created this year of the community’s Holocaust survivors and their families; this should facilitate the implementation of a family
service strategy in place of the current distribution system. JDC is also working to establish a welfare forum in partnership with several of the local Jewish organizations.

JDC’s operations in Hungary are generously supported by the Grove Foundation, with funding for specific programs provided by the Rothschild Foundation Europe and Norfund (Norwegian Investment Fund for Developing Countries).

Through HJSSF, 165 Jewish children in need and their families were given emergency assistance last year; they also took part in after-school activities at the Balint Jewish Community Center (JCC) and were able to participate in a Jewish summer camp. This program was implemented with generous support from the James H. Becker Endowment Fund for Central and Eastern Europe. A forum for children in need was established in partnership with the local schools, Jewish organizations, synagogues, and the Balint JCC. The forum has a campaign under way to reach out to additional children in need, raise community awareness regarding this issue, and generate new grassroots fundraising initiatives.

The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, now in its 17th year of operation, is a hub for both the local and regional Jewish community and a premiere attraction for youngsters from all parts of the Jewish world. Major support for the camp was provided by the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, and over 2,000 Jewish campers and counselors from 23 countries were hosted in 2006. A similar number will benefit this year from what has come to be called “the Szarvas experience,” a unique blend of creative Jewish learning and cultural activities and just plain summer fun. There are currently 21 participants in the Szarvas Empowerment Initiative, a three-year training cycle for young leaders with a proven commitment to the camp and to their home communities.

Szarvas has become the year-round venue for most of the training programs and other activities organized by JDC Europe’s community development team. The camp is home to an ongoing series of training seminars for madrichim (youth leaders), as well as JDC’s International Madrich Training Seminar. The latter was designed to prepare experienced madrichim for greater program responsibilities in their home communities.

Machol Hungaria, Europe’s largest Israeli folk dance festival and seminar, has been making full use of the Szarvas facilities each spring. A gateway to Judaism for many, Machol Hungaria has become a powerful tool for nurturing Jewish tradition and culture. Over 170 participants from 17 countries took part in this year’s event, which highlighted the diversity and richness of Jewish culture around the globe. The April 2007 gathering included a large group of middle-aged participants from Romania, several of whom had children who had grown up at Szarvas and had communicated their enthusiasm to their parents. In recent years, different segments of the Hungarian Jewish community have been using the camp’s facilities to run their own programs, including special sessions organized by various Jewish schools prior to the start of the regular summer camp.

As part of its community development efforts, JDC supports the HJSSF’s volunteerism initiative. HJSSF has been working to raise awareness among Jews of the importance of volunteerism to community building, and it has been reaching out to all segments of the community to recruit additional volunteers. JDC/European Council of Jewish Communities initiatives like the 2005 all-Hungarian General Assembly, as well as other conferences and seminars that bring different segments of this large Jewish population together, are also facilitating community development.

The JDC Outreach Network initiative, which supports organizations and programs that reach out to the many unaffiliated Jews in Budapest, is another important community building tool. In addition to providing financial support for the network, JDC furnishes technical assistance to the constituent organizations and has been helping them to expand their financial base. Outreach to the general public has been getting a boost each year at the Sziget Festival, a multicultural event held annually in Budapest. JDC has been helping some 10 local Jewish organizations organize an exhibit tent at the festival, which usually draws between 300,000 and 500,000 people.
JDC has made a variety of training opportunities available to the community through Leatid Europe and the Buncher Community Leadership Program. Young leaders and talented volunteers have benefited from the two-year-long Tnufa training program, which was run in cooperation with the Central European University and the Buncher Program. This program was intended for young communal workers and lay leaders who were taking on new responsibilities and positions in several different Jewish organizations, and it trained 15 professionals in 2006.

**Romania**

Romania joined the European Union in January 2007. However, the macroeconomic gains that preceded its accession have only recently begun to spur efforts to address the nation’s widespread poverty, and the country still lacks a government social safety net. JDC and FEDROM (the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania) must therefore continue to concentrate their efforts on welfare programs for Jewish elderly, nearly all of whom are lonely and ailing Holocaust survivors who have no younger family members to turn to for help.

Welfare services include monthly cash grants that provide vital support to 580 needy elderly Jews, and a winter relief program that enabled some 1,030 elderly to purchase sufficient heat, warm clothing, and non-perishable foods to see them through the country’s harsh winter. A food assistance program provides heavily subsidized daily hot meals for 750 seniors at FEDROM’s network of kosher canteens, old age homes, and day care centers. Meals-on-wheels are delivered at least three times a week to 255 homebound welfare clients, and 8 to 12 food packages are distributed during the course of the year to over 2,500 clients and other Holocaust survivors.

The Claims Conference and other restitution-related sources—including the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah (the French Shoah Foundation), and the German Government Funds for Homecare—as well as the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation provide critical funding for FEDROM’s essential welfare services. Vital support for a range of JDC programs in Romania has been furnished by the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City—which maintains a long-term partnership with JDC and Romanian Jewry; by the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater; by World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK); and by the Esther Leah Ritz Living Trust.

JDC’s community development activities and social welfare programs are also generously
Symbolizing what JDC has been aiming for, the outing brought children (including beneficiaries of the children in need program), youth, the middle generation, and the elderly together as a community to celebrate this holiday in the traditional way.

Supported by: the Patricia Werthan Uhlmann Foundation; Annie and Art Sandler; Edythe Roland; Claude and Etty Arnall; the Joseph and Sally Handleman Charitable Foundation; the Celia Krichman Charitable Trust at the Tidewater Federation; Nancy Marks; and Roger Fishman.

Through FEDROM’s Bucharest Polyclinic and the smaller socio-medical centers it maintains around the country, 1,850 elderly Jews are expected to benefit from comprehensive medical care in 2007. Thanks to generous support from WJR and the Kansas City and Tidewater Federations, JDC will be able to furnish medicine and medical supplies this year to some 1,500 needy Jews. WJR and Kansas City are also the mainstay of FEDROM’s clothing and bedding distribution program, which is receiving food packages, basic clothing, and medical care.

The community’s recently established Children in Need Program provides food, medicines, supplies, and other services to help ensure the health and well-being of needy Jewish youngsters and facilitate their integration into community life. Through the special children’s unit that is now part of FEDROM’s Social Assistance Department, some 120 children and adolescents are currently receiving food packages, basic clothing, and medical care.

To help move the community toward self-sufficiency, JDC helped FEDROM establish property management systems, providing expert guidance and training to maximize the benefits derived from this main source of communal income. Support for legal fees was generously provided by the David Berg Foundation. JDC also works with the board of the Charity Foundation, which is under the joint auspices of the World Jewish Restitution Organization and FEDROM.

Staffed by a team of enthusiastic young professionals, Bucharest’s newly established Jewish Community Center (JCC) aims to draw Bucharest youth and young families into Jewish life. Extensive renovations are currently being made to the community’s Popa Soare facility, to accommodate the needs of the new JCC. Linda and Jerry Spitzer are providing generous financial support for this project, and are working to ensure that the resulting facility will be an attractive, up-to-date venue for community activities and innovative programs that will appeal to the unaffiliated.

JCC programming is also being piloted this year in other locations, most notably in the growing Jewish community of Oradea. The JDC
Board members who visited Oradea in April 2006 were impressed by the extent of the community’s accomplishments in the community development sphere. Recognizing that this is a strong Jewish community with a future, the Arnall Family has generously funded the ongoing renovation of an unused space that will give the community a wonderful new center for its flourishing youth and middle generation activities.

FEDROM and JDC continue to fund the Organization for Jewish Youth in Romania (OTER), which has nine clubs throughout Romania that are reaching some 300 youth. Two-week camps and Jewish study sessions, now led entirely by local youth leaders, are held each summer at the community campsite in Cristian. To accommodate growing needs, an extensive reconstruction of the campsite was recently undertaken with major funding from Annie and Art Sandler and support from FEDROM and the Kansas City Federation. The result is a modern facility that is nearly twice the size of the original camp.

With JDC’s assistance, Romanian youth have been active participants in a variety of regional activities, including the Weinberg Black Sea Gesher Students’ Institute, which the community itself hosted two years ago; the Sela Forum in Warsaw; the March of the Living; the International Bible and Jewish Identity Contests; the Machol Hungaria Israeli folk dance festival; and PAIDEIA, the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden. Support from the Lauder Foundation has enabled some 70 local youngsters to take part each year in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary.

JDC supports the work of a visiting Chief Rabbi and other religious functionaries, and it provides Passover food from Israel and various religious items. In June 2007, a Romanian-born rabbinical student completed his studies at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York. The attainment of semicha (rabbinical ordination) by this promising young community leader is a milestone for Romanian Jewry—one that was made possible by generous support from the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, the Patricia Werthan Uhlmann Foundation, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, George Rich, and others.

New programming elements are being added in 2007 for the middle generation, an all-important segment of the community that has been a particular target of recent JDC Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers. Established throughout the country with strong support from the Kansas City Federation, middle generation clubs now have over 800 active participants. The most recent Romanian training cycle of the Buncher Community Leadership Program focused primarily on this age group. Norfund provides generous support for Holocaust seminars and Jewish educational efforts that are multigenerational.

As part of their efforts to reach out to Bucharest’s many unaffiliated Jews, JCC staff members organized an intergenerational Lag Ba’Omer picnic this past May that proved to be a rousing success. The outing brought children (including beneficiaries of the Children in Need program), youth, the middle generation, and the elderly—some 200 Jews in all—together for a day in the Chernika forest that featured food, games, discussions, and some time to relax. Symbolizing what JDC has been aiming for, the event enabled young people, young families, and senior citizens to come together as a community to celebrate this holiday in the traditional way.

Poland

The Central Jewish Welfare Commission, which is made up of representatives of the country’s five major Jewish organizations, is now the sole manager of the social welfare program that sustains many of Poland’s aging Holocaust survivors. With ongoing professional support from JDC, the commission has become a hub for volunteerism and a reference point for engaging the Jewish population in community activities. JDC has been working with the Union of Jewish Religious Communities of Poland (JRCP) and the local communities to ensure that, as property restitution increases, their financial role in this program will continue to expand.

JDC provides professional guidance and training opportunities for the commission’s
social workers, and both the director and the commission chair have been actively involved in the Poland-based Sela Forum for Central and Eastern European Jewish Social Service Professionals. The forum was established under JDC’s auspices to promote the sharing of skills and best practices.

With generous support from the Claims Conference, the Swiss Banks Settlement, and other restitution-related sources, the Welfare Commission maintains a variety of services for these elderly survivors. Cash assistance payments helped sustain 546 cases in 2006, while the eight kosher kitchens operated by JRCP in various parts of the country served some 130,000 free meals to needy Jews last year. Most operating costs are covered locally, with JDC funding the purchase of kosher meat and supplying matzah and other foods for Passover. The Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation maintains a close partnership with the Polish Jewish community and has been of particular assistance to two of the poorest localities, and the Joseph and Sally Handleman Charitable Foundation provides important program support.

With funding from the Claims Conference and JDC, the Jewish community, through its central dispensary in Warsaw, supplied prescription medications to some 1,200 elderly Jews in 2006, and flu vaccinations were given to most of the elderly. Walkers, hearing aids, vitamins, personal care items, additional medications, and clothing were distributed by the Welfare Commission, which also helps cover the cost of transporting those with limited mobility to doctors’ offices and Jewish events, emergency home repairs, rent, winter heating bills, and sudden medical expenses.

A home care program set up with generous support from the Claims Conference, the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, and the German Government Funds for Homecare has been covering the primary needs of homebound welfare clients, while rehabilitation retreats for about 25 survivors at a time have been organized twice a year at the Srodborow-Akiva Kohane campsite. The day care centers and clubs for seniors that operated last year in Lodz, Wroclaw, Poznan, Gdansk, and Warsaw provided the more mobile elderly with physical therapy programs and opportunities for learning and socializing with their peers.

The Jewish community’s volunteer effort has become a model for the region. Some 50 to 60 volunteers have been recruited and trained by one of the social workers, who supervises their efforts to bring aid and comfort to over 120 lonely elderly Jews. The Volunteer International Exchange Program (VIP), an international forum established by JDC and supported by the Becker Endowment Fund, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, and the “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” Foundation, is working to encourage volunteerism of this nature in neighboring countries.

The recently established Children in Need program provides Poland’s poorest Jewish children with food, clothing, medicines, school supplies, and access to camp and other Jewish educational programs. It also helps their families pay their rent and winter heating bills. With generous support from the Sarasota-Manatee Federation, vital assistance of this nature has been provided to 100 children from 70 families in need of urgent help.
The Sarasota-JDC Jewish Children’s Camp is already changing the face of Polish Jewry, offering an attractive local Jewish programming opportunity to children and youth. Generous support from the Sarasota-Manatee Federation made last summer’s session, which attracted 76 youngsters, a particular success. Held in the Mazury Lake town of Rodowo, the camp for the first time featured all kosher food. Fifteen of the children were from impoverished families; their participation was made possible by grants from the Federation.

Forty-six campers and five counselors also attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, last year, and 10 young people attended the annual Machol Hungaria Israeli folk dance seminar. Jewish youth clubs, generously supported by the Sarasota-Manatee Federation and Miriam Scharf, are active in Krakow, Gdansk, and Wroclaw, and a new club was inaugurated in April 2006 in Lodz. The new Youth Center in Warsaw (formerly the JDC Resource Center) serves as a youth club for the Warsaw community; it also oversees and provides Jewish resource materials for the other clubs.

JDC continues to assist the Krakow community in developing its combined Jewish Community Center/Senior Center, a project made possible by the support of World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK) and the patronage of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.

JDC works in partnership with a variety of Polish Jewish organizations, furnishing varying degrees of financial and/or technical support. Over the past year, JRCP, which maintains synagogues, coordinates religious services and holiday celebrations, and operates the community’s kosher kitchens, has begun receiving limited revenue from the reclamation of communal property. JDC no longer funds it operating expenses, but it does provide support for specific programs. JDC also funds activities organized by the local components of the TSKZ, the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews; it collaborates with Beit Warszawa; and it provides organizational and programming guidance to two local Jewish students’ organizations.

The training seminars for local youth leaders that were conducted by JDC with support from the Sarasota-Manatee Federation continue to benefit the community, as do the seminars and workshops that have been organized locally for both community leaders and professional staff. JDC enables community members to participate in regional programs and training efforts, including the Buncher Community Leadership Program, Leatid Europe, the Szarvas International Madrich Training Seminar, and the March of the Living.

The Balkan Countries: Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, and Albania

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in this region, see the JDC IDP section of this Annual Report.

JDC deals with pressing welfare issues in the poorest areas of the Balkans, and it helps other communities to achieve financial self-sufficiency. The ravages of war in various parts of former Yugoslavia left significant welfare needs in many Jewish communities, which JDC has responded to with the help of World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), the Claims Conference, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), the Swiss Banks Settlement, and the Thalheimer Foundation.

JDC helps implement social welfare efforts undertaken by individual Jewish communities throughout the Balkans. While services are tailored to local needs, they generally include regular monthly cash relief, food programs, home care, emergency grants, subsidized hospital treatment, and the provision of medicines, medical supplies, and safety equipment for the home.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, where unemployment remains very high, JDC, with help from an anonymous donor, launched the Perspektiva initiative. This training and employment program offered courses to upgrade professional and English-language skills and help in securing jobs to 50 unemployed members of the Sarajevo Jewish community last year. The program also serves as a support club for determined job seekers stymied by the difficult economic situation.
JDC also finances the modest monthly assistance payments that the Federation of Jewish Communities will provide this year to 43 needy elderly Holocaust survivors living in Sarajevo, Banja Luca, Mostar, Teslić-Doboj, Tuzla, and Zenica. The Swiss Banks Settlement funds emergency grants for urgent needs, with over 200 survivors aided over the past year. JDC makes in-kind donations of new clothing, medicines, and personal hygiene items available for distribution to needy Jews and to public institutions and charities, and it supports home care for needy elderly Jews.

That care is furnished by the non-sectarian home care program and outpatient clinic developed by La Benevolencija, the Sarajevo Jewish community’s cultural and humanitarian aid organization, which aided over 500 impoverished, isolated, and often chronically ill elderly from all national and ethnic backgrounds in 2006. This number included 211 Jews, the large majority of whom were Holocaust survivors. Funding is generously provided by Dr. Alfred Bader, JDC’s Bosnia “Open Mailbox,” the Claims Conference, and ICHEIC.

Additional support from Dr. Bader and a grant from the Austrian National Fund for Holocaust Victims have enabled the clinic to lend essential medical equipment and assistive devices to survivors and other home care clients. A physical therapy regimen was added to the program in June 2006.

In Serbia, where about 30 percent of the population is still living below the poverty line, extensive support from the Claims Conference, ICHEIC, WJR, and the Thalheimer Foundation enables JDC and SAVEZ (the Federation of Jewish Communities) to furnish a wide range of social and medical assistance to survivors and to other needy members of the community. Home care for 41 people was one of the services provided in 2006; over 880 prescriptions were dispensed each month through Belgrade’s free communal pharmacy; and Swiss Banks Settlement funding helped 180 survivors cope with emergency needs.

The kosher community kitchen that JDC helped the Belgrade community open two years ago with support from the US, UK, and Italy served over 11,350 meals in its dining hall last year, and it provided 6,865 meals-on-wheels to 30 homebound elderly. The meals are funded by the Claims Conference, WJR, the Thalheimer Foundation, and the participants themselves. A food voucher program also continued in 2006, benefiting close to 400 needy Jews. Through the continuing generosity of Dr. Alfred Bader, a soup kitchen in the Jewish community building in Novi Sad has been serving 75 free meals a day to exceptionally needy people from all ethnic backgrounds.

Thanks to government restitution policies regarding communal property, the Jewish community of Macedonia is fully self-sufficient and is responsible for its own welfare programs, educational activities, and religious life.

In Croatia, a watershed restitution settlement made with the government in 2000 enabled the Zagreb community to assume financial responsibility for its welfare programs as well as its cultural activities. The additional assistance needed by increasingly frail Holocaust survivors—in the form of medical services, home care, and emergency help—is underwritten by generous grants from the Claims Conference, ICHEIC, and the Swiss Banks Settlement.

The Zagreb community has also been increasing its support each year for the Lavoslav Schwarz Home for the Aged. This has enabled JDC to continue to reduce its own support for this 80-bed facility, which welcomes Jews from all of former Yugoslavia. The Croatian government provides limited subsidies for needy Croatians, while JDC subsidizes care for 70 impoverished elderly Bosnian Jews. JDC has also been working with the leadership of the Home to improve operational efficiency while maintaining professional standards.

In Albania last year, JDC provided regular cash assistance to four elderly Holocaust survivors. It also continues to provide medicines and medical supplies to survivors and to other needy or chronically ill Jews.

To help local communities regain communal properties and maximize their income potential, JDC has initiated and is supporting research and
documentation projects throughout the region, as well as property management seminars. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, it has been aiding community efforts to uncover and document nationalized or forgotten Jewish communal properties throughout the country; similar efforts in Slovenia and in the Eastern Slovenia region of Croatia have also been particularly noteworthy.

Throughout this area, JDC encourages Jewish communities to take part in cross-border experiences that it helps to facilitate and support. These events strengthen regional ties and are of particular assistance to those living in the smaller, more isolated communities. The weeklong *Beyachad* festival, held during the holiday of Sukkot each fall on the Croatian island of Hvar, reunites large numbers of Jews from all parts of the former Yugoslavia for a celebration of Jewish culture. JDC’s more recently introduced Hanukkah Caravan travels across borders to light the menorah and celebrate this festival in a different community each night.

With support from the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, the *Menuha* program, organized through JDC, is putting young Jewish activists from all parts of the former Yugoslavia to work in the region’s historic Jewish cemeteries, such as those in Split (Croatia), Nis (Serbia), and Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The weeklong work and Jewish study program promotes cooperation among the area’s young adults.

Since 2004, the Zagreb Jewish community, with JDC’s support, has been organizing an all-former Yugoslav Jewish children’s camp at Pirovac, the community campsite on the Dalmatian coast where similar JDC-supported programs nurtured earlier generations of Yugoslav Jewish youth. The camp has been sponsored in part by Jan Weil and the Jewish Federation of Central Alabama. Nine Jewish youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina were able to take part in that camp last summer, thanks to grants from the Alabama Federation, WJR, and JDC. Support from those same parties enabled eight Bosnian youngsters to participate in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, which was also attended by 12 Jewish youth from Croatia.

In Belgrade, Serbia, JDC launched a new program for Jewish youth last summer that crossed not just one, but two borders. Called “The Jewish Summer,” the program had a group of youngsters taking part in a local Jewish day camp and then in the Jewish camp in Bulgaria before moving on to Hungary and a session at Szarvas. Widespread participation by Serbian children and teenagers in camp sessions and training institutes at Szarvas has fueled much of the educational and social programming that JDC helped develop in recent years. With generous support from WJR, a total of 75 young Jews from Serbia and Macedonia were able to attend camp sessions at Szarvas last summer.
In Bosnia and Herzegovina, generous financial support from the Central Alabama Federation has been helping to underwrite a number of new Jewish cultural and educational activities, including a recently held Jewish women’s conference. JDC continues to subsidize the Sarajevo community’s Jewish Sunday school, which actually meets on Shabbat. It sends a trained Jewish educator (and former Sarajevan) back from Israel to lead High Holiday services and Sarajevo’s special Passover seder, which once again drew government leaders and members of the diplomatic corps this year. He also travels to the smaller communities to lecture on Jewish topics, as part of JDC’s ongoing outreach efforts in the outlying areas.

Connections, the WJR women’s group, provided scholarships to four outstanding Bosnian Jewish students in 2006. Members of the group visited the region last November, and Connections is extending scholarships to area youth again this year.

JDC continues to support Jewish educational and cultural programs in Croatia’s smaller communities and in Slovenia. These include holiday celebrations, lectures, Hebrew courses, exhibits, and other programs for children, youth, and adults, as well as the purchase of Jewish resource materials. JDC has also been helping Jewish youth in Slovenia participate in regional and pan-European Jewish community events. It continues to furnish the community in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with kosher food and religious items, and it finances the regular visits made by their chief rabbi, who lives in nearby Trieste.

In Serbia, the Belgrade community’s youth club, which was established in the synagogue complex with WJR’s help, has been serving as a base for training, learning, and recreational programs. A computer lab set up at the club with generous contributions from Jerry Spitzer and Patricia Werthan Uhlmann is being utilized by all age groups. JDC funds the outreach activities of the Belgrade rabbi who serves as spiritual leader in both Serbia and Macedonia. It also supplies the communities with kosher food, including Passover food shipped from Israel, and various religious items.

Israeli folk dancing continues to attract enthusiasts throughout the region. Dance marathons have been held in various communities, and local troupes supported by JDC—Ma’ayan and Nahar Ha’esh in Serbia and Ohr Hashemesh in Croatia—perform at home and abroad to much acclaim. Shira u’Tfila, Belgrade’s Sephardi chanting and percussion group, also continues to have a wide following.

In Macedonia, JDC furnishes training and educational materials for Hebrew classes, Israeli folk dancing activities, and various cultural programs in Skopje. It has also been playing a central role in the annual Holocaust commemorations.

In Albania, JDC provides the community with books, periodicals, and other Jewish educational materials in Italian, the second language of most Albanian Jews. A special Rosh Hashanah program organized during the September 2006 visit of JDC’s country director was attended by nearly all the members of this small group of Jews. JDC supplies matzah for Passover and other religious items. The group especially appreciated receiving Hanukkah menorahs last year; they subsequently organized their own holiday program so that they could light them together, as a community.

Lay and professional leaders throughout the region benefit from JDC training opportunities. JDC held a series of Buncher Program training retreats for the new members of the Belgrade community board, and it regularly involves Jewish lay leaders and professionals from the Western Balkans in Leatid Europe’s seminars and workshops. It recently enabled local leaders, mainly from Serbia, to visit and learn from successful programs in Bulgaria, and it facilitates the participation of Jews from the region in the European General Assembly and other conferences organized by the European Council of Jewish Communities and JDC.

Outstanding Jewish youth and young adults take part in JDC-supported regional activities like Machol Hungaria and various training and young leadership programs. These include local seminars, the Szarvas training seminars for madrichim (youth leaders), and the Weinberg
Macedonia itself was the setting for this year’s Institute, which brought 350 young adults from 13 countries together on Lake Ohrid in Struga this past May, just before the Shavuot holiday. The impact of this gathering on the host community was profound, leading one of the main organizers to exclaim, “For the first time since World War II, our community in Macedonia has practically tripled, reaching 600 Jews—an unprecedented number here!” This 2007 Gesher event was funded by JDC, the Weinberg Foundation, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, and the region’s local communities, and a group of 22 volunteers from the participating countries assumed responsibility for its organization. “Responsibility,” in fact, was the theme of the three-day Institute, which also focused on Jewish pluralism and offered participants a choice of four different but equally warm Shabbat services. The deeply moving Havdalah ceremony that brought both Shabbat and the gathering to a close showed how well the organizers had succeeded in creating new connections among these young Jews. Their words and actions as they rejoiced together in song and dance spoke of a single Jewish community, joined by a common past and a shared vision for the future.

The Baltic Countries: Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia

Over 3,700 needy and elderly clients are benefitting today from the Jewish community welfare services that have been developed in each of the Baltic countries with JDC’s help. The programs are based on the model created in the former Soviet Union, and the assistance rendered includes food, medicines and medical consultations, home care, and winter relief. Services were expanded to additional outlying areas last year, and the use of supermarket debit cards in place of food packages was introduced in various locations. Throughout the Baltics, the Warm Homes program, also patterned on the FSU model, furnishes hot meals and the warmth of human companionship to isolated elderly Jews.

The majority of welfare clients in the Baltic countries are aging and increasingly frail Holocaust survivors. Generous support from the Claims Conference, Sweden’s Baltic Forum, the Swiss Banks Settlement, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, and other restitution-related sources has been helping to fund the expanded services they need.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles has established a strategic partnership with the Baltic Jewish communities, and it is helping to support many of the cultural and educational initiatives that have so transformed Jewish life.

The Children in Need (CIN) program provides the Baltic communities’ most vulnerable Jewish children with food, medicines, school supplies, scholarships, and the chance to take part in community life. The program was able to serve 370 children throughout this region last year, 180 of whom received a full basket of services. The Baby Help program provided diapers, baby formula, and other items to 20 babies and toddlers, and one-time emergency assistance was given to 20 children in dire need. Some 132 children across the region benefited from scholarships that allowed them to participate in community activities, and 170 youngsters received food packages and other supplies on an as-needed basis.

The Adler Feeding Program, implemented by JDC within the CIN framework and generously supported by the George I. Adler-Jack A. Friedrych Charitable Fund, continues to ensure that families in the most desperate financial situations can provide their children with the nourishment they need. In Latvia and Estonia, nearly 100 children from birth to 17 years of age are being aided by this program, which provides monthly cash assistance to enable their parents to purchase basic food supplies. In Lithuania, 60 children receive monthly food packages with nutritional staples. Operating through the Jewish schools and the local Jewish welfare organizations, the Adler program also provides its young clients with vitamin supplements and special food packages before Jewish holidays. The program has generated a number of welfare-related projects, such as a...
“second-hand clothing circle,” in which recipient families return outgrown clothing for recycling among other needy families.

The Jewish Federation of St. Louis provided support for the CIN program and a preschool in Riga, while the Lawrence J. and Anne Rubenstein Foundation provided funds for programs serving various generations in Estonia.

Through the Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) that it helped establish along with a variety of educational and cultural activities, JDC is helping to foster Jewish identity throughout the region. The roster of weekday activities in Vilnius includes an early childhood program at the JCC, in a facility renovated with generous support from the George I. Adler-Jack A. Frydrych Charitable Fund, which also funded a van to transport the youngsters. The Ilan Children’s Club caters to youngsters of all ages, combining informal Jewish educational programs with recreational and social activities. Similar children’s clubs are flourishing today in Tallinn, in Riga, and in some of the region’s smaller cities and towns.

The Gesher Young Adults’ Club in Vilnius, which now has about 300 members, serves as a social network and a breeding ground for new community leaders. The club has become a model of programming for this age group, one that is inextricably linked to the future of these Jewish communities. The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles supports Gesher and various cultural programs.

In Estonia, the Dor Va Dor JCC in Tallinn, with JDC’s help, offers a rich menu of social, cultural, and educational programs and services to Jews of all ages. Its Hanukkah celebrations last December, organized in cooperation with the Jewish community of Estonia, illustrated the scope of the communal activities now firmly under way. A total of five events were held, with the combined participation of almost 1,100 people.

With generous support from the Posner Family through the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, a new floor has been added to the Dor Va Dor JCC. Completed in October 2006, these new facilities are providing critically needed space for the Tallinn community’s welfare center and its community canteen.

The Faierlech Music and Dance Ensemble is an award-winning representative of the Lithuanian Jewish community. The ensemble participates in international festivals and has performed in several of the area’s JCCs. The members have also staged a series of “in-house” performances for the local community.

The fourth Machol Baltica Jewish Performing Arts Festival brought over 100 participants from the three Baltic countries together in Latvia last year for four days of study and celebration. The event’s three-track program included Israeli dance, Jewish songs, and Jewish arts and crafts. Dance instructors, music school teachers, and art specialists from the region’s schools and camps were able to learn more about their craft and share experiences with their peers. The festival also helps to broaden the knowledge and deepen the motivation of those who define their Judaism as a cultural belonging.

Through JDC’s Judaism Comes Home program, which is generously supported by Susan and Jack Frydrych, some 80 families in Lithuania (and 20 more in a pilot project in Estonia) have taken their Jewish education one step further by bringing the traditions and rituals they’ve learned about in communal settings into their homes and everyday lives. The year-long program, initiated in February 2006, was carried out in two different formats for two different groups (40 families in Vilnius and 40 families from the provinces of Kovno, Shavl, and Klaipeda). All participants received a complete “Jewish kit” for their homes, which included a Siddur, Shabbat candlesticks and candles, a Kiddush cup, a Chumash, a Passover Haggadah and seder plate, a Hanukkah menorah, a Purim megillah, and a pointer (or yad) for Torah reading.

A program highlight was the 2007 Baltics Limmud-Keshet conference in Vilnius this past February, which benefited once again from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles’ strong support. A staggering 1,100 people took part in this year’s grassroots event, the majority of whom were young families from the region’s emerging middle class—a group that represents their community’s future. The program included more than 120
lectures and workshops taught mostly by local Jews, family and children's activities, and joyous singing and dancing. This latest Limmud-Keshet, which received supplementary support from the Rothschild Foundation Europe and other donors, attracted participants from 12 countries outside the Baltics, many of whom are eager to replicate this study fest in their home communities.

Reflecting the fact that, thanks to Limmud and the Judaism Comes Home project, families have indeed been changing their way of life, the most sought after materials at this year's conference were books that explained how to keep Jewish traditions at home. JDC is expanding the Judaism Comes Home project this year to include additional communities, and it will continue to implement three mini-Limmud seminars during the course of the year.

Through the seminars and workshops conducted by Leatid Europe and the Buncher Community Leadership Program, JDC makes training opportunities available to Jewish leaders in communities throughout the region. The Young Professionals Program, an international initiative aimed at grooming young leaders, continued in 2006, with 70 participants from the Baltic countries. JDC has contributed to the development of multigenerational Jewish community boards in each of the three Baltic countries, and a customized training and community planning seminar was held for the community board in Estonia last year within the Leatid framework.

Regional programs, such as the Kadima Baltic School for Youth Counselors/Madrichim, train junior leaders in all three countries who are quickly becoming the backbone of Jewish community life. Working with graduates of the Buncher Program, they help run youth club activities, which now include Jewish workshops and training sessions, Shabbat and holiday celebrations, outtings, and camp programs, as well as a job databank. The Kadima School is generously supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

For hundreds of children throughout the region, the Olameinu Baltic Summer Camp has become an experience not to be missed. In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, JDC held last summer's camp in Klooga, Estonia, bringing together nearly 600 Jewish children from all three Baltic countries. The camp gives youngsters new to Jewish life and those already involved in community activities a chance to strengthen their Jewish identities and experience Judaism on a daily basis, thereby adding a new dimension to programming for this youngest generation. Some 90 local counselors, alumni of the Kadima School, planned, organized, and ran the camp's three sessions, demonstrating that they do indeed constitute a strong nucleus of young leadership for their home communities.

Slovakia

While Slovakia joined the EU in 2004, many of the structural reforms that led to its rapid economic progress entailed cutbacks in welfare services, health care, and the pension system that have made life more difficult for the elderly, the sick, and those who lost jobs to privatization. Moreover, although the country's unacceptably high unemployment rate had fallen substantially by 2006, it still hovered above 10 percent. Members of the middle generation have been particularly affected, since many lack the skills to find new jobs in a market economy.

As a result, there has been a marked and continuing rise in the number of middle-aged Jews in need of medical and welfare assistance, with an additional 10 to 15 percent increase in the case-load expected this year. In partnership with UZZNO, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Slovakia, JDC is working to fill the service gap facing the most vulnerable members of the community.

With assistance from JDC and funding from the Slovak Compensation Fund, the Jewish community has expanded its monthly cash assistance program to serve not only Holocaust survivors, but Jews in need of all ages. Last year, 63 elderly, sick, and disabled Jews received much-needed help through this program. The Bratislava kosher kitchen, with support from JDC, prepared 158 hot meals a day in 2006 for the elderly, for students, and for other members of the community. That number includes meals served in the kitchen's
A staggering 1,100 people—mainly young adults and young families—gathered in Vilnius this past February for the 2007 Baltic Limmud-Keshet Conference, a grassroots study fest held in a pluralistic and joyful environment. (Photo: Oleg Bochits)

dining room, at the Ohel David Jewish Home for the Aged, and at the Chabad kindergarten, as well as those delivered to the homebound. In Kosice, 65 hot meals were served each day at the kosher kitchen or through the meals-on-wheels program.

With support from the Claims Conference, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, other restitution sources, the local communities, and JDC, home care and medical outreach programs provide medicines, medical care, home nursing, and emergency aid to 1,200 elderly survivors throughout Slovakia. With JDC’s support, the Bratislava community cares for 208 homebound and handicapped individuals, offering daily home visits, emergency services (ambulances and transport), and medical care, while the Swiss Banks Settlement continues to help survivors meet urgent needs.

JDC supports a variety of social programs for the elderly, including the Jewish Soldiers’ Association and the Hidden Children’s Society. The latter is one of Slovakia’s most active Jewish groups, with more than 300 members who, as children, had been hidden by non-Jews during World War II. Clubs for seniors in Bratislava and Kosice furnished a range of cultural and social activities for 73 pensioners last year, while the French Shoah Foundation provided generous support for weeklong summer respite for lonely elderly survivors. Activities for the middle generation have also continued to expand, with some 50 adults aged 35 to 55 participating regularly in the weekly gatherings of Club Yachad.

The Bratislava community’s multigenerational Mercaz Jewish Community Center (JCC) opened in September 2006. Situated in a reconstructed property that had been returned to the community, the new JCC houses a ground floor center for the elderly, a Jewish library and reading room, meeting space for various programs; and a large hall for community events.

In recent years, the Jewish community has been deriving much of its income from restituted communal property, and JDC is working with UZZNO and the individual communities to help move them closer to self-sufficiency. Annual interest
from the Slovak Compensation Fund—the Slovak government’s compensation to the Jewish community for confiscated heirless properties—goes toward local Jewish projects to safeguard the Jewish heritage; welfare services; and community development. In the last year, the Fund furnished support for over 60 projects, including the maintenance of the Ohel David Home, the construction of Bratislava’s Mercaz Jewish Community Center, and Or Chaim’s medical and social services for survivors, which—thanks to a Fund grant—now include a new Hazzalah program offering 24-hour nursing care. JDC is encouraging additional institutions to apply for grants from the Fund to cover the rising cost of existing programs and develop new program initiatives.

JDC is also encouraging local communities to apply for interest-free loans from its Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF). The loans are used to renovate and develop returned communal properties in order to maximize their ability to generate income. The Bratislava community received a seven-year SELF loan for the development of two centrally located buildings that were returned to the community as part of a restitution settlement. The community is in the process of repaying the loan, and the buildings should eventually produce enough income to support a variety of communal programs.

JDC works with the local communities to revitalize Jewish life through youth activities and camps, holiday celebrations, and informal Jewish educational programs. It sent 33 campers and counselors from Slovakia to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, last year, aware that many Szarvas alumni—especially those who have attended the training program for madrichim (youth leaders)—now play an active role in community endeavors.

Among them is the Moadon, the Bratislava community’s after-school program for some 50 youngsters aged 6 to 15. The Moadon organized a Jewish summer camp for 25 children from throughout the country in 2006; it also conducted a family seminar for young children and their parents, a seminar for teenagers, and a winter family retreat. The Moadon’s activities are supported by the James H. Becker Endowment Fund, which also finances the purchase of Jewish resource materials. The program has been conducted by seven volunteer madrichim, all Szarvas alumni.

The Slovak Union of Jewish Students, which has a membership of 150 and organizes a range of activities and special programs, continues to benefit from JDC’s support. The Union’s annual Purim Ball attracted more than 300 participants last year, and Hanukkah celebrations drew close to 200. The Union also runs seminars, workshops, and summer camps.

JDC supports various religious activities, including rabbinical outreach efforts, communal Passover seders, and other Jewish holiday celebrations and cultural programs. It enabled specially trained educators to lead seders and High Holiday services last year in five of the smaller communities. In partnership with UZZNO, it distributes matzah and kosher wine to all the communities, and it subsidizes the shipment of religious items.

Suitable candidates from Slovakia’s Jewish community have been participating in Leatid Europe seminars, the Buncher Community Leadership Program, and regional training sessions for youth leaders. Many of them are now making their own contributions to JDC’s community building efforts.

Bulgaria

JDC provides financial and technical assistance to Shalom, the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, which operates an extensive network of social services for Holocaust survivors and other Jews in need, as well as cultural and educational programs. Many of these services benefit from major support from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), the Claims Conference, the Swiss Banks Settlement, and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City maintains a vital partnership with Bulgarian Jewry, helping to support both social welfare and community development activities. Important support for welfare efforts has also been provided by the Jacksonville Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.
JDC and Shalom provided cash assistance to 690 pensioners and people with disabilities in 2006, while Claims Conference support enabled the much-needed winter relief program to continue, thus benefiting 740 elderly Jews. Shalom has been increasing its funding for these programs as it moves toward greater self-sufficiency. This has allowed JDC to begin gradually reducing its own welfare allocations.

A home care program operated by Shalom in partnership with the Sofia municipality and JDC served 40 homebound individuals last year. The program includes meals-on-wheels and regular visits from medical professionals and community volunteers. About 140 Jewish seniors benefited from hot lunches, exercise programs, medical consultations, counseling services, and social and cultural activities at the day care center in Sofia, which is located in the Beit Ha’am Jewish Community Center (JCC) and supported by WJR. In the smaller, outlying communities, kosher canteens provided daily hot meals in a communal setting to 390 needy elderly last year, giving them a welcome opportunity to mingle with their peers. JDC provided 1,900 people with clothing as part of its goods-in-kind program, which is generously supported by WJR.

JDC provides technical support and training for the staff of the old age home in Sofia, which had 25 residents in 2006 and is subsidized by WJR. Health and fitness programs and social and cultural activities are offered year-round at clubs for seniors in four communities, while the three “golden age” camps held last year in Bankia furnished a welcome summer respite to more than 400 Jews. Medications, vitamins, and flu vaccines were provided to 795 elderly Jews in 2006; 250 Jewish schoolchildren were also inoculated; and dental exams were provided to both children and pensioners.

In a non-sectarian effort made possible by generous support from the Kate Morrison Fund, milk and a light meal were served each day to some 200 children at risk at a Sofia day care center, with teenagers from the community volunteering to spend time with the youngsters.

In April 2006, visiting JDC Board members took part in the dedication of a second JCC in Sofia, called Beit Shalom. Located directly across from Sofia’s historic synagogue, the JCC occupies three floors in a restituted building (a former Jewish orphanage) that was renovated with generous grants from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, WJR, and other donors, and an interest-free loan from JDC’s Strategic European Loan Fund. Designed to be self-sufficient, the center is renting the building’s two other floors to commercial tenants, thereby generating an income stream to help cover operating costs.

**JDC IS ENCOURAGING local communities to APPLY FOR interest-free loans from its Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF) to renovate and develop returned communal properties.**

The Bratislava community received a seven-year SELF loan for the development of two centrally located buildings that should eventually produce enough income to support a variety of communal programs.

The new JCC provides ample space for the expanding range of programs instituted by Shalom in recent years to meet the community’s increasing demand for activities, especially for young families and the middle generation. Many of these initiatives have been implemented with generous support from the Patricia Werthan Uhlmann Foundation. All told, some 900 community members took part last year in educational and cultural activities and training seminars that helped them expand their Jewish knowledge and acquire the skills needed to lead community programs.
An after-school program held each day at the new JCC offers extracurricular Jewish learning activities to 120 students at the “Jewish School,” a specially designated public school whose official foreign language is Hebrew. The program was organized in cooperation with the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and mimics the educationally successful atmosphere of Jewish summer camps. With JDC’s help, the JCC sponsors Jewish Sunday school activities for children and hosts a variety of other programs for youth. These include the Hadracha College, which continues to offer a two-year, weekly leadership training and Jewish educational program for youth leaders.

JDC provides support for B’nai Brith Youth Organization and Hashomer Hatzair activities, which involve over 100 teenagers. Forty-five local youngsters attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary, last year, while 350 youth took part in the local Jewish summer camp in Kovacevtzi. The Jewish Youth Club in Sofia offers daily programming and learning opportunities, while an Oneg Shabbat program regularly draws 50 students and young professionals.

JDC provides religious supplies and support for communal holiday programs, and it furnishes kosher meat for the canteens. To help revive the Sephardi tradition at the Sofia synagogue, it has been providing a Shabbat lunch to those attending services there each week.

JDC continues to furnish professional assistance to Shalom in the area of property management, and to provide community professionals and lay leaders with a variety of training opportunities. A new group from Bulgaria participated in the Buncher Community Leadership Program in Israel in 2006, and graduates of the Szarvas madrich training program have been leading activities for children, teenagers, older students, and the community as a whole.

Czech Republic

Prague’s Jewish community—the largest in the Czech Republic—is financially independent as a result of the Czech government’s extensive restitution of previously nationalized communal property and the annual allocation of a portion of the Prague Jewish Museum’s net income for Jewish communal needs. This is supplemented by Claims Conference grants for the medical and home care needs of Holocaust survivors, and by funding from the government-sponsored National Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims. JDC is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Fund, which was established by the Czech government to compensate individuals unable to reclaim their property under Czech law; support the preservation and restoration of Jewish synagogues and cemeteries; and finance special projects proposed by Jewish communities, organizations, and institutions.

Continuing the extensive cooperation between JDC and the community, JDC provides professional consultations, technical assistance, and training where appropriate, and it underwrites special outreach efforts in Jewish education. It also continues to receive donor funds on behalf of the community.

JDC coordinates the implementation of the Claims Conference, International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, Swiss Banks Settlement, and German government grants to local institutions for social welfare programs for Holocaust survivors. It offers technical assistance in program planning to help communities ensure access to appropriate facilities and services for all Jews in need, and it furnishes training for local social welfare professionals. The Prague Jewish community has begun the construction of a new Jewish old age home and day center, for which JDC will provide professional expertise.

Educational outreach efforts in Prague and Brno continue to benefit from JDC’s support, as do a number of nationwide activities. These include Machol Czechia, the Czech and Slovak Israeli dance festival, which drew close to 100 participants last year.

JDC has received funding support from the Hochberg Foundation on behalf of Bejt Elend, an independent and highly successful informal Jewish educational program for children in Prague that places special emphasis on reaching out to youngsters with special needs. What began as an after-school program has grown to include
bar/bat mitzvah training and a youth club, with arts activities, English courses, and recreational outings helping to attract about 70 regular participants. With extrabudgetary help, JDC underwrote the participation of 33 Czech campers and counselors in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary in 2006, and it sponsors the participation of older youth in programs organized by its Danube Weinberg Region.

JDC was instrumental in finding the funds needed to restore the synagogue in Decin, the only synagogue in Northern Bohemia left standing after the Nazi depredations of Kristallnacht. In cooperation with the National Endowment Fund for Holocaust Victims, it helped the local community obtain a generous grant from the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation to complete the renovations. The restored synagogue is now serving this revitalized Jewish community; it also functions as an impressive educational and exhibition center. The small Jewish community of Liberec received an interest-free loan last year from JDC’s Strategic European Loan Fund (SELF) to help underwrite the development of communal property.

With support and encouragement from JDC, lay leaders and professionals from the Czech Republic, including Jewish educators, have been participating in Leatid Europe training seminars, programs organized by the Danube Weinberg Region, and pan-European gatherings like the European General Assembly and various professional conferences.

**Germany**

According to government figures, there are over 200,000 Jews living in Germany today, a ten-fold increase since the early 1990s. Almost all the new arrivals have come from the former Soviet Union. Their eligibility for government welfare programs and services made Germany a popular destination for needy immigrants, despite the accompanying requirement that newcomers take up residence in the country’s smaller cities and towns. As a result, there are now close to 100 newly formed clusters of Jews scattered throughout the country, many of which lack the numbers, infrastructure, and resources for a healthy communal life. This presents a formidable challenge in terms of communal integration and development, and the difficulty is compounded by the émigrés’ generally limited Jewish knowledge and experience, which makes it harder to merge their needs with those of the veteran Jewish population.

To help raise Jewish awareness among the newcomers and facilitate their integration, JDC has been working closely with the émigré community to provide multiple entryways into Jewish life. It has been helping them run family programs, seminars, and new Jewish educational initiatives such as the Bambinim early childhood program. Stanley Chais and the Chais Family Foundation and the David and Inez Myers Foundation have provided generous support for JDC’s efforts in Germany.

In Dusseldorf, for example, JDC has been working with local leadership and the Chais Family Foundation to implement a new initiative, the Jewish Coffeehouse, which is filling an important programming gap for Jews aged 20 to 40 and helping to build a more inclusive and vibrant community. Coffeehouse events combine Jewish food and music with a relaxed setting for informal discussions. They have succeeded in attracting university students and rising young professionals who have not been involved with the veteran Jewish population, and they have had a 150 percent rise in participation since their inception.

Emphasis has also been placed on fostering Jewish identity through cultural means. Jewish
libraries stocked with Russian-language books have been supplied to local communities, and a Jewish Book Fair was organized in Duisberg. Other noteworthy events and programs include a Jewish Film Festival in Dusseldorf, Jewish book clubs in several cities, and family weekends and other activities centered on Shabbat and the Jewish holidays. With generous support from the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, a special program has been giving members of the smaller Jewish communities an opportunity to explore Judaism, their own Jewish identities, and Jewish art with a group of eight visiting artists.

JDC furnishes professional guidance, support, and training opportunities to lay leaders and communal professionals, and it has been supporting their participation in pan-European events, study programs, and cultural festivals. These include the European General Assembly and Presidents’ Meetings and both the Baltics and London Limud. Since 1998, JDC has worked in partnership with ZWST, the Central Welfare Organization of the Jews in Germany. As part of this cooperative effort, special Buncher Program sessions have been organized to help community leaders cope with the needs of Europe’s fastest growing Jewish population; they are also aimed at preparing the new generation of Jewish leaders. Additionally, communities send representatives to Leatid Europe seminars and take part in local Leatid programs, all of which have been helping them expand and improve communal services.

**REGIONAL PROGRAMS**

**Regional Clusters**, developed in association with the local communities with generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, link together Jewish communities that have a common geographic, cultural, language, and/or historic base. The programs encourage networking among different age groups and segments of the community—students, young leaders, singles, the middle generation, young families, community professionals, older adults—as well as a sharing of ideas and resources, creating a kind of regional “Jewish common market.”

The **Via Baltica Region** spans from Helsinki through the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to Poland and Northern Germany. The **Weinberg Black Sea Gesher Region** includes Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, and Macedonia. The **Danube Weinberg Region** is comprised of Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Southern Germany, Northern Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

One of the Gesher Region’s highlights in 2006 was the Hevruta Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, a three-day event that brought community members from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, and Serbia together to explore Jewish texts and discuss issues like communal responsibility. The conference developed program proposals for the middle generation, and it has spurred the addition of new educational programming for the region. An orienteering event held in Istanbul, which was organized in partnership with the Turkish Jewish community and had 100 local and 30 regional participants, was designed to strengthen regional ties through friendly competition.

The Gesher Students’ and Young Adults’ Institute, the region’s premiere annual event, aims to educate, connect, and empower young Jews. Three hundred young people took part in last year’s Institute, which took place in Greece last May. The 2007 Institute, which had 350 participants, was held this past May in Macedonia and is described in the country sections, above.

The Danube Region’s Leadership Development project offered professional training and guidance in 2006 to those who are developing programs for young adults in their home communities. In addition to a young leadership conference organized this year in Budapest in partnership with the Gesher Region and the Balint JCC, the Danube Region has been developing a joint Web site featuring program information for both regions.

Events in the Danube Region last year included a Jewish Drama Seminar in Baden that was organized in partnership with the Vienna Jewish community. The three-day seminar brought 35 theater professionals from six countries together to perform Jewish plays and discuss the possibility of developing Jewish theater initiatives on a regional
level. An Environmental and Human Rights Seminar for young people, a Discovering New Horizons series of workshops, and a Hanukkah Retreat last December were all popular successes, with Vienna’s student organization and its Moadon Club for young adults helping to run many of the programs.

The Winter J Seminar, organized with major financial and programmatic support from the Italian Union of Jewish Students and the Jewish community of Milan, strengthened the region’s links to the Italian community. The seminar’s 170 participants came from 21 Jewish communities in nine countries. They heard speakers from Europe, Israel, and the US and were able to explore a remarkable range of subjects at 55 workshops and discussion sessions.

**PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMS**

JDC will keep working in partnership with the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC) to organize a series of pan-European conferences, as well as forums devoted to particular spheres of communal life.

Together with the ECJC, France’s Fonds Social Juif Unifié (OEuvre de Secours aux Enfants) and the JDC Jewish Communities International Center for Children in Budapest, JDC organized the first European Symposium on Jewish Children in Need in November 2006. The Paris conference brought over 140 Jewish community child care professionals, service providers, and lay leaders from 31 cities in 22 countries together to examine current trends—new family structures, the uncertainty of the times, economic challenges, migration, and school attrition rates—that are affecting children, the family unit, and family unity.

Three intensive training seminars are being conducted this year by JDC and the Center for Children. Held respectively in Budapest (January), London (June), and Warsaw (December), the seminars are geared to professionals working in Children in Need programs throughout Europe and the former Soviet Union and are focusing on a common theme: “Addressing Children’s Needs in Inclusive Jewish Communities.”

A second Forum of Directors of Jewish Communities, Organizations, and Federations took place in Barcelona in May 2007, capitalizing on the success of the initial meeting, which was held in Prague in February 2006. Established by JDC in cooperation with the ECJC, the forum enables CEOs to come together and discuss the structural issues that are facing a broad spectrum of European Jewish leaders.

A seminar designed to strengthen Eastern European Jewish organizations as well as Western European organizations with affiliates or projects in the East was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, in May 2006. It was organized by JDC, ECJC, the Centre European Juif d’Information (CEJI), and the Jewish community of Sofia and was supported by the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation and the Dutch Humanitarian Fund. The EU’s structure and functions were among the subjects explored, along with topical issues in the fields of social welfare and education and effective strategies for securing grants from the EU and European foundations.

Held in March 2007 in Frankfurt, Germany, the Arachim IV Conference brought leading European Jewish educators (mainly principals and directors of Jewish studies) together to discuss this year’s theme: “Jewish Education in a Multicultural Europe.” The gathering had 193 participants from 24 countries, including representatives of leading Jewish educational organizations in Europe and Israel. Among other issues, participants discussed ways to build more inclusive schools that connect to their times, interact with their community and the surrounding society, and approach global issues from a Jewish perspective, with an emphasis on tzedakah and social action.

**JDC International Centre for Community Development at Oxford (JDC-ICCD)**

In cooperation with Oxford University, JDC-ICCD conducted a series of Academic Seminars in 2006 on the theme of coping with change. The seminars focused on community professionals as agents of change and drew heavily on participants’ case study materials to form a bridge between practice and theory. Three Sabbatical Programs brought senior community professionals to the...
Yarnton Manor center last year. Granted a respite from their daily management responsibilities, they used different programmatic channels to research topics related to their particular areas of work.

Groups of professionals and lay leaders from Eastern Europe, the Baltic States, and Latin America took part last year in five-day programs that combined Study Visits to Jewish organizations in the UK with an Oxford Retreat. The latter was designed to help participants process their findings and conceptualize the perceptions and ideas that emerged from the visits.

Fulfilling its role as a communal Think Tank, JDC-ICCD will continue to develop the series of symposiums it initiated in 2005 with editors-in-chief of major Jewish publications. The goal is to identify and analyze the trends affecting Jewish communities worldwide and to project scenarios for the future based on a practical understanding of how these communities are evolving. Jewish foundation executives, demographers, and historians are among the people scheduled to join new symposiums in the coming months.

The Centre’s new Web site will serve as a repository for articles, case studies, best practices, and other content related to community development. It will also extend the experience of the Academic Seminars by providing a framework for continued dialogue and a way to make the resulting exchanges available to all.

The Buncher Community Leadership Program

Established in 1989 as a partnership of the Buncher Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, and JDC, the Buncher Program can point with pride to the key positions held by many of its graduates today in Jewish communities around the world. Working with communities in Europe, the former Soviet Union (FSU), India, Latin America, and beyond, the program has acquired new energy and vision in recent years under the leadership of Bernita Buncher.

Operated by JDC, the program’s manpower development and training structure offers a series of intensive seminars and workshops that are conducted in the participants’ own language, and held both in Israel and in their local communities. Mentoring is a part of the framework, which aims to strengthen the participants’ Jewish identity, affinity for Israel, and commitment to communal service. In 2006, 13 seminars were conducted by the Buncher Program worldwide, reaching over 150 Jewish leaders and activists. The program’s impact has been magnified by a number of scholarship funds, which have enabled university students in Argentina, Europe, and the FSU to complete their studies while engaging in volunteer work in their communities.

Leatid Europe—The European Center for Jewish Leadership (ECJL)

Leatid Europe brings together senior Jewish leadership—professionals, lay leaders, and rabbis—from Europe and the former Soviet Union for seminars and workshops that expand their Jewish knowledge and hone their management skills. Leatid is a JDC initiative begun in 1992 with support from the European Council of Jewish Communities, local communities, World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), and France’s Fonds Social Juif Unifie. Over 80 leaders and professionals took part in various Leatid seminars in 2006.

Leatid’s key programs include:

- A Top Leaders Seminar, offered to presidents and senior leaders of Jewish communities and organizations. Last year’s three-day event brought 14 leaders from 10 different countries together to discuss new approaches to community management.
- The Leaders XXI program, designed for board members and key decisionmakers, had 18 participants from 14 communities in 2006.
- The Executives XXI program offers established communal professionals an opportunity to sharpen their management and fundraising skills. A previous group of participants took part in a second series of seminars in 2006.
• City Seminars are conducted “in house” for European communities that request them; they give board members and other leaders an opportunity to go beyond routine concerns and engage in long-term strategic thinking and specialized training. In Leeds, UK, the series of local seminars that Leatid conducted evolved into a full-fledged strategic planning process.

• Rabbis: Leatid trains rabbis from different denominations, providing them with a valuable set of top-level management, communications, leadership, and community development skills. Rabbis from the Conservative Movement in Israel were trained last year.

• An Alumni Seminar on Communications and Marketing for Jewish Communities, designed with the help of a team from a leading advertising agency, was conducted last year for 23 participants. The team was headed by a Leatid graduate who created, pro bono, a special module on Jewish community marketing and branding.

Jewish Programs: Internet-based Community Development

Jewishprograms.org, a family of Web-based resources developed by JDC, serves Jewish communities around the globe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Web sites are available in English, French, Spanish, and Russian. In 2006, they were accessed by over 30,000 Jewish professionals, who downloaded content designed to enhance community programs as well as their own skills and knowledge.

In rhythm with the Jewish calendar, Morim.org; Madrichim.org; and JCCenters.org publish e-newsletters with articles of interest to Jewish educators and communal professionals and activities geared to that month’s holidays and notable events. JDC’s ever-popular Online Consulting Service continues to receive and respond to numerous requests for assistance and guidance from Jewish teachers and professionals in Europe and around the Jewish world.
**JDC’s Objectives in Africa and Asia**

- In North African countries where the Jewish populations are slowly but steadily diminishing in size, JDC helps communities maintain the institutions necessary for Jewish life. Consolidation of facilities is encouraged so that communal resources can be used most effectively.

- Ensuring that children throughout this area have access to Jewish education wherever possible is a primary JDC objective.

- To enable the Jewish aged, sick, and poor to live with dignity, JDC provides various forms of social welfare assistance and institutional support. Those in need represent an increasing proportion of these populations.

- In communities with sizable populations of young Jews, like India, JDC emphasizes cultural and educational activities that strengthen Jewish identity.

- JDC has helped rescue entire Jewish communities, and it continues to work to assure the safety and well-being of all Jews who reside in volatile areas.

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<tr>
<th>Jewish Population</th>
<th>JDC Country Budget</th>
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*Note: Jewish population figures are approximate.*
In honor of Tu B’Shevat, Gan Katan students at the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center in Mumbai, India, took their weekly lessons outdoors, learning the customs of this Jewish Arbor Day and entertaining park-goers with holiday songs. (Photo: JDC)
MOROCCO

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in Morocco, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

The Moroccan government has been engaged in a variety of efforts to promote economic growth and reduce unemployment and poverty: a free trade agreement with the U.S. is now in force, and new measures have been taken to encourage foreign investment. Issues related to health, literacy, and women’s rights are also high on the agenda of King Mohammed VI, who is actively engaged in seeing that these policy initiatives are carried out. The Jewish community stands to benefit from these developments, and the King’s appointment of Serge Berdugo, the Secretary General of the Council of Jewish Communities, to be Ambassador-at-Large has reinforced their confidence in the face of ongoing tensions.

The visit last March of a JDC Board mission further buoyed the spirit of community members. It underlined JDC’s active concern for their well-being and the underpinning of support it continues to provide for essential services. These include a welfare program that JDC helps fund, which furnished monthly cash assistance in 2006 to 120 people in Casablanca and 70 in the provinces. Passover and High Holiday food parcels were distributed to 250 individuals, and emergency grants helped 21 people forestall eviction, pay utility and legal bills or meet other unforeseen needs. Sixty elderly and ailing clients with no immediate family members left to assist them received help with housing and home care, while at the other end of the age spectrum, aid was furnished to 75 needy students.

At the urging of the Casablanca leadership, the Tangier community has assumed responsibility for the 40 Jews who remain in neighboring Tetouan. With JDC’s help, Tangier hired a communal worker to safeguard cemeteries and other communal property and tend to the needs of Tetouan’s poor, sick, and aged—making arrangements for everything from kosher food to Jewish funerals.

JDC also helps the Tangier community maintain its Laredo Home for the Aged, which had 18 residents last year. The lives of the 55 residents of the old age home operated by the Casablanca community with JDC’s support are brightened by weekly activities that include music programs, exercise sessions, and excursions and attract some non-residents. The community is planning to construct a four-story residence adjacent to the home to house 60 elderly welfare clients currently living in substandard conditions in unsafe areas of the city. JDC is seeking extra-budgetary donations to help the community bring this project to fruition.

Through its comprehensive clinic in Casablanca, OSE (Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants), with help from JDC, provides regular medical services to needy Moroccan Jews and emergency care to middle income families who cannot afford the high cost of private treatment. The clinic includes specialists in cardiology, pediatrics, gynecology, dentistry, and radiology. It was able to purchase new x-ray equipment last year thanks to the generosity of members of the 2006 mission of UJA-Federation of New York’s Manhattan Group. The OSE clinic served 1,300 patients in 2006 and undertook 85 emergency interventions, while the special diabetes clinic funded by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation treated 60 people last year. Over 290 diabetics have received treatment and follow-up care at this clinic since it was opened in 2004.

OSE furnishes 24-hour medical supervision and nursing care at an in-house facility set up at the Casablanca old age home with JDC’s support. It provides medical outreach services and medicines for all welfare clients in the provinces, and its school health services furnish Casablanca’s Jewish schoolchildren with regular check-ups, vaccinations, and first aid care. Both children and adults benefit from OSE’s screening and early intervention programs, and OSE shares with JDC and the Casablanca community the cost of providing about 100 people each year with specialized treatment in private clinics or abroad.

The three Jewish school networks in Casablanca—Ozar Hatorah, Chabad, and Alliance (Ittihad)—help sustain the vibrancy of this community. The schools had a total enrollment of 700 youngsters in 2006/2007, and they continue to depend on JDC’s support. The scholarship fund maintained
by JDC for children from poor and low income families had 190 beneficiaries last year. JDC is determined to see that all Jewish children receive a high quality Jewish and secular education that will serve them well in Morocco or elsewhere. To this end, it has been working to enhance computer literacy among teachers and students, an objective that received a strong boost when a generous gift from the Manhattan Group mission made possible the purchase of 30 new computers for the schools. The older computers have been given to the Alliance kindergarten and to poor primary school children whose parents cannot afford to purchase a home computer.

The two pilot projects introduced by JDC in 2004 as part of its Children’s Initiative have become an indispensable part of the community’s educational system. Tutorial classes in secular studies at the Ozar Hatorah primary school ease the students’ transition to the more rigorous curriculum of the Alliance high school. These classes enabled 50 students to advance to the high school last year and begin work toward their baccalaureate degree; most came from families of limited means who were unable to offer much in the way of educational support. The second project, a program for children with learning difficulties that has been implemented at the Alliance Maimonides School, benefited 60 youngsters in 2006.

The DEJJ (the Departement Educatif de la Jeunesse Juive au Maroc) youth club in Casablanca has a daily attendance of 70 youngsters who enjoy a year-round program of sports, cultural, and social activities in a safe and nurturing environment. Over Passover and the summer holidays, the number of participants in club activities soars to 500 as children and families living abroad return home to spend time with their extended families.

JDC continues to support DEJJ activities; it also helps some 200 children attend the Jewish Scouts summer camp.

JDC is currently focusing on training efforts and leadership development activities. In February 2007, it facilitated the participation of a youth leader in the regional training seminar organized in Barcelona by JDC and the European Council of Jewish Communities. In March, it sent the directors of the Ozar Hatorah and Alliance schools to the Arachim Conference for Jewish educators in Frankfurt, and it will hold a training seminar for Casablanca community social workers and lay leaders in October 2007.

**TUNISIA**

The members of this small Jewish community and their institutions are carefully protected by the Tunisian government. Community members also value JDC’s ongoing presence in the country and its support for essential communal services.

Monthly cash grants provided by JDC through the local communities enabled 32 elderly and ailing people living in or near Tunis, Sousse, and Sfax to pay their rent and purchase food and other basic necessities last year, with subsidies also provided for medical care. Inasmuch as Tunisia was occupied by the Nazis during World War II, grants from the Claims Conference and other restitution-related sources have been financing additional medical services for needy survivors as well as home care. In the past year, both of the welfare assistants retained by the Tunis community to serve these clients have made aliyah, and replacing them has proved difficult.

Since many needy elderly Jews have no family members left in Tunisia to care for them, the Jewish Home for the Aged in La Goulette, a suburb of Tunis, fills an essential role. There are currently about 35 residents in this 40-bed facility, which is also being used by community members who need short-term post-hospital care. As the community increases its participation in the home’s operating costs, JDC has been
gradually reducing its own substantial subsidy. In addition to enjoying regular social activities and Jewish holiday celebrations, the home’s numerous mentally frail residents are assisted by two volunteer psychiatrists from Marseilles whose monthly visits are co-sponsored by JDC and the Tunis community.

JDC furnishes financial support for all of Tunisia’s Jewish schools and has been striving to enhance their educational quality and expand their physical plants. With support from Kurt Rothschild and Albert and Egosah Reichmann through UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the main yeshiva is adding new classrooms, and the Jewish kindergarten is growing rapidly. In addition to supplying new books, instructional materials, and equipment, JDC has been working with the local communities to expand fundraising efforts and parental financing. Chabad operates the only Jewish school left in Tunis, and student enrollment there continues to drop.

On the island of Djerba, the Torah V’Hinukh School in Hara Kabira offers the 210 students in its girls’ school and kindergarten both a Jewish and general education. Funded primarily by JDC, the school’s language of instruction is Hebrew. JDC helped supply new Hebrew-language textbooks, and it has sponsored teacher training efforts for this growing community. JDC covers about 20 percent of the budget of the centuries-old Djerba Yeshiva, which is one of the island’s major Jewish institutions. Many of the 164 boys who were enrolled this past year received instruction each day in secular subjects at the Torah V’Hinukh school. Thanks to the generosity of Jenny Luboff, Jewish schoolchildren in both Tunis and Djerba have been receiving regular medical check-ups and dental examinations.

Just south of Djerba on the Tunisian mainland, the small (120-member) but flourishing Jewish community of Zarzis maintains a nursery/kinergarten as well as separate Jewish schools for girls and boys that currently serve a total of 42 children. JDC helps support the schools, and it assisted the community in purchasing a lot adjacent to the nursery school that is now being used as a playground and sports arena.

**TURKEY**

*Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in Turkey, which currently focus on children’s programs, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.*

JDC’s 2007 Board Mission to Turkey—which began on April 29, amid the demonstrations and political tensions surrounding the Parliamentary vote for a new President—was a timely reaffirmation for this self-sufficient Jewish community of the ties it has forged to the larger Jewish world. Board members made site visits to programs in Istanbul and Izmir that have benefited from the technical assistance...
and seed money provided by JDC to help the community upgrade institutions and services and expand leadership development efforts for its youth.

The Ohr Hahayim Hospital in Istanbul is one such beneficiary. Mission members toured its new geriatric wing, which was constructed with generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Both the day clinic and the new rehabilitation center have benefited from JDC’s professional advice, as have the occupational therapy and social activity programs enjoyed by residents of the Haskoy Jewish Home for the Aged. JDC has been helping the Istanbul community expand its Golden Age Club’s social and cultural offerings, and over 300 seniors took part in these activities last year.

Thanks to a marketing campaign developed and implemented with JDC’s help, the Istanbul community has succeeded in enrolling over 100 new students in its Jewish day school, which goes from kindergarten through high school. The campaign included the establishment of small “satellite” kindergartens in different parts of the city to attract new families to the school. About half of the 440 students receive scholarship aid, in keeping with the community’s policy of assuring that every child who wishes to attend the school can do so. The Weinberg Foundation recently renewed its generous support for this effort for an additional three years, thereby helping to strengthen this vital community institution.

While the Turkish Jewish community has always provided for those in need—and continues to do so—a series of terrorist attacks, continuing threats, and the high cost of maintaining enhanced security measures have taxed its resources. This has altered the nature of JDC’s work to a certain degree, and it has been allocating a small budget for a review of welfare cases in Istanbul and Izmir to determine if there are unmet needs. The economic unit that JDC helped the community establish four years ago to help those still struggling to regain their equilibrium has to date placed over 300 community members in new jobs. The unit continues to offer employment counseling, training, and small business development assistance.

JDC has been helping the community put together local and international fundraising initiatives that will enable it to meet its new challenges, and it conducted an advanced seminar for lay leaders and senior professionals in January 2007 that focused on resource development.

In Izmir over the past year, JDC once again had two Jewish Service Corps volunteers working with the community (one for her second year). Their efforts are generously supported by the Soref Foundation. The two focused on youth activities and family programs and taught classes at the Jewish Sunday school. In December 2006, they helped coordinate a joint Hanukkah celebration with the community in Istanbul. This first-ever event involved ceremonies held simultaneously at the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Istanbul and the Beth Israel Synagogue in Izmir. Cameras and sound equipment provided a live connection between the crowds gathered at the two locations, with some 20 percent of the community in attendance in Izmir.

The previous month, the Turkish community held its second Limmud (Jewish Learning) event, based on the Limmud UK model, this exciting one-and-a-half day study marathon attracted 900 enthusiastic participants.

JDC has been enabling some 25 youngsters to attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, each year, and it subsidizes the participation of Turkish community members in the Leatid, Buncher, and Weinberg Black Sea Gesher programs. To date, the Turkish community has participated in and hosted Gesher activities for students, young leaders, and—in July 2006—young families, and it helped organize and hosted the first Gesher Business and Management Forum. This year, working in cooperation with the Gesher program, the community joined with JDC and The Jewish Agency to establish a new Hadracha Training Institute for youth leaders. Sixty such madrichim from local Jewish youth groups attended the Institute’s January 2007 inaugural seminar.

With funding from the Wolf Family Foundation, JDC also organized training efforts last year that reached out to the general community. A three-day seminar on children at risk was held in Istanbul
last April for some 50 Turkish child care professionals, with lectures and workshops conducted by local experts and by experts from Ashalim in Israel. The foundation is funding an advanced seminar in 2007, and through the generosity of James and Jane Wolf, computer rooms have been set up in homes for Turkish children at risk in both Istanbul and Izmir.

**OTHER MUSLIM COUNTRIES**

In Egypt, in partnership with the tiny Jewish communities in Cairo and Alexandria, JDC provided cash assistance last year to some 30 impoverished elderly Jews. It also supported health care for 25 people and shared in burial costs. To uphold Jewish traditions, JDC sends kosher food for Passover and other Jewish holidays; it has also sponsored the High Holiday visits of cantors and other religious representatives who have assisted these communities.

In Algeria, JDC provided supplementary financial help last year to one ailing woman in Oran. Despite the uncertain security conditions in the country, JDC keeps track of her situation.

In other parts of the Muslim world, JDC continues to help remaining Jewish communities meet their health, welfare, and Jewish educational needs. In some Muslim countries that in the past were home to large Jewish communities, only a small number of Jews now remain. Such is the case with Syria, with approximately 100 Jews; Yemen, with approximately 250; and Iraq, with a dozen or so. In all three cases, Jews are free to emigrate and chose to stay for personal reasons. While most are living as individuals rather than as a community, JDC continues to monitor their life through various sources.

**ETHIOPIA**

*Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid effort in Ethiopia, which underwent a major expansion over the past year, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.*

The launching of the UJC/Federation Operation Promise Campaign generated a great deal of interest in the Felas Mora population last year, especially within the Federation system. Numerous Federation missions visited Ethiopia, and there was a rise in expectations among partner agencies and especially among the potential emigrants. Nevertheless, the two major changes that were expected—a doubling of monthly departure numbers and The Jewish Agency’s takeover of responsibility for the compound in Gondar—did not take place. As a result, the JDC humanitarian assistance program for thousands of Felas Mora who moved to Addis Ababa and Gondar City to await the processing of their requests to go to Israel has remained essentially the same.

Over the past two years, however, some new elements have been added to help the Felas Mora deal with the economic and psychological consequences of their lengthening stay in Addis and Gondar and their continuing uncertainty about the future. In leaving their villages, the Felas Mora abandoned a self-sufficient agrarian lifestyle. Their difficult living conditions became even more of a hardship with the closure of the Addis Ababa NACOEJ compound two years ago. In consequence, JDC made two cash assistance payments to the population in Addis in 2005, and it made an additional aid payment in June 2006.

Most of the Felas Mora’s health problems stem from conditions endemic to the country and have not been helped by their long stay in impoverished circumstances. Nevertheless, their condition has demonstrably improved compared to the general population, thanks to the medical care and related aid provided by JDC through private clinics that it supports in Addis and Gondar, which are supervised by its resident medical director.

This medical program undergoes constant reevaluation, with the goal of providing carefully conceived services with standards that are much higher than the health care normally offered in Ethiopia. Along with routine examinations and treatment, services include laboratory testing, health education, a TB treatment program, vaccinations, and a program for pregnant and nursing women. Health facilitators work at both clinics, acting as liaisons between the Felas Mora population and the clinic staff. The clinic in Addis is open 24/7, while the Gondar clinic is open eight hours a day, seven days a week.
A nutritional program is one of the clinics’ most important services. Patients are admitted by the clinic doctors, who base their recommendations on set criteria. While caseload numbers fluctuate during the course of the year, there are about 480 patients currently in the program, most of whom are underweight young children. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, TB patients, and special adult cases have also been included, and there is a well baby program for infants and babies up to 18 months old.

Thanks once again to UJA-Federation of New York’s generous support, JDC continues to implement a food distribution program for special cases, including families with special needs, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses. To help speed the recovery of children in the nutrition program, the New York Federation has also been providing funds for the inclusion of micronutrients in their diet and the provision of supplementary food for their families. While here again the numbers can vary from month to month, 2,173 children and adults were benefiting from these efforts in December 2006.

In both Addis and Gondar, JDC’s health education efforts have been expanded, particularly as they relate to hygiene and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Health educators on the JDC staff address the different health issues and needs of various segments of the Felas Mora population, divided by age and gender, and they gear their approach accordingly. Over the past six years, JDC’s Jewish Service Corps volunteers have contributed greatly to the Ethiopia program, particularly in the area of health education. The 2006/2007 volunteer has been working with the dynamic teen drama group in Addis—now active also in Gondar—to raise community members’ awareness of health issues through short sketches that transmit important information in an entertaining way.

Recreational activities at the JDC Club House in Addis—which includes a children’s playroom as well as ping pong tables and other games for young people—are used to attract community members, especially the younger generation, to educational programs dealing with health issues.

Showers are available for the community to use, an essential facility for a group living in housing with no running water, and there are special programs for pregnant women and nursing mothers.

The evolution of JDC’s program for the Felas Mora over the coming year will depend on decisions made by various government authorities. Meanwhile, JDC continues to provide all those who are accepted for aliyah with care and maintenance immediately prior to their departure, and it furnishes them with new clothing and shoes.
India

Ed. Note: For an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in India, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

With an 8.5 percent increase in GDP in 2006, the nation’s economy continues to offer attractive opportunities to younger members of the Jewish community, more of whom now see a future for themselves in India. This has helped stem a gradual but steady decline in population numbers; nevertheless, the Jewish community remains but a tiny drop in the vast sea of India’s 1.1 billion people. Those who took part in JDC’s 2006 Board mission can attest, however, to the energy and enthusiasm of this community, which has a dynamism that belies its small numbers. JDC supports and facilitates Jewish cultural and educational programs, communal activities, and training efforts that feed this dynamism and look to the future. And in a country with few government-run social services, it plays a critical role in helping to maintain a community safety net for the Jewish poor and those with special needs. The Weldon UK Charitable Trust provides generous support for many of these efforts.

JDC social workers serve as a lifeline to the poor and elderly, making regular home visits to ensure that their basic needs are met. To supplement meager incomes and raise those in need above the poverty line, JDC provided monthly assistance last year to 78 families, as well as special holiday grants before Rosh Hashanah and Passover to Jews in Mumbai (Bombay), Thane, the Konkan villages, Pune, and Kolkata (Calcutta). JDC has been helping welfare clients find jobs or develop new sources of income, with 34 taking part last year in a monthly training program for various micro-enterprises.

Twenty elderly Jews who live alone and have limited mobility currently receive two full meals-on-wheels a day, a service delivered six days a week at modest cost to those who can afford to pay and free to those who cannot. Families whose homes were damaged by the floods of 2005 continued to receive help from JDC last year to make necessary repairs. To encourage welfare clients and their families to take part in Jewish life, JDC subsidizes their participation in regular community events and runs special programs for them around the Jewish holidays. It organized an overnight camp for 24 families in 2006 and a one-day picnic for 52 participants.

Medical assistance provided by JDC takes a variety of forms, with a volunteer doctor available to treat welfare clients’ routine ailments and a monthly medical clinic held in the Konkan villages. Screening tests, treatment, and health information are offered to all community members at yearly “open medical camps” held in the Konkan villages and in Mumbai; of the 72 people who took part in this preventive program in Mumbai last year, two were diagnosed with diabetes and one with leukemia. In 2007, JDC extended limited group medical insurance to 51 eligible assistees and their families. An emergency medical fund helps pay for operations and other major expenses, and JDC has been encouraging synagogues and other community organizations to set aside funds for these needs.

The 10th anniversary of Bayiti, JDC’s acclaimed home for the aged in Thane, outside Mumbai, was marked by a special malida ceremony in...
2006. Unique to India's Bene Israel community, the ceremony also raised funds for the planned relocation of this nine-bed home, which is noted for its intimate, homelike character. The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation provides generous funding for Bayiti, which continues to attract seniors from nearby communities to its activities. There are weekly classes in basic Hebrew, lectures on Jewish topics, arts and crafts sessions, yoga, social events, Shabbat services, and Jewish holiday celebrations - with neighboring community members invited to join in the last two categories.

JDC encourages Bayiti residents to remain as active as possible, urging the more able to share in the running of the home and to take part in general community events and activities, like the programs JDC maintains for mobile Jewish seniors in Mumbai. These include a monthly Rosh Chodesh (First of the Month) Open House, a bi-weekly OWLs (Older, Wiser and at Leisure) group, and a vibrant Golden Age Club for younger and more active retirees.

Community-wide events have become a hallmark of JDC's India program, with new ones added to the menu each year. Most are held at the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center (EPJCC) in Mumbai, which continues to benefit from the Weinberg Foundation's generous support. The center had a malida of its own last year, as the Mumbai community celebrated its seventh anniversary with a ceremony that also raised money for the emergency medical fund.

The EPJCC offers a range of Jewish cultural and educational programs for all age groups: classes in Hebrew and other Jewish subjects of interest to different segments of the community; events centered around the Jewish holidays, including study seminars and celebrations; a women's weekend camp and discussion group; a family camp; and meetings, outings, and social events for seniors. Kol India, its quarterly magazine, is a popular source of community news and Jewish educational features for children and adults. A weekly Film Club was introduced early in 2007; it screens movies with a Jewish connection on Saturday nights after Havdalah, followed by a discussion of issues raised in the film.

In a community with no formal Jewish education system, the EPJCC's informal children's programs are particularly important. Through its Gan Katan/Gan Limmudim program, the center has been offering Sunday school classes twice a month in Mumbai and Thane, with the Mumbai program switching to a weekly track in mid-2007. JCC educators hold weekly classes for children in one of Mumbai's Jewish-sponsored schools; here, too, the program will expand, in this case to a twice-weekly basis. Jewish holiday programming includes a fun-filled Purim party, a mock Passover seder, and child-friendly activities for Yom Hashoah and Israel Independence Day.

Summer day camp for the younger children had a Jewish values theme last year, while a first-of-its-kind three-day dance camp was held during last fall's Divali holiday.

The Jewish Youth Pioneers (JYP), the community's youth group, provides 100 Jewish youngsters with a vital meeting point, a framework for expanding their Jewish literacy, and a springboard for their involvement in communal life. JYP is also based at the EPJCC, where a small youth lounge was set up last year to give the group's members their own space.

JYP volunteers distribute Purim baskets to the elderly, visit the sick and lonely, write for Kol India, and help with the children's Gan Katan. Last summer's highly successful overnight camp emphasized adventure; a December vacation camp was built on the theme: "Around the Jewish World in Five Days;" and a JYP sports tournament added much excitement to the JCC. The Khai Fest that JYP members help stage each year brought 350 people together last December to celebrate Hanukkah with a rousing evening of skits and dance performances; this event is also a major fundraiser, with the proceeds going this time to support Bayiti as well as JYP activities.

Opportunities to meet with their peers from around the Jewish world are especially important for India's Jewish youth, removed as they are by distance from other centers of Jewish life. In addition to conducting a local training seminar...
for about 35 young leaders aged 16 to 26, JDC has been facilitating a variety of overseas encounters, particularly those that involve leadership development and training opportunities.

Support from members of last year’s JDC Board mission enabled 10 young adults from India—the largest number to date—to serve as counselors at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, last year, and several have subsequently taken up leadership positions in JYP. Younger Indian Jews went to Szarvas for the first time this past summer, taking part as campers in the new International Teen Program, while two older Indian youth served as counselors-in-training.

This past spring, JDC sent three young people from India to the 2007 March of the Living, while last December, two Indian Jewish students flew to Israel for the annual conference of the World Union of Jewish Students. Energized by their experience, the two formulated a plan to form an Indian Jewish Students Union under the JYP umbrella. Two young Indian Jews were selected to join the “best and the brightest” from around the JDC world in a delegation to Tel Aviv I, a UJC conference held in Israel last March for North American young leaders. The JDC Buncher Program continues to provide important leadership development opportunities for Indian Jewry, with three involved leaders taking part last year in a Buncher training seminar in Israel and 15 alumni participating in local reunions and follow-up seminars.

Over the years, the JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteers who have been stationed in India have done much to enrich Indian Jewish life. Two new volunteers joined JDC India in the summer of 2006 and their efforts have proved true to form. They worked with JCC professionals on Jewish educational programs and helped develop a more formal curriculum for the children. They also taught a variety of classes, including highly popular courses in Mishnah and Jewish philosophy, and introduced the idea of a children’s Shabbaton with an overnight component—a new experience and great treat for most of the local youngsters.

In November 2006, JDC’s All-India Conference—a biennial event—brought some 60 Indian Jewish leaders together at the EPJCC to consider current issues and challenges. Two months later, in January 2007, JDC helped the community come together again for a special event marking the United Nation’s International Memorial Day for Victims of the Holocaust.

The story behind that event is an interesting one. It began last summer, when a young entrepreneur in New Mumbai, hoping to give his new restaurant a competitive edge, decided to name it “Hitler’s Cross Café” and decorated it accordingly. This provoked a storm of protest from diplomats and government officials, but it was India’s Jews, encouraged and supported by JDC, who played a decisive role in righting this wrong. Speaking as one community, a delegation of leaders met with the café owner and his partners to explain why this choice of name—and theme—was so inflammatory. Quickly agreeing to a change of name, the owner and his partners acknowledged that the original choice was “most inappropriate,” but emphasized that they had not intended “to glorify Hitler or his atrocities or ideology in any way....”

The owner was not being disingenuous when he said he’d chosen this name because he thought it was “catchy.” He was merely reflecting how far removed his world is from Nazism and the Holocaust since, from India’s perspective, World War II was much more about Japan than Germany, and was colored by the nation’s struggle for independence. Even for members of the Jewish community, the Nazi slaughter of European Jews has always seemed remote. That is why their participation in the March of the Living and the moving Yom Hashoah commemorations they have been holding in recent years are so important.

So the peaceful resolution of this issue was not so much a victory over anti-Semitism—a phenomenon virtually unknown in India—as it was a victory over ignorance. What started out as an outrage ended up becoming a lesson in Holocaust awareness. This lesson was reinforced by the January 28 remembrance ceremony held by the Indian Jewish community at that very
restaurant, now known as the Cross Café. With the owner’s enthusiastic co-sponsorship, Jews and non-Jews crowded together to mark this memorial day. Kaddish was recited, a Jewish youth read a poem about the Holocaust, and community leaders reflected on Nazi crimes. And because of the café’s original notoriety, the event drew the attention of the country’s mass media, including its national news network.

JDC’s role in all this was played out mostly behind the scenes, in facilitating events, encouraging the community, and bringing it together in the best possible way. That this small community succeeded in picking up the gauntlet on behalf of Jews everywhere is JDC’s greatest reward—and the Jewish world is the stronger for it.

CHINA AND MYANMAR

Three elderly people in China and six indigent members of the tiny Jewish community in Yangon, Myanmar, currently benefit from JDC’s assistance.
JDC’s Objectives in Latin America

• As part of its Community Development efforts, JDC aims to strengthen the capacities of the Latin American Jewish communities to address problems that affect them individually or collectively.

• It does this by responding to the communities’ requests for technical assistance and by helping them to engage in strategic planning and restructuring in order to make the best possible use of communal resources.

• JDC promotes regional meetings, cooperative exchange, and coordination among communities, and it assists in the development of the smaller communities.

• JDC works to maximize human resources through training programs for lay leaders, young leadership, and professionals, and it has been helping to strengthen community fundraising capabilities.

• In Argentina and Uruguay, JDC responded to emergency needs by establishing a bridge of support to these communities. It provided various forms of assistance to those in greatest need, helped with job training and employment efforts, and facilitated the merger and restructuring of community institutions.

• In Cuba, JDC is working in partnership with the local community to promote Jewish knowledge, advance the reestablishment of Jewish culture and religion, and rebuild communal structures. It is also helping to meet basic needs for food and medicines.
Sponsored by JDC in partnership with local Jewish organizations in ARGENTINA, BABY HELP continues to serve poor Jewish families, furnishing essential supplies for babies and toddlers and supportive activities for their parents. (PHOTO: JDC)
ARGENTINA

Ed. Note: For a description of JDC’s non-sectarian activities in Argentina, see the JDC-IDP section of this Annual Report.

The Argentine economy continued to improve last year, with an estimated 8.5 percent growth in real GDP. Nevertheless, just over 30 percent of the population was still living below the poverty line, and both unemployment and inflation hovered around 10 percent. Many Argentineans, especially the middle-aged and the elderly, have little hope of regaining their pre-crisis lifestyles. Pursuant to an agreement made with AMIA (the Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina) and other local partners at the end of 2005, JDC has been implementing a five-year phase down of its financial support for the Jewish community’s emergency assistance programs. At the same time, it continues to work with those partners to aid thousands of impoverished Jews—primarily children and the elderly—who remain in great need. JDC has been helping the community recapture its ability to finance communal needs on its own, but it is clear that outside support from the larger Jewish family will continue to be needed, at least for a few more years.

Since the 2001-2002 economic crisis—which proved devastating to a community already weakened by terrorist bombings, the collapse of the Jewish banks, and the erosion of the country’s middle class—that support has enabled JDC to help Argentine Jewry cope with a tremendous expansion in social welfare needs. JDC also facilitated the community’s efforts to reshape many of its institutions to reflect current economic realities, and it helped thousands of community members retain their involvement in Jewish life when they could no longer afford to do so on their own.

By the end of 2006, the community’s welfare caseload had dropped to about 20,000 people—a 44 percent decrease since the height of the crisis—and the number of social assistance centers was down from 75 to 62. Many of those who have left the caseload still require some form of assistance—but they are now receiving help from government agencies and/or family members. The remaining caseload includes a disproportionate number of children, elderly, and adults with special needs; these are vulnerable groups who require more sophisticated, and more expensive, services than could be provided during the crisis years. All this is a far cry from the fewer than 4,000 impoverished Jews who were being supported by the community in pre-crisis days. And so, even as new programs have been added to help community members take advantage of the nation’s economic upturn, the relief effort continues.

Supermarket debit cards enable needy Jews to purchase food and other necessities, and the central community pharmacy fills about 8,300 prescriptions each month. Close to 700 Jewish day school children benefited last year from the Meitiv school hot lunch program, while the Bayit program helped subsidize rent, mortgage payments, and utility bills for 728 Jewish families. New legislation enacted in 2006 made it easier for senior citizens to qualify for social security. To ensure that every welfare beneficiary eligible to take advantage of this opportunity to get off the caseload is able to do so, JDC has been offering legal advice, subsidies, and loans for the payments required to get proceedings under way.

In March 2007, Le Dor Va Dor, the community’s new, multifunctional campus for the elderly, was inaugurated in Buenos Aires. The project was developed under local leadership with JDC’s professional assistance, and two-thirds of the cost was raised by the local community. Generous support was also provided by the Harry and
Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the David and Inez Myers Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. Eleven leaders from the Houston Federation joined JDC Latin America Area Committee Chair Howard Schultz at this inaugural event. In addition to a 292-bed residential home, the centrally located complex includes 120 assisted living units, the community pharmacy, and a new day center for senior citizens that aims to keep them involved in community life. With daily services available on-site and through a home care delivery system, Le Dor Va Dor will help the community serve the needs of approximately 10,000 elderly Jews who are expected to require ongoing welfare assistance.

The Baby Help program continued to serve poor Jewish families last year, supplying formula, fortified milk, vitamins, medicines, diapers, and baby equipment to 798 babies and toddlers and offering supportive activities and counseling to their parents. The program also furnished prenatal assistance to 39 expectant mothers. To bring these families closer to the community and to Jewish life, Baby Help facilitates the celebration of lifecycle events and Jewish holidays. It has recently begun providing lessons in the preparation of special meals and the use of ritual objects for various holidays. Its day care center continues to furnish much-needed help to working parents and to those who are still looking for work. Sixty-two youngsters took part this summer in the center’s activities, which now include music, painting, and movement workshops for young children.

The Jebrati camp program, which is national in scope, is also serving hard-pressed parents by relieving them of the need to take time off from work or job searches to care for their children during the schools’ long summer break. With support from JDC, the program enables children and teens in the social assistance network to take part in day and overnight camps organized by various communal organizations. This gives the youngsters a safe and fun-filled way to spend their vacations and a Jewish framework for their activities. Nearly 1,300 children benefited from this program last summer.

For older youngsters, the 13/17 project gives teenagers on summer or winter break a safe recreational space, nutritious meals, an opportunity
to engage in activities with Jewish content, and a way to strengthen their ties to their Jewish peers. Some 7,600 teenagers participated in the program last year, the majority of whom were children of welfare beneficiaries. The Net Scholarship Program gave 200 Jewish students at tuition-free state universities much-needed help with their transportation, meal, and book expenses in 2006. The program offers these young adults summertime English courses and access to job training at the Ariel Center. It also encourages them to get involved in community efforts like the Baby Help toy drive or the campaign to collect school supplies for needy families.

JDC continues to work with nearly every Jewish congregation, institution, and organization in Argentina on the Beyachad program, which arranged communal Passover and Rosh Hashanah celebrations last year for 16,381 community members, many of whom still lack the means to mark Jewish holidays on their own. With JDC’s support, the Iaamod program helped 80 youngsters of bar or bat mitzvah age mark this important Jewish milestone last year despite their families’ economic difficulties.

For the past year, thanks to an agreement made with the Ministry of Social Work, the Argentine government has been helping to finance the Ariel Job and Business Center, with a portion of its funds channeled to efforts that benefit the general population. The Center was chosen for its technical quality and professionalism in providing various forms of assistance to community members over the past five years, having helped 5,635 people reenter the job market. Its services include resume writing, career counseling, and job training and placement programs, and its Small Business Bureau has furnished short-term loans to new or ailing small enterprises, along with help in the development of business plans. The Keren Atid Loan Fund, a revolving fund established by local and North American Jewish community donors, offers loans to Jewish-owned small and medium-size businesses that agree to fill new positions through the Ariel Center.

To help welfare clients between the ages of 18 and 55 find new or better-paying jobs, JDC and AMIA developed a program that assesses clients’ skills, provides them with a personalized plan of action to upgrade their qualifications, and encourages companies to hire them by offering a temporary 30 percent salary subsidy. Over 3,640 welfare beneficiaries have been interviewed to date, and more than 900 have found new jobs thanks to this program.

Stabilizing communal institutions and ensuring their long-term viability are important JDC goals, hence its involvement in restructuring efforts, training programs, and an attempt to help communal organizations reconnect with the members they lost during the economic crisis. A JDC training program for a select group of young professionals aged 23 to 28 continued in 2006, with internships conducted by various local organizations hoping to benefit from these efforts to recruit a new generation of communal professionals. JDC also organized a training mission to Lithuania and the U.K. last year for seven young community leaders; the mission included a three-day study seminar at JDC’s Oxford center as well as eye-opening visits to the field.

Most Jewish educators now working in Spanish-speaking Latin America were trained at the teacher training college maintained by Argentina’s Jewish community until the end of the 1990s, when budget and other crisis-related exigencies forced it to close. Through the joint efforts of AMIA, The Jewish Agency for Israel, and JDC, the college was reopened in 2006. It now has a modernized four-year curriculum that includes a six-month stay in Israel and leads to a recognized education degree, and it is once again serving the needs of Jewish schools throughout the region.

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JDC recognizes and thanks the Jewish Federations of North America whose support, through United Jewish Communities (UJC), makes our relief work in Argentina possible. JDC wishes to express its special appreciation to those Federations who made special grants to support this work: Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte; Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago; Jewish Federation of Collier County; Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas; UJA/Federation of Greenwich; Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; Jacksonville Jewish Federation; Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; United Jewish Communities of MetroWest New Jersey; Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Minneapolis Jewish Federation; UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey; Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey; UJA-Federation of New York; Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia; Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County; Jewish Federation of Pinellas County; Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester; United Jewish Federation of San Diego County; Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties; Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle; United Jewish Federation of Tidewater; Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver; Jewish Federation of Greater Washington; Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County; and Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

CUBA

The Cuban Jewish community marked its hundredth anniversary in November 2006, with a delegation from JDC and representatives from other major international Jewish organizations joining in the celebration. JDC provided professional and financial support for the anniversary activities, which served to highlight the vibrancy and vitality of this resurgent community. While most of the island’s Jews live in Havana, there are small but active communities today in Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos, and Camaguey, all of whom have benefited from JDC’s efforts.

The past year has also been one of transition for Cuban Jewry, following the death last March of Dr. Jose Miller, who had presided over the community for 30 years. JDC’s supportive relationship proved especially important to the community during this period, helping to ease its adjustment to a variety of changes. Adela Dvorin now heads the community and is maintaining its close ties to JDC.

In addition to fostering the revival of Jewish communal life, JDC, working in coordination with the Jewish communities of Mexico and Panama and the Canadian Jewish Congress, has been helping to meet community members’ humanitarian needs in the face of ongoing rationing and shortages. JDC’s ability to expand its programs at this time remains limited, and the missions organized by the North American Jewish Federations and UJC have now been restricted to four a year. Nevertheless, they continue to bring much-needed welfare supplies to the community and serve as an important source of moral and material support. Medications shipped by JDC or brought by visitors are distributed throughout the island via the Havana Jewish community, and some 410 Shabbat chicken dinners are provided each week to celebrate Purim and other Jewish holidays are celebrated by Jewish communities throughout the island with help from JDC. (Photo: JDC)
community members following Friday night services, thanks to the generous contributions made by mission participants. These same donors have also funded the distribution of powdered milk through the community’s Sunday school program.

Over 120 members of the Havana community—both children and adults—attend this weekly Jewish Sunday school; a smaller but similar program is in operation in Cienfuegos; and there are ongoing Jewish study groups in Camaguey and Santiago de Cuba. Since 2003, Jewish children have participated in a JDC-initiated bar and bat mitzvah training program, with two of these milestone celebrations held last year and seven expected in 2007. The Israeli dance program continues to flourish, and plans are well under way for a second national festival. Adults and senior citizens meet and study each week at the Patronato, one of three synagogues operating on a regular basis in Havana. This recently renovated synagogue and community center serves a variety of communal needs. It houses a library, social hall, classroom, computer lab, and audio-visual facility, along with the community pharmacy. Synagogues have also been reopened and are operating today in Santiago de Cuba and Camaguey.

Helping to strengthen and expand these religious and cultural activities are JDC’s resident representatives—successive pairs of Jewish professionals from Argentina (usually a married couple) who are proficient in community development. Working in Havana and in the smaller communities, they have enriched every sphere of Cuban Jewish life. The local teachers and madrichim (youth leaders) that they have nurtured conduct classes in basic Hebrew and other Jewish topics throughout the island, and new members of the community are trained, as needed, to take over various cultural and religious functions.

UJA-Federation of New York and the Swergold Family Foundation have provided generous support for various initiatives in Cuba. JDC helps the communities and the Jewish youth organization organize a variety of activities, communal holiday celebrations, and camp programs for different age groups. Generous donors have enabled JDC to equip computer centers in Camaguey, Santiago, and Havana. The latter is used by the Havana community to produce its monthly publication, Menorah, which is distributed in all the communities with JDC’s help.
JDC continues to supply Hebrew- and Spanish-language books, videos, and audiotapes on Jewish topics, prayerbooks, and other religious items, and it coordinates visits from rabbis and Jewish educators who have enhanced Jewish learning, conducted holiday services, and helped to meet other religious needs.

With JDC’s help, a delegation of Cuban Jews took part for the first time last year in the international March of the Living, joining Jewish community representatives from around the world on this annual visit to Poland and Israel. The experience gave the 12 participants, as well as the people back home with whom they shared their impressions, a more personal perspective on the Holocaust, and it brought all they had learned about Israel to life for them in very meaningful way.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

JDC continues to monitor political and social changes throughout Latin America, and it provides various forms of technical assistance to Jewish communities to help strengthen communal life. JDC also retains the capacity to react to emergency situations, as it has been doing in recent years in Argentina and Uruguay.

In Uruguay, JDC worked in partnership with the local Tzedaka Foundation to implement relief programs that helped meet community members’ food, housing, and health care needs. In 2006, a two-pronged employment program for those on the welfare caseload was launched by Tzedaka. Advice and guidance as well as small loans are being furnished to welfare clients who fit a certain entrepreneurial profile, while training is provided to other beneficiaries in order to improve their employment prospects. Welfare families are also benefiting from Tzedaka’s new Lev Gadol (Big Heart) program, which keeps preschoolers occupied each day while their parents work or pursue employment opportunities. The program provides the children with a nutritious meal as well as age-appropriate educational and recreational activities replete with Jewish content.

With funding from a generous local donor, another Tzedaka initiative is providing help to budding entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 30 whose business proposals have been approved by a panel of local businessmen. The local Net Scholarship Program is enabling university students from impoverished families to complete their studies, and an internship program designed to help college youths secure their first job has been implemented by Hillel Uruguay with JDC’s support.

JDC has been providing training and counseling to primary and secondary school teachers at the Ariel Jewish School, and it conducted assessment sessions and advisory meetings last year at the Hebraica-Macabi JCC. It has also been providing fundraising counseling to the Ashkenazi community regarding its home for the elderly, and helping to devise new ways to improve that facility’s financial situation.

Elsewhere in Latin America last year, JDC’s efforts included a training program for young leaders in Barranquilla, Colombia; training and counseling for Chile’s Board of Jewish Education; workshops for small Jewish communities in the Brazilian interior; community counseling in Bolivia and in Ecuador, where JDC also worked with the Einstein School; fundraising guidance for the Kol Sharit community in Panama; and counseling for Guatemala’s Tarbut School. In Paraguay, JDC provided professional support to...
implement a strategic plan for formal Jewish education in Asuncion; the plan is based on the results of a qualitative survey that it previously conducted.

In Venezuela, against a background of significant social and political change, JDC has become more actively involved with the community. Its professional team has expanded and is spending more time in the country, where it helped map existing social programs and community resources and establish common criteria for beneficiaries. The community recently decided to establish a $5 million contingency fund, a project that is being supported by JDC. JDC will also be strengthening its efforts in Ecuador and Bolivia, where the Jewish communities have also been dealing with new scenarios.

In Mexico, JDC helped the community bring Jewish institutions from throughout the region together last year to discuss issues involved in serving the aging; it conducted a fundraising seminar at the Activa Foundation and a young leadership seminar in the Bet-El community; and it provided the Sephardi Foundation with professional advice regarding social assistance efforts. In Central America, Israeli dance programs have been supported by JDC in the small Jewish communities of Cuba, El Salvador, and Guatemala, with Aruba added to that list in 2006.

JDC is helping to improve coordination among Jewish communities in various Latin American countries. It actively uses the Internet to communicate with the region’s more isolated Jewish populations, and it makes different forms of “e-learning” and resource materials available through its Web site. It recently created an interactive computer game that can be adjusted to suit various age groups and levels of Jewish knowledge. First introduced in Buenos Aires, the game is now in use in other Argentine communities as well as in Chile and Uruguay. A special Passover Haggadah designed for people with impaired vision was distributed by JDC last year to Jewish institutions that work with the aged and to Jewish libraries across Latin America. In a project financed by an Argentine donor, a JDC call for young Jews throughout the region to propose a new concept, image or design to buttress Israel’s *hasbara* (public information) campaign drew over 70 respondents; the three winning entries were selected by a multinational panel of Jewish leaders.

The training and counseling programs JDC conducts through *Leatid* Latin America have had a lasting impact on a new generation of lay and professional leaders. In addition to specialized workshops and follow-up coaching tailored to a particular communal need, *Leatid*’s core programs include an Institutional Directors’ Training Program, the *Amit* Training Program for Young Communal Lay Leaders, and the Electronic Forum for Jewish Institutional Leadership. Some 700 lay leaders and professionals benefited from the range of seminars, workshops, management courses, and in-service training conducted by *Leatid* over the past year. Representatives from Latin American communities also take part in JDC’s Israel-based Buncher Community Leadership Program.

Mar del Plata, Argentina, was the setting for the 10th Meeting of Leaders of Latin American and Caribbean Jewish Communities and Institutions, which was held in May 2006. Co-sponsored by Safra Bank, AMIA, and JDC, the gathering brought together over 1,000 lay and professional leaders from 18 Latin American countries and Israel, making this the largest Latin America “GA” to date. These General Assembly-like forums have been encouraged and fostered by JDC to further the development of a solid network of Latin American Jewish communities. While the topics explored at this five-day event reflected the economic, political, and social challenges that Jewish leaders have been grappling with recently in Latin America, the enthusiasm and determination displayed by the participants bodes well for the future of Jewish communal life throughout this region.
The **JAZAK PROGRAM** in **ARGENTINA** works with families in the social assistance network, organizing educational activities and weekend events to help reconnect both children and parents to the Jewish community. (PHOTO: JDC)
JDC’s Objectives for Non-Sectarian Projects:

- In accordance with the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam (repairing the world), JDC-IDP serves as the overseas arm of the North American Jewish community for non-sectarian development work and disaster response. Its mission is in keeping with the Jewish community’s growing desire to respond as a community to human suffering, particularly following disasters.

- JDC acts to help people in crisis and to build bridges to non-Jewish communities and constituencies. Its non-sectarian work supports its Jewish agenda by strengthening the local Jewish communities in countries where humanitarian work is performed.

- JDC does not use UJC/Federation Annual Campaign funds to support its non-sectarian efforts. Rather, it provides a small amount of seed money that it leverages with funding secured from the US and other governments, international agencies, and private foundations and donors. Its Open Mailbox is a way for the Jewish and general public to participate in disaster assistance overseas.

- JDC-IDP targets its assistance to the most vulnerable and at risk populations. It undertakes immediate, emergency relief efforts, followed by mid- to long-term development projects that try to achieve sustainable outcomes. Projects are always implemented through partnerships with local organizations and agencies to further developmental goals.

- By utilizing Israeli experts and establishing partnerships, when appropriate, with MASHAV, the Israeli government’s overseas development cooperation agency, JDC helps establish mutually beneficial relationships and enables developing countries to benefit from Israel’s development experience and expertise.

- JDC coordinates the work of the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, which provides a unified Jewish response to international crises on behalf of its constituent organizations. Comprised at its largest of 45 US and foreign Jewish agencies, the Coalition represents the full spectrum of Jewish life and gives organizations not involved in international work the opportunity to take part in this Jewish response.

- JDC-IDP focuses its efforts on areas related to JDC’s core social service expertise, and it exports JDC models, best practices, and knowledge. In the JDC tradition, it establishes centers of excellence for training and the exchange of best practices, whenever possible.
In partnership with the SUNERA FOUNDATION, JDC is helping to provide basic health screening and treatment to disabled children living in coastal areas of SRI LANKA still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of the December 2004 tsunami. (Photo: JDC)
Argentina

Since the height of Argentina’s economic crisis, when over four million children were categorized as living below the misery line, JDC has supported over 40 soup kitchens that have been feeding some 4,200 children and their families. It also supported the construction of additional space at a soup kitchen in one of Buenos Aires’ poorest neighborhoods to expand its feeding capacity and house other necessary programs. Additional support for this project was provided by children from a Buenos Aires Jewish day school. The establishment of small businesses, food and nutritional programs, and university scholarships provided in partnership with Caritas and the University of Buenos Aires have all contributed to long-term economic rehabilitation in Argentina.

Asia: Tsunami Disaster Relief and Development Projects in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand

The December 2004 underwater earthquake and tsunamis commanded the world’s attention in an unprecedented way. This disaster, which killed approximately 295,000 people and displaced as many as five million, affected the coastal areas of 11 countries. Through its Open Mailbox, JDC raised over $19 million from more than 40,000 donors for its Tsunami Response Program, which is being carried out today in the four most severely affected countries: India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Projects are implemented in partnership with local and international organizations, and in coordination with local authorities. In India, JDC has partnered with the Disaster Mitigation Institute, the VSD Trust, Pondicherry Multipurpose Service Society, World ORT and its local partner—Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, Magen David Adom, Brit Olam/Topaz, and Caritas/Catholic Relief. In Indonesia, it is partnering with the Dwi Yuna Jaya Foundation and the International Rescue Committee; in Sri Lanka, it is working with a renowned local organization, Sarvodaya, as well as with UJA Federation of New York, the Israel Trauma Coalition, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund, Rotary/Sri Lanka, and the Sunera Foundation. In Thailand, JDC has partnered with Chabad, the Israeli Embassy, the King Foundation, the Prince of Songkla University, and Mom Dusdi Paribatra (the president of the Asia Europe Association). In addition, JDC is partnering with a renowned local Thai organization—the Population and Community Development Association, and with MASHAV, the international development arm of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The Jewish Coalition for Asia Tsunami Relief has supported programs in each of the four countries.

The provision of emergency assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) was one element of JDC’s tsunami response; it included the donation of emergency supplies and two ambulances, as well as an upgrading of facilities for those seeking refuge in IDP camps. Helping victims of the tsunami to reestablish their livelihoods, through such initiatives as the establishment of fishing co-ops, has been a key strategic tool in working toward economic rehabilitation. Through the creation of model villages and community centers, local communities have also been rehabilitated. Activities that assist children have been a cornerstone of JDC’s efforts. They have included the construction of playgrounds and primary schools, teacher training, and healing camps for traumatized youngsters. The provision of much-needed psychosocial support services has been an additional and important part of the JDC response.

Jewish Coalition for Asia Tsunami Relief

Made up of 39 mainly North American Jewish organizations, the Jewish Coalition for Asia Tsunami Relief was established to support the work of international and local relief organizations working throughout the region. JDC convened and is coordinating the Coalition, which has enabled the constituent organizations to coordinate their efforts, avoid duplication, and make the best use of donor dollars. Through the Coalition’s mailbox, $890,000 was raised, all of which has now been programmed.
Two grants were provided to the International Medical Corps to support efforts to rehabilitate medical facilities and provide both on-site and mobile health services in eastern Sri Lanka. The Coalition also joined JDC in supporting World ORT’s educational development and training project in India’s Andaman Islands. New grants were recently made to the Sanghamitra Service Society (SSS), an Indian NGO, to support a project that will empower fishing communities in nine coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh; to Mandru, another local NGO, for its environmental protection project, which involves coastal planting in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka; and to the International Rescue Committee, for its child and youth protection and development project. The latter seeks to improve the psychosocial well-being of local children through teacher training workshops conducted in Aceh, Indonesia.

In 2006, the Coalition expanded its partnership with SSS by working together to construct permanent housing for the Yanadhi Tribal Coastal Community in the Andhra Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India. Additionally, funding was provided to the Development Education Institute for Human and Environmental Resource Management to facilitate conservation and ecosystems management through community participation in Sri Lanka.

Belarus

A state institution, the first hospice for terminally ill adults in Belarus, has been in dire need of new medical equipment that can alleviate the suffering of those with a life-limiting illness. JDC is funding the purchase of two oxygen concentrators, manufactured locally, which will be handed over to the hospice at a ceremony that will be attended by government dignitaries and leaders of the Belarus Jewish community. In addition to providing a higher level of palliative care to the most seriously ill elderly in Minsk, this project is raising awareness and understanding of hospice care and support among Hesed personnel. It is also developing a partnership between the Jewish community and state institutions that will strengthen the local community.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

La Benevolencija, the cultural and humanitarian arm of the Sarajevo Jewish community, has been enjoying a growing relationship with the Center for Self-Reliance (CSR), a local NGO that seeks to employ mentally and physically challenged young people. JDC is conducting similar empowerment projects in Banja Luka, all with the generous support of Dr. Alfred Bader. In coordination with the local Jewish community, JDC bought a printing machine and upgraded several computers at the Distroficara Institution; over 50
individuals with physical disabilities live at the Institution and work at its printing facility. The Women’s Health Empowerment Program, supported by the Marcia Presky Memorial Fund, provides psychosocial support services by and for women with breast cancer and their families, as well as public education programs that encourage the early detection of breast cancer. The program concentrates on three key areas: establishing new educational and psychosocial services for women with breast cancer, offering professional seminars for physicians and health professionals, and providing organizational development training to NGOs.

Since breast cancer transcends cultural and religious boundaries, women who might normally have regarded each other with hostility are now working together. It is still largely taboo for women to discuss personal health issues in this part of the world, and this project is blazing new territory by openly discussing female health.

To carry out this program, JDC partners with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Bosnian Ministry of Health, and four local NGOs: Renasansa (Sarajevo), Novi Pogled (Mostar), Iskra (Banja Luka), and Uruzenje zena Tuzla (Tuzla).

The J Fund, a non-interest-bearing revolving loan fund, was established by JDC to encourage the employment of individuals with disabilities. The fund helps local non-profit agencies develop sustainable jobs for disabled or marginalized individuals, and any business or NGO engaged in social entrepreneurship activities and employing handicapped persons may apply for a loan. The loans have a payback period of up to five years and are awarded on the basis of sound business plans and other guarantees submitted by the applicant.

In 2007, a major research and development project to create on-line businesses suitable for the handicapped will share its results with The J Fund. At least one training seminar will be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina to present these cyberspace opportunities to the fund’s target population.

The generosity of Dr. Alfred Bader was instrumental in helping to support the creation of The J Fund. The work is facilitated by a JDC consultant and project director and by local professional bodies. The fund’s operation is coordinated with the Jewish communities of Sarajevo, Banja Luka, and Doboj in cooperation with Melacha, the micro-credit loan fund set up by La Benevolencija in Sarajevo.

**Croatia**

The J Fund has also been established in the Jewish community of Osijek, Croatia, where it is supporting the development of sustainable jobs for the physically and mentally handicapped. The fund is operated with the help of the NOA Savings and Loan Cooperative, a micro-credit loan fund situated in Osijek. Here, too, the generosity of Dr. Alfred Bader was instrumental in helping to support this special fund’s creation.

To date, in both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, The J Fund has awarded loans to a total of 13 projects with a capital investment of over $200,000. These loans are generating demanding yet profitable jobs for muscular dystrophy sufferers, deaf individuals, paraplegics, and the mentally handicapped.

**Czech Republic**

With special funding from Dr. Alfred Bader, JDC provides assistance to a select group of NGOs to help address the education, housing, and employment needs of the Roma community. These local organizations provide employment and computer training as well as social and legal consultations. In Petrovice, nearly 50 Roma youth have been enrolled in courses that are helping them develop marketable skills. Projects in Prague and Brno empower Roma tenants seeking to improve their living conditions. In addition to helping individual members of the Roma community, these programs have been strengthening the capacities of Roma organizations and facilitating their interaction with the larger community.
Ethiopia

While floods in Ethiopia are a seasonal occurrence, the magnitude of the flooding in the summer of 2006 was unprecedented, affecting as many as eight regions. According to the Ethiopian Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency, more than 900 people lost their lives, nearly 200,000 were directly affected, and more than 500,000 people were made vulnerable, forced to cope with the destruction of livelihoods, a greatly decreased food supply, and an increase in malaria and other diseases. During a meeting with the Governor of the Gondar Region that was covered by the press, JDC’s country director pledged funds to purchase seeds for distribution to local farmers affected by the floods. This donation was the first to support flood victims in Gondar, and JDC’s actions (it later donated pesticide sprayers as well) encouraged other NGOs to activate their own assistance in this area.

JDC and the Mother Teresa Care Center have a joint project under way to provide complex and high-quality surgical and medical treatment for orphans in Ethiopia suffering from various deformities and diseases of the spine. The Morton H. Meyerson Family Tzedakah Fund has provided important support for this project.

Patients are treated directly by JDC’s Medical Director, referred to Addis Ababa hospitals, or relocated to hospitals outside Ethiopia when necessary. Chemotherapy drugs are supplied to the treating hospitals at no cost. With additional support, funding will be provided for the children’s subsequent education to give these youngsters a chance to catch up on what they have lost to years of illness and an opportunity to lead normal lives.

JDC’s Hodgkin’s Disease program benefits from the donation of medicine from a pharmaceutical company in India that produces a highly effective drug. Care is provided by oncologists at the Tikur Anbessa (Black Lion) University Hospital in Addis Ababa. Poor patients (certified as poor by their local neighborhood associations, called kebeles) are treated for free. Those above that level of poverty are charged about half the price of the drugs. This money goes into a revolving fund, which is applied to treatments for future patients and helps decrease the dependency on foreign assistance. To date, the program has treated 29 people, with a response rate of over 80 percent. It has helped the doctors at the university hospital practice modern, first world cancer medicine for the first time, and it has drawn attention to the problem of local cancer treatment.

In 2005, a memorandum of understanding for academic cooperation was signed by JDC and the Gondar College of Medicine and Health Sciences (GCMHS) of the University of Gondar. The agreement promotes collaboration between Ethiopia and international academic institutions on activities such as training, clinical and teaching services, research, and community service. The agreement led to an academic cooperation project between GCMHS and Ben Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). GCMHS lacks staff experienced in post-graduate training, and BGU will be sending Israeli physicians, including a pediatric surgeon, to provide training and perform surgery in Gondar. In 2006, the first group of Ethiopian doctors went to study at BGU. Several physicians from the US have also visited GCMHS to provide training and medical care for varying periods of time.

Ethiopia’s extreme poverty has had a particularly negative effect on the country’s youth, with those fortunate enough to attend primary and secondary school having very little opportunity to pursue higher education. To support women who want to receive a college education but lack the financial means to do so, JDC is partnering...
with Italy’s Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation. Four-year degree courses for scholarship recipients are preceded by a preparatory year to help women from poor rural areas. The 75 scholarship beneficiaries to date include 15 young women selected at the start of the 2006 academic year. The skills and self-confidence these women gain by receiving a college education will enable them to make a greater contribution to their country.

University scholarships have also been provided to 30 Ethiopian students working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture and Urban Planning at Addis Ababa University. The program covers the cost of the sponsored students’ tuition, food, board, clothing, and miscellaneous expenses for five years. It is funded by Italy’s Bruno Zevi Foundation with additional support from the City of Rome. JDC implements and supervises the program in coordination with the university.

In 2006, on the basis of its commitment to aiding those in need and its previous work in upgrading educational facilities in various locations, JDC was asked—and subsequently signed an agreement—to improve the physical and educational capacity of a mud hut school in Belessa Wereda, a rural region outside Gondar. Facilities at the school, which serves nearly 900 students, were primitive and in great disrepair, placing the youngsters at enormous risk from a variety of health hazards.

JDC is currently rebuilding the school, creating a facility with running water, toilets, and furnishings conducive to an effective educational environment. The Belessa Wereda community, eager to participate in the project, is providing free local labor. A safe water source at the school will give parents additional motivation to send their children there each day, since the students will be able to carry water home to their families. JDC also intends to furnish the schoolchildren with a range of health benefits, including micronutrient support.

In Addis Ababa, a comprehensive health promotion project is being implemented in Kebele 16, whose 12,300 residents have very limited access to medical care. This three-year project involves the establishment of a local health post and the training of outreach workers to provide health education, family planning, and antenatal follow-up services, including an immunization and diarrhea control program for children. Workers are also constructing new water systems and communal latrines. JDC’s partners in this project, which will directly benefit over 4,000 people, are the Federal Republic Disease Control Bureau, the Addis Ababa Health Bureau, and the Addis Ababa Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission.

**Georgia**

There are currently about 246,000 refugees in Georgia, primarily from Abkhazia, with 94,000 residing in Tbilisi alone. Their economic situation and living conditions are very difficult, and many must also deal with the loss of family members who provided their primary support. To increase their chances of finding good jobs and regaining their financial stability, Georgia’s Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation asked the community’s Jewish Cultural and Educational Fund to implement a computer skills and English-language course for the refugees. The Fund has conducted many such courses and is authorized to issue official certificates in these subject areas. Several intensive seminars in job search skills will also be provided to ensure that course graduates can effectively parlay their new knowledge into gainful employment. A new group of 10 students will begin the course this fall.

In addition, a vocational training program in dressmaking and design is currently training 18 young women. The level of instruction is very professional, and course graduates are practically guaranteed employment.

**Ghana**

JDC is partnering with Israel’s MASHAV to assist in setting up much-needed Mother and Baby Units in Kumasi. The HIV prevalence in Kumasi is estimated at approximately double that of the national figure, and about half the pediatric
HIV patients are also infected with tuberculosis. Hospitals in the city are overcrowded, lack sufficient diagnostic tools, and face insurmountable infection control problems. This program is part of the UN Millennium Cities Health Initiative, and was designed to increase the capacity of Kumasi health professionals to diagnose and treat infectious diseases and care for sick newborns. Training workshops will emphasize the importance of collaboration among health care sectors, post-graduate education for health care personnel, and health education in the community. Nurses from Kumasi will also be hosted by Ben Gurion University to add to their training in neonatal care. JDC is assisting with the expenses incurred by local staff on the training programs.

**Hungary**

Breast cancer is one of the deadliest cancers among women in Hungary, with mortality rates significantly higher than the European average. Working with and through local NGOs, breast cancer survivors, and the Hungarian medical community, the JDC/Susan G. Komen for the Cure project is focusing on strengthening existing and establishing new psychosocial services for women with breast cancer and their families. The project, which is also supported by the Marcia Presky Memorial Fund, is providing organizational development training to NGOs active in this area to strengthen services and coordination and ensure that accomplishments continue after the project is completed. It is also creating a breast health “Resource Guide” for public and professional use. Emphasis has been placed on activities that increase public awareness of the importance of early detection and the availability of various support services. The project utilizes local expertise and provides opportunities for close cooperation among NGOs, medical and health professionals, and Hungarian Ministry of Health representatives.

Children from impoverished families living in the infamous Dzsembuj settlement in Budapest’s 9th district suffer from numerous serious developmental difficulties. Many fail to complete primary school and it is almost impossible for them to graduate high school or find gainful employment. The Dzsembuj Association offers services to underprivileged families from several parts of the district. The Tanoda after-school support program is providing developmentally delayed Roma and other children and their families who live in this area with a variety of educational and social services. Children do their homework; have individual and group classes to develop their skills; and participate in English, drama, and arts and crafts classes, with family members included in many of the activities. The program provides mentors for the older students and a range of support services for the families. The Wolf Family Foundation is generously supporting this after-school initiative.

**India**

Following the 2001 earthquake that devastated parts of Gujarat State, JDC formed a multi-year partnership with the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), a well-established NGO based in Ahmedabad, to reconstruct more than 20 child care centers in the hard-hit areas of Surendranagar and Patan. Today, the centers are providing nutritional meals and health services to children and pregnant women, child development and recreational activities, and preschool education, and they are staffed by newly trained local villagers. The project, which was concluded in June 2007, has enabled the centers to expand...
their educational and disaster preparedness activities, and they have become venues for a variety of community development programs.

**Indonesia**

In May 2006, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck the southern coast of Indonesia’s Java Island, causing widespread damage and thousands of injuries and deaths. In addition, the region’s health care system was overwhelmed as 11 of the area’s 26 health centers were destroyed.

JDC opened a Mailbox to collect funds for the quake’s victims, while JDC’s tsunami relief partner, Dwi Putranto Sulaksono, arrived in Yogyakarta at the request of the Indonesian government to help coordinate relief efforts. On behalf of the DwiYuna Jaya Foundation and JDC, the following assistance was provided: food for 30,000 victims; small sums of cash for 30,000 people living in the poorer areas of the affected region; and 20 platoon-size military tents for use in six poor neighborhoods where schools had been damaged, in order to create a temporary place for students to sit for their examinations. The partnership also rebuilt one of the damaged schools, and its 400 students were provided with writing equipment, exercise books, and daily lunches. This project reached 8,700 of the neediest children in the affected areas and generated much good will in this moderate Muslim country.

**Kazakhstan**

Kazakhstan has more cases of HIV/AIDS than its four neighboring countries, but few treatment facilities or support services. The Regional HIV/AIDS Center in Chimkent is the only facility responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the South Kazakhstan Region. Currently, there is no psychologist or social worker at the center, and there is no system of psychological or social help in the surrounding city.

Following a needs assessment conducted by an Israeli medical team, a psychosocial training program was developed for professionals affiliated with the Mother and Child Health Center that has been serving families living with HIV/AIDS. The program will train 10 professionals in two units, giving them the basic skills they need to work with families struggling to deal with chronic illness.

This project was initiated following a request for assistance made by the local health authorities to the *Hesed* center in Chimkent and the Israeli Ambassador in Kazakhstan. It is a joint effort of three JDC divisions (FSU, IDP, and Israel) and the Hadassah HIV/AIDS Center.

**Kenya**

Local government authorities in Kenya are facing a decentralization policy initiated by the national government that might result in a broadening of their activities and fields of responsibility. This requires organizational capacity building as well as the development of good governance capabilities. A new project developed by JDC in partnership with local governments, Israeli agencies, and UN-Habitat TCBB aims to establish Municipal Strategic Planning and Information Units in Kenya. These MPUs (which were pioneered by JDC in Israel) would upgrade the capabilities of these local authorities and help improve the general quality of life.
**Macedonia**

JDC developed a vocational training project for Roma in Sutu Orizeri, the only Roma-led municipality in the world. In coordination with local authorities and the Jewish community, it worked with an Israeli specialist to train two members of the Roma community in welding instruction. The two men then provided welding training to other Roma residents in an elementary school provided by the municipality. All 14 trainees, including several refugees who joined the group at the request of UNHCR, subsequently passed the international welding test and received official certificates. Based on the success of this initial effort, UNHCR is now covering the cost of maintaining this training program for Roma and Roma refugees from Kosovo.

**Middle East**

Project COPE (Coping with Breast Cancer Among Palestinian and Israeli Women) supports health service development through the cooperative efforts of Israeli and Palestinian partners. It has been working to bring together professional health care providers and women living with breast cancer, introduce concepts of empowerment and advocacy, and establish culturally sensitive support projects. The project has created opportunities for cooperation and a climate of coexistence, and it has furthered the development of breast cancer screening, treatment, and rehabilitation services for Palestinian women, as well as outreach services for minority populations in Israel.

One of COPE’s major achievements has been the establishment of support services for Palestinian cancer patients (based on Israeli models) that will continue to operate even after the conclusion of the project. And the dialogues that have been promoted over the past six years, both among health care professionals and among breast cancer survivors from both communities, have facilitated the kind of understanding rarely found in this part of the world. Although Project COPE is now being phased out, the meetings of its Forum of Palestinian and Israeli Breast Cancer Survivors will continue.

In the arena of the increasingly violent and turbulent Middle East, Palestinian and Israeli children are often at direct risk of physical and emotional harm. The Child Rehabilitation Initiative for Safety and Hope (CHERISH) was conceived to ease present realities for these children by helping them to regain their confidence after violent incidents and to maintain their hope for the future and their ability to function in daily life. This multidisciplinary project focuses on psychological and social rehabilitation and addresses two target groups—the children and their families, and the professional community. Given the widespread exposure to traumatic events in both societies, CHERISH seeks to develop community-based activities that address unmet needs among Palestinian and Israeli children while creating opportunities for cooperation within an environment of coexistence.

CHERISH is a partnership of the Israel Center for Treatment of Psychotrauma at Herzog Hospital, the Center for Development in Primary Health Care at Al Quds University, and JDC, with the latter represented by three of its local branches: JDC-Israel, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, and Ashalim. CHERISH is supported by the US State Department Conflict Management and Mitigation Program, the EU Partnership for Peace Program, and the One-to-One Children’s Fund (UK).

Launched in January 2006 thanks to a generous start-up grant from the Goldman Fund, the ECHOS (Empowering Communities in Home Safety) initiative aims to develop culturally appropriate community-based responses to the problem of unintentional injuries in both Israeli and Palestinian societies. ECHOS is currently working to create an infrastructure of Palestinian health educators, an endeavor that includes the development of culturally appropriate educational materials and the training of 20 health educators in home safety. Data on home accidents has been collected through partner organizations and is being analyzed to inform future project directions, and a health promotion brochure is being developed to further educate the community.
JDC’s partners in this initiative are: the Patient’s Friends Society-Jerusalem, Beterem-National Center for Children’s Safety and Health, and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center.

The Child Development Disabilities Forum (Pediatric Rehabilitation Forum), which meets every three months, provides an opportunity for Israeli and Palestinian professionals to share information and discuss practical and culturally sensitive ways to assist children with special needs and their families. In May 2006, 11 Palestinian professionals took part in a seminar organized by their Israeli colleagues and held at Asaf Harofe Medical Center.

**Moldova**

JDC maintains close cooperation with state social welfare agencies and works in tandem with local hospitals, orphanages, and NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Moldova, concentrating especially on programs for the young, the disabled, and the elderly. Periodic deliveries of donated and much-needed goods and equipment have furthered the development of collaborative relationships between the Jewish community and local institutions.

One of the projects that has recently benefited from JDC support is the House of Hope and Future in Soroca, which is providing various forms of medical, social, psychological, and humanitarian support for some 510 elderly people residing in the town and in neighboring rural communities. Services include breakfast and lunch; the assistance of nurses on a daily basis, and doctors on a weekly basis; psychological and social support; rehabilitation gymnastics; and recreational activities. The center has succeeded in attracting volunteers to work with these elderly and help integrate them into this more active social framework.

Despite recent progress, Moldova remains one of Europe’s poorest countries, and many of its children are forced to live on the streets. Some 35 of these children have found a haven at the new Rainbow Home, which opened its doors in the fall of 2006 in a peaceful rural setting and has received various forms of support from JDC. The home provides the children with a cheerful, nurturing environment as well as rehabilitative support, with a doctor, a nurse, a psychologist, and a social worker all part of the staff. Through humanitarian aid sent by World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK) and JDC’s support, computers and other amenities have been added to the furnishings and the children have been supplied with warm clothing, winter shoes, linen, colorful bunk beds and curtains for their rooms, play equipment, and supplementary food.

**Morocco**

JDC has been working in partnership with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Moroccan Jewish community, AMH (Amicale Marocine des Handicapes), and the American-based Wheelchair Foundation to send a container of wheelchairs and other assistive devices to the community for distribution nationwide. As part of this project, JDC will help AMH organize a training component for hospital staff, to teach people how to properly use the equipment.

When the wheelchairs arrive, JDC, in cooperation with the President of the Fez Jewish community, will supplement the 20 to 30 wheelchairs designated for Fez with additional medical equipment that will be distributed among public hospitals in Fez.

**Pakistan — Kashmir**

In October 2005, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, devastating parts of Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, and causing over 73,000 deaths. JDC subsequently raised over $676,000 to aid the victims, and it supported the work of a longtime partner, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in both Indian- and Pakistani-controlled areas of Kashmir. An initial project with CRS/Pakistan provided winterized shelters for affected families in the Northwest Frontier Province, near their original homes. Because winterized tents were in short supply, semi-permanent, vault-shaped winterized structures were built, using locally available materials. JDC also worked with the
International Rescue Committee (IRC), another long-time partner, to provide winterized bedding kits for 5,000 families in an area that had not received assistance from other aid agencies.

Through its Village in the Sky initiative, JDC is rehabilitating the hard-hit village of Sarbala in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir. Sarbala’s schools, medical clinic, and mosque were all destroyed in the quake. Like other villages at high elevations, it was inaccessible for many months to government and private relief agencies and initially received little humanitarian assistance. JDC’s partners in this initiative include the Turkish International Blue Crescent (IBC), the Wingate Foundation, and Rapid Relief International—an Indonesian NGO.

In addition to the humanitarian assistance that was provided to some 100 families immediately following the quake, project accomplishments to date include the reopening of the boys’ and girls’ schools, which serve over 150 children; the completion of two new playgrounds; and the distribution of 250 hygiene kits for preschool children. Permission from the health authorities for the building of a new medical clinic has been granted, with municipal authorities committed to staffing the clinic and providing equipment and supplies on an ongoing basis. Thanks to additional donor funds, JDC has been able to expand its original plans and provide both safe building training and technical assistance for rural housing reconstruction as part of this project. To date, 29 village reconstruction committees have been established and 200 carpenters, steel fixers, and builders have been trained. The local Pakistani military command has agreed to assist JDC and IBC with the logistics of the reconstruction, which will include a community facility housing a kindergarten, an employment training center for women, a space for village meetings, and a mosque.

Poland

In partnership with the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), JDC has been helping to improve living conditions for Roma Holocaust survivors who reside in a home for the elderly in Oswiecim that provides them with both medical and psychological services. With support from the Italian Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund, UCEI has been helping to renovate and repair this facility, which is owned and operated by the Polish Roma Association. JDC has been providing technical support and supervising the project’s implementation.

In newly renovated offices, staff members can now meet individually with residents to provide psychological assistance, legal advice, and counseling on issues of daily living. Staff members also

Top: Opening ceremony at the Ban Klong Kai Tai village in THAILAND, one of the model villages supported by JDC (and equipped with a new piped water system) as part of its POST-Tsunami RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. (PHOTO: JDC)

Bottom: The CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE recognizes and supports the formation of the AGAHUZO-SHALOM YOUTH VILLAGE, which aims to create a safe and nurturing community for orphaned children in RWANDA. (PHOTO: CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE)
refer residents to specialized clinics for Holocaust survivors and war veterans.

**Russia**

It is estimated that 600,000 citizens of St. Petersburg have disabilities, many of whom would benefit from medical or assistive devices to increase their mobility. Federal law provides financial resources to help meet this need, but there has been no system in place to provide the equipment in a cost-effective manner. Partnering with Hesed Avraham and the municipal government, JDC expanded an equipment loan center established to serve the Jewish community to allow it to also accommodate the general population. Local professionals were trained to assess clients’ needs, select and fit equipment, and maintain inventory.

This project illustrates JDC’s ability to utilize expertise developed through its Jewish community programming to assist a wider population. Once initial activities prove successful, it is expected that the government will expand the project, purchasing equipment from the Hesed equipment factory and thereby helping the Jewish community’s medical equipment program move further toward self-sufficiency. Generous support for the development of this and other JDC-IDP projects is provided by the Rita and Harold Divine Foundation.

A Women’s Health Empowerment Program, supported by the Marcia Presky Memorial Fund, is working to improve the experience of women with breast cancer and provide support to survivors. The program also seeks to expand educational opportunities that promote early detection. Research will be undertaken on the experience of women with breast cancer, cultural attitudes and reactions, the use of preventive measures, and the effectiveness of existing educational materials. Sensitivity training for medical professionals will be provided, and a network of support groups will be established. The partners working with JDC on this program include: Ministry of Health, Federation of Russia, Institute of Maternal Health, Project Kesher, USAID, International American Healthcare Alliance, Moscow City Council, Healthy Russia, FeBK, and the JDC-funded Moscow School for NGO Management.

**Rwanda**

One of the most devastating aftermaths of the genocide that took place in Rwanda in 1994 was the approximately 1.2 million children—nearly 15 percent of the population—who were robbed of their parents, communities, homes, and hope for a viable future for their country.

With initial funding provided by the Heyman-Merrin Family Foundation, the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village (ASYV) seeks to provide a comprehensive and targeted response to this problem through the establishment of a multi-faceted youth village, which is being planned and built in partnership with American, Israeli, and Rwandan communities. The basis for the model is the concept of the village as home, providing children with a holistic and protective environment that will help them to overcome trauma and abandonment. ASYV will provide a safe home where unconditional support allows children to thrive; a high school that will enable them to shape their future; and a medical clinic to ensure their health and well-being, as well as that of the surrounding communities. The village will be staffed, populated, and eventually supported by Rwandans.

The ASYV Project is a partnership effort of JDC and Israel’s Yemin Orde Youth Village (YO). A team from Yemin Orde, made up largely of Ethiopian-Israelis who are themselves YO graduates, will train their Rwandan counterparts in the techniques needed to establish a culturally sensitive model youth village, reflective of the
Rwandan reality and context. The village will be staffed, populated, and eventually supported by Rwandans.

With generous support from the Italy-based Rita Levi Montalcini Foundation, JDC is providing full scholarships to 13 young women who completed their secondary school education through its long-standing Back to School project. The scholarships cover tuition, fees, school materials, full room and board, and transportation expenses. The students have expressed interest in a variety of careers, including engineering, medicine, teaching, nursing, social work, and public administration. The Benishyaka Association, JDC’s local partner in the Back to School project, will monitor the students’ progress and provide the women with practical assistance and psychological support.

**Serbia**

Opportunities for people with disabilities are extremely limited in Serbia, and they are made worse by the depressed local economy. In an effort to improve the lives of people with special needs, JDC and SAVEZ (the Federation of Jewish Communities) began a partnership with a local NGO, KEC MNRO, to conduct workshops for 100 mentally challenged teenagers and adults in Belgrade who do not attend schools or other facilities. The program, which received significant local recognition and support and has positively impacted hiring practices, was subsequently expanded to include four municipalities. The Jewish community has also opened its doors to KEC MNRO’s beneficiaries and their families, conducting joint cultural activities as well as training programs at its computer lab.

In cooperation with World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), JDC initiated a Small Business Development Program in Belgrade, modeled after the successful project in Sarajevo. Israeli experts and specially trained local instructors held four training seminars for Jewish and non-Jewish participants, and follow-up workshops are being conducted. The enthusiasm generated by this project led local partners to organize the Belgrade Jewish Community Business Club, whose bi-weekly lectures have attracted leading non-Jewish businessmen.

**One of the most devastating aftermaths of the genocide that took place in Rwanda in 1994 was the approximately 1.2 million children who were robbed of their parents, communities, homes, and hope for a viable future for their country. The Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village (ASYV) seeks to provide a comprehensive and targeted response to this problem.**

In this JDC project, small business development loans are made to indigenous Roma entrepreneurs, with the loans repaid in goods and services that go to help Roma refugees from Kosovo who have settled in southern Serbia. JDC has also purchased machinery for various enterprises, including 12 sewing machines that have created sustainable jobs for 36 single mothers for a very small investment. JDC’s partners in this project include the Kosovo Roma Refugee Foundation, World Jewish Aid, and Dr. Alfred Bader. It is hoped that in 2007 several more small businesses will be founded.

**Sudan**

The continuing ethnic violence in the Darfur region of Western Sudan has been described as one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises, affecting more than 3 million people. More than 2.5 million people have been driven from their homes, creating one of the largest populations of internally displaced people in the world.

In June 2004, at the request of active Coalition member American Jewish World Service, JDC convened and continues to coordinate the 24-member Jewish Coalition for Sudan Relief. The Coalition works to raise awareness of the
plight of those affected by the violence, as well as funds to support humanitarian aid efforts. The $700,000+ that has been collected to date has been used to support the work of the few NGOs that are active in Sudan and neighboring Chad, where many of the refugees have fled.

Coalition funds have supported the medical and nutritional relief efforts of Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières, and emergency health, obstetric, hygiene, and nutritional services provided by the International Medical Corps (IMC) in the Al Sreif camp in South Darfur, as well as in Sudan and Chad. A grant to the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children supported their reproductive health efforts in Darfur, and a partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) helped support an educational project in a refugee camp and host community in northeastern Chad. The psychological impact of violence is often overlooked as more basic needs— for food, shelter, clean water, and medical care—take priority. Coalition grants to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and to Mercy Corps are helping to address the important psychosocial needs of those who have been displaced, enabling them to better handle their current situation and to recover more easily once the violence finally ends.

In 2006, the Coalition took on new partnerships with the IMC to provide emergency assistance for host populations in eastern Chad and to build mobile clinics in Darfur. In addition, the partnership with the IRC has expanded to include the Kass region, where life-saving primary health care will be provided to approximately 100,000 beneficiaries, including both internally displaced persons and host community members spread throughout the area’s 21 refugee camps.

**Tunisia**

JDC has been working for several years with the Tunisian Union for Social Solidarity (UTSS), the nationwide, government-sponsored umbrella organization for charitable endeavors in Tunisia. In Djerba, JDC and UTSS have joined forces to help the UTAIM (Union Tunisienne pour Aider les...
Insuffisants Mentaux) Day Center, a multi-ethnic facility that currently serves 72 mentally handicapped children and young adults. Through UTSS, JDC has provided the Center with badly needed classroom materials and educational games, and additional partnership projects are currently being explored.

**Turkey**

Many children in Southeast Turkey are born into poverty, and thousands of them, some as young as five, work on the streets doing a variety of menial tasks to earn small amounts for their impoverished families. Often, these children lack basic necessities such as health care, nutritious food, and time to simply play and be children.

The Working Children’s Centers that JDC helped develop in Turkey have been improving the quality of life for these children and their families and reducing at-risk behaviors. The centers have established good working relations with the local business community, street merchants, and the police through outreach campaigns and seminars that encourage the identification and referral of working children. In addition to the four centers described below, JDC developed a similar project in the historic city of Urfa (or Sanliurfa) in response to a request made by the Ministry of the Interior to the local Jewish community.

Diyarbakir was the site of the project’s first center, and JDC, working with the Governate of Diyarbakir, Dicle University, and the International Labor Organization (ILO), equipped its computer, art, and music rooms, as well as its sports facilities. A mobile outreach unit provides direct benefits to street children, while parents have benefited from skills seminars and vocational training designed to help them stabilize their situation and reduce their reliance on their children’s incomes. In addition, JDC sponsored “Children at Risk” seminars in 2003 and 2006 that highlighted the plight of these youngsters, with the Wolf Family Foundation providing generous support for the 2006 event. To date, approximately 4,200 children have utilized this center’s services, 700 of whom have stopped working and returned to school. Of these students, 10 are now attending university.

Following the success of the Diyarbakir model, JDC partnered with the Governate of Adiyaman and the ILO to provide similar assistance to working children and their families in that region. As in Diyarbakir, the Adiyaman center provides access to health care, nutritious meals, recreation, psychosocial support, and educational opportunities for the children, while professionals work with parents to provide training in income-generating activities. JDC provided the funds for a computer lab; supplies for the art, music, and reading programs; and the salary for one of the social workers for one year. Some 1,700 children have benefited from the center’s services, and 500 have returned to school.

The center established more recently in Istanbul is somewhat different; it provides services for 80 boys who live on the premises, as well as for some 50 additional children who live at home. The resident children are “street children” who are living at the center for a transitional period that may last for several years. They are educated at nearby schools or in special courses at the center, and they have access to a computer lab and an outdoor sports space. In addition to its staff teachers and social workers, the center utilizes volunteers who conduct workshops for the children on a regular basis.

A similar center, called Bizim Ev (Our Nest), was opened in Izmir in 2005 with the assistance of the municipality. In addition to meeting the children’s basic needs for food and shelter, it provides textbooks and other school materials and offers after-school educational courses and the use of a library and computer lab. Through its collaboration with Konak Public Training, the center provides education certificates for children over the age of 14. It also provides sports and arts activities and arranges cultural events for the youngsters. With the aid of 30 volunteers, the center served more than 1,110 children in its first year of operation and has already made a significant difference in their lives. The computer labs in both Istanbul and Izmir were made possible with James and Jane Wolf’s generous support.
Ukraine

The Studio of Talents is a six-month project that provides art education and art therapy for orphans living in boarding schools in Western Ukraine. The project offers professional training for boarding school personnel in the areas of art pedagogy and art therapy and organizes creative work opportunities for children in boarding schools. The project is managed by a Tutorial Council consisting of sponsors, state employees, and representatives of NGOs. It will include a seminar on the newest art therapy techniques, a festival celebrating the youngsters’ creativity, and a charity auction whose proceeds will help support the continuation of these activities on a longer-term basis.

JDC is also partnering with the local government to provide comprehensive sex education, treatment of gynecological diseases, and psychological support for young women in Ukraine. The program aims to decrease unwanted pregnancies and abortions, reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STDs, foster healthy relationships among teenagers, and encourage discussion and mutual understanding between parents and teenagers. Health professionals trained in these areas provide medical and psychological care to young women and respond to their questions about reproductive health. Additionally, these professionals give lectures and participate in roundtable discussions for health care providers, teachers, and social workers. The project currently serves over 1,500 young women.

The Zaporozhye region of Ukraine is highly industrialized, causing many residents to suffer from serious illnesses due to air and water pollution. Together with the Zaporozhye Regional State Administration and with the support of World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), JDC opened a family outpatient clinic to expand access to medical care for children and adults in outlying areas. Modern medical equipment was provided for the clinic, and JDC is working to create a model of efficient preventive and primary health care (from family doctors) that will benefit underprivileged families.

Uruguay

Capitalizing on the experience gained through its work in neighboring Argentina, JDC developed several activities in Uruguay to help address some of the needs of vulnerable children, young adults, and families in the impoverished Maldonado District. With funds from JDC, local donors, and the government of Uruguay, it distributed school materials to children who were beginning public school, and it established a new center to provide social services to poor children and their families. In addition, in partnership with the municipal government and Rescatando Sonrisas (Rescuing Smiles), a local NGO, it established a training program that has aided some 20 homeless teenagers, teaching them gardening skills and providing them with bicycles so they can get to their courses.

In May 2007, the most severe floods to hit Uruguay in 50 years devastated three regions, Durazno, Soriano, and Treinta y Tres, leaving more than 12,000 very low income victims in their wake. A state of national emergency was declared by the government, and JDC contributed funds to the local Jewish community to support their distribution of emergency aid. This has included hundreds of blankets, mattresses, and pillows, as well as materials for the reconstruction of housing units. The mayors of Durazno and Treinta y Tres have sent personal letters of thanks to the community, emphasizing the renewed hope that this assistance has brought to the flood victims.

TRANSMIGRANTS

In 2006, a total of 220 transmigrants were assisted by JDC while in Vienna. While a few cases still spend a lengthy period in the city, primarily due to security checks, the average length of stay has continued to decrease and was down last year to about four-and-a-half months. As a result, by the end of December, there were only 39 people on the caseload.

Very generous support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles has enabled JDC to continue to provide a varied menu of services.
to its clients and to expand its educational, social, and cultural programs as well as its medical care. The latter is of particular value when additional medical checks are requested as part of immigration processing, or—as occurred this year—when expectant mothers need various prenatal tests.

The educational program includes intensive, contracted English classes for various levels, as well as computer classes with paid teachers, all of which are highly popular with those hoping to adjust as quickly as possible to life in the United States. These lessons are given in collaboration with the Vocational Training Center of the Vienna Jewish community. Last year, for the first time, Hebrew classes were added, and clients attended with great seriousness and interest.

In 2006, there were two JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteers in Vienna on consecutive tours of duty. The volunteers concentrated their efforts on social and cultural events, and thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, they arranged for clients to take full advantage of the Viennese cultural scene. Clients were also able to participate in Vienna Jewish community events and special commemorations, as well as in Jewish and American holiday celebrations organized by JDC. The various activities, which included a highly popular English-language cafe’ group for young adults, special film showings, lectures, musical performances, dances, and backgammon and chess tournaments, offered clients much-needed opportunities to socialize and relax.

In addition, JDC continues to offer social services and technical assistance in procuring housing and medical care. As part of the expanded program, JDC has been working closely with the Vienna Jewish community and the local Red Cross to provide low-cost, paid medical care to clients whenever needed. JDC also provides translator services to help clients upon their arrival in Vienna.

Taking advantage of the kitchen that JDC Vienna now has available in its new offices, JDC offered its clients Rosh Hashanah sweets last fall—heaping trays of dried fruit, honey, and apples. It also organized a “Tea and Cakes with JDC” Sukkot party, in the sukkah kindly lent by the Vienna Jewish community. Clients were provided with matzah and wine for Passover, and Jewish holiday celebrations were organized in...
collaboration with the Vienna community, a local rabbi, and the local Chabad organization. JDC’s Vienna office also provides various forms of support for JDC programs in Central and Eastern Europe.

Again thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, this wide range of activities is continuing this year, while taking into consideration both the size of the caseload and the average length of stay. The latter is a particularly important factor in program planning since, when stays are shorter, the clients’ time is filled to a large extent with processing procedures.

**JDC JEWISH SERVICE CORPS (JSC)**

The JDC Jewish Service Corps is a unique one-year volunteer opportunity for active, enthusiastic, knowledgeable Jews to serve and take part in the life of a Jewish community abroad. Since 1987, JDC has placed over 100 volunteers in more than 16 countries around the world. In most placements, the challenge is to promote Jewish identity and help the community become more self-sufficient. In 2006, JDC placed a JSC volunteer for the first time in its International Development Program, assisting in JDC’s post-tsunami efforts in Southeast Asia.

Since 2004, JSC volunteers have been joined each year by a Roslyn Z. Wolf Fellow. The Roslyn Z. Wolf Cleveland-JDC International Fellows Program was established in partnership with the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland through the generosity of the late Ambassador Milton A. Wolf and his children. It was designed to help isolated or reemerging Jewish communities educate their youth, care for their elderly, and train their future leaders.

For more information and applications see: www.jdc.org/how_volunteer.html

**JDC SHORT-TERM SERVICE PROGRAMS**

JDC Short-Term Service Programs are connecting North American young adults to the global Jewish community through one- to two-week volunteer programs in a Jewish community overseas. Participants have the opportunity to engage in meaningful service, connect with peers abroad, and learn about the pressing needs of Jews around the world. Most return home as advocates for the Jewish community they visited, ready to mobilize their friends, families, and communities to help. Since 2003, JDC has sent 190 students on 11 short-term service programs in five countries.

**THE JDC AMBASSADOR MILTON A. WOLF TRAINING INSTITUTE**

JDC strives to support its professional team by actively encouraging staff members to stretch their professional capabilities and grow as individuals. It invests in preparing them to meet the challenges presented by a rapidly evolving and ever more complex global operating environment. Moreover, it seeks to harvest the rich in-house expertise resident in many parts of its operation to strengthen JDC’s work in all areas going forward.

Toward this end, and in tribute to JDC’s 11th President, the late Ambassador Milton A. Wolf, and his late wife, Roslyn Z. Wolf, the Wolf Family has established the JDC Ambassador Milton A. Wolf Training Institute. Starting in the summer of 2007, JDC will convene a week-long intensive professional training program on its Jerusalem campus each year that will engage members of its international staff in a range of educational and team-building activities. This flagship initiative is at the heart of JDC’s Global Human Resource Development Program.
JEWISH COMMUNAL PROPERTY RECLAMATION

The communal property restitution process in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union began with the fall of the Iron Curtain, when pressure was brought to bear on former Communist bloc countries to return wrongfully appropriated Jewish assets. Either as a venue for community programs and activities or as a source of income, returned Jewish communal property has the potential to put communities on the road to self-sufficiency. But the communities in these regions are only a fraction of their original size, making the question of who is the moral heir to these properties an ongoing point of contention.

“Communal property” includes synagogues, schools, ritual baths, hospitals, land, and cemeteries once owned by a Jewish community, congregation or organization, whether now existing or destroyed. Most often, the properties were confiscated by the Nazis during World War II or seized by the various Communist regimes, a fate that also befell other faiths now pursuing similar property claims.

Although often difficult to achieve in practice, a balance was struck by the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO). Through the creation of foundations established as partnerships between the local Jewish communities and world Jewry, income earned from returned property would first be allocated to cover local costs, with any excess going toward meeting global Jewish needs. As a founding member of the WJRO, which was established in 1992, JDC funds the organization’s efforts to reclaim property while acting as a bridge between Jewish communities and international Jewish groups. In several countries—Romania, Poland, and Lithuania—JDC is a member of the foundations that have been established between the WJRO and local Jewish communities to reclaim and manage Jewish communal property.

JDC also supports research, documentation, and legal services in countries where WJRO is not active. For this work in Poland, Romania, and Lithuania, the David Berg Foundation has provided important financial support.

For Eastern Europe’s Jewish communities, the reclamation of confiscated property is key to a future of fiscal autonomy. In Prague, Zagreb, and Macedonia, for example, returned properties are already providing the communities there with significant income streams. But in other cities and countries, the return of property has been slower and the financial benefits that may accrue are still on the distant horizon.

But even as properties are gradually returned, the process does not end there. JDC has organized training seminars for community leaders to help them move property management to a more professional level. This should enable them to maximize their community’s potential income and ensure that returned properties do not become a financial burden. Seminars have recently been held in Romania, in Poland, and in Serbia (for all of former Yugoslavia).

Moreover, because properties are often returned in poor condition, JDC has been helping the local communities devise creative arrangements to fund their renovation or repair. The Strategic European Loan Fund, or SELF, provides interest-free loans to Jewish communities to help them renovate or improve their communal real estate in order to achieve the maximum income and value. The program began with pilot loans in Slovakia and Bulgaria and has expanded to include a dozen loans made thus far to Jewish communities throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries. These loans enable communities to secure greater financial benefits from their assets and use the income generated for vital community needs. JDC’s Europe-based European Property Management Coordinator assists Jewish communities with property management and the implementation of SELF.

Over the past year, Stanley Chesley, Steven Karbank, and Glenn Weinberg have joined Earle Kazis, Richard Mack, David Marshall, Jerome Spitzer, Stephen Taub, Louis Thalheimer, Andrew Tisch, Patricia and John Uhlmann, and Joseph Wilf in providing generous support for JDC’s Strategic European Loan Fund.
In the former Soviet Union, where Jewish assets were confiscated in the 1920s and 1930s by the Communist regime, returned Jewish property—generally only one building in each city, and usually a synagogue—is providing an anchor for the renaissance of Jewish life. While restitution laws limit the use of these returned properties to communal purposes, their possession obviates the communities’ need for rental facilities and results in long-term savings. Here, JDC assists not only in the recovery of buildings, but also in their renovation as a venue for community activities.

**JDC’S BAR/BAT MITZVAH TRAINING PROGRAM** in **CUBA** (which expects to hold seven celebrations in 2007) has played an important role in the resurgence of this remarkable Jewish community. Similar programs are conducted throughout the Jewish world as part of JDC’s efforts to support communal renewal and help ensure a Jewish future.

(Photograph: Tatiana Santos Mendez)
Independent Auditor’s Report

Board of Directors
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. (“JDC”) as of December 31, 2006, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of JDC’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.’s December 31, 2005 financial statements and, in our report dated May 31, 2006 we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. as of December 31, 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

June 29, 2007
### Balance Sheet

**DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005**

#### Unrestricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Fund</th>
<th>Board Designated Fund</th>
<th>Plant Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)</td>
<td>$12,256,019</td>
<td>$2,298,959</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$14,554,978</td>
<td>$45,061</td>
<td>$1,083,008</td>
<td>$15,683,047</td>
<td>$17,429,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposit in Israel - interest bearing</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5,900,764</td>
<td>4,399,992</td>
<td>10,300,756</td>
<td>9,453,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment (Notes 6 and 12)</td>
<td>21,452,080</td>
<td>174,447,897</td>
<td>$13,680,506</td>
<td>209,580,483</td>
<td>131,045,404</td>
<td>18,089,755</td>
<td>358,715,642</td>
<td>337,956,274</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>897,198</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>897,198</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>897,198</td>
<td>699,394</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable (Note 11)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,815,082</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,815,082</td>
<td>26,330,820</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>28,145,902</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances to communities, other receivables and other assets (net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of $312,000 in 2006 and 2005)</td>
<td>5,589,031</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5,589,031</td>
<td>1,134,143</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6,723,174</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year’s programs</td>
<td>154,023</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>154,023</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>154,023</td>
<td>70,523</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets (Note 8)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15,854,090</td>
<td>15,854,090</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15,854,090</td>
<td>446,291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

**Liabilities**

| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $29,330,235 | $34,152 | — | — | $29,364,387 | $22,958,860 | — | $52,323,247 | $49,402,378 |
| Annuity obligation (Note 12) | — | — | — | — | 1,317,493 | 361,893 | 1,679,386 | 1,725,201 |
| Loans payable (Note 4) | 30,850,658 | — | — | 1,236,568 | 32,087,226 | — | — | 32,087,226 | 27,644,143 |
| Due to related parties (Note 1) | — | — | — | — | $3,751,224 | — | $3,751,224 | 3,582,152 |
| **Total liabilities** | 60,180,893 | 34,152 | — | 1,236,568 | 61,451,613 | 28,027,577 | 361,893 | 89,841,083 | 82,353,874 |

**Net assets (deficit) (Exhibit B) (Note 10)**

| (20,729,740) | 179,424,984 | $13,680,506 | 14,617,522 | 186,993,272 | 136,428,615 | 23,210,862 | 346,632,749 | 308,709,532 |

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See independent auditor’s report. 
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
## Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006

(With Summarized Financial Information for 2005)

### Unrestricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Fund</th>
<th>Board Designated Fund</th>
<th>Plant Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>$ 51,935,804</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>9,128,028</td>
<td>$ 1,383,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,511,628</td>
<td>124,521,647</td>
<td>$ 10,500</td>
<td>135,043,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income-exchange gains</td>
<td></td>
<td>805,441</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income (loss)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes unrealized gain of $15,664,554 and realized gains of $13,604,695 in 2006) (Note 6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gains (loss) on annuity obligations (Note 12)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction (Note 10)</td>
<td>171,178,956</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td>232,242,788</td>
<td>22,812,395</td>
<td>1,319,634</td>
<td>256,374,817</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,487,906</td>
<td>(10,197)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses (Exhibit C)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program services</th>
<th>Relief and welfare</th>
<th>Health services</th>
<th>Services to the aged</th>
<th>Jewish education and religious</th>
<th>Education and manpower development</th>
<th>Social development</th>
<th>Multifunctional</th>
<th>Total program services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>12,427,295</td>
<td>1,314,042</td>
<td>2,951,073</td>
<td>22,726</td>
<td>14,243,847</td>
<td></td>
<td>17,194,920</td>
<td>224,182,401</td>
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<td>Fund raising</td>
<td>2,302,905</td>
<td>625,442</td>
<td></td>
<td>251,432</td>
<td>2,951,073</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,966,680</td>
<td>193,597,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total supporting services</td>
<td>14,730,200</td>
<td>1,939,484</td>
<td></td>
<td>67,295</td>
<td>17,194,920</td>
<td>35,435,707</td>
<td>19,863,463</td>
<td>15,437,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>238,749,696</td>
<td>2,035,094</td>
<td>67,295</td>
<td>525,236</td>
<td>241,377,321</td>
<td></td>
<td>209,035,081</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Change in net assets before other changes

(5,606,908) 20,777,301 1,252,339 (525,236) 14,997,496 11,487,906 (10,197) 26,475,205 25,064,699

### Other changes in net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other changes in net assets</th>
<th>Transfer for fixed assets and renovation cost</th>
<th>Reclassifications</th>
<th>Transfer for operating fund programs</th>
<th>Cancellation of prior years appropriations</th>
<th>Change in net assets (Exhibit D)</th>
<th>Net assets (deficit) - beginning of year, as previously stated</th>
<th>Restatement (Note B)</th>
<th>Net assets (deficit) - beginning of year, restated</th>
<th>Net assets (deficit) - end of year (Exhibit A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>— (951,235)</td>
<td>(350,771)</td>
<td>7,940,000</td>
<td>216,909</td>
<td>1,650,001</td>
<td>(22,379,741)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(22,379,741)</td>
<td>$(20,729,740)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,535,295 2,700,187 2,940,128 18,825,611 7,876,700 (10,197) 26,692,114 25,288,299</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>167,889,689 10,980,319 446,291 156,936,558 128,551,915 23,221,059 308,709,532 283,421,233</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,231,103 11,231,103 11,231,103 11,231,103 11,231,103 11,231,103 11,231,103 11,231,103</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>167,889,689 10,980,319 11,677,394 168,167,661 128,551,915 23,221,059 319,940,635 283,421,233</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>179,424,984 13,680,506 14,617,522 186,993,272 136,428,615 23,210,862 346,632,749 308,709,532</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor’s report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
## Statement of Functional Expenses

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

(With Summarized Financial Information for 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Relief and Welfare</th>
<th>Health Services</th>
<th>Services to The Aged</th>
<th>Jewish Education and Religious</th>
<th>Education and Manpower Development</th>
<th>Social Development</th>
<th>Multi-Functional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants to local communities</strong></td>
<td>$2,762,710</td>
<td>$5,633,620</td>
<td>$7,803,265</td>
<td>$1,372,184</td>
<td>$1,881,166</td>
<td>$1,296,618</td>
<td>$3,429,140</td>
<td>$24,178,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash assistance</strong></td>
<td>4,713,044</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>134,945</td>
<td>4,876,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food and clothing to needy individuals</strong></td>
<td>27,128,373</td>
<td>363,359</td>
<td>28,028</td>
<td>114,728</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10,250</td>
<td>27,644,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health care and rehabilitation</strong></td>
<td>665,351</td>
<td>11,029,449</td>
<td>181,911</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>308,821</td>
<td>31,466</td>
<td>12,217,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical supplies</strong></td>
<td>5,400</td>
<td>893,552</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>898,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religious, cultural and outreach programs</strong></td>
<td>53,980</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>27,820</td>
<td>4,070,211</td>
<td>43,505</td>
<td>885,784</td>
<td>2,313,238</td>
<td>7,394,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education and scholarships</strong></td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>236,116</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11,509,368</td>
<td>498,175</td>
<td>298,970</td>
<td>14,216</td>
<td>12,573,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training and communal workers</strong></td>
<td>190,250</td>
<td>39,751</td>
<td>370,200</td>
<td>3,197,793</td>
<td>11,235,694</td>
<td>4,285,876</td>
<td>1,639,995</td>
<td>20,959,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupancy, warehousing, repairs and equipment</strong></td>
<td>6,088,091</td>
<td>168,636</td>
<td>9,433,974</td>
<td>72,265</td>
<td>21,800</td>
<td>3,806,658</td>
<td>6,328,389</td>
<td>25,919,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency assistance and relief</strong></td>
<td>20,534,622</td>
<td>1,025,000</td>
<td>735,596</td>
<td>50,609</td>
<td>176,212</td>
<td>784,811</td>
<td>1,574,129</td>
<td>24,880,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home care and personal assistance</strong></td>
<td>250,383</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>16,168,096</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>16,518,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social, recreation and communal organizations</strong></td>
<td>3,313,919</td>
<td>725,180</td>
<td>7,359,257</td>
<td>5,163,262</td>
<td>192,218</td>
<td>16,729,239</td>
<td>360,912</td>
<td>33,843,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td>660,515</td>
<td>51,548</td>
<td>46,213</td>
<td>8,440</td>
<td>92,734</td>
<td>54,821</td>
<td>2,261,449</td>
<td>3,175,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total programmed services</strong></td>
<td>66,383,138</td>
<td>20,216,211</td>
<td>42,154,360</td>
<td>25,588,259</td>
<td>14,141,504</td>
<td>28,451,598</td>
<td>18,148,129</td>
<td>215,083,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Management and Administrative Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Relief and Welfare</th>
<th>Health Services</th>
<th>Services to The Aged</th>
<th>Jewish Education and Religious</th>
<th>Education and Manpower Development</th>
<th>Social Development</th>
<th>Multi-Functional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Payroll, social security benefits and consultants</strong></td>
<td>1,375,322</td>
<td>770,004</td>
<td>919,096</td>
<td>1,322,383</td>
<td>440,930</td>
<td>1,516,178</td>
<td>759,016</td>
<td>7,102,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel</strong></td>
<td>160,085</td>
<td>89,627</td>
<td>106,981</td>
<td>153,923</td>
<td>51,323</td>
<td>176,480</td>
<td>88,348</td>
<td>826,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone and fax</strong></td>
<td>46,584</td>
<td>26,081</td>
<td>31,131</td>
<td>44,791</td>
<td>14,935</td>
<td>51,355</td>
<td>25,709</td>
<td>240,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conferences, media and public relations</strong></td>
<td>7,584</td>
<td>4,246</td>
<td>5,068</td>
<td>7,292</td>
<td>2,432</td>
<td>8,361</td>
<td>4,185</td>
<td>39,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contracted services, supplies and other expenses</strong></td>
<td>172,281</td>
<td>96,455</td>
<td>115,131</td>
<td>165,649</td>
<td>55,233</td>
<td>189,925</td>
<td>95,078</td>
<td>889,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total management and administrative expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,761,856</td>
<td>986,413</td>
<td>1,177,407</td>
<td>1,694,038</td>
<td>564,853</td>
<td>1,942,299</td>
<td>972,336</td>
<td>9,099,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest and bank charges</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depreciation and amortization</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses (Exhibit B)</strong></td>
<td>$68,144,994</td>
<td>$21,202,624</td>
<td>$43,331,767</td>
<td>$27,282,297</td>
<td>$14,706,357</td>
<td>$30,393,897</td>
<td>$19,120,465</td>
<td>$224,182,401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor’s report.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
### EXHIBIT C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Services</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>24,178,703</td>
<td>29,771,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4,876,989</td>
<td>3,166,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>27,644,738</td>
<td>25,197,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12,217,397</td>
<td>8,328,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>898,952</td>
<td>6,442,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>7,394,538</td>
<td>8,096,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12,573,345</td>
<td>12,253,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>20,959,559</td>
<td>13,932,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 1,395,945</td>
<td>$ 155,105</td>
<td>27,470,863</td>
<td>19,277,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>24,880,979</td>
<td>22,753,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>16,518,479</td>
<td>12,105,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>33,843,987</td>
<td>24,013,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3,175,720</td>
<td>796,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,395,945</td>
<td>155,105</td>
<td>216,634,249</td>
<td>186,136,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,524,800</td>
<td>1,652,300</td>
<td>16,280,029</td>
<td>15,712,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>466,000</td>
<td>265,000</td>
<td>1,557,767</td>
<td>1,458,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270,650</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>541,236</td>
<td>548,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,026,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>1,103,168</td>
<td>1,059,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,169,395</td>
<td>788,442</td>
<td>2,847,589</td>
<td>3,250,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,457,345</td>
<td>2,773,242</td>
<td>22,329,789</td>
<td>22,030,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,888,047</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,888,047</td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502,510</td>
<td>22,726</td>
<td>525,236</td>
<td>118,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 14,243,847</td>
<td>$ 2,951,073</td>
<td>$ 241,377,321</td>
<td>$ 209,035,081</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Statement of Cash Flows

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$26,692,114</td>
<td>$25,288,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used by operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortization</td>
<td>525,236</td>
<td>118,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>(10,500)</td>
<td>(908)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>(1,808)</td>
<td>(908)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized gains on investments</td>
<td>(29,269,249)</td>
<td>(26,364,738)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrual loss (gain) on annuity obligations</td>
<td>(35,552)</td>
<td>64,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease (increase) in assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>(197,804)</td>
<td>51,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>(10,902,250)</td>
<td>1,246,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances to communities, other receivables and other assets</td>
<td>941,358</td>
<td>(2,833,341)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>178,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year’s programs</td>
<td>(83,500)</td>
<td>24,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>2,920,869</td>
<td>1,202,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to related parties</td>
<td>169,072</td>
<td>187,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash used by operating activities</td>
<td>(9,152,014)</td>
<td>(836,854)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of investments</td>
<td>(127,123,443)</td>
<td>(91,437,797)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of investments</td>
<td>134,785,939</td>
<td>91,355,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of fixed assets</td>
<td>(4,701,932)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash provided (used) by investing activities</td>
<td>2,960,564</td>
<td>(81,996)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from financing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of loans</td>
<td>$ (30,285,006)</td>
<td>$ (34,549,743)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from loans</td>
<td>34,728,089</td>
<td>33,822,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>1,808</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>10,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment of annuity obligations</td>
<td>(283,803)</td>
<td>(275,626)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from investment income subject to annuity obligations</td>
<td>273,540</td>
<td>547,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash provided (used) by financing activities</td>
<td>4,445,128</td>
<td>(454,623)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>(1,746,322)</td>
<td>(1,373,473)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year</td>
<td>17,429,369</td>
<td>18,802,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents - end of year</td>
<td>$15,683,047</td>
<td>$17,429,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid during the year for interest</td>
<td>$1,329,868</td>
<td>$1,409,091</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor’s report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2006

NOTE 1 NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. (JDC) was established in 1914 to channel funds being raised to aid Jews in Europe and Palestine. Today, over 90 years later, JDC is still serving as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, sponsoring programs of relief, rescue and reconstruction primarily to meet Jewish needs around the globe.

JDC is supported primarily by general contributions and funds from United Jewish Communities.

JDC is related to the International Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities, Schusterman-JDC Support Foundation, the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Civilization, Inc., the Thalheimer Family-JDC Support Foundation, Inc. and the Center for Jewish Community Development, Inc. through common board control.

The JDC is a not-for-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOTE 2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis.

Combined financial statements Combined in these financial statements are the following not-for-profit corporations related through common board control: The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., Center for Advancement of Jewish Civilization, Inc. and the Center for Jewish Community Development, Inc. All intercompany transactions and balances are eliminated in the combined financial statements.

Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents include investments in highly liquid instruments with maturities when acquired of three months or less.

Investments Investments are stated at fair value as follows:

Publicly traded securities held by JDC Market value

Limited partnership investments which are invested by the limited partnerships in publicly traded securities Market value

The financial statements may include investments whose estimated fair values, in the absence of readily ascertainable market values, have been determined by the investment manager. The methods and procedures used to value these investments may include, but are not limited to: (1) performing comparisons with prices of comparable or similar securities; (2) obtaining valuation-related information from issuers; and/or (3) other analytical data relating to the investment and using other available indications of value. However, because of the inherent uncertainty of valuation, the estimated fair values for the aforementioned securities and interests may differ from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the investments existed, and the differences could be material.

Fixed assets Fixed assets are stated at cost. Depreciation and amortization are recorded on the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the term of the lease. Depreciation and amortization are not recorded in the year of acquisition.

Promises to give Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected within one year are recorded at net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give that are expected to be collected in future years are recorded at the present value of their estimated future cash flows. The discounts on those amounts are computed using risk-free interest rates applicable to the years in which the promises are received. Amortization of the discounts is included in contribution revenue. Conditional promises to give are not included as support until the conditions are substantially met.

Appropriations Appropriations for grants are expensed in the year authorized.

Unrestricted net assets Unrestricted net assets include funds having no restriction as to use or purpose imposed by donors. In addition, resources which are set aside for board-designated purposes are unrestricted.

Restricted net assets Temporarily restricted net assets are those whose use has been limited by donors to a specific time period or purpose. Permanently restricted net assets are limited by donors for investment.

Contributions Unconditional contributions are reported as either temporarily or permanently restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified as unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Functional expenses The costs of providing services have been summarized on a functional basis. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services for which the costs have been incurred.
Exchange rates  The U.S. dollar equivalents of the local currencies were calculated either at the actual rates of exchange or at an average of the rates during the year.

Summarized financial information for 2005  The financial statements include prior-year summarized comparative information in total, but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principals generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with JDC’s financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2005, from which the information was derived.

NOTE 3 RETIREMENT PLAN
JDC sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering its New York staff and overseas foreign service personnel. Prior service cost has been fully funded. JDC’s policy is to fund pension cost accrued. As of December 31, 2006, there were 216 participants. Of these, there are 125 active, 71 retirees and 20 terminated vested. Of the 125 active, 82 are vested and 43 are not vested.

The following table summarizes the benefit obligations, fair value of plan assets and the plan’s funded status as of December 31, 2006:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit obligation</td>
<td>$(29,436,989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair value of plan assets</td>
<td>21,513,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded status</td>
<td>$(7,923,392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued pension benefit cost</td>
<td>$1,724,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated benefit obligation</td>
<td>22,408,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer contribution</td>
<td>1,804,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits paid</td>
<td>1,044,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net periodic pension cost</td>
<td>1,802,752</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumptions in the accounting were as follows:
- **Weighted average assumptions**
  - Discount rate: 6.00%
  - Expected return on plan assets: 7.50%
  - Rate of compensation increase: 5.00%

Plan Assets
JDC’s retirement plan assets by category are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity securities</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt securities</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Investment Policies
JDC’s investment policies are designed to ensure adequate plan assets are available to provide future payments of pension benefits to eligible participants. Taking into account the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, JDC formulates the investment portfolio composed of the optimal combination of equity and debt securities.

The expected returns on plan assets are developed in conjunction with actuaries and investment advisors, and take into account long-term expectations for future returns and investment strategy. Amounts are compared to historical averages for reasonableness.

Cash Flows

Estimated Contributions
JDC expects to contribute $2,362,925 to the pension plan in 2007.

Estimated Future Benefit Payments
The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, are expected to be paid as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended December 31</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$1,061,496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,063,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,128,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,336,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,373,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2016</td>
<td>9,869,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 4 LOANS PAYABLE
JDC has a credit line with JP Morgan Chase of $17,500,000. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at .4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 2006 is $0.

JDC has a revolving credit line with Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner and Smith, Inc., which is renewed every six months. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance based upon the calculation of overnight federal funds, treasury bills and LIBOR. During 2006, the interest rate varied between 4.81-5.75%. The outstanding balance at December 31, 2006 was $28,472,584. The line of credit was renewed on January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 with an interest rate of 5.65%. The interest rate from July 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 is expected to be 5.50%.

JDC has a loan agreement with Wachovia Bank for $2,500,000. The loan expires on April 1, 2010. At the time of expiration, a balloon payment for the remaining principal balance plus interest will be due. Interest is fixed at 4.79%.

JDC has pledged unrestricted investments at December 31, 2006 with a market value of approximately $2,956,890 for the above-mentioned loan and lines of credit as collateral.

JDC has a loan agreement with Wachovia Bank for $2,500,000. The loan expires on April 1, 2010. At the time of expiration, a balloon payment for the remaining principal balance plus interest will be due. Interest is fixed at 4.79%.

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JDC has a loan agreement with Wachovia Bank for $2,500,000. The loan expires on April 1, 2010. At the time of expiration, a balloon payment for the remaining principal balance plus interest will be due. Interest is fixed at 4.79%.
7.1975% annually. The interest rate is adjusted every 6 months for LIBOR+1.375%. Repayments are made monthly (fixed amount of $3,125 for the principal: interest amount varies). The balance at December 31, 2006 is $287,500. Principal payments for the next five years are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended December 31</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Thereafter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>37,500</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 287,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joint Israel of JDC also has Beit Ribakoff loan for $1,200,000. In order to obtain the loan, it was split into two parts. The balance as of December 31, 2006 is $949,068. The first part of the loan is $141,740 and matures on March 22, 2010. The repayment of the principal of the second part of the loan will begin in March of 2010 and extend for ten years. Principal payments for the next five years are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended December 31</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Thereafter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 43,612</td>
<td>43,612</td>
<td>43,612</td>
<td>71,454</td>
<td>80,733</td>
<td>666,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 43,612</td>
<td>43,612</td>
<td>43,612</td>
<td>71,454</td>
<td>80,733</td>
<td>666,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 949,068</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For both loans (Beit Lechem and Beit Ribakoff), a lien has been recorded to the benefit of Bank Leumi.

**NOTE 5 LEASE COMMITMENTS**

JDC is committed under a lease obligation for office space that was due to expire December 31, 2010. JDC has extended the lease until December 31, 2015 which includes leasing additional office space beginning January 1, 2006. Minimum rental commitments under the terms of the lease are as follows, subject to adjustments for escalation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ended December 31</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Thereafter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 934,396</td>
<td>940,327</td>
<td>961,225</td>
<td>967,395</td>
<td>988,298</td>
<td>4,581,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 934,396</td>
<td>940,327</td>
<td>961,225</td>
<td>967,395</td>
<td>988,298</td>
<td>4,581,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 9,373,369</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rent expense for the year ended December 31, 2006 was $1,071,782.

**NOTE 6 INVESTMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government obligations</td>
<td>$ 57,499,286</td>
<td>$ 57,485,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Israel bonds</td>
<td>1,922,395</td>
<td>2,075,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>405,520</td>
<td>405,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common and preferred stocks</td>
<td>126,844,647</td>
<td>119,370,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>63,959,964</td>
<td>87,078,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited partnership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>investments in publicly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>traded securities</td>
<td>108,083,830</td>
<td>71,541,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ 358,715,642</td>
<td>$ 337,956,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and dividends</td>
<td>$ 4,516,924</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized gain on</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>investments</td>
<td>15,664,554</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized gain on</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>investments</td>
<td>13,604,695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33,786,173</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment fees</td>
<td>(1,257,651)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total investment income</td>
<td>$ 32,528,522</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE 7 CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK**

Financial instruments which potentially subject JDC to a concentration of credit risk are cash accounts with major financial institutions in excess of FDIC insurance limits. These financial institutions have strong credit ratings and management believes that credit risk related to these accounts is minimal.

**NOTE 8 FIXED ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headquarters NY</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization</th>
<th>Net</th>
<th>Estimated Useful Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leasehold improvements</td>
<td>$1,471,791</td>
<td>$409,279</td>
<td>$1,062,512</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>$400,399</td>
<td>$292,645</td>
<td>$107,754</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Headquarters NY</td>
<td>$1,872,190</td>
<td>$701,924</td>
<td>$1,170,266</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overseas</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Land and buildings</td>
<td>$280,500</td>
<td>$35,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Land, buildings and building improvements</td>
<td>$16,799,936</td>
<td>$2,396,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>$147,445</td>
<td>$111,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total overseas</td>
<td>$17,227,881</td>
<td>$2,544,057</td>
<td>$14,683,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$19,100,071</td>
<td>$3,245,981</td>
<td>$15,854,090</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of January 1, 2006, the net assets of JDC were restated to reflect overseas property not previously reported.
NOTE 9 FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following methods and assumptions were used by JDC in estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

**Cash and cash equivalents** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because the instruments are liquid in nature.

**Time deposit in Israel** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value due to their short-term nature.

**Investments** The fair value is based upon quoted market prices. **Contributions receivable** The fair value is estimated by discounting the future cash flows using a risk-free rate.

**Due from employees** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because the interest rate is similar to rates currently offered.

**Annuity obligations** The fair value is estimated by discounting future cash flows using rates currently offered.

**Loans payable** The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because JDC can obtain similar loans at similar terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carring Amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fair Value</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$15,683,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposit in Israel</td>
<td>10,300,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>358,715,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>28,145,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity obligations</td>
<td>1,679,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>32,087,226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 10 TEMPORARILY AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets at December 31, 2006 and 2005 are available for:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$39,609,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>14,642,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>9,985,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>10,104,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>16,533,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>16,059,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>27,895,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For periods after December 31</td>
<td>1,598,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,428,615</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2006 and 2005, temporarily restricted net assets were released from restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the following restricted purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$57,913,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>15,474,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>36,398,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>17,444,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>11,426,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>19,114,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>13,406,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$171,178,956</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2006 and 2005 are restricted to investment in perpetuity, the income from which is expendable to support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$4,927,362</td>
<td>$4,927,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>3,762,189</td>
<td>3,782,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious education</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>13,520,766</td>
<td>13,488,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22,560,317</td>
<td>22,548,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity trust agreements which, upon expiration, will become permanent endowments</td>
<td>650,545</td>
<td>673,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$23,210,862</td>
<td>$23,221,059</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 11 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE

All unconditional contributions receivable have been recorded at present value. Those receivables that are due in more than one year have been discounted to their present value using a discount rate of 6%. The receivables are due as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$15,030,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$5,872,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>$4,283,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>$2,416,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$1,380,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>$1,021,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$30,005,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less discount to present value</td>
<td>$(1,759,681)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less allowance</td>
<td>$(100,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present value of contributions receivable</td>
<td>$28,145,902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 12 CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's investments include funds subject to charitable remainder trust agreements. Contribution revenues for charitable remainder trusts are recognized at the date the agreement is established, net of the liability recorded for the present value of the future payments to be made to the respective donors and/or other beneficiaries. The present value of payments to beneficiaries of charitable remainder trusts is calculated using a 6% discount rate. Gains or losses resulting from changes in actuarial assumptions and accretions of the discount are recorded as increases or decreases in the respective net asset class in the statement of operations and changes in net assets. The present value of the trusts is allocated to the temporarily and permanently restricted net asset classes as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Temporarily restricted</th>
<th>Permanently restricted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,598,310</td>
<td>650,545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fair market value of the investments of the trusts totaled $3,928,241 at December 31, 2006.

NOTE 13 DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Accounts payable and accrued expenses include approximately $3,100,000 for deferred compensation. JDC offers its executive managers a non-matching deferred compensation plan. Currently, seven executive managers participate in the plan. Participants can opt to defer a portion of their salary into an independently managed investment account owned by JDC. These investments are not part of JDC's pooled investment accounts. Approximately $1.9 million of the total represents contributions.

NOTE 14 BENEFIT RESTORATION PLAN (BRP)

The JDC Personnel & Management Committee adopted a “Benefit Restoration Plan” (BRP) to restore certain pension benefits to specified executive managers that were reduced due to the limitation contained in the Federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (OBRA 93). The BRP attempts to equalize benefits to these managers as compared to all other JDC employees covered by the JDC Employee Retirement Plan (Retirement Plan).

Under the BRP, the covered employees are entitled to receive a supplemental benefit, paid by JDC, consisting of the difference between the retirement benefit computed pursuant to the BRP and the statutory benefit computed pursuant to the JDC Retirement Plan. The supplemental benefit is reserved by JDC in a separate restricted fund, on a current basis, in accordance with computations made by JDC's actuary. Currently, three active executive managers and one retired executive manager participate in the BRP. The balance of the BRP is approximately $1.52 million as of December 31, 2006.
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