The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

1994 Annual Report with 1995 Program Highlights

"...The people's needs are many..." Talmud Berakhot, 29
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BACKGROUND: (TOP) KINDERGARTEN ESTABLISHED WITH JDC ASSISTANCE IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION (Yasufa Drescher); (BOTTOM) DR. RICHARD HOODS, HEAD OF JDC’S MEDICAL RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR RHODIAN REFUGEES (JDC).

FOREGROUND: (LEFT) SENIOR CITIZENS’ CLUB, JERUSALEM (©Richard Leibl); (CENTR) JULY 1994 BOMBING OF AMIA BUILDING, BUENOS AIRES (JDC); (RIGHT) STUDENTS STAND GUARD AT JDC-SUPPORTED JEWISH SCHOOL IN TIBLIS, GEORGIA (©Richard Leibl/USA Press Service).

PHOTO THIS PAGE: Roy Mittelman
In August 1914, Henry Morgenthau Sr., then United States 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 shortly thereafter, in November, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee 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, over 80 years later, JDC is still serving as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, sponsoring programs of relief, rescue, and reconstruction, and fulfilling its commitment to the idea that all Jews are responsible for one another and that “To save one person is to save a world” (Mishna, Sanhedrin 4:5).

The number of people aided by JDC since 1914 reaches into the millions. There has been a JDC presence at one time or another in more than 85 countries on every continent. Since 1939, support for JDC’s activities has come primarily from the United Jewish Appeal (UJA), which in turn receives its funds from campaigns conducted in 461 American communities. When men and women contribute to UJA/Federation campaigns in 156 federated communities and to UJA campaigns in the 305-member Network of Independent UJA Communities, they support humanitarian work at home, in Israel, and around the world. JDC also receives funds from World Jewish Relief (U.K.), from Canadian Jewry, from the United States government, and from a number of foundations and international organizations.

For over 80 years, JDC has been working to meet Jewish needs around the globe. In Eastern European countries struggling with vast economic and political changes, JDC today provides life-sustaining assistance to elderly and infirm Holocaust survivors, even as it continues to help young and old renew their Jewish heritage. In the former Soviet Union, JDC is helping to rebuild the Jewish communal infrastructure and nourish the quest for Jewish knowledge. It has been part of the U.S. government’s non-sectarian program of food assistance to the former Soviet Union and has also been distributing food packages to the neediest members of the Jewish community. In Africa and Asia, JDC helps dwindling Jewish communities maintain essential services for their elderly and provide their children with a Jewish education. In Latin America and in Western Europe, the emphasis is on increasing communal self-sufficiency. In Israel, JDC is helping the country absorb its newest immigrants while continuing to enrich the lives of the disadvantaged and improve the quality of services for the aged and the disabled. Through the JDC-International Development Program and the “Open Mailbox” campaigns, JDC also enables the American Jewish community to provide non-sectarian disaster and development assistance worldwide.

JDC today continues to function as a vital instrument of American Jewry, reaching out to Jewish communities in distress and improving the quality of Jewish life around the world.
The year 1994–95 will be recorded in Jewish history as the year that marked the end of a significant chapter in world Jewry’s struggle on behalf of those whom we have called the “Jews of Distress” or the “Jews of Oppression.” JDC’s role in that struggle has been pivotal. The successful conclusion last fall of the evacuation of Syrian Jewry represented the fulfillment of decades of prayer and hard work.

In the introduction which follows, Michael Schneider provides the operational details of our long-term efforts on behalf of Syrian Jewry. Our activities there as well as JDC’s actions on behalf of the remaining Jews of Yemen—more than half of whom are now in Israel, with the rest in the process of leaving—should give all of us a strong feeling of accomplishment and pride. They are a fitting coda to JDC’s recent efforts on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry and tens of thousands of Soviet Jews. And they are a testament to what the tenacity and determination of an organized and involved community can accomplish.

What we must guard against at this point is the all-too-human tendency to disengage and turn inward, for our responsibilities as caring Jews will not permit it, not in a post-cold war world seething with ethnic tensions and beset by violent conflicts and terrorist acts of the utmost bestiality.

Last summer, even as one chapter in JDC’s history was drawing to a close, two man-made tragedies became the focus of our attention. The first was the brutal terrorist attack that struck at the heart of the Argentinean Jewish community. The second was the desperate plight of tens of thousands of Rwandans fleeing a genocidal civil war.

In Argentina, our response was nearly instantaneous: staff members from JDC’s Latin America headquarters were on the scene within minutes of the bombing. They helped the community fashion an emergency social service system to meet immediate needs, and they have acted as a stabilizing force for a stunned and demoralized population that has found itself quite literally under siege.

Our response to the community’s obvious need for long-term assistance was almost as rapid, with the JDC Board and the organized Jewish community here in the United States coming together quickly to support an ongoing plan of action. Thus, when Board members Rebecca Newman and Irving Smokler joined me in Buenos Aires last September, we were able to translate our community’s feelings of sympathy and solidarity into a concrete expression of material assistance that has been much appreciated by Argentinean Jewry.

Jewish leaders in Brazil and Uruguay were equally pleased by the fact that we did not confine our September visit to Argentina. With feelings of uncertainty and vulnerability rife in their own communities, they indicated to us that while they value the technical assistance they get from JDC, above all else they value the interconnection with North American Jewry that JDC represents.

JDC’s activities on behalf of the Rwandan refugees in Zaire and its current efforts in Rwanda itself have been undertaken on behalf of a 39-member coalition of Jewish organizations—the Jewish Coalition for Rwanda Relief—with over $800,000 in funds raised through our Open Mailbox and an appeal made jointly with the African-American Insti-
tute. Two extraordinary teams of medical professionals—composed of staff members and volunteers—enabled us to mount a major effort, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, to help stem the tide of epidemics in one of the largest refugee camps. And, at the request of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, a dedicated group of Israeli and American volunteers worked together to construct sanitary facilities to help prevent future epidemics at a new refugee camp. We are also involved in a number of rebuilding efforts, including a trauma relief project in which Israeli experts will be helping orphaned children recover from the horrors they have witnessed.

Throughout the past year, JDC has been expanding its programs in the former Soviet Union, and we see that our mission there is becoming more and more crucial in today’s uncertain atmosphere. We are trying to infuse the local Jewish communities with sufficient resources and organizing capacity to survive whatever lies ahead. Through a variety of cultural, academic, and religious programs, JDC is helping to replenish Jewish knowledge and culture. And we have succeeded in reaching more and more Jews, many of whom were on the verge of losing all ties to our people and our heritage.

In helping to rebuild communal systems, JDC has been working to make welfare services an integral part of Jewish communal life. This has the added benefit of bringing much needed relief to some of the many elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union who live well below the poverty line. We are hoping that additional funds will soon be available to help these individuals live out their lives in dignity.

That remains the goal of the variety of social service programs that JDC continues to sustain in Eastern Europe—programs that mean life itself to elderly beneficiaries caught in a world of change. At the same time, we are helping local communities take advantage of these changes, assisting them in their efforts to reclaim communal properties and work toward self-sufficiency even as we continue to support their ongoing cultural and religious renaissance. I am proud of the role JDC is playing in the new community center that opened last fall in Budapest. The first Jewish community center of its kind to open in Eastern Europe since the Holocaust, it has already become a focal point for the community and is bursting with activities for young and old.

In Israel, JDC’s programs are at the cutting edge, aimed at some of the toughest issues testing the Israeli social fabric today. JDC continues to serve as a force for innovation and nationwide change as it helps provide new hope and opportunity for the disadvantaged and strengthen public services for all. By developing strategic partnerships with national ministries, local governments, and the voluntary and private sectors, we have succeeded in leveraging our Israel appropriation more than twice over, so that our $23 million program in Israel is in reality worth $73 million.

Over the course of the past year, JDC has once again demonstrated its ability to act in emergency situations while sustaining its normal operations. In this unsettled world, our continued ability to do so is vital, but it is completely dependent on your own readiness to act—in support of United Jewish Appeal and Federation campaigns across the country. I firmly believe that our concern for the welfare of our brothers and sisters overseas is a critical part of our identity as a people, and I am certain that your generosity and your continued active interest in JDC’s endeavors will bear this out.

Sincerely,

Milton A. Wolf
Amb. Milton A. Wolf
June 1995
INTRODUCTION
by Michael Schneider, Executive Vice-President

In October 1994, the arrival in Israel of the Syrian Jewish community's spiritual leader, Chief Rabbi Avraham Hamra, marked the end of a secret exodus that had brought over 3,800 Jews out of Syria since 1992. With the emigration of all but those choosing to remain behind completed, these quiet operations could finally be made public. They marked the successful denouement of JDC's activities on behalf of Syrian Jewry, activities that have spanned nearly the entire post-World War II era. Throughout this period, the American Jewish community—by contributing to United Jewish Appeal and Federation campaigns nationwide—enabled JDC to maintain a clandestine lifeline of support for this 2,300-year-old community, which was suffering through the harshest of times.

JDC's involvement began in December 1947, when Isaac Shalom, a leader of the New York Syrian Jewish community, contacted JDC to request financial assistance for the Jews of Aleppo, following a devastating series of riots that had left many Jewish families penniless. After providing two initial grants in 1948, JDC began a program of monthly assistance to the Syrian Jewish community. By the time this program could be brought to an end last year, over $10 million had been allocated.

These funds enabled the approximately 4,000 Jews who remained in Syria after 1951, when emigration became almost impossible, to maintain a program of welfare and medical care for the needy and to operate two Jewish schools, one in Damascus and one in Aleppo. JDC also sent in the religious books and materials that the community needed to continue to practice a full religious life. For the practice of Judaism was not proscribed, unlike the restrictions on travel, trade, employment, and study opportunities that faced community members in the early years of JDC's aid program—policies predicated mainly on a fierce opposition to Jewish emigration.

For 30 years, JDC's aid was channeled through the Near East Jewish Aid Society to trusted leaders of the three Jewish communities in Damascus, Aleppo, and Kamichli, which remained almost completely isolated from the Western world. Only in 1977 was Stephen Shalom, carrying on in his father Isaac's tradition, able to travel officially to Syria and make contact with those we'd been aiding, the first of many such trips that he was to make. From that year on JDC was able to work directly with Chief Rabbi Hamra and other leaders to meet communal needs, although its operations continued to be kept confidential.

While JDC remained firmly committed to aiding Jews in Syria, it was equally determined that efforts be made to help them to emigrate. With assistance from various Jewish organizations, clandestine emigration took place throughout the 1950s and 60s. A senior JDC official traveled to Syria as a tourist in 1963; his primary objective was to provide assistance to those who had been arrested following a sizable wave of emigration the previous year. JDC helped free young Syrian Jews imprisoned in Lebanon for arriving without proper documentation, paying for their care and maintenance and securing asylum for them elsewhere. It also helped the Secretary-General of the Beirut Jewish community gain an acquittal in 1964 of charges of treason levied against him for his role in aiding Syrian Jews.

It was not until the late 1970s that the first legal and public departures took place, with new policies resulting in a quiet migration of hundreds of Syrian
Jews over the next decade. Included in this number were over 300 unmarried young women on whose behalf U.S. President Jimmy Carter had intervened in his meeting with President Assad; between 1978 and 1990, they were allowed to depart in groups of two or three each month, and their expenses were covered by funds allocated to the community by JDC. But with exit visas still not being granted to complete families, the community as a whole remained trapped, and its cause became a fixture of the American Jewish and American diplomatic agendas.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations formed a task force on Syrian Jewry in the wake of the Madrid peace talks, sensing a new opportunity to get the Jews out. And indeed soon after, in April 1992, the State Department announced that President Assad had promised free travel for Syria’s Jews. It was a promise that was to be implemented in spurts over the next year-and-a-half. By October 1994, over 3,800 Syrian Jews had left the country, more than a third of whom have subsequently made aliyah.

Throughout this period, a variety of Jewish groups directly concerned with the still-secret rescue and resettlement met regularly to coordinate their activities. JDC undertook to provide the local funds and know-how to ensure that all who needed assistance in leaving Syria would receive it. It established a computerized databank to monitor departures and keep track of those who remained behind. Working through emigre groups in the United States, JDC enlisted the aid of relatives here as it booked the tickets to freedom. The entire operation was most effectively overseen by Gideon Taylor of our New York headquarters staff.

As was the case in Operation Solomon in 1991, a concerted and disciplined effort was made by all parties to maintain the utmost discretion until the operation was completed. Great care was taken to avoid anything that might endanger this much-awaited and long-prayed-for exodus.

As Ambassador Wolf indicated in his foreword and the report which follows amply illustrates, JDC’s regular operations continued at full tilt throughout the past year, even as we responded to new crises in both the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds.

In Israel, JDC’s research and development expertise in the fields of services for the aged, for children-and youth-at-risk, and for a variety of other population groups with disabilities or special needs has enabled us to play an increasingly important role as advisors and consultants to the national government and to local authorities working to meet acute social needs. This same expertise has become an invaluable tool of JDC’s worldwide operations, be they community development activities in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, services for the aged in North Africa, or non-sectarian relief efforts in Rwanda.

JDC-Israel has also become a critical factor in tracking the progress of Israel’s new immigrant groups, and it has been helping a variety of social service providers to monitor and evaluate their programs more rigorously. JDC’s special efforts to facilitate the upward mobility and the social and cultural integration of the Ethiopian immigrants continued last year, in keeping with our commitment to see them become part of the Israeli mainstream.

In like manner, JDC’s Mifne programs for disadvantaged youth have helped return high school dropouts to mainstream settings, with new hope for their future as productive members of Israeli society. These computer-based learning systems now reach a wide range of young people with special needs, with the emphasis today on curbing the drop-out phenomenon before it arises. A public high school in Queens, New York has become the first school here in the U.S. to begin testing these systems as part of our partnership venture with the New York-based FEGS (Federation Employment and Guidance Service).

In the former Soviet Union, JDC’s resident representatives and a team of program specialists have become key facilitators of a community rebuilding process that has continued to grow despite the very real difficulties and uncertainties of daily life. The visits made by JDC Board members over the past year to different successor states have become a regular feature of our activities and an important tool in assuring that local Jewish populations in even the most far-flung areas are reconnected to world Jewry.

Both in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, JDC has been helping local communities
begin to reclaim and renovate communal properties as a first step on the road to self-sufficiency. It has also been facilitating applications made to the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany by newly established Jewish welfare boards in the former Soviet Union for funds that have become available to organizations aiding Holocaust survivors. This would enable the boards to establish programs, with technical assistance from JDC, that would provide food packages, medical help, physical aids, and even some home care to thousands of the neediest elderly Jews.

Meanwhile, as economic conditions have deteriorated in various Eastern European countries, we have had to make a number of adjustments in assistance levels. This was done in keeping with our welfare policy guidelines and the recommendations of JDC staff, in order to maintain our commitment to the elderly Holocaust survivors there who depend on JDC's support.

It saddens me to report that the outlook in Bosnia as I write this introduction is far bleaker than it seemed a year ago. Our relief efforts there as well as in other parts of the former Yugoslavia are continuing. Perhaps we can take some comfort in knowing that these efforts have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of individuals who have been pushed to the limits of human endurance in this agonizing conflict.

In a more optimistic vein, the exodus of Yemen's remaining Jews continues, no longer impeded, as it was last spring, by civil war. We have continued to expand our cultural activities in India, particularly for that country's many younger Jews, while elsewhere in Asia and North Africa, we help maintain Jewish education and other essential services in communities that grow smaller each year. In Europe, our community development program received a big boost with the opening of LEATID Europe. We concentrate there, as well as in Latin America, on providing technical assistance and help with model projects and training programs, along with the emergency aid and reconstruction efforts put in place last year in Argentina. We also continue to encourage the development of regional forums and inter-community networks; the latter have been of particular help in our efforts on behalf of the remarkable Jews of Cuba, who have come so far so quickly despite the most difficult of economic circumstances.

JDC's global operations are made possible by the generous support it receives from the American Jewish community through the United Jewish Appeal. UJA provided JDC with $65,060,000 last year toward its 1994 budget of $68,688,300. Additional funds were received for various programs from the United States government, from charitable foundations and private donors, from other governments and international organizations, from Canadian Jewry, and from World Jewish Relief (U.K.). World Jewish Relief has been our partner in various rescue efforts, and its support for a variety of JDC programs is invaluable.

JDC coordinates its activities with the Jewish Agency, with ORT, and with other organizations in the field. We value our partnership with the United Israel Appeal, UJA, and the Council of Jewish Federations, and we regularly consult with the leaders of individual federations and keep them apprised of JDC's activities.

The increasing number of study missions undertaken this past year by JDC Board members—to destinations far from the tourist track—are indicative of the caliber of JDC's lay leadership and its dedication to the task at hand. And I believe it fair to say that over the past year JDC's staff members have once again proved to be more than worthy of the term "Jointnik" so treasured by their predecessors. Our programs around the world are implemented by individuals working with the utmost dedication—often under the most adverse of circumstances—and their achievements will long serve to inspire us all.
Israel's population has grown a staggering 10 percent in the last five years, largely through immigration. Few, if any, countries could manage to cope with such a phenomenon without a major social upheaval.

Israel is at a momentous turning point. On the one hand, there is the nation's success in integrating the majority of new immigrants and the encouraging developments of the peace process and renewed economic growth, all of which bode well for the stability and growth of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people. On the other hand, there are discouraging trends such as rising poverty rates, domestic violence and child abuse, an emerging homeless problem, and serious educational difficulties and delinquency among immigrant youth.

Israel has prided itself on the strength of its basic human fabric and family structure and its strong commitment to social justice and equal opportunity. A number of factors are now challenging these cherished social achievements and values:

- The reality that a third generation is trapped in a culture of poverty—the grandchildren of those who immigrated to Israel in the 1950s and whose families never "made it."
- The growing concern about the ability of the educational system to meet the needs of the population in general and of the disadvantaged in particular.
- Universal trends, such as rising substance abuse and high unemployment, which affect all modern societies.
- The fact that Israel has had to cope with the social consequences of the recent mass immigration, which included the arrival of some 77,000 olim (immigrants) over age 65; 110,000 between the ages of 45 and 65 (many of whom have a hard time finding a job); over 10,000 disabled individuals; and almost 25,000 single-parent families.
JDC's Objectives in Israel

To provide new hope and opportunity for the most disadvantaged populations in Israel.

To help Israel address its most urgent social challenges by serving as a force for improvement, innovation, and reform.

Vera Elzion

JDC's current priorities include addressing the problems of:

- The elderly;
- Ethiopian Jews;
- Disadvantaged groups among the immigrants;
- Disadvantaged youth;
- Domestic violence and children-at-risk;
- Individuals with disabilities.

A second focus is on strengthening the basic public service systems through:

- Senior management training in the public sector;
- Strengthening planning, governance, and citizen involvement on the local level;
- Applied social research—the JDC-Brookdale Institute and the Center for Social Policy Studies;
- Cultivating a stronger voluntary sector and philanthropic contributions.

Principles of Operation

- Non-political: As an American-based organization, JDC is strictly non-political.
- Partnerships: JDC plays a major role at the highest government levels. Accepted and recognized as an honest broker among differing interests, JDC develops strategic partnerships among national ministries, local governments, voluntary associations, and the private sector.
- Innovator and Catalyst: JDC focuses on helping organizations to develop new and improved policies and programs. It produces innovative solutions to issues. It does not operate any programs or services on a long-term basis, but acts as a catalyst, based on its unique expertise in developing new responses and ensuring their broad dissemination and impact.
- Cutting Edge: JDC is at the cutting edge, addressing the toughest and most difficult issues challenging the Israeli social fabric.
- Nationwide Change and Reform: JDC focuses on multi-year, multi-dimensional approaches to problems. Its efforts combine demonstration programs, manpower training, applied research, and the dissemination and advocacy of proven innovations. It is therefore a force for nationwide change and reform.
- Sharing: JDC is a force for sharing expertise and knowledge in addressing social challenges among Israel, Diaspora communities, and the non-Jewish world.
- In-and-Out: JDC always works with local partners who eventually take over successful projects, ensuring their continuation.
- Leverage: The $23 million that JDC invests in its programs in Israel is matched by $50 million from local partners, resulting in a total budget of $73 million.

Statistics

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>5.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Population</td>
<td>4.4 million</td>
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<td>JDC Appropriation</td>
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Addressing the challenges requires innovative and creative responses and often basic reform of the country’s public systems. If Israel should succeed, it will have much to share—as a light unto the nations—with other countries and communities struggling with these same challenges.

JDC-Israel is a proven ally of Israeli society in these efforts, as is reflected in the program descriptions that follow.

**MARGINAL AND DISADVANTAGED YOUTH**

Disadvantaged youth who have dropped out or are in danger of dropping out of all educational or employment frameworks are a major concern in Israel, and JDC has developed effective programs to help these young people realize their potential. Starting with its intensive Mifne (Hebrew for “turnabout”) project, which returns high school dropouts to mainstream settings, JDC programs now reach a wide range of youngsters with special needs.

The focus today is on curbing the drop-out phenomenon before it arises by helping the classroom underachiever. To do this, JDC developed the New Educational Environment (NEE), a program in which a group of teachers, working as a team, tailors the educational environment to fit the individual student. NEEs use specially designed computer-based learning materials to create customized programs that are modified as the students’ needs change.

In 1994, NEEs operated in a wide range of educational networks on an experimental basis, with extremely encouraging results. The NEE project at the Kannot Youth Aliyah village is serving as a model for the 40,000 pupils of the Youth Aliyah network, while in the Upper Galilee District High School, which serves pupils from isolated villages, a teaching team is turning its attention to the weakest students, in order to motivate them and help them to realize their potential. With support from the Bader Foundation and Edythe Roland Grodnick of New Jersey, NEEs were established during 1994 in five comprehensive high schools in Beersheba, with the aim of developing a citywide program. A municipal NEE training team that began operating there last year will gradually take over responsibility for implementation in 1995.

To achieve maximum impact on the formal educational system, it was recognized that the NEE project’s momentum had to be radically accelerated; a major planning effort was therefore undertaken in 1994 to prepare the way for wide-scale implementation. As a result of NEE’s proven success and the Ministry of Education’s backing, planning teams have been set up by both the ORT and Amal school networks to introduce NEEs throughout their systems.

The program for teenage Arab dropouts is in its fourth year of operation in Nazareth, and it was introduced last year in Tamra at the request of the local council. Similar programs are planned for other Arab localities.

The JDC-initiated pilot project at the Mishlav School in Jaffa/Tel Aviv is now one of the most advanced NEEs. It is producing computer-literate office workers with positive career potential. Initially designed to show what could be done at vocational high schools for teenage girls from disadvantaged backgrounds previously headed toward dead-end jobs, this work/study program is now being used with equal benefit for both sexes. In fact, NEEs are providing new hope for marginal youth throughout the educational system.
NEW INITIATIVES

In order to promote the development of new and better solutions to Israel's social challenges, JDC-Israel has established a division devoted to the generation of original ideas and to the initial phases of project development. The emphasis is on locating new areas of need for JDC assistance and on creating innovative inter-divisional projects to help special population groups such as underachievers and those with disabilities. The projects will be developed to the point where they can be transferred to other JDC departments or to outside bodies for widespread implementation.

A current major focus of attention is the town of Kiryat Gat; it has experienced a 41 percent growth in population in four years and is having a hard time coping with the resulting changes. JDC is helping the community develop new responses which, if successful, will be relevant to other communities struggling to absorb massive numbers of new immigrants. This project includes new responses to the problems of marginal youth and dropouts and a fresh approach to nurturing excellence in the schools.

The development of a rehabilitation continuum for severely delinquent adolescent girls is another significant new project. JDC has taken on this challenge together with the Youth Protection Authority, with additional support provided by the Rashi Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ribakoff of Florida. The continuum will range from a secure unit through a protective rehabilitation framework to an open environment. It will be the first facility of its kind in the country and a model for future treatment.

In an important venture to assist underachieving youth, JDC-Israel and FEGS (Federation Employment and Guidance Service), a member agency of New York UJA-Federation, have entered into a partnership arrangement to disseminate Mifie computer-based learning units (including staff training systems) in the United States. Modifications in English, Hebrew, and Arabic for special population groups, such as the developmentally disabled and the mentally ill, are being tested in Israel and the United States. In addition, totally new, open-ended learning units that allow students to create their own tasks will be developed in 1995.

JDC seeks to provide challenging educational experiences for children, many from disadvantaged families, who live far from the metropolitan areas in communities with limited resources. Highly successful JDC-initiated programs for gifted children in the Galilee and the Negev are beginning to operate independently.

JDC is now expanding its efforts to embrace a much wider segment of the population through new "centers for excellence." These combine the resources of the study centers for the gifted with local academic and scientific institutes and enter into partnership with regular schools in the area. Students are provided with the educational and technological tools they need to become independent learners, while sharing experiences and information through a computerized network. A start has been made in the Negev with scientific research projects that involve both mainstream pupils and gifted children.
NEGLECTED AND ABUSED CHILDREN

In response to the growing alarm in Israel over the neglect and abuse of young children, JDC launched a program in 1991 that views the problem in the broader context of domestic violence. The rise in reported cases, due in part to new legislation, has overwhelmed the service system; this development has affected the quality of services, especially for the disadvantaged. In order for the system to meet the growing needs, basic reforms are required. Here the importance of JDC's role as an agent of change and innovation comes to the fore. JDC's program aims to strengthen efforts to rescue children from danger, enhance their prospects, and help avoid institutional placement whenever possible.

Working together with partners who will eventually expand the projects, JDC has focused on developing and evaluating innovative models that deal with both the family and the child. For example, three emergency centers for children-at-risk that combine shelters with diagnostic and outpatient treatment for children and their families now operate in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and the north. In 1995, the Beersheba center is scheduled to open, while the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv centers will move to permanent locations with the help of donations from the Schusterman family of Oklahoma, the Deutsch Foundation, and New York UJA-Federation’s Legacy Fund.

JDC has also been involved in the development in Holon of a community-based center to address the problem of all forms of family violence. It is an outgrowth of the new legislation and growing awareness of the link between the family environment and abused and neglected children. In addition, the first community residential institution that integrates efforts to rehabilitate both children and their families opened in temporary quarters in Lod last year. Called the “Thanks to Scandinavia Home for Children,” it will move to a permanent location in 1995 through the generosity of the estate of Benjamin Sperling, the Rashi Foundation, and New York UJA-Federation. Since both projects are based on new concepts, they are being closely monitored by the JDC-Brookdale Institute with a view to establishing additional centers based on these models.

An expert committee set up by JDC and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs published new standards of treatment for residential institutions last year, while newly published manuals set guidelines for the physical planning of facilities for children-at-risk. The “State of the Child” report, initiated three years ago by JDC with the National Council for the Child, is now a recognized annual publication, with JDC providing only partial assistance for its production in 1995.

The development of suitably trained professional staff is a crucial part of JDC’s efforts for children-at-risk. Work continued on a kit for child abuse teams that will be distributed to all hospitals with the help of the Doron Foundation, as well as on a program to sensitize public nurses in mother-and-child health clinics. In addition, JDC funds annual scholarships to develop professional leadership in the field and a course on the legal aspects of their work for child protection officers. In cooperation with the National Council for the Child, JDC will offer training to district attorneys in 1995 to develop their expertise on the subject of children-at-risk.

With JDC’s support, comprehensive community planning is bringing together all the pieces of the child welfare systems in both Haifa and Beersheba. As part of the process, JDC-Brookdale is conducting a thorough assessment of needs and options; the information collected will be used for national planning and by municipalities throughout the country.
JDC has long worked to improve services for Israel's physically and mentally disabled citizens and to enhance their opportunity to participate in and contribute to community life. The countrywide network of child development centers that exists today was initiated by JDC in the 1960s to diagnose developmental disabilities at a young age. JDC is now promoting the centers' use for school-age children to counter the vacuum that currently exists in the treatment of children with special needs once they enter the school system. To facilitate the “mainstreaming” of these children in regular schools, JDC has been active in establishing guidance units to train teachers to cope with the challenge.

JDC is engaged in a major effort to make some of Israel's main tourist sites accessible to the disabled. As a result of a project funded by the Zusman family of Ohio, visitors in wheelchairs can now reach many of the unique sites in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, including the Western Wall tunnels, and a visitors' center is supplying information on accessibility. Nature sites in the north and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem are currently being made accessible through the generosity of the Leff family of New York, while other sites are scheduled for similar improvement. In conjunction with one local authority, JDC will be developing a model for adapting a whole city to the needs of the disabled.

JDC's database now provides information on accessibility at 1,200 recreational and cultural sites. The base will be expanded to include public and community services, and 1995 will see an emphasis on broad distribution of the data. JDC is also developing programs, in cooperation with organizations such as community centers, to include the disabled in the cultural, recreational, and leisure activities of the general population.

Prompted by the scarcity of residential arrangements for the mentally disabled, JDC since 1987 has been emphasizing the development of community-based alternatives. In light of the success of the customized housing complex built recently in Beersheba with JDC assistance and support from the Cohen Family Foundation of Montreal, JDC will develop new community living models for special population groups. It will implement at least one program to prepare the disabled for the transition to a community residence and will examine the cost of various living arrangements. Efforts to promote community living go hand-in-hand with the promotion of employment opportunities that are meaningful, productive, and remunerative. Regular jobs are encouraged, with the disabled now proudly working as kindergarten aides and dog trainers, while JDC is steering sheltered workshops to more commercial products.

The Falk Institute for Mental Health and Behavioral Studies is a research arm of JDC-Israel. In 1994, the Institute studied various aspects of immigration, service utilization—in particular community health services that can enable the mentally ill to lead meaningful lives in the community—and the problems of children- and adolescents-at-risk. The Institute also works with other JDC departments on particular programs, including one that helps immigrant Holocaust survivors and another that trains immigrant counselors to work in sheltered housing for the mentally ill. Last year, over 2,000 immigrants called the JDC-initiated help hotline, which is manned by Russian-speaking counselors. In 1995, the Institute will concentrate mostly on health reform and risk groups among the immigrants.
THE ELDERLY

JDC helped develop Israel’s network of services for the elderly in the early years of the state, while responding to the emergency needs of the many elderly new immigrants. Although it has long since turned over the provision of services to the government and voluntary sectors, JDC plays a leading role in the network’s continuing development and adaptation through JDC-ESHEL, a unique association that pools the resources of all major organizations in the field.

JDC-ESHEL has become the predominant force in developing new services for the elderly. It emphasizes community-based services that allow the elderly to remain at home, close to family and friends, for as long as possible: day care centers for disabled elderly, programs to educate their families, and extensive training of field professionals.

Eight new day care centers were opened in 1994, an additional four were expanded, and another eight are scheduled to open in 1995. In response to many requests, ESHEL has developed a consultation program on the development of services to the aged which helped 13 communities to establish day care centers with their own resources in 1994. The centers provide the elderly with meals, laundry services, and help with bathing, while professional staff members monitor health and provide physical therapy and other treatments. Social programs for elderly Russian and Ethiopian immigrants provide meaningful activity and ease the difficult transition to a new language and culture; some centers also provide help with employment.

Over 70,000 elderly immigrants have been added to Israel’s fast-growing elderly population in the past four years. To help provide additional institutional services, ESHEL is implementing a multi-year plan together with the government, the National Insurance Institute, and the Conference on Material Claims against Germany to construct some 3,000 new nursing home beds. While most are in existing facilities, two completely new homes are being planned, one in Upper Nazareth, the other in Ofakim. For the well elderly, special housing solutions are being developed such as various forms of sheltered housing, shared housing, supportive neighborhoods, and home renovation. A consumer guide on sheltered housing for the elderly will be published in the near future.

With the aging of Israel’s population and in particular the increasing number of citizens over the age of 85, ESHEL is giving priority to promoting geriatrics as a field of specialization for young and new immigrant physicians. The first participants began a residency program in 1994 that will provide the country with 40 new geriatric specialists, thus adding significantly to the nation’s expertise in this field. In addition, 1,800 of Israel’s 2,500 physicians have participated in ESHEL courses aimed at improving their awareness of the special problems and treatment needs of the elderly. The ESHEL Center for Continuing Education and Training provides a wide range of professionals with courses to upgrade their knowledge and skills, and among the many new ESHEL publications in 1994 was the first textbook on geriatric medicine to be published in Hebrew.

At the same time, health promotion among the elderly — through seminars, publications, and videos, as well as the development of volunteer roles — remains important. “Stay Well,” a health maintenance program adapted from an American model, currently operates in five communities. Special efforts were made last year to enhance the image of the elderly through community television programs and magazines produced by the elderly themselves.
ESHEL also promotes the use of modern technology. Last year marked the opening of the ESHEL-Sarah Guidance and Resource Center for the Elderly, which was established jointly with Yad Sarah through the generosity of the Gottesman family of Washington, DC. In 1995, branches throughout the country will provide access to the computerized national databank on technological aids for the elderly that has been set up in cooperation with the Israel Center for Technology and Accessibility.

**BETTER HEALTH CARE**

The JDC-Brookdale Institute, with the assistance of the JDC-Falk Institute, has undertaken a comprehensive effort to monitor and evaluate the new National Health Insurance Law, which was implemented in January 1995. Special attention is being paid to the law's effect on the care of disadvantaged segments of the population. JDC and its research institutes played a crucial role in this reform of Israel's health services. They were called in to serve as non-partisan, professional consultants to the parliamentary committee that reviewed the new legislation, which aims to provide coverage for all, with competition among the insurers.

JDC and JDC-Brookdale have also been assisting Kupat Holim Clalit, Israel's largest health maintenance organization, in its efforts to turn its clinics into autonomous units, with each one responsible for its own budget and for maintaining patient satisfaction. In addition, a study of patient satisfaction in major hospitals is helping hospital directors improve the quality of service.

**PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISADVANTAGED**

The disabled, single parents, and immigrants who require special assistance—workers aged 45 and over, for example, or those from Ethiopia or the Caucasus Mountains—are among the disadvantaged groups benefiting from a variety of JDC training, placement, and entrepreneurship programs designed to promote self-reliance.

To enhance employment opportunities for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, JDC developed model training, refresher, and retraining courses that were implemented in cooperation with government ministries, local authorities, the Israel Manufacturers' Association, and the Israel Chamber of Commerce. On-the-job-training was a major focus, with JDC helping to forge partnerships between the public and private sectors. JDC's particular expertise in the health and social services has enabled it to pair social needs with retraining opportunities, matching Soviet immigrant graduates with Israel's need for additional social workers and teachers, to the benefit of both parties. Over the past five years, more than 33,000 Soviet immigrants have participated directly in JDC's programs, while thousands of others have benefited from government programs based on these models. JDC's extensive efforts on behalf of Ethiopian immigrants are described in the following section.

JDC has developed a number of innovative approaches to help single parents cope with their special problems. The emphasis is not just on
getting them jobs, but jobs commensurate with their abilities. Following the success of local programs devised by JDC in finding employment for older immigrants, a national program was initiated with the Ministry of Absorption to encourage employers to hire groups of people over 45 and retrain them on the job. Last year was a breakthrough one for JDC’s efforts as changes were made in government policies that removed the upper age limit from vocational training and other employment programs. JDC is also developing employment programs for the physically and the developmentally disabled.

JDC will take part in a major new national program aimed at assisting communities with high unemployment. In certain hard hit communities, the social and employment services will join forces in a simultaneous attempt to reduce unemployment and help the disadvantaged. If a successful model can be developed, it could prove a beacon of hope for other distressed communities.

The JDC-initiated network of Small Business Development Centers continued to expand last year, with JDC directly involved in the operation of 12 of the 16 centers. The centers are open to all but stress the needs of immigrants. In just four years of operation, almost 5,000 businesses have been assisted, some 10,000 jobs have been created, and about $60 million in loans have been granted with the aid of the centers. JDC has encouraged the centers’ staff to assist those groups having an especially hard time realizing their potential. Consequently, customized entrepreneurship courses have been provided for women, single parents, immigrants from Ethiopia and the Caucasus Mountains, the physically disabled, and residents of disadvantaged communities. Opening their own business is a sensible option for many women, both immigrants and veterans. Courses to assist them along this route to independence, and especially those teaching them how to run a business from home, have been a main focus of attention.

The government’s newly established Small Business Authority has adopted the JDC centers as its nationwide model. Existing centers are slated to become local branches of the authority, with JDC phasing out its commitment as the government takes over increasing responsibility.

**Ethiopian Jews in Israel**

Ethiopian immigrants continued to be a major focus of JDC attention in 1994—a year of critical transition for those who came to Israel in Operation Solomon and those who have arrived since 1991. More than half of this group have moved out of the unwholesome environment of the caravan (mobile home) sites and, thanks to a government program of generous mortgages, are now living in homes of their own in existing communities. There they must deal with new schools, services, and neighbors, and assume responsibility for their own finances, decisions, and civic involvement. The uncertainties and fears that this transition engenders are mixed with excitement, relief, and hope for a better life, and JDC is expanding its programs to help the immigrants successfully meet these challenges. At the same time, it continues to work to improve the understanding and functioning of professionals in the social service, educational, and health care systems who work with these immigrants.

Many relatively small communities are absorbing large numbers of Ethiopian immigrant families. This places stress on the structure of the community and requires additional efforts to facilitate the integration process. JDC is expanding its activities in this area in 1995, based on the results of innovative programs that were implemented in eight communities in 1994. These focused on developing neighborhood relations by working with both the long-time residents and the immigrants on their emotional reactions to the move and to independence; they also en-
couraged leadership development through participation in community activities.

While all the caravan sites are scheduled to close by the end of 1995, most are still operating and programs there must be maintained, especially since it is largely the weaker segments of this population who will be the last to move. Thus, although activities at the seven information and life skills training centers operated by JDC and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs at caravan sites will decrease during 1995, they will continue, concentrating on the elderly, the disabled, and single parents. At the same time, life skills training and community center programs, initiated in permanent communities in 1994, will be expanded as much as possible.

The efforts of JDC’s network of job coordinators, which is partly staffed by veteran Ethiopian immigrants, continue to bear fruit. As a result of intensive searches for appropriate job opportunities and careful matching of employee with employer, nearly all employable immigrants, over 2,000 men and women, have been placed in jobs or vocational training courses. In the immigrants’ new permanent locations, the emphasis is on identifying jobs which can assure professional promotion, and on matching jobs with the training received by the immigrants in the last few years. More attention must be given to those groups having the greatest difficulty finding work: women (especially single mothers), older immigrants (by Ethiopian standards, over age 40), and those with disabilities.

Most Ethiopian children have switched schools as many as four times in four years as they moved from their villages to Addis Ababa and then through temporary accommodations in Israel. Now they face another move—and another new school—as their families leave the caravan sites. Concomitantly, the strain on some localities is unprecedented: Ethiopian pupils often constitute 30-50 percent of the student body and teachers have a hard time coping with the wide range of educational levels found in a single class.

JDC is focusing on improving the classroom skills of the teachers and on training principals and supervisors to help facilitate the educational and social integration of the pupils and their families. This program is being evaluated by the Brookdale Institute with a view to its widespread use. Educational materials developed over the last two years will be distributed in 1995 in kit form to all teachers with Ethiopian immigrant pupils. A project that helps specially talented Ethiopian children participate in enrichment programs was expanded in 1994, while science enrichment programs enabled others to join general extracurricular activities.

Another major JDC thrust is to create opportunities for higher education and upward mobility. Such programs require special investments; they include university preparatory courses, training courses for a variety of professional and highly skilled technical occupations, and a project that fosters the work of Ethiopian artists, helping them to create and sell original works. Gifted Ethiopian teenagers who, with JDC support, are in quality boarding schools will continue their studies in 1995, with some having already demonstrated exceptional potential in mathematics, science, sports, and music. For the first time, a significant number of Ethiopian pupils will be on a college track rather than a vocational training track.

In fact, the number of Ethiopians in higher education is steadily increasing, as reflected in the number of applications for JDC scholarships for special hardship cases and for those starting a second degree. Some have put their experience and understanding to use in JDC programs, where they tutor and serve as role models for younger Ethiopian pupils. JDC scholarship recipients include a young woman who is now a trainee in the Foreign Ministry and will one day probably be Israel’s first Ethiopian-born diplomat.

Health education programs were extended last year to the permanent communities absorbing the new immigrants and they were integrated further into the regular health system. Efforts also continued to
develop trained Ethiopian educators and culturally sensitive educational materials in the areas of mental health and communicable diseases. A health education program using Ethiopian counselors will be fully operational in 1995. It was made possible by a grant from the Engelberg Foundation and a coalition of partners and will cover women's health, family planning, communicable diseases, and health behavior.

Betachin, the Center for Information and Counseling on Family Issues, continued to train professionals who work with Ethiopian immigrants. Its councils of elders consulted on cases of family conflict that were referred to them by the religious courts. JDC will continue to support Betachin's activities when they are incorporated in the government’s new Ethiopian Heritage Center, which JDC is helping to plan. The new center will be the hub of the Ethiopian community in Israel, documenting and preserving its rich crafts, folklore, traditions, genealogy, and history.

**Empowering Local Authority**

The recent decentralization process has put local governments in Israel at the hub of most of the systems providing human services. In recognition of this historic change, JDC has developed an array of programs to help strengthen local government, train senior staff members, and promote a better dialogue between local authorities and community organizations.

JDC's Municipal Strategic Planning Unit (MPU) program addresses local authorities’ need for high-level policy analysis, interdisciplinary planning, and efficient decisionmaking. In response to the demand, the number of units increased significantly last year to a total of 24, with MPUs now operating in localities as diverse as the city of Haifa, the Bedouin town of Rahat, and the Druse community of Dalyat al-Karmel. Operating costs have been assumed by the municipalities and the Interior Ministry, while JDC continues to provide professional support and funds for staff training and special projects. There are now MPUs operating in all types of local government: large and small, Jewish and Arab, two rural councils, and a regional planning center for Arab communities.

JDC also expanded its efforts in 1994 to help improve local services by fostering citizen involvement in the democratic process at the local level, government accountability, and the establishment of neighborhood organizations. Community activists in new model projects in Netanya and Eilat took part in a variety of grass roots training programs, while Kiryat Gat and Rosh Ha’ayin were the first towns to utilize JDC expertise in developing systems for the comprehensive planning of community services to answer the needs of rapid growth.

JDC-ELKA teamed up with Sikkuy (The Association for the Advancement of Equal Opportunities) and the Lyn P. Meyerhoff Foundation last year to create The Lyn P. Meyerhoff 21st Century Forum for Mayors. The Forum is helping mayors address the challenges they face in these swiftly changing times.

**Communal and Social Development**

JDC-Israel was instrumental in the establishment of Israel's network of community centers and continues to work closely with them to help improve their programs and meet new needs. A major initiative is currently under way to develop new activities for teenage youth, both native born and immigrants, with special emphasis on those living in disadvantaged neighborhoods for whom the community center may be the central positive force. The aim is to prevent the consequences of alienation, such as violence and delinquency. The activities are designed to reach out to youth in ways that will catch their interest—like the new music club that was set up in a problematic Holon neighborhood. The teenagers running that club are doing more than just enjoying music. They are experiencing firsthand the meaning of planning, team work, responsibility, and community leadership.

The immigrant moving into a new neighborhood finds that the local community center is a critical address in helping to meet the family’s needs.

Soviet and Ethiopian olim benefited last year from JDC-sponsored programs designed to facilitate their absorption into Israeli society, including Jewish heritage classes for adults, preparation for army service for youth, courses in basic home maintenance, and activities that promote community responsibility and improve intergroup relations.
Special emphasis is placed on activities for immigrants with special needs such as mentally disabled adults, single parents, those over 50, and those from the closed societies of the Caucasus Mountains and Bukhara.

In its effort to assist the Arab sector, JDC is working to develop innovative social and community programs that can serve as models. In the Bedouin town of Rahat, for example, JDC, with support from the Gutman Foundation, is involved in the establishment of neighborhood guidance centers for illiterate mothers. This program represents a significant breakthrough—encouraging Bedouin women to enlarge their circle of activities and relationships in line with what their families find acceptable.

While JDC continues to work with the Israel Association of Community Centers, it has expanded its activities to the community centers of the Tel Aviv municipality and to some operated by the Histadrut. The aim is to increase the centers' effectiveness and foster citizen involvement and local democracy.

The different streams of Judaism in Israel benefited last year from JDC support for a variety of educational programs. This included scholarship assistance for rabbinical students in the Reform and Conservative movements; support for training Russian speaking lecturers in Secular Humanistic Judaism; and enrichment studies for immigrants at the Conservative movement's Jerusalem high school.

IMMIGRANT YOUTH

A comprehensive study undertaken in Karmiel, which was completed in March 1994 by JDC's Brookdale and Falk Institutes, pinpointed the pockets of alienation and underachievement that exist among the approximately 53,000 adolescents aged 12 to 19 who immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union between 1990 and 1993. The study, which was the first major survey of this problem, showed that many factors have contributed to the youngsters' high drop-out rate and discontent with mainstream Israeli life. Adjusting to a new society, having to meet educational requirements in an unfamiliar language, parental (often single mothers') difficulties in finding jobs and housing are but a few, all of which have compounded the usual complexities of adolescence. The survey is being expanded to other localities, even as its results are being incorporated in new and existing programs.

In fact, JDC already has a major inter-divisional effort under way to help counter this trend. JDC-ELKA training courses, designed to provide the tools to reach these youngsters, have been given to staffs of schools, youth villages, and other institutions, to youth movement counselors, and to municipal authorities and army and police officers whose work brings them into contact with immigrant youth. Some 3,500 professionals have been trained since 1992.

A variety of outreach programs devised by JDC are being carried out through community centers, youth groups, and local organizations; they employ an open, creative approach that integrates available resources. One pilot project, the first to emphasize social absorption in a school setting, brings together native born and immigrant teenagers—who usually do not socialize with one another—in extracurricular activity groups focusing on particular interests, such as drama or photography. Another project targets youth from the closed societies of the Caucasus region and is aimed at engaging youngsters of both sexes in community center activities.

In several communities, JDC is involved in a holistic approach, bringing together all parties dealing with youth, both newcomers and native born, in an attempt to define the youngsters' true needs and develop new programs to meet them. Another program uses a computer network to link groups of immigrant youth in different educational settings through electronic mail. The pilot project begun early in 1994 was so successful that it was expanded in the current school year, and a number of Jewish schools in the former Soviet Union will soon be joining the network.
VOLUNTARISSM, VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, AND THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

JDC is the founder and continues to be a major supporter of the Association of the Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector (VNPS). An umbrella group founded by JDC to enhance the organizational effectiveness of the voluntary sector, VNPS now has some 300 member organizations and is consulted regularly by Knesset committees on relevant fiscal and social issues.

With a matching grant from United Way International of $150,000 over a three-year period, JDC and VNPS are currently laying the foundation for the establishment of the United Way of Israel. The challenge is to create a new partnership between the corporate sector and the workforce on the one hand and non-profit organizations on the other. This initiative, which is actively supported by the United Israel Office of UJA and CJF, has the potential to transform charitable giving in Israel through the enhancement of the philanthropic community.

As part of JDC's mission to promote the role of philanthropy and volunteer activities, a countrywide Council for Social Development has been established with the Ministry of Economics and Planning to encourage the Israeli business community to contribute time and money to social issues.

There are currently 580 self-help groups registered with the JDC-supported National Self-Help Clearinghouse in Tel Aviv. Last year, 50 organizations utilized the clearinghouse's office space and services, and 12 telephone hotlines were operated from the center; immigrants from the former Soviet Union are among its beneficiaries. Efforts are being made to make the clearinghouse financially independent in 1995.

The Thousand Families Association is a voluntary self-help association of some 4,700 Soviet immigrant families who, with JDC assistance, have taken responsibility for their absorption into their own hands. JDC helped the association establish a solid infrastructure and linked it with the relevant ministries and agencies. The association's unique approach combines all aspects of absorption, providing its members with housing and jobs while facilitating their social integration. The result has been a boon both for the immigrants and for the communities receiving them. In the summer of 1995, the last 300 families will move into the association's largest housing project, which was built to accommodate 1,500 families in Or Akiva's new neighborhood of Orot. In 1994, construction began on a new neighborhood for 1,300 families in Pardes Hanna, which is near employment prospects in two new industrial parks.

JDC's efforts are now focused on employment needs and social integration, and on strengthening the overall social fabric of Or Akiva through assistance to its weaker population groups, namely immigrants from the Caucasus region, single mothers, and immigrants over 45.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS

As part of JDC's efforts to strengthen the public service infrastructure, JDC-ELKA designs and implements tailor-made management training programs for senior management at headquarters and in the field. Two strategies are employed: courses that train managers on the same level, cutting across organizations, and courses that focus on a specific organization or ministry. ELKA is the Hebrew acronym for The Association for the Development and Advancement of
Public Service in Israel, and it is a consortium of the government and JDC.

In 1994, ELKA's College for Senior Civil Service Personnel helped develop the managerial skills of top echelon administrators in the public sector, as well as of some 50 mid-level managers. It carried out special training programs to enhance the organizational effectiveness of senior personnel in the Employment Service and in the Ministries of Absorption and Education. It also trained directors of social service departments and institutions, in particular those of the Youth Protection Authority, which is responsible for providing education and rehabilitation frameworks for youngsters who have been removed from home by court order as a result of domestic distress or delinquent behavior.

To help Ministry of Health personnel and hospital staff cope with the changes and redeployments mandated by the new system of health insurance that took effect in January 1995 (see section on "Better Health Care," above), ELKA has developed an intensive new program to guide them.

The Association of Senior Public Service Administrators - Graduates of JDC-ELKA was inaugurated in January 1995 at a major conference on public administration. The association should provide important support for efforts made by ELKA's 900 graduates, who are mostly in the highest ranks of the public service, to implement changes that will enable the government and voluntary sectors to meet the public's needs more efficiently and effectively.

ELKA bones the managerial skills of top-level administrators in the public sector.

JDC has an ongoing program exploring issues such as the "glass ceiling" blocking women's professional advancement and the relative absence of women in senior public service positions. In 1994, this program involved JDC-ELKA in joint research with the Israel Defense Forces on ways to advance women to senior command positions.

To help bridge the cultural gap between veteran Israelis and new immigrants, ELKA has developed an extensive cross-cultural instructional program. A major focus in 1994 was on the army, which has been swamped by the influx of new immigrant soldiers. Officers were trained to better understand the immigrants and their adjustment problems. In light of the program's success, a team of army facilitators is being trained to continue the work on an ongoing basis.

RELIGIOUS/CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS (YESHIVOT)

A report prepared last year by a Review Committee of the JDC Board, which visited yeshivot and other programs receiving financial help from JDC's Department for Education, Religion, and Culture, made a number of important suggestions. Providing aid to Torah institutions for women was a key recommendation, and the department was urged to put greater emphasis on ongoing activities in the areas of special education, prisoner rehabilitation, and the needs of the disadvantaged.

Accordingly, the department opened a new area of support in 1994 by providing financial aid to 11 Torah institutions for women. JDC's action stimulated a multitude of applications, and further attention is being given to this area in 1995. In the area of special education, the department over the past few years has succeeded in sensitizing the yeshiva community to the needs of the slow learner. Eight yeshivot have been set up for students with learning problems, all of which use the services of qualified professionals: special educators, psychologists, and social workers. Yeshiva parents now have specialized institutions to turn to if their child has learning limitations.
The religious institutions aided by JDC’s Yeshiva Department have been mobilized to aid in the spiritual and cultural absorption of the new immigrants, both children and adults. Along with raising the immigrants’ level of Jewish learning, the new *olim* are encouraged to acquire a sense of commitment to Israel and a feeling of belonging to a common Jewish past, present, and future.

This involvement in absorption has placed heavy demands on the yeshivot, for immigrant students need additional schooling to reach the level of their contemporaries; they may also need clothing and money for transportation and incidental expenses. New programs have been formulated to integrate thousands of immigrant students in suitable academic programs and provide them with the spiritual roots essential for their successful resettlement.

These programs include Jewish and technical studies in vocational yeshivot, bar and bat mitzvah preparations and celebrations for families and friends, “Big Brother” programs pairing high schoolers with elementary school age *olim*, special training for teachers and group leaders, and evening programs for parents to prevent gaps in Jewish knowledge from developing between parents and children. Together with Jewish heritage retreats, educational tours to historic places, and summer camps for younger students, these and other outreach activities attracted more than 30,000 new immigrants last year.

Parallel to this effort for new immigrants, the yeshivot have developed a large outreach program for veteran Israelis who are curious about their heritage and want to widen their knowledge of Judaism. It is part of an effort to bridge the gap between religious and non-religious Jews and remove some of the preconceptions and biases that exist on both sides. Although yeshiva students and graduates are currently teaching outreach courses in every part of the country, there is a special focus on development towns in areas where no learning institutions exist. The women in these communities receive full attention from those who come to teach, and the courses not only add to their Jewish knowledge but help to boost and strengthen their self-confidence.

Within the yeshivot, the JDC-supported program is student-centered, with each project targeting specific needs. The department continued its efforts last year to improve student nutrition as well as hygiene and safety conditions in school classrooms and dormitories. It also provided the yeshivot with professional guidance in administration and in the effective use of computers and modern office equipment. Particular attention is paid to the Hesder yeshivah, which combine study and army service for their 4,500 students. The Hesder students’ devotion to their Jewish heritage and to their army tasks is acknowledged and praised by all; over 40 percent of officers’ training course graduates come from the ranks of these yeshivot, as well as, unfortunately, 30 percent of all army casualties.

The department continues to support the training of rabbis and those who will be pursuing other religious vocations, both in Israel and in Diaspora communities. Scholarships are provided to outstanding students to enable them to continue their studies in the hope that they will be among the great Torah scholars of future years.

The department encourages all yeshiva students to learn vocations that will enable them to be active participants in the modern Israeli economy. JDC has been helping many of the schools incorporate innovative learning tools in their general curricula, and it helps vocational yeshivot purchase the modern equipment they need to teach their students up-to-date, marketable skills. These vocational yeshivot have been helping to absorb many of the country’s younger immigrants.

In addition to improving student conditions and school administration, JDC’s Yeshiva Department has helped to introduce and support new ideas and programs that otherwise might not have been implemented. With JDC’s encouragement, the yeshivot have turned their attention to the needs of the general
population through outreach activities, and they have initiated special programs for the prison population that have reduced recidivism. JDC's support has thus helped to make the yeshivot an important and constructive factor in immigrant absorption and in building bridges between the religious and secular populations in Israel today.

**JDC-Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Human Development**

The JDC-Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Human Development, a partnership between JDC and the Government of Israel, is one of Israel's leading research centers. A new five-year plan was approved last year which sets future directions and activities through 1999 in each of the Institute's five research areas: aging, health policy, immigrant absorption, children and youth with special needs, and disability.

In all of these areas, progress was made in 1994 in assisting policymakers and planners at both the national and local levels. At the request of the Minister of Health, the Institute is monitoring the implementation of the new National Health Insurance Law, which took effect in January 1995. Institute staff will also examine the law's impact on the system of services for the elderly as well as the willingness of health insurers to assume responsibility for services previously operated by the government, such as preventive, long-term, and psychiatric care. The results of a multi-hospital patient satisfaction survey, the first of its kind in Israel, were disseminated to hospital administrators in 1994 to assist them in upgrading their responsiveness to patients' needs, and a follow-up survey of 1,200 immigrants from the former Soviet Union examined how well their health care needs continue to be met.

In the area of aging, an evaluation completed by the Institute last year found that by increasing the entitlement to home care, the Community Long-Term Care Insurance Law was indeed enabling the disabled elderly to avoid institutionalization. Other studies completed in 1994 included an evaluation of an innovative geriatric unit at Hadassah Medical Center and an assessment of the need for interdisciplinary training for social workers and nurses working with the elderly. In cooperation with ESHEL, a comprehensive manual was published on the development of master plans for services for the elderly at the local level.

Surveys evaluating the absorption of new immigrants from the former Soviet Union were undertaken in Netivot and Sderot in 1994, and comprehensive surveys of the Ethiopian population were completed in Afula, Netanya, and Kiryat Gat. In addition to evaluating JDC-Israel's employment promotion programs for heads of single-parent families and immigrants over age 45, the Institute continued its overall examination of how well the immigrants have been integrated into existing housing, employment, and educational systems. At the request of the Ministry of Absorption, the Institute is closely monitoring over 2,500 Ethiopian families who are moving to permanent housing in the center of the country this year; it will also evaluate the absorption of the more vulnerable immigrants from the former Soviet Union who are being allocated public housing.

Two other studies of immigrant absorption were completed in 1994. A study of the integration of Ethiopian immigrant children into the educational
system is serving as the basis for a new program being developed by JDC-Israel and the Ministry of Education. And a survey of teenagers from the former Soviet Union, undertaken in Karmiel in cooperation with the JDC-Falk Institute, examined the problems facing immigrant youth that have led to their high drop-out rate. Additional communities are now being studied, while the results are already being incorporated in JDC-Israel program activities.

In the area of children and youth with special needs, a survey was completed last year of the operation of specialized caregiver teams for abused children in 24 hospitals. Extensive information is being gathered on all those providing services to children-at-risk in both Haifa and Beersheba; this survey will be completed in 1995 and the results incorporated in a database being prepared by JDC-Israel to facilitate comprehensive community planning.

An evaluation of JDC-Israel's educational environment program in Beersheba for disadvantaged youth and severe underachievers was completed in 1994. In the current year, a special educational program for dropouts, called Miftanim, will be evaluated in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and JDC-Israel.

In the area of disability, the Institute was asked by the Ministry of Education last year to assess the extent of need and the cost of providing special assistive devices and paramedical equipment to disabled children in the school system, as part of the Ministry's program to implement the Special Education Act. A comparison of the cost of institutional versus community residences for the severely disabled was completed in 1994 and contributed to a decision to develop more community housing for disabled young adults. As the first phase of a major review of social security benefits and service development needs for disabled children, a sample of 10,000 children was screened last year to identify those suffering from physical and mental disabilities.

The Institute's evaluation of JDC-ELKA's senior manpower training programs continued in 1994, along with the preparation of an evaluation kit for program directors. In cooperation with JDC-ELKA, Institute staff are developing a regulatory system for 450 facilities for children and the disabled, based on Brookdale's pioneering work in developing regulatory systems for old-age and nursing homes.

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The goal of the Center is to improve the wellbeing of Israel's citizens by providing policymakers
and the public with the knowledge they need to make the most effective use of the country’s limited resources. Funded primarily by JDC, the Center is independent and nonpartisan, and its distinctive approach encompasses the entire range of human services.

The Center’s comprehensive annual analysis of the government’s social services budget is the cornerstone of its operation and the major monitor it uses to analyze the development of Israel’s social service system. In 1994, the analysis once again enabled CSPS to play a key role in the country’s budget policy debate. Staff members participated in ministerial discussions of social policy and conducted a variety of briefings for the Finance Minister, his staff, and opposition members of key Knesset committees.

The Center operates with a small core staff and 14 part-time experts who have accepted CSPS assignments in addition to their senior-level positions in the public and private sectors. Policy papers are prepared by four area teams, each of which has 10 to 15 members. Public forums are held periodically and attract cabinet ministers, Knesset members, and top academics who analyze and debate the Center’s findings.

Participants in a recent forum on matriculation examination policies questioned whether the examinations were bridges or barriers to higher education. Earlier, the CSPS Education Team had found serious problems in access to higher education, particularly for lower socioeconomic groups. The team also concluded that higher priority should be given to educational activities tailored to immigrant needs, including an adjusted matriculation program that could reduce the incidence of dropouts. As a result of these studies and policy discussions, changes have been made in the Higher Education Law that should lead to an increase of 30-40,000 in college enrollment. The Ministry of Education has also begun to respond to the call for adjustments in the matriculation system to provide greater opportunities for youngsters with diverse aptitudes and social and cultural backgrounds.

The Economic Area Team’s recent unemployment analysis pointed to an increase in the length of time that individuals are remaining unemployed, despite a decrease in the unemployment rate. It also indicated that the long-term trend is toward more dismissals due to structural changes in the economy, including a decline in certain defense industries.

A 1994 Health Team study emphasized the decline in preventive health services and proposed a set of goals and incentives to guide the investment of scarce resources. The CSPS Director served as a consultant to the International Monetary Fund last year, and his paper on the Israeli health care system was distributed to a worldwide network of finance ministers and banking officials.

The Personal Social Services Team highlighted the fact that institutions continue to receive the largest share of government resources, with a resulting lag in the planned development of community-based services. This team is also comparing the delivery of municipal welfare services in six urban localities, including an Arab town.

Early in 1995, the Center completed a comprehensive study of non-profit organizations in Israel, with some of the research conducted together with the Finance Ministry and the Association of the Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector (VNPS); the study will be used to determine policy options in the field.

The Center is currently conducting a series of analyses of the impact made upon Israeli society by the five-year wave of immigration from the former Soviet Union, including a determination of the level of integration achieved by the new immigrants. Also in 1995, an interdisciplinary team will be monitoring the Supreme Court’s increasing intervention in the social policy arena. The Center will try to determine whether the courts have the background resources needed to make decisions with far-ranging social policy implications and, if not, what are the options for their provision. CSPS will also continue to produce its weekly prime time radio program, which brings the issues involved in current policy debates to the attention of a broad spectrum of the Israeli public.
Irina Moisieva did not expect to find two strangers with a food parcel standing at her door when she opened it on a blustery day during the frigid winter of 1994. Irina is in her mid-80s and lives with her severely retarded son, Igor, 64, in a ramshackle house in northern Ukraine. The two have grown accustomed to a daily fare of bread and potatoes, since they have only a meager pension on which to rely and its value in a foundering economy erodes a little more each day.

From another room, Igor called to his mother in Yiddish, asking who was at the door. “Molochim,” she answered, using the Yiddish word for angels. The strangers, two volunteers from the region’s Vinnitsa-based Jewish welfare society corrected her: “Not angels, babushka. Jews helping Jews.”

It’s a phrase new to the lips of Jews in the former Soviet Union but one that characterizes much of the Jewish renaissance there, an awakening that has touched almost every facet of communal life. The primary players are local Jews who draw upon reservoirs of talent few believed existed just a few short years ago. They are serving as volunteers in the Jewish community’s burgeoning social service network, in myriad Sunday and all-day Jewish schools, in Jewish cultural associations, and in synagogue life.

While much of the impetus and drive for this renaissance is locally based, technical and material support is very much needed from world Jewry. JDC’s program in the former Soviet Union is designed to help these local communities develop the human and material resources that will enable them to provide their members with the kinds of services expected of Jewish communities the world over.

All of this is occurring in the former Soviet Union against a backdrop of economic dislocation and a
JDC's Objectives in the Former Soviet Union

While recognizing the paramount importance of aliya, JDC seeks to ensure that both Jews intending to make aliya and those not yet prepared for this step will have viable, autonomous communities and Jewish services to meet their needs, as they define them, thereby helping them to reconnect to world Jewry and maintain their identity as Jews.

Working in partnership with local Jewish communities, JDC seeks to:

- Promote Jewish knowledge;
- Rebuild communal services and infrastructure;
- Advance the reestablishment of Jewish culture and religion;
- Facilitate the social, economic, and human resource development of Jewish communities throughout the former Soviet Union.

As a consequence, JDC has developed programs in all spheres of community life to enhance the communal services provided throughout the former Soviet Union to:

- Jews of all age groups;
- Both Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities;
- Jews living in large cities as well as those in small villages and isolated areas.

JDC's prior involvement in the former Soviet Union, its historical experience in the field, and the expertise gained through its global program operations make it uniquely positioned to provide important assistance to Jewish communities in their rebuilding efforts.

JDC functions primarily as an enabler and facilitator, working with the communities to set priorities and establish agendas.

In keeping with its global policy, JDC, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel, will continue to respond to emergency situations with speed and flexibility.

Statistics

Jewish Population:
- 1989 Census: 1.5 million
- Current Estimates: 1-4 million
- JDC Appropriation: $9,161,600
- RIT Program\(^1\)
  - JDC Appropriation: $4,813,000

\(^1\)RIT is the designation for activities initiated four decades ago to bring vitally needed items to Jews in Eastern Europe. These funds are now being used primarily in the former Soviet Union for various program efforts described in this section, in addition to JDC's regular appropriation.
political landscape marked by uncertainty, with a precipitous rise in violent crime adding to a haunting fear of what the future holds.

Jews, like their neighbors, are preoccupied with the difficulties of daily life. It is therefore all the more remarkable that the interest in rebuilding local Jewish communities continues to grow. JDC’s 15 resident representatives—who are based in 11 cities—are key facilitators in this community-building process. They are functioning today as role models, mediators, catalysts, honest brokers, and advisors. They provide a sensitive and sympathetic hearing to individuals who must grapple with the frustrations and the exhilaration of building a functioning, even thriving Jewish community without a blueprint to guide their enterprise.

“Jews helping Jews.” It’s a concept that JDC’s work in the former Soviet Union is helping to foster.

RELIEF AND WELFARE

Emerging Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union often take their first tentative steps as autonomous bodies by identifying the needy in their midst and rallying community members on their behalf. Four years ago no Jewish welfare societies existed in the former Soviet Union. Today there are 139 in 127 cities, with local volunteer groups in almost every locale in which Jews are to be found providing food and home care to the needy elderly. Two programs, in two very different places, illustrate how these organizations have come into being with JDC encouragement and support, and how their functions have been growing.

The winter of 1994 was a particularly difficult one in Ukraine. Severe shortages of heating materials, a shortfall in the harvest, and a deteriorating economy combined to put large numbers of people at risk.

In the course of a routine visit, JDC field staff came across an entire area—the Vinnitsa region—in which the risk to the Jewish elderly was particularly acute.

Within days an operational plan was put in place. It recognized the fact that considerable input from local forces would be needed to overcome the region’s vast expanse, its lack of good transportation, and the fact that most Jews lived in small pockets scattered throughout the area.

The plan was based on the principles of community organization and involved identifying local leaders, mobilizing volunteers, providing them with intensive training, and establishing a mechanism to provide oversight and support. At all stages, the goal was twofold: to meet the basic physical needs of the elderly in as efficient a manner as possible, and to use this operation as a way to organize a Jewish communal structure in the region that would remain in place to meet ongoing needs once this particular crisis was resolved.

Three months later, both goals had been achieved. Some 3,800 food packages, 200 tons of coal, and 250 cooking gas canisters had been distributed, and the 3,800 needy elderly Jews who had been identified in the course of this process formed
the nucleus of a welfare caseload. No less important, a Jewish communal body was now functioning in the Vinnitsa region. In addition to caring for the needy via its welfare association, it has also been dealing with issues of Jewish education and culture and other community concerns. Vinnitsa Jewry now has an address, and the community is the richer for it.

This is a story that has been repeated dozens of times in the former Soviet Union over the last three years. Numerous social service programs are now in place in various locales as a result of JDC initiatives, including 10 feeding programs for the elderly which are based in facilities ranging from schools to private apartments. There are also 18 pensioners' clubs serving 4,500 elderly Jews, and 10 of the newly established welfare societies in the larger cities have initiated medical consultation programs. Information on the needs of over 60,000 elderly Jews throughout the former Soviet Union is now available to the community through a central database.

The Hesed Avraham Center in St. Petersburg is another example of community building through welfare initiatives. The center was established in 1993 primarily as a medical equipment lending program; over the past year its services have expanded to include a pensioners' club, programs for the hearing and visually impaired, regular visits by trained personnel to homebound Jewish elderly, and a telephone hotline to combat loneliness and provide emergency help. The center's staff has delivered 36,000 of the nearly 225,000 food packages that JDC has distributed in the former Soviet Union since 1992.

Most remarkable of all is the fact that beyond a small core of paid professionals, there is a much larger group of young retirees who have volunteered to service these projects. In a society that once denigrated altruism, over 200 volunteers now report regularly to their work stations to fulfill their newfound communal obligations. Angels? No, in their own words, just "Jews helping Jews."

**Reclaiming Communal Property**

From the outset it was clear that without communal property, community development would be seriously impaired. Cognizant of this fact, several of the successor states have enacted legislation entitling religious communities to reclaim property that was once theirs.

For a fledging community, this is a daunting task. In response to local requests for assistance, JDC has been sponsoring seminars on the reclamation process for local Jewish communities. Run by lawyers and archivists, the seminars have grown in frequency and size during the last 12 months. Over 85 communities have participated, and more than 40 pieces of property have recently been returned.

But that is only the beginning of the process. JDC has placed a specially trained staff person in the former Soviet Union to serve as a resource for communities that have succeeded in reclaiming properties. The staff member helps these communities engage in a comprehensive planning process to determine the most effective way to utilize these buildings as centers for community activities and the amount of renovation needed to make them serviceable. Assistance is also provided in putting together a coalition of local community organizations and leaders to constitute a governing board for the new facility, and advice is offered on strategies for local fundraising.

The effort has already brought results. The Yaroslavl Jewish community, for example, has been refurbishing the building it reclaimed for use as a community center. Local businessmen matched a JDC challenge grant to get the project off the ground, and a new JDC training program for community center directors has a candidate from Yaroslavl among its 31 participants. Similar stories can be told about Oguz in Azerbaijan, Yevpatoria in Ukraine, Vitebsk in Belarus and other small, and not so small, communities.
Cultivating Human Resources

The Israel-based Buncher Community Development program, a key element of JDC's worldwide leadership training efforts, recently expanded its mandate. Participants now take part in a two-year course that includes pre-seminars, the core program in Israel with a personal mentor, and follow-up supervision on individual projects in the former Soviet Union. A welfare program in Kiev, a Sunday school in Belarus, an intergenerational dialogue program in Odessa, and a community center in Dnipropetrovsk are among the programs now being run by recent Buncher graduates. In all, over 95 Jews from different parts of the former Soviet Union have completed the Buncher program; they constitute a corps from which the next generation of local Jewish community leaders will undoubtedly be drawn.

JDC sent five social service specialists to the former Soviet Union in 1994 to help local welfare organizations improve the quality of their services and take on larger caseloads. JDC has also coordinated over 15 welfare seminars for nearly 1,300 participants from some 200 localities. In October, a JDC-sponsored training institute for social service workers was opened in St. Petersburg, where it is using the Hesed Avraham Center described earlier as its “laboratory.” This institute will facilitate the training of professionals, paraprofessionals, and lay leaders from communities in all the successor states in order to enhance the planning and provision of social welfare services for Jews in need throughout the former Soviet Union.

Leadership is also being nurtured in the sphere of academic life where the explosive growth of Jewish studies courses and programs has increasingly drawn JDC's attention. Over 48 programs of academic Judaica have recently been identified at dozens of state and private universities, including the formal Jewish universities that have been established in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kiev, all three of which receive funding and technical support from JDC. These programs have been serving as magnets for Jewish intellectuals who are held in high regard in the former Soviet Union and are of inestimable value for their potential (although heretofore unrealized) contribution to the Jewish renaissance.

JDC has acted quickly to help organize this group and bring them into the circle of communal life, while at the same time working to raise the academic level of the Jewish studies programs through its support for the International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization. A JDC-sponsored organizing conference of intellectuals active in Jewish academic life was held at Krekshino, near Moscow, in February 1994. It drew 110 participants from 21 cities in six of the successor states. The conference's patron and keynote speaker was Academic Tolstoy, the great grandson of the renowned writer. A steering committee was formed to work on curriculum development, publications, visiting lectures, and fundraising.

A Jewish academic in Tomsk was drawn to this program, became involved in the local Jewish community as a result, and subsequently prevailed on a former student of his now working in the municipal government to return a building to the community. Over the past year, JDC also supported a seminar in Jerusalem for 27 professors of Jewish studies and a series of academic lectures and consultations, and it helped facilitate the establishment of a local association of Jewish academics. Hundreds of adults are taking courses at the popular Jewish “People's Universities” that were recently established with JDC's encouragement and support in central Russia, Azerbaijan, and Eastern Ukraine. JDC believes that a critical mass of educated Jewish laity is of paramount importance in maintaining a vibrant Jewish community, and academic education is an important tool in establishing that critical mass.
JDC also supports a variety of informal educational efforts. Together with the Hillel Foundation, for example, JDC helped inaugurate a Hillel program for the Moscow Jewish student body. A candidate put forward by the local community was trained to run the program; through concerted outreach efforts, several hundred Jewish students now participate in regularly scheduled activities.

**NURTURING THE YOUNGEST GENERATION**

While charting new ground with adults, JDC has retained its involvement with children's education. It is maintaining its commitment to supply the 17,000 children now enrolled in Jewish schools with a basic set of textbooks and has shipped some 150,000 volumes to date. JDC's publications program uses the latest creative techniques to make Jewish learning exciting and new. A nine-year-old child living in Murmansk, near the Arctic Circle, wrote to thank JDC for the new book on the Bible that he received last year. The book "opened my eyes to things about being Jewish that I never knew before," he said. "But you should tell the author of the book that where I live Shabbat isn't one day a week—it's often either several days on end, or only a couple of hours!"

Working with the principals of Jewish schools and their recently established mutual assistance association is another aspect of JDC's education work. The association provides a forum for these Jewish educators; it enables an Estonian principal to sit with his counterparts from Ukraine and the Caucasus and discuss issues of mutual concern, such as how to maintain the Jewish consciousness of students who are constantly being pushed toward assimilation by the larger society.

JDC's early childhood training program continues to attract new teachers and administrators. After attending a seminar run jointly by JDC and local staff, a woman from Nalchik in the Russian Caucasus left determined to open a Jewish pre-school in her own community. "If I can get the children, the parents will be drawn into the community as well," she said, which is precisely the goal JDC had in mind. Within two months, a pre-school program was indeed opened in Nalchik, with an enrollment of 24 children.

The Melton Program for Senior Educators, which is co-sponsored by JDC, continues to attract highly talented participants who are certain to be among the future leaders in the Jewish educational field. The 17 educators who completed the program in 1993 and 1994 are now back in their home communities. They are pursuing a variety of new projects, including the development of Holocaust curricula and programs for teaching the principles of tzedaka (charity), and the establishment of counseling programs for troubled Jewish youth. There are approximately 39 Jewish day schools in existence today in the former Soviet Union, 192 supplementary schools, and 27 pre-school programs. All of them need competent local teaching staffs, and JDC is a partner in training them. JDC also supports a variety of activities at the schools; it supplies material to local summer camps in which some 20,000 children have been participating; and it has been sending over 200 children from the former Soviet Union each year to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary.

**JDC SUPPORT FOR JEWISH CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE**

Jewish cultural life in the former Soviet Union has been enriched as local Jewry has reclaimed the Jewish calendar for its own, and JDC has been helping to facilitate this process through training programs and the provision of needed materials and support. In 1994, for the first time, three local cantors from JDC's five-year-old Moscow Cantorial Seminary conducted the High Holiday services, replacing the cantors from Israel previously flown in for the occasion.
Passover remains the highlight of the Jewish calendar in all of the successor states. Four years ago the large community seders that JDC helped organize and support galvanized local communal life. More recently the requests have been to recapture a different domain: to reintroduce Jewish ritual into home life.

JDC responded by producing individual seder kits that were distributed through Jewish educational frameworks. Some 15,000 families received these specially designed kits, and communities sent representatives to Moscow for training in how to use the material. An estimated 41 communities participated in this program last year.

This new approach supplemented the shipments that JDC has been making throughout the year of the religious items necessary to celebrate the various Jewish festivals; it has also been distributing special holiday materials to each child in the Jewish schools. As it has been doing before each Passover in recent years, JDC ensured that the supply of matzah would be sufficient to meet the increasing demand that has been coming from Jews living throughout the vast reaches of the former Soviet Union. Local communities have gradually assumed responsibility for production and supply, obviating the need for and the expense of the large shipments from the West that marked the early days of perestroika.

JDC has encouraged and supported these local efforts. A second production line in the matzah factory in Kiev, for example, was built with JDC support to provide for the needs of Jews in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. JDC also purchased flour in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tashkent, and Tbilisi to enable matzah baking to proceed in those regional centers. When supplies to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan and Almaty in Kazakhstan failed to materialize, JDC airlifted the required amount of matzah three days before the holiday.

JDC’s resident representatives have helped make all of the Jewish festivals an integral part of the community organizing process, with local leaders encouraged to take over more and more responsibility for planning and carrying out local events. In Samara, the regional capital of Russia’s Volga region, for example, last Hanukkah was celebrated with an evening program in the concert hall of the Philharmonic Society. It had been planned over the course of four months by a coalition of Jewish organizations acting at the initiative of the local JDC staff member. He had convinced the disparate elements of this community that there was a need for a unifying event of this nature.

On the evening of the program, the stage was decorated with garlands that formed the word Hanukkah in Russian. The rabbi of the only functioning synagogue in the region opened the festivities with the traditional lighting of the Hanukkah menorah. This rabbi was one of six rabbis placed in local communities throughout the former Soviet Union last year by JDC in partnership with other Jewish organizations.

The rabbi was followed by a one-act play staged by Samara’s Jewish People’s Theater; its theme of Maccabee resistance to attempts at cultural genocide held a special resonance for the 1,200 Jews in the audience. The script for the play came from the Jewish culture resource cabinet sponsored by JDC in Moscow to provide materials in the arts for Jews throughout the former Soviet Union. The Samara troupe is one of 14 such groups that benefited from the cabinet’s extensive library last year.

In the second part of the evening, entertainment was provided by Samara’s Aliyah Chamber Music Ensemble. The group had played the evening before at a Jewish wedding, the first to be held in Samara in anyone’s memory. As they do at every Jewish communal activity, the ensemble waived its honorarium for the concert; this is its contribution to fostering local Jewish life.

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In the first six rows of the hall the clapping was loudest and most enthusiastic. Those seats had been filled by elderly Jews, normally homebound, who were relishing their rare night out. Their treat was arranged by the members of Samara’s Esther Women’s Charity Organization who pay them regular home visits. JDC was the founder and remains the prime supporter of this worthy organization.

The evening’s m.c. described the program as an official coming of age for the community. She thanked JDC for its support, and particularly for its encouragement. The evening ended with the singing of Hatikvah.

In addition to the Jewish Music and Arts Center in Moscow, which trains teachers and students and serves as a resource center for schools and communities throughout the former Soviet Union, JDC supports training seminars in Jewish dance, music, fine arts, and literature as well as 15 local professional performing groups. These cultural programs and events have proved to be effective outreach tools, attracting heretofore unaffiliated Jews to the local communities.

Other cultural programs were also used last year as organizing tools and springboards to more permanent community arrangements. In the spring, for example, concerts were held at JDC’s behest throughout the former Soviet Union to choose representatives to the international Hallelujah Song Festival that is held each year in Jerusalem. Local committees were formed to make the arrangements; committee members received crash courses in how to organize public events and mobilize volunteers, with emphasis on the democratic values of community work. The winner of the qualifying round, from Ukraine, placed second in the Jerusalem finals.

Organizers of many of the growing number of Jewish cultural programs are making increasingly effective use of newly available local resources. The Jewish libraries that have been developed with JDC support in some 90 communities over the past four years contain treasure troves of Jewish knowledge that are constantly being mined by these local activists. To date, JDC has sent approximately 500,000 volumes to the former Soviet Union through its libraries program and over 1,500 videos, and it continually updates the material.

Last summer JDC sponsored a seminar in Kishinev for Jewish librarians, the latest in the series it has been holding. The host was the Itzik Manger Kishinev State Jewish Library—which is actually a Jewish community center offering programs ranging from lectures to arts and crafts for all ages. Thirty-eight librarians from 29 communities spent a week learning how to transform their local libraries into multifunctional centers that can respond to a variety of communal needs. The librarians, who came from places such as Kazan in Russia, Tbilisi in Georgia, and Vitebsk in Belarus, returned to their home communities, determined to broaden the menu of Jewish activities that they have been offering.

SUMMARY

The scope of the JDC program in the former Soviet Union is now so large, both in terms of the geographic expanse it covers and the diversity of the program within those borders, that this report can only hope to spotlight the various areas of activity and illustrate how they translate into reality for individuals, communities, and institutions. Much of JDC’s work continues to be behind the scenes—providing expertise, forging coalitions, and sending communities high-quality materials. Its team of resident representatives and visiting experts has developed a wide range of programs designed to attract large numbers of Jews to nascent local communities. The numbers reached and achievements to date may be impressive, but they are only a beginning. Perhaps more significant are the numbers of Jews still untouched by this renaissance of Jewish life, Jews whose already tenuous Jewish connections grow weaker day by day. To reach these individuals before they are lost to the Jewish people forever is the challenge that JDC and world Jewry still face.
Jewish communities from the Atlantic to the Ural continued last year along the path they have been pursuing since the end of the cold war: reestablishing the traditional connections and relationships that had been torn asunder by the Holocaust or frozen when the continent was artificially divided into competing geo-political blocs. This coming together is part of a concerted effort by the four million strong European Jewish community to reclaim its traditional role in world Jewry, and JDC's 80-year history of European operations makes it uniquely positioned to help.

Within this Pan-European framework, JDC's community development program operates in partnership with the local communities and the EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES. Utilizing European personnel and Western European expertise as much as possible, JDC provides technical assistance to communities and institutions via professional consultations and furnishes seed money for innovative approaches to communal needs. Its community development office has become a communications center and information exchange, with JDC able to put communities that turn to it with a given problem in contact with those who can help.

As part of JDC’s community development strategy, three REGIONAL PROGRAMS have been developed to date in association with the European Council and the local communities. These programs link to-
JDC’s Objectives in Europe

- JDC has determined that its involvement in Europe should focus on community development, although it continues to maintain relief programs for Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe.

- In addition to assisting individual communities, JDC has a role to play in helping the renascent Eastern European Jewish communities draw on and benefit from the resources and experience of the Western Europeans, who were able to begin rebuilding their own communities immediately after the end of World War II.

- JDC provides technical assistance in community development as necessary and feasible. It also helps communities to maximize their human resources through training programs for current and emerging lay and professional leadership.

- JDC works to promote mutual assistance by linking communities together and helping the European Council and other Pan-European Jewish bodies establish arenas in which to address issues of regional or continental concern.

Statistics

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gether communities in neighboring countries that have a common geographic, cultural, and historic base in order to provide the critical mass needed to improve the quality of Jewish communal activities. The Mediterranean Region includes Jewish communities in the south of France as well as those of Italy, Spain, Greece, and Morocco; the Central European Region encompasses seven countries and eight cities from Venice and Milan to Zagreb; and the Nordic Region brings communities in the Baltic states together with those in the Scandinavian countries and the city of Kaliningrad. Working in tandem, the communities can create a richer Jewish life for each other. This gives them an important weapon in the fight against assimilation and enhances their ability to attract and involve a new generation in communal life.

Social, intellectual, and professional interchanges are promoted through meetings, seminars, family programs, student activities, youth camps, classroom exchanges, and joint projects for different age groups. As expected, Jewish youth have been among the programs' primary beneficiaries as regional exchanges widened their circle of contacts: 70 adolescents from four countries participated in a recent seminar in Avignon, for example; 75 Spanish and Italian teenagers took part in a program in Barcelona; and a regional weekend retreat organized by Jewish youth in Munich drew 160 participants from 16 communities. In Spain last summer, a national camp for Jewish youth had 200 participants; the camp was an outgrowth of the training seminars for youth workers established earlier by the local communities with help from JDC.

THE BUNCHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, a key element in JDC's leadership training efforts, was launched in 1989 as a partnership of the Buncher Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, and JDC. The program had 51 participants last year and a total of 132 graduates by the end of 1994. A manpower training and development structure for Jewish community leaders that is operated by JDC's community development department, the program centers on an intensive training experience in Israel, with special tracks tailored to the needs of individual participants from Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, and India. Preliminary seminars are held locally to select program participants, and the Israel-based activities are followed by periodic regional seminars. The Buncher family has provided additional funds to establish an "alumni" program with visiting tutors and annual update seminars, and it is supporting the publication of new case material based on experiences in the field.

The EUROPEAN CENTER FOR JEWISH LEADERSHIP—LEATID EUROPE—was established last year by a consortium of six organizations: the European Council, World Jewish Relief (U.K.), the World ORT Union, France's Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU), the Doron Foundation, and JDC. Using the ORT conference center in Anieres, Switzerland as its primary campus, the Center will provide Jewish
leaders from all areas of community life with a venue in which they can exchange ideas and information, share problems, and acquire new skills and know-how. In addition to providing courses for young leaders and professionals and convening seminars for top leadership—the first of which was held in Venice at the end of January 1995—the Center will organize thematic seminars and provide consulting services. It will also publish a "leadership library" of materials that embody the Center's unique "dual track" approach, which puts equal emphasis on strengthening both management skills and Jewish knowledge and identity in order to meet the challenges of today's Europe.

In SPAIN, JDC continued to provide funds last year to help support four World War II era refugees who live in Barcelona; the funds are channeled through Ezra, the local Jewish welfare agency. In partnership with the federation of Jewish communities, JDC established a pilot training program two years ago for young leaders and communal professionals that had 25 participants in 1994. In the Spanish enclave of MELILLA off the North African coast, JDC is sponsoring the efforts of a volunteer couple from Argentina who have been working on informal Jewish educational programs and cultural activities for both children and adults.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES

JDC is an active partner in the activities of the European Council, which was formerly known as the European Council of Jewish Communal Services. Membership in this newly restructured and revitalized organization has increased to 32 countries, and the Council has become a vital inter-community network and cross-fertilizer between East and West. In addition to co-sponsoring the Regional Projects and the European Center for Jewish Leadership, the Council promotes the exchange of information on issues of mutual concern and works to bring the experience and support of the larger, well-established communities to bear on the problems of smaller, struggling communities.

Both Fax-Link, the Council's publication, and its databank have been well received by the communities. In the summer of 1994, the Council organized the first European Conference on Jewish Education. Called Maayan (Hebrew for fountain), the conference was held in Zwolle, Holland; it attracted some 200 educators from 28 European countries and will become a regular bi-annual event, with smaller meetings scheduled in the interim period. The Council also convened a conference on Jewish media last year; it organized the largest-ever European contingent to the World Conference of Jewish Communal Service meeting in Jerusalem; and it held its annual General Assembly in Budapest last November. Among the GA's featured sessions was a workshop on the Jewish family led by the executive director of Baltimore's Jewish Family and Children's Services.

THE EUROPEAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS (EUJS)

EUJS has been concentrating for the past few years on developing local and regional student unions in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and JDC continues to support its activities. EUJS currently organizes about 12 seminars a year which bring together Jewish students from across the continent, thereby strengthening the ties between Jewish communities while helping to develop future leaders. JDC funds will enable the organization to fill the newly established position of executive director in 1995, thereby providing EUJS' leadership with a stronger element of continuity.
The Baltic States

Jewish life in the Baltic States and Kaliningrad has blossomed over the last few years as a regional network of 15 communities emerged with a total population of some 30,000 Jews. The larger communities—Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius—have already established a basic framework of institutions and services: synagogues, day schools, social welfare programs, libraries, and cultural and recreational activities for different age groups. To some degree, they are ready to act as resource centers for the smaller communities who make up in enthusiasm what they lack in numbers and means. JDC's community development program aims to help these Baltic communities improve the quality of their communal activities and achieve self-sufficiency; it is also working to promote linkages among Jewish communities both within and outside the region.

Over 60 percent of Baltic Jewry is over age 60. Many of those living on small pensions have increasing difficulty making ends meet and have no families to turn to for support; some are homebound or ill. Although local entrepreneurs are emerging who have begun to support the communities' welfare needs—the Jewish Businessmen's Club of Vilnius is a prime example—JDC is currently the major contributor to the various social welfare programs that have come into existence to help the neediest. In 1994, for example, over 56,000 meals were supplied in Riga and Vilnius, while in Tallinn, Daugavpils, and Kaunas, 600 mostly elderly individuals benefited from cash assistance and food package programs. Hot lunch programs are preferred whenever possible. They bring people together and relieve the terrible isolation facing so many of the elderly. After-meal activities and excursions enrich many of these programs, some of which have become the focal point for the various pensioners' clubs that have begun to proliferate.

The needs of the younger generation have not been neglected by these emerging communities, which were the first in the former Soviet Union to establish new Jewish day schools. Close to 1,200 students now attend one of the three day schools or five kindergartens, which have received various forms of assistance from JDC, including educational materials and holiday-centered kits and supplies. JDC is currently financing the reconstruction of the Tallinn school's auditorium, which is also the site for community celebrations, and it sponsors an art group at the Vilnius school that won a national award last year. At the university level, EUJS is helping to expand Jewish knowledge and enhance the attractiveness of Jewish student life, with a special Baltic Shabbat organized last year as well as three regional training seminars with some 150 participants.
To help rebuild community life, JDC has become the major sponsor of an emerging network of Jewish community centers (JCCs), the most advanced of which is in Riga. JDC provides staff training and seed money for a variety of innovative activities undertaken by the centers, and it continues to support the Jewish libraries that it helped establish there. A week-long training seminar for librarians was organized in 1994 in conjunction with JDC's former Soviet Union department. JDC also continued to sponsor the participation of young Jewish activists and communal and educational professionals in various training programs and conferences in Europe and Israel last year. At the end of 1994, the first class drawn entirely from the Baltic region was chosen for the Buncher Program; in addition to individualized training, the 16 candidates from 10 communities will implement a regional project upon their return from Israel. Along with the 10 Buncher graduates currently active in the Baltics, most of whom are now serving in top leadership positions, the new trainees will undoubtedly have a significant influence on the management of their communities in the years to come.

Throughout the past year, JDC continued to function as a clearinghouse and coordinator for the increasing number of foreign organizations who have become involved in providing the Baltic Jewish communities with various forms of social and medical assistance. These include the Swedish Committee for Ex-Soviet Jewry, the Jewish community of Finland, the U.S.-based Jewish Survivors of Latvia, the St. John's Wood Synagogue and the Pinner and Northwood Group in London, a French coalition led by the Jewish Scouts, and private donors in South Africa.

Regional activities and professional exchanges among communities continue to be encouraged by JDC, with a particular emphasis on sharing scarce human resources. A Baltic-Scandinavian Festival of Jewish Art drew 200 participants last May and a wide popular audience, including Lithuania's top leaders, while the first Baltic Jewish Assembly—a kind of Baltic GA—was held in Klaipeda, Lithuania in November. Encouraged and supported by JDC, the assembly brought 85 lay and professional leaders together for specialized discussions and a final plenary session or knesset. It prepared the way for an increased pooling of resources, the implementation of joint projects, and the diffusion of successful local programs, all of which should hasten this region's communal development.

**Transmigrants**

In 1994, JDC's transmigrant activities were once again concentrated in Vienna, where over 350 Jews in transit were assisted, with 126 days the average period of stay. Since 1991, JDC has expected all transmigrants to be self-supporting or to receive financial assistance from relatives already in the United States. JDC assistance is of a technical nature only, with transmigrants helped to find housing and medical care. No funds are provided by JDC for care and maintenance expenses, except for medical or other emergencies. Cultural and educational activities continue to be provided for children and adults awaiting processing, with special programs for the Jewish holidays. While the number assisted last year was not much greater than in 1993, there were more individuals with serious medical or social problems who required extensive attention from JDC's staff. JDC's Rome office provided technical assistance last year to a few residual transmigrants in Ladispoli; all of these cases were resolved by the beginning of 1995. The Rome office also provided food, shelter, transportation, and other assistance to a substantial group of Jewish families and individuals who passed through Italy in 1994 after leaving their country of origin, caring for some 75 individuals in all.
Throughout the past year, whatever the conditions on the ground, the citizens of Sarajevo—Muslims, Christians, and Jews—continued to benefit from a variety of relief activities provided by La Benevolencija, the JDC-supported philanthropic and cultural arm of the Sarajevo Jewish community. As an acknowledged neutral party, the Jewish communities of the former Yugoslavia have been able to secure the trust of all warring factions, and they have used their unique position to get relief and rescue convoys through the lines when no one else could.

JDC has been involved in these humanitarian efforts since war first broke out in Bosnia in April 1992, supported by the generosity of the organized American and European Jewish communities—including a growing continental network of Friends of La Benevolencija organizations, other international relief agencies, and individual benefactors. World Jewish Relief (U.K.) continues to be JDC's special partner in these endeavors, sharing in the cost of operations in Bosnia and in other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

On February 5, 1994, JDC and La Benevolencija organized what was to become the most daring rescue to date, a multi-ethnic convoy that brought 296 people out of Sarajevo in the face of a deadly mortar attack on the city's central market, barely 220 yards from the convoy's departure point. After an arduous overnight journey through torrential rains on winding mountain roads, the convoy made it safely to JDC's refugee center in Makarska, Croatia, where it was met by JDC's President, Ambassador Milton A. Wolf.
STATISTICS

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA
Jewish Population: 700
JDC Appropriation: $176,400

CROATIA & SLOVENIA
Jewish Population: 2,100
JDC Appropriation: $776,500

YUGOSLAVIA
(SERBIA/MONTENEGRO) & FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
Jewish Population: 3,500
JDC Appropriation: $329,400

HUNGARY
Jewish Population: 130,000
JDC Appropriation: $3,243,900

ROMANIA
Jewish Population: 21,000
JDC Appropriation: $3,085,100

POLAND
Jewish Population: 5-10,000
JDC Appropriation: $1,060,100

BULGARIA
Jewish Population: 6,000
JDC Appropriation: $520,600

CZECH REPUBLIC
Jewish Population: 3,000
JDC Appropriation: $198,300

SLOVAKIA
Jewish Population: 2,000
JDC Appropriation: $149,500

JDC helps individual communities provide elderly Holocaust survivors with the material assistance they need to live out their lives with dignity as Jews.

JDC works to ensure that benefits are provided in a regionally equitable manner, and that those assisted will come as close as possible to having the modest minimum income needed to maintain acceptable living conditions.

Local communities are also being helped to develop additional services to relieve the loneliness of the elderly while meeting their physical needs.

JDC continues to encourage the process of Jewish renewal under way in these nascent communities by stimulating the reestablishment of Jewish cultural, religious, educational, and youth activities.

In keeping with its global policy, JDC, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel, will continue to respond to emergency situations, helping to rescue and care for Jews in danger or distress, as it has been doing in the former Yugoslavia.

Figures are approximate.
As in previous rescue efforts, the Jewish community of Zagreb, Croatia, governmental and military authorities on all sides, and the United Nations forces helped with arrangements, and JDC coordinated operations with the Jewish Agency, which took immediate responsibility for transporting to Israel those Jews wishing to make aliyah.

Other Jews among the evacuees were cared for by JDC, becoming part of the approximately 1,800 Bosnian Jewish refugees for whom JDC, with the cooperation of local Jewish communities throughout the former Yugoslavia, has provided temporary financial assistance, housing, and medical care over the past three years. Most have by now resettled in Israel, Western Europe, or Canada, although some, particularly the elderly, have elected to remain in more familiar surroundings. At the end of the first quarter of 1994, JDC was providing assistance to some 160 refugees in Croatia and Serbia, with a caseload of 120 remaining at year's end.

Nearly two-thirds of the February 1994 evacuees were non-Jews—Croats, Serbs, and Muslims; indeed, of the 2,104 individuals rescued by JDC in the three airlifts and eight land convoys mounted since April 1992, 1,103 have been members of other religious and ethnic communities. JDC also contributed to last summer’s worldwide effort to evacuate gravely wounded and ill children to hospitals throughout Europe.

Relief efforts have been equally non-sectarian. Food, clothing, medicines, and medical supplies donated by World Jewish Relief and by other European Jewish communities, by U.S. and Canadian donors, by European governments, and by other international relief agencies, including the Moslem Merkhamet and Catholic Caritas, continue to be shipped through the supply channel established by JDC-La Benevolencia between Split, Croatia and Sarajevo, where they have been distributed on a non-sectarian basis. JDC organized an International Interfaith Network of Aid Donors two years ago to assure continuing support for this aid lifeline, which was initially funded by contributions to JDC’s Open Mailbox.

Despite wartime conditions of varying intensity, since November 1992 over 1,000 tons of donated relief supplies—food, medicines and medical supplies, clothing, plastic sheeting, and various other materials—have been channeled to Bosnia and to those who have taken refuge in Croatia. To keep the lifeline going when land routes became impassable, JDC arranged to have medicines and other goods flown into Sarajevo on U.N. planes. Since early 1993, some aid has also been provided to the smaller Bosnian towns, including the isolated Jewish communities in Tuzla, Zenica, and Mostar.

In October 1994, a refurbished 10-ton truck was donated to La Benevolencia by a multinational coalition that included JDC and the Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel, a Jewish students’ organization. The truck, emblazoned with La Benevolencia’s blue menorah emblem and equipped with radio communications and extra fuel tanks, is helping to reduce transport and warehousing costs for this lifeline operation.

La Benevolencia’s humanitarian activities in Sarajevo have made life somewhat easier for the city’s much-beleaguered population. Its three pharmacies often provide half the medications available in the city, dispensing between 3,000 and 4,000 prescriptions a day as well as formula and other infant needs, all at no charge to recipients. Additional medicines and other supplies have been sent to hospitals, health centers, and first aid stations. When the wounded first began filling the city’s hospitals two years ago, La Benevolencia’s own first aid station devised a unique system of “home hospitalization” to treat the “regular” patients for whom the hospitals no longer had room. Its team of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists continues to visit the homebound elderly as part of an ongoing program of home care.

Through its open soup kitchen, La Benevolencia provided some 100,000 hot meals in 1994, feeding over 300 individuals each day from all of the city’s communities. It has also distributed thousands of 10-kilogram food parcels to the city’s neediest and donated tons of food to other humanitarian organizations. Hundreds of city residents continue to communicate with the outside world each week through the radio link with JDC-Zagreb established by a special JDC team in November 1992. Others are able to keep in

Since November 1992, over 1,000 tons of donated relief supplies have been channeled to Bosnia and to those who have taken refuge in Croatia.
touch with anxious relatives through the Jewish community’s postal service, with mail brought in and out of Bosnia with the help of JDC and the Jewish communities of Zagreb and Split. Again, all services are provided free of charge.

Throughout this time of crisis, the Sarajevo Jewish community has made every effort to ensure the continuity of Jewish life, with holidays celebrated and a Jewish calendar and community bulletin published, all with JDC’s help. Special Passover foods have been added to the regular convoys in each of the past two years, and Yom Kippur services were led last fall by the rabbinical candidate from Sarajevo whose studies in Israel are being sponsored by JDC, with help from the Rich Foundation.

CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

JDC’s financial support enabled the local Jewish communities in Croatia and Slovenia to operate cash assistance programs for approximately 90 mostly elderly members last year. Over the past three years, JDC has also cared for nearly 900 Bosnian Jews who had taken refuge in Croatia, 85 percent of whom have by now resettled in Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, or elsewhere. JDC is still responsible for a residual caseload of about 120 refugees deemed incapable of looking after themselves: the elderly who have no place to go, divided families with a spouse still in the war zone, and more recent arrivals who are trying to resettle elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia but finding it difficult given the area’s weakened economies.

Many of the elderly refugees arrived frightened and desperately worried about their future. They had spent decades rebuilding their lives after World War II, only to find that they had once again lost everything and—as in the postwar period—were dependent on JDC for their survival. To help boost their morale, JDC helped them establish a modest self-help effort called the Menorah Club, which has evolved into a Jewish handicrafts workshop for refugees in Split, Makarska, Zagreb, and now Belgrade. Club members have crocheted thousands of distinctively designed kippot (yarmulkes) which JDC has been distributing for sale in Jewish communities in the United States, Canada, Europe, and South Africa. Half the proceeds go to the refugees as wages, giving them a renewed sense of dignity and usefulness; the profits have gone for needed items such as eyeglasses, with a donation made to help repair the synagogue in Split, where the community has been so helpful.

In Zagreb, JDC continues to support the Svarc Old Age Home, which remains the only Jewish old age home in the former Yugoslavia. It is filled to capacity with 80 residents, including some 20 Bosnian refugees and other non-Croatians, and about 50 other refugees are among the 90 people on the waiting list. JDC has been encouraging the community to expand home care services and explore the development of new outpatient facilities to help those awaiting placement.

JDC supports the infrastructure of the Zagreb community, which has been coping with a difficult budget crisis throughout the past year. The local communities continue to benefit from JDC-sponsored leadership development and training efforts, including training programs for student madrichim (youth counselors). Two candidates from Croatia participated in the Buncher Community Development Program in Israel in 1994, while others participated in programs offered by the European Council of Jewish Communities, including its conference on Jewish media.

JDC also supports a variety of activities in the areas of Jewish education and culture. In response to repeated requests from the community, it is currently sponsoring the work of a Jewish educator from Israel who is teaching Hebrew classes for different age...
groups and has organized a variety of youth programs and Shabbat activities. The Jewish kindergarten in Zagreb provides a quality program, funded equally by parents, the government, and JDC; the Croatian Union of Jewish Students publishes its own journal with JDC's financial support; and an ORT computer center for computer training and Jewish education through ORTNET was installed with JDC's assistance last year in the Zagreb community center. Last summer, JDC enabled 35 children from Croatia to attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, and 50 people participated in the family camp held at the summer's end.

With assistance from the Rich Foundation, JDC recently helped to publish a primer on Judaism in Serbo-Croatian as well as a prayerbook in Hebrew and Serbo-Croatian that was last reprinted before World War II. It also continues to ship kosher food and religious supplies from Israel and to sponsor communal seders. Under JDC's auspices, the rabbinical candidate from Sarajevo has been returning from Israel twice a year to lecture and conduct workshops in Judaism throughout Croatia. After giving a series of lectures at the Szarvas family camp, he spent part of the High Holidays in Zagreb and Split. He has been reaching out to the smaller communities as well as to the refugees in Split and Makarska, helping to bring them a taste of tradition and a measure of spiritual comfort and support.

YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO)

Over the past year, JDC's response to the crisis-engendered needs of the Jewish communities of Yugoslavia has evolved into a comprehensive social relief program that is being financed in cooperation with World Jewish Relief (U.K.) and the Social and Cultural Trust Association of Geneva. In January 1995, JDC and World Jewish Relief leaders journeyed to Belgrade to view the program firsthand and help overcome this Jewish community's feeling of isolation. The visit was also intended as a strong sign of support for the community's ongoing efforts to help others. For despite their own very real difficulties, the Jews of Serbia have continued to concern themselves with the welfare of Jews living in Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia, and they have taken care to reaffirm the welcome they first provided to large numbers of refugees by actively working to integrate into the community all who wished to resettle there.

Although JDC had been providing food packages on a modest scale since the winter of 1992-93, it became clear two years ago that the community's many elderly pensioners and its ill and unemployed members were unable to cope with the soaring prices for basic goods that followed the imposition of U.N. sanctions. Some were facing a real danger of starvation, and with normal channels of supply cut off, all were increasingly affected. Medicines became virtually unobtainable, and securing adequate food and other necessities became a real problem. An emergency food distribution was made to Belgrade community members in December 1993 from reserve stocks purchased earlier; similar distributions were made in the Jewish communities of Novi Sad, Subotica, and Pancevo.

By the end of the past year, 7,000 family food packages containing a variety of staples had been shipped in and distributed to those households deemed most vulnerable. Their needs had been evaluated through home visits made by the Federation of Jewish Communities' social relief team, which supervises the assistance program and continues to monitor the situation of pensioners, resettled Bosnian refugees, social cases—whose number had doubled by January 1994, and families with small children. Rent subsidies continue to be provided to about 70 refugee families to help them cope with Belgrade's exorbitant rents.

Additional food, medicines, and new clothing have been donated by various European Jewish com-
munities and channeled to those in need. Help has also been extended to the small Jewish communities in Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia. At one point last year, gifts of food were sent across the front lines to reach a few elderly Jewish widows living in near isolation in the Maglaj pocket. Although currency reforms and an easing of sanctions last fall have helped put a brake on inflation, requests for food packages continue, albeit at a reduced level.

With JDC's active support, a special medical dispensary was set up by the federation last year to meet the community's pharmaceutical needs, including those of about 1,000 chronically ill individuals who had no other way to obtain their medications. Over 16,000 prescriptions were filled through this dispensary in 1994, with 300 to 500 people served each month.

Food and medicines have also been made available to local non-sectarian institutions, including hospitals, old age homes, and a school for the blind. Cataract implants provided by a U.S. donor were supplied last year to an eye clinic in Belgrade, and special medical assistance was provided to strengthen the immune systems of children suffering from cancer who had been undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment.

The Jewish communities in Belgrade and elsewhere in Serbia have responded to the war situation with an increased cohesiveness that has brought forth a new thirst for Jewish knowledge and an expanded demand for a wide range of Jewish cultural and educational activities. JDC continues to support the infrastructures of the federation and the local communities and has been helping them to meet these stepped-up demands. With the help of extrabudgetary donations, JDC has renovated and equipped community centers in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Sombor, and Zemun to accommodate activities such as Hebrew classes, concerts, women's programs, choirs, social clubs, and youth groups, all of which are flourishing.

Demand for participation in the various sessions of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Camp at Szarvas, Hungary has been equally fierce. Some 80 youngsters from Serbia attended the regular camp sessions in 1994, and about 200 community members participated in the family camp held at the season's end, including Jews from the war-torn communities of Banja Luka and Doboj.

With JDC's support, local community members continue to be active participants in a variety of leadership development and training programs, including the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program, the Israel Folk Dance Institute in London, training seminars for youth leaders, and various programs offered by the European Council of Jewish Communities.

For the past six years, JDC has sponsored the studies in Israel of a rabbinical candidate from Serbia who had traveled home periodically to conduct Passover and High Holiday services and workshops and JDC-sponsored communal seders. He returned to Belgrade early in 1995 to take up his duties as a full-fledged rabbi, again with JDC's support. In addition to his activities in Belgrade, the rabbi will be traveling to the smaller communities to teach Judaism and conduct services. JDC continues to ship in kosher food and religious supplies, the demand for which is expected to increase as a result of the interest and enthusiasm generated by the new rabbi among this newly energized Jewish population.
FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

JDC continued to provide modest support in 1994 to help maintain the infrastructure of this small Jewish community, almost all of whose members live in Skopje. Social assistance is provided to a handful of cases; food is shipped in for Passover, a community member was sent for training at the Israel Folk Dance Institute, and JDC has been helping the community obtain needed medications from various foreign donors.

HUNGARY

An exciting new element was injected into Hungarian Jewish communal life last fall with the opening of the Balint Jewish Community Center, the first facility of its kind to be established in Eastern Europe in nearly 60 years. The project was initiated by JDC over two years ago and was made possible by funding from World Jewish Relief (U.K.), the World ORT Union, and the Doron Foundation, in cooperation with the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities. World Jewish Relief was also instrumental in securing a major donation from the Balint family, a London family of Hungarian origin. JDC saw the establishment of the center as a vital element in the evolution of this resurgent Jewish community and a natural outgrowth of the Jewish social and cultural activities that it had been quietly helping to nurture in Hungary since well before the end of the communist era. Indeed, the center has already become a focal point for the community and the locus for many JDC-supported programs, as the narrative that follows will illustrate.

At the same time, JDC’s social welfare efforts on behalf of elderly Holocaust survivors in Hungary continue; these are implemented through the Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation that it helped establish in November 1990. Most of the survivors are in poor health and, without JDC’s support, would be unable to afford sufficient food, warm clothes, heat, or medical attention. Policy guidelines and criteria for social assistance are determined by a board of directors that includes representatives of the foundation, JDC, the Rabbinate, and highly qualified community members from a variety of professional fields.

Monthly cash assistance was provided last year to 2,423 individuals living in Budapest and the provinces, and special grants were provided to help with emergency needs. Adjustments were made during the course of the year to help assistees cope with the 15-20 percent increase in the price of basic commodities that went into effect on January 1, 1994; this was accompanied by sharp rises in housing maintenance fees and the cost of medications and utilities. The caseload is expected to increase this year as economic conditions become more difficult, making more elderly Jews in need of and eligible for assistance.

In addition to cash grants, food support was provided to nearly 1,200 people in Budapest last year via hot kosher lunches served at dining halls throughout the city and a meals-on-wheels and food package delivery program. Community volunteers have become a permanent part of these efforts, helping to deliver hefty packages of staple foods to the homebound every two months. A dietician recently hired with JDC funds has been improving the nutritional quality of the food prepared at the Budapest Central Kitchen, which is operated by the Hungarian Jewish community with major support from JDC. JDC also supports three kosher canteens in the provinces that provide warm meals to about 145 individuals each day, and it helps the Orthodox community with its food program in Budapest for some 175 impoverished elderly.
Efforts continued in 1994 to improve conditions in the three Jewish old age homes—two in Budapest and one in Szeged—that JDC helps to support. In addition to expanding and renovating the physical facilities, an extensive health survey was undertaken to determine the health status of all residents and develop a better picture of their individual needs.

To facilitate the integration of a growing caseload of Jewish elderly into the homecare programs run by Budapest's district governments, JDC has for the past few years been providing municipal social workers with professional training seminars and study opportunities. Some 200 Jewish elderly are expected to benefit from municipal services in 1995, with close cooperation now firmly established between the foundation and various local municipalities.

Enhancing the quality of life for the elderly has been a JDC priority, and it is currently helping to support the five day care centers and pensioners clubs that have been established in Budapest and Szeged, two of which were opened in 1994. Nearly 550 lonely, elderly Jews regularly attend the centers, where they are provided with meals and a variety of organized activities. A monthly club newsletter begun in 1994 became an instant success; it lists upcoming activities at all the centers and enjoys great popularity among the elderly. The Jewish Braille Institute of America has been helping to implement a special program for the visually impaired that includes a lending library of talking books and listening equipment. A particular effort was made in 1994 to address the needs of a group of developmentally disabled adults living in one of the community's old age homes.

About 100 students at the various Jewish schools paid regular visits last year to the elderly, the sick, and the homebound as part of an organized program developed by JDC to help inculcate—among children and adults—the importance of communal involvement and responsibility as a vital part of the Jewish tradition. The students have been a source of joy to the mostly elderly people they visit, and both sides have benefited from the many intergenerational relationships that have been established.

JDC continues to provide technical assistance to Budapest's Jewish kindergarten and two Jewish day schools; it helps the Federation of Jewish Communities with its Talmud Torahs and the Orthodox community with its kindergarten program; and it helps fund the operating cost of the Anna Frank High School. This community high school had a student enrollment of 250 in 1994-95, up from 190 in the previous academic year. An experimental, government-approved diploma course for Jewish social work assistants was begun at the high school last year with JDC's help; 11 students are currently enrolled in the program.

The summer of 1994 marked the fifth anniversary of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, which continues to attract more and more Jewish children from Hungary and neighboring countries. Some 1,800 youngsters and families from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union participated in the different camp sessions, including the family camp that brought the season to its successful conclusion. Construction completed in 1994 increased camp capacity by 15 percent, but a substantial number of Hungarian children still had to be turned away.

Last summer's camp theme was "The Amazing and Wonderful World of the Bible." With the help of Israel's Melitz Institute, the education program was enhanced and an individualized system adopted that helped campers develop their own area of spe-
cial interest within the general program. For the many children who come from localities with no active Jewish community, it is not just the formal program but the camp’s everyday activities that bring their hazy impressions of Judaism to life. Some begin for the first time to associate being Jewish with feelings of joy, happiness, and pride, while all return home with a new knowledge and appreciation of their Jewish identity—that is the “magic of Szarvas.”

As indicated earlier, the new Balint Jewish Community Center has already become a veritable beehive of activity. Key community organizations and institutions are represented on the center’s independent board of directors, and while JDC staff members are currently helping to supervise operations, the goal is to turn over all responsibility to the community in two years. In addition to facilities for meetings and social and cultural events of all kinds, the center has an arts and crafts facility for children that was funded by the Doron Foundation and an up-to-date computer center funded by the World ORT Union. The center is also home to the new Holocaust Survivor Crisis Intervention Center, which had begun operating at a temporary location in January 1994. Survivors now have a warm meeting place and access to psychological counseling or treatment, if needed. They can also take part in a personal history project in which Jewish students have become actively involved, thereby giving the younger generation an opportunity to learn more about their elders and about Hungarian Jewish life.

The JDC-sponsored Jewish Educational Resource Center, now also housed in new facilities in the community center building, has become one of JDC’s most successful country programs. It provides Jewish educational materials to a broad range of educators and youth movements and has computer links to major universities in Israel and the Diaspora. JDC periodically updates the center’s collection of books and tapes, adding new Hungarian-language materials as they become available. Resource center personnel have been specially trained to assist in the development of curricular materials; the center has therefore become a major source for teaching materials developed by Hungarians for Hungarians. It also conducts a variety of seminars for local educators and madrichim (youth counselors).

JDC supported a broad range of informal Jewish educational and cultural activities last year, in cooperation with a series of partners. Programs included a Hanukkah torch run, candle lighting ceremony, and holiday carnival at the new community center which attracted over 500 people and proved to be one of the largest community events of recent years. Part two of a cantorial training seminar sponsored by the Lorber family was held in June 1994, with 20 participants from Hungary and other Eastern European countries studying the music of the High Holidays. The Yavneh-Lauder Youth Theater continues to draw appreciative audiences of 200 to 300 people to its imaginative performances in Budapest and the provinces; the children performed in Pecs and Szeged in 1994 and were invited to be part of Jewish Culture Week in the city of Tata. Weekly Israeli folk dance sessions and classes at the new community center are led by graduates of the Israel Folk Dance Institute in London whose training was sponsored by JDC; they have also formed a performing troupe that is adding excitement and vibrance to the expanding Jewish cultural scene.
JDC enables community members to participate in a variety of leadership and professional training programs, such as the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program. This had four local candidates in 1994, including the director of the new community center. JDC continues to subsidize the operation of the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary whose students have begun playing an increasingly active role in the community. In partnership with Jerusalem’s Schocken Institute, the Rabbinical Seminary, and the local community, JDC helps to support the Pedagogium, a Jewish teacher training institute that includes community work among its requirements. The Pedagogium’s students and alumni are a source of vital need educators for the Jewish schools as well as potential community leaders.

JDC continues to help the community meet its religious needs; it provides many assists with a small supplementary grant to help with their Passover expenses and supplies various religious items to those lacking the means to purchase them. It also participates in the cost of a rabbi for the Orthodox community and a ritual slaughterer who provides kosher meat for the canteens.

The Hungarian Union of Jewish Students, which is supported by JDC, has been increasing its membership and activities. JDC also helps to support the five Jewish youth movements active in Hungary today, providing them with both technical and financial assistance for various programs. These youth groups are an important part of Hungarian communal life and are contributing greatly to the development of a new generation of leaders for this increasingly active Jewish community.

**ROMANIA**

The death of Chief Rabbi Dr. Moses Rosen, the renowned leader of the Romanian Jewish community, in May 1994, marked the end of an era for the community and for JDC, with whom the Rabbi had maintained both a special friendship and an important working relationship.

Professor Nicolae Cajal, an eminent physician and scientist and a highly regarded humanitarian leader, was elected president of FEDROM, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, in July. With the positions of president and chief rabbi now separated, a new chief rabbi is actively being sought by the community with help from JDC. At the same time, an overall reorganization has been under way aimed at decentralizing the Jewish communal structure and transferring a variety of functions to newly empowered local communities. Initial plans have also been discussed for identifying and developing a new generation of professional and lay leaders who can continue the work of those who have served the community so faithfully for many years.

Romania’s economy remained fairly stagnant in 1994, and the standard of living, particularly for pensioners, continued to fall as food and energy costs spiraled ever upward. Though spot shortages—particularly of dairy and meat items—still exist, most foods and other basic goods are available in Romanian markets; the general population, however, can ill afford them and pensioners in particular are forced to call on their families for help in making ends meet. This is not an option for the 1,300 elderly Jews who received monthly cash grants in 1994 from the Jewish community with JDC’s help. Most are Holocaust survivors with no relatives left to turn to; their pension income is very limited or non-existent, and many are in increasingly poor health. Winter relief grants were also provided to 2,520 individuals last year to help them purchase the heat and basic foods needed to withstand Romania’s harsh climate. All of these grants are made by the social assistance department of FEDROM, through which JDC operates its Romanian programs.
JDC budget constraints forced the elimination last year of a contingency fund that had served to provide emergency food packages in the latter half of 1993 to almost 2,000 individuals. These were community members who suddenly found—that they could not afford to feed themselves, given the sharp increase in food and energy costs that followed the government’s sudden removal of subsidies and price controls. Most have now adjusted—albeit painfully—to the new economic realities, while a small number have been added to the community’s regular caseload.

JDC also helps fund FEDROM’s network of 10 kosher canteens, which served over 500,000 subsidized hot meals last year. The canteens provide both nutritional and social benefits to their many lonely, elderly patrons. In keeping with the community’s gradual decrease in size, the canteen in Dorohoi was closed at the end of July. Meals-on-wheels were delivered to 660 homebound elderly in Bucharest and 300 in the provinces; the meals include enough food for one main meal a day and are currently being delivered three or four times a week. Some 2,700 assistees and community workers received food packages last year that they consider critical to their survival. The program consists of eight packages, most of which are keyed to pre-holiday delivery, with four additional packages provided to the 600 assistees living in smaller towns with no kosher canteens. This is the most visible and valued of the programs supported by JDC in Romania, and its impact remains tremendous.

With some 3,200 assistees and community workers provided with basic clothing and linens last year, JDC continues to seek in-kind contributions to replenish stocks of these greatly needed items. FEDROM’s comprehensive medical program served 1,122 elderly Jews in 1994 at the Bucharest Polyclinic and in small clinics in 19 other communities, while home care was provided to 337 individuals. A new supervising physician for the provinces is currently working with the local physicians to identify individuals with particular problems and provide them with the medical equipment or special treatment that they need.

Through the efforts of a newly hired supervisory pharmacist, vast improvements have been made in the medication distribution system run by the Bucharest Polyclinic, thereby finally providing proper coverage to chronically ill elderly Jews throughout the country. Over 2,630 assistees and nursing home residents received medications and pharmaceutical supplies through this program in 1994; this increase of about 500 from the previous year coincided with a significant cut last May in the government’s own subsidized purchasing program. Since many medications continue to be scarce in Romania, JDC purchases some abroad; it also continues to seek large-quantity donations.

With JDC’s help, two old age homes in Bucharest and two small, family-style homes in Transylvania
have been serving the rapidly aging Jewish population. After careful evaluation, it was decided that one of the Transylvania homes will be closed when feasible as the size of the population continues to decline. The Rosen Home in Bucharest underwent a partial renovation in 1994 and absorbed 32 former residents of the Balus Home. The latter were transferred to the Rosen Home late in 1993 in keeping with the plan to bring this home up to its full capacity and to downsize and eventually close the Balus facility. The Rosen Home is expected to serve 191 elderly in 1995, the Balus Home, 57 or fewer. JDC will be sending an Israeli occupational therapy consultant to Romania this year to evaluate the possibility of implementing new treatment programs that can improve the quality of life for nursing home residents.

Additional progress was made last year in expanding the Jewish Braille Institute of America’s program for the visually impaired elderly into the Bucharest community, with a reading and lecture club on Jewish topics established at one of the kosher canteens. JBI is currently serving about 60 elderly Jews in Bucharest; comprehensive home visits are a key aspect of its work, and it has also produced a significant series of “talking books” in Romanian on subjects of Jewish interest.

JDC continued to provide the community with various religious items purchased abroad last year, as well as the services of a ritual slaughterer and two kashrut supervisors for the community’s old age homes and canteens. Special packages and cash grants are given to assistees and community workers before Passover, and matzah purchased in Israel by JDC is distributed by FEDROM to the entire community.

JDC supports the administrative costs of the FEDROM social assistance department, the majority of whose staff members are partially compensated pensioners. To facilitate the handling of the social assistance caseload as well as the operations of FEDROM’s accounting and property management departments, a computerization program was developed in collaboration with JDC-Brookdale in Israel; implementation got under way in 1994. The program is one of a series of administrative improvements made by FEDROM’s director-general, a Romanian speaker from Israel recruited and sponsored by JDC. The director-general has also been working to maximize FEDROM’s income from communal properties.

A JDC Leadership Mission to Romania in the fall of 1994 provided JDC officers and board members with an in-depth review of all JDC-supported programs. This high-level visit was deeply appreciated by FEDROM’s leaders and staff. Coming not long after Rabbi Rosen’s death, it gave the community a renewed sense of security regarding JDC’s continuing support for FEDROM and its programs—and for the elderly Jews of Romania who depend on them.

**POLAND**

The embryonic social service initiated by the Jewish community two years ago with JDC’s encouragement and support developed in 1994 into a full-fledged social service department serving both central and outlying Jewish communities throughout the country. The JDC-sponsored welfare program is administered by the Central Jewish Welfare Commission and by local welfare commissions, which are comprised of representatives of each of the five major Polish Jewish organizations. The central commission determines who qualifies for assistance based on criteria agreed upon with JDC, and, with JDC’s professional guidance, it has assumed greater responsibilities.
responsibility for the care of the elderly. One full-time and seven part-time social workers have been hired; in-service training has been provided both in Poland and at JDC’s Budapest office; improvements have been made in the computerization of the caseload; and the department’s full-time social worker in Warsaw participated in the Buncher Community Development Program in Israel last spring.

To help solidify this professionalization of services, JDC arranged for a learning exchange program late in 1994 between the commission and Baltimore’s Jewish Family and Children’s Services. Two staff members from Baltimore journeyed to Poland in November; this was followed by an extended study program in Baltimore for the commission chairman and for a Krakow-based social worker.

Approximately 1,580 cases—comprising both couples and individual Holocaust survivors—received cash assistance from JDC in 1994 through JDC’s office in Krakow. The payments—a vital supplement to modest pensions—are critical to the assistees’ ability to keep pace with rising prices for food, energy, and other basic goods that have made Poland look more and more like a Western nation. Many of these aging survivors are in increasingly poor health, and JDC has established a small program to purchase services to meet the home care and medical needs of those in the worst economic straits.

During the course of the past year, virtually all new cases and hundreds of at-risk or assisted elderly who had never before been visited were seen by one of the social workers. The visits enable the social work staff to uncover changes in welfare and medical needs and to see how their clients are managing. Staff members have also been helping the elderly apply for any public entitlements or voluntary services available to them; as a result, some have now qualified for higher pensions as war-related invalids and are no longer in need of JDC assistance. It is already clear that the new social service department is making a difference in the lives of its clients, as staff members provide both significant practical assistance and emotional support to these lonely, elderly Jews.

JDC continues to fund the seven kosher canteens maintained by the Jewish Religious Community of Poland (JRCP); they provided over 70,000 free meals last year to needy, elderly Jews throughout the country. Medications unavailable in Poland or beyond the financial reach of the elderly are purchased abroad by JDC.

World Jewish Relief (U.K.) again provided funds in 1994 to supplement JDC’s purchases, and JDC continues to seek in-kind contributions to meet the increasing need. JDC has also been providing limited help to younger, disabled and unemployable Jews. Most are children of assistees who have been living with their elderly parents and adding to their financial distress.

For the past few years, the Jewish Braille Institute of America has been helping to improve the quality of life for the visually impaired by providing them with special materials and social services. JBI expanded its program in Warsaw last year and has collected an extensive library of materials in Polish, Yiddish, Russian, and other languages for use in communities throughout the country.

JDC provides regular support to the Association of Holocaust Children in Poland, a self-help organization for those who were hidden by non-Jews during the Holocaust. The association now has a membership roll of over 350. Many of its members only recently discovered their Jewish origins; some have children and grandchildren who are now becoming involved in Jewish communal activities. JDC is working with the association to help develop a coun-
eling program for its members and expand its Jewish cultural and educational activities.

JDC is the primary source of financial support for the activities of the Jewish Religious Community of Poland, although it continues to work with JRCP to help it pursue additional sources of income. JRCP has been maintaining synagogues and religious services in 15 localities; it organizes public holiday celebrations; and it publishes a calendar-almanac. JDC provides the community with religious items, with kosher food for its canteens, and with Passover supplies.

Since JDC was able to return to Poland in 1981, it has helped provide a variety of Jewish cultural events and activities through its support for the TSKZ, the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews, which has 15 branches throughout the country. Responding to the demand for more intensive Jewish programming from those seeking to learn more about their heritage, TSKZ has developed a host of new activities for children, young adults, and women. These include a Sunday School, a new youth section with Sunday afternoon activities for teenagers coordinated by Israeli counselors, and a women’s group that meets weekly. A first-ever Passover seminar was held early last spring at the community camp in Srodborow; it was a direct outgrowth of TSKZ participation in the Hanukkah conference for Jewish educators and community leaders that JDC had helped organize in Hungary the previous year.

Many in the emerging group of younger Jews have participated in other programs instituted over the past few years at Srodborow, including monthly Jewish cultural retreats, holiday celebrations, winter seminars, and a Jewish summer camp that had some 225 participants in 1994. The Israeli educator who conducted the Passover seminar returned to teach at the camp last summer and helped to enhance the program’s Jewish content. JDC also enabled 40 Polish youngsters to attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary last year. The first two stages in the much-needed process of renovating the Srodborow campsite have now been completed, with technical and financial assistance from JDC and additional financial support from the Doron Foundation and the Meyerhoff Family Funds.

Over the past year, JDC has intensified its Jewish cultural and educational initiatives, with a new full-time consultant on community organization and Jewish education and culture taking up residence in Warsaw last May. The consultant has established a national commission to facilitate inter-organizational planning and cooperation and has targeted the TSKZ, the Association of Holocaust Children in Poland, and the Polish Union of Jewish Students for particular help in expanding their Jewish programming and leadership development activities. Representatives from the major Polish Jewish organizations vied to participate in the two highly successful youth leadership training seminars organized to date—they were the first training programs for youth leaders to be held in Poland since the 1950s.

The JDC consultant is working closely with the newly hired director of the Resource Center for Jewish Education, for which JDC has provided technical assistance and financial support, along with the Doron and Meyerhoff foundations and the TSKZ. The center’s collection of written materials and videotapes grew significantly in 1994, along with the demand for its services from the full range of Polish Jewish organizations. The materials used at the youth leadership training seminars, at the Srodborow winter camp, and at the annual assembly of the Polish Union of Jewish Students, for example, were all prepared by the center. A broad-based advisory committee has been established to guide the center in its work and help it respond to the Jewish educational needs of all client organizations, thereby fulfilling the community-building goal that JDC had in mind when it initiated this project.
Bulgaria

Bulgaria continues to experience serious difficulties in making the transition from totalitarianism to democracy and from a planned economy to a free market. The limited amount of privatization that has taken place has introduced some fancy western commodities and shops, but the majority of the people cannot afford to enjoy these innovations. On the contrary, an inflation rate that more than doubled to 122 percent in 1994, an unemployment rate of 16.5 percent, and the increasing boldness of organized crime have contributed to a decrease in personal security and the general impoverishment of the population.

Pensioners have been particularly hard hit; according to government statistics, nearly all of them are now living below the poverty line, trying to eke out a bare existence on a monthly stipend of about twenty-four dollars. A rudimentary diet of bread, milk, yogurt, and cheese now costs a dollar a day—with some of these items having more than quadrupled in price since January 1994—and this does not include the purchase of any vegetables, fruit, meat, medications, or heat.

Since 1991, JDC has been providing Shalom, the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, with funds for cash grants to elderly Jewish pensioners, most of whom have no families left in the country. Many were reluctant to turn to the community for help, but as their economic situation deteriorated, the program has taken on life-saving dimensions. A recent letter from the president of Shalom was signed by 420 pensioners and conveyed their “profound gratitude” for JDC’s support “in this hard time of crisis in our country,” asserting that life for most of them would be “impossible” without JDC “giving them the chance to cover their acute needs.”

Shalom, which is comprised of 19 branches and a central body, runs a variety of Jewish cultural and educational activities in addition to its social welfare programs. JDC, which was invited to return to Bulgaria in 1990 and opened an office in Sofia in 1992, initiated many of these programs and has been helping to train a new generation of young people poised to take over organizational leadership. New rules for the cash assistance program went into effect in 1994 committing the heirs of all assistees to return the face value of the accumulated monthly support to the community; the rules have resulted in a reduction of the caseload from 1,700 to 1,434.

Meanwhile, the canteen maintained in the community building is proving to be a very popular form of assistance, serving subsidized hot lunches to over 65 people each day. Shalom continues to operate a central dispensary for medications purchased with JDC funding both locally and abroad and is providing some 800 chronically ill individuals with subsidies for their purchases that range from 50 to 100 percent. JDC sponsored flu inoculations for the elderly and for children in the Jewish kindergarten and school last winter. During the subsequent flu epidemic, the Jewish school was the only one in Sofia that remained open. Shalom operates a dental clinic in the school that is supported by JDC; it provides services to the elderly in the afternoons, charging only for the cost of preparing the materials needed. A new dental chair and other equipment that was installed in the clinic early in 1994 have greatly im-
proved the quality of service; they were purchased with a generous donation from World Jewish Relief (U.K.), which is working closely with JDC in support of Bulgarian Jewry and recently financed a survey of the renovations needed in the community building.

The number of elderly aided by Shalom's model home care program increased from 32 to 44 last year. The program was initiated with JDC's encouragement and technical assistance and is funded jointly by JDC and the Sofia Municipality. It provides the homebound with food for three meals a day, cleaning services, and regular visits from a team that includes a doctor, a nurse, and a social worker; the program is proving to be as helpful as it is versatile. JDC also initiated the training of retirees to help staff the three pensioners' clubs that are now operating in Sofia, Russe, and Plovdiv. The clubs offer a variety of cultural activities and exercise programs geared to the elderly; the club in Sofia alone already has 60 active members.

In addition to insuring the social security of the elderly, the community is now actively concerned with the needs of the youngest generation and is eager to strengthen the Jewish identity of those aged 3 to 18. The methods it has been employing are unique to Bulgaria: Two years ago, Shalom arranged with the government to enroll all Jewish children who wished to participate in one particular elementary school where Hebrew classes would be taught in addition to the regular curriculum. The 40 Jewish children originally enrolled in the school have now grown to 220 (out of a school population of 500), and eight Hebrew classes are under way this year, with plans for a high school class in 1995. With JDC's help, Shalom provides transportation for the Jewish children and a dental clinic program for the entire school. On the kindergarten level, the community is paying for a Jewish teacher in one of the four classes at a municipal early childhood center where 40 Jewish tots have enrolled.

The summer of 1994 saw 200 Bulgarian youngsters take part in a special two-week session at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary that was devoted almost entirely to them. Planning is now under way for a winter camp in Bulgaria for 100 children that will be held in December 1995. There are currently 120 children between the ages of 5 and 16 learning about Judaism, Hebrew, and Jewish history in the community's supplementary school, which was organized by JDC in cooperation with Shalom. The number of children eager to participate in such programs continues to grow as more and more seek to learn about their Jewish heritage.

JDC's Jewish Service Corps volunteers, who have been serving in Bulgaria since 1992, have been working to both stimulate and satisfy that quest for Jewish knowledge among the children—and their parents. Two new volunteers arrived in the fall of 1994 to carry on the projects so ably begun by their predecessors. These include teaching a variety of subjects at the supplementary school, helping to conduct seminars for youth leaders from the provinces, and serving as co-teachers in the kindergarten. The volunteers are also running an adult education seminar, training youth counselors for the camp programs, and organizing monthly outreach projects in provincial communities with significant numbers of young people. They continue to be involved in the activities of the Jewish Resource Center, which was established in Sofia two years ago with JDC's help and a grant from World Jewish Relief.
With financial support from JDC and the Doron Foundation, a variety of Jewish cultural programs have recently been initiated. A Jewish choir was revived in 1994 after a 30-year hiatus, and a new chamber orchestra called Simcba was established whose concerts have proved popular with all Bulgarians. A children’s choir, a Hebrew dance group, and a synagogue choir are all active; concerts are organized for each of the Jewish holidays in the community building; the community newspaper appears bi-monthly; and Shalom has been maintaining an ambitious publishing program. The Doron Foundation has also supported a year’s training in Israel for a community Hebrew teacher and historical publications and research activities important to the community.

JDC, through the Jewish Religious Council, continues to provide the community with religious items, financial assistance for bar and bat mitzvah programs and other life cycle activities, and support for communal Passover seders in Sofia and the provinces. Brit milah (circumcision) ceremonies for 12 youngsters aged 7 to 22 were organized with JDC’s help in December 1994, with 25 additional candidates already waiting their turn. The event was a cause for much excitement in the Sofia community, as people offered the children both their moral support and their heartfelt congratulations. With funding from JDC, a rabbi from Israel began working with the community in August 1994 to meet its growing spiritual needs; he has been concentrating on reviving synagogue services and communal Shabbat celebrations and attracting the participation of the younger generation.

JDC has been helping the Bulgarian Jewish community move toward self-sufficiency through its leadership training programs and its support for the community’s efforts to reclaim communal properties. But even if JDC is able to reduce its financial input as the community’s economic situation improves, its technical expertise and help with cultural and educational programs will be needed for some time to come. Indeed, the letters of thanks sent to JDC by Jewish community leaders, parents, and pensioners attest to the vital role it has been playing in helping the community come as far as it has in such a brief period of time. JDC’s support for Shalom and its activities has enabled Bulgaria’s Jews to attain the sense of security that comes with belonging to an organized community as well as the feeling that they are once again part of the larger Jewish world.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Over the past few years, JDC has been able to reshape its program activities in the Czech Republic as Jewish communities first in Prague and then in Brno and Usti assumed financial responsibility for their social welfare cases with income earned from restored community properties. Cognizant of the fact that communal self-sufficiency depends on more than the availability of financial resources, JDC has been placing most of its emphasis on training programs and leadership development activities that will provide Czech Jewry with the qualified people needed to carry out local initiatives. JDC also provides technical assistance and training for the community’s social welfare programs and support for its Jewish educational and youth activities, which are vital to the renewal of Czech Jewish life.

About 40 elderly Holocaust survivors living in smaller communities in Bohemia and Moravia continued to receive financial assistance directly from JDC in 1994. Funds were also provided to supply medica-
tions not available locally to those in need; in an efficient new system worked out by JDC's Vienna office, purchases are made there and sent to the communities for distribution. JDC is currently working with the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic to develop a viable home care program for the elderly as part of its efforts to help the local communities become effective providers of social services.

During the course of a study mission in July 1994, JDC Board members participated in the official dedication of the Charles Jordan I Ionic, a sheltered housing project for 30-40 residents that was named in honor of the former JDC Executive Vice Chairman who was killed in Prague in August 1967. JDC contributed to the renovation and equipment of this facility, which was established by the Prague community as a first step in addressing the needs of the growing number of aging Holocaust survivors who are no longer able to live on their own. JDC provided help with training and some equipment for the system of home care that is now in place, but the community is still seeking a solution for those who require more serious, long-term medical care.

JDC has been playing an important role in Czech Jewry's ongoing cultural and religious revival, helping the community to develop a variety of initiatives in this field. A Czech/Hebrew edition of Pirke Avot, Ethics of the Fathers, was published by the federation in 1994, the first in a series of basic Jewish texts whose publication is being sponsored in part by JDC to help overcome the shortage of teaching and religious materials. JDC is also helping the federation make its monthly publication a more effective instrument of Jewish education.

The Center for Jewish Education that was established by the Prague community in 1993 with help from the Pincus Fund, the Jewish Agency, and JDC currently has some 200 pupils learning Hebrew and other Jewish subjects in classes organized by the Jewish Agency representative. A graduate of the JDC-Buncher Community Development Program has been teaching Judaism to children at the center and organizing mini family camps at the community retreat house in Krchleby. A new Jewish kindergarten supported by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation was opened in Prague in 1994, with JDC helping to provide teacher training and educational materials.

JDC provides funds for the educational and religious activities organized by the Rabbi of the Czech Republic, who has quickly become an integral part of the broader community. At his request, JDC sent a guest rabbi from Israel to conduct a month-long lecture tour and educational outreach program in the smaller communities early in 1994. JDC also continues to subsidize community Passover celebrations and to send in religious supplies and kosher food.

As it has been doing in each of the past few years, JDC sponsored Czech participation in various multinational training and development programs last year, including the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program; the Jewish educators' conference held in Zwolle, Holland; the LEATID Europe preliminary seminar and consultation in Anieres, Switzerland; and a training institute for youth leaders that was held in Israel in cooperation with the Jewish Agency. JDC is sponsoring the training in Israel of a future Jewish studies teacher.
for the Department of Judaica at the Charles University in Prague, and it is providing some support for a rabbinical candidate for Brno who is currently studying in Jerusalem.

Now that the Jewish Museum in Prague has been restored to the Jewish community, JDC will be helping to train younger staff members and teach them how to make the museum an integral part of community life. JDC has also undertaken to train potential educators from the smaller communities of Bohemia and Moravia, the new team heading the Charles Jordan Home, and additional staff for Prague's home care program.

JDC continues to subsidize the work/study summer camps organized by the Czechoslovak Union of Jewish Youth, which remains one of the few institutions with ongoing activities in both parts of the former Czechoslovakia. Its summer camps are very special: In addition to participating in learning and recreational activities, the young adults help to clean and repair old Jewish cemeteries and the synagogues and historic houses that remain from the old ghettos. Last July, about 40 camp participants restored a 16th century synagogue in Holeslav, Moravia. When their task was completed, the young adults celebrated in a very special way: Using new prayerbooks printed with JDC's help, they conducted the first prayer service to be held in that synagogue since the 1920s.

SLOVAKIA

In contrast to the Czech Republic, where inflation and unemployment have been kept under control, Slovakia has suffered from economic and political gyrations that have made daily life especially difficult for pensioners living on fixed incomes. With JDC's assistance, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia provided cash relief to approximately 150 elderly Jews in 1994, and medications unavailable locally were purchased by JDC's office in Vienna. JDC's support for the kosher kitchens in Bratislava and Kosice enabled the communities there to continue to provide the elderly with subsidized hot kosher lunches despite the increase in food prices and the limited ability of the recipients to pay more for their meals. These communal lunch programs also help to combat the loneliness of the elderly, nourishing souls as well as bodies.

Emerald Age Clubs for the mobile elderly have been established in both of these communities with help from JDC and World Jewish Relief (U.K.), and JDC hopes to upgrade the level of their social and cultural activities in 1995. The Jewish Braille Institute of America has been working through the club in Kosice to help the visually impaired; it enabled the club to establish a lending library of specially recorded Jewish books on tape, and it intends to provide additional equipment periodically.

A comprehensive survey of the elderly and their needs was conducted in Kosice last year by a graduate of the Buncher Community Development Program hired by JDC to work with the pensioners' club as a part-time coordinator and social worker. A limited start has been made in Kosice on a system of visits to the homebound, and JDC is working with both the Bratislava and Kosice communities to develop adequate home care services for the elderly and chronically ill.

JDC continues to work with the federation and with the local communities to encourage the renewal of Jewish life. As part of this effort, it has been providing funds for educational and religious activities organized by the communities' rabbis, whose salaries are paid by the communities with government support. JDC also obtained extra-budgetary financing in 1994 for the renovation of a prayer room in Presov.

During his first year in Bratislava, the American-born rabbi successfully expanded Jewish educational programming there for children and adults and intends to extend his outreach activities to the smaller communities in 1995. JDC has financed the publication of a series of educational brochures about the Jewish holidays that were prepared by the rabbi in the Slovak language. He and his wife are currently running an afternoon Talmud Torah, and they established a day camp last summer with JDC support. Many of the 20 children it attracted were new to the community. JDC is also sponsoring the outreach efforts of a young rabbi from Israel who will be teaching seminars on Jewish historical and religious topics in the provinces.

JDC provides funds to subsidize community Passover seders and sends in kosher food and reli-
gious supplies. It continues to support the Jewish kindergarten in Kosice, and it has been sponsoring the work of an Israeli educator there who has been teaching classes in Hebrew and Judaism, organizing Jewish holiday programs for children and young adults, and training local community members as teachers and youth leaders.

With JDC’s help, Jewish children from Slovakia and their families continue to be enthusiastic participants in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary.

Sixty children and counselors attended the regular camp sessions in 1994, and another 70 Slovak Jews participated in the special “family camp” organized at summer’s end, where they enjoyed lectures and discussions with the Czech rabbi who was serving as a scholar-in-residence.

JDC continues to provide community members with a variety of training opportunities abroad, including the Israel-based Buncher Community Development Program and seminars organized by the European Council of Jewish Communities. The enthusiastic young adults that JDC has been sending each summer to the Israel Folk Dance Institute in London, whose program includes lectures on Jewish subjects, have been attracting large numbers of participants to their classes in both Bratislava and Kosice. JDC will be focusing its training efforts in 1995 on the delivery of social services.

JDC supports the publication of a lively student newspaper, and it subsidizes the summer camps organized in Slovakia by the Czechoslovak Union of Jewish Youth, whose objectives were described above. A union camp held in Mikulas, Slovakia last summer brought Jewish and Christian youth together in an unexpected way. The union had been unable to find accommodations for its members until the Christian Youth of Slovakia offered to share its space; the two groups went on to create a program called “Bridges” in which about 50 Jewish and 35 Christian youth simultaneously rebuilt both a synagogue and a small chapel in the town. They marked the conclusion of their efforts with a joint concert, with Jewish musicians playing in the synagogue and Christian musicians in the church. The two locations were electronically linked so that audiences in both places—about 1,000 in all—could enjoy this shining example of inter-religious harmony.
The diplomatic changes that have attended the Middle East peace process—with Israel and Morocco exchanging liaison offices in recent months—and the Moroccan government’s encouragement of Jewish tourism and trade, have infused the local Jewish community with a new spirit and pride. This has reinforced the vibrancy that has continued to characterize Moroccan Jewish life despite the community’s gradual but significant decline in size, particularly in the provinces.

For example, nearly all the community’s school-age children, some 1,300 youngsters, continue to attend Jewish day schools, even though some have to travel to Casablanca to do so, and over 30 synagogues hold regular services in that city alone. Nevertheless, the community has been having increasing difficulty finding qualified personnel to staff local institutions. JDC has been working to help community leaders maintain the cultural and educational programs necessary to sustain Jewish life and the social services on which a significant percentage of the remaining community has come to depend.

JDC funds helped the Casablanca Jewish community provide monthly cash grants to 249 individuals in 1994, with benefits increased for the first time in two years to help assistees keep up with the rising cost of living. JDC also helped 11 provincial communities provide monthly grants to a total of 164 individuals.
JDC's Objectives in Africa and Asia

- In North African countries where the Jewish populations are slowly but steadily diminishing in size, albeit at different rates, JDC helps communities to maintain the communal institutions necessary for Jewish life.
- Throughout this area, it is a primary JDC objective to ensure that children will have access to Jewish education wherever possible.
- JDC provides various forms of social welfare assistance and institutional support to enable the Jewish aged, sick, and poor to live out their lives with dignity. Those in need have come to represent an increasing proportion of these declining populations.
- Wherever possible, JDC encourages the consolidation of facilities and other ways to utilize communal resources to the fullest.
- In communities with sizable populations of young Jews, like India, JDC has been placing increasing emphasis on cultural and educational activities that strengthen Jewish identity.
- In recent years, JDC has been helping to rescue entire Jewish communities, and it continues to work to assure the safety and well-being of all Jews who reside in these volatile areas.

Statistics

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Jewish Population</th>
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<tbody>
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*Figures are approximate.

[Note: Details of JDC’s efforts on behalf of Syrian Jewry are featured in the Introduction to this Annual Report.]
About 150 individuals benefit each year from a special JDC fund that helps the Casablanca community care for those with special needs. JDC helps pay the salaries of the community's social service staff, and it allocates funds to cover the storage and distribution costs of the clothing, sneakers, medications and other in-kind contributions that it continues to seek abroad.

With JDC's support, OSE (Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants), through its clinics, provides health services to about 1,700 needy Jews in Casablanca, Marrakesh, and Rabat. It also serves the medical needs of residents of the Jewish old age home in Casablanca and of pupils in that city's Jewish schools. With additional funding from JDC, OSE began to implement a new outreach program in 1994 to improve services in the provinces. The program is based on recommendations made following a JDC-OSE assessment of the health needs of the local Jewish poor. OSE continues to face a sharp increase in the demand for emergency hospital care, reflecting the growing medical needs of an aging population, and JDC doubled its contribution for this purpose during the course of the past year.

JDC helps to support the Jewish home for the aged in Casablanca, which in 1992 absorbed some of the residents who remained in the three homes closed that year in Rabat, Marrakesh, and Fez. The Casablanca home provides its 95 residents with a full range of services. In recent years, these have included cultural and recreational activities developed by JDC-sponsored Jewish Service Corps volunteers. A new JSC volunteer arrived in October 1994 to revive the program and has done an outstanding job. She has been involved in a variety of community projects in addition to running the occupational therapy program each afternoon at the Casablanca home. She also began a program of video interviews with the residents of the home that has made their life stories a documented part of the Moroccan Jewish heritage. JDC continues to help the Tangier community maintain two small nursing homes which have a total of about 30 elderly residents, although its overall allocation to that community was reduced in 1994 to reflect newly generated local income (see below).

About 200 senior citizens participated in daily activities and Jewish holiday celebrations last year at two clubs for the elderly that JDC developed in Casablanca in partnership with Lubavitch and Ozar Hatorah. JDC also funds a two-week vacation colony for the elderly at the community campsite in Imouzzer which has 60 participants each year from the Casablanca home and from the provinces.

Enrollment in the four Jewish school systems that JDC subsidizes—Ozar Hatorah, Lubavitch, Ittibad, and ORT—continued its gradual decline last year, and JDC has been encouraging the schools to adopt consolidation and cost-cutting measures where appropriate. JDC is also helping to assure that the educational needs of the few remaining Jewish children in the provinces continue to be met despite the school closings there. To strengthen the Jewish curriculum of the Ittibad schools, JDC initiated a consultation program two years ago which it is currently working to intensify. To assist the schools with in-service training and curriculum improvement, JDC maintains an educational development fund; it also pays stipends to the teachers participating in two evening study programs for men and women.

About 50 teachers and principals took part last July in a two-week seminar conducted by a JDC consultant on learning difficulties encountered in the kindergarten and primary school years; participants were most enthusiastic and eager for a follow-up session. Thanks to the efforts of a JDC board member and the cooperation of Moroccan customs officials and Royal Air Maroc, JDC was able to acquire 50 new computers for use in the schools, children and teachers alike are reported to be equally excited to have these new tools.

With support from JDC, the Lubavitch movement continues to maintain high-quality programs for Jewish youth in Casablanca and Marrakesh; these provide some 300 participants with a wide range of informal educational activities, cultural events, and sports programs. Support was also provided last year for the youth programs maintained in Casablanca and Meknes by DEJJ, the Department Educatif de la Jeunesse Juive au Maroc. Its Casablanca facilities were recently renovated with funds raised by the local board of directors. JDC
also subsidizes summer camps at Imouzzer for about 450 children that are run by these two organizations and by Ozar Hatorah and Aide Scolaire.

A grant from the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation enabled JDC to hire a new DFJJ coordinator for 1994-95 to organize youth program operations and continue the effort begun by the 1993-94 Ralph I. Goldman fellow to develop new activities for young adults. The coordinator started new programs—including a very successful niptn (Hebrew language course)—that attracted additional youngsters to the DEJJ center; she also made good headway with the young adult population.

JDC provided funds last year for a Jewish Heritage Research Project that is being developed in partnership with the local community. The project aims to collect and assess the Jewish books and manuscripts that have been sequestered in genizot (caches for sacred Jewish texts) around the country.

JDC’s efforts to increase communal self-sufficiency continued in 1994. Encouragement was provided to local initiatives such as the DFJJ fundraising campaign and the recently established Casablanca Women’s Committee; the latter managed to secure significant donations of shoes and clothing in 1994 to distribute to the poorest families.

JDC’s country director has been actively involved in the Casablanca community’s Real Estate Commission, which seeks to increase local income from communal properties. As mentioned earlier, the Tangier community has already succeeded in one such venture. A residential construction project completed by that community on an unused piece of communal property generated sufficient local income in 1994 to enable JDC to reduce its allocation to that community by a third. A preliminary inventory report compiled last year by the Goldman Fellow generated much local interest. It is helping to further JDC’s efforts to assist the community in documenting its real property assets and gaining the maximum benefit from their sale or more effective utilization.

**Tunisia**

For the small Jewish population that remains in Tunisia, the government’s agreement last fall to exchange low-level representatives with Israel as well as its ongoing efforts to attract Jewish tourism and investment have generated feelings of hope and excitement over new possibilities as well as some uncertainty as the community adjusts to a new reality.

For eight months in 1994, JDC’s Tunisia program enjoyed the services of a volunteer American couple with expertise in the social welfare and public health fields. Their objective was to help the Tunis community raise its standards of service in caring for the poor and the aging, and they succeeded most admirably in impressing upon local leaders the need for professionally trained personnel. As a result, a registered nurse is now at work at one of the homes for the aged, and JDC has been helping the community seek a qualified candidate abroad to direct the nursing home program (see below). The couple worked hard to improve the quality of life at the existing homes, endearing themselves to the residents in the process; they also helped to assess the needs of the community’s welfare clients.

JDC funded cash grants to 160 individuals living in Tunis and in three provincial towns last year to help them pay for food, rent, and other basic necessities. Nearly all the recipients are elderly Jews who live
alone; some subsist entirely on these grants, while most use them to flesh out meager retirement funds. JDC also helps the community purchase clothing and household items for the neediest community members.

Through the Tunis community, JDC continues to fund medical care for indigent Jews in six localities. As the cost of health care spiraled in recent years, many lower middle class Jewish families have also turned to the community for help. JDC has been supporting two homes, or foyers, for the aged in the Tunis area which last year had a total of 45 residents. Financial considerations, staffing difficulties, and a need to improve services made a merger imperative, and the community decided to renovate the La Goulette facility so that it will be able to accommodate the residents of both homes. JDC is providing an interest-free loan to help fund the renovation work, and by year's end, the renovation plans submitted by the community had been approved by the Tunis municipality. JDC is also providing funds to cover the cost of training the new director who will be hired for the merged home.

JDC continues to help five local communities provide matzah and other Passover items to over 160 individuals, while other local religious needs and institutions are funded entirely by the Tunisian community.

In the field of Jewish education, JDC continues to provide major support for the only Jewish school still operating in Tunis today; it is run by the Lubavitch movement and has an enrollment of 68 children aged 3 to 16. Funds are provided to two Jewish schools in Jerba with a total enrollment of about 250, and JDC supports Talmud Torah classes for some 28 boys and girls in Hara Sghrira and Zarzis. Two JDC Jewish education consultants with much experience in North Africa visited Tunisia this past February to evaluate the educational programs in Tunis and Jerba. They concluded that the schools were indeed serving the purpose for which they had been established but recommended a number of ways to enhance the teaching materials and the learning experience for the youngest generation of Tunisian Jews.

**Yemen**

When Westerners were first allowed to enter the country following the merger of the northern and southern republics in May 1990, JDC, operating initially through the International Committee for the Rescue of the Jews of Yemen (ICROJOY), began sending in Jewish books and religious materials with American visitors. JDC-funded schools were opened in Sa’ada and in Reida in 1991, and JDC began providing welfare assistance to the many poor Jews in this remnant community, which was scattered in small villages across the north.

In 1990, the first Jew to leave Yemen in over 20 years was brought out. Meanwhile, JDC developed a two-pronged strategy to deal with the rescue of this
community. Working together with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), JDC put together a coalition of national Jewish agencies and groups representing the American Yemenite community to work with the various branches of the U.S. government. Key congressmen were involved in this effort, and the State Department treated the plight of Yemen's Jews as a priority issue in its discussions with the Yemenite government.

While these high-level negotiations were under way, JDC began sending in teams of expatriate Yemenite Jews to prepare community members for departure and to help them deal with local officials and the logistical aspects of their impending journey. The details of this heretofore secret operation were revealed after the story broke in the world press in July 1993.

Between 1992 and the beginning of May 1995, over 500 Yemenite Jews had arrived in Israel. The civil war between north and south that broke out anew in May 1994 temporarily halted the flow, but a quieting down of the situation enabled JDC to resume its missions late last summer. This will allow the orderly aliya of the approximately 430 remaining members of this community to continue. JDC is grateful to World Jewish Relief (U.K.), which has been generous in its support for this costly rescue operation.

**TURKEY**

The Jewish community of Turkey is a well-developed and self-sufficient community working within a democratic country in a Moslem world. Recent economic difficulties, including rampant inflation, and the political headway made by the Islamic fundamentalist party in elections held in 1994 have increased community anxiety. On the other hand, relations between Israel and Turkey have in recent years grown much closer, culminating in last October’s visit to Israel by the Turkish Prime Minister.

The past year can be characterized as a year of strengthened ties between JDC and the Turkish community, whose leaders consider JDC’s input and technical assistance vital to their efforts to ensure Jewish continuity. JDC Board members visited the community on a study mission last spring. They joined community leaders, Turkish government officials, and the U.S. and Israeli Consuls in celebrating JDC’s 80th anniversary at the U.S. Consulate—the point of origin for the historic cable sent by then U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau Sr. which led to JDC’s establishment.

JDC has sent expert consultants to Istanbul to provide the community with technical proposals for renovating and upgrading the home for the aged and the Jewish hospital. It also helped secure a major contribution from the Weinberg Foundation for these efforts. In addition to modifying the physical plant, recreational and occupational therapy programs will be provided for the residents to raise the level of geriatric care to Western standards. Progress was made in establishing a multifunctional outreach service center in Istanbul—based on Jewish traditions of badges (charity) and voluntarism—to deal with the welfare needs of the Jewish population, particularly the elderly and the disabled.

JDC has also been helping the community in its efforts to increase and strengthen Jewish educational activities as a bulwark against assimilation. In partnership with the Jewish Agency and the Pincus...
Fund, it is helping the local community develop a bar mitzvah preparation program to supplement afternoon Hebrew school classes for boys aged 7 to 13. The program is set to begin this fall, after the Jewish holidays. Last summer, JDC supported the efforts of an Israeli representative sent by the Jewish Agency who worked with local youth leaders to develop recreational and educational programs for the 400 to 500 Jewish children living on the Islands.

**OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES**

In EGYPT, JDC, in partnership with the remnant Jewish communities in Cairo and Alexandria, provided cash assistance to 39 elderly and impoverished individuals last year, most of whom had no other source of income. JDC also provides funds for medical care and assists with burial costs. The communities’ dwindling income has necessitated an increase in JDC’s share of the welfare program over the past few years to ensure that those assisted continue to have the means to purchase basic necessities in the face of rising costs. JDC also supports a small old age home in Cairo, which has seven residents, and it encourages and supports communal holiday celebrations—providing a cantor whenever possible, Passover supplies for the seder, and kosher foods for other holidays.

Although JDC recently closed its office in ALGERIA, which was no longer being used, it continues to provide supplementary welfare assistance to seven elderly Jews to enable them to live out their lives with dignity. A JDC representative has been maintaining close and caring contact with these frail assistees—who have resisted all efforts to persuade them to leave—and the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic religious order, stands ready to provide them with subsidized medical care if needed.

In the Spanish enclaves of CEUTA and MELILLA, JDC has succeeded in its efforts to encourage communal self-sufficiency with regard to local institutions and welfare needs. In MELILLA, JDC brought in two young volunteers from Buenos Aires last fall to work on youth and community activities and educational outreach programs. They began a lively community paper and have been working closely with local youth leaders, and they have thoroughly ingratiated themselves with all age groups. The community’s kindergarten teacher was sent to Madrid last fall to observe the Jewish kindergarten there in operation, much to the benefit of the youngest tots. In CEUTA, JDC is maintaining its connection with the community and providing some support for its Hebrew classes for 40 youngsters. In other parts of the Moslem world in 1994, JDC continued to help remaining Jewish communities meet their health, welfare, and Jewish educational needs.

**ETHIOPIA**

At the request of the Israeli government and in consultation with the Jewish Agency and the Council of Jewish Federations, JDC continued its assistance programs for Felas Mora in Addis Ababa last year without accepting any additions to its caseload, in keeping with the policy it adopted in December 1993. By the end of 1994, the caseload consisted of approximately 2,400 Felas Mora, most of whom had been supported by JDC since they arrived in the capital with the mass influx of Ethiopian Jews prior to Operation Solomon. The Felas Mora are descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity, and many of them have relatives among the Ethiopian Jews who have already made aliyah.

JDC has been providing this group of Felas Mora with monthly cash grants, food, social service assistance, and medical care when needed, including free medications and a special feeding program for the children. About 1,200 other Felas Mora, who arrived in Addis after explicit messages were sent to the villages in the north that no newcomers would be added to the caseload, continued to receive food and medical assistance in 1994 in response to an Israeli government request.

JDC also provided food, housing, and medical assistance in Addis to a changing group of
about 200 people on the point of leaving for Israel; they are called to Addis from their villages in the north by the Jewish Agency and the Israeli embassy, and their stay in the capital is usually brief. It was agreed last year that Felas Mora still in the north who are declared eligible for aliyab should remain in their villages until shortly before their departure for Israel is set. Nevertheless, despite the efforts of all the involved parties, over 1,000 people arrived in Addis uninvited in the second half of 1994. It is presumed that most returned to Gondar when they did not receive any assistance in Addis.

During the course of the past year, about 110 Felas Mora have departed for Israel each month. No change in that number is anticipated, although the percentage of departees coming from the JDC caseload is expected to increase. It thus appears that JDC will continue to be involved in relief programs in Addis for some time to come, albeit on a decreasing scale.

**INDIA**

JDC’s 1994 program in India was a dynamic one, with the accent firmly on cultural and educational activities for the many young Jews in young communities. Nine weekend or week-long camps were held in connection with school vacations and the Jewish holidays for a wide variety of groups, including families, kindergarten children, a women’s committee, and young couples. Hundreds of Jewish youngsters and young adults in Bombay and five other communities benefited from other JDC outreach activities. These included holiday celebrations—with particularly large gatherings held in Bombay on Hanukkah and Purim—after-school and weekend activities, and classes in the Hebrew language and a variety of Jewish subjects for youth group leaders and others.

A bi-monthly Sunday School kindergarten program begun by JDC’s former youth director continues under local leadership. In addition to providing the children with a superb program, it has resulted in tremendous carry-over to the home as accompanying parents are involved in a simultaneous seminar on Jewish customs and traditions. JDC supported five community Passover seders in 1994, including a public seder for the Jews living in Alibag and the surrounding villages along the Konkan coast. That seder was organized by JDC’s Jewish Service Corps volunteer and was a “first” for many of the participants.

The JDC newsletter, *Kol Bombay*, is now reaching almost 1,000 families throughout the country. With the help of a local editorial board, the paper provides Jewish news and information on community events, as well as articles on Judaism and special features for younger readers. The newsletter, which is being renamed *Kol India*, is proving to be a major force in welding a far-flung group of Jews into one community.

JDC opened Jewish libraries in its Bombay office and in Ahmadabad three years ago, and a special library for children was established in the Thane synagogue. A volunteer reorganized and reclassified the Bombay library last year, and it has become a magnet for both Jews and non-Jews who come to study or do research. The number of patrons has been steadily increasing as young and old, retirees and working-age people drop by to use it, particularly on Sundays and in the late afternoons. The aforementioned volunteer
was part of a “force” of about 50 individuals recruited by JDC over the past few years. They range in age from 22 to 72 and are available for everything from working on office projects to accompanying young people on a Shabbaton (a weekend program). They have given very generously of their time and are very committed to JDC’s efforts in India.

JDC’s social welfare program had the services of a trained social worker in 1994, and a Jewish community member is currently enrolled in a three-year professional training course. She is receiving scholarship support from JDC and will be working as a JDC social worker upon graduation, JDC provided modest monthly grants to about 180 individuals last year to supplement the meager amounts they receive from synagogue trusts. These small sums are a life-line to those whose salaries remain at subsistence levels. JDC also pays for medical care for the neediest. A small fund is provided to cover one-time and emergency needs—sandals, a comb, a blanket, and other such basic necessities that are beyond the means of most of those being assisted.

JDC provided meals last year to about 20 elderly Jewish poor, five of whom spend their days at a day center in the JDC office. It funded residential care in the Bene Israel Home last year for a handful of elderly individuals who had been living in synagogue courtyards or street hutsments, and it continues to seek ways to improve their care.

A local advisory committee was established three years ago to oversee the social assistance program and other JDC activities. The committee has been instrumental in turning this program into a more professional, service-oriented operation. One representative from each of the smaller communities was invited this year to join the committee; this should give JDC a better estimate of the community’s wider interests and concerns.

During the summer of 1994, JDC sent a rabbi from Israel to develop a training program for ritual slaughterers in Bombay. Eleven local community members completed various parts of the course, and the community was delighted with its new access to kosher-certified meat. JDC is also funding the publication of a Hebrew-English-Marathi prayerbook much requested by community members.

In 1992, JDC arranged for the first Indian Jew to participate in the Israel-based JDC Buncher Community Development Program. By the end of 1994, nine community members had graduated from this leadership training program. Three subsequently chose to make aliyah; the rest are serving their home communities in various capacities. While the candidates from the smaller communities—particularly Ahmadabad—have been the most successful to date, JDC is concentrating on recruiting new candidates from the sprawling communities of Bombay and Thane, the centers of Jewish population.

JDC continues to rely on foreign service personnel and Jewish Service Corps volunteers to augment the work of its dedicated local staff in carrying out its program efforts until such time as the communities are able to go it alone.

**CHINA AND MYANMAR**

In MYANMAR (formerly Burma), JDC provided cash assistance in 1994 to seven impoverished members of the remnant Jewish community, which is concentrated in Yangon. In CHINA, quarterly relief grants or pension payments are currently provided to four elderly individuals; the pension payments are the last vestige of JDC’s World War II Shanghai refugee operations.
A terrorist bombing that destroyed the central headquarters of the Argentinean Jewish community in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994 left 87 people dead, 200 wounded, and 900 families with property damaged or destroyed. It was the worst tragedy ever faced by this community, and its destabilizing effect continues to be felt.

Within minutes of the bombing, local JDC staff members were on the scene to help the community as it organized rescue efforts. With much of the community’s social service infrastructure lying in ruins, JDC helped AMIA, the central Jewish federation and welfare society, put an emergency system in place, making its staff available to ensure that desperately needed services would continue. While the search for survivors was still under way, the JDC team helped organize trauma intervention as well as religious and legal assistance for victims and their families, and its staff members worked alongside the large number of volunteers who turned out to help.

Recognizing that both individuals and the community would be in need of long-term aid, JDC opened an Open Mailbox for Argentina Relief; some $475,000 in contributions had been received as of May 1995, including a $100,000 gift from the Weinberg Foundation of Maryland. These contributions have been used to fund a
JDC's Objectives in Latin America

- JDC aims to strengthen the capacities of the Latin American Jewish communities to address problems which affect them individually or collectively.
- It does this by responding to the communities' requests for technical assistance and by helping them to mobilize and make the fullest use possible of their own resources.
- Since Latin American Jewry is able to finance, albeit with increasing difficulty, its own institutions and services, JDC generally provides only seed money for innovative, standard-setting model projects, with all financial commitments of limited duration. These funds have generally produced a multiplying effect equivalent to 250 percent of the initial contribution.

Peggy Myers

JDC promotes regional meetings and cooperative interchange and coordination among communities, and it assists in the development of the smaller communities. It seeks to make strong Jewish communities even stronger and encourages them to reach out to their weaker and more isolated neighbors.

- JDC provides technical assistance and expertise in training lay leaders and professionals, and it is helping to strengthen community organization, planning, and fundraising capabilities.
- In Cuba, JDC is now 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.

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Statistics

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<td>Uruguay</td>
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Regional Programs: $619,900

1 Figures are approximate.
variety of relief programs initiated in
the immediate aftermath of the
bombing. JDC's Executive
Committee, in a conference call on
Yom Kippur Eve, also authorized an
emergency allocation of $800,000
from JDC's Legacy Fund for the
rebuilding of the community; this was
supplemented by $100,000 gifts from
national UJA and from the Epstein
Fund via UJA Federation of New
York, bringing the total emergency
allocation to one million dollars.
A special delegation of JDC
Board members and staff, led by
JDC's President, Ambassador
Milton A. Wolf, traveled to
Argentina in September to convey
the sympathy and support of the
North American Jewish community
and to review with local leaders how
JDC could best assist them.
One of the first programs to
benefit from JDC funding was the
comprehensive assistance program
that JDC staff had helped the
community design for victims and
their families; its effectiveness was
already so apparent that delegation
members designated a substantial
sum during the course of their visit for this year-long
operation. Five hundred families have been assisted
to date. Direct support has been provided to those
who lost their source of income as a result of the
disaster, and teams of psychologists, social workers,
doctors, lawyers, and rabbis have been helping indi­
viduals and families to reconstruct their daily lives.
The extreme vulnerability felt by most
Argentinean Jews immediately after the bombing led
to a massive withdrawal from communal institutions
and events; large gatherings of Jews were deemed
too dangerous, and individuals felt safe only in the
privacy of their homes. The reaction of the general
population helped reinforce these fears. Initial mani­
festations of support soon gave way to an avoidance
of events with Jewish participants, lest one become a
potential target for terrorist attack. Although
community members have slowly begun to rejoin
activities, overall membership in Jewish institutions
has continued to decline, exacerbating a trend
evident well before the July tragedy, and attendance
at communal events has yet to recover.
To help the community overcome its trauma, the
leadership felt it important to attract large numbers
of participants to high-quality programs organized
with the most up-to-date security measures, despite
the considerable expense involved. JDC has helped
to support a number of such activities, including the
Dahah Festival of Jewish Song and Dance which
attracted an audience of 10,000. Support was
provided for the Pan-American Maccabian Youth
Games with 1,200 participants and for a camp held
in Cordoba for 300 teenagers from small and mid­
size Jewish community centers. JDC also joined the
Argentinean government, the United Nations, and
the Catholic Church in supporting the Second
National Meeting of Youth for Peace. Convened by
Maccabi, the meeting drew 2,000 Jewish and non-
Jewish youngsters who demonstrated their support for peace and harmony among ethnic groups.

The economic restructuring that has been carried out in Argentina over the past few years had made the community’s employment bureau one of its most valued services; tragically, the bureau’s entire staff was killed in the bomb blast. JDC has been helping to train new staff members and purchase computer equipment for a reconstituted bureau, which will also provide on-the-job training courses and help for would-be entrepreneurs. With unemployment at an all-time high in Argentina and many members of the Jewish middle class hit hard by the new economic realities, the reestablishment of this community service is more essential than ever.

The catastrophe also added a sense of urgency to the need to address long-standing issues facing the community and to facilitate the reshaping of Argentinean Jewish life. JDC’s emergency allocation is being used to support these efforts through a variety of program initiatives.

The Jewish educational system, for example, has been facing great difficulties in recent years as enrollment rates continued to decline—a result of parental economic problems as well as a deterioration in school standards. A commission of lay and professional leaders supported by AMIA and the Pincus Fund, with technical and financial assistance from JDC, had been looking at ways to improve the situation, with a systematic analysis and evaluation completed just last year. The increased drop-out rate engendered by the July 18th attack, however, made an overhaul of this system an immediate imperative. In cooperation with the Tzedaka Foundation, JDC has established a special fund to implement innovative reforms and upgrade the curricula of these Jewish schools, which have traditionally been a point of pride for the community.

JDC is also assisting those schools and other communal institutions—community centers, congregations, etc.—which are considering mergers in their struggle to survive. An inability to attract new members and, in some cases, to retain current ones had characterized many communal institutions well before the bombing. The cost of additional security measures and a further decline in membership have now rendered many of these organizations financially non-viable.

JDC has been encouraging this trend toward consolidation in the belief that the process, although motivated largely by financial constraints, will in fact bring about a revitalization of communal life. In addition to actively participating in the negotiating process for a number of mergers, JDC has provided professional guidance and financial support for feasibility and planning studies. Necessary retraining for the merging institutions’ employees will be provided in cooperation with LEATID (see Regional Programs, below). LEATID is also organizing a course in crisis management for community leaders and professionals that will enhance their ability to deal with any future emergencies.

JDC continues to assist the development of the Tzedaka Foundation, which was established by community members in Buenos Aires three years ago to support Jewish education and help with social assistance programs. In addition to raising funds, the foundation has been heavily engaged over the past year in the recruitment and training of volunteers willing to assume responsibilities in a variety of program areas.

JDC has been providing technical assistance to community institutions in the areas of fundraising and programming, and it continued its support last year.
for training seminars for lay leaders of Conservative congregations and other networking activities conducted by the local Masorti federation. JDC has also been helping to strengthen and enlarge the work of the Federation of Maccabian Community Centers, which was the organizer of the important communal events described earlier in this section.

Recognizing that a variety of economic and cultural factors had led many community members to become increasingly detached from the organized community and the services it offered well before the bombing, DAIA, the political arm of the community, launched a program of community self-study that involves 100 groups of 30 people each. In addition to helping to fund the program, JDC has been a key participant in its planning. It has also helped to attract motivated participants who can devise concrete action plans and new initiatives to help this heretofore vibrant Jewish community at this critical juncture in its history.

**BRAZIL**

JDC has been helping local federations, community centers, Jewish schools, religious congregations, and other communal institutions to recruit and train lay leaders and professional staff and upgrade their programs and resources.

JDC also continues to foster cooperation and the sharing of resources among institutions and communities. In Curitiba, for example, JDC provided technical assistance last year for the restructuring of the local federation and the implementation of a planning process undertaken by a new generation of lay leaders intent on developing a more organized system for dealing with community-wide problems.

JDC supports the work that the Confederation of Brazilian Maccabian Centers has been doing in the small and isolated Jewish communities of Belem, Manaos, Recife, and Porto Alegre. Professionals have been trained to coordinate activities in these cities, and JDC has been promoting inter-commu-

nity efforts to organize national events, such as a festival of Israeli song and dance or an encounter group for Jewish university students.

In Rio, JDC continued to help strengthen the Board of Jewish Education, which runs five Jewish schools. It provided professional support for curriculum development and for a training program for kindergarten teachers, and it helped establish a new program designed to improve the work of the directors and coordinators of the various schools.

Recognizing that family participation and support are critical elements of the Jewish educational process, JDC has developed a pilot family education program in cooperation with Brazil's largest congregation and cultural center, the Congregation Israelita Paulista. JDC sent the program director on a study mission to Los Angeles last year; an orientation guide was published for families with young children; and several family camps and other living experiences were organized that involved both parents and children as well as grandparents and grandchildren.

**CHILE**

JDC helped to support training seminars last year targeted at a variety of individuals: lay leaders of community institutions, student leaders at various universities, and Jewish social science professionals heretofore not actively involved with the organized
Jewish community. It also continued to subsidize the attendance of community leaders and education professionals at training seminars held in Buenos Aires.

JDC provides several Jewish organizations with professional help in coordinating their social assistance programs in order to maximize existing services for those in need. JDC has also been helping the Estadio Israelita Maccabi—Chile’s only congregation and community center—to develop an outreach program aimed at integrating intermarried couples into the community. The program, which includes the training of special coordinators and the publication of suitable materials, has been developed in conjunction with the Emanu-el Congregation of Buenos Aires.

JDC continues to assist CREJ, the community’s umbrella organization, in its outreach activities in the smaller communities, and it helped launch an in-depth demographic study of the Chilean Jewish community. JDC is currently teaching communal institutions how to use the data produced by this type of study to best advantage, and it is encouraging the development of a community-wide strategic planning process.

**URUGUAY**

Over the past year, JDC has provided support for the plan of action developed by the Board of Jewish Education as a result of a recent study of the drop in student enrollment at the Jewish schools. A new training system for teachers is being implemented; new marketing and communications strategies will be pursued; and work has begun on a potential merger of Montevideo’s three existing Jewish schools.

Last year, for the first time, members of the boards of the three schools participated in a series of intensive training seminars on institutional management sponsored by JDC. The board members concluded that they must begin working together to improve the current education situation in order to provide long-term benefits for the community.

JDC continues to support the reorganization process undertaken by Nueva Comunidad Israelita (NCI), one of the country’s four distinct Jewish communities or kehillot. NCI is a community whose founders came from Central Europe, and it has been functioning very much in the traditional mold. Following a two-year process of organizational analysis and planning, a new development department was established last year and new programs launched in the religious, cultural, and informal Jewish educational fields. These activities have attracted new members to this community. In cooperation with ORT-Uruguay and the local association of Jewish professionals, JDC organized a 200-hour course of study on the management of communal organizations; 30 senior professionals from various community institutions have been participating in the program this year.

**CUBA**

Since official restrictions on religious beliefs and practices were relaxed in Cuba late in 1991, JDC has been helping to foster a revitalization of Jewish life that grows more extensive each year. To provide this assistance, JDC has been working with and through a network of Latin American Jewish communities. In January 1994, JDC convened a meeting in New York of all those organizations, communities, and individuals who have been working on behalf of the
The Cuban Jewish community or are interested in doing so. It was agreed that JDC should act as a coordinator of aid activities and a repository and disseminator of information to the group. The objective is to avoid a duplication of efforts and, equally important, to ensure continuity in this vital endeavor.

For the past three years, JDC has been arranging and sponsoring regular visits to Cuba by a rabbi from Guadalajara, Mexico and by professional youth workers from Argentina. Together they have helped promote a renewal of Jewish religious, cultural, and communal life in a community that had been isolated from the rest of the Jewish world for over 30 years. The Havana community now boasts a newly revived Jewish youth group, a women’s association, a Jewish choir, an Israeli dance group, a theater troupe, and a community newsletter, all of which have benefited from JDC’s encouragement, input, and support.

In addition to serving as year-round coordinator for JDC’s activities in Cuba, the rabbi has also supervised the performance of the first circumcisions, bar mitzvah, and weddings to be held in Cuba in decades. Together with the Havana community, JDC is also assisting the small Jewish communities in Santiago, Camaguey, and Cienfuegos to develop a variety of communal activities. In April 1994, one of the youth workers began a two-year assignment in Havana. He has subsequently become a vital part of this community and is involved in all aspects of Jewish communal life.

Over the past few years, JDC has sent Hebrew and Spanish books to update the Havana community’s Jewish library. It also established a video library of tapes in Spanish on Jewish topics that is being run by a young person trained by one of the youth workers. JDC continues to help strengthen the programs at Tikkun Olam, the Jewish Sunday School, which has grown from 12 students three years ago to about 120 today. Some students travel five to six hours each Sunday to reach the school, so eager are they to learn more about Jewish life.

The Cuban Jewish community, has for years been sending in large supplies of kosher food for Passover, supplies that were actually meant to last the community for a year. With the economic situation so difficult and needs now so much greater, JDC recently obtained permission to ship additional kosher food before three other Jewish holidays—Rosh Hashana, Hanukkah, and Purim. JDC has also been sponsoring the communal celebration of Jewish holidays in Havana and in the smaller communities.

Following a visit to Cuba by JDC’s senior medical consultant, JDC helped the community establish a pharmacy in Havana last year; it is staffed by volun-
Patrovato, Havana’s major Jewish institution, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Those who have recently visited Cuba are inspired by the community members’ motivation and sense of Jewish awareness, and they are particularly impressed by the young leaders’ strong commitment to their community’s continued growth and development.

**REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

JDC continues to support *LEATID*, the Argentina-based training institute that has been serving Jewish lay leaders and professionals from all of Latin America. *LEATID* provides courses and seminars for lay and professional leaders as well as in-service training programs for both senior and junior professionals in their home communities. *Amit*, a *LEATID* training program specifically designed for young lay leaders, is now in its third year; 30 participants from a broad range of Jewish community institutions took part in this year’s program of intensive seminars and a study mission to Israel. In 1994, *LEATID* organized a follow-up program for its graduates that enables them to share experiences and encourage each other in the development of new initiatives for their institutions.

JDC also helps local communities provide their professionals and lay leaders with a variety of training opportunities abroad. JDC has been encouraging and supporting the activities of *Ietzira*, a regional network that twice in 1994 brought together some 200 leaders of Jewish youth organizations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia. JDC provided the Jewish community of La Paz, Bolivia with professional assistance in a variety of fields last year, including Jewish education and organizational management, and it helped organize a training seminar for 10 youth counselors from Macabbi La Paz.

With technical assistance and encouragement from JDC, the leaders of Latin America’s Jewish communities and institutions have been organizing an annual assembly that is patterned on the North American Council of Jewish Federations’ General Assembly or GA. Although no assembly was held in 1994, JDC helped carry out a survey evaluating the five previous conferences in order to improve planning for the next one.

JDC continued to work with regional umbrella organizations in 1994, supporting the efforts of the Conservative (Maforti) movement, the *Seminario Rabinoico*, and the Confederation of Latin American Maccabian Centers (CLAM) to strengthen their inter-community networks and enhance the quality of services provided by their member institutions.

Over the past year, a consortium of private Argentinean foundations have been participating in the expansion of *Sbadar*, the Latin American Jewish electronic network which was set up by JDC and ORT in Buenos Aires two years ago to link Jewish institutions and provide them with Jewish programming and data bases. JDC and ORT have been helping the consortium upgrade the quality of programming and add an emergency alert system.

The Shazar College of Jewish Education offered a credit-bearing course in contemporary Judaism in 1994 through the network, which now has more than 800 users.

In response to the request of local communities, JDC is now publishing a newsletter written in Spanish for distribution throughout Latin America. Called *Contacto*, it provides up-to-date information about JDC’s global programs and the activities of local communities, as well as articles of interest to those involved in community work. The issue published in the fall of 1994, which focused on the bombing in Argentina and its aftermath, was translated into English and distributed at the CJF General Assembly in November. The Spanish version included a summary of accounts of the terrorist attack published in the United States to demonstrate the solidarity of the American Jewish community in the face of this terrible tragedy.
Recognizing that medical assistance must be the first priority, JDC dispatched a medical team early last August to Goma, Zaire, a dusty border town overwhelmed by an influx of 850,000 refugees. The team was led by the American doctor who has headed JDC's medical operations in Ethiopia for many years, and it included two Ethiopian doctors and two Ethiopian nurses. In partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the team set up a field hospital at the Kibumba Refugee Camp near Goma, which was then home to some 160,000 refugees. Initial efforts were devoted to stemming a cholera epidemic and then a massive outbreak of shigella dysentery. The latter was resistant to all drugs except one, Cipro. After intensive efforts, JDC received donations of the drug from the U.S., Canada, Israel, and Germany.
JDC’s Objectives for Non-Sectarian Projects

- JDC-IDP embodies the Jewish principle of “tikkun olam,” the admonition to engage in efforts to alleviate suffering and repair the world’s inequities and imperfections as part of one’s moral responsibilities.

- JDC’s non-sectarian projects provide the American Jewish community with the opportunity to participate in international development efforts and respond to natural or man-made disasters, and they involve local Jewish communities wherever feasible.

- By using Israeli experts as much as possible in its work, JDC enables developing countries throughout the world to benefit from Israel’s own development experience and its agricultural and technological innovations and products.

- Training is an essential part of all JDC development efforts and is intended to enhance the self-reliance of the local partners and ensure that projects will be self-sustaining after JDC’s departure.

- JDC uses its international development budget and Open Mailbox contributions as seed money that it leverages each year many times over with funding secured from the U.S. and other governments, international agencies, and private foundations.

- JDC’s non-sectarian projects have also benefited from the pro bono services of American Jews and from a variety of in-kind corporate contributions.

- JDC’s current priorities for non-sectarian projects include:
  
  Projects which can encourage and facilitate Arab-Israeli cooperation, especially in new fields, and which can enhance the development of Israel.

  Projects where an endangered local Jewish population or a JDC program would be strengthened by the presence of a non-sectarian operation.

  Projects where JDC, on behalf of the Jewish community, can effectively respond to a natural or man-made disaster.

  Projects where cooperation with other organizations—both Jewish and non-Jewish—can augment the project’s effectiveness and build JDC’s relationships.
JDC sent a second medical team to Goma on August 26; it was composed entirely of U.S. volunteers who spent a month working in Zaire. JDC’s original medical team remained in place through February 1995. By then the operation had grown to include a 100-bed hospital; an out-patient department that was treating 3,400 people each week; two medical stations in remote areas of the camp; an outreach system with 40 community health workers recruited from among the refugees by the JDC team; two mobile units; a feeding program for infants; and separate tent wards for intensive care, for the wounded, and for those suffering from dysentery.

In October, in an effort spearheaded by Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, a team of Israeli and American volunteers built latrine facilities for a new camp that was being set up near Bukavu, Zaire for some 35,400 refugees. The task was undertaken at the request of the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, which was determined to avoid the kind of unsanitary conditions that had led to the epidemics in the Goma camps. JDC also supplied tents to shelter the weakest and most vulnerable of the refugees, many of whom had been camping in the open in the center of Bukavu.

With every aspect of Rwanda’s infrastructure damaged by the civil war, JDC, on behalf of the Coalition, has become involved in a number of long-term rebuilding projects. The first is a seed multiplication project designed to help farm families return home obtain the basic materials they need to reestablish agricultural production and resume their normal lives. JDC is supporting this project in association with its partners in the Interfaith Hunger Appeal (see section below). The program is being implemented through local farmers’ associations in the Gitarama Prefecture of Rwanda; in addition to the seeds themselves and other needed supplies, the farmers are given technical training in seed multiplication. Once crops are harvested, the seeds will be culled and distributed to other farmers for further propagation, since the project is designed to be replicated in other areas of the country.

Perhaps the most compelling problem facing Rwanda today is the plight of an estimated 115,000 children who have been left “on their own” as a result of the civil war. Many are orphans severely traumatized by having witnessed their parents’ massacre; others were separated from their families in the chaos of flight. By the end of 1994, some 24,000 had found their way to large children’s centers—makeshift orphanages—organized by volunteers throughout the country. On behalf of the Coalition, JDC, in partnership with the IRC, has been assisting two such
centers in Rwanda's Kibungo Prefecture, providing them with programmatic support and financial assistance to pay local staff, carry out badly needed repairs, and provide the malnourished children with supplementary food.

JDC is also implementing a trauma relief/education project to facilitate the children's re-integration into Rwandan society, recognizing that they need very special care if they are to recover from the horrors they have experienced and regain some semblance of a normal life. This project utilizes Israeli experts in education and the treatment of post-traumatic stress syndrome. In addition to working with the children themselves, the JDC team will identify and train local nationals to ensure the program's sustainability over the long term.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Funds contributed to the JDC Open Mailbox continued to support the JDC-La Benevolencia non-sectarian aid activities in Bosnia last year, as well as new relief activities in Belgrade, with additional support provided by a variety of other organizations and international donors. (See the section on the former Yugoslavia for complete details.)

In a new project called “Helping the Helpers,” JDC joined forces with UKJAI (United Kingdom Jewish Aid and International Development) and UNICEF to send two groups of 20 mental health professionals—the first in March 1994 and the second in November—from all parts of the former Yugoslavia to Israel to learn state-of-the-art techniques for dealing with trauma. The two-week training seminars focused on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of war-related stress disorders among children. They were conducted by experts from the Carmel Institute for Social Studies in Zichron Yaakov and the Community Stress Prevention Center in Kiryat Shmona.

The program had two additional aims: helping to assuage the helpers' own war-related stress and encouraging these professionals to replicate their training in their home communities and establish local professional support groups. This “expanding circles” aspect has been quite successful; nearly every participant has held at least one local training seminar, and UNICEF will encourage this replication process to continue over the next few years.

CZECH REPUBLIC

JDC's two-pronged project to help modernize the treatment of the disabled in what was formerly Czechoslovakia began in April 1991 and is scheduled for completion in September 1995. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), some 1,120 Czech and Slovak professionals have been trained to date in Western methods of caring for the disabled at the Desider Galsky Training Institute (DGTI) established in Prague by JDC and its local project partners. Additional courses have recently been organized for staff members in Czech labor offices and rehabilitation centers and for medical professionals interested in women's health issues.

Graduates of the DGTI training programs have recently set up a new non-governmental organization, which they have called the “Joint.” As they implement DGTI's philosophy and methods in their own workplaces, the Institute's impact on the field will continue to grow.

As part of this project, JDC has also been encouraging the development and expansion of other local organizations serving the disabled. Together with the Prague Wheelchair Users Association, for example, it implemented a program aimed at encouraging Prague
residents with physical disabilities to participate more fully in society. An information and referral service was recently initiated; the association’s recreational and educational activities have been expanded; and a first-of-its-kind Center for Independent Living was opened this past April. In like manner, local informal breast cancer survivor organizations were given a big boost this spring from a week-long workshop conducted in Prague by SHARE, a New York-based self-help group, in partnership with JDC. Additional workshops for survivors and medical professionals concerned with breast cancer are scheduled for June and September 1995.

In the second part of the project, two model apartments, known as community living arrangements or CLAs, were set up for young adults with mental disabilities. The apartments are managed by DUHA, one of the project’s seven local partners. The aim was to demonstrate that, with appropriate supporting services, the disabled could live as productive members of their communities and need not be placed in institutions, as was normally done during the Communist era. The CLAs have now been replicated throughout the Czech and Slovak Republics.

JDC has been actively engaged in efforts to foster the self-sufficiency of its local partners to ensure that these endeavors will continue after the official project ends. A highly successful workshop was held in February 1994 for 30 representatives from 15 local non-profit organizations, and local fundraising and communications efforts have been emphasized throughout the past year.

ZIMBABWE

JDC’s two-year comprehensive eye treatment project was designed to improve eye care and provide comprehensive treatment for the one million people living in Zimbabwe’s Mashonaland Central Province. In addition to providing local medical personnel with training in the latest ophthalmological techniques, the project included a full-service eye clinic at Bindura Provincial Hospital; a mobile eye unit to provide outpatient and minor surgical care in outlying areas; education and prevention programs for village health workers in the most remote areas of the province; and an eye glasses production unit.

The project was developed in partnership with Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Health and Child Welfare; its Agricultural Development Authority; the University of Zimbabwe Medical School; the Zimbabwe Council for the Blind; and Zimbabwe Jewish Aid for Rural Development, an arm of the country’s Jewish community. A major grant was received from the United Kingdom's Overseas Development Administration through UKJAID, and additional project funds have been provided by the Rashi, Rich, and Anonymous (E) Foundations.

Between the end of September 1993, when the eye clinic first opened at a temporary site, and May 1995, over 11,000 patients have been treated and some 600 operations performed. All this has been accomplished by a team consisting of only one doctor—the project’s medical director, an Israeli ophthalmologist—four nurses, and a nurse’s aide. Along with the mobile unit, the eye clinic has been serving about 100 patients a week, from infants to the elderly. It was certified as a teaching facility last year by the University of Zimbabwe Medical School, and medical students specializing in ophthalmology have been training at the clinic since last July. JDC’s active involvement in the project is slated to end in mid-1995, when the clinic will be taken over by Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Health.

CHINA

Working in partnership with the Hongkou District of Shanghai and the Shanghai Municipality, JDC has been aiding the development and implementation of community-based, grassroots level social programs that address the needs of the elderly
as well as an educational program for mentally disabled children and their parents. The project aims to introduce to this area the kind of community-based programs that JDC has pioneered in Israel.

A thorough needs assessment was conducted in the district in January 1994, intensive meetings were held with local officials and community leaders, and appropriate project venues were chosen. The project's second phase took place last December when a six-person delegation from the district—consisting of municipal officials, political leaders, and social service and special education professionals—visited Israel to observe relevant programs and receive on-the-spot training in their particular areas of interest.

Since their return to Shanghai, the delegates have been adapting appropriate aspects of the programs that they saw in Israel to the needs of their own community. A generous contribution for the project has been received from a private donor, Dr. Jack Fishman of New York, and JDC-Israel will be providing equipment and follow-up technical assistance over the next few years.

**CUBA**

Building upon the help it has been providing to Cuba's small Jewish community, JDC, with the aid of its special medical consultant and the approval of the U.S. government, has developed a non-sectarian medical project to benefit the general population.

Volunteer Jewish medical specialists from the U.S. travel each month to Cuba, where they are hosted for the duration of their week-long or 10-day stay by local Jewish physicians, who link them with their Cuban counterparts at various Havana hospitals. The U.S. doctors make ward rounds, participate in consultations on patient care, and—through lectures and demonstrations—help bring the medical professionals in their specialty up to date. Members of the Cuban medical community, who have been feeling very isolated, have indicated to JDC staff that they very much appreciate this opportunity to interact and share ideas and techniques with their U.S. colleagues.

**ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN ARAB HEALTH PROJECTS**

JDC-Israel continues to be involved in a health care management initiative which began in 1993 with a symposium on new management systems that was attended by professionals from Israel, many Arab countries, and the West Bank and Gaza. An all-day seminar on Israeli and Palestinian health care reforms was held last October at the JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem. About 50 top Palestinian and Israeli health professionals participated in the program, which was organized in cooperation with the Palestinian Council of Health and Israel's Ministry of Health.

Capitalizing on these newly formed professional ties and with the added impetus of the peace process, JDC-Israel and the Palestinian Council of Health joined together last November to implement a new, three-year health education program. The program is eventually intended to reach some 40,000 Palestinian children in Gaza and the West Bank; its goal is to improve their health and quality of life. Israel's Ministry of Health is cooperating in this comprehensive endeavor, which includes a training program for Palestinian elementary school teachers and nurses, the development of educational materials geared to local needs, and the promotion of parental involvement. About 140 professionals will have been trained by the end of the 1994-95 school year, enabling program implementation in the schools to begin in September 1995.
PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

JDC is in the process of establishing a register of medical volunteers who would be available to respond to Jewish and non-sectarian emergency needs around the globe.

In February 1994, JDC sent two Israeli agricultural experts—one in poultry raising and the other in vegetable cultivation—to VIETNAM to give on-the-spot-courses at the University of Agriculture and Forestry in Ho Chi Minh City. The experts also gathered data for a larger project designed by JDC in conjunction with the University. This aims to increase area productivity by introducing modern agricultural techniques compatible with traditional modes of farming. Although some grants for this project are already in hand, additional funding is needed before implementation can begin.

INTERFAITH HUNGER APPEAL (IHA)

The Interfaith Hunger Appeal was established in 1978 to increase public awareness of the problem of world hunger and to involve unaffiliated members of the community in the work of IHA's sponsoring agencies. In addition to JDC, these include Catholic Relief Services, Church World Service and Witness, and Lutheran World Relief. IHA aims to increase the public's understanding of international development activities designed to enhance food security and help alleviate global hunger and poverty. It believes that if hunger is to end, serious commitment must be given to long-term development at the grassroots level so that even the poorest of the poor can become self-reliant.

IHA has been working to make world hunger and development education a key part of the undergraduate curriculum. It provides educators with pertinent source materials through its curriculum guide, Teaching Global Development, and its quarterly newsletter, Hunger TeachNet. JDC's education director conducted a workshop describing JDC's own experiences in community building at IHA's 1994 curriculum development institute, which was held at Spelman College last June. Over the past year, IHA has been working to bring its partner agencies together on projects in which they have a mutual interest; the seed multiplication project recently undertaken in Rwanda, which is described in the JDC-IDP section above, is the first such venture.

JEWISH EDUCATION

In addition to allocations for formal and informal Jewish educational programs made as part of various country budgets, JDC has historically made global allocations on a subsidy basis to the Alliance Israelite Universelle, a French organization which operates schools in seven countries, and to the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training (ORT). Over the past several years, in accordance with a decision of its Board of Directors, JDC has moved from a system of global subsidies to one of country-specific and programmatic funding. Accordingly, JDC country budgets now include specific allocations for Alliance schools where relevant, and there is no longer a global allocation to Alliance.

ORT received $4,035,000 from JDC in 1994 in support of its worldwide educational and vocational training programs, which benefited over 150,000 students in Israel, Western Europe, North Africa, India, and South America. The JDC allocation, made through the American ORT Federation, assists the World ORT Union and provides subventions to its Jewish schools in countries in which JDC operates.
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. as of December 31, 1994, and the related statements of support, revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances, and changes in financial position 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.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. 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 examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes 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, 1994, and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information in schedules 1 and 2 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

[Signature]
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
April 27, 1995
**CURRENT UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

**OPERATING FUND**

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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
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<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
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<td>Investments (market value - $303,183 in 1994 and $5,036,926 in 1993) (Note 5)</td>
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<td>Loans to communities and other receivables (net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of $620,000 in 1994 and 1993)</td>
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<td>Due from employees</td>
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<td>Advances on account of future year's programs</td>
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<td>Prepaid pension cost (Note 2)</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$21,371,397</strong></td>
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**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES**

| Unpaid appropriations, accounts payable, and allowance for severance and supplementary pension obligations | $18,147,552 | $18,865,431 |
| Interfund payable - Brookdale restricted fund (Note 6) | $2,812,331 | $3,089,401 |
| Deferred pension credit (Note 2) | $3,484,559 | $2,627,964 |
| Loans payable (Note 3) | $19,593,451 | $23,011,783 |
| **Total liabilities** | **$44,037,893** | **$47,594,579** |
| Fund balance (deficit) (Exhibit C) | $(24,249,648) | $(26,223,182) |
| **Total liabilities** | **$19,788,245** | **$21,371,397** |

**LEGAL AND OTHER FUNDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - noninterest-bearing</td>
<td>$30,139</td>
<td>$6,722,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$3,639,211</td>
<td>$6,722,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (market value - $76,788,009 in 1994 and $76,748,086 in 1993) (Note 5)</td>
<td>$68,556,296</td>
<td>$61,518,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>$645,397</td>
<td>$369,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage receivable - 10 1/4%, due 2/1/2000</td>
<td>$63,297</td>
<td>$72,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$72,934,340</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,682,910</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES**

| Accounts payable | $53,094 | $39,400 |
| Fund balances (Exhibit B) | $72,881,246 | $68,643,510 |
| **Total liabilities** | **$72,934,340** | **$68,682,910** |
## Current Restricted Funds

### Operating Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$365,667</td>
<td>$1,239,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit with Israeli Treasury - interest-bearing</td>
<td>3,027,296</td>
<td>2,332,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (market value - $12,285,161 in 1994 and $9,532,032 in 1993) (Note 5)</td>
<td>10,970,620</td>
<td>7,640,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable - USDA</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances</td>
<td>68,663</td>
<td>40,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund receivable - operating fund (Note 6)</td>
<td>2,812,331</td>
<td>3,089,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,244,577</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,370,330</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$1,086,469</td>
<td>$855,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances (Exhibit B) (Schedule 1)</td>
<td>16,158,108</td>
<td>13,514,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,244,577</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,370,330</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Endowment Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in bank - interest-bearing</td>
<td>$651,385</td>
<td>$647,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit with Israeli Treasury - interest-bearing</td>
<td>4,399,992</td>
<td>4,399,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (market value - $10,957,747 in 1994 and $12,054,740 in 1993) (Note 5)</td>
<td>9,785,241</td>
<td>9,662,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>4,482</td>
<td>3,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,841,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,714,008</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances (Exhibit B) (Schedule 2)</td>
<td><strong>$14,841,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,714,008</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,841,100</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,714,008</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trust Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$500,308</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$500,308</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor's report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
EXHIBIT B

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1994
(With Comparative Totals for 1993)

CURRENT FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating</th>
<th>Legacy and Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Endowment Funds</th>
<th>Trust Funds</th>
<th>Total 1994</th>
<th>Total 1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Jewish Appeal, Inc.</td>
<td>$65,000,000</td>
<td>$65,000,000</td>
<td>$405,678</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$65,405,678</td>
<td>$56,167,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes interest reimbursement of $467,240)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>788,300</td>
<td>788,300</td>
<td>10,630,277</td>
<td>$139,558</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,059,935</td>
<td>6,972,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>249,326</td>
<td>249,326</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>249,326</td>
<td>157,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish communities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including overseas and Israel)</td>
<td>2,095,843</td>
<td>2,095,843</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,095,843</td>
<td>3,087,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total public support</td>
<td>66,037,626</td>
<td>2,095,843</td>
<td>68,133,469</td>
<td>11,245,955</td>
<td>139,558</td>
<td></td>
<td>80,020,782</td>
<td>66,717,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>624,208</td>
<td>5,181,481</td>
<td>5,805,689</td>
<td>2,138,161</td>
<td>4,597</td>
<td>15,213</td>
<td>7,963,660</td>
<td>10,411,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support and revenue</strong></td>
<td>66,661,834</td>
<td>7,277,324</td>
<td>73,939,158</td>
<td>13,384,116</td>
<td>144,155</td>
<td>517,013</td>
<td>87,984,442</td>
<td>77,128,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>14,999,897</td>
<td>14,999,897</td>
<td>1,372,524</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16,372,421</td>
<td>13,732,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>3,661,842</td>
<td>3,661,842</td>
<td>699,649</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,361,461</td>
<td>4,098,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>7,134,617</td>
<td>7,134,617</td>
<td>4,505,895</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11,640,510</td>
<td>9,332,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>15,144,914</td>
<td>15,144,914</td>
<td>396,781</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15,741,695</td>
<td>11,400,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower development</td>
<td>5,061,566</td>
<td>5,061,566</td>
<td>1,286,734</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,348,300</td>
<td>3,057,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>10,828,533</td>
<td>10,828,533</td>
<td>1,428,231</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,256,766</td>
<td>10,362,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>3,007,959</td>
<td>110,041</td>
<td>3,118,000</td>
<td>805,569</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,923,569</td>
<td>4,470,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td>59,839,300</td>
<td>110,041</td>
<td>59,949,341</td>
<td>10,695,381</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70,644,722</td>
<td>56,455,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters*</td>
<td>5,648,100</td>
<td>901,824</td>
<td>6,549,924</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,063</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>6,563,479</td>
<td>6,982,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>750,900</td>
<td>77,773</td>
<td>828,673</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,063</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>828,673</td>
<td>2,484,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement costs</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>804,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td>6,849,000</td>
<td>979,597</td>
<td>7,828,597</td>
<td>12,063</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>7,842,152</td>
<td>10,271,473</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>66,688,300</td>
<td>1,089,638</td>
<td>67,777,938</td>
<td>10,695,381</td>
<td>12,063</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>78,486,874</td>
<td>66,726,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution to annuitants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15,213</td>
<td>15,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses (Exhibit C)</td>
<td>(26,466)</td>
<td>6,187,686</td>
<td>6,161,220</td>
<td>2,688,735</td>
<td>132,092</td>
<td>500,308</td>
<td>9,482,355</td>
<td>10,402,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer for deficit reduction</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes interest expense of $1,245,457.
See independent auditor's report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
**Exhibit B**

**CURRENT FUNDS**

**UNRESTRICTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating</th>
<th>Legacy and Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Endowment Funds</th>
<th>Trust Funds</th>
<th>Total 1994</th>
<th>Total 1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reclassifications</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,050</td>
<td>50,050</td>
<td>(45,050)</td>
<td>(5,000)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances (deficit) - beginning of year</td>
<td>(26,223,182)</td>
<td>68,643,510</td>
<td>42,420,328</td>
<td>13,514,423</td>
<td>14,714,008</td>
<td>70,648,759</td>
<td>60,246,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances (deficit) - end of year (Exhibit A)</td>
<td>($24,249,648)</td>
<td>$72,881,246</td>
<td>$48,631,598</td>
<td>$16,158,108</td>
<td>$14,841,100</td>
<td>$500,308</td>
<td>$80,131,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exhibit C**

**CURRENT FUNDS**

**UNRESTRICTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating</th>
<th>Legacy and Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Endowment Funds</th>
<th>Trust Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess (deficiency) of public support and revenue over expenses (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$ (26,466)</td>
<td>$ 6,187,686</td>
<td>$ 6,161,220</td>
<td>$ 2,688,735</td>
<td>$ 132,092</td>
<td>$ 500,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers and reclassifications</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>(1,949,950)</td>
<td>50,050</td>
<td>(45,050)</td>
<td>(5,000)</td>
<td>(380,872)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in loans to communities and other receivables</td>
<td>(380,872)</td>
<td>(380,872)</td>
<td>(380,872)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease (increase) in accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>21,600</td>
<td>(275,552)</td>
<td>21,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in due from employees</td>
<td>(275,552)</td>
<td>(275,552)</td>
<td>27,025</td>
<td>(628)</td>
<td>(249,155)</td>
<td>21,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in mortgage receivable</td>
<td>8,745</td>
<td>8,745</td>
<td>8,745</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>(1,966,393)</td>
<td>(1,966,393)</td>
<td>(1,966,393)</td>
<td>(27,947)</td>
<td>(1,994,340)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in prepaid pension cost</td>
<td>(856,595)</td>
<td>(856,595)</td>
<td>(856,595)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in due from U.L.A.</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in due from U.J.A.</td>
<td>(1,781,840)</td>
<td>(1,781,840)</td>
<td>(1,781,840)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in unpaid appropriations, accounts payable and allowance for severance and supplementary pension obligations</td>
<td>(717,879)</td>
<td>13,694</td>
<td>(704,185)</td>
<td>230,562</td>
<td>(473,623)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in interfund receivable (payable) - Brookdale</td>
<td>(277,070)</td>
<td>(277,070)</td>
<td>(277,070)</td>
<td>856,595</td>
<td>(856,595)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in deferred revenue</td>
<td>(3,418,332)</td>
<td>(3,418,332)</td>
<td>(3,418,332)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in loans payable</td>
<td>856,595</td>
<td>856,595</td>
<td>856,595</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents and investments - beginning of year</td>
<td>6,251,422</td>
<td>68,241,023</td>
<td>74,492,445</td>
<td>11,213,188</td>
<td>14,710,154</td>
<td>(100,415,787)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents and investments - end of year</td>
<td>$1,204,170</td>
<td>$72,225,646</td>
<td>$73,429,816</td>
<td>$14,363,583</td>
<td>$14,836,618</td>
<td>$500,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

89
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1994

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
• The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis.
• Appropriations for grants are expensed in the year authorized.
• Investments are reflected at cost or donated value.
• The U.S. dollar equivalents of the local currencies were calculated either at the actual rates of exchange realized or at an average of the rates during the year.

NOTE 2 - PENSION PLAN
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering its New York staff and overseas foreign service personnel. For 1994 and 1993, no pension contributions were required to satisfy the minimum funding requirements of the IRS. Prior service cost has been fully funded. The JDC’s policy is to fund pension cost accrued. As of January 1, 1994, there were 71 participants.

The following table sets forth the plan’s funded status and amounts recognized in the JDC’s balance sheet at December 31, 1994:

Actuarial present value of benefit obligations
Accumulated benefit obligation, including vested benefits of $7,505,305
Projected benefit obligation for service rendered to date
Plan assets at fair market (primarily marketable securities)
Plan assets in excess of projected benefit obligation
Unrecognized prior service cost
Unrecognized net gain from past experience different from assumptions recognized over 15 years
Prepaid pension cost
Net pension cost for 1994 included the following components
Interest on projected benefit obligation
Actual return on plan assets
Net amortization and deferral
Net periodic pension cost (credit)

The weighted average discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 7.75% and 5.0%, respectively. The expected long-term rate of return on assets was 7.5%.

NOTE 3 - LOANS PAYABLE
The JDC obtained a $13,500,000 loan on March 29, 1991 from Chase Manhattan Bank. The loan will be repaid in nine annual installments of $1,500,000 commencing March 1, 1992 and concluding August 31, 2001. The JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 3/4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1994 is $10,500,000. The JDC has pledged unrestricted investments held in Chemical Bank and Bank Leumi with a market value of approximately $10,500,000.

The JDC obtained, in prior years, a non-interest-bearing loan from United Jewish Appeal of $4,900,000. The loan is reduced by the interest on the loan from Chase Manhattan Bank. The outstanding balance at December 31, 1994 is $93,451.

NOTE 4 - LEASE COMMITMENTS
The JDC is committed under a lease for office space which expires December 31, 2000. Minimum rental commitments under the terms of the lease are $400,860 per annum, subject to adjustments for escalation.

NOTE 5 - INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost or Recorded Value</th>
<th>Market or Fair Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Government obligations</td>
<td>$33,926,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Israel bonds</td>
<td>3,784,658</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>439,184</td>
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<td>Common and preferred stocks</td>
<td>39,461,492</td>
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<td>Cash equivalents</td>
<td>1,727,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>259,356</td>
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<td>Limited partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid pension cost</td>
<td>$3,484,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net pension cost for 1994 included the following components</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service cost - benefits earned during period</td>
<td>$370,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on projected benefit obligation</td>
<td>609,890</td>
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<td>Actual return on plan assets</td>
<td>(892,103)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net amortization and deferral</td>
<td>2,728,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net periodic pension cost (credit)</td>
<td>$856,395</td>
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</table>

The JDC obtained a revolving credit commitment not to exceed $10,000,000 from Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York. The JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 3/4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1994 is $10,500,000. The JDC has pledged unrestricted investments held in Chemical Bank and Bank Leumi with a market value of approximately $10,500,000.

NOTE 6 - INTERFUND PAYABLE/RECEIVABLE - BROOKDALE
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. entered into a $3,000,000 ten-year loan agreement with JDC - Israel Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Adult Human Development on April 1, 1993. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1994 is $2,812,331, which includes accrued interest of $112,331. The principal amount of the loan will bear fluctuating interest at a rate of 1% in excess of the highest alternative interest rate that the Brookdale Institute can receive from Israeli banks at the beginning of each month on a compound interest basis. At December 31, 1994, the interest rate is 6.0%. The schedule for payment of the loan and interest will be based on an annual principal reimbursement of $100,000 plus the annual interest calculated at the rate adopted each year. Payment of principal and interest shall be made in U.S. dollars at the end of each year of the period of the loan beginning March 1, 1994.
# SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

## OPERATING FUND 1914-1994

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<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td>2,294,607</td>
<td>520,600</td>
<td>2,815,207</td>
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<td>1,844,481</td>
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<td>954,700</td>
<td>15,627,193</td>
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<td>7,499,178</td>
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<td>CYPRUS</td>
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<td>FORMER CZECHOSLOVAKIA</td>
<td>10,748,221</td>
<td>279,000</td>
<td>11,027,221</td>
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<td>FRANCE</td>
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<td>HOLLAND</td>
<td>3,778,153</td>
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<td>HUNGARY</td>
<td>74,648,078</td>
<td>3,243,900</td>
<td>77,891,978</td>
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<td>ISRAEL</td>
<td>441,204,439</td>
<td>21,496,900</td>
<td>462,701,339</td>
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<td>NORTH AFRICA AND OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES</td>
<td>186,885,303</td>
<td>5,032,800</td>
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<td>POLAND</td>
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<td>PORTUGAL</td>
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<td>ROMANIA</td>
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<td>3,085,100</td>
<td>103,992,323</td>
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<td>9,161,600</td>
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<tr>
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<td>EMIGRATION AND RELIEF IN TRANSIT</td>
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<td>5,187,300</td>
<td>394,866,297</td>
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<td>SPECIAL GRANTS</td>
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<td>EUROPEAN COUNCIL &amp; EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<td>2,517,000</td>
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<td>CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS</td>
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<td>1,488,900</td>
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<td>RECONSTRUCTION INCLUDING ORT</td>
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<td>144,276,784</td>
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<td>DEVELOPMENT &amp; MISCELLANEOUS PROGRAMS (IDP)</td>
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<td>171,000</td>
<td>40,335,298</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATING AND SERVICE</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>COSTS N.Y. AND OVERSEAS</td>
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<td>4,871,400</td>
<td>159,249,750</td>
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<td>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</td>
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<td>668,600</td>
<td>3,643,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTEREST EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>7,440,000</td>
<td>1,027,900</td>
<td>8,467,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEFICIT REDUCTION</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$2,125,828,789</td>
<td>$68,688,300</td>
<td>$2,194,517,089</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1994 Program Budget
Distribution By Program Area

- Unemployment Development: 5%
- Health Services: 6%
- Multifunctional: 7%
- Religious Activities: 8%
- Services To The Aged: 10%
- Program Operations: 12%
- Relief And Welfare: 13%
- Jewish Education: 19%
- Social And Community Development: 20%

1994 Program Budget
Geographic Distribution

- Europe Community Development: 15.8%
- Latin America: 23%
- Transmigrants: 1.4%
- Special Grants: 1.6%
- International Development: 6%
- African & Asia: 3.7%
- Moslem Countries: 6.6%
- Eastern Europe: 6.7%
- Israel: 38.6%
- Former Soviet Union: 15.8%
THE JDC WORLD (JEWISH POPULATION)

1. USA (6 million)
   New York Headquarters
   Jewish education
   Non-sectarian medical aid

2. CUBA (c. 1,500)
   Community development
   Jewish education
   Religious activities

3. ARGENTINA (250,000)
   Emergency assistance
   Community development
   Manpower development

4. BOLIVIA (1,000)
   Community development

5. BRAZIL (130,000)
   Community development
   Manpower development

6. CHILE (15,000)
   Community development
   Manpower development

7. PARAGUAY (800)
   Community development

8. PERU (3,500)
   Community development
   Manpower development

9. URUGUAY (23,000)
   Community development
   Manpower development

10. PANAMA (8,800)
   Community development

11. COSTA RICA (2,000)
   Community development

12. FRANCE (600,000)
    Community development

13. AUSTRIA (6,500)
    Aid to transmigrants
    Jewish education and culture
    Manpower development

14. BELGIUM (12,000)
    European Union of Jewish Students
    Community development

15. SWITZERLAND (19,000)
    Liaison
    IJATID Europe

16. GREECE (5,000)
    Aid to transmigrants

17. ITALY (12,000)
    Aid to transmigrants
    Community development

18. SPAIN (12,000)
    Aid to transmigrants
    Community development

19. CZECH REPUBLIC (c. 3,000)
    Jewish education and culture
    Manpower development
    IDP training programs

20. SLOVAKIA (c. 2,000)
    Relief and welfare
    Health services
    Jewish education and culture
    Manpower development
    IDP training programs

21. HUNGARY (c. 130,000)
    Relief and welfare
    Health services
    Jewish education and culture
    Manpower development

22. POLAND (5-10,000)
    Relief and welfare
    Health services
    Youth and cultural programs

23. ROMANIA (c. 21,000)
    Relief and welfare
    Services to the aged
    Health services
    Religious activities

24-38. THE FORMER SOVIET UNION
   (1-4 million)
   Cultural and educational programs
   Books and religious supplies
   Community development
   Manpower development
   Holiday celebrations
   Food packages

39-43. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
   (6-7,000)
   Special operations
   Emergency planning and supplies
   Non-sectarian aid
   Relief and welfare
   Services to the aged
   Jewish education
   Manpower development

44. BULGARIA (c. 6,000)
    Relief and welfare
    Jewish education
    Youth & cultural programs
    Community development

45. TURKEY (25,000)
    Technical assistance

46. ISRAEL (4.4 million)
    Services to the aged
    Improving healthcare
    Aid to disabled
    Child development
    Community development
    Immigrant job training
    Religious activities
    Jewish education
    Management training
    Vocational training and job placement

47. EGYPT (c. 150)
    Relief and welfare
    Health services
    Services to the aged
    Passover supplies

48. TUNISIA (c. 1,700)
    Relief and welfare
    Health services
    Services to the aged
    Jewish education
    Passover supplies

49. ALGERIA (35-100)
    Relief and welfare

50. MOROCCO (6,390)
    Relief and welfare
    Health services
    Services to the aged
    Jewish education
    Manpower training

51. CEUTA & MELILLA
    (2,200)
    Jewish education

52. SYRIA
    Liaison

53. YEMEN (c. 430)
    Special operations
    Religious supplies
    Jewish education
    Relief and welfare

54. INDIA (c. 5,000)
    Relief and welfare
    Services to the aged
    Jewish education
    Youth & cultural programs

55. MYANMAR (BURMA)
    Relief and welfare

56. CHINA
    Relief and welfare
    IDP project

57. VIETNAM
    IDP project

58. ETHIOPIA
    Health services
    Food distribution
    Relief and welfare

59. RWANDA
    IDP relief projects

60. ZIMBABWE (1,200)
    IDP relief treatment project

* Countries with JDC office or local representative
  A Includes Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,
    Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Georgia.
  B Includes Slovenia, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Honorary Board Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>President</strong></td>
<td>Alan Batkin</td>
<td>Dr. Abram J. Abeloff, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador Milton A. Wolf</td>
<td>Helene Berger</td>
<td>Joseph Ain, Montreal, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Vice-President</strong></td>
<td>Edwin N. Brennglass</td>
<td>Philip Belz, Memphis, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Schneider</td>
<td>Arthur Brody</td>
<td>Victor M. Carter, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chairman of the Board</strong></td>
<td>Andrea Bronfman</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Cherkasky, New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sylvia Hassenfeld</td>
<td>Dr. Sidney Busis</td>
<td>Rena Cohen, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>John C. Colman</td>
<td>Melvin Dubinsky, St. Louis, MO</td>
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<td>Geoffrey Colvin</td>
<td>Heinz Eppler, Palm Beach, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Ginsberg</td>
<td>Patricia Gantz</td>
<td>Raymond Epstein, Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>Donald M. Robinson</td>
<td>Rae M. Ginsburg</td>
<td>Pauline B. Falk, New York, NY</td>
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<td>Charles H. Goodman</td>
<td>Herman Fineberg, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>Jack D. Weiler</td>
<td>Alexander Grass</td>
<td>Max M. Fisher, Detroit, MI</td>
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<td><strong>Honorary Vice-Presidents</strong></td>
<td>Joseph Gurwin</td>
<td>Edward Ginsberg, Cleveland, OH</td>
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<td>Emanuel Goldberg, Rochester, NY</td>
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<td>Alan Jaffe</td>
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<td>Marvin Josephson</td>
<td>Murray Goodman, W. Palm Beach, FL</td>
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<td>Saul Kagan</td>
<td>Sylvia Hassenfeld, New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Johnathan Kolker</td>
<td>Irving Kane, Cleveland, OH</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Myra Kraft</td>
<td>Max H. Karl, Milwaukee, WI*</td>
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<td>Harvey M. Krueger</td>
<td>Rabbi Isaac Lewin, New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph L. Goldman</td>
<td>Martin Levin</td>
<td>Israel A. Maisels, Johannesburg*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>Leon Levy</td>
<td>Philip M. Meyers, Cincinnati, OH</td>
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<td>Norman S. Rabb, Boston, MA</td>
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<td>Rebecca Newman</td>
<td>Bert Rabinowitz, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irving H. Sherman</td>
<td>Richard Pearlstone</td>
<td>Max Ratner, Cleveland, OH*</td>
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<td><strong>Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Jehuda Reinharz</td>
<td>Esther Leah Ritz, Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<td>Robert Reitman</td>
<td>Donald M. Robinson, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>Morris Rodman, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>Howard Rubin</td>
<td>Rabbi Arthur Schneier</td>
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<td><strong>Assistant Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Lynn Schusterman</td>
<td>Samuel Rothberg, Peoria, IL</td>
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<td>Herbert Katzki</td>
<td>Harriet Sloane</td>
<td>Howard Rubin, Boston, MA</td>
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<td>Joseph D. Shane, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Roselyne C. Swig</td>
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<td>Irving H. Sherman, New York, NY</td>
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<td>Herbert M. Singer, New York, NY</td>
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<td>Henry Taub, Bergen County, NJ</td>
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<td>Jack D. Weiler, New York, NY</td>
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<td>Larry Zusman</td>
<td>Marshall M. Weinberg, New York, NY</td>
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<td><strong>Honorary Executive Committee</strong></td>
<td>Elaine K. Winik, New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max M. Fisher</td>
<td>Henry L. Zucker, Cleveland, OH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* deceased
Bunny Adler, Miami, FL
Alan Batkin, New York, NY
Hillel Becker, Montreal, Canada
Helene Berger, Miami, FL
Mandell L. Berman, Detroit, MI
Ellen Block, Chicago, IL
Fred Bongi, Chicago, IL
Marlene Borman, Detroit, MI
Edwin N. BrennGlass, Los Angeles, CA
Arthur Brody, MetroWest, NJ
Andrea Bronfman, Montreal, Canada
Louis W. Brown, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Sidney Busis, Pittsburgh, PA
Stanley Chesley, Cincinnati, OH
Elliot Cohen, Atlanta, GA
John C. Colman, Chicago, IL
Alfred I. Coplan, Baltimore, MD
Jack Deutsch, St. Louis, MO
Rosenstein Diamond, Atlanta, GA
Annette Dobbs, San Francisco, CA
Andrea Dubroff, Orange County, NY
Louise Eder, Milwaukee, WI
Henry Everett, At Large
Dr. Spencer Foreman, At Large
Dr. Sylvia N. Friedman, New York, NY
Michael Guterman, Rochester, NY
Patricia Gantz, New York, NY
Amb. Joseph Gildenithom, Washington, DC
Billie Gold, New York, NY
Toby Goldberger, Central NJ
Edgar R. Goldenberg, Philadelphia, PA
Charles H. Goodman, At Large
Nancy Grand, Detroit, MI
Alexander Grass, Harrisburg, PA
Barbara Gordon Green, Palm Beach, FL
Louise Greilsheimer, New York, NY
Richard Gunther, Los Angeles, CA
Joseph Gurwin, New York, NY
Judge Ellen M. Heller, Baltimore, MD
Ronne M. Hess, Birmingham, AL
Barbara Hochberg, Chicago, IL
Irwin Hochberg, New York, NY
Roberta Holland, Providence, RI
Ann Jacobson, Kansas City, MO
Alan S. Jaffe, New York, NY
Marvin Josephson, At Large
Saul Kagan, At Large
Betty Kane, Southern NJ
Edward Kaplan, Washington, DC
Jonathan Kolker, Baltimore, MD
Murray Koppelman, At Large
Myra Kraft, Boston, MA
Herbert Kronish, New York, NY
Harvey M. Krueger, New York
Hon. Ronald S. Lauder, At Large
Martin Levin, MetroWest, NJ
Jacqueline Levine, MetroWest, NJ
Dr. Michael J. Levinson, Memphis, TN
Judith A. Levy, Palm Beach, FL
Leon Levy, New York, NY
Joel N. Lipman, Buffalo, NY
Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, At Large
William Marcus, Boston, MA
Debby Miller, Greensboro, NC
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