“One people, one heart...”
Rashi, Exodus, 19:2

Into the 21st Century

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

Annual Report
1999 with 2000
Program Highlights
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, 86 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. JDC’s programs are supported primarily by the UJA Federation campaign of United Jewish Communities (UJC). When men and women contribute to the UJA Federation campaign, they support humanitarian work at home, in Israel, and around the world. JDC also receives funds from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), from Canadian Jewry, from the United States government, from charitable foundations and philanthropists, and from other governments and international organizations.

For 86 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, revive Jewish traditions, and nourish the quest for Jewish knowledge. It is also providing critically needed aid and helping to establish welfare programs for newly impoverished elderly Jews. In Africa and Asia, JDC helps small 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 community development and technical assistance. 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 children- and teenagers-at-risk, for the elderly, and for 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.
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(Cover photo) A youngster completes a holiday art project, while another gets help with more formal lessons (this page) at the Jewish Community Center in Odessa last November. Photos: Roy Mittelman
The following table summarizes JDC's annual budget (provided primarily by the United Jewish Appeal, now United Jewish Communities) and the extent to which matching funds from various sources have been obtained and utilized. In sum, the JDC budget of $66.6 million has leveraged another $119.6 million for total expenditures on JDC projects of over $186 million during 1999.

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<tr>
<th>COUNTRY OR PROGRAM</th>
<th>JDC DIRECT EXPENSES</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM PARTNERS</th>
<th>TOTAL EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>18,700</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18,718</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>2,800</td>
<td>5,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>182,300</td>
<td>15,914</td>
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<td>Bosnia-Herzegovina</td>
<td>131,800</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<td>Brookdale</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>453,500</td>
<td>351,905</td>
<td>805,405</td>
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<td>Center for Social Policy Studies</td>
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<td>700,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>562,400</td>
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<td>934,900</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
<td>91,900</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>28,700</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>98,900</td>
<td>118,500</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>India</td>
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<td>342,565</td>
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<td>17,136,000</td>
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<td>Jewish Community Property Reclamation</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Sectarian</td>
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<td>Other European</td>
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<td>Other Latin America</td>
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<td>Other Moslem</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Special Grants</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
<td>51,900</td>
<td>12,845</td>
<td>64,745</td>
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<td>Yugoslavia</td>
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<td>Alliance/ORT Subvention</td>
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<td>3,063,400</td>
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<td>Deficit Reduction/Loan Interest</td>
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<td>3,050,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Sectarian Mailboxes</td>
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<td>2,653,000</td>
<td>2,653,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$66,645,500</td>
<td>$119,552,752</td>
<td>$186,198,252</td>
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After three-and-a-half years as JDC’s President, it is clearer to me today than it ever was before that Jews around the world look to the great Jewish community of the United States for leadership and protection, and depend on our unity and our determination. Without it, our “911” rescue system overseas would go dead, and we would return to other centuries when Jews and Jewish communities abroad were threatened and destroyed, and no one came to their aid.

Equally important, without that unity and determination, the newly liberated Jews of the former Soviet Union would merge into the masses there and be lost forever to the Jewish people. These are Jews who have been cut off from the Jewish world for over 70 years, culturally annihilated by successive Communist regimes, and liberated by our efforts. They now valiantly seek to return to Jewish life, but they desperately need our help in order to do so.

For a people who lost six million in the Holocaust, the opportunity we have today to help reclaim three, maybe even four million of our people is a great moment in Jewish history—our generation’s great moment—and I know that we are equal to the task. For I have seen how much that we and our partners have already accomplished, and I am confident that our American Jewish community is prepared to do whatever it takes to go “the whole nine yards.”

Of course, over a million Jews have already left the former Soviet Union, and we believe that half a million more will leave over the next ten years—making this the largest aliyah in Israel’s history. But many Jews want to stay and reconstruct their Jewish lives and Jewish communities, and that is where JDC comes in. The experts estimate that over one and a half million Jews will end up staying in the former Soviet Union. That means that the Jewish population there is, and will remain, the second largest Jewish community in the Diaspora after the United States—larger than the Jewish communities of France, England, Argentina, and Canada combined.

The dream we have of dozens of vibrant local Jewish communities emerging throughout this vast area is already becoming a reality. The great challenge before us is to sustain the momentum, to nurture these Jewish communities, and help them to flourish and to grow.

In recent years, JDC has found that the kind of Jewish community center (JCC) that has been developed by local communities in the former Soviet Union—what they have so eloquently and aptly called a Yevreysky Dom, or “Jewish Home”—has proven to be an essential tool in the process of Jewish renewal. Unlike JCCs in the US or Israel, which serve as impor-
INTRODUCTION

Tant adjuncts to already flourishing communities, the JCCs in the former Soviet Union serve as incubators of Jewish communal life. They represent the nucleus around which Jews in a given locality can come together and build their own, self-sustaining community.

Developed in the right way, these Jewish community centers have the ability to capture and hold the interest of Jews already involved in the community—as well as those who have not yet been touched by the Jewish renaissance.

This last point is critical. During the course of the nineties, American Jewry, through JDC, invested tens of millions of dollars in Jewish renewal efforts in the former Soviet Union. These efforts have succeeded in providing tens of thousands of Jews with the means to reclaim their heritage and return to our people. However, we need to acknowledge the fact that the overwhelming majority of Jews in the former Soviet Union still remain outside the Jewish community—for we have yet to reach them.

Given the JCCs' proven capacity to foster Jewish renewal on both the individual and communal levels, JDC is committed to substantially expanding their number and strengthening those it has already helped to establish. Over the past two years, it has intensified its efforts to help each community develop the leadership and the human and financial resources it needs to fulfill its dream of creating its own "Jewish Home."

The progress made in both the scope and the quality of this endeavor has been remarkable. Three years ago, in 1997, there were 37 JCCs in the former Soviet Union, by the end of 1999, the number had almost doubled, to 71. By the end of the current year, we expect that number to double once again, leaving some 140 Jewish community centers in place across the length and breadth of the former Soviet Union, a geographic region so vast it covers 11 time zones.

Existing JCCs have also been broadening the scope of the activities they offer, developing rich, multifaceted programs for all segments of
the community and all age groups: children and youth, the elderly, and the middle generations. Visitors can only marvel at these beehives of activity, where something seems to be crammed into every available space: kindergartens, family clubs, Jewish libraries, cultural activities, art classes, Hillel clubs, and Jewish educational programs for young and old. The JCCs have clearly become the Jewish space in many communities, they provide a venue where all Jews in the community can feel comfortable, a locus where Jews can gather to do Jewish things with other Jews.

The JCCs have also been involved in community-wide activities, helping to organize concerts, holiday celebrations, and cultural exhibitions and festivals. Their overriding goal is to reach the unaffiliated by finding the particular activity that will strike a chord in a particular Jewish soul—and they are succeeding.

The number of participants in JCC activities has risen substantially over the past year, as has the involvement of previously non-affiliated segments of the Jewish population. And for many individuals, interest quickly leads to full-scale involvement in community life. We hope this trend will continue, and the JCCs will develop into a strong source of community leadership for the future.

The model is proven. JDC has the qualities and experience to do the job right, having helped to rebuild vibrant Jewish communities in Western Europe after World War II. With the support of United Jewish Communities, individual Federations, major foundations, and philanthropists, JDC is responding to this great opportunity in Jewish history with a massive and focused program. But it will take an additional financial commitment from American Jewry for this program to reach its full dramatic potential—and another 10 to 20 years to complete the job.

Yet we work today with a strong sense of urgency, knowing how little time is left to fight the effects of 70 years of forced assimilation. We can easily imagine what these millions of returning Jews would mean to the Jewish people; all we have to do is think what the same number of Jews from the same places have accomplished this past century in America.

What we dare not envision—what we must adamantly prevent—is the irreparable loss that would result if we failed to take up the challenge before us, particularly since we clearly have the collective means to do so.

We at JDC work with the confidence that just as American Jewry has never failed the thousands upon thousands of Jews overseas who have looked to us for help, so it will not fail to take up one of the greatest Jewish renewal challenges in our people’s history.

The dedicated members of the JDC Board, many of whom have seen our programs in the former Soviet Union at first hand, continue to be effective advocates in their home communities for this effort—and for all of JDC’s needs. Their leadership positions in their respective communities give their words added weight—as do the many supplemental gifts they have made to specific overseas programs. Their assistance and support—and that of the past JDC Presidents, my fellow officers, and JDC Committee Chairs—have been of inestimable value to me during my years as President, particularly during this period of great transformation in the organized American Jewish community.

I am confident that United Jewish Communities and the individual North American Federations will continue to bring the unique generosity of American Jewish contributors together with the professional expertise of JDC in service to Jewish needs overseas.

What it all comes down to in the end is a question of choices and of commitment, for while the task that continues to face us in the former Soviet Union is monumental, so are the potential gains—and losses—for the Jewish people. Having mourned the destruction of so many Jewish communities over the past 100 years, the question all of us must now answer is not whether we can afford to seize this awesome opportunity, but whether we can afford not to.
Recent months have brought a number of new developments in the program areas that continue to be a major focus of JDC activity. Our welfare initiatives in the former Soviet Union are now helping over 200,000 Jews—a milestone achievement, particularly with regard to the many individuals we have succeeded in reaching in isolated localities throughout this vast land area.

For the last five years, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference) has been JDC's major partner in providing welfare services for elderly Jews in need in the former Soviet Union. It currently funds over half of the Hesed program described in the body of this report, concentrating especially on providing services in those regions with a substantial number of victims of Nazi persecution.

JDC and the Claims Conference have recently agreed to create a partnership committee that more formally establishes the cooperative relationship between our two organizations. The committee will serve as a forum for coordinating the goals of the partner organizations and for dealing with welfare issues from a united perspective. JDC will continue to assume responsibility for implementing and operating welfare services in consultation with local Hesed boards of directors.

Another major organizational development was the establishment last year of the JDC International Council. Chaired by Alan Batkin, the Council is bringing together some of the most prominent world Jewish leaders to provide advice and assistance for JDC's global operations at the highest levels.

In his preface, Jonathan Kolker has described the important progress made in JDC's many-faceted Jewish renewal effort in the former Soviet Union. But JDC's President has also issued a call to arms, reminding us how much remains to be done to ensure that this major segment of world Jewry is not lost to our people. JDC continues to be deeply engaged in the process of individual and communal renewal under way in Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe, and we support aging Holocaust survivors throughout these regions.

A great deal of effort has been devoted over the past year-and-a-half to the non-sectarian relief and recovery projects developed by JDC in response to last year's crisis in Kosovo and the two deadly earthquakes in Turkey. As the initiator and coordinator of the Jewish Coalitions for Disaster Relief assembled to meet each emergency, JDC staff developed a wide range of assistance programs, from the initial provision of emergency supplies and health services and the operation of model refugee facilities to ongoing reconstruction and recovery activities. These have included the construction or repair of elementary schools and the furnishing of school equipment...
and supplies in both Kosovo and Turkey, the establishment of vocational and computer training programs in Kosovo in partnership with the World ORT Union, and the creation of new health services and trauma relief programs in Turkey's most devastated areas.

These efforts are described in detail in the JDC-IDP section of this report, which also contains a listing of the 45 US and foreign Jewish organizations who have been part of the unified Jewish response to disasters that these Coalitions represent. Funding for these humanitarian projects has been provided by contributors to JDC's "Open Mailbox" campaigns and the Coalition member agencies.

In Israel, the programs developed by JDC to help the nation care for its least advantaged citizens continue to be replicated throughout the country by various levels of government and by local voluntary agencies. This reaffirms the validity of JDC's approach and the value of its efforts to create working partnerships between the American Jewish community and the Israeli people.

The Coalition for the Advancement of Ethiopian Education that JDC initiated in 1997, for example, is able to pool resources from member organizations in both Israel and the US for a variety of new initiatives that have garnered important support from individual Federations, private philanthropists, and foundations. In like manner, ASHALIM, established in 1998 as a professional and financial partnership of the Israeli government, UJA-Federation of New York, and JDC, is using the resources and expertise of its partner agencies to accelerate the development of critically needed services for children-at-risk. The model community-based facility for children pioneered at Lod's "Thanks to Scandinavia" Home will be refined at Jerusalem's new Corky Ribakoff Center for Children and replicated in other parts of the country.

In a major initiative addressing one of Israel's most pressing social issues, JDC has responded to a government request that it develop a comprehensive program to integrate members of the ultra-Orthodox community into the workforce. The focus will be on training and placement efforts in the high-tech sectors of Israel's economy, where new workers are in great demand. This 10 million shekel program, which will be run by JDC but funded mostly by the government, seeks to alleviate widespread poverty among the ultra-Orthodox and to relieve Israel's social security burden of thousands of dependents. It also hopes to ease tensions between ultra-Orthodox and secular Israelis by helping each side become more familiar with and better understand the other.

The Israeli government has made a commitment to accelerate the processing of applications for aliyah from the Falash Mora population in Ethiopia. JDC continues to provide emergency medical services and supplemental nutrition programs in Gondar City and Addis Ababa. It earnestly hopes that all who have applied for aliyah will know where they stand within the next 12 months, so that those who are not accepted can move out of their limbo status and return to a more normal pattern of living in that country.

Over the past year, there has been a "changing of the guard" in many of the Moslem countries, including those in which JDC has been helping small Jewish communities maintain essential communal services, and we continue to monitor the situation. In Latin America and Western Europe, the leadership training and community development efforts that JDC has initiated have really been taking off: the first ever European GA was held in Nice in May 1999 with 620 participants from 39 countries; Latin America's seventh GA brought Jewish leaders from North and South America together in Mexico this past March; and the European Council of Jewish Communities is now a member of the Claims Conference and has been helping to coordinate regional aid efforts. We are also beginning to see many of the young leaders trained through Leatid becoming the presidents of their communities.

JDC's global operations are made possible primarily by the support it receives from the
American Jewish community through the UJA Federation campaign of United Jewish Communities (UJC). This amounted to $58,573,272 last year toward JDC's 1999 budget of $66,645,500. The Federation system also provided $3,891,000 for the Special Hunger Relief Program in the former Soviet Union. Additional funds were received from the United States government, from other governments and international organizations, from charitable foundations and philanthropists, from World Jewish Relief (UK), and from Canadian Jewry.

We have now entered a new era in American Jewish community funding for overseas needs. The old system, whereby JDC negotiated with UIA (United Israel Appeal) to establish national campaign distribution formulas, is no more. In its place, we now have a needs-based system of recommendations made to the Federations by UJC and its Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee (ONAD). For calendar year 2001, Federations are being asked to provide JDC and the Jewish Agency with 105 percent of their 1998 overseas allocations. While 90 percent of this will be allocated collectively for both agencies' core needs, Federations will be able to allocate the remaining 15 percent electively. In this portion of the annual allocation, named "community funding" by the ONAD Committee, Federations will be funding JDC and Jewish Agency programs of their choice within a range of program areas.

Consequently, JDC has needed to enter a new field of expertise, packaging and marketing its programs to gain the widest possible acceptance by the Federations. As we move more and more toward donor-designated gifts, we must guard against the possibility that less glamorous programs still vitally needed by their beneficiaries will be overlooked or abandoned. And we must hope that JDC will receive sufficient overall funding to preserve its organizational integrity and mission and keep it from breaking up into a series of disparate activities.

A number of staff rotations were implemented this past year to broaden the experience of JDC's senior managers, whom we also hoped would bring fresh ideas to their temporary positions. Steve Schwager has returned to New York to serve as JDC's chief operating officer with a year's field experience running JDC's operations in Israel and the former Soviet Union, while Asher Ostrin and Arnon Mantver are taking back to Israel a deeper understanding of New York headquarters and of JDC's relationships with the Federations and private donors.

I believe that JDC has a knack for finding the right President at the right time and Jonathan Kolker's tenure, which is now in its final year, is no exception. Jonathan has successfully led JDC through a period of great transition in national Jewish life. At a time of change and understandable disarray in the organized Jewish community, his intellect, analytical skills, integrity, and clarity of vision have been invaluable to JDC and to me personally. He has always been JDC's strongest champion, striving to ensure that its positions were understood and ultimately appreciated. And I am certain that his voice will continue to be raised in firm support of JDC's global mission in the years ahead.

August 2000
Mother and daughter at the Haifa Parent-Child Center, the prototype for a nationwide network now being developed.
JDC's mission in Israel is to help Israel's social services care more effectively for the weakest and least fortunate members of society.

**PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION**

**JDC's Strategic Intervention in Israel**

**RESEARCH**
Understanding the most difficult issues challenging Israel's social fabric.

**RESPONSE**
Developing an approach that can solve a specific problem.

**RECRUITMENT**
Bringing in national and local partners to help develop and test this approach.

**REPLICATION**
Once an approach is proven, JDC helps its partners apply it nationwide, making it an integral part of Israel's social service system.

**EXIT**
When replication is complete, JDC exits the program and moves on to its next Strategic Intervention.

**ISRAEL**

Total population . . . . . . . . . 6.2 million
Jewish population . . . . . . . 5.0 million
JDC appropriation . . . . . . . . $19,149,500

**JDC'S CURRENT FOCUS IN ISRAEL**
- Protection of children and teens
- Care for the elderly
- Aid for special absorption
- Research and development of social services
- Promoting philanthropy and volunteerism
- Project management for donors
INTRODUCTION

However dynamically a nation's economy may perform, there are always those whose circumstances prevent them from sharing in the prevailing prosperity. So it is in Israel today: 300,000 Israeli children are at-risk of abuse or neglect, the number of frail and disabled elderly is increasing, and thousands of immigrants, particularly those from Ethiopia, are struggling to adapt to Israel's rough-and-tumble society, while their children are straining to make their way in school.

While Israel is a sovereign state with its own social services, the scope and complexity of the social problems it faces demand the kind of flexibility and innovation that few governments anywhere are able to achieve.

That is where JDC comes in, working on American Jewry's behalf to help Israel find new and better ways to meet the needs of its society's most vulnerable members. Through its unique method of Strategic Intervention, JDC recruits Israeli partners who will eventually take over the new approach to services it has helped them develop. And because JDC's partners are social service agencies with the means to apply these new approaches wherever they are needed, the solutions JDC helps develop have long-term, nationwide impact. Moreover, every dollar American Jewry invests in JDC programs is matched by up to $3 from JDC's Israeli partners.

JDC can play this key role because, as an apolitical American organization, it is never drawn into Israel's political fray. It can thus serve as an honest broker among different interests, making it a partner of choice for a variety of national agencies seeking solutions to tough problems.

KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

The dramatic changes Israel has experienced over the last decade have contributed to a sharp increase in child abuse and neglect, as well as in juvenile delinquency and disaffection. JDC helped place this issue high on Israel's public agenda, so that various government and non-profit agencies are now addressing it.

A major step was taken in 1998 with the establishment of ASHALIM, a professional and financial partnership of JDC, the Israeli government, and—in a first-of-its-kind relationship—UJA-Federation of New York. By pooling resources and expertise, ASHALIM aims to cut through the bureaucracy and accelerate the creation of desperately needed services for children- and youth-at-risk.
Encouraging cooperation among service providers on both the national and local levels is a central objective of ASHALIM. Its Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) initiative helps municipalities integrate their services for abused and neglected children. Pioneered in Haifa and Beersheva, CCP was implemented in Ashdod in 1999 and is being replicated in additional communities in 2000.

Wherever possible, ASHALIM emphasizes working with the whole family. It is currently developing the infrastructure for a nationwide network of 20 Parent-Child Centers, which can provide a continuum of preventive and therapeutic programs under one roof. The network is being developed with support from Sylvia Hassenfeld of New York, Ellen Block of Chicago, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, and the Guttman Foundation. New centers were opened in 1999 in Ness Ziona, Hadera, and Kiryat Malachi in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Each is modeled on the Haifa Parent-Child Center developed with support from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

ASHALIM is also creating a network of supervised visitation centers for children and parents who have been separated by divorce. Support for both the Parent-Child Center and the visitation center program in Kiryat Malachi is being provided by Yaffa Maritz of Seattle and the UJC West Coast Region's Women's Division through its Mother-to-Another initiative. The Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles has joined with the Tel Aviv municipality in a family violence initiative to identify and develop appropriate interventions for at-risk families.

When removing children from their home is the only safe alternative, ASHALIM seeks to ensure that residential facilities are as supportive and nurturing as possible. In 1999, ASHALIM embarked on a strategic planning process, implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Labor.
and Social Affairs, for all of Israel's residential facilities, with the goal of upgrading services and developing a broader range of out-of-home treatment models.

ASHALIM has expanded its own network of community-based facilities, which remove children from danger while enabling them to remain in school and in contact with their extended family. This model, which was first introduced in the “Thanks to Scandinavia” Home in Lod, was implemented in existing facilities in Tel Aviv and three other communities in 1999. A gift from Eugene Ribakoff of Palm Beach is making possible the purchase and renovation of a new facility in Jerusalem based on this model; it will be called the Corky Ribakoff Center for Children.

The foster home clusters being developed through Orr Shalom are another ASHALIM initiative. Through this program, children are cared for by foster parents while maintaining contact with their biological parents; the goal is for the children to return to their own homes after a three-year placement. A new foster home in Holon was purchased and refurnished in 1999 with support from UJA Federation of Greenwich.

For children facing immediate danger, JDC helped establish a network of emergency centers to provide care until long-term solutions are found. The centers' range of services is being broadened through a series of workshops funded by Lynn and Charles Schusterman of Tulsa. Two new centers were initiated in 1999, including one in Pardes Hanna which is being constructed with support from Jackie and Bertie Woolf of San Diego.

The Succat Shalom Jerusalem Schusterman Center for Children and Families is continuing its professional dialogue with the Parent-Child Center of Tulsa, thereby fostering the exchange of professional knowledge between Israel and the United States.

Professional exchange also remains central to UJA-Federation of New York's role in ASHALIM. During 1999, three teams of professionals from New York visited Israel to observe ASHALIM's innovative residential care models.

ASHALIM also addresses the needs of children with disabilities, who face an especially high risk of abuse or neglect. It recently developed the Integration as Partnership program, a pilot effort to integrate children with disabilities into music and art classes in regular schools and bring them closer to their more able-bodied peers.

Addressing the alarming rise in youth violence, ASHALIM helped establish a network of eight centers in 1999 to counsel teenagers on a range of issues, from drug abuse to army service. Funds to renovate and operate the center in Migdal Ha'emek have been provided by...
the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids and the Abe Gertzman Fund through the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, while centers in Kiryat Yam, Kiryat Shemona, and other projects are being supported by Lou Hoodwin of Michigan City, IN.

JDC's New Educational Environment (NEE) program, currently operating in 68 high schools, has been encouraging underachievers and potential dropouts to stay in school by creating more flexible, individualized learning environments. Greater emphasis is currently being placed on violence prevention. In 1999, NEEs were introduced on a pilot basis in a junior high school and in four vocational schools. NEEs in B'nei Brak and Jerusalem are supported by the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Generous funding for vital programs for children- and youth-at-risk was provided last year by the Guttman Foundation, by Harry L. and Eleanor A. Schick of New York, by the Silverman Charitable Group, by Leonard and Tobee Kaplan of Greensboro, NC, and by Susi Schletter-Messing.

Since 1997, the particular needs of Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren have been systematically addressed through the Coalition for the Advancement of Ethiopian Education, which now includes 45 government ministries, foundations, and non-profit organizations. PACT (Parents and Children Together), a cutting-edge partnership between JDC and the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, is demonstrating the effectiveness of the educational approach developed by the Coalition. Launched in Beersheba in 1998, the Coalition model is currently reaching 700 Ethiopian-Israeli preschoolers—75 percent of the community's under-three's and fully 90 percent of its four- to six-year-olds. Generous funding for specific programs has been provided by the SACTA-RASHI Foundation. In light of the partnership's success, JDC, in conjunction with the Cleveland Federation and SACTA-RASHI, is replicating the Coalition model in other cities with large Ethiopian-Israeli populations.

SHAHAM, JDC's innovative home-based support program for at-risk Ethiopian-Israeli families, is currently helping 85 families in six communities, with funding from the Ministry of Education. The program utilizes National Service volunteers and will reach 100 families in 2000. Another new
program, *Mila Tova*, strives to improve the parents’ command of Hebrew and enable them to involve themselves in their children’s education.

JDC’s Basic Needs Fund, created in 1997 to provide Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren with basic school supplies and finance their extra-curricular activities, assisted over 3,000 children in 1999. Other JDC initiatives are helping to raise achievement levels among elementary and high school students. *Keshtarim*, a specially adapted version of the NEE that works to sensitize teachers to these students’ special needs, is currently operating in eight schools with significant numbers of Ethiopian students, up from two in 1997. In a new initiative called Project *Gamla*, retired teachers have been mobilized as one-on-one tutors, with 180 Ethiopian-Israeli students in six communities currently being aided.

Generous funding for these critical educational programs has been provided by Alfred and Gail Engelberg and Edith and Henry Everett of New York, Elythe Roland-Grodnick of MetroWest, NJ, Myra and Robert Kraft of Boston, Judd Malkin and Nate Shapiro of Chicago, Larry and Leonore Zusman of Dayton, the Helen Bader Foundation, the Baron De Hirsch Fund, UJAFederation of New York, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Leslie Bernstein-Armstrong of New York, the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation, Bernard Gottstein, Susi Schletter-Messing, the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, and the Pratt Foundation.

JDC is also working to help Ethiopian-Israelis achieve economic self-sufficiency, knowing that finding a fulfilling job and making a decent salary are essential to joining mainstream society. JDC initiatives include providing vocational training and encouraging self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Addressing another key area, the *Refuah Shlema* program uses specially trained Ethiopian-Israeli liaisons to enhance the health care the Ethiopian community receives by providing health education programs for community members and special training sessions for medical staff. The program is operating in six primary care clinics, with support from Alfred and Gail Engelberg, the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach.

To strengthen the community as a whole, JDC has been nurturing the development of grassroots Ethiopian-Israeli activists who can advocate on their community’s behalf. It has also been striving to broaden Ethiopian involvement in the wider society by exposing other Israelis to the community’s artistic and cultural heritage. These initiatives included a course training young Ethiopian-Israelis in the art of storytelling so that they and other Israelis can benefit from their rich tradition of folktales.
Closing the gap between Ethiopian-immigrant parents and their Israeli-raised children is another priority. The Family on the Web program brings the generations together in a computer-based exploration of their community's heritage. Other projects, including creative drama workshops, help overcome the disaffection many Ethiopian-Israeli dropouts feel.

JDC is also addressing the needs of certain immigrants from the former Soviet Union who continue to have absorption problems. On-the-job training to upgrade the skills of immigrant engineers and the newly established Forum of Immigrant Engineers are helping this highly educated group achieve its full potential. While most immigrants from the western parts of the former Soviet Union have made great strides, many of those from Bukhara and the Caucasus region—with their distinctive cultural backgrounds and tight-knit communities—have been left behind. JDC has been encouraging increased cooperation among government ministries, local authorities, and non-profit organizations in developing new approaches to meet these communities' special needs.

The towns of Sderot, Kiryat Yam, Nazareth Illit, and Ramle have been the focus of JDC efforts to date. Educational initiatives include a program to prepare five-year-olds for first grade, in-service training for teachers, and after-school tutoring for high school students. JDC also runs vocational training programs and entrepreneurship courses to help adults enter the workforce, and it has adapted the Family on the Web program to meet the needs of these two communities. A leadership development program for Israelis from the Caucasus established by JDC in conjunction with the Ministries of Absorption and Labor and Social Affairs saw its second group complete training in 1999, additional empowerment programs are encouraging group members to advocate for their communities both locally and nationally.

OTHER POPULATION GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

JDC has been working to ensure that Israelis with mental and physical disabilities are able to participate as fully as possible in community life; heretofore, Israel has seriously lagged behind other Western countries in pursuing this goal. Eight cities have now joined the Accessible Environments initiative, which seeks to make public facilities accessible to those with special needs. In 1999, the Israel Museum was made accessible to visitors in wheelchairs, with the Bloomfield Science Museum and the Hebrew University Botanical Gardens the next sites to be tackled. UJA-Federation of New York has funded a pilot project that will enable nine community centers to provide equal access to their facilities to all members of the community.

In conjunction with the Ministries of Health and Labor and Social Affairs and the National Insurance Institute, JDC's Accessible Communities program promotes the involvement of those with disabilities in planning and decision-making at the local level. The program model will be implemented initially in 18 communities.

CoVos (Continuum of Vocational Services), a JDC effort to help those with disabilities find...
employment appropriate to their capabilities, was expanded last year to the north of the country, where some 150 people were aided. In 2000, CoVos is enhancing its operations in the southern region, with the number helped expected to increase from 450 to 1,200. In 1999, JDC, together with Israel's Institute for the Advancement of Deaf Persons, helped launch a program in which deaf college students tutor deaf schoolchildren, for whom they become role models. JDC is also working with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to establish a nationwide network of information centers for, and staffed by, the visually impaired.

Druse and Arab women, who face special difficulties in Israel both as members of minority groups and as women living within male-dominated communities, have also been receiving special help from JDC. An empowerment program for Druse and Arab widows is now in its fourth year, and a vocational program for teenage girls considered likely to drop out of school is operating in the Arab village of Yarka.

To address a major need within Israeli society, JDC initiated special programs, including vocational and entrepreneurship training, that promote the entry into the workforce of men and women in Israel's ultra-Orthodox community. Implemented with the cooperation of the community's religious leaders, these initiatives proved so successful that they have been expanded in cooperation with the government of Israel's ministries and with support from the Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Charitable Foundation.

Similarly, JDC supports the growth of vocational yeshivot, which teach marketable skills along with religious subjects, as well as yeshivot that combine Jewish studies with military service and institutes that provide advanced Jewish study for women. JDC also spearheaded a breakthrough in special needs education in the yeshiva world by helping to establish schools for ultra-Orthodox children with learning disabilities.

AGING WITH DIGNITY

JDC continues to play a leading role in helping Israel's social services meet the needs generated by the significant growth in the country's elderly population that has occurred over the past decade. It does this by planning and developing innovative services for the elderly through JDC-ESHEL, the agency it established in partnership with the government, which marked its 30th anniversary in 1999.

JDC-ESHEL's primary aim is to help seniors stay as active and independent as possible, thereby enhancing their quality of life and minimizing the need for expensive residential care. To accomplish this, it has led a fundamental shift in Israel from institutional care to community-based services, a shift that has had a dramatic and nationwide impact.

Adolescent girls are encouraged to complete their schooling in one of JDC's special programs for Druse and Arab women.

Photo: © Debbi Cooper
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation are mainstays of JDC's efforts to provide Israel's elderly with quality care. Funding for specific programs has been generously provided by Joseph Glickman of La Jolla, the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, and Adele Becker of New York.

JDC-ESHEL's innovative Supportive Communities program provides seniors who remain in their apartments with an emergency alarm system, help with errands and home repairs, and a variety of all-important social activities. Forty-six such communities have been established across the country, including a network of 15 set up with assistance from the Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust and others established with support from the Joseph and Dorothy Goldberg Trust.

In 1999, JDC-ESHEL adapted the Warm Home program—first developed by JDC for needy elderly in the former Soviet Union—to help elderly immigrants from that region find their place in Israeli society by bringing them together periodically in the home of an immigrant host. The program has already been implemented in ten locations and will be expanded to others this year.

With support from UJA-Federation of New York, JDC-ESHEL continues to develop health promotion programs for seniors that encourage physical activity and good nutrition and provide screening for hearing and vision problems, with new fitness centers for the elderly planned this year. In 1999, 500 elderly volunteers led health education and fitness activities for their peers in the Stay Well programs that operated in 12 localities, three of which were added during the year. JDC-ESHEL's publications supplement these efforts by educating seniors and those who care for them on topics ranging from safety in the home to the establishment of self-help groups by children of elderly parents. JDC-ESHEL has also instituted programs that give seniors the opportunity to earn needed extra income and feel that they are still productive members of society.

For seniors who need institutional care, JDC-ESHEL has developed a model home for the aged that incorporates—within the same facility—beds for physically and mentally frail elderly as well as for those requiring temporary or long-term nursing care. In 1999, two new homes based on this...
model were completed. One is part of Jerusalem’s Katamon Integrated Center for the Elderly, which received funding from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, and local Israeli agencies. The second, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Home for the Aged in Ofakim, completes a network of institutional services in the Negev.

A home for Alzheimer’s patients in Ramat Gan is under construction, as is a new home in Karmiel. In Afula, the Tauben family is supporting construction of a wing for mentally frail elderly at the HaEmek Hospital, and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit is supporting a hospice program.

Other programs developed by JDC-ESHEL, including those involving nutrition and occupational therapy, are improving the quality of life in existing homes for the aged. In a novel approach to institutional care for the elderly, a quality assurance program supported by the Glickman Foundation was initiated in 1999 at the Zahalon Geriatric Center, making it a “Center for Excellence.”

Some 2,000 care providers underwent in-service training last year, including an intensive program for directors of day care centers and old age homes. Fifteen physicians have completed a training program for geriatric specialists established in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, and 39 additional doctors—mostly immigrants from the former Soviet Union—are currently enrolled in the program.

Over the past few years, JDC-ESHEL and the JDC-Brookdale Institute have been providing an increasing number of Jewish community Federations in the US, including those in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, Palm Beach, and Washington DC, with professional consultations on services for the elderly. This is in addition to the expertise and training opportunities that have regularly been provided to JDC-supported community welfare programs for Jews in need worldwide.

JDC-ESHEL sponsored a number of activities last year to mark the International Year of Older Persons. It held a contest for children who photographed their grandparents, with the winning photos featured in ESHEL’s wall calendar. Hundreds of additional seniors joined the annual Jerusalem March, taking routes suited to their physical condition before participating in a gala event in the capital celebrating the International Year. And an international conference on Jewish Social Services for the Elderly brought 400 medical and social service professionals from 21 countries together in Israel.

**BETTER SERVICE, GREATER RESOURCES**

In addition to helping Israel develop new approaches to specific problems, JDC has long been working to improve the quality of services Israelis receive from the government and from non-profit groups. This involvement has enabled JDC to build relationships with agencies that it can subsequently recruit as partners in addressing particular issues.
JDC-ELKA provides management training for senior staff in the fields of health, welfare, and education, with the goals of increasing management efficiency, fostering greater flexibility and initiative, and promoting both intra- and inter-agency cooperation. Interface, a new program established in 1999, is bringing together education professionals from the government and the non-profit sectors.

In 1999, participants in JDC-ELKA's training program for directors of municipal welfare departments visited the former Soviet Union to learn about and from the Hesed centers, the extensive network of community welfare organizations that JDC helped develop. They met with local staff members in various cities and explored areas for possible cooperation and ongoing contact.

Some 120 municipal heads are affiliated with the Lyn P. Meyerhoff 21st Century Forum for Mayors, which helps elected local leaders address issues of common concern and upgrade their professional skills. Established in 1994, the Forum is a partnership of JDC-ELKA, the Interior Ministry, Sikkuy (The Association for the Advancement of Equal Opportunity) and the Lyn P. Meyerhoff Foundation.

JDC-ELKA's efforts to breach the “glass ceiling” that can block women's professional advancement have helped the Jerusalem municipality and the Adjutancy Corps of the Israel Defense Forces explore ways to utilize women employees more effectively. In 1999, the Haifa municipality entered this program.

To maintain JDC-ELKA's impact on service quality, ongoing contact among its 1,600 graduates is actively encouraged. The fifth annual conference of graduates took place in 1999, while a quarterly magazine and an Internet site provide forums for exchanging ideas. JDC-ELKA continues to address tolerance and conflict management issues in Israel through its support, in partnership with the Jerusalem Foundation and the Jerusalem municipality, of the Jerusalem Inter-Cultural Center.

With local government increasingly responsible for providing human services, JDC-ELKA has been concentrating on strengthening the effectiveness of local programs. A special program for directors of municipal education departments, for example, is helping them adapt to the ramifications of decentralization. Assistance with long-range planning is provided to some 42 local authorities by the Municipal Planning Unit program, a project for which the Interior Ministry has assumed greater responsibility as JDC phases out its involvement.

Through JDC-ESHEL's audio-visual project, Israeli seniors can produce and air their own television and radio programs.

Photo: Avi Hayon
Mayors from Israeli towns large and small are active participants in the periodic seminars organized by the Lyn P. Meyerhoff 21st Century Forum for Mayors.

JDC actively supports Israel’s non-profit sector, which it regards as a vital partner in addressing concerns that the government cannot meet. In 1999, JDC established the Center for Lay Leadership, which has developed a range of tools to train board members of non-profit organizations, thereby enhancing their effectiveness. In 1999, the Center began a program for a group of Beersheva community leaders involved in that city’s JDC/Cleveland PACT partnership for Ethiopian-Israelis.

JDC is also training Israeli lay leaders who are committed to strengthening Israel-Diaspora relations. It is working with the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Virginia, for example, to train community leaders in Pardes Katz who will be working alongside their overseas counterparts. Similar programs are operating in the central Galilee, with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit as JDC’s partner.

JDC encourages charitable giving among Israelis. Operation Social Development (OSD), founded in 1993 with JDC support to raise the social consciousness of Israel’s business community, has adopted Israel’s Computer for Every Child project, which by the end of 1999 had distributed over 10,000 computers to families in Israel’s poorest neighborhoods. In 1999, OSD took on another major initiative: a campaign to reduce the carnage on Israel’s roads.

The National Self-Help Clearinghouse continues to advise and encourage individuals interested in joining or establishing self-help groups, hoping to turn dependent clients into empowered activists. The JDC-founded Association of the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector (VNPS)—the voluntary sector’s 300-group umbrella organization—works to raise standards and increase professionalism through efforts like the Hebrew University master’s degree program in non-profit management initiated three years ago in conjunction with JDC.

**JDC-BROOKDALE INSTITUTE**

The JDC-Brookdale Institute is Israel’s—and the world’s—leading Jewish center for
applied research. A partnership of JDC and the Israeli government, the Institute works closely with voluntary organizations, including JDC-Israel, JDC-ESHEL, and ASHALIM, and with government ministries, seeking to improve social service practice and policy by bringing more effective planning and evaluation to bear on priority issues.

The JDC-Brookdale Institute has five divisions:
- Aging
- Health Policy
- Immigrant Absorption
- Disability
- The Center for Children and Youth

The Institute provides a unique forum for examining critical social issues in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world. It serves as an evaluator of JDC programs in Europe and the former Soviet Union, and it has been expanding its work with individual Diaspora communities.

AGING

Long-term care for the rapidly increasing number of disabled elderly—in Israel and elsewhere—is an important focus of Institute efforts. In Israel, the Institute is part of an interministerial committee working to reorganize both long-term and acute care in order to improve the continuity of services for this growing population segment. The Institute works with JDC-ESHEL to evaluate new health promotion programs for the elderly, develop new technologies, and disseminate new techniques for quality assurance.

In the international arena, the Institute conducted a symposium in 1999 in cooperation with the World Health Organization to formulate recommendations for establishing long-term care systems in developing countries. It also helped prepare a policy statement on aging for the UN General Assembly.

In recent years, the Institute has developed cooperative programs with Jewish community Federations throughout the US. Last year, it completed an evaluation of the service system for Jewish elderly in Palm Beach, and it is currently undertaking a similar effort in the Washington, DC area in response to that community's request. It is also engaged in a continuing evaluation of JDC's welfare programs for the Jewish elderly in the former Soviet Union.

HEALTH POLICY

In cooperation with the US Commonwealth Fund, the Institute completed a study of health and social welfare among Israeli women in 1999 which included first-ever figures on the extent of

Warren L. Wolfson, Chair of the Cleveland Federation's Jewish Welfare Fund, at a PACT program for Ethiopian preschoolers in Beersheva, part of Cleveland's partnership effort with JDC.

Photo: © Debbi Cooper
domestic violence. A study of the impact of the new national health insurance law on the Arab population revealed improvements in health care since the statute’s enactment.

The Institute continues to monitor the implementation of that law. The much more significant co-payments introduced in 2000 are a current focus of attention, with the Institute seeking to evaluate their consequences both for financing the system and for efforts to assure equitable care.

IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION

Brookdale’s findings regarding Ethiopian-Israelis’ ongoing economic and educational difficulties have provided the impetus for various initiatives, including the major effort currently under way to address the early childhood needs of this population group. The Institute is working on three studies in conjunction with this effort: an evaluation of the comprehensive early childhood program being conducted in Beersheva by the Cleveland Federation and JDC-Israel, an examination of early childhood programs in Israel and abroad that is being supported by Edythe Roland Grodnick of MetroWest, NJ, and a study of the role of Ethiopian fathers that has the support of the Auerbach Family Foundation. The Institute is also helping the Coalition for Ethiopian Education develop an overall evaluation framework.

Institute studies of other immigrant groups continue to serve as the basis for planning national programs and policies to promote their employment and integration. The subjects of recent studies include students from the former Soviet Union currently attending Israeli institutions of higher education, engineers from this area who are seeking employment, and immigrants from the Caucasus and Bukharan regions who have been experiencing difficulties with the absorption process.

DISABILITY

A major study of the needs of children with physical or learning disabilities was completed in 1999, as the Institute continued to address the challenge of mainstreaming such children into regular classrooms. The findings of this multi-year study, which was supported by the Mandell Berman Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities, were presented to the Knesset and are serving as the basis for revising eligibility levels and disability benefits.

The Institute is evaluating the historic national experiment currently under way to provide real alternatives in the community for the chronically mentally ill. With the support of the Bader Foundation, it continues to work on the implementation of four inter-related national laws which significantly affect those with disabilities.
THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
In partnership with ASHALIM, the Center is working on a national strategic plan for developing new models of residential care for children and youth. The effort will complement the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs’s new regulatory system for institutional care for these age groups, which was completed in 1999 and is being implemented nationwide.

The Center evaluated a series of ASHALIM programs in 1999, focusing on new models that emphasize the link between parents and children. It is accompanying the implementation of the national plan for children-at-risk with a unique system that promotes experience-sharing and encourages collaboration among national and field professionals.

The high levels of youth violence revealed through the Center’s participation in the World Health Organization’s comparative study of adolescent behavior have generated much concern in Israel. The findings prompted the establishment of a commission which has recommended a new national program to address this problem.

THE CENTER FOR
SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES
The Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel (CSPS), an independent, non-partisan research institute funded primarily by JDC, has come to occupy an influential position in the social policy area. Both government and opposition leaders turn to it for accurate analyses of policy options in the areas of education, health, personal welfare, and economic policy.

CSPS’ small core staff is augmented by 16 experts who hold senior positions in the public and private sectors. Working in area-related teams, they prepare in-depth analyses and policy papers; these become the subject of debate in CSPS’ public forums, which are attended by Cabinet ministers, Knesset members, senior academics, and business leaders. The Center also works with international institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Brookings Institution.

The Center’s annual analysis of the government’s social budget is a cornerstone of its operation and a valued tool in the public debate on social policy. The 1999 analysis featured CSPS area team reports that presented an alternative socio-economic agenda to the government, one that aimed to stimulate the nation’s economic growth, reduce unemployment, and promote the resurgence of social service development.

CSPS’ popular publication, Israel - Fast Facts for the Busy Reader, is distributed to every UJC mission participant, while the Center’s latest findings are posted on its frequently visited Web site, which can be reached at www.csps.org.il.
Window on a miracle: Kindling the first Hanukka light in Kishinev last December.
JDC regards immigration to Israel as the best option for ensuring that the Jews of the former Soviet Union do not assimilate. Many Jews, though, will remain for the foreseeable future and they need dynamic community organizations to facilitate the revival of Jewish life, reach out effectively to the uninvolved, and care for the needy. Through 16 offices and 25 full-time emissaries, JDC today is helping Jews in 11 countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and seeks to:

- Promote Jewish knowledge, values, and identity in a spirit of religious pluralism and with a commitment to Zionist principles.
- Encourage the development of a local leadership that springs from and truly represents the Jews of the former Soviet Union.
- Facilitate the development of self-sufficient and independent Jewish communities capable of meeting their members' physical and other needs.

THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Jewish Population

1989 Soviet census . . . . . 1.5 million
Current estimates . . . . . 1-2 million
(although some estimates place the figure as high as 4 million)

JDC Appropriation . . . . $21,645,500¹

¹ This total includes funds allocated by JDC in 1999 for Jewish renewal and welfare programs, for property reclamation, and for the RIT program. RIT is the designation for activities initiated in the aftermath of World War II to bring vitally needed support to Jews in Eastern Europe. These funds are now being used primarily in the former Soviet Union.
For three generations, the Jews of the former Soviet Union were denied any contact with Judaism or with their brethren abroad. Under Communist rule, all religion was suppressed, and the study, teaching, and practice of Judaism became a punishable offense. Applying for a visa to emigrate to Israel was considered treason. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union over a decade ago, hundreds of thousands of Jews have emigrated to Israel. Many others, however, have chosen to stay in the country of their birth. Across the former Soviet Union there has been a reawakening of interest in Judaism, as scores of thousands of Jews seek to rediscover their heritage and rebuild Jewish life.

For, while the Soviet authorities failed in their attempt to eradicate Judaism, they did succeed in destroying the institutions of community life and traditions of leadership so vital to a Jewish revival. Ten years ago, apart from underground cells of refuseniks, there existed hardly any focus for renewed communal activity. There was no leadership, religious or lay. Welfare programs were very limited, and there was no Jewish education for any age group.

Indeed, the basic communal values of altruism, volunteerism, and personal service were all but forgotten in a society in which the state bore all responsibility for the individual. Thus, although small numbers of Jews have now recaptured the sense of communal service, they still lack the tools and the experience to rebuild their communities without outside help.

Today, a historic window of opportunity has opened up. The Jewish communities of the former Soviet Union may assimilate very quickly, or they may become proud, vibrant entities, taking their place on the map of contemporary Jewish life. The outcome will be decided within the course of a very few years.

BUILDING COMMUNITY LIFE

JDC is committed to helping the Jews of the former Soviet Union shape an authentic, indigenous Jewish life of their own individual and communal choosing. To that end, it is providing local Jews with the knowledge and skills to run effective community programs and institutions, and it is giving as many Jews as possible the opportunity to rediscover, study, and practice their Jewish heritage.

By 1999, JDC had helped establish 71 Jewish community centers (JCCs) across the former Soviet Union. While the
FORMER SOVIET UNION

The term may be familiar to Americans, these JCCs are vastly different from those in the United States. Many operate in only a few crowded rooms in a converted apartment. Yet because Jewish institutions are so few, wherever a JCC is found—even in the most modest premises—it quickly becomes a focus for Jewish communal life and a catalyst for Jewish social, cultural, and educational activities.

The JCCs function according to the principles of pluralism, reaching both secular and religious Jews of all ages. While JDC offers professional advice and financial support, and trains JCC staff at seminars held in the former Soviet Union and in Israel, it is local Jewish leaders who comprise the boards of directors and local Jewish professionals who design and run all JCC programs.

The JCC has a vital role to play in creating an environment conducive to communal development, indeed, it often serves as the nucleus around which a community can grow. First, it offers a physical location where all members of a community can come together and interact—adults and children, those with purely cultural interests and those with spiritual ones. Second, the variety of activities that a JCC can provide ensures that every segment of the community will find something there of interest.

The JCC also offers emerging communities the essential tools for shaping communal life. It promotes cooperation among different groups, fostering the tolerance for different views and the recognition of others' needs that are critical steps on the road to communal democracy and self-governance. In short, the JCC can serve to galvanize a community, transforming it into a single, organic body capable of charting its own future.

Several US Federations, recognizing the crucial role JCCs play, are providing generous support for their growth and expansion. This support includes a major initiative of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland for expanded programming in St. Petersburg, the UJA-Federation of New York's support for programming in Minsk and Kharkov, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh's support for program enhancement in Kishinev and Lugansk, and the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona's assistance in Yekaterinburg. Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston has been an instrumental force in the resurgence of Dnipropetrovsk Jewry through a comprehensive approach to community development, while generous support for the local JCC is being provided by Joseph Gurwin of New York.

In May 1999, a first-of-its-kind conference brought some 140 professionals and lay leaders from JCCs across the former Soviet Union together for four days in Moscow, with a similar event planned for the current year. As JDC continues to establish additional JCCs in the smaller communities, the total number throughout the region is expected to exceed 140 by the end of 2000.

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR JEWISH LIVING

Outreach to unaffiliated Jews is a major priority of the JCCs, and the family retreats program that JDC helped develop is a key part of their effort to draw Jews back to Jewish life. The retreats, which often revolve around Shabbat or Jewish life cycle events, offer families an opportunity to learn about Judaism in a warm and relaxed atmosphere and give parents a way to become involved in their children's Jewish education. The retreats are planned and led by local community leaders.
activists, with JDC providing training, programmatic support, and appropriate materials. The program expanded significantly in 1999: a total of 2,550 people took part in the 29 retreats—up from 17 in 1998—held in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and Georgia. About 40 retreats, for some 3,200 participants, are planned for the current year.

To ensure continuity of contact with participating families, follow-up programs are held in local communities throughout the year. This ongoing programming was enhanced dramatically in 1999. Last year also saw the introduction of winter retreats, which had some 2,500 participants in 30 locations at the end of 1999 and the beginning of 2000.

Another key outreach program—the OFEK Jewish Book Festivals—continues to gain momentum. Annual festivals were organized in 1999 in 76 Jewish communities throughout the region, up from 49 in 1998 and 31 in 1997. Activities included exhibitions, lectures, discussions, poetry readings, and concerts, with greater emphasis placed this past year on activities for children. In addition, eight OFEK-on-wheels trailers brought programs to peripheral towns and villages. By encouraging cooperation among all local Jewish organizations, OFEK helps to strengthen community bonds. It has also succeeded in attracting Jews who have had no previous involvement with the organized Jewish community.

The 164 Jewish libraries that JDC has established across the former Soviet Union play a central role in the OFEK festivals. They also act as year-round cultural and educational centers that address the needs of the entire community. In 1999, JDC distributed approximately 3,550 new books to local Jewish libraries. A Rosh Hodesh program, which provides an informal approach to Jewish history and traditions based on the months of the Hebrew calendar, is currently under way at the Jewish libraries in Odessa, Kishinev, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, and St. Petersburg. A Jewish storytelling program, which encourages reading and literacy among young children and promotes their interest in Jewish literature, is functioning in some 150 communities—in JCCs and school libraries as well as in local welfare centers. The library programs and the OFEK festivals receive significant support from the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds and from Louise Eder of Milwaukee.

Over 1,300 children in 19 towns are currently enrolled in 34 Jewish kindergartens in the former Soviet Union, including five that were opened in 1999 with JDC guidance. The kindergartens provide preschoolers with a positive Jewish early childhood experience, while drawing their families closer to Jewish traditions through shared Jewish holiday programs and life cycle celebrations. JDC continues to provide training for kindergarten staff members throughout the network, and in 1999, it produced The Animated Jewish Year and a set of interactive board games for classroom use.

JEWSH STUDIES
JDC remains heavily involved in the development of adult Jewish education and academic Jewish studies. The People's Universities it
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helped establish enable adults to learn about Judaism in a non-academic framework, with lecture series on Jewish subjects given by members of the community and local academics. Over 3,000 people were attracted to these programs in 1999 and four new universities were established—in Zaporozhye, Lugansk, Baku, and Siberia—bringing the total number of such institutions to 14.

The development of academic Jewish studies throughout the former Soviet Union is promoted by Sefer, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization. Founded with JDC support in 1994, Sefer serves as a central address for Jewish academic activities, organizes national and regional conferences, and brings students and faculty to Moscow for intensive courses. In 1999, Sefer entered into a new

strategic partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem that has brought important international input to the field of Jewish studies in the former Soviet Union.

Thirteen advanced Jewish studies students took part in Eshnav, a month-long summer program of intensive study at Hebrew University.

The program was launched in 1997 by the Association of Young Judaica Students, with support from Sefer, JDC, and the Jewish Agency. Twelve Jewish academics from provincial centers spent a month of intensive study in Moscow last year under the guidance of local Judaic scholars; they were part of the Sefer mentoring program, which receives generous support from Stephanie and Herb Neuman and Joan and Michael Schneeweiss of New York.

The second edition of Sefer's academic directory of Jewish studies in the former Soviet Union and the Baltic states was published in Moscow in 1999. The directory lists 93 institutions of higher education currently offering courses in Jewish studies—up from 54 in 1996—as well as more than 850 academics involved in the field.

Sefer's sixth annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Jewish Studies, held in February 1999 in Moscow, brought together over 450 local scholars, educators, and students as well as renowned academics from Europe, North America, and Israel.

The creation of the Chais Center for Jewish Studies at the prestigious Moscow State University (MGU), a joint project of MGU and Hebrew University, is a milestone in the revival of Jewish studies and a glowing example of what can be achieved when individuals, scholars, and a wide range of institutions join hands to make a vision a reality. The Center has a staff of local lecturers and a visiting staff of Hebrew University professors and graduate students that includes emigres from the former Soviet Union. Thanks to Stanley Chais' commitment to this project and financial support and the help of the Russian Jewish Congress, the Israeli government, and JDC, Jewish studies are now an integral part of academic life at one of Russia's elite institutions.

JDC continues to support the Jewish studies programs at various other state and Jewish universities, including the Jewish University of Moscow, St. Petersburg Jewish University, the
Russian State University for the Humanities, the Maimonides Jewish State Academy, Solomon University of Kiev, and the State Universities of Donetsk and Moldova. These programs are all critical links in the re-establishment of Jewish studies in the former Soviet Union.

HILLEL CENTERS

Hillel centers are now flourishing in 22 cities across the former Soviet Union, providing the thousands of university students who are seeking their Jewish roots with a welcoming environment in which to explore their heritage and meet other Jews. The Hillel centers are operated jointly by JDC and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, with generous support from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Steinhardt Family Foundation, the Benjamin and Esther Rosenbloom Foundation, and the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson.

Hillel center programs are also nurturing a new generation of activists and potential community leaders who will be able to further the process of Jewish renewal. The Pesach project, for example, encourages students to become involved in the wider community. In 1999, some 850 students held 350 communal Passover seders involving more than 20,000 participants in 180 towns, while in September, over 7,000 students and other community members took part in special High Holiday services, including 1,200 in Moscow alone. This past December, Hillel students found a new outlet for their enthusiasm, launching a Hanukkah project in which they distributed 5,000 menorahs supplied by JDC and conducted holiday programs in communities across the former Soviet Union.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Since 1991, some 200 lay and professional leaders—many from the smaller cities and towns—have taken part in the Israel-based JDC Buncher Leadership Program for Jewish Communities, a key element in JDC’s endeavor to nurture the development of local leadership. The program, supported by the Buncher family through the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, offers community activists the chance to acquire the technical skills they need to help their communities flourish.

In a related area vital to sustaining the process of Jewish renewal, the Melton Program for Senior Educators from the former Soviet Union, sponsored by JDC in cooperation with Hebrew University’s Melton Center for Jewish Education, has trained over 100 educators since its inception in 1993. JDC’s ongoing efforts to cultivate and train local leaders are aided by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

JDC continues to advise local communities regarding the reclamation of properties confiscated during the Soviet period, with a particular emphasis on how to restore and use returned properties to benefit the entire community—by turning them, for example, into Jewish community centers.
HELPING COMMUNITIES CARE

By January 2000, JDC had succeeded in reaching out and providing welfare assistance to over 190,000 elderly Jews throughout the former Soviet Union. Many of them have been living in conditions of poverty, ill-health, and isolation that are inconceivable to those accustomed to Western standards of dignity and hygiene. A significant proportion of these elderly Jews are Holocaust survivors for whom the tragedy of the Holocaust was compounded by Stalin’s purges and the Soviet Union’s institutionalized anti-Semitism.

Moreover, for the Jewish elderly, the strain has been compounded by the emigration of over a million Jews, which has left them behind to fend for themselves without the support from family and friends that could alleviate their suffering. At the same time, the Soviet Union left in its wake few Jewish communal frameworks that could step in and provide relief, and such grassroots activity as did exist lacked the technical ability to respond to the enormous needs that soon emerged.

Since 1993, when St. Petersburg’s prototype Hesed Avraham and Sonia Rochlin was established with the expert aid of Israel’s Yad Sarah, JDC has helped develop over 120 Hesed or welfare centers in the former Soviet Union. All are based on the traditional Jewish value of “gemilut hasadim,” Hebrew for “acts of loving kindness.” Sixteen new centers were opened in 1999—eight in Russia, five in Ukraine, and one each in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

In keeping with JDC’s policy of helping local Jews develop the capacity to meet local needs, the Hesed network has been serving as a catalyst for community organization and for strengthening Jewish communal integrity. Welfare programs mobilize volunteers of all ages (including schoolchildren and older students) to care for the neediest members of the community. And clients are also helped to experience Jewish life: information on the Jewish holidays is included in food packages, for example, or special home visits are arranged so that students can help the elderly light the Hanukkah menorah.

Each Hesed is managed by a local board of community leaders that determines priorities and oversees services. And each strives to work in cooperation with local municipal and voluntary service providers whenever possible. In 1999, the two major umbrella organizations of Hasadim (plural of Hesed)—Idud Hasadim in Russia and Hasdei Ucraine—increased their joint activities and assumed a greater role in planning and policy formulation.

New day centers for the elderly were opened in Moscow, Sebastopol, Simferopol, Lvov, Chernigov, and Zhitomir. In addition to social activities that combat loneliness and isolation,
In 1999, the *Hesed* network supplied essential services to more than 190,000 needy elderly Jews.

- Some 961,000 food packages were distributed.
- 2,200,000 cooked meals were delivered to 11,400 homebound elderly.
- 2,720,000 hot meals were served to 18,000 people.
- 1,585,000 home care visits were made to 18,600 clients.
- Some 153,000 people participated in *Hesed*-based social and cultural activities.

The centers provide medical consultations by volunteer doctors and free loans of medical equipment, including canes, walkers, and wheelchairs. In winter, JDC distributes warm clothing, blankets, and heating fuel. JDC significantly expanded its medications distribution program in 1999, and it began working with Jewish Healthcare International to bring volunteer physicians from the US and Israel to provide medical consultations and treatment. Funding for this new initiative is being provided by the Atlanta Jewish Federation, the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the Greensboro Jewish Federation, and the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater.

Small groups of elderly Jews are regularly hosted by members of their local Jewish community through the *Bayit Cham* (Warm Home) program, which provides participants with hot, balanced meals along with companionship and social support. Over 8,800 people benefited from this program in 1999; they met in 600 homes, 120 of which were established last year, including one in Minsk serving Righteous Gentiles who saved Jews during the Holocaust.

A new program established in 1999, called *Mazel Tov* Jewish Delivery, combines outreach and social service initiatives for a very different age group. The program provides new mothers with support and baby equipment and works to draw these new families into Jewish community life. It has been implemented on a pilot basis in St. Petersburg, Dnepropetrovsk, and Kiev.

To reach out to Jews living in small towns and villages far from an urban center, JDC has developed the concept of the *Hesed*-mobile—a specially equipped van which travels across the countryside distributing food packages, heating and cooking fuel, blankets, and medical equipment. It also provides information
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about Jewish life through books, magazines, and mobile holiday celebrations. Nineteen new Hesed-mobiles were introduced in 1999, bringing the total number to 34.

Major emphasis was placed last year on expanding Jewish welfare services in the Asian republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The development of JDC welfare services there had lagged behind those developed in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, in part because communities in the Caucasus region and in Central Asia are ineligible for funding from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The staff members in the JDC Hesed network are trained at the William Rosenwald Institute for Communal and Welfare Workers in St. Petersburg, which receives major support from the William Rosenwald Family Fund, the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, and the Minneapolis Jewish Federation. Five thousand people were trained in Institute programs in 1999, with Hesed directors, food program managers, and home care supervisors among those benefiting from specially tailored seminars. In conjunction with JDC-ELKA, 10 Hesed directors visited Israel to study how Israel cares for its less fortunate.

To meet the growing demand for training, JDC has developed a network of regional institutes, seven of which are now operating—two in Russia, including one in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, three in Ukraine, and one each in Belarus and Moldova. Two additional training institutes are planned for Russia in 2000, including one in Moscow.

Major funding for JDC welfare programs in the former Soviet Union has been provided by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the North American Federations’ Special Hunger Relief Program, the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation, and World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK).

Additional support has been provided by the Mortimer J. Harrison Trusts through the United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, NJ, the Chais Family Foundation through the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, the Jewish Federation of Central Jersey, the UJA Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson, the Baltimore Jewish Council, an agency of the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, the Koret Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona, the Birmingham Jewish Federation, the United Jewish Israel Appeal of Great Britain (UIJA): Ed Merrin through UJA-Federation of New York, the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Tim Wulliger through the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, the late Emanuel Goldberg of Rochester, Harriet M. Zimmerman of Palm Beach, Ronne M. Hess of Birmingham, Carol Kaplan of Chicago, the Swiss Fund for Humanity and Justice, the Posner family through the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, and the United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada (UIAFC).
JDC has helped the Baltic Jewish communities ensure that elderly Holocaust survivors can live out their lives in dignity—and warmth.
JDC’S OBJECTIVES IN EUROPE

- JDC’s involvement in Europe today focuses on Community Development, while JDC continues to maintain relief programs for Holocaust survivors in Central and Eastern Europe.

- JDC employs an integral approach to Community Development, looking at each community as an intertwined system of organizations, structures, and population groups. In helping individual communities engaged in the process of restructuring, JDC aims for the development of a full Jewish community life through programs that address the needs of different age groups and institutions. Efforts continue to build a more pluralistic environment.

- JDC provides technical assistance in the areas of leadership training, strategic planning, networking and interchange, and the development of new initiatives to reach out to different age groups within the Jewish population.

- JDC promotes mutual assistance by linking communities and working with the European Council and other pan-European Jewish bodies to address regional issues. It has also been helping East European Jewish communities benefit from the resources and experience of the West European countries.

- In the Baltic countries and Kaliningrad, JDC’s commitment to Relief and Community Development ranges from social welfare programs for the elderly to the cultural, religious, educational, and social activities involved in rebuilding Jewish communal life.

EUROPE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Spain

The Baltic Countries

JDC Appropriation . . . . . . . $1,181,200

Transmigrants

JDC Appropriation . . . . . . . $288,400
In May 1999, the first General Assembly (GA) of European Jewry was convened in Nice, France, with 620 participants from 39 countries representing Jewish communities from Ireland to Siberia. The GA's plenary themes and workshop topics attempted to project as full a picture as possible of Jewish communal life in 21st century Europe, from social services to educational and cultural programs for all age groups. The European Association of Jewish Community Centers, which was established in 1997 with JDC's help, held its second Congress in Nice in conjunction with the GA. Together, these two events underlined how quickly the Jewish communities of East and West have come together, eager to learn from one another as they rebuild or recast institutions to meet changing needs.

By strengthening the networking process, promoting the development and interchange of new initiatives and technical expertise, providing new training opportunities for lay and professional leaders, and furnishing professional assistance to communities that request such help, JDC's Community Development Program has been helping to further communal planning and restructuring efforts, working in partnership with local communities and pan-European organizations.

**LEATID EUROPE—THE EUROPEAN CENTER FOR JEWISH LEADERSHIP (ECJL)**

Over the past year, first-time participation in various seminars by representatives from Portugal, Ireland, and Belarus has made the roster of European countries that have taken part in *Leatid* programs complete. Another milestone was reached in January 2000 when, in cooperation with the Conference of European Rabbis, *Leatid* organized its first-ever Leadership Seminar for Rabbis, the third part of the Jewish communal leadership triad. The seminar was designed to tackle a number of issues and improve the rabbis' management, leadership, community development, and communications skills. The pan-European group brought an interesting mix of origins and outlooks to the seminar table, and the participants' wealth of knowledge and ideas made for a fruitful and mutually enriching interchange.

*Leatid* has also expanded its strategy of offering local seminars tailored to individual communities, with programs recently held in Zagreb, Helsinki, and Glasgow. Leaders of institutions that may not be used to working together find in these All-City Seminars a common meeting ground for grappling with specific issues and an atmosphere conducive to developing long-term plans for their community as a whole.

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*The Leatid Europe Web site can be reached at www.leatid.org.*
THE BUNCHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Alumni from all over the world gathered in Pittsburgh, the home of the Buncher Family Foundation, last May for the Buncher program's tenth anniversary celebration. Established in 1989 as a partnership of the Buncher Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, and JDC, this Israel-based program is a cornerstone of JDC's community development efforts. By the end of its first decade, it counted 356 lay and professional leaders from the former Soviet Union, the Baltic countries, Central and Eastern Europe, India, and Latin America among its graduates, more than 80 percent of whom currently hold key positions in their home communities.

To further mark its tenth anniversary year, a new initiative, the Buncher Scholarship Program, was established to aid individuals engaged in academic studies who are simultaneously working on a volunteer or professional basis for the Jewish community. Special seminars have also been organized for over 100 new participants, which should bring the number of Buncher graduates to 476 by the end of 2000.

Two additional Jewish communities—those of Romania and Bulgaria—had their first all-country Buncher seminars in 1999. Over the years, the addition of foreign-language-speaking instructors has enabled the program to reach out to the full range of Jewish leaders in a given country. That range was extended even further last year when a talented Jewish educator from Bombay who is blind took part in the program in Israel; his successful experience will lead to the inclusion of other community leaders with physical disabilities in subsequent program groups.

Many of the Buncher alumni in the former Soviet Union are responsible today for local welfare and community centers, Jewish schools, and even entire national communities. A series of Master Thematic Seminars has been organized this year to meet these graduates' ongoing training needs as they face a constantly changing reality. With over 40 new participants from the former Soviet Union taking part in Buncher seminars in 2000, the program is also training a new generation of community leaders for this vast region, all of whom will be developing individual projects that will benefit their home communities.

The international association of Buncher graduates, an alumni program established with additional funds from the Buncher Family Foundation, received added support from the Pincus Fund in 1999. The opening of the association's new Web site this year will enable Buncher graduates from around the world to share information, get professional advice, and keep a learning process that has already benefited so many Jewish communities going strong.
foundating consortium includes the European Council of Jewish Communities, World Jewish Relief (UK), the World ORT Union, France's Fonds Social Juif Unifié, and JDC.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES (ECJC)

Fifty-nine Jewish communities and organizations from 39 countries are currently represented on the European Council, which, in collaboration with JDC, was the organizing force behind the first European GA (see above). ECJC is JDC's partner in community development in Europe, co-sponsoring Lea tid and the regional programs described below and serving as a pan-European source of programming ideas and information through consultations, a community databank, and a fax/e-mail bulletin. The Council's CARELINK, an emergency fund established to assist Jewish communities in distress, has been providing aid over the past year to the beleaguered Jews of Yugoslavia.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

In association with ECJC and the local communities, JDC has been developing a variety of regional programs to facilitate networking and people-to-people contact and provide small, scattered Jewish communities with the critical mass needed to create a richer Jewish life. The regions link communities which have a common geographic, cultural, language, and/or historic base, with integration and cross-fertilization between East and West a key organizing principle.

The Mediterranean and Central European Regions are now well established, while a Balkan/Black Sea Region is in the process of development and a Northwest Region was established in 1999 to bring together Jewish communities in Manchester (UK), Holland, Denmark, and Norway. Activities within regions have proceeded along two tracks, one for community professionals and lay leaders—like JCC directors, Jewish educators, or directors of homes for the elderly—and one for community members with common interests—singles, young families, senior citizens, etc.

Events and special meetings are posted regularly on the Internet, which is helping to link Jewish organizations to one another and forging new connections—both professional and social—among individuals and entire communities. New organizations have emerged to facilitate the interchange of programmatic ideas, one such is MAAYAN, a pan-European version of the US Council for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE).

THE EUROPEAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS (EUJS)

JDC provides EUJS with financial support for its Summer University and technical assistance for its regional seminars. The Summer University, which brings together some 300 Jewish students from all parts of Europe, is being held this year at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary.

SPAIN

JDC has been working with the 14-member Spanish Federation of Jewish Communities, encouraging the development of new programming initiatives and training courses, including a national school for madrichim.
EUROPE

(youth counselors). The Spanish Federation is also deeply involved in the regional and pan-European programs described above. Through the local Jewish welfare agency, JDC continues to assist a disabled Holocaust survivor in Barcelona who had been on its World War II era refugee caseload.

Volunteer networks have been established and training sessions provided in each locality, thousands of food packages are delivered before Jewish holidays, hot meals-on-wheels are distributed in each major city, and the senior citizens' clubs and "Warm Home" programs that JDC helped establish have increased their activities.

A joint program between the Jewish community and the Riga Jewish Hospital, the only such facility in the region, was instituted in 1999 to provide for the direct needs of the Jewish elderly. The capacity and professional standards of the hospital will be upgraded as part of the program, which is ultimately expected to benefit all Baltic Jewish communities.

A major aspect of JDC's work in the Baltics has been the renewal of Jewish education and Jewish studies—which were virtually non-existent during the Soviet era—in cities that had once been renowned centers of Jewish learning. In Vilnius, JDC has sponsored a program of Jewish studies developed by the local community and Vilnius University, and a Chair for Jewish Studies was established at Riga University two years ago. A Jewish Open University is currently being established to serve the needs of communities throughout the region.

JDC has supplied the local communities with Jewish libraries, and it has helped to develop many of the new Jewish kindergartens, day, and Sunday schools. It provides training courses for Jewish teachers and school principals, and it has been encouraging the schools to design family activity programs and extra-curricular activities with Jewish content. Children from each of the Baltic countries have been attending the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary each year.

The opening of Jewish community centers in the mid-90s was an important step in community development, with training for staff and lay leaders and a gradual expansion of services key JDC objectives. A special effort undertaken in 1999 to

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new activities for adults have been established, and the youth program continues to grow, with plans for the creation of a youth center along the lines of the Riga model. Kaunas and Klaipeda are also planning new or improved activities for Jewish youth and for other age groups with JDC's technical help. JDC has been providing technical assistance of this nature to some 20 smaller communities outside the major cities. JDC has also been helping the local communities establish new connections via the Internet, with special "cyber-corners" planned for various community facilities.

More formal regional exchanges and activities, which continue to be strongly encouraged by JDC, have played an important role in the renewal of Jewish life in this region. Over 150 Jewish leaders attended the Baltic Knesset (General Assembly) in 1999, a key venue for sharing ideas and expertise and discussing issues of common concern.

Expanding each community's capacity to meet its own needs is an overarching JDC goal, and leadership development is one way to attain it. The Buncher Leadership Program had its first all-Baltic group of trainees in 1999,

include programs for every age group and new intergenerational activities has re-energized community center life, with many JCCs currently being enlarged and refurbished to meet expanding needs.

At the rededication of the Riga JCC in October 1999, Europe Community Development Committee Chair Amb. Joseph B. Gildenhorn and his family were honored for helping to fund, along with JDC and the local community, the critically needed renovation of an institution that has quickly become the center of Riga's Jewish life. The new youth center is already a model for other cities, and many JCC programs—which include Shabbat and holiday celebrations, workshops, a job data bank, outings, and summer and winter camps—are now being led by local graduates of the Buncher Program.

The JCC in Vilnius has also been undergoing repair. Meanwhile,
and Baltic Jewish leaders continue to participate in various Leatid Europe seminars and other JDC-sponsored training programs. JDC has also been encouraging efforts to raise funds for local communal needs from emerging Jewish business people and professionals, with the Ezra Fund in Latvia the most successful such initiative to emerge to date.

TRANSMIGRANTS

JDC's transmigrant caseload is concentrated in Vienna, with the number of arrivals and the period of stay almost unchanged from year to year. The caseload peaks in late summer and early fall—as the approaching end of the US fiscal year limits visa availability—and levels off again after October 1. Since 1991, JDC has expected all transmigrants to be self-supporting or to receive financial assistance from relatives in the United States or elsewhere. JDC's assistance is technical in nature, helping clients deal with medical or social problems and encouraging them to maintain proper living conditions, with funds available only for emergency cases. A modest housing subsidy program was established in collaboration with HIAS to enable clients to afford a better standard of housing; the program could also relieve a potential housing shortage should the caseload begin to rise substantially.

Cultural and educational activities for adults and children awaiting processing were expanded last year, with special programs for the Jewish holidays organized in cooperation with the Vienna Jewish community and local rabbis. The Vienna office also provides a variety of support for JDC's programs in Eastern Europe.
The home care program in Budapest is an important source of support for isolated elderly Jews.
JDC'S OBJECTIVES IN EASTERN EUROPE

- 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 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 well under way in these communities by stimulating the growth of Jewish cultural, religious, educational, and youth activities.

- JDC helps individual communities to organize effectively and provide needed services, it promotes the development and training of lay and professional leaders, and it encourages actions to increase self-sufficiency.

- All these efforts are designed to help ensure, where feasible, a viable and dynamic Jewish life for the future.

- In keeping with its global policy, JDC, in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and the Government of Israel, will respond to emergency situations, helping to rescue and care for Jews in danger or distress.
ROMANIA
Jewish Population ..........16,000
JDC Appropriation ...... $ 2,304,300

HUNGARY
Jewish Population ..........130,000
JDC Appropriation ...... $ 1,920,700

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Jewish Population ..........920
JDC Appropriation .....$ 131,800

CROATIA & SLOVENIA
Jewish Population ..........2,120
JDC Appropriation .....$ 562,400

YUGOSLAVIA
(SERBIA/MONTENEGRO)
& MACEDONIA
Jewish Population ..........3,411
JDC Appropriation .....$ 446,400

POLAND
Jewish Population ..........10-12,000
JDC Appropriation .....$ 980,200

BULGARIA
Jewish Population ..........6,000
JDC Appropriation .....$ 453,500

CZECH REPUBLIC
Jewish Population ..........3,000
JDC Appropriation .....$85,400

SLOVAKIA
Jewish Population ..........3,000
JDC Appropriation .....$ 129,700

ALBANIA
Jewish Population ..........45
JDC Appropriation .....$ 18,700

' Figures are approximate.

ROMANIA
Although progress was made last year in the areas of community development, Jewish education, and youth activities, Romania's grim economic state continues to overshadow all JDC program efforts. We have here a picture of a country in crisis, its people angry and depressed over a situation that may not yet have reached bottom. With government payments continually deferred, even salaried people are beginning to go hungry, and newspaper headlines this past winter told of pensioners dying of hunger and cold.

No wonder there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Jews applying for assistance. These elderly Holocaust survivors—over 85 percent of whom live alone—have no families to call on for assistance; the Jewish community is their only lifeline. For more than three decades JDC, in partnership with FEDROM, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, and its Social Assistance Department, has provided a variety of welfare services for these Jewish elderly, including cash assistance, hot meals, all-important food packages, warm clothing, medicines, and medical care.

JDC's budget constraints forced cutbacks in support in recent years that have combined with local inflation to reduce the real value of these assistance programs. FEDROM has been struggling to increase its share of funding to provide these frail beneficiaries with the modest, minimum income and services they need to maintain their dignity in their old age. This, despite the fact that FEDROM's
management improvements, which have been aided by JDC's technical assistance, mitigated but could not reverse the sharp drop in income from communal property that has accompanied the plunging economy.

A significant allocation in 1999 from the US government's contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund enabled JDC to restore the size of its food packages and purchase additional medicines and clothing for these elderly Jews.

Generous grants from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany have enabled FEDROM to improve the efficiency and quality of its feeding programs by building a new central kosher kitchen in Bucharest, refurbishing dining rooms and canteens there and in the provinces, and purchasing new vehicles and equipment to facilitate the delivery of meals-on-wheels, food packages, and supplies.

A significant allocation in 1999 from the US government's contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund enabled JDC to restore the size of its food packages and purchase additional medicines and clothing for these elderly Jews.

Nevertheless, an emergency winter relief payment had to be made in late February 2000 to get people through this past winter. "Aunt Rosie's Kitchen," photo-journalist Edward Serotta's poignant account of the Jewish community in Arad, was featured on ABC's Nightline in December. The program really brought home to the American public the needs of this frail survivor population and the caring concern of the American Jewish community as expressed through the work of JDC.

The Weinberg Foundation has also been providing major support for the pioneering eye care program developed by Project Vision, Inc. The surgical eye clinic and recuperation unit established by this Atlanta-based organization of Jewish ophthalmologists has helped to restore or improve the sight of hundreds of elderly Jews. The Jewish Braille Institute of America's program for the visually impaired also continues to flourish.

The Social Assistance Department's successful transplantation to Romania of the "Warm Home" program developed by JDC in the former Soviet Union has been enhancing the quality of life for the Jewish elderly. JDC continues to seek in-kind contributions of medicines, warm clothing, and blankets to help meet this community's overwhelming needs. Over the past year, the various Israeli and American consultants that JDC has brought to Romania have provided FEDROM with technical assistance in virtually all its spheres of operation.
Leadership development and training, youth activities, and the enhancement of Jewish education are part of a comprehensive new master plan approved by FEDROM leaders late last year for implementation in partnership with JDC. New youth activities have already been initiated in local communities; young Jews from throughout Romania participated in a one-week Jewish educational camp in Borceș last August; a Romanian Jewish youth organization (called OTER) has been established, and a student newspaper is being written and regularly produced by Jewish youth. A system of Jewish education through the mail has recently been implemented, while regional meetings of Jewish youth, especially those from the more isolated communities, and a seminar for the computer clubs that JDC Board members helped establish are on this year’s agenda.

JDC’s Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers initiated many of these programs, working with the director of FEDROM’s department of youth and leadership development and with a superb group of local youth eager to take on more responsibility under the volunteers’ guidance. Jewish club activists, for example, formed an Internet-based news group last year to exchange material on Jewish topics. They used the JSC volunteers as Jewish knowledge resources and the computer clubs as vehicles for creating a network active throughout Romania.

**LAST YEAR IN ROMANIA**

- 692 elderly Jews received monthly cash assistance with JDC’s aid.
- Winter relief grants helped 1,275 aging survivors weather the country’s harsh climate, with clothing and blankets distributed to some 3,409 needy elderly.
- Over 500,000 heavily subsidized hot meals were provided at three old age homes and ten kosher canteens or dining rooms.
- Meals-on-wheels were delivered three times a week to over 450 homebound elderly.
- 2,310 elderly received eight food packages during the course of the year, with four additional packages going to those living in towns with no kosher canteens.
- 2,360 individuals received special Passover packages; 1,320 received pre-Passover cash grants, and matza was distributed free to assistees and sold to Jews with means.
- Medical care was provided to 2,120 elderly Jews at FEDROM’s clinics; 512 elderly benefited from home care, and medications were purchased by JDC for 1,650 individuals.
- The Rosen Home, the sole remaining Jewish nursing home in Bucharest, averaged 185 residents, while a total of 29 resided at the two homes JDC helps support in Transylvania.
The JSC volunteers have been organizing Jewish activities in Bucharest and the provinces for a variety of age groups. They have also been working to enhance the educational experience of the Romanian youngsters who, since 1995, have been attending the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary; last summer’s 70-member contingent was the largest to date.

A variety of new activities have been initiated in Romania over the past year for Jewish youngsters and young adults.

Photo: JDC

The John W. Uhlmann and the Patricia Werthan Uhlmann Foundations, the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, Harold Grinspoon and Diane Troderman of Springfield, MA, Edythe Roland Grodnick of MetroWest, NJ, Dr. Michael and Nancy Levinson of Memphis, Louise Eder of Milwaukee, Jackie Woolf of San Diego, United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, VA and Annie Sandler of Tidewater, Norman and Milton Smith of St. Paul, the Joseph and Sally Handelman Charitable Foundation, and the Salzmann Fund for Jews of Mures have provided generous support for the volunteers, for youth activities, for various welfare programs, and for other community development projects.

Helping FEDROM to identify, recruit, and train younger leaders and professional staff to manage communal activities is a top JDC priority. An important step was taken last fall with the convening of the first Buncher Leadership Program seminar ever held in Romania, with a second in-country session and a training seminar in Israel to be held this year. The 1999-2000 Ralph I. Goldman Fellow and the current JSC volunteer have been constructing a profile of the Jewish population that should help further these efforts. They have been trying to determine what people really want from Jewish communal life, to help FEDROM leaders understand what it would take to attract the unaffiliated and get more members of the younger and middle generations actively involved in the work of the Romanian Jewish community today.

HUNGARY

In late March 1999, for the first time in the second half of the 20th century, a Central European community was able to take the lead in helping to rescue a neighboring Jewish community in distress, and it did so with both professional aplomb and a full Jewish heart. By mid-April, some 420 Serbian Jews fleeing the NATO air strikes were being hosted in Budapest by the Hungarian Jewish community with the help of JDC, World Jewish Relief (WJR) and Connections (both UK). The Jewish Agency was most helpful, sending hundreds on to Israel for different programs.

In addition to helping to provide shelter and support for those who remained for the duration of the Kosovo crisis, Budapest Jewish community members, in a fine example of growing regional Jewish solidarity, opened their hearts and the doors of their institutions to give their “visitors” a semblance of normal life. Schooling was provided for the children, and a full round of daily activities was organized to help the time pass more quickly. Families were taken on excursions, volunteers offered their help in meeting
everyday needs, and people brought presents—fruits, newspapers, or a Shabbat challah—to express their sympathy and friendship.

As a result of a pact made with the government in 1998, the organized Hungarian Jewish community is now receiving a yearly annuity based on the value of reclaimed communal properties. This, coupled with the state’s annual grant to each of the country’s religious denominations, is helping to finance a wide range of community services, including religious, cultural, and social activities as well as health and welfare programs.

The latter include regular annuity payments to eligible Holocaust survivors, which have replaced most of the cash assistance that had been provided through the JDC-supported Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation (HJSSF). Many former assistees, most of whom are ailing or homebound, continue to benefit from HJSSF services, while the Foundation itself is in the process of evolving into a more encompassing Jewish Family Service.

The Ester Sewing Workshop, a new vocational rehabilitation program supported by Hungarian Social Security, George and Martha Rich, and the late Istvan Somfai, is providing useful work and a modest wage to heretofore unemployed women with slight disabilities. HJSSF also continues to operate support groups for mentally disabled community members of different ages, to help them achieve greater independence.

The non-sectarian professional training programs that HJSSF has been conducting—which are described in the JDC-IDP section of this annual report—have had a regionwide impact and have also provided important benefits to the Jewish community. JDC and the Israeli Embassy have been supporting a training seminar organized by the Hungarian Physiotherapists’ Association in which novel healing methods developed in Israel are taught to local therapists.

JDC continues to support the Jewish community’s Central Kosher Kitchen, now

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**IN HUNGARY TODAY**

- Through HJSSF, monthly relief is still being provided to about 480 people, while 900 elderly or disabled individuals received special grants in 1999 to purchase medications or pay for urgent home repairs.

- An increasingly sophisticated home care program, administered in cooperation with the Budapest municipality, is providing some 400 elderly Jews with nursing care, dietary supervision, physical and speech therapy, and emergency beeper services.

- 340 hot meals-on-wheels are delivered each day, and HJSSF volunteers—both adults and students—help deliver food packages every two months to about 500 needy survivors.

- HJSSF’s dental clinic helps close to 600 elderly, its legal advocacy service aids some 30 clients a day, and a program for the visually impaired implemented in cooperation with the Jewish Braille Institute of America has 670 registered members.
located in the new Sandor Scheibcr school, which prepares some 1,100 hot meals a day for the meals-on-wheels program and various community facilities. JDC also helps the Orthodox community maintain a food program for 175 needy Jews, and it supports small kosher canteens in Szeged, Debrecen, and Miskolc. It helps maintain three Jewish old age homes—two in Budapest and one in Szeged—as well as eight day care centers that are providing some 1,400 elderly survivors in Budapest, Szeged, Debrecen, and Miskolc with an antidote to their loneliness and important services and support.

Many of these programs have received generous help over the past few years from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. JDC has helped various arms of the community with the application process, and it has supervised the implementation of subsequent Claims Conference grants.

The Balint Jewish Community Center, (JCC) which celebrated its fifth anniversary in October 1999, has become a focal point for Jewish activities in Budapest. It has succeeded in attracting thousands of previously unaffiliated Jews with a wide range of cultural events and performances, special exhibits, lectures, Jewish holiday workshops and communal celebrations, and clubs for all age groups and segments of the community, including those with special needs. A newly opened Early Childhood Development Center will be offering a varied menu of services to mothers and their small children.

The Balint Center's board of directors has been challenged to raise funds locally for the JCC. This and other local fundraising efforts are expected to be given a boost this year as a result of a new JDC training seminar being conducted by fundraising experts.

Meanwhile, the Buncher Leadership Program is the mainstay of JDC's leadership development efforts, and its Hungarian-language training sessions have enabled representatives from many more local organizations and communities to take part. Some 37 alumni met regularly in 1999 for follow-up sessions at the “Buncher Cafe” in the Balint JCC. Following a three-day pre-seminar in Budapest in February 1999, a new 14-member contingent was chosen to take part in the three-week Israel seminar. “Buncher Cafe” members are helping these new alumni implement the individual projects they developed with their personal tutors in Israel; the projects include a proposal to establish a Jewish newspaper in the countryside and one to provide a therapy program for children with dyslexia.

Connections among all 67 Hungarian Buncher graduates are further reinforced at what has become an annual tradition: a reunion at Szarvas in conjunction with the Jewish Educators' Seminar held there for the past seven years at summer's end. The 1999 Seminar brought together some 200 representatives from every school and religious stream, giving both veteran and novice Jewish educators an inspiring way to begin the new school year.
JDC continues to provide support to the Sandor Schciber School and Gymnasium, which has replaced the community's high school, the Anna Frank Gymnasium. Planned as part of a more comprehensive 12-grade facility built with Hungarian government compensation funds, the high school had an enrollment of 240 students in 1999-2000. JDC provides informal support to Budapest's other Jewish day schools and helps the Hungarian Federation with its Talmud Torahs and the Orthodox community with its kindergarten programs. It also continues to help fund the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary and the Pedagogium, which are now part of the Jewish University of Budapest.

In an attempt to make its annual seminars more affordable to young people in Central and Eastern Europe, London's Israeli Folk Dance Institute, in cooperation with Hora Budapest and JDC, decided to organize the event in Budapest last year. As a result, the first Machol Hungaria, held in February 1999, had 150 youthful participants from nine Eastern European countries and 26 from Western Europe. A 20-member team of Hungarian volunteers helped make the event so successful that it was repeated this past March, this time over 220 young people seized the opportunity to get together with other Jews and reconnect with their Jewish roots.

JDC continues to support the activities of the Hungarian Union of Jewish Students (UJS) and four youth movements. UJS' gala Hanukka ball had 3,500 participants last year, and the students now have a club space of their own thanks to the generous help of Stanley Chais and Hanoeh Nissany. All teachers, youth counselors, and students have access to the JDC-supported Jewish Resource Center at Balint.

The summer of 1999 marked the tenth anniversary of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas. Some 1,800 Jewish youngsters from 18 countries took part in the five two-week camp sessions. Forty percent were from Hungary, the rest were from Eastern and Central Europe, including the war-torn nations of the former Yugoslavia, with additional youngsters recruited from US communities in a pilot project that has been replicated this year.

The camp's striking new Beit David Synagogue and Activity Center, with its beautiful sanctuary, well-stocked library, and popular computer facilities, has quickly become a focal point for camp programs. The synagogue was named in memory of David Ben-Rafael, an Israeli diplomat and son of Helen and JDC Honorary Executive Vice-President Ralph Goldman, who was killed in the 1992 Israeli embassy bombing in Buenos Aires. A good number of the camp's youngsters have never attended or even seen a synagogue, now they can join in welcoming the Sabbath together with their peers.

In cooperation with UJS, a second international reunion session brought young adults from across the continent together.
EASTERN EUROPE

at Szarvas last September. These reunions illustrate the fact that the Szarvas camp, in addition to its acknowledged Jewish educational value, has been nurturing a generation of potential community leaders comfortable with the idea of working together across national borders. This can only help to strengthen the smaller and more isolated Jewish communities in the years to come. As the American youngsters wrote in the camp newspaper, “International boundaries that stand unwavering at home are broken down at Szarvas, that is part of its magic.”

The Israeli flag was waved proudly by campers taking part in the Szarvas anniversary festivities.
Photo: JDC

The Americans were referring in particular to the special relationship they had forged—after some initial hesitancy—with the contingent from Yugoslavia. One of the Yugoslavs took this point even further. Szarvas, she wrote, had given her a connection to other Jews that had helped her surmount the fears and anxieties of the previous three months, when she had left her parents behind and arrived at the Hungarian border with her little brother. It was her “Hungarian friends from Szarvas” who made her feel welcome in Budapest, her “Szarvas friends from Croatia” who visited her three times in two weeks, and “our Szarvas Israelis (who) were waiting for us at the airport when we arrived in Israel.” She thanked all these friends “who tried to make our lives happier and easier,” emphasizing that their very presence “was enough to make us feel safe.”

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Ed. Note: See the JDC-IDP section of this annual report for an account of JDC’s non-sectarian aid efforts in the Balkans.

YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) AND MACEDONIA

When the NATO bombing campaign began late in March 1999, JDC and World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), with the support of the Jewish Agency, underwrote the temporary evacuation to Budapest of some 600 Yugoslav Jews, many of whom quickly went on to Israel or other destinations. The evacuation was organized by SAVEZ, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia, with the participation of the Budapest Jewish community, who continued to help care for and provide some semblance of normal life to the 130 to 150 evacuees who remained in Budapest through most of the two-and-a-half month crisis.

Prior to the start of the bombing, JDC had helped SAVEZ prepare for various contingencies, and it sent in supplies and provided emergency funds to set up temporary shelters and make subsistence payments to the poorest and most vulnerable Jews. JDC and WJR, in cooperation with local partners, also assured the well-being of 40 Jews from Kosovo who fled after the bombing stopped. Several of these families had to be evacuated under duress by JDC.

Last fall, with the Yugoslav economy on the brink of ruin, JDC—true to its mandate to assist Jews in distress regardless of the political situation—marshalled its own resources and those of other donors, most notably WJR, to provide a safety net for the Jews of Yugoslavia.

Throughout the fall and winter of 1999-2000, SAVEZ, JDC, and WJR funded emergency cash assistance as well as special winter relief and schooling grants. Funds raised through the European Council of Jewish Communities’ CARELINK have been used to help middle generation families in need and to establish a mutual solidarity loan fund for those in temporary difficulty, while JDC continued to provide regular cash relief to 39 elderly Jews. A one-time payment from the Swiss Humanitarian
Fund was made to 764 Holocaust survivors; the timing was critical given the government's inability to keep up with monthly pension payments and the dire effect this has had on the elderly. Despite the disastrous economic situation, SAVEZ is continuing to contribute to the cost of the welfare program.

With support from a WJR donor, JDC helped the three largest Jewish communities—in Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Subotica—establish soup kitchens that have been serving community members 500 hot meals a day, five days a week. An additional 400 meals a day are offered on a non-sectarian basis to Serb and Bosnian refugees from Kosovo and the local poor, with JDC underwriting the cost. Drawing on expertise honed in Israel and in a similar project in Bosnia, JDC also launched an intensive, non-sectarian entrepreneurship training program with funding from a WJR donor and the JDC "Open Mailbox."

A special grant from WJR and Connections, a London-based affiliate, enabled JDC to send 136 Yugoslav Jewish youngsters to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary last summer, with the donors covering 100 percent of the costs. Given the travail the children had faced during the preceding months, their summer camp experience in this special environment was particularly precious to them and helped strengthen their feelings of Jewish solidarity.

JDC continues to underwrite leadership development and professional training opportunities for the Jews of Yugoslavia through Letad Europe, a youth counselor training program, the Israeli Folk Dance Institute, and other efforts.

JDC worked closely with Belgrade's Jewish Historical Museum to obtain a generous grant from the Claims Conference to finance the renovations needed to protect and preserve
the museum’s collection, which tells the story of Jewish life in this part of the Balkans. And thanks to JDC’s continuing support for the community’s native-born young rabbi and for a broad range of Jewish educational and cultural activities, the Jews of Yugoslavia, despite current political and economic hardships, are able to sustain the multi-faceted Jewish life that has re-emerged over the past decade in Belgrade and in the smaller communities.

Similar activities have been nurtured in Macedonia, where in the fall of 1999 JDC helped the Jewish community secure the services of Yugoslavia’s Chief Rabbi on a part-time basis. JDC’s long-term support for this small community, and the community’s favorable relationship with WJR, the American Jewish Committee, the Belgian Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations, and the Swiss Jewish Help Fund for Kosovo Refugees. From its base in Skopje, Dobra Volja distributed food, clothing, and shoes to refugees of all ethnic origins as well as equipment to specially selected schools, thereby gaining the appreciation of all factions in Macedonia for the Jewish community’s efforts.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

JDC is currently providing basic cash assistance to some 70 elderly Jews in need living in Bosnia. Through La Benevolencija, the local Jewish humanitarian organization, it continues to lend its support to the community soup kitchen, medical clinic, and various welfare services for the needy elderly.

JDC financed the renovation of the Jewish community’s main hall last year. The hall had been damaged during the years it was used as a warehouse for the goods distributed through the community’s non-sectarian aid program.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support Jewish community life, JDC has underwritten the operation of a Jewish Sunday School in Sarajevo, it has been sending a Sarajevan now teaching in Israel back to Bosnia each year to teach and to lead holiday services, and it continues to provide all the local Jewish communities with matza and wine for Passover. JDC sent both lay and professional leaders from Sarajevo to Leitid Europe training seminars in 1999, and it heavily subsidized the participation of 20 local youngsters in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary.
JDC helped a delegation of Bosnian Jews take part in an international gathering that it co-sponsored of Jews from around the world of Yugoslav origin; this first-of-its-kind gathering was held on an island in the Adriatic in the fall of 1999. JDC also helped finance the erection of a Holocaust memorial in the Mostar Jewish cemetery. At the dedication ceremony last December, JDC’s country director spoke of the organization’s historic efforts in this area of the world and of its abiding commitment to the well-being of the local Jewish communities.

CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

In Croatia, JDC has been providing cash relief to 11 frail Holocaust survivors, sharing the cost of needed home care with the Zagreb municipality and helping the community employ a professional social worker who makes regular visits to the assistees. JDC also provides pocket money to seven Jews from Bosnia now living in the Schwarz Jewish Old Age Home in Zagreb; these former evacuees are penniless and have no other means of support.

Over the past few years, JDC has intervened in a number of ways to help ease the financial crisis facing the Schwarz Home. With representatives of the Jewish community, it helped secure a one-time allocation from the government in 1999, and it played a leading role in negotiating a statutory commitment of ongoing government support. JDC also arranged for a grant and a loan from the Claims Conference as well as a donation from WJR to finance the much-needed renovations under way at this 80-bed facility. Although the Home’s financial situation continues to improve—for the first time in years it finished in the black in 1999—JDC is still the major funder, providing about half the support necessary to care for the 75 current residents.

JDC continues to provide essential support for a range of Jewish educational and

An Israeli folk dance performance in Zagreb, Croatia last year; the dance group is one of the Jewish educational and cultural activities that JDC helps support.
Photo: JDC
social activities in Croatia, helping to fund a Jewish kindergarten in Zagreb, a choir at the Schwarz Home, a young people’s musical troupe, an Israeli folk dance group, a youth organization, a family Shabbat program and various outreach programs in Osijek and Rijeka. With an education grant from the Claims Conference, JDC is currently working with local partners to set up a Holocaust research and documentation center in that city.

JDC sponsored a special Leatid Europe training seminar for middle-level leadership in 1999. A new, self-sustaining Jewish nursery has just been initiated in Zagreb by the Jewish community with JDC’s aid and help from Jewish Child’s Day in London. The number of local youngsters attending the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary with JDC’s help doubled last summer from 12 to 24; this is the only opportunity many of these children have to see friends living in other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

In partnership with the Pincus Fund and the Zagreb community, JDC is supporting an expanded program of formal and informal Jewish education in Croatia, led by the first rabbi to serve this community in over 50 years. JDC’s encouragement and support have also been essential factors in the revival of Jewish community life in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with a rabbi from Trieste now visiting once a month to attend to this small community’s needs. JDC continues to sponsor communal Passover seders in various communities in Croatia and Slovenia, and it faithfully provides Jews living throughout the area with Passover items, other kosher food, and religious supplies purchased in Israel.

**POLAND**

Guaranteeing Holocaust survivors the ability to live out their years with dignity remains JDC’s top priority in Poland, but it has also become heavily involved in the process of change under way among Polish Jewry. It has been helping the
community respond to the increasing needs of its middle and younger generations and find new and better ways of broadening its base by attracting even more of the unaffiliated.

An expanded welfare program, with medical and social services that will better meet the needs of the Jewish elderly, was adopted last year by the community at JDC's urging. JDC has also been trying to sensitize the community to the social service needs of the younger generations. A senior JDC social worker who makes regular visits to Poland to monitor the welfare program is conducting an ongoing series of training seminars to help the community's social workers upgrade their professional skills.

JDC continues to provide funding to some of the main Polish Jewish organizations. These include the Jewish Religious Community of Poland (JRCP), which operates the kosher kitchens, maintains synagogues, and organizes religious services and holiday celebrations, and the TSKZ, the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews, which provides a variety of cultural programming at its 16 clubs and the Srodborow/Akiva Kohane campsite. While budget constraints have forced JDC to cut its financial assistance, it has increased the professional guidance and technical know-how it has been providing to these community organizations and to other formal and informal groups, including the Association of Holocaust Children in Poland and the Polish Union of Jewish Students. JDC has also been helping many of the local Jewish organizations apply to the Claims Conference for project funding, and on behalf of the Conference, it has been monitoring the implementation of the ensuing grants.

JDC, through its Krakow office, provided cash assistance to 1,670 aging Holocaust survivors in 1999.

A grant from the US government's contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund is allowing the Jewish community to respond to the special needs of these elderly and impoverished survivors by providing various new social services.

Operating with JDC's support, the country's seven kosher kitchens provided some 67,000 free meals last year to needy elderly Jews. JDC also provides Passover food for the community.

Working with JDC, the Jewish Braille Institute of America continued to help improve living conditions for the visually impaired.
Sunday School in Warsaw and Katowice which is being supported in part by the Pincus Fund. The project has been so successful that educational programs have been established for the parents as well. Twenty-nine youngsters attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary last year with the help of JDC and TSKZ. JDC has been working to reinforce and build on the experience of all the community’s recent Szarvas graduates.

Thanks to the mediation of the US State Department, important steps forward were taken last year in the negotiations to establish a foundation to deal with Jewish communal property reclamation and management. Meanwhile, the individual communities continue to submit applications for property restitution to the extent that their financial and managerial resources allow. Property reclamation could provide the community with the means to meet the increased need for services of its aging members and the venues in which to nurture the exploding phenomenon of the return to Judaism among the younger generations of Polish Jews.

In other aspects of community building, JDC has augmented the number of seminars it has been conducting for future community leaders and for youth group activists, adding a series of regional seminars and another series focusing on Jewish education for 1999-2000. The second JDC Buncher Leadership Program session organized specifically for Polish Jews was held in 1999, with 15 potential lay and professional leaders taking part.

Much of the material used in these training seminars is prepared by the staff of the JDC-supported Resource Center for Jewish Education, which is well on its way to becoming an influential hub for Polish Jewry. The Center’s new location has made it more accessible for longer hours to a much wider public, and its computer lab is proving to be a great attraction, especially for the younger generations. The lab is currently revamping the community’s Web site to make it more helpful to Jews living throughout the country. In addition to providing instant access to basic Jewish information and updates on local programming, the site is now seen as a showcase for Polish Jewry, a way to inform Jews around the world of the exciting changes under way in this community today.
BULGARIA

Last year's Balkan conflict, which adversely affected the flow of goods around the region, served only to deepen the economic crisis that began in Bulgaria over four years ago. And the government's implementation of the tougher fiscal policy needed to move the country closer to the Western world has further diminished the purchasing power of the population. The elderly in particular face an impossible struggle, trying this past winter, for example, to meet monthly heating bills of $50 on pension payments of $35 a month.

Throughout 1999 and into the winter of 2000, JDC and Shalom, the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, with the generous assistance of World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), continued to provide the community's elderly and impover-

IN BULGARIA

- JDC provided monthly cash relief to about 1,264 elderly or disabled Jews in 1999.
- With WJR's help, intensive efforts have been made to provide additional assistance so that people can pay heating bills—assistance that means the difference between switching the heat on or freezing through much of the long, cold winter.
- Some 70 pensioners a day utilized the day care center for the elderly at Beit Ha'am, the Jewish community center in Sofia, in 1999.
- With support from Shalom, JDC, and WJR, the center provides hot lunches, exercise programs, medical check-ups, and physical therapy.
- About 45 homebound individuals benefited from a home care program provided by Shalom with help from the Sofia municipality and JDC.
- Flu vaccines were provided to all Jewish pensioners as well as warm winter clothing, which was shipped to Bulgaria with the help of WJR.

ished Holocaust survivors with the support they need to secure the basic necessities and stave off illness and cold.

The elderly continue to benefit from hot meals provided at kosher canteens in Sofia and now in Plovdiv and Bourgas. The amount of calories in each meal has been increased by 30 percent to increase the nutritional value of what has become a critical supplement to meager diets. In fact, the Sofia canteen will now remain open year-round. JDC staff had noted that clients looked noticeably thinner after the canteen's five-week closure last summer, even though they had been given extra cash support during that period.

The camp program for "golden-agers" really took off last summer, with a five-day camp again organized by Shalom and JDC in Banki for Jewish pensioners from Sofia. Some 150 "golden-agers," up from 100 the previous year, joined the professionals who work with them year-round for a special week of exercise, song and dance, lectures, and just plain fun. As JDC's country director said, "Just as we provide the medicines to help elderly Jews remain healthy, we
Youngsters at the Jewish community’s summer camp in Kovacevski had a warm welcome for JDC Board Mission visitors last summer.

Photo: Kim Bayer

also try to provoke the smiles that will make them feel alive with their full hearts.” Representatives from the smaller communities came to Banki to learn how to replicate this experience. They went on to organize a second camp in Varna, near the Black Sea, bringing together 150 participants from the countryside, many of whom had been living in relative isolation for over 40 years.

A major milestone was reached in March 2000 with the opening in Sofia of the community’s first old age home, whose construction was made possible by grants from the Claims Conference and WJR. With support from WJR and the Bulgarian government, Shalom now has one floor in full operation and will gradually be adding two more. In addition to providing a permanent home for the neediest elderly Jews from Sofia and the countryside, the facility will serve as a new focal point for day care activities and home care services. JDC’s professional advice and guidance were critical elements in the project’s development, and its local staff member received special training in Israel and the UK so that he could help oversee the steps needed to make this 35-bed facility operational.

JDC also continues to provide professional consultation in the area of property management. It works closely with Shalom to help further the community’s goal of achieving financial self-sufficiency by maximizing its income from restored communal properties. But while the process of property restoration can help the community stand on its own feet, only the development of a strong group of community leaders can help it move independently toward the future.

In September 1999, the first all-Bulgarian Buncher Seminar was held in Israel, the culmination of a one-year training program begun by JDC in Sofia the previous July. The 12 lay and professional participants in this three-week series of workshops, tutorials, and field visits ranged from board members to youth workers, and the individual projects they developed as part of their training have already had a visible impact in their home communities.

Also last September, the JDC-supported Jewish Resource and Pedagogical Center operated by Shalom in Beit Ha’am officially became known as the “Center for Informal Jewish Education for Youth.” The name change reflects the progress made this past year in carrying out the special partnership established by JDC and Shalom to expand community programs for the younger generations. These now include a Sunday program for children aged 5 to 13, which provides learning and recreational activities for about 80 youngsters each week, two youth groups and a Saturday evening program that together attract over 100 teenagers, and a variety of weekly activity options for students aged 18 to 25, including an Israeli folk dance group and an Internet cafe. The newest option was organized by the students themselves and is quickly becoming a favorite.
Called "Shabbaton in the Mountains," it enables students to experience an entire Shabbat together outside Sofia, singing, learning, and getting to know one another in quite a different atmosphere.

In addition to these year-round activities, the community's two-week summer camp in Kovacevski had 200 joyful participants last year aged 8 to 15, while 80 youngsters attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary. JDC and the Lauder Foundation also continue to support Shalom's Jewish day school, which has over 300 Jewish students and is providing an increasing number of extra-curricular activities. All children at the school receive dental care at WJR's clinic, medical checkups, vitamin supplements, and a nutritious lunch.

JDC has also been helping Shalom reach out to the middle generations with a new series of "30 Plus" programs. These are providing social and cultural activities and a variety of Jewish educational opportunities to those who have few memories of Jewish life yet are essential for ensuring its continuity. Through its Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers, JDC has also pursued an intensive effort to reach out to those living in the country's 18 smaller Jewish communities, with a particular emphasis this past year on encouraging communal celebrations of Jewish life cycle events.

These efforts were taken one step further this spring when 45 parents and their children were brought together in a three-day pre-Passover family camp—co-sponsored by Shalom, the Lauder Foundation, and JDC—designed to help them conduct their own Passover seders. While hundreds continue to join the communal seders held with JDC's support in Sofia and the smaller communities, enabling community members to celebrate at home, with family and friends, as Jews do around the world, marked a coming of age for the Jews of Bulgaria.

The Sephardic rabbi from Israel who, with JDC's support, served as Chief Rabbi in Bulgaria from 1994 through 1999, did much to bring the community to this point. He will continue to participate in Jewish holiday celebrations in Bulgaria and to serve as a mentor for the young Bulgarian rabbinical student who will be finishing his JDC-supported studies in Israel and returning to Bulgaria later this year.

Building on the JSC volunteers' success in training the young leaders now responsible for running many of these Jewish educational activities, JDC supported the establishment last year of a more formal school for madrichim (youth counselors), called the Hadracha College, which was organized by one of the Buncher Program participants. Most of the 15 young adults currently in this two-year college began coming to community activities as small children, learning what it means to be Jewish in the community's first Sunday School and camp programs. In a very real sense, they have matured along with their community. Now they have come full circle and are ready to take responsibility for transmitting their experience to a new generation of Jewish children.

By doing that, they are helping to ensure the future of Jewish community life in Bulgaria and joining the ranks of local community members who have stepped forth to assume positions of responsibility at various levels and in various spheres. Together, they represent the fruits of a decade-long effort to empower this community and help it become a self-sustaining, vibrant, and independent part of world Jewry.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The return of communal properties over the past few years has made most of the Czech Republic's Jewish communities financially able to underwrite the basic welfare needs of their members, and JDC ceased its funding for welfare assistance in 1999. An extra-budgetary contribution from a private donor, however, is enabling JDC to provide cash relief to needy members of the smaller communities that have not yet become self-sufficient.

A Claims Conference grant facilitated and monitored by JDC has given the local com-
EASTERN EUROPE

munities the means to assist aging Holocaust survivors in securing needed medical care. At the communities' request, JDC remains involved in the planning of welfare programs for the elderly and the training of local social service professionals.

The official inauguration of the Charles H. Jordan Jewish Old Age Home in Prague in February 2000 marked the successful culmination of a Prague Jewish community initiative planned and implemented in cooperation with JDC. Israeli experts from JDC-ESHEL have been providing guidance and training to those involved in setting up and now running this new facility, which is being financed by the local community and has been equipped in part through a generous grant from the Claims Conference.

By making small grants for Jewish educational projects and outreach activities through such organizations as Bejt Praha (the Open Jewish Community of Prague), Bejt Simcha (the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Prague), and the sports group Haknach, JDC has been supporting the development of a pluralistic Jewish life in the Czech Republic. It has also been able to attract extra-budgetary financial support for a Jewish children's theater group in Prague and a program of informal Jewish education called Bejt Elend.

Two new permanent exhibits have been created at the Terezin Concentration Camp Memorial's museum complex: "Theater in the Terezin Ghetto" and "Literary Creation in the Terezin Ghetto." JDC was instrumental in helping the Memorial obtain the sponsoring grant for these exhibits from the Claims Conference.

The local Jewish summer camp initiated by the Chief Rabbi in Prague has been a great success, attracting nearly 50 young Jews in 1999. In consequence, only a small group of Czech youngsters have been attending—at their families' expense—the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary, with the number down to ten last summer.

Israeli folk dance groups continue to flourish throughout the country, thanks in part to careful, consistent nurturing by JDC. In addition to their cultural impact, these groups have been a successful means of attracting and involving new participants in community life. They have also proven to be a source for the development of potential community leaders.

Although JDC has moved increasingly toward a technical assistance model in the Czech Republic, its investment in manpower training continues. In addition to the professional training programs it itself has organized—for welfare personnel and now for the new principal of the Jewish school—it continues to provide a variety of other leadership development opportunities through Leatid Europe and the European Council of Jewish Communities. Its goal is to expand the pool of leaders that will be available to sustain the vitality of this Jewish community in the years ahead.

SLOVAKIA

The Slovak Jewish community, with no resources of its own and restitution funds insufficient to the task, needs
JDCs help to maintain necessary services and programs. The cost of operating the community’s kosher kitchens, for example, increased by almost 40 percent last year as food and utility prices skyrocketed following the withdrawal of government subsidies and the liberalization of price controls.

Construction of a day care center for the elderly in Kosice funded by the Claims Conference began in May 1999 and is nearing completion. JDC is seeking to improve the home care program there and in Bratislava this year by providing wheelchairs and walkers to increase the mobility of the elderly, and it is hoping to extend these services to the smaller communities. A grant from the US government’s contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund will enable JDC to meet community members’ increasing need for medications as government subsidies continue to be cut.

JDC has been helping the Jewish communities develop social and cultural activities for all age groups. The Club of Generations in Bratislava, for example, which evolved from what was originally a seniors’ group, now has a weekly attendance of 50 to 70 members. The Hidden Children’s Association meets once a

**IN SLOVAKIA TODAY**

- Some 72 elderly and ill Holocaust survivors are currently receiving cash assistance from the community with JDC’s aid.
- Kosher canteens supported by JDC in Bratislava and Kosice serve about 130 hot meals a day and provide a chance for companionship to these lonely Jews, while some 45 meals-on-wheels are distributed to the homebound.
- 80 elderly or disabled Jews in Bratislava and 220 in Kosice and the smaller provincial communities are currently receiving home care, up from a total of 220 in 1999; these program numbers are expected to increase further as this population continues to age.
- JDC has been purchasing medications for 77 chronically ill needy pensioners.
- The new 42-bed Jewish nursing home in Bratislava had 31 residents in 1999 but had not yet received its promised government operating funds.
month and sponsors lectures and special programs that draw a regular audience of 60. JDC enabled 40 of the Association's 130 members to attend the Hidden Children's Conference in Prague last year, the members had considered the event a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity but could not afford the registration fee.

A Holocaust Documentation Center was opened in February 1999 in Bratislava with funds from the Claims Conference. Researchers have begun the task of gathering material from the state archives and compiling data to document the fate of Slovakia's prewar Jewish communities, only 12 of which remain today. JDC is helping to find the resources needed to complete this effort, which the community sees as a memorial to those who perished.

JDC continues to subsidize the shipment of kosher food and religious supplies. It sent a volunteer US rabbi to Kosice for the High Holidays in 1999, and it is currently helping that community recruit a permanent rabbi.

JDC has been working to expand programs that strengthen Jewish identity, particularly for the 350 to 400 community members aged 15 to 35. It supports the publication of a student newspaper, and it enabled 66 youngsters to participate last summer in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/ JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. The 120-member Slovak Union of Jewish Students, whose growth JDC has nurtured and financially supported, is reputed to be the best in Eastern Europe and actively promotes contacts with other European Jewish youth.

An important JDC objective for 2000 is the development, with the Union's help, of a new Jewish cultural and educational program for all Jewish children in Slovakia, including those in the smaller, outlying communities. This would complement efforts already initiated in 1999 to reach out to these communities. JDC funds, for example, enabled the Nove Zamky community to hire a staff member to start a home care program for the elderly and organize social and cultural activities for young and old.

ALBANIA

Ed. Note: See the JDC-IDP section of this annual report for an account of JDC's non-sectarian aid efforts in the Balkans.

Over half a million refugees fled to Albania during the 1999 Kosovo crisis, and JDC was on the front line providing humanitarian aid. The tiny Albanian Jewish community moved quickly to ease JDC's way: members gave freely of their time and professional expertise as they helped JDC establish relations with the local authorities and solve its logistical problems. The country director's presence in Albania during this emergency period allowed him to have more in-depth contact with this community than ever before.

Regular financial assistance continued to be provided in 1999 to about a dozen elderly and impoverished Jews, and scarce or prohibitively expensive medications were made available to the chronically ill and to children in need. As the combined presence of the refugees and the international aid agencies proceeded to drive up the local cost of living, this JDC aid became more important than ever.

While most younger members of the community are now too old for the camp at Szarvas, JDC succeeded last year in convincing a young adult to go to Israel for university study, and sent him there with the Jewish Agency's help. JDC continues to send in Jewish educational materials, matza for Passover, and other holiday items in its endeavor to reacquaint community members with their Jewish heritage. An enthusiastic Hanukkah celebration was held in Tirana in 1999 for the second consecutive year, it was organized with the help of the Italian youth instructor who, for several years now, has been celebrating Jewish holidays with this remnant community at JDC's request.
Morocco's 5,000-strong Jewish community continues to maintain a vibrant Jewish life.
AFRICA and ASIA

JDC’S OBJECTIVES IN AFRICA AND ASIA

- In North African countries where the Jewish populations are slowly but steadily diminishing in size, JDC helps communities maintain the communal institutions necessary for Jewish life.

- Throughout this area, it is a primary JDC objective to ensure that the children 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 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 emphasizing cultural and educational activities that strengthen Jewish identity.

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

In keeping with its proud heritage, the 5,000-strong Moroccan Jewish community continues to maintain a vibrant Jewish life. Over the years, it has gradually assumed more and more responsibility for maintaining its communal infrastructure. Nevertheless, it is increasingly hard pressed to find the human and financial resources needed to operate the necessary education, health, and welfare programs, and it depends on JDC's support to sustain and improve vital services and institutions.

More than half of JDC's budget for Morocco last year went to the three Jewish school networks that together provide both a secular and a Jewish education to some 1,000 youngsters. The balance of JDC's funds were used to support community institutions and programs that care for the aged, the sick, and the impoverished.

In 1999, these programs provided:

- Monthly cash assistance to 205 needy people in Casablanca and 86 in provincial communities.
- Special grants to 115 heads of families from a fund set up to help with emergencies and special needs.
- Residential care for 79 elderly at the Jewish home for the aged in Casablanca, and for 26 residents at the two small nursing homes in Tangier.
- Regular health services through OSE (Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants) for 1,356 people in Casablanca and 70 in the provinces, and emergency medical care for 60 individuals.

To help reduce the costs of hospitalization for an aging population with increasing medical needs, a generous bequest from the late Cecile Misrahi, a dedicated JDC staff member, has been used to transform two rooms at the Casablanca old age home into recovery rooms that will help reduce hospital stays. Expanding preventive health care programs is another current priority, and includes an upgrading of OSE's medical services through the acquisition of much-needed new diagnostic equipment.

JDC helps subsidize the three remaining school systems in Morocco, those of Ozar Hatorah, Lubavitch, and Ittibad. It has encouraged the schools to raise tuition to make up for budget shortfalls as enrollments continue their small decline. To help the schools serve the needier children, JDC has established a special scholarship fund, which benefited 148 children in 1999. To further assist the poorer families, JDC has been encouraging the community to help cover school costs, and it is embarking on a new effort to ensure the computer literacy of children from families with limited means.

JDC's Educational Development Fund helps schools with in-service training and curriculum enhancement, with a new teacher training seminar planned for the current year.
AFRICA and ASIA

JDC also pays stipends to the teachers participating in two adult Jewish study programs for men and women, which had a total of about 37 participants in 1999.

subsidizing the attendance of the needier children, this effort enabled 196 boys and girls to enjoy some summer fun at one of these three camps last year.

TUNISIA

JDC continues to assist the small Jewish population in Tunisia to maintain essential communal institutions so that all those remaining can live with dignity and the children have access to Jewish education. Together with the local Jewish community, it has embarked on a new campaign to ensure that even the poorest Jew in Tunis lives in conditions that are clean, well-repaired, and decent.

The generous support of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has helped to make the La Goulette Home the best institution of its kind in the country, equipped to care for those with medical problems that might normally require hospitalization. JDC provided the community with an interest-free loan and technical help for this project, and it continues to offer professional assistance, focusing last year on improving preventive health programs at La Goulette.

IN TUNISIA IN 1999:

- JDC provided essential monthly cash assistance to 99 indigent elderly living in Tunis and in four provincial towns.

- JDC also funded medical care for some 150 impoverished individuals in various local communities, with the middle class Jewish community of Jerba covering half the costs of caring for its poor.

- In La Goulette on the outskirts of Tunis, JDC finances the operation of a beautifully renovated Jewish Home for the Aged. The Home had about 37 residents last year, many of whom are physically and/or mentally ill.
In Tunis, JDC funds 70 percent of the budget of the only Jewish school, which is run by the Lubavitch movement and had an enrollment of 78 in 1999-2000. A variety of building improvements were made at the school over the past year with JDC's help.

A high birthrate among the Jews living on the island of Jerba has filled classrooms there to overflowing. JDC continues to support two Jewish schools in Hara Kebira with a total enrollment of about 250; one of these, the boys' Yeshiva, has been a major Jewish institution in Jerba for over two millennia. A recreation room was opened in the Yeshiva in 1999 with JDC's assistance. The other school, Torah V'Hinukh, is totally funded by JDC. It provides both a Jewish and general education to its students, primarily girls, most of whom would otherwise remain without formal schooling.

In the small, flourishing community of Zarzis, JDC helps fund the recently refurbished girls' and boys' Talmudei Torah. These two fine, part-time Jewish schools are serving some 42 children and have an enthusiastic group of parents behind them.

In addition to helping to cover repairs and equipment, JDC has established a small fund to help enhance educational programming in all of the Jewish schools. An early childhood educator is being sent to Jerba this year to follow up on the successful revamping of the kindergarten program accomplished there two years ago. New play equipment and modern educational materials have also been purchased for the schools by JDC in Israel with the help of Jewish Child's Day in London.

YEMEN

JDC began funding activities in Yemen following the merger of the two republics in May 1990. It sent in Torah scrolls, books, and other religious materials, and provided welfare assistance to the many impoverished members of the Jewish community, which then numbered about 1,000.

Since Yemen and Israel have no diplomatic relations, JDC has been serving as the arm of the organized Jewish world in Yemen. It has made all departure arrangements for community members, receiving generous
AFRICA and ASIA

support for these efforts from World Jewish Relief (UK). About 750 Jews have left Yemen since 1992; 49 emigrated in the last year alone, aided by JDC representatives who spent considerable time in Yemen in 1999. JDC remains responsible for the welfare of this Jewish community and, in partnership with the Jewish Agency, for its aliya.

MOROCCO
Jewish Population: ..........5,000'
JDC Appropriation: .... $ 1,108,000

TUNISIA
Jewish Population: ..........1,715'
JDC Appropriation: ...... $ 613,500

YEMEN
Jewish Population: ..........280'
JDC Appropriation: ........ $ 63,300

EGYPT
Jewish Population: ..........120'
JDC Appropriation: ........ $ 60,900

ALGERIA
Jewish Population: ..........13'
JDC Appropriation: .......... $ 2,800

ETHIOPIA
JDC Appropriation: .......... $ 98,900

INDIA
Jewish Population: ..........4,930'
JDC Appropriation: ...... $ 228,900

CHINA
JDC Appropriation: ........ $ 3,100

MYANMAR
JDC Appropriation: ........ $ 2,500

Figures are approximate.

OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES

Following the earthquakes that devastated parts of TURKEY in August and again in November 1999, JDC, working in cooperation with the Turkish Jewish community, embarked on a variety of non-sectarian relief and rehabilitation efforts, the details of which are provided in the JDC-IDP section of this annual report.

The Turkish Jewish community is financially self-sufficient and not in need of JDC funding, but it has requested technical assistance over the past few years to improve communal services in various areas. Renovation projects undertaken with the aid of JDC-sponsored experts have now been completed at the Jewish Home for the Aged in Istanbul and at the Ohr Habayim Jewish Hospital, thanks to generous grants from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. JDC has also been helping to improve the programs offered at these institutions, in a technical aid effort that was extended to Izmir two years ago.

In EGYPT, JDC, in partnership with the tiny Jewish communities in Cairo and Alexandria, is providing cash assistance to some
34 indigent elderly as well as funds for medical care and help with burial costs. It also continues to subsidize nursing home care for three elderly Jews in Alexandria. JDC has been sending a cantor to Alexandria for the Jewish holidays, and it provides Jews both there and in Cairo with Passover supplies and kosher food for other holidays. The proceeds from the sale of a synagogue enabled the Alexandria community to begin to share in the cost of these items last year.

Since the spring of 1999, there have been only two JDC assistees left in ALGERIA, both of whom continue to receive supplementary financial help and Passover supplies. JDC keeps in contact with these frail elderly women via telephone and mail from Paris, with the help of a dedicated Jewish woman from Algeria now serving as a volunteer. In other parts of the Moslem world last year, JDC continued to help remaining Jewish communities meet their health, welfare, and Jewish educational needs.

ETHIOPIA

At the beginning of the summer of 1999, the Israeli government declared eligible for aliyah most of the Jews from the Quara region in northern Ethiopia who had been living in Gondar City; they were subsequently flown to Israel from Addis Ababa on regularly scheduled flights. As it has been doing for all Ethiopian Jews eligible to go to Israel, JDC provided full assistance—relief grants, food, housing, and medical care—for these Quara Jews during their stay in Addis while their immigration processing was completed. Due to the large number of people involved, the transit period was longer than normal. JDC's assistance efforts were coordinated in Ethiopia with the Israeli Embassy and with representatives of the Israeli Interior Ministry and the Jewish Agency. The Quara Jews' situation has not yet been completely resolved, with small groups of more recent arrivals from this remote region in Gondar City and Addis.

Through private clinics in Addis Ababa and Gondar City, JDC has also been providing emergency medical assistance for thousands of Felas Mora who moved from their villages to these two cities to await the processing of their requests to go to Israel. The Felas Mora are descendants of Jews who converted to Christianity, and many have relatives who have made aliyah. In leaving their villages, the Felas Mora have abandoned their self-sufficient, agrarian lifestyle and have no means of supporting themselves in an urban environment that is alien to them.

With the Felas Mora's living conditions, especially in Gondar City, precarious, and many of their children suffering from a shortage of food, JDC, through these two clinics, began an extensive nutritional program last year for youngsters and some particularly at-risk adults. The clinics, which have received generous support from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, have brought the mortality rate among the Felas Mora significantly below that of the general Ethiopian population, while the rate among their children in Addis is comparable to Western rates.

A Jewish Sunday School student introduces herself to JDC Board members Yona Goldberg (l.) and Jackie Woolf (r.) at the JCC opening in Bombay last February.

Photo: JDC
INDIA

Since its official opening at a festive ceremony attended by visiting JDC Board members in February 1999, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Bombay has been thriving. Supported in major part by funds from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the JCC is attracting Jews of all ages who have never before been involved in Jewish life—precisely as JDC hoped it would. In particular, it has increasingly become a magnet for the celebration of the Jewish holidays. Lots of new faces have appeared at gatherings held during the course of the past year that have quickly become oversubscribed, with the space already proving too small to hold all those who want to celebrate together with their fellow Jews.

On a daily basis, the JCC is fast becoming the center of Jewish life in Bombay year-round. It is providing a lively new venue—one more accessible than JDC’s overcrowded office—for the community programs and informal Jewish educational activities that JDC has helped to develop in India over the past decade. In addition to Shabbat and holiday programs, these include after-school and weekend youth groups and activities, Sunday school classes for children that have been filled to overflowing this year, along with workshops for their parents, weekend and vacation camps for young and old, young leadership camps and other training programs, classes in Hebrew, Judaism, and other Jewish subjects, a Rosh Chodesh women’s group, and a Golden Age Club.

Both staff members and the members of the JCC’s new local board of directors met this past February with an expert consultant brought in by JDC to help further the Center’s goals. The JCC is now home to the Jewish library that JDC established in Bombay, the largest of the five libraries it set up in different localities. In this
new, more centralized location, the Bombay library is being very well used by people who have had questions all their lives about Judaism and now have a place to turn for some answers, guided in many cases by JDC’s very able Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers. The JCC’s popular Cyber Cafe is also providing access to Jewish information via the Internet, an important benefit in a country where home computers are still a rarity.

With its largest and most efficacious staff ever and its dedicated group of local volunteers, JDC India forged full steam ahead in 1999, with more camps, more classes, and more community activities than ever before. Over the past year and a half, there have been three JSC volunteers working in India, bringing to 14 the number who have served there from 1987 to date. The volunteers’ strong Jewish educational backgrounds have enabled them to serve as the informational underpinning for this rich assortment of informal Jewish educational programming, filling in the gaps for local staff who have never had access to formal Jewish training.

Local graduates of the Israel-based Buncher Leadership Program are also critical to JDC’s efforts. JDC has been organizing follow-up seminars two or three times a year for the 11 alumni currently working in five local communities, and Buncher graduates are now able to keep in constant touch with each other via the Internet. Among the four candidates from India who participated in the Israel seminar in 1999 were the blind individual responsible for all JDC’s Marathi translations and his wife, both indispensable JDC volunteers. His experience has paved the way for the inclusion of other candidates with disabilities in future Buncher seminars.

In an ongoing welfare program now staffed by two social workers, about 140 individuals currently receive modest monthly grants from JDC; these grants were augmented during the course of 1999 as food costs continued their rapid rise. JDC is trying to upgrade assistees’ living conditions, and it has begun using local consultants to help the younger, poorly educated jobless find a way out of welfare dependency. Assistees were included for the first time last year in JDC’s popular camp program, a weekend trip outside Bombay enabled welfare recipients to see some greenery and learn a bit about their Jewish heritage.

JDC continues to sponsor monthly medical clinics—directed by a wonderful volunteer doctor—in Alibag for the Jews living in the Konkan coast villages. Throughout the year, it combines these clinic days with informal Jewish educational programs for children and adults.

The care and concern shown for the residents at Bayit, JDC’s tiny home for the aged in Manpada, which has drawn both praise and support from the Indian public, is reinforced by visits from JDC staff members, volunteers, and community groups, especially at holiday times. Generous help from the Weinberg Foundation has made this beautifully renovated and equipped facility a very special haven for a small group of destitute and heretofore homeless Jews.
JDC's Golden Age Club is flourishing, with an enrollment of 150 and growing, it is JDC's most active group. The camp program for senior citizens was electrified over the past year by two three-day excursions outside the Bombay/Thane area, the first to Ahmedabad and the second to Pune. The enthusiastic participants, who paid half the trip costs, were eager to get acquainted or renew ties with fellow Jews in another city and happy to join in Jewish-oriented activities with their peers.

*Kol India*, a quarterly JDC publication, is read by the majority of Jews in India today, keeping them informed of recent activities and newsworthy events among Jews locally and around the world. It is also increasingly a means of spreading Jewish education, with question and answer columns and thoughtful articles on Judaism and other Jewish topics. Acting as a unifying medium, *Kol India* has brought a stronger sense of group affiliation to this widely scattered Jewish population, whose modest numbers are like a tiny drop in the vast Indian sea.

JDC's efforts in India for much of the past decade have made it a rallying point for Indian Jewry, when the different segments of the community know JDC is involved in a given program, they come. JDC's local Advisory Committee is a case in point; it is made up of well-educated, experienced individuals representing the various local communities and groups, and many of its members really extend themselves to get to meetings in Bombay. Over 100 people from different communities attended JDC's annual all-India Seminar in October 1999, eager to discuss the prospects for Indian Jewry on the cusp of the new millennium. The Seminar was followed this time by a December mini-conference. Aptly titled, "Coming Together," the mini-conference focused on apportioning direct responsibility to the local communities for carrying out the recommendations made in October, with JDC continuing to serve as a catalyst and guide.

**CHINA AND MYANMAR**

JDC provided quarterly assistance payments to three elderly individuals in CHINA last year, while in MYANMAR it aided six indigent members of the remnant Jewish community in Yangon.
JDC Board members Sherry Rodman (l.), Helene Berger (c.), and Myra H. Kraft (r.) at an educational enrichment program for Jewish youngsters in Buenos Aires, April 1999.
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 maximize their own local resources. This is one of the many examples of JDC’s involvement in Community Development.

- 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 usually had a multiplying effect equivalent to 250 percent of the initial contribution.

- JDC promotes regional meetings and cooperative exchange 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 promotes efforts to maximize human resources through training programs for lay leaders and professionals, and it is helping to strengthen community organization, planning, and fundraising capabilities.

- In Cuba, JDC is working in partnership with the local community to promote Jewish knowledge, advance the re-establishment of Jewish culture and religion, and rebuild communal structures; it is also helping to meet basic needs for food and medicines.

- In Argentina, JDC has responded to the social welfare needs created by the increasing impoverishment of the Jewish middle class by helping to establish a network of volunteers and self-help programs.
Argentina's ongoing economic crisis has devastated many sectors of its economy, and particularly its middle class. Unemployment remained high throughout the past year, especially among professionals over 40 and young people just entering the job market. The many middle class Jews who have lost jobs or businesses have needed various forms of material assistance from the community as well as guidance in developing ways to supplement their income, as they find themselves settling for new jobs paying a fraction of their previous salaries. The consequent inability of many of those so affected to continue their involvement in Jewish communal institutions, the failure of financial institutions that had been major sources of communal support, and the country's continuing socio-economic tensions have combined to further weaken a Jewish community still racked by the unsolved bombings of the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and the AMIA building in 1994.

JDC has been helping Argentina's Jewish community adjust to the new realities, working with local partners to develop new communal responses to unemployment, underemployment, and the decreased participation in communal institutions.

Two major programs which JDC helped initiate—the Volunteer Network and the Coalition Against Poverty—continue to provide life-saving services to the poorest segments of the Jewish community. In various locations throughout the greater Buenos Aires area, seven Social Assistance Centers offer material aid and the support of professional social workers, while 30 Volunteer Centers provide help with food, shelter, clothing, and medications.

![Community volunteers provide information and help at Coalition Against Poverty centers throughout Buenos Aires.](Photo: JDC)

Over 900 volunteers were involved in these programs in 1999. The aid provided to those in direst need became more critical than ever last summer, when financial difficulties caused AMIA (the umbrella social service provider) to interrupt its subsidies to the poorest families, some of whom were in danger of losing their apartments. Overall, some 8,000 people—70 percent of whom are among the so-called "new poor"—were aided in 1999 through basic assistance programs, special activities for children and teenagers, and efforts that included labor retraining, employment centers, and the development of new microbusinesses.
Together with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, JDC has been engaged in an effort to strengthen the Tzedaka Foundation, its partner in the Coalition Against Poverty and a new prototype for communal funding. The goal is to help the Foundation expand its local fundraising capacity so that it can continue to meet the community’s increased needs. During the course of a JDC Board mission to Buenos Aires in April 1999, a special workshop was held with Foundation leaders, who are developing a strategic plan to attract the wealthiest Jewish families in Argentina, many of whom have not been involved till now in communal life.

Federation executives and lay leaders from Baltimore and from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco have provided training sessions and hosted study visits for members of the Tzedaka board, and a generous matching gift was recently made by the Weinberg Foundation as part of its “challenge grant” to the Tzedaka fundraising campaign.

JDC continues to be an active partner in efforts to reorganize communal structures to meet changing needs, eliminate duplication, make the most effective use of scarce resources, and improve the quality of services.

JDC’s largest investment in such efforts has been in the area of Jewish education. A three-year pilot project to upgrade the level of Jewish educational institutions in Argentina was brought to a successful conclusion in December 1999. Through the adaptation of a pedagogic model emphasizing diversity that was used successfully in Israel and France, the project had a transforming effect on the participating schools, both in Buenos Aires and in the provinces. The changes it produced were remarkable, enhancing the quality of learning, increasing rates of student retention, and bringing about an expansion in Jewish school enrollment for the first time in a decade.

Other Latin American Jewish communities have been adopting this project: those in Rio de Janeiro and Asuncion are in their second year of implementation, while efforts have just gotten under way in Sao Paulo and Montevideo.

These students have benefited from their school’s participation in the pilot project to upgrade Jewish education in Argentina. Photo: JDC
In Argentina itself, JDC, working with the Jewish Agency and the Pincus Fund, is forging a Jewish educational coalition to enhance and strengthen what has already been achieved and promote its replication. JDC also provided technical assistance last year for an effort to reorganize and improve the Lubavitch school system in Argentina, a task that is continuing this year.

In partnership with the Federation of Jewish Community Centers of Argentina, JDC continues to support monthly training meetings and special workshops for lay and professional leaders. Top professionals also took part last year in Buncher Leadership Program seminars in Argentina and in Israel.

In recognition of the fundamental changes under way in the Argentinean Jewish community, JDC is prepared to expand its leadership training programs and provide additional technical assistance both to emerging organizations like the Tzedaka Foundation and to long-time institutions that may be engaged in evaluation and restructuring efforts. Working with the new generation that has been assuming leadership roles in various communal institutions, JDC can help these leaders change the face of their organizations over the next few years to adjust to the evolving needs of a community in flux.

CUBA

The rededication of Havana's newly renovated Beth Shalom Synagogue, "the Patronato," in May 2000 was a fitting symbol of the revitalization that has taken place among the Jews of Cuba since 1992. The renovation, which restored a sanctuary and overall edifice that had fallen into dangerous disrepair, was accomplished with generous support from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation of Baltimore. Thanks to the generosity of the Scheck family of Miami, the refurbished "Patronato" Community Center will be able to provide a venue for more activities than ever, and a generous gift from Miami's Zelcer family has made possible the renovation of the much-used Jewish library.

Work has been done recently on two other synagogues in Havana, as well as on the synagogue in Santiago de Cuba and the one that was opened last year in Camaguey. In
A Jewish community celebration brings the different generations together in Havana.

Photo: JDC

addition to these three localities, there are small Jewish communities today in Guantanamo, Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritu, and Cienfuegos. Although all have experienced an exciting revival of Jewish life, the challenge is how to sustain their level of activity as the Jewish population continues to diminish in size.

Life for everyone in Cuba is very difficult, with rationing and severe shortages of even the most basic necessities. To help meet community members' humanitarian needs, JDC continues to send kosher food shipments for distribution throughout the island in conjunction with four Jewish holidays. The Mexican Jewish community, the Canadian Jewish Congress, and others are JDC's partners in this effort.

In addition to food packages, chicken dinners are now being provided to community members—even those living in the Interior—after Kabbalat Shabbat services each week. These dinners, an important nutritional boost as well as a boon to community spirit, have been made possible by the generous contributions of participants in the missions to Cuba that have been organized by the North American Federations and UJC. The supplemental donations that mission members have been making to this community are also helping to guarantee the provision of a wide variety of other essential services and programs.

Medications shipped by JDC or brought on missions have significantly improved the health of community members, as have periodic eye examinations and the help provided by visiting doctors in JDC-IDP's non-sectarian medical education program.

JDC, through the Argentinean communal professionals who have been its resident representatives, has been placing special emphasis on training new members of the community who can take over responsibility for carrying on the Jewish educational, cultural, and religious activities that have been developed throughout the island. Weekly seminars were held in 1999 to train local teachers, and there were ongoing courses for youth counselors; as a result, the team of workers that has become the backbone of Cuban Jewish life has received a continuing infusion of new members.

Thus, over the past year, adult Jewish study groups have continued to flourish in Havana, Santiago, and Camaguey, along with the Sunday Schools for youngsters that have been established there and in Cienfuegos; youth organization activities continued apace; and fresh impetus was given to the creation of new Israeli dance groups throughout the island. Representatives from all the Jewish communities have also been taking part in the seminars that JDC has been conducting to train cantors and Torah readers for local synagogue services.

Extra-budgetary support has enabled JDC to help organize a variety of camp programs for youngsters, adults, and senior citizens; about 70 seniors are also regular participants in a group that meets throughout the year in Havana. Two youth camps were held in 1999: a local one in March and a Pan-American camp in August. The latter brought 27 youngsters from Latin America and the US together with 100 Cuban Jewish youth.
JDC continues to supply Hebrew- and Spanish-language books on Jewish subjects, and it has just enlarged the video library that circulates among the Jewish communities. Extra-budgetary contributions have enabled JDC to purchase equipment for new computer centers in Havana, Camaguey, and Santiago. JDC supports Menorah, the Havana community's monthly publication, as well as the Jewish youth group's newsletter, called Mifgash.

JDC helps coordinate visits from Jewish scholars, educators, and rabbis who have done much to enrich the local program of Jewish learning. Following a UJA-Federation of New York mission to Cuba in 1999, a project was established by that city's Congregation B'nai Jeshurun through which three Jewish educators were sent to Cuba last summer. They taught classes on Shabbat and holidays and worked with youngsters at the Pan-American camp.

JDC continues to sponsor the communal celebration of Jewish holidays, it brings in rabbis for the High Holiday period and helps community members to observe key life cycle events. In April 2000, JDC's resident representative and his wife helped a small number of families conduct their own Passover seders, as Jewish families do the world over. While they had approached the event with equal measures of anticipation and trepidation, those involved were very moved by their experience. This first step will undoubtedly lead to more such family celebrations as this Jewish community continues its remarkable resurgence, a process that has inspired us all.

OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

JDC works with communities large and small throughout Latin America, helping them adjust to economic and social changes that have adversely affected large sectors of the Jewish population. JDC's professional consultants have provided technical assistance and counseling to numerous institutions engaged in restructuring or merging program areas or entire organizations, and they have helped design new strategies to stem or reverse debilitating membership declines.

JDC's overriding aims are to increase the sustainability of communal institutions and...
enhance their flexibility so that they can better serve a Jewish population with expanding social service needs. In Venezuela, for example, JDC has been advising on the creation of a new labor retraining and employment program. In Uruguay, JDC continues to support the efforts of CIDEL, the Jewish community's social service agency, whose programs include vocational training and the creation of new microbusinesses.

The development of new funding modalities like Argentina's Tzedaka Foundation is a critical element in a community's adaptation to changing conditions. As part of the two-year communal planning and reorganization process that it completed in 1999, the Jewish community in Guatemala has established its first community-wide endowment fund, with help from JDC and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Lealtid: JDC continues to support the work of Lealtid, which provides courses, seminars, and in-service training for both lay leaders and professionals from Jewish communities throughout Latin America. Core programs include an Institutional Directors Training Program and the Electronic Forum for Jewish Institutional Leadership. Lealtid is responsible for the development of a new group of Latin American participants in the Buncher Leadership Program, and, in 2000, it started an Integrated Training Program for leaders of the Central American Jewish Communities.

The Lealtid Web site is providing Jewish communal leaders with new tools for analyzing current issues as well as help with day-to-day operations. The site connects local communities to each other and to JDC's Latin America office in Buenos Aires, thereby enabling community leaders to avail themselves of JDC's technical help on a regular basis. JDC sees the Web site as an innovative way to involve local leaders in developing solutions for problems that are confronting more than one community, while enabling them to profit from the experience of other Jewish communities worldwide.

The Einstein Virtual Campus is a computer-based network that brings together Jewish graduate students and young professionals in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Supported by JDC and ORT, the network enables these young adults to introduce themselves and their fields of work to one another via the Jewish community. Participants in this "virtual community" can explore all-important job possibilities, organize study groups, and exchange research and professional information. Activities with Jewish content are encouraged, with the goal of enhancing participants’ sense of belonging.

The Latin American GA in Cuernavaca, Mexico this past March drew 450 participants from 30 countries.

Photo: JDC
Extra-budgetary contributions have enabled JDC to equip computer centers that are providing important access to Jewish information in Havana and other Cuban cities.

Photo: JDC

In creating a bi-annual forum similar to the North American General Assembly or GA. It has also been working with Leatid to make training and community development programs an integral part of the Latin American GA experience.

The seventh meeting of Latin American Jewish Institutions and Community Leaders took place in March 2000 in Cuernavaca, Mexico, bringing together 450 lay and professional leaders from 30 countries. With prominent leaders from JDC and US Federations in attendance, the meeting provided an important opportunity for networking between North and South Americans. The mix of lay and professional leaders from different communities made for an enriching interchange of information and experiences, as varied communal and professional perspectives were brought to bear on discussions of education, welfare, and other pressing issues. And it was clear that all of the delegates to this Latin American GA had at least one thing in common—they were all builders of Jewish life.

Communal responsibility. JDC will be working to expand the network to all of Latin America, viewing it as a computer-age tool for developing a new generation of Jewish leaders.

Contacto, the quarterly newsletter published by JDC's Latin America office, has been providing information about Jewish communal events and topics of interest to lay and professional leaders throughout Latin America. It also keeps them abreast of JDC's programs and activities in the region and around the world.

Constituting a Central American Region to provide a unified response to Jewish community needs is a current JDC goal. Training for teachers and informal Jewish educators, camp programs for youth and families, and study and training seminars for Jewish leaders like the one launched last year in Venezuela, would be among the activities to be undertaken in this manner.

Latin American GA: In its ongoing effort to foster connections among Jewish communities throughout Latin America, JDC has played a key role...
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.

- JDC does not use regular program funds to support its non-sectarian efforts. Rather, it provides a small amount of seed money that it leverages with funding secured from the US and other governments, international agencies, and private foundations and donors. Projects have also benefited from the pro bono services of American Jews and from a variety of in-kind corporate contributions.

- For disaster relief overseas, JDC's “Open Mailboxes” provide a mechanism through which the Jewish and general public can participate in emergency responses.

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

- By using Israeli experts as much as possible, JDC enables developing countries throughout the world to benefit from Israel’s development experience, agricultural and technological innovations, and products. This also helps to cement Israel’s role as a provider of quality assistance abroad.

- Training is an essential part of JDC development efforts and is intended to enhance the self-reliance of local partners and ensure that projects will continue after JDC's departure. Projects often involve both government agencies and non-governmental organizations to encourage cooperation and ensure the best use of resources.
One of the vocational training programs established in Kosovo by JDC and the World ORT Union to help returnees rebuild their lives.
GLOBAL PROGRAMS

JDC-INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (JDC-IDP)

NON-SECTARIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALKANS: THE KOSOVO CRISIS AND ITS AFTERMATH

The Kosovo refugee crisis that commanded so much of the world’s attention in the spring of 1999 had a special resonance for the American Jewish public, and the response was overwhelming. Contributions to JDC’s “Open Mailbox,” primarily but not exclusively from American Jews, have exceeded $5.4 million—the largest “Mailbox” campaign to date—and 42 Jewish organizations joined the Jewish Coalition for Kosovo Relief and Assistance, which has raised over $602,000.

JDC’s initial relief efforts included the distribution of mattresses, bedding, and other emergency supplies to those living in refugee camps, along with activity kits for the children. Shelters were repaired in various camps in Albania, and 100 children’s libraries were set up. Medical assistance was provided by local professionals and Israeli and American volunteers, the latter were part of the “Medical Registry” that JDC activates in times of crisis. In partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), JDC established a health program in the Cair district of Macedonia to care for refugees there and for their equally impoverished host families.

In Elbasan, Albania, JDC established one of the few winterized refugee facilities, which provided shelter and aid programs for some of the most vulnerable refugees. At the request of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), this “model” facility was kept open for those left behind after repatriation had begun and has since been turned over to the local authorities. Also at UNHCR’s request, JDC’s doctors accompanied thousands of refugees who traveled by train back to Kosovo last summer, in a process of return that proved to be much swifter than expected.

In keeping with its traditional emphasis on both recovery and relief, JDC quickly shifted its focus to reconstruction efforts in Kosovo itself. At the request of UNICEF, JDC has renovated and rehabilitated 25 elementary schools in Pristina, Prizren, and Podujevo, with many of the schools readied in time for the start of the past school year. JDC also provided five winterized tents for use as temporary school facilities, and it distributed school bags and supplies in 20 schools and 15,000 pairs of winter shoes. These efforts enabled thousands of children to return to school last fall, thereby restoring some measure of stability to their lives and allowing their families to turn their attention to rebuilding their future.

JDC has subsequently been engaged in a variety of other efforts to aid local schools and students, and it has donated pharmaceuticals and other supplies to hospitals in Prizren and Pristina. Together with the World ORT Union, JDC established vocational training programs for returnees.
that have included a variety of computer training courses as well as English classes and courses in metalworking and carpentry, skills much in demand in Kosovo today.

Throughout the past year, JDC has coordinated the efforts of the Jewish Coalition, whose initial allocation to the "Israel Loves Children" refugee camp project in Macedonia enabled Israeli volunteers to provide recreational and educational opportunities to much-traumatized youngsters. Coalition funds were subsequently allocated to projects established in partnership with various international and regional agencies, including the IRC, Mercy Corps International (MCI), The Forum, the Women's Center of Tirana, and Matrat Qiriazi, the Albanian-American Women's Association. Project activities have included the construction, rehabilitation, or enhancement of additional school facilities and the provision of teaching materials and supplies; the establishment of Women's and Children's Centers that have become important resources in the community-building process; the development of new public health services and preventive care for women, children, and families, the provision of trauma relief and support services; and efforts to strengthen local organizations in order to facilitate the development of civil society in Kosovo.

Medications and emergency supplies have also been provided over the past year to Serbs and Roma who were forced to leave Kosovo for Belgrade and other areas. MCI has received Coalition support for an ongoing health education and hygiene project for Roma now living in northern Montenegro. The Belgrade Jewish community has been participating in efforts to aid internally displaced Serbs, providing them with hot meals at Jewish community soup kitchens and including them in a new entrepreneurship training program under way in Belgrade.
GLOBAL PROGRAMS

The non-sectarian aid effort carried out by JDC in Macedonia in partnership with the local Jewish community and an international network of supporters is described in the Former Yugoslavia section of this annual report.

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE RELIEF AND RECOVERY EFFORTS AND OTHER PROJECTS

American Jews responded generously to the devastating earthquakes that hit northwestern Turkey in August and again in November 1999, contributing over $978,000 to JDC's "Open Mailbox." JDC also convened and is coordinating the Jewish Coalition for Turkey Earthquake Relief. With 45 member agencies, it is the largest Coalition to date and has raised over $98,000.

JDC responded to initial needs by distributing warm clothes, blankets, and sleeping bags, and it flew a number of individuals to Israel for medical care not available in Turkey. Assistance was provided to the "Israeli Village" in Adapazari, which has been providing families in one of the hardest-hit areas with shelter, medical care, and educational activities. Originally established with assistance from Israeli government agencies and voluntary organizations, the "Israeli Village" has also benefited from Jewish Coalition funding for the purchase of equipment and supplies.

An innovative trauma relief project focusing on children was one of the efforts supported by JDC in the wake of the Turkish earthquakes. Photo: JDC

Member Agencies of the Various Jewish Coalitions for Disaster Relief

AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) • American Friends of Soroka Medical Center of the Negev • American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors • American Jewish Committee • American Jewish Congress • American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) • American Jewish World Service (AJWS) • American ORT • Anti-Defamation League • B'nai B'rith International • Canadian Jewish Congress • Central Conference of American Rabbis • Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations • Congregation Beth Simchat Torah • Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America • Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) • Jewish Communal Fund • Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) • Jewish Foundation for the Righteous • Jewish Labor Committee • Jewish Reconstructionist Federation • Jewish War Veterans • Jewish Women International • Lilith Magazine • MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger • Meretz USA • National Council of Jewish Women • New Israel Fund • New York Association for New Americans (NYANA) • Rabbinical Assembly • Rabbinical Council of America • Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association • Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism • The South African Jewish Board of Deputies • Tikkun Magazine • UJA-Federation of New York • UKJAID (United Kingdom Jewish Aid and International Development) • Union of American Hebrew Congregations • Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations • United Jewish Communities (UJC) • United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism • Ve'ahavta: Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee • Women of Reform Judaism • Women's American ORT • Women's League for Conservative Judaism
JDC's longer-term response, developed in conjunction with the Turkish Jewish community, includes trauma relief services and training programs led by Israeli and local experts and the construction of a badly needed new primary school. An innovative trauma relief effort focusing on children was designed to function through the Turkish school system, with teachers trained to provide basic therapeutic intervention and identify those children in need of further attention. The project was initially implemented in the "Israeli Village" school, with plans for its replication in other schools in the affected area.

Allocations from the Jewish Coalition have been used to establish partnerships with a number of agencies in support of various projects: Families living in displaced person's shelters in Duzce received hygienic kits and sanitation and health information from a new public health technician and community outreach workers trained by MCI and the Turkish Family Health and Family Planning Foundation. The Foundation for the Support of Women's Work has expanded access to primary health care and psychological services in the provinces of Kocaeli and Adapazari, while MCI is using a wheelchair-accessible bus provided by the Coalition to transport people with disabilities to medical appointments and training sessions. In several instances, the seed money provided by the Coalition has enabled its implementing partners to leverage additional, much larger sums to sustain or expand recovery efforts.

**Working Children's Project:**

In the southeastern region of Turkey, a project initiated by JDC-IDP in March 1999 in the city of Diyarbakir is continuing. The project seeks to improve the quality of life of the large number of working children who live in this area of rapid urban growth. These primary school age children work on the streets at a variety of menial tasks to earn small amounts for their impoverished families. Most of the youngsters lack basic necessities and are unlikely to complete their schooling or develop the skills that can save them from a life of poverty. With major funding from the Turkish government and additional support from the International Labor Organization, JDC is working with the Governate of Diyarbakir and Dicle University to provide the children with nutritious meals, health care, counseling services, and educational and recreational opportunities at a new center that was opened in March 2000.
GLOBAL PROGRAMS

With help from one of the Jewish Coalition's project partners, these men are rebuilding homes destroyed by Hurricane Mitch at a new site high above flood level.

Photo: Laina Richter

RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE MITCH

The Jewish Coalition for Hurricane Mitch Relief was organized by JDC soon after that hurricane cut its devastating path through Central America in October 1998. The Coalition brought together 18 Jewish organizations, who together raised or contributed over $800,000 for relief and recovery efforts.

Eight Central American agencies with established distribution networks and successful long-term programs in the affected areas were selected as partners in efforts to provide pharmaceuticals, food, and shelter equipment with Coalition funds. In subsequent months, the agencies helped subsistence farmers replenish their crops, tools, and animals, they resupplied medical clinics, and they engaged in a variety of efforts to reconstruct the local infrastructure. Mindful of the victims' need for continued assistance in rebuilding their lives and communities, JDC-IDP staff members conducted field evaluations in April 1999 and again in May 2000 which provided recommendations that were accepted for additional Coalition activities. As a result, efforts to help rebuild homes, sanitation, and health systems and to re-establish small businesses are continuing.

THE MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM

JDC's Middle East Program works to improve the lives of citizens of the region and promote regional cooperation by developing new health services and facilitating professional interchange in a field in which JDC has acquired considerable expertise.

Although numerous Israeli-Palestinian health initiatives have been implemented since 1994, most have not been widely publicized. JDC-Israel, the JDC-Brookdale Institute, and Al-Quds University conducted a joint study to document these cooperative activities, determine which were the most effective, and disseminate the lessons learned. The study was sponsored by the US Institute of Peace, the Rich Foundation (Switzerland), and the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, and its findings have just been published. The results were initially presented at a seminar held at JDC-Israel in October 1999, which was supported by Norway's People to People Program. A second presentation was made in Helsinki last November at a workshop sponsored by the Finnish government.
area’s estimated 2,800 Palestinian children aged 0 to 5 who have special needs that require early professional intervention. Building upon an existing effort of the volunteer-supported Palestinian-Israeli Health Care Group, the project is training Palestinian professionals to evaluate the children and provide rehabilitative services, using methods pioneered by JDC in Israel’s network of Child Development Centers.

JDC, the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, Yad Sarah, and the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies are engaged in a three-year project to establish centers for the loan of medical equipment and assistive devices in the West Bank and Gaza, thereby helping Palestinians with disabilities or chronic illnesses maintain their independence and avoid costly hospitalization. A Regional Center was opened in Ramallah on March 1, 1999, while plans for a center in Gaza are in the development phase.

CUBA

In partnership with the Cuban Jewish community and the Cuban Ministry of Health, JDC has been sending volunteer doctors to Cuba each year as part of a non-sectarian professional education project. Hosted by local Jewish physicians, the visitors take part in hospital rounds, give lectures, and demonstrate the latest techniques to their fellow specialists. Nearly all project costs have been covered by the 30 doctors who have participated to date, some of whom have made return visits to provide follow-up care. Many of the doctors have also contributed valuable medical equipment and supplies.
GLOBAL PROGRAMS

OTHER JDC-IDP ACTIVITIES

Flood Relief Efforts in Mozambique and Venezuela:

Responding to the worst natural disaster to hit Mozambique and other parts of southern Africa in a century, JDC entered into a partnership with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, LATET (an Israeli NGO), and the Red Cross to send Israeli and South African doctors to the most devastated areas. Emergency food and pharmaceuticals were also provided, both directly and through Project HOPE. To help Venezuelans recover from last December’s catastrophic floods and mudslides, JDC is supporting an MCI project to train staff members of voluntary agencies operating in the country’s most remote areas so that they can better respond to this and any future disasters.

Hungary:

In a three-year project that concluded in 1999, the Open Society Institute/New York, JDC-Hungary, the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and the Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation implemented a regional training project in home- and community-based care for the elderly. Participants included health and social service professionals and government officials from 20 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The program also resulted in the creation of a strong regional network that will promote ongoing cooperation and partnership efforts among program graduates.

Ukraine:

In the Zaliznichny District of Kiev, experts from Israel, from the Kiev branch of JDC’s William Rosenwald Institute for Communal and Welfare Workers, and from Kiev’s Hesed Avot provided training and technical assistance to representatives of government agencies and voluntary organizations serving the elderly. The aim of the project, which concluded in April 1999, was to strengthen the social services available to this vulnerable population by introducing new management practices and methods of service delivery, building on JDC’s own experience in developing Jewish community welfare programs. One participant declared that the seminars had “brought about a tremendous positive shift in attitudes to the Jewish people,” while another stated that they had inspired “a great deal of respect for the Jewish nation, which seems to be concerned not only about its own people, but about us Ukrainians too.” Project funding was provided by the Rich Foundation and USAID.

Rwanda:

Acting on behalf of the 36-member Jewish Coalition for Rwanda Relief first established in 1994, JDC continues to be involved in efforts to aid some of Rwanda’s thousands of traumatized children. Funds contributed to the IRC from JDC’s Rwanda “Mailbox” have enabled it to pursue family reunification efforts in the Kibungo prefecture, the site of previous JDC child welfare efforts. JDC’s back-to-school project in that prefecture is enabling some 1,500 orphans to receive a secondary school education.

JEWSIH 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 Israélite Universelle, a French organization which operates schools in seven countries, and to the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training (ORT). However, 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, with JDC country budgets now including specific allocations for Alliance schools where relevant.

ORT received $3,063,400 from JDC in 1999 in support of its worldwide educational and vocational training programs, which benefited over 160,000 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 by providing 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, 1999, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of JDC's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

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.

As more fully described in Note 3 to the financial statements, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. has elected to recognize pension expense based on the method used to fund the pension plan. In our opinion, generally accepted accounting principles require that pension expense be recognized on the accrual basis, pursuant to the requirements of FASB Statement No. 87.

In our opinion, except for the effects of not recognizing pension expense in accordance with FASB Statement No. 87 as discussed in the previous paragraph, 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, 1999, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

[Signature]
Certified Public Accountant

May 18, 2000
EXHIBIT A

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans to communities, other receivables and other assets (net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of $426,070 in 1999 and 1998)</td>
<td>943,971</td>
<td>943,971</td>
<td>45,207</td>
<td>989,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employee</td>
<td>308,500</td>
<td>308,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>132,766</td>
<td>132,766</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund receivables (payables) (Note 7)</td>
<td>(1,273,401)</td>
<td>(1,273,401)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$24,873,516</td>
<td>$167,944,626</td>
<td>$192,818,142</td>
<td>$109,694,544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>Legacy Funds</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$34,738,311</td>
<td>$94,650</td>
<td>$34,832,961</td>
<td>$6,614,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity obligations</td>
<td>2,049,181</td>
<td>2,049,181</td>
<td>1,034,951</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable (Note 4)</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>13,330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Schusterman/JDC Support Foundation</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>37,738,311</td>
<td>2,794,650</td>
<td>40,532,961</td>
<td>8,663,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets (deficit) (Exhibit B) (Note 10)</td>
<td>(12,864,795)</td>
<td>165,149,976</td>
<td>152,285,181</td>
<td>101,031,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$24,873,516</td>
<td>$167,944,626</td>
<td>$192,818,142</td>
<td>$109,694,544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor's report.

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

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

### YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

(With Summarized Financial Information for 1998)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>58,573,272</td>
<td>58,573,272</td>
<td>11,808,972,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>934,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,244,013</td>
<td>1,244,013</td>
<td>69,738,206,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension reversion income (Note 3)</td>
<td>13,691,351</td>
<td>13,691,351</td>
<td>13,691,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income - exchange gains (losses)</td>
<td>(50,511)</td>
<td>(50,511)</td>
<td>(50,511)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental extra giving opportunities</td>
<td>3,889,728</td>
<td>3,889,728</td>
<td>3,889,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income (includes unrealized gains of $4,440,815 and realized gains of $15,288,102 in 1999)</td>
<td>17,042,076</td>
<td>17,042,076</td>
<td>9,964,242,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain (loss) on annuity obligations</td>
<td></td>
<td>343,339</td>
<td>(44,644)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions (Note 10)</td>
<td>58,532,589</td>
<td>58,532,589</td>
<td>58,332,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td>120,945,078</td>
<td>152,222,518</td>
<td>170,422,518</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                                |                |              |                             |
| **Temporarily Restricted**     |                |              |                             |
| Program services               |                |              |                             |
| Religious development          | 47,363,670     | 47,363,670   | 40,042,465                  |
| Jewish education and religious | 7,493,067      | 7,493,067    | 8,899,241                   |
| Health services                | 13,868,667     | 13,868,667   | 14,660,189                  |
| Services to the aged           | 20,401,756     | 20,401,756   | 12,157,201                  |
| Education and manpower development | 4,738,212    | 4,738,212    | 7,013,829                   |
| Social development             | 13,598,283     | 13,598,283   | 6,265,617                   |
| Multifunctional                | 8,046,462      | 8,046,462    | 12,091,773                  |
| Total program services         | 115,510,657    | 115,510,657  | 115,510,657                 |

|                                |                |              |                             |
| **Permanently Restricted**     |                |              |                             |
| Total expenses*                | 123,178,087    | 123,377,557  | 123,377,557                 |
| Change in net assets before other changes | (2,233,009)  | 31,777,970   | 33,556,961,972              |
| Other changes in net assets    |                |              |                             |
| Transfer for deficit reduction | 2,000,000      |              | 2,000,000                   |
| Transfer for operating fund programs | 5,240,900      | (5,240,900)    |                             |
| Reclassification               | 1,010,707      | 1,010,707    | 1,196,378                   |
| Change in net assets (Exhibit D) | 5,007,891      | 25,547,777   | 32,603,668                  |
| Net assets (deficit) - beginning of year | (17,873,686) | 139,602,199   | 121,729,513                 |
| Net assets (deficit) - end of year (Exhibit A) (Note 12) | (12,864,795) | 152,285,181  | 16,415,338                  |

*Includes interest expense of $1,050,800 in 1999

See independent auditor's report.

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC
EXHIBIT C

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM SERVICES</th>
<th>SUPPORTING SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and Welfare</td>
<td>Management and General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services</td>
<td>Fund Raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the Aged</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Education and Religious Development</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Manpower Development</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Development</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-functional</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Relief and Welfare</th>
<th>Health Services</th>
<th>Services to the Aged</th>
<th>Jewish Education and Religious Development</th>
<th>Education and Manpower Development</th>
<th>Social Development</th>
<th>Multi-functional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants to local communities</td>
<td>$18,436,021</td>
<td>$2,874,837</td>
<td>$6,001,235</td>
<td>$582,675</td>
<td>$3,292,151</td>
<td>$1,574,800</td>
<td>$4,964,743</td>
<td>$37,726,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash assistance to the elderly</td>
<td>2,183,005</td>
<td>569,550</td>
<td>18,966</td>
<td>15,347,147</td>
<td>6,923,651</td>
<td>2,715,485</td>
<td>2,014,482</td>
<td>4,932,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and clothing for needy individuals</td>
<td>15,253,131</td>
<td>1,129,333</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>361,000</td>
<td>169,500</td>
<td>169,500</td>
<td>986,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish educational materials</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>146,313</td>
<td>5,550</td>
<td>5,617,003</td>
<td>175,514</td>
<td>983,821</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>6,923,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care and rehabilitation</td>
<td>490,151</td>
<td>2,082,434</td>
<td>17,900</td>
<td>490,151</td>
<td>742,025</td>
<td>310,93</td>
<td>129,337</td>
<td>1,820,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical supplies</td>
<td>875,149</td>
<td>11,293</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,550</td>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>361,000</td>
<td>169,500</td>
<td>986,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious supplies</td>
<td>340,397</td>
<td>3,268,500</td>
<td>942,449</td>
<td>1,533,424</td>
<td>14,808,210</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and communal workers</td>
<td>3,015,958</td>
<td>7,903,757</td>
<td>942,449</td>
<td>1,533,424</td>
<td>14,808,210</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency assistance and relief</td>
<td>2,224,631</td>
<td>7,903,757</td>
<td>942,449</td>
<td>1,533,424</td>
<td>14,808,210</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
<td>2,267,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home care and personal assistance</td>
<td>1,359,221</td>
<td>460,854</td>
<td>46,186</td>
<td>6,623,913</td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>10,502,425</td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>10,502,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and bank charges</td>
<td>598,746</td>
<td>15,347,147</td>
<td>6,923,651</td>
<td>2,715,485</td>
<td>2,014,482</td>
<td>4,932,376</td>
<td>186,600</td>
<td>361,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll, social security, benefits and consultants</td>
<td>958,537</td>
<td>742,025</td>
<td>3,002,178</td>
<td>563,940</td>
<td>31,093</td>
<td>129,337</td>
<td>56,100</td>
<td>5,483,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, media and public relations</td>
<td>1,367,908</td>
<td>361,006</td>
<td>512,882</td>
<td>1,527,608</td>
<td>189,915</td>
<td>789,985</td>
<td>342,656</td>
<td>5,091,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services, supplies and other expenses</td>
<td>64,554</td>
<td>17,037</td>
<td>24,204</td>
<td>72,091</td>
<td>8,962</td>
<td>37,281</td>
<td>16,171</td>
<td>240,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$47,363,670</td>
<td>$7,868,607</td>
<td>$13,868,667</td>
<td>$20,401,756</td>
<td>$4,738,212</td>
<td>$13,598,283</td>
<td>$8,046,462</td>
<td>$115,510,657</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditors report.

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

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$63,360,793</td>
<td>$19,999,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>(3,565)</td>
<td>(74,840)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>(534,741)</td>
<td>(112,508)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Contributions restricted for annuity agreements</td>
<td>(19,728,917)</td>
<td>(13,088,966)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Realized and unrealized gains on investments</td>
<td>(343,339)</td>
<td>3,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease (increase) in assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Due from United Israel Appeal</td>
<td>6,718,027</td>
<td>(6,718,027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>(265,970)</td>
<td>(286,127)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Contributions receivable</td>
<td>(360,491)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pension reversion income receivable</td>
<td>(13,691,351)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Loan to communities, other receivables and other assets</td>
<td>662,073</td>
<td>969,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Due from employees</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>232,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>81,165</td>
<td>(58,325)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>2,473,939</td>
<td>7,179,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Due to Schusterman JDC Support Foundation</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash provided by operating activities</td>
<td>41,073,623</td>
<td>8,019,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from investing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Purchase of investments</td>
<td>(131,677,089)</td>
<td>(100,990,775)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Proceeds from sale of investments</td>
<td>110,212,848</td>
<td>79,093,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash used by investing activities</td>
<td>(21,464,241)</td>
<td>(21,897,681)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash flows from financing activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Repayment of loan</td>
<td>(13,650,000)</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Proceeds from loans</td>
<td>3,300,000</td>
<td>13,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>3,565</td>
<td>74,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>5,303</td>
<td>26,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Payment of annuity obligations</td>
<td>(235,914)</td>
<td>(103,024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Proceeds from contributions restricted for investment</td>
<td>2,128,224</td>
<td>276,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash used by financing activities</td>
<td>(8,474,125)</td>
<td>7,624,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net increase in cash</td>
<td>11,135,257</td>
<td>(6,253,491)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash - beginning of year</td>
<td>18,566,837</td>
<td>24,820,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash - end of year</td>
<td>$29,702,094</td>
<td>$18,566,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Cash paid during the year for interest</td>
<td>$1,171,311</td>
<td>$789,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditors' report.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1999

NOTE 1 - NATURE OF ORGANIZATION
The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. (JDC) was established in 1914 to channel funds being raised to aid Jews in Europe and Palestine. Today, over 85 years later, JDC is still serving as the overseas arm of the American Jewish Community, sponsoring programs of relief, rescue and reconstruction to meet Jewish needs around the globe.

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

The JDC is related to the International Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities and the Schusterman-JDC Support Foundation through Common Board Control.

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

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis.

Appropriations for grants are expensed in the year authorized.

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.

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

The financial statements include prior-year summarized comparative information in total, but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with JDC's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1998, from which the information was derived.

Investments are stated at fair value, which is determined by quoted market prices.

The costs of providing services have been summarized on a functional basis. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services for which the costs have been incurred.

Unconditional contributions, including promises to give cash and other assets, are reported at fair value at the date the contribution is received. The gifts are reported as either temporarily or permanently restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires either temporarily or permanently restricts support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires.

NOTE 3 - PENSION PLAN
The JDC has a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering its New York staff and overseas foreign service personnel. For 1999 and 1998, 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, 1999, there were 201 participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit obligation</th>
<th>$11,320,310</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair value of plan assets</td>
<td>$26,188,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded status</td>
<td>$14,867,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid pension benefit cost</td>
<td>$7,671,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer contribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits paid</td>
<td>1,512,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net periodic pension cost</td>
<td>890,026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighted average assumptions:
- Discount rate: 7.75%
- Expected return on plan assets: 7.50%
- Rate of compensation increase: 5.00%

JDC has elected to recognize pension expense based upon the method used to fund the plan and not on the accrual basis pursuant to the requirements of FASB No. 87. As of December 31, 1999, the plan reflected a prepaid pension cost of $7,671,220 which if recognized, would increase JDC's net assets.

JDC terminated the pension plan as of September 1, 1999, and established the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. Employee Retirement Plan, the new plan. The reversion of Plan assets payable back to JDC is $13,691,351, which includes the above referenced $7,671,220 of prepaid pension costs.

NOTE 4 - LOANS PAYABLE
JDC has a credit line with Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York of $17,500,000. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1999 is $0.

JDC obtained a $12,000,000 loan on September 14, 1994 from Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York. The loan will be repaid in eight annual installments of $1,500,000 commencing August 30, 1994 and concluding August 30, 2001. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1999 is $3,000,000. The interest rate is 6.58% at December 31, 1999.

JDC has pledged unrestricted investments held in the Bank Leumi custodian account with a market value of approximately $94,285,702 as collateral for the line of credit and loan from Bank Leumi.

JDC has a credit line with Chase Manhattan Bank of $17,500,000. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 3/4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1999 is $0.

JDC has a credit line with Merrill Lynch of $17,500,000. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 1999 is $0.

NOTE 5 - LEASE COMMITMENTS
JDC is committed under a lease for office space which was to expire December 31, 2000. The lease was extended and will expire December 31, 2010. Minimum rental commitments under the terms of the lease are as follows, subject to adjustments for escalation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>520,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 - 2002</td>
<td>702,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 - 2004</td>
<td>720,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 - 2006</td>
<td>737,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 - 2008</td>
<td>755,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 - 2010</td>
<td>772,759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 6 - INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government obligations</td>
<td>$90,454,131</td>
<td>$89,981,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Israel bonds</td>
<td>3,956,430</td>
<td>4,037,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>12,935,876</td>
<td>3,078,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common and preferred stocks</td>
<td>122,454,167</td>
<td>118,601,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>35,112,550</td>
<td>9,253,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$264,074,154</td>
<td>$222,201,515</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 7 - INTERFUND RECEIVABLE (PAYABLE)

The JDC entered into a $3,000,000 ten-year loan agreement with JDC-Israel Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Adult Human Development on April 1, 1994. The outstanding balance at December 31, 1999 is $1,273,401, which includes accrued interest of $73,401. 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, 1999, the interest rate is 5.39%. The schedule for payment of the loan and interest will be based on an annual principal reimbursement of $300,000 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 31, 1994.

NOTE 8 - CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Financial instruments which potentially subject The JDC to a concentration of credit risk are cash accounts with major financial institutions in excess of JDC insurance limits. These financial institutions have strong credit ratings and management believes that credit risk related to these accounts is minimal.
NOTE 9 - FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The following methods and assumptions were used by The JDC in estimating the fair value of its financial instruments:

Cash – The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because the instrument is liquid in nature.

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

Investments – The fair value is based upon quoted market prices.

Loans to communities, other receivables and other assets – The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value because the instruments are due on demand.

Contributions receivable – The fair value is estimated by discounting the future cash flows using a risk-free rate.

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

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

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

Due to Schusterman - JDC Support Foundation – The carrying amount reported in the balance sheet approximates fair value due to the short-term nature of the obligation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Carrying Amount</th>
<th>Fair Value</th>
<th>Carrying Amount</th>
<th>Fair Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>29,702,094</td>
<td>29,702,094</td>
<td>18,566,837</td>
<td>18,566,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>29,702,094</td>
<td>29,702,094</td>
<td>18,566,837</td>
<td>18,566,837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 10 - TEMPORARILY AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS
Temporarily restricted net assets at December 31, 1999 and 1998 are available for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>27,820,316</td>
<td>27,348,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>6,192,041</td>
<td>5,879,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>9,747,210</td>
<td>9,913,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>6,143,900</td>
<td>8,204,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>7,292,857</td>
<td>4,717,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>9,843,616</td>
<td>4,170,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>31,529,765</td>
<td>6,726,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity trust agreements</td>
<td>2,461,403</td>
<td>1,409,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>401,031,058</strong></td>
<td><strong>68,370,725</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 1999 and 1998, temporarily restricted net assets were released from restrictions by incoming expenses satisfying the following restricted purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>32,057,044</td>
<td>17,546,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>3,454,013</td>
<td>3,457,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>8,129,611</td>
<td>6,266,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>3,308,115</td>
<td>5,186,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>2,613,097</td>
<td>2,982,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>4,758,501</td>
<td>2,636,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>4,212,208</td>
<td>5,143,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>58,532,589</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,219,086</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 1999 and 1998 are restricted to investment in perpetuity, the income from which is expendable to support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>4,427,362</td>
<td>3,176,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>1,782,029</td>
<td>1,805,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>274,149</td>
<td>273,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>9,811,796</td>
<td>10,915,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,415,338</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,270,546</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 11 - CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVABLE
All unconditional contributions receivable have been recorded at present value. Those receivables that are due in more than one year have been discounted to their present value using a discount rate of 6%. The receivables are due as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount of Contributions Receivable</th>
<th>Due in (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>450,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less discount to present value $ (89,599)

Present value of contributions receivable $ 360,491

NOTE 12 - JDC BOARD APPROVED DEFICIT REDUCTION PROGRAM
The JDC Board in May 1993 determined that it should not incur operating deficits except in emergency situations. The accumulated deficit at the date of the resolution was $26.22 million. Each year from calendar years 1994 to 1997, JDC reduced the accumulated deficit by approximately $2 million each year, a total of $8 million. JDC's accumulated deficit was $18.22 million as of December 31, 1997. Due to a contractual change and the merger of UJA and CIF, the JDC Board temporarily suspended the deficit reduction program for 1998 to 1999. The following three years, the following occurred:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount of Deficit Reduction (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>(2.10) Projected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net decrease $ 2.26

Based on the above, it is anticipated that JDC's accumulated deficit will be reduced by $11.26 million from $26.22 million in 1994 to $14.96 million as of December 31, 2000. If JDC had not suspended its deficit reduction plan for the years 1998 to 2000, the accumulated deficit would have been reduced by $14 million, a difference of $2.74 million.

Thus, taking the whole seven-year period from 1994-2000, JDC has not achieved its Board approved deficit reduction program by $2.74 million.
Geographic Distribution

Africa & Asia 5.0%
Former Soviet Union 38.0%
Israel 33.0%
Eastern Europe 12.0%
Latin America 2.0%
Europe Community Development 2.0%
International Development 1.0%
Special Grants 1.5%
Transmigrants 0.5%
ORT 5.0%
Distribution by Program Area

- Relief & Welfare 27.4%
- Health Services 7.0%
- Services to the Aged 9.9%
- Jewish Education 24.2%
- Manpower Development 4.4%
- Social & Community Development 15.2%
- Religious Activities 5.3%
- Multifunctional 6.6%
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*The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.*

1999 Annual Report with 2000 Program Highlights

Written and Edited by  
Ilana Stern

Designed by  
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Project Manager  
Miriam Feldman

Many thanks to JDC's Country and Program Directors for their assistance and to the members of the New York Headquarters staff who helped in the production of this report.
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