ANNUAL REPORT 2000

WITH

Program Highlights for 2001

"One people, one heart..."

Rashi, Exodus, 19:2
ABOUT THE JDC

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, 87 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” (Masbna, 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 87 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 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.
RESCUE
In 1990-91, JDC helped sustain the lives and secure the rescue of thousands of Ethiopian Jews, an effort that culminated in Operation Solomon, which had its tenth anniversary this past May.  
Photo: JDC

RELIEF
This Ukrainian couple is among the 250,000 elderly Jews whom JDC is currently assisting in the former Soviet Union, along with the thousands of aging Holocaust survivors whose lives it has been helping to sustain throughout Eastern Europe.  
Photo: Yoav Shutter

RECONSTRUCTION
These Hillel students are among the tens of thousands of Jews who have benefited from JDC's Jewish renewal and community rebuilding efforts in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.  
Photo: Roy Mittleman

ABOUT JDC
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 $69.0 million has leveraged another $130.4 million for total expenditures on JDC projects of over $199.4 million during 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY OR PROGRAM</th>
<th>JDC DIRECT EXPENSES</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM PARTNERS</th>
<th>TOTAL EXPENSES</th>
<th>COUNTRY OR PROGRAM</th>
<th>JDC DIRECT EXPENSES</th>
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The vicious terrorist attacks of September 11 have profoundly affected us all. Awed by the heroism of so many, we mourn the thousands whose lives were so cruelly and callously cut short. And we grieve for the enormous loss sustained by their families, by our country, and by the city of New York.

Sadly, we now have a firsthand understanding of the anguish, anxiety, and pain that Israel has been experiencing. And even as we gird ourselves for what lies in store in the months ahead, we remain steadfast in our determination that now, as always, the Jewish ethic of areivut, of our responsibility for one another, will prevail.

For many years we have been referring to JDC as “the 911” of the Jewish community, and we will not allow the events of 9-11 to change that.

Today, more than ever, we are aware of the Jewish populations around the world whose situations need to be monitored. Most of them live in the Moslem countries, in North Africa or in the Central Asian and Caucasus regions of the former Soviet Union (FSU). We really don’t know what might happen over the next few years that could affect the more than a million Jews still living in the rest of the FSU, but we must have contingency plans in place. We are also actively concerned with both the short- and long-term impact of the Latin American Jewish communities’ current economic difficulties.

There are still hundreds of thousands of Jews across the world who depend on JDC to meet their basic needs. And although these have been times of flux and uncertainty for us as an organization, we are determined to honor our obligations to those we serve.

To do that, JDC needs to preserve its distinctive culture, maintain its global responsive infrastructure, and retain its freedom of action. This will enable us to continue to meet Jewish needs overseas, and to respond to new problems that arise in a timely, flexible, and professional fashion.

We continue to rely on our staff to tell us where JDC should be in a given country or geographic area, for our mandate has always been clear. As we have been doing since 1914, we respond to Jews in need the world over.

We are cooperating to the greatest extent possible with the United Jewish Communities (UJC)-Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee system. We are pleased that it has already succeeded in creating among the Federations renewed interest in overseas needs, although we must point out that JDC’s direct funding allocation has been dramatically reduced in the past few years. Working within the UJC system, we will try to obtain
the funding we need. However, we emphasize that, in the final analysis, it is our own Board, guided by the recommendations of our professional staff, that has the responsibility to determine JDC’s priorities and JDC’s future.

Israel needs—and must have—the American Jewish community’s help in its current crisis: help in dealing with many of its social service needs; help in maintaining its status as a haven for all Jews; help in establishing a proper balance of services between new immigrants and veteran Israelis; and help in providing the special programs that special population groups require.

We take pride that JDC has succeeded in establishing an increasing number of partnership efforts with individual Federations over the past year that are enabling us to continue to do our share. And even though we have been forced to cut our direct allocations, we have been able to leverage funds from partner agencies and private donors—including many Board members—so that we have been able to maintain our more critical programs in Israel.

In Eastern Europe, JDC’s objective is to help the communities we currently assist become self-sufficient by the end of the decade. Most, but not all, will achieve this goal. The Czech Republic already has; Hungary is well on its way. But it is likely that in certain countries, the economic situation and the demographics are such that there is no one to take over from us. And under no circumstances can we abandon those communities.

In the former Soviet Union, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, our partner in welfare endeavors, and other agencies agree that JDC is best equipped to continue handling ongoing critical relief programs.
Many of the 250,000 Jews we are helping in the former Soviet Union today had fully expected to be able to take care of themselves in their retirement and old age. They could not have foreseen the economic cataclysm that would wipe out their savings and destroy the security of their pensions. Now they have been forced to turn to the Jewish community for support, but with our help, they can live out their lives with some modicum of dignity.

What has impressed us on our recent visits to the FSU is not just the number of people we are currently assisting, but how many of them are willing and eager to give back to the community in the only way they can: by giving of themselves and their time. There are over 14,100 volunteers participating today in the provision of welfare services in the former Soviet Union, and more than 6,100 volunteers and professionals were trained by JDC in the past year alone. With our aid, they have been enabling their communities to come back to life, building networks of support in the time-honored Jewish tradition of communal responsibility.

And the dream we dreamed over a decade ago of a renewal of Jewish life and culture throughout this vast area, of dozens of vibrant local Jewish communities emerging and growing strong, has already become a reality. The challenge we face is to help sustain the momentum, to keep the American Jewish community steadfast in its commitment to nurture these Jewish communities, so that they can eventually stand on their own.

Today, when we finally can say that we have access to every Jew in the world, we're not entirely sure where we will find the resources to reach them, and to help them when necessary. Together, we, as active members of the American Jewish community, can and must find a way. We are confident that our UJC-Federation family is up to this noble task; that we will honor our tradition by ensuring that a call for help from a Jew anywhere in the world will not go unanswered.

More than ever, JDC needs the active involvement of each and every member of its Board. The number of participants in JDC Board missions has been increasing; this is important, for nothing can substitute for the experience of seeing JDC's work at first-hand. Mission "alumni" cannot help but become stronger advocates in their home communities for JDC's needs and more informed participants in our organizational deliberations.

Both of us can personally attest to the fact that JDC's professional staff is second to none, and we look forward to an increasingly productive relationship in the years ahead.

These are indeed difficult times, in the United States, in the Jewish world, and especially in Israel. Perhaps we had let ourselves grow too complacent in recent years, lulled by a feeling that the great challenges of our day were behind us. Perhaps we did not pay close enough attention to the fact that Jews everywhere continue to look—today, as always—to the Jewish community of the United States for leadership and assistance, relying on the unity and collective capability that has enabled us to respond so admirably in the past.

JDC is no stranger to crises; it was after all a world cataclysm that gave it birth. Its leaders have grappled with the most awesome challenges of twentieth century Jewish history, and they have prevailed. JDC's current Board of Directors is at one with that tradition, made up of people of outstanding abilities whose commitment to JDC is unswerving.

We take pride in having the support of that Board. And we are confident that even though we have been going through a period of change and upheaval, working together we will emerge even stronger than before, ready to face the great challenges that lie before us. And we will continue to pursue the mission that our predecessors have so successfully carried out on behalf of Jews and Jewish communities overseas for the past 87 years.

October 2001
DEVELOPING NEW APPROACHES TO HELP ISRAEL MEET ITS MOST DIFFICULT SOCIAL CHALLENGES

**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.

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS

The violence in Israel that began in the fall of 2000 and has continued in 2001 brought home to Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora the importance of working together to address Israel's ongoing needs.

Three groups that JDC has identified for assistance—the elderly, hard-to-absorb new immigrants, and children- and youth-at-risk and their families—are especially vulnerable to the increased fears and anxieties caused by the conflict. Moreover, the crisis has already led to economic difficulties that may result in fewer resources being devoted to the social issues that affect these groups, even while the poor in general are likely to suffer greater hardships.

JDC has been confronting this challenge through its process of Strategic Intervention, an operating approach that is designed to help Israelis improve how they deal with the problems confronting their society. This process takes two essential forms. JDC develops innovative model programs to address the needs of particular sectors of the population. Once proven, the programs are adopted by JDC's Israeli partners and integrated into the country's social services. JDC also works to increase the overall effectiveness of Israel's social service system, boosting the capacity of both government and non-profit agencies to meet all citizens' needs.

JDC's programs are partnerships in every sense of the term, engaging Israelis and American Jews together to accomplish a common goal. Precisely because they are partnerships, JDC's programs foster new, more enduring relationships between American Jews and Israelis and reflect the new reality that characterizes their ties. JDC's approach recognizes that Israelis bear primary responsibility for fulfilling their own needs, while providing an appropriate way for American Jewry to contribute to the country's quest to become a more just, more caring society.

JDC has succeeded in deepening the involvement of American Jewry in Israel through cooperative relationships that leverage the experience and
professional expertise of American Jewish communities. *Ashalim*, the three-way partnership established in 1998 by JDC, the Israeli government, and UJA-Federation of New York to focus on children-at-risk, is one example; another example is the involvement of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and UJA-Federation of New York in the PACT (Parents and Children Together) initiative for Ethiopian-Israeli preschoolers. Enhanced relationships have also been built with other communities, among them the Federations of Boston, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and Grand Rapids.

**PROTECTING CHILDREN-AT-RISK**

One in six of Israel's two million children is neglected, abused, alienated, or otherwise at-risk. JDC helped put the issue of child abuse and neglect on the country's public agenda. This added awareness, combined with mandatory reporting laws, widening social gaps, and mass immigration, has contributed to a sharp increase in reported cases of child abuse and neglect and a rise in juvenile delinquency and disaffection.

A new phase in *Ashalim*'s work was reached in 2000 when JDC, the Israeli government, and UJA-Federation of New York renewed their partnership
contract, thereby affirming the success achieved by *Asbalim* in its first three years. In 1998, *Asbalim* had defined a target population of 100,000 children-and youth-at-risk known to the education and welfare systems, with the aim of strengthening and enhancing the range of services available to these children and their families. In all its work, *Asbalim* has been guided by the principle that overcoming abuse and neglect means treating both children and their parents; the goal is to remove the risk to the child while preserving the family's integrity wherever possible.

To strengthen the parenting skills of families with young children, *Asbalim* is working with the Ministry of Health to enhance the ability of the nationwide network of *Tipat Halav* Centers (Well-Baby Clinics) and public health nurses to identify and reach out to high-risk families. A comprehensive program for strengthening parenting skills in such families, first introduced in Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh, was extended to the Galilee and Tel Aviv in 2000. Another initiative helps women in battered women's shelters, while a program for newly released ex-convict mothers in Tel Aviv will be expanded to include mothers in the Neve Tirza prison.

Facilities and programs for at-risk children and their families have been established throughout the country: (2nd from left) JDC President Eugene Ribakoff (l.) and Board member Alan R. Batkin at the Corky Ribakoff Center for Children and Families in Ma'alot.

Photos (from left): © Edgar Asber/Irma; © Vera Etsion; (last two) © Sharon Faulkner

As it continues and broadens its efforts, *Asbalim* is focusing on strengthening parenting skills in families of young children; developing a network of community-based support services; developing interventions for youth-at-risk; enhancing services for youngsters with special needs; and improving the effectiveness of the professionals who work with this population group.

To identify abuse as early as possible, a detection kit was developed in conjunction with the Ministry of Education for use by day care center staff and schoolteachers. Some 13,000 such kits had been distributed by the end of 2000, and a similar kit developed for hospital staff is being adapted for use by community-based health care workers.

In developing a network of community services, *Asbalim* has established 20 Parent-Child Centers across the country which offer therapeutic programs for the entire family under one roof. The network was developed with support from Sylvia Hassenfeld, Ellen Block, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, the Guttman Foundation, Ron and Marilynn Grossman, and the Harry and Eleanor Schick Foundation. Support for the Parent-Child Center in Kiryat Malachi as well as for the Mother to Another program is being provided by Yaffa Maritz, the UJC West Coast Region's Women's Division, and the Palm Springs Jewish Federation.

When removing children from their homes is the only safe alternative, *Asbalim* ensures that children-at-risk receive the help they need while remaining close to their relatives and friends. *Asbalim* seeks to upgrade services and develop a broader range of out-of-home treatment models and a continuum of care; the aim is to impose the lowest necessary level of restriction on the child while encouraging partial parenting.
Ashalim’s Community Residential Facility (CRF) model provides children with a protective environment while closely involving local social services in helping parents build on their existing strengths and resume a greater role in their child’s life. CRF units were opened last year in Nes Ziona, Ashdod, Haifa, Hadera, and Holon. A gift from Eugene Ribakoff made possible the purchase and renovation of the Corky Ribakoff Center for Children and Families in Jerusalem.

In foster care clusters, another of Ashalim’s innovative models, foster families and a therapeutic team work with the biological families so that their children can be returned to their care after a three-year placement, while model day-residential centers offer protective settings for children between 6:30 am and 7:30 pm on weekdays. A nutrition enrichment program has been instituted in community-based facilities with support from Professor Stanley Mills and Barbara Gordon Green; it is providing an opportunity for positive interaction between children and parents while increasing their awareness of proper nutrition.

Succat Shalom Jerusalem, the Schusterman Center for Children and Families, is engaged in an ongoing professional dialogue and exchange with the Parent-Child Center of Tulsa. The services provided at the Schusterman Center and throughout Israel’s network of emergency children’s centers are being broadened through a series of workshops funded by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and Ashalim is developing an investigative and diagnostic center similar to the Tulsa-based Justice Center.

Such US-Israel professional exchange is central to the Ashalim partnership, and particularly to UJA-Federation of New York’s role. Through reciprocal visits and ongoing communications, professionals in both Israel and New York have acquired new insights into services for children and youth.

In response to the rise in youth violence, Ashalim has developed a network of 12 drop-in information centers which offer counseling to teenagers on issues from drug abuse to army service. These Hafuch al Hafuch Centers are supported in Kiryat Yam and Kiryat Shmona by Lou Hoodwin of Michigan City, Indiana and in Migdal HaEmek by the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids. Ashalim is also developing a range of business entrepreneurship programs for alienated youth.

Special needs children are twice as likely as other children to be abused, and Ashalim has developed initiatives that respond to this increased risk while striving to place these children in mainstream settings. The Sbalvim program enables young women with special needs to perform National Service with special needs children, while another initiative helps integrate disabled toddlers into regular daycare centers. The Integration as Partnership program places children with disabilities in music and art classes in regular schools, thereby strengthening their ties to their peers. An integrated junior high school and high school campus is currently being developed with a gift from the Zusman family of Dayton, Ohio.

JDC’s New Educational Environment (NEE), which assists underachieving adolescents, now operates in over 80 remedial classes. Five regional training teams have been put in place to aid in disseminating this model even further.

INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS

Despite intensive investment by the Israeli government and non-profit organizations in helping Ethiopian immigrants make the adjustment from a pre-industrial society to Israel’s advanced technological environment, many newcomers cannot cope with the transition. JDC initiatives, developed in partnership with the relevant agencies and the Ethiopian community itself, seek to help Ethiopian-Israelis find their place in the Israeli mainstream. JDC programs also target immigrants from the Caucasus and Bukhara who are struggling to adjust to life in Israel.
Assistance for Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren is provided through the Coalition for the Advancement of Ethiopian Education, which is comprised of 45 government ministries, foundations, and non-profit organizations. PACT (Parents and Children Together), one of the most important JDC-led projects, has had a profound effect in expanding educational opportunities for Ethiopian-Israeli preschoolers. In 2001, PACE became a nationwide project, reaching seven of the ten cities that together are home to 60 percent of the Ethiopian-Israeli population.

PACT was launched in Beersheva in 1998 as a partnership project of JDC, the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, the Ministry of Education, and local parties. It has succeeded in reaching virtually every Ethiopian-Israeli child under six in that city-about 1,000 in all-and bringing them into a preschool framework. PACT also offers enrichment programs to Ethiopian immigrant parents, many of whom lack the basic skills needed to function effectively on a daily basis.

PACT created a dialogue about the importance of preschool education for the Ethiopian-Israeli community that made other municipalities with large Ethiopian immigrant communities eager to join the program. In the 2000/2001 school year, PACT was implemented in Kiryat Gat and Kiryat Malachi in partnership with the Cleveland Federation, in Hadera in partnership with the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, and in Ramla in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. In 2001/2002, it will be expanding to Netanya in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and to Rehovot with UJA-Federation of New York as the supporting partner. The SACTA-RASHI Foundation, Sarita Gantz, and the Myers Foundation have all committed significant resources to the PACT program.

In other JDC initiatives, SHAHAM utilized National Service volunteers in partnership with the Ministry of Education to provide home-based support for 150 high-risk Ethiopian-Israeli families in six cities, while Project Gamla recruited 130 retired teachers and other volunteers to provide individual tutoring to over 300 Ethiopian-Israeli children in 18 locations during the past school year.

Additional JDC programs designed to enhance the educational achievements of Ethiopian-Israelis include Mila Tova, which seeks to involve Ethiopian-immigrant parents in their children's education by providing them with practical Hebrew language skills, and Kesherim, a specially adapted version of the NEE. Expanded in 2000 to a total of 13 schools with high numbers of Ethiopian-Israeli students, Kesherim aims to broaden the teachers' awareness of these students' needs. JDC's Basic Needs Fund helped over 3,000 Ethiopian-Israeli schoolchildren from the poorest families last year, financing their extra-curricular activities along with the purchase of basic school supplies.

These and other vital programs that benefit Ethiopian-Israeli children were carried out with generous support from Alfred and Gail Engelberg, Edith and Henry Everett, Eddyte Roland Grodnick, Myra and Robert Kraft, Judd Malkin, Nate Shapiro, Larry and Leonore Zusman, Richard and Lois Gunther (in memory of their granddaughter Eva Leah Gunther), the Helen Bader Foundation, the Baron de Hirsch Fund, UJA-Federation of New York, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, Leslie Bernstein-Armstrong, Thomas Secunda, the Rhoda and Richard Goldman Philanthropic Fund, the Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation, Bernard Gottstein, Susi Schletter-Messing, the
Compared Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, and the Pratt Foundation.

To help vulnerable immigrants find fulfilling employment and achieve the self-sufficiency they need to become part of the mainstream, JDC initiatives provide vocational training and encourage self-employment and entrepreneurship. JDC programs for both Ethiopian-Israelis and Caucasus-Israelis emphasize technological training, since most of these immigrants cannot gain entry to the technological sector without assistance. The Ronald and Deborah Harris Foundation helps Ethiopian-Israeli students realize their potential by providing them with higher education scholarships.

In health matters, the Refuah Shlema program, supported in part by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund of Washington D.C. (under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington), and Alfred and Gail Engelberg, has trained Ethiopian-Israeli health liaisons who are bridging cultural differences and helping doctors and nurses better understand their patients' special needs and traditional view of life. The project offers education and counseling to Ethiopian-Israelis on a variety of health topics, including information about health services, the correct use of medicines, hygiene, and good nutrition. Begun in 1998, the Refuah Shlema program was expanded to 10 additional Health Fund clinics in 2000, for a total of 16, and it is currently reaching 20,000 Ethiopian immigrants.

Because many Ethiopian-Israelis are isolated from the mainstream and do not keep abreast of the latest developments, they were vulnerable to additional fear and anxiety last fall as the security situation worsened. JDC developed a range of initiatives to alleviate the bewilderment and stress generated by the crisis. One of the most important is the weekly Amharic-language television program, "Through Our Eyes." Surveys show that 80 percent of Israel's Ethiopian community is watching this current affairs program, which is generously supported by the Rhoda and Richard Goldman Philanthropic Fund.

JDC continues to nurture a new generation of Ethiopian-Israeli leaders able to advocate for their community, and to expose Israelis to the rich artistic heritage of Ethiopian Jewry by supporting groups such as the Natala Theater Group, community theater groups, and plastic arts youth groups.
A new vocational training program developed by JDC is helping ultra-Orthodox men and women enter the work force.

In addition to helping to advance individuals with special talents, JDC focuses on developing art and creativity as a means of cultural expression and a way to reach out to youth-at-risk. Programs operate in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, and the Israel Association of Community Centers, and are supported in part by UJA-Federation of New York.

Cultural heritage and technology come together in the Family Online program, which enables the different generations in Ethiopian- and Caucasus-Israeli families to explore their heritage together through computer research. In 2000, 200 Ethiopian-Israeli and 100 Caucasus-Israeli families participated in this program, which operates in partnership with the Israel Association of Community Centers.

Programs to assist the Caucasus and Bukharan immigrant communities are focused on Sderot, Kiryat Yam, Nazareth Illit, Ramla, Acco, Beersheva, and Hadera. Educational initiatives for these communities include the preparation of preschoolers for first grade, in-service training for teachers, and after-school tutoring for high school students. New initiatives last year for the Caucasus-Israeli community included pilot programs for children-at-risk in Acco and for single mothers in Beersheva.

A third group graduated in 2000 from the leadership development program for Caucasus-Israelis established by JDC in partnership with the Ministries of Immigrant Absorption and Labor and Social Affairs. These future leaders are specifically trained to work with municipalities, while empowerment programs are instructing community leaders in the art of advocacy. The Columbus Jewish Federation is helping JDC develop pilot programs in this area.

INTEGRATING OTHER POPULATION GROUPS

At present the ultra-Orthodox have few employment opportunities which take advantage of their often considerable intellectual accomplishments. This, combined with the fact that many remain in the yeshiva world into their 30s, has helped make the ultra-Orthodox one of Israel's poorest groups, with 50 percent living below the poverty line.

Responding to a government request to address this issue, JDC developed a program of vocational and entrepreneurship training that promotes the entry of ultra-Orthodox men and women into the country's work force. The initiative will train 10,000 students over seven years with the goal of placing at least 70 percent in employment related to their training, which will focus on the technological fields. The program is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the ultra-Orthodox community itself, with support from the Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Charitable Foundation, Harry Schimmel, and Jackie and Bertram Woolf.
JDC also strives to help Israelis with mental and physical disabilities to participate as fully as possible in community life. Eight cities have joined JDC's Accessible Environments initiative; major institutions in Jerusalem like the Israel Museum have made their facilities accessible to the disabled; and UJA-Federation of New York has funded a project that will enable nine community centers to provide access to those with special needs. Together with the Ministries of Health and Labor and Social Affairs, JDC's Accessible Communities program promotes the involvement of the disabled in local decisionmaking.

CoVoS (Continuum of Vocational Services) is a JDC effort to help those with disabilities find appropriate employment opportunities. JDC, together with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, is establishing a national network of information centers, and a joint project with the Ministry of Education will be integrating young women with special needs into the National Service program this year. JDC continues to work with the Israel Institute for the Advancement of Deaf Persons on a program in which deaf college students tutor deaf schoolchildren.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY

JDC-ESHEL continues to lead the way in enabling Israel's growing elderly population to remain as active and independent as possible. Its programs have had a fundamental impact on strategic planning as the emphasis has shifted from institutional care for senior citizens to community-based services. Since its inception in 1969, JDC-ESHEL has worked to facilitate this shift by developing innovative services in partnership with the government and social service agencies.

JDC's efforts to improve the quality of life and care for the elderly have received major support from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Funding for specific programs has been generously provided by Joseph Glickman, the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, and Adele and Isador Becker.

JDC-ESHEL helped establish 120 government-funded local voluntary associations for the elderly, which now serve as partners for its community-based programs. Over 150 day care centers currently provide services that enable the disabled elderly to remain at home. Sixteen new or expanded centers were completed in 2000, while 41 more are in the process of planning and construction and 12 are in the early planning stages. Support for a new day care center in Tzfat is being provided by the estate of William W. Kapell through the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

Supportive Communities provide pensioners who remain in their homes with emergency alarm systems, assistance with errands and domestic repairs, and social activities that combat isolation. Generous support for this innovative program is provided by the Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust and the Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Trust, with some 10 to 20 new communities planned for 2001.

Among the 60 Supportive Communities already established by JDC-ESHEL is one that was set up in Gilo within a two-week period, in partnership with the Jerusalem municipality, in emergency response to nightly shooting attacks on that Jerusalem neighborhood. In addition to the program's regular services, the Gilo project has a part-time social worker specially trained to soothe anxieties and a full-time Russian-speaking community worker to assist the neighborhood's large number of elderly immigrants from the FSU, who have been especially fearful during this crisis. The project has also made
radios, blankets, and heaters available to the elderly. Special emergency allocations for the Gilo project were provided by the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds and the Ben N. Teitel Charitable Trust.

In an adaptation of the Warm Home initiative developed by JDC in the FSU, 15 programs have been established to date in Israel in which groups of elderly new immigrants meet twice weekly in the home of a host family. Five of these programs were set up over the past year, including one for immigrants from the Caucasus, and JDC-ESHEL is planning to expand this initiative to the Ethiopian community.

Stay-Well programs have now been established in 14 locations, including two added last year; they are conducted by 550 volunteer seniors who lead health education and fitness activities for their peers. UJA-Federation of New York supports this effort as well as the physical activity programs currently operating in 11 cities. The annual National Physical Activity Day, which was held this year in Neot Kedumim, had 4,000 elderly participants. Other health-oriented initiatives include a project to screen the elderly for vision problems, while the Goldberg Foundation provides subsidies for eyeglasses and lenses for needy elderly.

JDC-ESHEL has developed a model for institutional care which is now in operation in 20 homes for the aged, including the newest ones in Jerusalem and Ofakim. These homes incorporate beds for the physically and mentally frail elderly as well as for those requiring long-term nursing care. The Milton and Lois Shifman Home Hospice of the Valleys, serving 143 elderly with terminal illnesses, began operating in northern Israel in 2000 with support from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and the Abraham Gertzman Fund. A home for Alzheimer's sufferers is being built in Ramat Gan, and the Tauben Family is funding construction of a wing for the mentally frail elderly at the Home for the Aged in Afula. In a unique quality assurance initiative supported by the Glickman Foundation, the Zahalon Geriatric Center was certified in 2000 as a center for excellence, and the Gilad Geriatric Center has begun the qualifying process for such certification. Support for the renovation of Beit Byer in Jerusalem was provided by the Ada Kline Simon Estate through the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

In-service training was given to 2,000 care providers in 2000, while 16 physicians completed the training program for resident geriatric specialists established by JDC-ESHEL and the Ministry of Health. An additional 40 doctors are currently in this program. UJA-Federation of New York has developed and is currently implementing a new professional exchange program, while the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit is sending an expert on the prevention of falls to Israel this year to work with JDC-ESHEL on joint research programs.

JDC-ESHEL also promotes cultural activity among the elderly. To demonstrate that old age is not only a time of failing health, an exhibition was
This young IDF member has become an enthusiastic volunteer at this horticultural therapy program for the elderly.

Photo © Sharon Faulkner

mounted of the work of artists, more than half of whom are over 70. Other creative endeavors include a Hebrew-English cookbook being written as a joint project by senior citizens in Detroit and the patrons of the Afula day care center for the elderly; the project is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

Aware of the growing gap between rich and poor in Israel, JDC-ESHEL is placing special emphasis in the next five years on programs to help the elderly who live in poverty. This is in addition to its regular programs, which are available to all regardless of ability to pay.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES

JDC-ELKA targets the senior managers who shape policy in national and local government and non-profit organizations. It seeks to increase management efficiency and enhance organizational development, to foster greater flexibility and initiative, and to promote inter- and intra-agency cooperation—all in order to ensure that those in need receive better, more effective help. JDC's involvement in this area has enabled it to build relationships with bodies that it can subsequently recruit as partners in addressing particular issues.

One of JDC-ELKA's most important achievements has been to provide those in different government ministries with the tools they need to streamline and improve the services they provide. The establishment in 2000 of the Forum for District Managers further advanced this process by bringing together the regional managers of all government ministries in each of four regions—north, south, central, and Jerusalem. In recognition of the growing importance of non-profit organizations in Israel, a course was recently developed for the CEOs and senior management of these agencies; it had its second group of graduates in 2000.
Ongoing programs include Interface, which brings together senior educational professionals from the government and non-profit sectors, and Periphery and Center, a program conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education which analyzes access to education. JDC-ELKA also works with local government agencies, concentrating on strengthening their effectiveness in front-line service delivery, and it provides long-range planning advice to 42 municipalities through its Municipal Planning Units, for which the Ministry of Interior has assumed responsibility.

Fourteen heads of Hesed or welfare centers in the FSU visited Israel in 2000 to learn about social services, returning a 1999 visit to the FSU made by directors of Israeli municipal welfare departments. In another initiative, JDC-ELKA, together with Jewish Healthcare International and in cooperation with the Atlanta Jewish Federation, the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the Greensboro Jewish Federation, and the Jewish Federation of Tidewater, sent Israeli and US doctors to the FSU to help improve health services for elderly Jews in need.

Also in 2000, 19 Israeli mayors visited the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to learn about innovative management and planning in local government. The tour was arranged by the Lyn P. Meyerhoff 21st Century Forum for Mayors, which has 120 affiliated mayors and 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 Glass Ceiling program worked with the Jerusalem and Nazareth Illit municipalities and the Adjutancy Corps of the IDF last year to promote the professional advancement of women. In what has become an annual event, the sixth conference of JDC-ELKA graduates was held in 2000. Along with a quarterly magazine and an Internet site, the conference facilitates ongoing contact and consultation among JDC-ELKA's 1,700 graduates.

JDC endeavors to promote philanthropy and volunteerism among Israelis by assisting the Association of Voluntary and Non-Profit Sectors (VNPS) in advancing nationwide policies favorable to non-governmental organizations. Working with the country's business sector, Operation Social Development (OSD) fosters social responsibility and has begun recruiting business people to promote quality of life issues and road safety. The National Self-Help Clearing House supports self-help groups through counseling, advice, and the dissemination of instructional material.

JDC sees Israel's non-profit agencies as providing an important supplement to government services, and its Center for Lay Leadership promotes the effectiveness of such agencies by providing training materials and programs for board members. Local community leaders who are participating in various partnership programs with North American Federations are currently being trained. These include leaders in Ramla, Hadera, and Netanya involved with the PACT program for Ethiopian-Israeli preschoolers described above; leaders in Pardes Katz who are working in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Tidewater; and the local leaders who are part of the Central Galilee-Detroit partnership initiative. With the added involvement of emerging lay leaders in Kiev, Ukraine, that initiative has now become a triangular program, and it is funded by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

**JDC-BROOKDALE INSTITUTE**

A partnership between JDC and the government of Israel, the JDC-Brookdale Institute works closely with voluntary organizations, including JDC-Israel, JDC-ESHEL, Aschalim, and the Jewish Agency, as well as with government ministries to improve social service practice and policy by introducing more effective program planning and evaluation. The Institute provides a unique forum for the examination by Jewish lay leaders and government officials of critical social issues in Israel and in Jewish communities around the world, and it continued to expand its work with Diaspora Jewish communities in 2000.
In cooperation with Chicago's Jewish United Fund and Council of Jewish Elderly, the Institute is conducting the most comprehensive study ever undertaken in Israel of the mentally frail elderly. The study is expected to provide a firm basis for planning and a better continuum of care.

HEALTH POLICY

A major monograph on the status of women's health in Israel was published in 2000. It quickly became the focus of public debate regarding domestic violence and women's physical and mental health, and it is providing the impetus for new programs and policies. The findings from the first phase of an evaluation of the Refuah Shlema program for Ethiopian-Israelis, which is described earlier in this Report, led to a decision by the government to invest in that project's continued expansion.

A new study supported by the Connie and Bert Rabinowitz Fund for Creative Breakthrough Research has a dual focus: how policymakers make use of information and research, and how HMOs use computer information systems to provide better and more efficient services.

IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION

The high priority given to the successful integration of Ethiopian immigrants is reflected in efforts to address the needs of Ethiopian preschoolers. In 2000, the Institute completed an overview of early childhood intervention strategies for Ethiopian children, supported by Edythe Roland Grodnick, and an examination of the involvement of Ethiopian fathers in early childhood, supported by the Auerbach Family Foundation. The Institute's ongoing evaluation of the PACT program, which is described in detail earlier in this Report, will provide important comparative data on children of Ethiopian and non-Ethiopian origin.

A community-wide survey of 10 neighborhoods with high concentrations of Ethiopian-Israelis has been undertaken to assist the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption in establishing a network of support centers. As part of the priority-setting process of UJA-Federation of New York, the Institute
completed a comprehensive review of the integration of Ethiopian immigrants into Israeli society. The review is being widely used in Israel and abroad as a basis for program and policy development. The Institute is participating in the development of a national plan for Ethiopian immigrants by UJC, JDC-Israel, and the Jewish Agency, and will play a leading role in the evaluation process.

Studies of students from the FSU in institutions of higher education, completed in 2000, are having a major impact on national policies.

**DISABILITY**

The Institute continues to address the complex problem of coordinating the provision of services for the disabled in the legislature and in the field. To help improve coordination, the Institute, with the assistance of the Helen Bader Foundation, completed a study of the diagnosis and treatment of disabilities at child development centers. The Institute is continuing to work with the Bader Foundation to develop a model of coordinated services for the disabled in the Arab sector.

A major study of the emotional and financial impact on the family of raising a child with disabilities and the implications for national policies was completed in 2000, with support from the Mandell Berman Endowment Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities.

**THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Studies of early childhood are for the first time providing a broad picture of the well-being, needs, and service utilization of young children and their families from diverse backgrounds. The Center has received a grant from the Bernard van Leer Foundation to undertake a study of children aged 3 to 5 in Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In addition, the evaluation of the PACT program will provide vital comparative data on immigrant and non-immigrant children.

In the area of neglected and abused children, the Center is collaborating with *Ashalim* on efforts to increase parental involvement in residential programs and to enhance the partnership with families in community intervention efforts.

Following the completion of data collection in Nazareth for the planning process for services for Arab youth and the publication of data on health and social risk behavior among Arab children and youth, the Center is implementing a similar process in Tamra, in cooperation with *Ashalim*. In addition, with support from the Dubroff Family and the Bader Foundation, the Center will conduct the first-ever needs assessment and planning process for Bedouin children and youth in southern Israel.

The Center is serving as professional advisor to the Knesset Committee for the Promotion of Children. In addition to its ongoing work with the committee, it is helping the Knesset develop major new legislation to expand services for children-at-risk. The Center has completed a special study of school dropouts, including "hidden" dropouts who do not attend school regularly; the study is now the focus of an ad hoc Knesset committee set up to address this issue.

*JDC-Brookdale plays a critical role in the development—and subsequent evaluation—of programs for a wide range of population groups with special needs.*

Photos (from left) © Sharon Faulkner; Yaakov Golam; Miriam Feldman

Including those with disabilities within community frameworks is a second major focus. A project of special significance in this area is the evaluation of a large-scale national experiment to provide real alternatives in the community for the chronically mentally ill.
KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2000 CSPS ANALYSIS OF ISRAEL'S SOCIAL EXPENDITURES:

- Government expenditures for defense have declined from 15 to 9 percent of GDP since 1990, while social service allocations have increased from 19 to 22 percent.
- Expenditures for education have doubled since 1990. The number studying for higher education degrees of all kinds has increased six-fold due to the growth of community colleges.
- 22 percent of children are living below the poverty line, compared with 13 percent in 1980.
- Since 1996, allocations for health have declined by 6 percent.
- Expenditures for the aged have grown by 15 percent a year, while income transfers for unemployment and supplemental income have also grown significantly.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Center completed a 500-page report on the status of children in Israel and efforts to promote their welfare that constituted Israel's official submission to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES IN ISRAEL

The Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel (CSPS), an independent, non-partisan research institute funded primarily by JDC, identifies strate-
HOW FAR WE HAVE COME; HOW MUCH FURTHER WE STILL HAVE TO GO

COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS):
Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus
Georgia Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan
Moldova Russian Federation Tadjikistan
Turkmenistan Ukraine Uzbekistan

JEWISH POPULATION
1989 Soviet census: 1.5 million
Current estimates: 1-4 million
JDC estimate: 1.5 million

JDC APPROPRIATION: $23,618,100¹

¹ Figure includes funds allocated by JDC in 2000 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.

Although twentieth century totalitarianism—of both the Right and the Left—had tragic consequences for Jewish life in the former Soviet Union (the FSU), the flame of Jewish identity was never quite extinguished, its embers smoldering deep within millions of Jewish souls. But with Soviet statism and centralization stifling the very basis for local communal life, the millions of Jews who emerged after the Soviet Union's collapse a decade ago emerged as so many disconnected individuals with no real communities binding them together.

Enabling those Jews to recapture their Jewish heritage and rebuild their once-flourishing communities, while responding to the crushing poverty facing so many Jewish elderly, have been and continue to be the key challenges confronting JDC and world Jewry.

JDC has been working to meet these cultural and welfare needs in ways that empower the local Jewish communities and will eventually enable them to provide these communal services for themselves. This strategy has guided the development of Jewish community centers (JCCs), libraries, kindergartens, and academic institutes, as well as the Hesed or welfare centers that have now succeeded in reaching 250,000 destitute and heretofore isolated elderly Jews.

In contrast to Soviet-style centralization, these institutions are managed locally by lay leaders and professionals, with JDC providing training, professional expertise, and financial support. JDC has been encouraging local leaders to shape a Jewish life that authentically reflects their community's experience and tailor program activities to meet their specific needs.

As these communities have developed, JDC has been helping to build partnerships with individual North American Federations, bringing to each the communal experience of the other. Today, major cooperative relationships join Baltimore and Odessa; Boston and Dnepropetrovsk; Cleveland and St. Petersburg; Detroit and Kiev; Metro-West, NJ and Cherkassy; Palm Beach and St. Petersburg; Pittsburgh and Moldova; and Tucson and Yekaterinburg. Other partnerships in development include one between the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and the community of Moldova.

Despite the energy with which Jews in the FSU have been rebuilding their communities, there are still so many Jews who have yet to be touched by this Jewish renaissance. For those who have not been reconnected with the Jewish people, assimilation remains a major threat, increasing the urgency of
efforts to consolidate and expand communal programming and broaden all-important outreach initiatives.

COMMUNITY BUILDING THROUGH THE JCCS

A cornerstone of JDC's commitment to Jewish renewal in the FSU is the special kind of Jewish community center it has helped to develop. These centers are often located in modest, even cramped, premises in converted apartments. Others are housed in Jewish communal properties that are being reclaimed and restored with the help of JDC consultants.

JCCs are incubators, creating the environment in which rejuvenated Jewish communities can grow in directions of their own choosing. And by offering many different ways for Jews to rediscover and express their Jewishness—from educational and cultural programs to social events tied to Jewish holidays—JCCs are a key tool in efforts to attract the unaffiliated to the community. JCCs illustrate the pluralistic approach that suffuses JDC's
work in the region, fostering tolerance and communal democracy among Jews of different interests and backgrounds.

Reflecting the priority JDC has given to the development of JCCs, their number more than doubled in 2000, going from 71 to 148. Special emphasis was placed on opening JCCs in Siberia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, areas where geographical remoteness has impeded community development.

JCCs have recently gone on-line, and 10 make computers available to program participants. Support from a JDC Board member will shortly enable 20 other centers to offer computer services. This Community On-Line program will allow Jews throughout the FSU to access Jewish material via the Internet and enable them to communicate with each other and with Jews around the world.

Though each JCC is autonomous, major strides have been made in coordinating activities. The Association of JCCs in the FSU, which held its second annual conference in December 2000, has created its own Website to facilitate the sharing of ideas and information.

Increasing numbers of North American Federations look to the JCCs and renewal programs as a way of deepening their cooperative relationships with partner communities in the FSU. The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland has provided a major grant for the expansion of JCC programs in St. Petersburg. The United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh is engaged in strategic community planning with the JCC in Kishinev for the entire Moldovan community, and the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona is developing a multi-year relationship with Yekaterinburg. Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston has been a major force in the development of the Dnepropetrovsk JCC.

Support from UJA-Federation of New York has enabled JDC to broaden the Family Retreats program in Minsk. There and in other cities, Family Retreats are a key component of JCC efforts to attract young families to Jewish life. Held in a relaxed setting, the retreats feature family activities revolving around Shabbat and Jewish life cycle events, with parallel workshops.
JDC'S STRATEGY IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

- JDC sees immigration to Israel as a primary goal on the global Jewish agenda, the best option for ensuring that the Jews of the former Soviet Union (the FSU) do not assimilate. JDC recognizes, though, that many Jews will remain for the foreseeable future, and they need dynamic community organizations to facilitate the revival of Jewish life, to reach out effectively to the uninvolved, and to care for those in desperate need of social services.

- It is JDC's mission to help the Jews of the FSU—the third largest Jewish community in the world—to reclaim their heritage and assist them in providing welfare services to the neediest among them. Jews who have been reconnected to their identity, who understand and feel pride in their Jewishness, may well choose to make aliya.

- To further its mission, JDC works to promote Jewish knowledge, values, and identity in a spirit of religious pluralism and with a commitment to Zionist principles, while encouraging the emergence of local leadership and the development of independent and ultimately self-sufficient Jewish communities.

for parents and children. In the summer of 2000, 40 retreats were held for a total of 3,200 participants, while some 2,500 took part in the 30 retreats held in the winter of 2000/2001. First-time retreats were organized last year for single-parent families and for families with special-needs children, and JCC Family Clubs are enabling the families who meet at these retreats to keep in contact with one another.

Based on what has been achieved to date in the FSU's small and intermediate cities, JDC has just launched a new initiative to assist the Jewish communities in Moscow, Kiev, and St. Petersburg to establish major communal facilities in these three largest centers of Jewish population. Progress has already been made with regard to securing sites and assembling plans in all three localities.

OTHER OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY BUILDING EFFORTS

Initiated by JDC but increasingly run by local communities with JDC's guidance, the OFEK Jewish Book Festivals have proven to be effective vehicles for community building. Festivals were held in 2000 in 99 Jewish communities, including 40 new ones. These festivals—which strengthen Jewish identity, unite community organizations, attract the unaffiliated, and showcase Jewish life to non-Jews—were made possible with support from the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds. Many of the larger communities also staged OFEK-on-Wheels programs, bringing exhibitions, lectures, and other activities to surrounding communities.

By providing the means for Jews to explore their heritage at their own pace, the Jewish libraries established by JDC are a vital part of outreach efforts. Fifteen new libraries opened in 2000, bringing the total to 179, while 40 existing libraries were expanded and 45,000 new books purchased. JDC's library initiative is funded in part by the Meyerhoff Family Funds and by the Alvin and Fanny Blaustein Thalheimer Foundation.

To improve management and services, 10 libraries have been computerized and
Teaching materials and professional support have been provided by JDC to Jewish schools like this one in Dnepropetrovsk.

Photo: Roy Mitelman

A major emphasis has been placed on training professional librarians. The Jewish Libraries Association has developed several new community programs for dissemination, while over 50 libraries have already adopted the Jewish Story-Telling Hour and Rosh Hodesh programs. The latter is an informal educational program based on the Hebrew calendar.

The FSU’s 36 Jewish kindergartens, many of which were opened with JDC guidance, have proved to be one of the more effective ways of drawing the unaffiliated into the community. They are currently introducing over 1,600 preschoolers and their families to Jewish culture and traditions. JDC provides staff training and has developed illustrated and interactive teaching materials with wide appeal. The ETROG Conference for Jewish Educators in Ukraine, which was held in Kiev in the spring of 2001, brought together some 250 Ukrainian Jewish educators. The conference gave teachers and principals the opportunity to add to their professional expertise while building a network for ongoing support.

JEWISH STUDIES ENHANCE RENEWAL EFFORTS

The adult Jewish education and academic Jewish studies programs whose development JDC has supported over the past decade have become essential components of the Jewish renewal movement. They have expanded the field of study for students and academics and legitimized Jewish culture in the eyes of both Jews and non-Jews. Today, there are over 100 academic institutions in the FSU offering higher education courses on Jewish topics and nearly 1,000 academics are active in this field.

A milestone in the restoration of Jewish studies as a flourishing academic discipline was the establishment—with support from Stanley Chais, the Russian Jewish Congress, and the Israeli government—of the Chais Center for Jewish Studies at the elite Moscow State University (MGU), in partnership with The Hebrew University. JDC also supports Jewish studies at other state and Jewish universities, including the Jewish University of Moscow, St. Petersburg Jewish University, the Russian State University for the Humanities, International Solomon University of Kiev, and the State Universities of Donetsk and Moldova. In 2000, JDC expanded this initiative to the State University of Georgia and Kazan State University.

Sefer, the Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization, founded with JDC support in 1994 and now the central address for Jewish academic activities, helps to raise the professional level of existing programs and to establish new ones. It held a number of intensive courses in
2000, including a winter school in Moscow for 125 students and summer schools in both Kharkhov and St. Petersburg. Sefer's Interdisciplinary Conference on Jewish Studies, held each year in February, has been bringing together over 500 scholars and students from the FSU and around the world. As part of its strategic partnership with The Hebrew University, Sefer sent 20 advanced students to Jerusalem last year for the intensive Eshnav Program of Jewish Studies; the students were co-sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Jewish subjects are also being taught in a non-academic framework at 17 People's Universities, with over 350 lectures given in 2000 by members of the community and local academics. The Association of Public Universities for Jewish Culture, which organized these lectures and is supported by JDC, began publishing a series of informational booklets on Jewish history and traditions last year.

**NURTURING YOUNG LEADERS**

The 26 Hillel Student Centers now operating in the FSU—cooperative ventures of JDC, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and the centers’ students—play a key role in attracting those who represent the future of Jewish leadership in the FSU. These centers offer thousands of Jewish students a relaxed environment in which they can explore their heritage and meet fellow Jews. The Hillel centers receive generous support from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, UJA/UJC Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson, the Ben and Esther Rosenbloom Foundation, and other donors. The Palm Beach Federation will provide support for Hillel activities in St. Petersburg in the coming year.

The Hillel centers stress student involvement in the community, with annual Passover and Hanukkah projects sending hundreds of students to local communities to organize and lead holiday celebrations. Over 1,000 students took part in last year’s Passover project; fanning out to 350 localities, they led communal seders for some 30,000 people and, in a new Passover in the Family initiative, they helped over 300 adults host seders for the first time in their homes. During the High Holidays, 14,000 students and other community members took part in special services, including 1,500 in Moscow alone.

![Photo](image)

*The Hillel students in St. Petersburg had a very special way of thanking JDC Board member Lynn Schusterman this past May for the critical support that she and her late husband Charles have given to Hillel centers throughout the FSU.*

*Photo: Scott Rickman*
The Hillel leadership conference in Moscow, which had about 300 participants, included seminars on the Hesed centers and on political advocacy.

In January and February 2001, Hillel, JDC, and Birthright Israel brought 170 Jewish students to Israel for 10-day Israel Experiences. In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, JDC developed a new model for leadership development this year that is bringing together young leaders from Detroit, Kiev, and Migdal HaEmek in Israel.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The Israel-based JDC-Buncher Community Leadership Program continues to be an all-important tool in the leadership development process. Sponsored by the Buncher Family through the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the program has enabled more than 220 lay and professional leaders to acquire the technical skills they need to help their communities flourish.

The Melton Program for Senior Educators from the FSU, supported by JDC in cooperation with The Hebrew University’s Melton Center for Jewish Education, has trained 120 educators since the program’s inception. A follow-up weekend for Melton graduates held in Kiev in December 2000 had 50 participants. JDC’s efforts to foster the development of local communal leaders have been aided by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

HESED CENTERS: EASING HUNGER; BUILDING JEWISH COMMUNITIES

JDC’s welfare services in the FSU represent one of the most far-reaching relief programs ever mounted by the Jewish world. Some 250,000 elderly and impoverished Jews are currently being aided, many of whom are “double victims,” of both the Holocaust and of Soviet anti-Semitism.

The renascent Jewish communities of the FSU are not yet strong enough to reach out by themselves to locate and help the inordinately large proportion of the Jewish population that is elderly and in need. Like seniors throughout the region, they have been particularly hard hit by the economic chaos that has accompanied the transformation to capitalism. Many were once middle class professionals whose savings were wiped out early on by hyperinflation; now impoverished, they must make their meager pensions stretch well beyond the breaking point and find ways to survive the long delays that often occur between payments. Most continue to live in conditions barely conceivable in the West, enduring hunger, cold, and ill health.
While non-Jewish elderly throughout the region also live poorly, a much greater percentage of them have family members to provide for their most basic needs. Over 40 percent of the Jewish elderly, however, have no children—a lasting legacy of Nazism and Stalinism—and 65 percent of those who do no longer live in the same city or country, so their grinding poverty is exacerbated by their bleak isolation.

Welfare services for these Jews in need are provided through the 145 Hesed or welfare centers that JDC has helped put in place across the FSU over the past eight years, with 25 new centers opened in 2000 alone. This life-saving endeavor began in 1993, when St. Petersburg's prototype Hesed Avraham and Sonia Rochlin was established with expert assistance from Israel's Yad Sarah.

Hesed is the Hebrew word for charitable deeds, literally, “acts of loving kindness.” Hesed programs not only provide physical relief, but have served as a catalyst for community development, encouraging volunteerism and promoting the Jewish value of arichus, of responsibility for one another.

JDC was able to expand these Hesed programs significantly in 2000 thanks to the continuing support of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. For the last six years, the Claims Conference has been JDC's major partner in providing help to impoverished elderly Jews in the FSU; a recently created partnership committee is more formally establishing this cooperative relationship. The Claims Conference currently funds over half the cost of the welfare program, providing services in those regions that have a substantial number of victims of Nazi persecution.

Major ongoing funding for JDC welfare programs is also provided by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), the Posner family through the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation, and the US, Dutch, French, and British governments through their contributions to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund.

Supplementary funding was also received from Federations through United Jewish Communities/ONAD.

Additional support is provided by the Baltimore Jewish Council, an agency of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore; the UJA/UJJC Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson; the Birmingham Jewish Federation; United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada; UJA Federation of Central New Jersey; the Chais Family Foundation through the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles; UJA of Great Britain; Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston; the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix; the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh; the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto; the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund, under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington; Carol Kaplan; the Koret Foundation; Edward Merrin; the Minneapolis Jewish Federation; Jan Mitchell; FEDERATION CJA Montreal; the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County; UJA-Federation of New York; the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona; and Elizabeth Varet.

The 250,000 elderly Jews whom the Hesed network is now reaching are those facing the most difficult conditions of poverty and ill-health; many of the neediest live in isolated, hard-to-reach villages, far from an urban center. Helping them is a complex logistical exercise that involves the distribution of millions of food packages, hot meals, meals-on-wheels, and fresh food sets; the latter item consists of perishable foods provided for the first time in 2000 to those still able to cook for themselves.
IN THE FSU:

- The Hesed network, in conjunction with other local partners, supplied essential welfare services to more than 235,000 needy elderly Jews last year.
- Over 1,481,000 food packages, 54 percent more than in 1999, were distributed in 2,079 localities, an increase of almost two-thirds in the number of towns and villages reached.
- 3,306,500 cooked meals were delivered to almost 13,500 homebound elderly in 261 localities, nearly a third more places and 21 percent more people than were served in 1999.
- Nearly 4.3 million hot meals—58 percent more than last year—were served to 24 percent more people, meaning that communal dining rooms were providing the elderly with a significantly higher level of nutritional support.
- In 429 localities, over 12,600 elderly still able to cook for themselves received 130,500 fresh food sets, a service provided for the first time last year.
- Over 2,023,000 home care visits were made to 20,600 clients in 556 towns and villages—45 percent more localities than were served in 1999.
- Over 217,000 people participated in the Hesed network’s social and cultural activities and programs.

The Hesed centers are the backbone of JDC’s welfare initiatives for the elderly, and have become the dominant force for community building in middle size and smaller Jewish communities throughout the FSU. A generous grant from the Posner family through the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh facilitated the purchase and renovation of a number of Hesed facilities in 2000.

As part of its efforts to nurture self-sufficiency by enabling local communities to begin providing these welfare services on their own, JDC developed an intensive training program for communal workers and volunteers. The program, which was initiated in 1994 with the opening of the William S. Rosenwald Institute for Jewish Communal and Welfare Workers in St. Petersburg, now has institutes operating in eight additional cities. Over 6,100 professionals and volunteers were trained through this network in 2000, adding to the significant impact the program has had on Jewish communities from the Carpathians to Siberia. The William Rosenwald Family Fund, the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, and the Minneapolis Jewish Federation are providing critical support for this endeavor.

Many of the Hesed centers incorporate day centers for the elderly, which provide social activities to alleviate isolation and loneliness. The centers also provide meals, medical consultations with volunteer doctors, and the free loan of assistive equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. During the long cold winters, fuel for heating, warm clothing, and blankets are distributed. The Pittsburgh Federation is supporting the day center program in Moldova, and FEDERATION CJA Montreal and UIA Federations of Canada support welfare initiatives in the Kiev region.

The Bayit Cham (Warm Home) program is another project that has succeeded in breaking down the isolation of the elderly while helping to build local communities. The program, in which small groups of elderly Jews are regularly hosted by those who have volunteered their homes, furnishes participants with nutritious meals, companionship, social support, and a sense of belonging to the Jewish community. It also provides intellectual and spiritual sustenance through a Books-On-Wheels program and special activities for the Jewish holidays. Bayit Cham activities took place last year in 227 localities, a 53 percent increase over 1999, with more than 10,400 elderly hosted in about 820 homes.

As health services continued to deteriorate throughout the FSU, the critical need for rudimentary medical assistance for the elderly became a focus of new initiatives in 2000. A generous donation enabled JDC to create the SOS—Emergency Assistance Program. Operating in 140 locations, SOS is providing life-saving surgery and other one-time help for elderly Jews in need. A significant investment was also made in the provision of basic medications, which are often so costly that they are far beyond the reach of most senior citizens. The Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County will provide support in 2001 for the provision of basic medicines in St. Petersburg.
Home care programs for the estimated 20,600 homebound Jewish elderly are coordinated by the Hesed centers. Many seniors live on the upper floors of crumbling apartment buildings and are simply too frail to negotiate perilous flights of stairs. Visits by community volunteers complement those made by paid caregivers who look after, shop, and cook for these elderly Jews and carry out essential repairs. Schoolchildren and older students visit on a regular basis, especially during the Jewish holidays.

Indeed, from the beginning, JDC has encouraged local communities to use the Hesed centers to nourish both body and soul. Leaflets about the holidays, for example, are distributed in food packages, and some 120,000 clients participate in social and cultural activities and special holiday events. By affording the elderly an opportunity to gather as Jews, the centers have helped them to reconnect with their community and rekindle the Yiddishkeit of their youth.

The 50 percent increase in the number of Hesed centers over the past two years, combined with an increase to 64 in the number of HesedMobiles, or specially equipped vans, has enabled JDC to reach more and more of the elderly Jews who live in the smallest communities and remotest locations. Those living in the most isolated areas of Siberia and the Russian Far East were a special focus of attention last year. Food, fuel, blankets, medications, and medical equipment are distributed via the HesedMobiles, along with Jewish literature and religious items that have become precious commodities to these Jewish seniors.

Generous support from the Posner family of Pittsburgh, the Thalheimer Foundation, the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund of Washington, DC, and the Abraham and Sonia Rochlin Foundation made the expansion of the HesedMobile fleet possible. The added reach this has given to Hesed activities is now enabling elderly Jews in over 2,100 towns and villages across the FSU to benefit from communal welfare services and live in basic dignity.

Outreach is an important component of the Mazel Tov program, a Hesed effort geared to an entirely different segment of the Jewish population. The program’s debut in St. Petersburg, Dnepropetrovsk, and Kiev proved so successful that it was expanded to 48 communities in 2000. Mazel Tov offers families with newborns the practical equipment and emotional support they need while helping to draw them into the Jewish community. The program is being supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

Fostering volunteerism—a concept that languished during the Soviet era when all assistance was provided by the State—is another crucial part of the community building process. In 2000, volunteers of all ages—schoolchildren, older students, young parents, and elderly Hesed clients themselves—were
Enthusiastic members of the youngest generation at a JCC music class in Odessa.

Photo: Roy Mittelman

Recruited to care for the neediest members of their communities, thus creating a sense of mutual responsibility and drawing people of different generations together.

Volunteers play a key role in enabling communities to run their own Hesed centers. Each Hesed is managed by a local board of community leaders who determine priorities, oversee services, and coordinate with municipal authorities and other local welfare providers. Two recently established umbrella organizations, Idud Hasidim in Russia and Hasdei Ukraine in Ukraine, coordinate activities at the national level, with JDC offering professional guidance as needed.

So profound has the impact of the Hesed centers been in the FSU that in March 2000 the Russian Academy of Languages officially added the word Hesed to the Russian language. In a modernized adaptation of the traditional Hebrew meaning, it defined Hesed as “the provision of social services with special compassion.”

Yet while the Hesed movement has turned Jewish communities throughout the FSU into social service providers and has restored hope to hundreds of thousands of destitute Jews, the needs of the Jewish poor continue to outstrip the local Jewish population’s ability to meet them. Indeed, the sheer scale of those needs has compelled JDC to set criteria for assistance in the FSU that are stricter than those applied elsewhere in the Jewish world.

The challenge of easing such widespread Jewish suffering—even in ways that fall short of the ideal—is likely to demand the continued involvement and steadfast commitment of Jews from outside the FSU for the foreseeable future.
FACILITATING JEWISH RENEWAL — SUSTAINING THE ELDERLY — PROMOTING COMMUNAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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. It encourages the development of additional services to relieve the loneliness of the elderly while meeting their physical needs.

- 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.

- JDC is facilitating the process of Jewish renewal under way in these communities by stimulating the growth of Jewish cultural, religious, educational, and youth activities.

- JDC helps individual communities organize effectively to 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

Significant progress is being made in JDC’s work with the Romanian Jewish community on Jewish education, leadership training, and youth activities, and on the development of new programs targeted to the middle generation. JDC’s Jewish Service Corps volunteers and its expert consultants have been instrumental in furthering these initiatives, in collaboration with local staff and with the enthusiastic cooperation of the leadership of FEDROM, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania.

At the same time, the welfare services that JDC helps FEDROM’s Social Assistance Department provide to the community’s impoverished elderly, Holocaust survivors, including cash relief, food packages, hot meals, warm clothing, medicines, and medical care, are as critically needed as ever. For, despite the slight increase in optimism that has accompanied the installation of Romania’s newly elected government, the country’s terrible economic realities remain exactly as before. Forty percent of the people have been living on less than $1 a day, while inflation has continued to outpace pension increases and deepen the unrelenting poverty of the elderly. Adverse weather conditions have put the country’s agriculture in a disastrous state, and major food shortages are expected throughout 2001.

With many elderly Jews already hovering on the brink of hunger, 150 new individuals were deemed eligible for community assistance over the past year and a half, winter relief payments were increased last fall for all assistees, and new applications for aid were being processed and accepted by FEDROM at the rate of one per day in the first quarter of 2001.

Nearly all of these aging Holocaust survivors live alone and have only the Jewish community to turn to in their hour of need. Significant allocations from the US and Dutch governments’ contributions to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund have made it possible to supplement the vital supplies furnished to current assistees and to begin providing additional survivors with food, medicines, and home care. JDC continues to seek in-kind contributions of warm
clothing and medicines to keep up with growing needs, and it 
provides expert consultants and training programs to upgrade 
the professional skills of FEDROM staff.

Essential renovations continue to be made to the Rosen 
Home, Bucharest’s remaining Jewish nursing home, with generous 
support from the Claims Conference, which previously provided 
FEDROM with the means to upgrade its food program facilities 
throughout the country. A Claims Conference grant has also 
enabled FEDROM to establish a day care center for the elderly in 
Bucharest in a refurbished portion of the former Balus Home.

With its expanding array of therapeutic programs and 
recreational activities, this three-year-old center is helping to enhance 
the lives of the Jewish elderly. So are the “warm homes” for seniors 
currently operating in seven other localities, the Jewish Braille Institute 
of America’s club for the visually impaired, and the dedicated members of Project 
Vision, Inc., an Atlanta-based organization of Jewish ophthalmologists who have 
restored or improved the sight of over 600 elderly Jews.

A protracted heat wave and drought in southeastern Europe in the 
summer of 2000 created special problems for the elderly, particularly those living in 
regions where electricity and water supplies were cut off. An outpouring of 
support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City and the generous 
help of George and Martha Rich of MetroWest, NJ enabled JDC to provide 
elderly Jews with supplemental food and medicines, bottled water, and fans, 
and to furnish air conditioners and additional refrigerators to institutional 
facilities. The crisis struck just as the Kansas City Federation had decided to 
establish a special partnership with the Romanian and Bulgarian Jewish 
communities, following a mission to those countries last spring led by JDC 
Board member Patricia Werthan Uhlmann.

In a similar vein, the Jewish Community Federation of Greater 
Rochester, NY, Inc. has generously undertaken to help JDC and FEDROM meet critical welfare needs in the town of Iasi, while the United Jewish 
Federation of Tidewater, VA is helping to fund the provision of essential 
medications to elderly Jews throughout the country.

At the other end of the age spectrum, important changes in Jewish 
community programming have been taking place in 
Bucharest and the provinces. A funda-
mental overhaul of the Talmud Torah system is currently under way: new 
teachers have been appointed and are 
being trained to use new curricular materials that are helping to attract and retain greater numbers of Jewish youngsters. Since 1995, Romanian youth 
have been attending the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International
This 79-year-old woman is one of the needy elderly Jews who have only recently, and reluctantly, been forced by economic circumstances to seek community help.

Photo: © Sharon Faulkner

Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary; 47 participated last summer with help from the Lauder Foundation, and 25 young people learned Israeli dance instruction at last year’s Machol Hungaria.

A major success was achieved in 2000 with the first Romanian contingent to participate in the JDC-Buncher Community Leadership Program. The nine participants, who represented seven local communities, completed two in-country seminars and a culminating program in Israel. They have all been developing new initiatives to increase community members’ involvement in Jewish activities, particularly on the part of the middle generation.

A Jewish studies seminar brought young people from across the country together last summer for the second consecutive year; this time, nearly all of the 40 participants came from the smallest communities and had no previous exposure to Jewish learning. As part of the effort to build for the future, the classes were taught almost entirely by young people from Bucharest, who were prepared for their task by a JDC consultant.

Eighty-one current and potential youth leaders participated in a leadership development training program last October, with similar seminars scheduled for 2001. The October session also served as the first national
IN ROMANIA:

- Approximately 750 elderly Jews received monthly cash assistance with JDC’s aid last year; 1,315 received winter relief grants; and some 3,444 needy elderly benefited from FEDROM’s clothing distribution program.

- Over 500,000 heavily subsidized hot meals were provided at three old age homes and nine kosher canteens, while meals-on-wheels were delivered three times a week to about 410 homebound elderly.

- Eight food packages were distributed at periodic intervals to 2,300 individuals, with four additional packages provided to those living in towns with no kosher canteens. Matza was distributed free to all assistees, while 1,275 individuals got special pre-Passover cash grants and 2,300 received Passover food packages.

- Medical care was provided to about 2,070 elderly Jews at FEDROM’s clinics; 540 benefited from home care; and JDC purchased medications for some 1,600 assistees.

- The Rosen Home for the Aged in Bucharest averaged 165 residents, while a total of 29 resided at the two homes in Transylvania that JDC helps support.

convention of OTER, Romania’s new Jewish youth organization. OTER already has almost a dozen active clubs that have been equipped with JDC’s help; members publish their own student magazine and take part in a variety of youth activities and new community service programs, including visits to the elderly.

JEN, the online Jewish Educational Network, is continually being updated, while the system of Jewish Education through the Mail (JEM) that was developed last year is now reaching some 400 Jewish youth and their families each month. JDC’s 1999-2000 Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteer initiated these new programs, along with a Pedagogical Center in Bucharest that is helping to provide resource materials for all of these educational activities. The current JSC volunteers are expanding upon these efforts, and by working to empower local staff, they are ensuring that their impact on Jewish education and leadership development activities in Romania will continue well beyond their own tenure.

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the John W. Uhmann and the Patricia Werthan Uhmann Foundations, the Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, Harold Grinspoon and Diane Trodeman of Springfield, MA, Edythe Roland Grodnick of MetroWest, NJ, Dr. Michael and Nancy Levinson of Memphis, the late Louise Eder of Milwaukee, Jackie Woolf of San Diego, Annie Sandler of Tidewater, Etta Zimmerman of South Palm Beach, Norman and Milton Smith of St. Paul, the Joseph and Sally Handelman Charitable Foundation, and the Salzman Fund for Jews of Mures have provided generous support for the volunteers; for Jewish education, youth activities, and other community development projects; and for various welfare programs.

HUNGARY

Although government-funded annuity payments to eligible Holocaust survivors have replaced most of the cash assistance that had been provided by JDC through the Hungarian Jewish Social Support Foundation (HJSSF), JDC continues to support social services for the neediest elderly Jews. And many former assistees who are ailing or home-bound continue to receive

A Rosen Home resident embraces her occupational therapist.

Photo: © Sharon Faulkner

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meals-on-wheels and other services from HJSSF’s recently established Jewish Family Service, which was designed with JDC’s help to meet the needs of the entire Jewish population, with some services provided for a fee. In 2000, grants from the US and Dutch government’s contributions to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund helped provide aging Holocaust survivors in need with food, home care, and medical and other services.

HJSSF has a variety of initiatives under way as part of its ongoing mission to integrate individuals with disabilities into Jewish communal life.

The Eszter Sewing Workshop, a vocational rehabilitation program set up by HJSSF with support from Hungarian Social Security, George and Martha Rich, and the late Istvan Somfai, was joined in 2000 by the David Workshop, whose participants package medical aids. Together, the two workshops hope to employ some 52 community members with disabilities this year, employment that will give them a modest wage, an opportunity to develop their skills, and a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

HJSSF continues to operate support groups for mentally disabled community members, and it has developed a close relationship with the Association of Hungarian Jewish Deaf and Hearing Impaired. The opening of a new center for the visually impaired has enabled HJSSF to expand the services it has been providing to this population group in cooperation with JBI, the Jewish Braille Institute of America. The center, which is serving as a model for other programs for the visually impaired in Hungary, has a large library of talking books and a place for training and for medical treatment.

A grant from the government of Luxembourg, with additional support from HJSSF and the Hungarian Association of Hospice Services, has enabled JDC to establish a model hospice program at the Jewish Hospital in Budapest. The two-year project is providing both in-patients and the home-bound with emotional support and palliative care, while training a staff of local professionals who will be able to take over the program and run it under Hungarian government auspices.

Since its opening in Budapest in October 1994, the Balint Jewish Community Center (JCC), with program and operating support from JDC, has pro-
IN HUNGARY:

- Through HJSSF, monthly relief payments continue to be provided to over 400 impoverished Holocaust survivors who are unable to afford adequate food, warm clothing, heat, or medical care. In addition, special cash grants were made last year to about 900 elderly or disabled individuals to pay for special medications, medical equipment, and urgent home repairs.

- Over 300 hot meals are provided to assistees each day at Budapest’s kosher canteens or through the meals-on-wheels program, and packages of staple foods are delivered every two months to about 500 elderly Jews.

- JDC helps the Orthodox community maintain a food program in Budapest for 177 impoverished elderly, and it supports small kosher canteens in Debrecen, Miskolc, and Szeged.

- In those same four cities, assistance is provided to three Jewish old age homes and eight senior day care centers; the latter offer some 2,000 lonely elderly Jews a place to go for meals, social and cultural activities, and support services that have enhanced their quality of life.

A new early childhood center, the Eden Playground and Club for Toddlers and Mothers, was opened at Balint in 2000. It offers day care services, weekly programs, and a summer camp for children up to age six in a stimulating Jewish setting. Targeting a different age range, Balint’s new Center for Informal Jewish Education is providing Jewish courses and leadership training to young adults aged 20 to 35, an age group that has proved particularly hard to reach.

Many of the youth activities and the Jewish educational initiatives that JDC supports—for teachers, parents, children, or the community-at-large—are based at Balint. JDC also provides technical support to Budapest’s Jewish day schools; it helps fund the Orthodox community’s Talmud Torah and kindergarten; and it is supporting the development of a creative curriculum at the Neolog community’s new high school, the Sandor Scheiber Gymnasium. All teachers, youth counselors, and students have access to the educational materials in the JDC-supported Jewish Resource Center at the JCC.

With the help of a generous grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Ben-Yehuda Jewish Community Kindergarten has been equipped with indoor and outdoor play equipment, in an effort facilitated by JDC. JDC continues to contribute to the budget of the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary, which was accredited in 2000 as part of the new Jewish University of Budapest.

JDC helps support the activities of the Hungarian Union of Jewish Students (UJS) and four youth movements. Generous contributions from Stanley Chais and Chanoch Nissany are helping to equip a new Jewish students’ club in Budapest. The club will give UJS’ 1,000 members a place of their own in which they can meet and stage a variety of events.
The Israel-based Buncher Leadership Program mentioned earlier has been a mainstay of JDC’s leadership development efforts in Hungary, with many of the local alumni “networking” on a regular basis at the “Buncher Cafe” in the Balint JCC. Country-wide reunions have also been held each year at Szarvas in conjunction with the annual Jewish Educators’ Seminar. Co-sponsored by JDC and the Jewish Agency, this seminar has been bringing some 200 educators from both the Jewish and the public schools together before the start of the new school year.

A group of young Israelis of Ethiopian and Russian background, all of whom are leaders and activists in their local communities, participated for the first time last summer in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas. Their inclusion added to the international Jewish flavor of the camp, and their close interaction with campers from the former Soviet Union gave them a new perspective on many of their neighbors back home in Israel.

The Szarvas camp, which represents JDC’s greatest single educational investment, hosted a total of 1,800 children and counselors from Hungary and 18 other countries in five two-week sessions in 2000, including—for the second consecutive year—campers recruited from communities throughout the US. During the course of the summer, campers again played host to elderly members of the community on special day trips, and to a group of children and adults with mental disabilities who participated in a one-week program coordinated by HJSSF.

The camp’s Beit David Synagogue and Activity Center is a major attraction for campers and counselors, with its beautiful sanctuary, well-stocked library, and up-to-date computer facilities. 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.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Helene Wallace, a new Jewish educational center has been established at Szarvas. Its unique learning modules can provide camp participants with written and recorded materials in their own language and at the appropriate educational level. The materials were successfully tested this spring at a training seminar for madrichim (youth leaders) held in Budapest in April. The seminar, which was run by the Szarvas staff and had 48 participants from 16 communities throughout Eastern Europe, was designed to help prepare these Jewish youth to assume greater leadership roles in their home communities.

Now in its twelfth year, the camp at Szarvas has become an international meeting place for young Jews from East and West beyond the actual camp sessions. The European Union of Jewish Students held its annual Summer University at Szarvas in 2000, with Hungary’s UJS helping to host some 350 participants from throughout the continent. And in May 2001, over 100 young people took part in Macbol Hungaria, the only international Israeli dance seminar organized in Eastern Europe, which was held at Szarvas for the first time.

In the coming year this seminar, which is intended to be an annual event, will be renamed the Louise Eder Israeli Folk Dancing Seminar, in memory of that beloved JDC Board member. Building upon the success
achieved in its first three years, the seminar will continue to provide a venue for young European Jews to get together with their peers and strengthen their sense of peoplehood and their identity as Jews.

POLAND

In facilitating and promoting the growth under way among young and previously unaffiliated Jews, JDC has been seeing the Polish Jewish community enter what seems to be a new phase in its continuing evolution. For many people, the season of return, discovery, and enthusiastic involvement in Jewish community life continues. But Polish Jewry is also beginning to experience some of the problems facing many Western communities: how to maintain the active interest of community members and keep them from drifting away.

JDC has been working to help this Jewish community rebuild itself and find its way to eventual self-sufficiency. At the same time, JDC continues to pursue its historic task of assisting the aging and impoverished Holocaust survivors who still constitute most of Poland’s Jewish population.

A restructured Jewish Welfare Commission comprised of health and social service professionals has been working to expand social services beyond cash assistance and respond to the special needs of these elderly and isolated survivors. New programs include home care services, improved social activities, and the undertaking of minor home improvements that make it easier for the elderly to remain living at home, with dignity. These efforts to ease survivors’ daily living conditions and enhance their quality of life have been made possible by grants from the US and Luxembourg governments’ contributions to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund.

The Welfare Commission’s latest initiatives include a rehabilitation program for Holocaust survivors, carried out in part at the community campsite in Srodborow, and the recruitment of volunteers to work with assistees, with a seminar for those newly recruited recently held in Krakow.

The senior JDC social worker who monitors these welfare activities has been coordinating an ongoing series of training sessions to help the community’s social workers expand their professional skills. A study mission to Romania in May 2001 enabled staff members to get a careful look at a comprehensive social services program in a neighboring Eastern European country.

JDC continued to facilitate the awarding of Claims Conference grants to Polish Jewish organizations last year, providing guidance in the applications process and supervising the implementation of funded projects on behalf of the Conference. JDC provides financial assistance and technical support to the Jewish Religious Community of Poland (JRPC), which operates the kosher kitchens, maintains synagogues, and coordinates religious services and holiday celebrations, and to the TSKZ, the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews, which operates 16 clubs
and the Akiva Kohane Campsite in Srodborow. Financial and programmatic support has also been given to other local Jewish organizations, especially the Polish Union of Jewish Students (PUSZ).

JDC is involved in various aspects of community building, working through its consultant on community development, education, and culture and its Jewish Service Corps volunteers. It has increased the number of training seminars it organizes for future leaders and youth group activists, adding another series on Jewish education in 2000-2001. The number participating in these seminars continues to grow, and those who have completed the entire cycle are eager to continue their involvement in community life. A third group of Polish Jews are taking part in 2001 in the JDC-Buncher Leadership Program, with seminars held in Poland in February and June and a special Polish session of the Israel seminar conducted this summer.

The JDC-supported Resource Center for Jewish Education has been intensifying its activities. Through the generosity of Joan and Irwin Jacobs and Karen and Warren Kessler, it has been able to upgrade its computer lab and Website and add a new Leadership Development Center. The latter will be an important venue for JDC’s training seminars, and the enhanced computer system will enable the local communities to access Jewish information and communicate more easily with each other and with Jewish communities worldwide.

JDC also continues to work with local organizations to expand Jewish programming for the younger and middle generations. The Sunday School it helped initiate in Warsaw now offers programs for parents too, and the 2000-2001 JSC volunteer has been providing a variety of other informal Jewish educational opportunities for Jewish youth. Thirty-three youngsters attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary last year with JDC’s help. JDC also provides critical financial and programmatic support for TSKZ’s Akiva Kohane Campsite in Srodborow, a year-round focal point for Jewish activities for all age groups.

JDC continues to furnish financial and technical assistance to help the Jewish community in its efforts to retrieve confiscated communal properties. The process in Poland has been slow and costly, and has absorbed much of the limited revenues obtained to date. The JRCP and JDC-Poland played host this spring to a real estate management symposium conducted by JDC to which representatives of all the Eastern European Jewish communities were invited. The symposium generated much enthusiasm among the participants and will hopefully lead to additional training sessions for the local communities organized by JRCP with JDC’s help. For, despite the difficulties encountered to date, the return of Jewish communal property in Poland could eventually provide the community with the means to meet the increasing needs of both its aging members and of those in the younger generations who are determined to reclaim their own Jewish heritage.
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

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

YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) AND MACEDONIA

While the election of a new democratic government in Yugoslavia in October 2000 renewed hope for that country's future, JDC continues to monitor the safety of Jewish communities throughout this region, particularly as tensions have risen in Macedonia and the border areas. JDC also continues to guarantee the well-being of the few Jews who remain in Kosovo, most of whom live in Prizren. It has been organizing Passover and Rosh Hashana celebrations in that city, and it has cooperated with the Swiss Jewish Assistance Fund for Kosovo in support of a vocational rehabilitation project for impoverished Jews.

Since the fall of 1999, JDC and World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK) have been working with SAVEZ, the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia, to help the Jews of Yugoslavia survive the country's disastrous economic situation. Cash relief, emergency aid, and special winter relief grants were all provided in 2000, and over 40 individuals throughout Yugoslavia are receiving regular cash assistance from JDC this year. Communal soup kitchens have been opened in eight out of nine Yugoslav Jewish communities; they served over 15,000 hot meals a month through the end of May 2001, with those who could afford it paying ten cents a serving. These heavily subsidized meals have been a life saver in present circumstances, and will be resuming this fall with the help of a grant from the Spanish government's contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund (NPRF). SAVEZ has managed to maintain its own contribution to the cost of these welfare efforts throughout this difficult period.

JDC and WJR continue to finance the federation's free pharmacy in Belgrade; it has been distributing more than 1,000 prescriptions a month, mostly to chronically ill Jewish elderly and to needy Jews in Republika Srpska, where many medications are difficult to obtain. WJR also provides a special fund to help those requiring hospitalization, and along with JDC, it has been sending new clothing and other goods for distribution to the many Jews in need. A grant from the US government's contribution to the NPRF helped support the purchase of medications as well as the hospitalization fund in 2000.

JDC provides leadership training opportunities for community volunteers and professionals through Leattid Europe and other programs. It has been concentrating this year on recruiting potential leaders in the middle generation.
Despite the hardships of recent years, the Jews in Yugoslavia, with JDC's help, have continued the intensified level of communal activity that emerged there during the past war-torn decade. Programs include both formal and informal Jewish educational initiatives, cultural activities, youth clubs, and various women's associations, and they extend beyond Belgrade to all of the smaller communities.

WJR and Connections, a London-based women's group, generously subsidized the attendance of 150 Yugoslav youngsters at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary last summer. There is intense interest among Yugoslav Jewish youth in participating in the Szarvas camp, in JDC's madrichim (youth leader) training seminars in Budapest, and in the All-Former Yugoslavia Youth Seminars that were revived last year with JDC's support. The Belgrade youth group helped organize the first of these seminars last December, hosting 50 young leaders from throughout the region. Participants were eager for new educational opportunities as well as the chance to strengthen their ties to other Jews.

In a similar manner, some 30 adults joined representatives from Jewish communities throughout the Balkans last summer at Esperanza 2000, the regional festival of Sephardic culture coordinated by JDC near Sofia, Bulgaria. The Yugoslav delegation of artists, musicians, lecturers, and actors proved to be a mainstay of the festival.

JDC continues to support the work of the native-born young rabbi who now serves as the spiritual leader of Jews living in Yugoslavia and Macedonia. He has been working hard to further both countries' communal revitalization, teaching a variety of classes and conducting services in both the larger and smaller communities. In March 2000, the rabbi officiated at the inauguration of a new synagogue in Skopje, Macedonia built with strong support from Jews in Phoenix, AZ. JDC brought New York's renowned Cantor Joseph Malovany to Skopje for this occasion, which was part of the community's annual Holocaust commemoration ceremonies. Appearing together with the Macedonia National Symphony, Cantor Malovany's eloquent cantorial performance was a very special way to mark this milestone event in the resurgence of this Jewish community.

JDC Board member Karen Moss (at right) joined a La Benevolencia volunteer (center) on a home visit to this elderly assistee in Sarajevo during the April 2001 JDC study mission to Bosnia and Croatia.

Photo: Neil Mos

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

JDC provides regular cash assistance to about 60 elderly Jews in need living in various part of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It has also been underwriting the Jewish community of Sarajevo's efforts to obtain the return of tenancy rights to Jews who left during the war, with over 100 cases successfully resolved to date. In cooperation with Dr. Alfred Bader of Milwaukee and other generous donors in Germany and Switzerland, JDC is currently helping to fund an extensive home care and medical assistance program run by La Benevolencia.
the Jewish humanitarian aid organization of Sarajevo. The program looks after the welfare of some 180 elderly Jews and about 360 lonely, impoverished, and chronically ill elderly of other ethnic backgrounds.

JDC continues to help support the Jewish Sunday School in Sarajevo as well as a burgeoning Jewish youth group whose leaders are enthusiastic participants in the training and youth seminars organized by JDC. The number of campers and counselors attending the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary continues to grow. Some 24 youngsters from communities throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina were able to participate last summer with the help of a grant from World Jewish Relief and a contribution from the Sarajevo community.

To help the local communities celebrate the key Jewish holidays, JDC sends well-trained, Serbo-Croat-speaking individuals to Bosnia to lead holiday services and teach special classes. It also supplies matza and wine for Passover, some of which is used at the Sarajevo community seder, a special gathering that continues to attract much of the national leadership and the diplomatic corps.

JDC again subsidized the participation of a delegation of middle generation Bosnian Jews in B'Yachad, the All-Former Yugoslavia Jewish Festival, which took place late last summer on a Croatian island in the Adriatic Sea. This was in keeping with JDC's continuing efforts to promote cooperation, now and into the future, among Jewish communities throughout the former Yugoslavia.

CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

JDC provided cash relief grants to seven elderly Holocaust survivors in Croatia in 2000 and to four in Slovenia, and it helped support various other forms of social assistance. In 2000, the Zagreb Jewish community received two potentially lucrative properties back from the government, setting it clearly on the path toward financial self-sufficiency. Accordingly, it has begun to assume responsibility for funding cash relief and home care for these assistees, while JDC moves toward a technical assistance model in Croatia.

A grant from the US government's contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund (NPRF) helped provide medications and medical equipment last year for those living in Zagreb's 80-bed Lavošlav Schwarz Home for the Aged. Most of the residents are elderly Holocaust survivors, and many are bedridden. Despite the relative success of various initiatives undertaken in recent years to ease the Schwarz Home's financial crisis, it continues to rely on JDC for operational and technical support. A series of much-needed renovations completed in December 2000 was made possible by generous grants from the Claims Conference and World Jewish Relief, which were obtained with JDC's help. Funds from the Spanish government's contribution to the NPRF will help provide care for elderly Bosnian Jews who have remained in Croatia and have no valid health insurance or government pensions.

JDC helped support a variety of Jewish educational and cultural activities in Croatia and Slovenia in 2000, including youth groups and seminars, a kindergarten in Zagreb, a family Shabbat program, a choir at the Schwarz Home, Hebrew and Torah classes, an Israeli folk dance group, the Jewish Youth Music Ensemble, and outreach programs in Osijek and Rijeka. The Zagreb community began a gradual takeover of financial responsibility for the programs in Croatia in January 2001. In Ljubljana, Slovenia, an influx of
young dynamic program coordinators is prompting a startling jump in community activity.

Or Shemesh, the JDC-supported local Israeli dance troupe, which has appeared to much acclaim throughout Croatia, was invited this spring to perform in Slovenia and Italy. Claims Conference support helped make possible the opening last year of a new Holocaust Research and Documentation Center in Zagreb whose establishment was encouraged by JDC.

Middle generation leaders from Croatia attended two special Leaitid Europe training seminars in 2000. Younger activists participated in JDC's Budapest training seminar for madrichim (youth leaders) as well as in the All-Former Yugoslavia Youth Seminar which was revived last year in Belgrade. A second seminar held in March 2001 brought Jewish youth from all parts of Yugoslavia back to Pirovac, Croatia—where many had forged close links as children, spending summer after summer together at the community camp. An additional youth seminar was held in Zagreb this past April.

JDC sent two youngsters from Sibenik, the only two Jewish children living along the Dalmatian Coast, to the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary last year. It also approved a capital grant which helped launch a major renovation of the Pirovac campsite so that it can once again serve Jews of different ages from throughout this region.

The Israeli-born rabbi who came to Zagreb in 1998 officiated last year at a number of religious ceremonies that were "firsts" for a community that had been without a rabbi for over 50 years. With support from the Jewish community and JDC, he has been reaching out to the unaffiliated as well as to Jews living in the smaller localities. Together with the Zagreb community and the Jewish Agency, JDC is currently supporting the training in Israel of a native Jewish educator who would be able to serve the religious needs of this community, and perhaps some of its neighbors, into the future.

In Slovenia, JDC subsidizes the monthly visits of a rabbi from Trieste who has been helping to facilitate the revival of communal life in Ljubljana. In 2000, he presided over the first community Passover seder led by a rabbi in that city since World War II; this past April, he organized and conducted the first postwar kosher communal Passover seder prepared entirely in Slovenia. The 90 or so participants at each seder used a draft of what is believed to be the first-ever translation of the Haggada into Slovenian. This is a scholarly work-in-progress lovingly done by a skilled team of Jewish and non-Jewish volunteers, in a project made possible by seed money from JDC. JDC continues
JDC Board member Patricia Werthan Uhlmann and Kansas City Jewish Federation Executive Vice-President Alan Edelman (c.) accompanied the Torah scroll on its journey to the Sofia synagogue this past April. 

Photos: JDC

BULGARIA

The arrival of a Torah scroll donated to the Bulgarian Jewish community by Congregation Beit Shalom in Kansas City brought Jews of all ages together in the Sofia synagogue for a joyous celebration in April 2001. The gift was meant to help fill the void left when the community’s 11 Torah scrolls were stolen in February. The Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City leaders who accompanied the scroll on its long journey carried with them a message of solidarity and support for their fellow Jews in need. That message reaffirmed the special relationship with Bulgarian Jewry established by the Kansas City Federation last year when it undertook to help support both community development initiatives and relief efforts for the Jewish elderly.

For although the economic situation has stabilized, Bulgaria remains one of Europe’s poorest countries. Cuts in purchasing power brought about by a tougher fiscal policy have been particularly hard on pensioners living on fixed—and meager—incomes, and their living conditions continue to deteriorate. JDC and Shalom, the Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria, with major support from World Jewish Relief (WJR, UK), continue to answer the needs of impoverished and often isolated elderly Jews by providing them with cash assistance, home care, and other services. The prolonged heat wave that struck the Balkans in 2000 posed severe problems for the elderly, which JDC was able to ameliorate with the help of generous contributions from the Kansas City Federation and private donors.

JDC staff monitor the situation of the elderly throughout Bulgaria’s harsh winter months, checking the need for emergency assistance with heating bills or food supplies. With the generous help of Patricia Werthan Uhlmann of Kansas City, a new soup kitchen was opened last year in Varna; it is providing hot lunches to 30 elderly Jews in that small community each day. The kosher canteens in Sofia, Plovdiv, and Bourgas continue to provide elderly members of those communities with hot, nutritionally enhanced meals.

In those three cities as well as in Russe, JDC supports health and pensioners’ clubs, which provide both exercise and social programs that bring the elderly together year-round. A “golden age” summer camp program organized by Shalom and JDC has become an increasingly popular outlet, with
some 400 seniors—from Sofia and from the smaller, more isolated communities—taking part last year in sessions that nourished both body and soul.

March 2000 brought the opening of the community's first old age home in Sofia, a project made possible by generous funding from the Claims Conference and WJR, with technical assistance from JDC. JDC is providing staff training for the home, which had 16 residents by year's end. It also continues to provide professional consultation in the area of property management, working with Shalom to help the community maximize its income from restored communal properties and come closer to its goal of self-sufficiency.

Expansion and innovation in programs for different age groups characterized many of JDC's community development efforts in 2000. The year got off to a rousing start with the opening of the Family and Middle Generation Club at Beit Ha'am (the JCC) on January 1. This was followed two months later by a joyful Purim celebration with 200 participants, many of whom were new to the community. The club is supported by JDC and the Kansas City Federation and is an important part of the “30 Plus” initiative, which seeks to involve more members of the middle generation in Jewish activities. The hiring of a new director moved this initiative a strong step forward, and weekend retreats held in November and December gave over 250 adults from Sofia and the smaller communities an opportunity to take part in Jewish learning and discussion sessions. These activities are helping to strengthen the Jewish connections of an age group essential to the continuity of communal life.

JDC also helped expand youth programs throughout the country last year, with new programs for schoolchildren established in Sofia. The Good Day program for seven- to nine-year-olds, operating at the Jewish day school, provides informal Jewish after-school activities and Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations for children and parents. A new Camp on Sunday program at Beit Ha'am is proving popular with those aged 9 to 12; it combines informal Jewish learning with workshops in art, science, and computers conducted in a camp-like atmosphere. And a recently established Cultural Club is helping to increase the number of teenagers and older Jewish students regularly involved in community activities.

So many youngsters wanted to participate in the community's summer camp in Kovacevski last year that two sessions had to be organized for a total of 430 children and counselors, while about 80 other youngsters attended the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary. JDC and the Lauder Foundation also support the expanding array of extra-curricular activities provided at Shalom's unique Jewish day school, which now has about 400 Jewish students. All children at the school receive dental care at WJR's clinic (which also serves the elderly for a token fee), medical checkups, flu vaccines, vitamin supplements, and a nutritious lunch.

The exciting Internet Cafe opened in Beit Ha'am with the generous support of the late Louise Eder is drawing enthusiastic patrons from all age groups. A variety of training programs and classes are being offered at the new computer center established with the generous help of Stanley Mills.

With support from JDC, a second Sephardic Jewish festival—Esperanza 2000—brought more than 600 Jews from communities throughout the region together early last summer to celebrate Jewish culture.
Over the past year, the community's 13 recent Buncher Leadership Program graduates have taken over responsibility for youth programs and activities for the middle generation in Sofia and the smaller communities. They have also undertaken new initiatives. A two-year training program for teenagers and young adults, for example, was recently established by one of the Buncher graduates. Called the Hadracha College, it operates within the Center for Informal Jewish Education for Youth—which is run by Shalom with JDC's support—and was designed to train the newest generation of youth leaders, counselors, and Sunday School teachers.

These Buncher graduates and other local young leaders are carrying on the work initiated by the dynamic JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteers who served this community through much of the past decade and helped bring its informal Jewish education and leadership development efforts to this point.

In like manner, the young Bulgarian who completed his JDC-supported religious studies in Israel last year and returned to Bulgaria is now hard at work organizing holiday celebrations and teaching Jewish traditions to both children and adults in Sofia and in the more distant and isolated communities. He too is carrying forward the efforts of his mentor and supervisor, the Sephardic rabbi from Israel who, with JDC's support, has served for over half a decade as Bulgaria's Chief Rabbi and has done so much to further this community's Jewish reawakening.
IN BULGARIA:

- JDC and Shalom provided monthly cash relief to about 1,220 elderly or disabled Jews in 2000.

- The day care center for the elderly at Beit Ha'am, the Jewish community center in Sofia, provided some 92 pensioners each day with hot lunches, exercise programs, medical consultations, and social activities.

- With help from the Sofia municipality and JDC, Shalom provided meals and home care to some 45 homebound elderly, who also received regular visits from a team of medical professionals and a group of community volunteers.

- JDC provided flu vaccines for Jewish elderly throughout the country last fall, thereby helping to keep them well and reducing their need for medicines that they cannot afford to buy.

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia's ongoing process of economic reform and the various austerity measures that have been imposed have led to high unemployment, a fall in living standards, and cuts in government funding for health and social services. The Jewish community of Slovakia has very limited resources and needs the support of JDC and the help of restitution funds to deliver much needed social services to aging Holocaust survivors in the face of soaring food and utility costs. This is particularly true in small peripheral localities like Nove Zamky, for example, where 80 of the town's 110 Jews are over the age of 65.

Overall, 69 elderly and impoverished Jews received cash assistance from the Jewish community last year with JDC's help, while medical and home care services were provided to 80 aging and ill Holocaust survivors in Bratislava and 158 in Kosice. Cuts in national programs coupled with the rising cost of medicines have increased demand beyond available staff or resources. A grant from the US government's contribution to the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund helped alleviate the situation last year, enabling 82 survivors to purchase vital medications no longer provided to them by the state.

These grant funds are also being used to provide additional home care and help the community upgrade services, as well as to purchase equipment that will increase the mobility of the elderly.

A modern, newly equipped kosher kitchen, which opened in Bratislava in September 2000 with the help of funds from the Claims Conference, is currently preparing between 160 and 175 meals a day; these are served in a bright on-premises dining room, at the community old age home, or through the meals-on-wheels program. The Kosice community made urgent structural repairs to its kosher kitchen last year with a loan from JDC; the kitchen currently serves between 60 and 80 subsidized meals each day.

A new day care center for the elderly has been built in Kosice with support from the Claims Conference; in addition to providing daily services and activities, the center will serve as a respite home for those who can no longer be left without supervision. The community's Ohel David Old Age Home, which was opened in Bratislava in 1998 with Claims Conference funds, currently has 32 residents. With the government unable to fulfill its financial commitments to this project, JDC is currently seeking extra-budgetary contributions to help the community meet the operating costs for this facility, which is now in severe financial straits.

JDC supports a variety of programs aimed at strengthening Jewish identity and broadening the base of Jewish knowledge. It helps fund the publication of a student newspaper as well as the activities of the Slovak Union of Jewish Students. With some 170 active members aged 15 to 25, the Union is considered the best in Eastern Europe. It organizes a wide range of popular activities, including Shabbat gatherings and holiday celebrations, weekend seminars, and a summer camp. To further Jewish education for the youngest generation, the Union recently developed a monthly, full-day workshop for children aged 8 to 14. Jewish parents from all over Slovakia have been driving their children to Bratislava to participate in this program, which JDC is currently helping to expand and extend to the smaller communities.

Each year, JDC enables some 80 children and counselors from Slovakia to attend the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. In 2000, it also sent 25 Slovak youth to Szarvas to participate in the European Union of Jewish Students' Summer University.
Older community members benefit from JDC’s support for the Hidden Children’s Association, which sponsors monthly cultural and social gatherings and Jewish holiday celebrations. JDC enabled the community to print and distribute 500 copies of a Slovak-language Shabbat prayerbook, and it continues to subsidize the shipment of matza and the provision of kosher meat. The demand for these items has been increasing as more families seek to return to Jewish tradition. An American-born rabbi has been serving Jews living in Bratislava and the surrounding area, and JDC has been sending volunteer rabbis to Kosice to lead High Holiday and Passover services while it helps that community recruit a full-time rabbi who can respond to its varied needs.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The return of communal properties has enabled the Czech Jewish communities to become nearly self-sufficient financially. This has allowed JDC to continue to reduce its budget appropriation and concentrate almost exclusively on the provision of technical assistance. At the community’s request, JDC remains involved in the planning of welfare programs and it provides various training opportunities for local personnel. It hosted a two-day seminar in Vienna in 2000 for Prague’s social service professionals, including the staff of the new Charles Jordan Jewish Old Age Home; the seminar included a valuable exchange with Viennese Jewish community colleagues. JDC has provided technical aid and, on a temporary basis, limited extra-budgetary funds to help the local Jewish communities deal with an influx of Jewish individuals and families fleeing situations of distress in countries further to the east and seeking asylum in the Czech Republic.

A generous grant from the Claims Conference, which was facilitated and is being monitored by JDC, is enabling the local communities to subsidize needed medical care for aging Holocaust survivors. JDC helps support the Tolerance Foundation, a voluntary organization of Czech mental health professionals that has organized special training workshops for those treating survivors. With technical support and modest initial financial help from JDC, three daytime activity centers for the Jewish elderly have been established, in Prague—at the Charles Jordan Home, in Ostrava, and, most recently, in the Moravian town of Olomouc. Transportation for the Jewish elderly in Brno and its surroundings has been greatly facilitated by last year’s purchase, with Claims Conference funds, of a specially adapted mini-van.

The February 2000 ceremonies marking the dedication of the Charles Jordan Home in Prague included a public lecture at the Jewish Museum commemorating the life and work of Charles Jordan, the former Executive Vice-Chairman

The Besamim Israeli folk dance group at a Purim celebration in Prague, March 2001. Photo: JDC.

of JDC who lost his life in Prague in August 1967 under circumstances that have never been fully clarified. The Jordan Home, the result of a Prague Jewish community initiative implemented with assistance from JDC, is being financed by the local community and has been equipped in part with Claims Conference funds.

Over the past decade, JDC has facilitated the development of a pluralistic Jewish life in the Czech Republic by making small grants to new organizations such as Bejt Praba (the Open Jewish Community of Prague) and Bejt Simcha (the Progressive Jewish Congregation of Prague); both are now verging on self-sufficiency, and JDC phased out its funding to Bejt Praba in 2000.

JDC has also actively encouraged the development of a variety of cultural and informal educational programs for Jewish children, including a children's theater group that has received generous help from London's Jewish Child's Day. Bejt Elend, a now flourishing, independent, twice-weekly afternoon program of informal Jewish education for elementary school age children, has benefited from JDC's professional guidance and its help in securing extra-budgetary support. The Jewish summer program organized by the Chief Rabbi in Prague remains very popular with local youngsters, attracting some 50 participants each year.

Israeli folk dancing programs continue to flourish in the different localities, with groups for beginners and advanced dancers and public performances staged throughout the year. JDC provides various forms of assistance to the organizers of Machol Czechia, the annual local Israeli dance festival, which has become a high point for activities in this field. These dance groups and other cultural programs have succeeded in involving new participants in Jewish community life and have helped to create a new pool of potential activists and community leaders.

ALBANIA

The emergency situation in Albania ended last year with the return to Kosovo of the half million refugees who had flooded the country during the height of the crisis. Most of the international agencies followed the refugees, taking their aid programs with them but leaving behind the inflation they generated—which continues to be particularly burdensome for the elderly. As economic conditions continue to deteriorate in this already impoverished country, the financial assistance that JDC provides to 10 needy elderly members of this tiny Jewish community is more vital than ever. JDC funds are also used to furnish scarce or prohibitively expensive medications to the chronically ill and to other Jews in need.

A growing number of the community's high school and college age youth have decided to continue their studies abroad. They are motivated not only by the lack of prospects at home for a sound economic future, but also by the desire to seek a more vibrant Jewish future. JDC has tried to help them in their endeavors, especially those who have decided to build their future in Israel.

JDC continues to send in Jewish educational materials and matza for Passover, and to support community celebrations of the Jewish holidays. These are important events in the lives of the small number of Jews who remain in Albania, providing almost the only opportunity for them to come together as a group. Last year, community members for the first time gathered on their own initiative to celebrate Passover as a cohesive community, while celebrations for Hanukka and Shavuot were organized by the Italian youth instructor whom JDC has been sending periodically to Albania since 1996. Also in 2000, a young community member became the first Albanian Jew to join the JDC contingent on the March of the Living.
HELPING TO STRENGTHEN JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE

JDC'S OBJECTIVES IN EUROPE

• JDC's involvement in Europe today focuses on Community Development, while it 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: LEADERSHIP TRAINING; COMMUNITY PLANNING; NETWORKING; WEST-EAST INTERCHANGE

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 300 Jewish leaders from all parts of Europe have taken part to date in Leatid training seminars, including most of the current presidents of European Jewish communities. ECJL’s founding 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 Top Leaders’ Seminar, Leatid's flagship event, continues to bring heads of Jewish communities from Portugal to Russia together each winter in Venice’s Old Jewish Quarter for sessions on community management and discussions of current Jewish issues. An alumni meeting was added last year to provide a refresher course for senior leaders along with an opportunity for policy discussions. This was in keeping with the role Leatid has come to play in providing Jewish leaders with a vehicle for networking and a source of ongoing learning and enrichment.

The training needs of more junior board members were addressed through a Leaders XXI program for some 20 participants last year, while professionals were offered a newly designed seminar which tackles their changing needs in diverse areas. A generous private donor has enabled Leatid to extend
its activities in the Baltic countries and neighboring areas, with special programs designed for local leaders and a Baltics-wide training effort organized as a joint undertaking with the Buncher Program.

**Lea lid** has been expanding its leadership training programs for rabbis, an initiative begun in January 2000 in cooperation with the Conference of European Rabbis and the different religious streams. **Lea lid**'s thematic seminars focus in depth on particular issues, such as fundraising or working with adults, while a special workshop was recently developed to help Jewish leaders improve their negotiating skills. Jewish communities in over half a dozen localities have taken part to date in **Lea lid**'s individually tailored Community Seminars, which provide a citywide discussion and planning forum for all local organizations. The **Lea lid** Web site is fast becoming a “virtual training center,” with Online Leadership Pages e-mailed regularly to all **Lea lid** fellows and a recently launched “eGroup” for those seeking to develop new programming for Jewish adults. The latter is in line with JDC's increasing emphasis on helping Jewish communities involve more members of the middle generation in communal life.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES (ECJC)

With 58 member organizations and communities in 37 countries, the European Council coordinates a vibrant continent-wide program of seminars, encounters, and cultural events and has become a powerful tool for reaching across the old demarcation lines between East and West. This was readily apparent at the end of May 2001 when 721 Jews from 41 countries gathered in Madrid and Toledo for the second General Assembly (GA) of European Jewry, which was organized by ECJC in collaboration with JDC. In an atmosphere suffused with Jewish history, delegates met in plenary and workshop sessions, eager to share experiences, discuss common problems, and seek ways to establish and implement joint projects. A delegation of top ECJC leaders was invited for an audience with the King of Spain and presented him with a mezuzah from Jerusalem on behalf of European Jewry.

The breadth of discussions at the GA's 52 sessions and the enthusiasm generated by the participants made it clear that the Madrid gathering had surpassed the expectations generated by the success of the first European GA, which was held in Nice in 1999. Momentum was maintained between meetings when the ECJC brought the presidents of European Jewish communities together in Barcelona in May 2000 to plan joint initiatives on issues of common concern. A follow-up presidents' meeting was held in Madrid in parallel with the GA.

ECJC is JDC's partner in community development in Europe, co-sponsoring **Lea lid** 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. With JDC's support, ECJC last year organized the first European Conference on Jewish Education, which brought teachers, principals, and lay leaders together in Budapest. The conference resulted in the establishment of JEDES, the Jewish European Department of Educational Service, which will serve as a resource for those seeking to improve the quality of Jewish education across the continent.
THE BUNCHER COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2000, 184 lay and professional leaders from 107 communities in 14 countries benefited from Buncher Community Leadership Program training. This Israel-based program, established in 1989 as a partnership of the Buncher Family Foundation, the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh, and JDC, continues to be a mainstay of JDC's leadership development and community building efforts. Over 130 seminar days were conducted last year, including six Israel Seminars, seven in-country programs, and four seminars for Buncher graduates.

Two groups with a total of 40 candidates from different leadership levels in the former Soviet Union (FSU) completed the Buncher Israel Seminar last year. The main focus of their training was on ways to improve outreach efforts and build more inclusive “communities without walls,” where every Jew can find a place. Three new Master Thematic Seminars were conducted for some 50 FSU Buncher graduates, with the aim of adding marketing and communications skills to their leadership tool belts.

The Buncher Program's first all-Romanian Israel Seminar was held last September. Nine participants from seven Romanian communities, including younger leaders aged 25 to 50, took part in a multi-generational learning experience, which followed on the heels of two equally successful sessions held earlier in Romania itself. The Baltic Jewish communities were also well represented at the Israel Seminar last year, in a training effort undertaken in conjunction with Leatid Europe.

In a joint venture with JDC-Kiev, 40 students active in the Kiev Hillel are currently receiving stipends from the Buncher Scholarship Program, which was initiated in 1999 to aid university students who are simultaneously engaged in volunteer or professional work for the Jewish community. The Kiev students are also participating in a series of young leadership training seminars. In November 2000, 12 students from Bulgaria were awarded Buncher Scholarships; the announcement was front page news in a country where young people are finding it harder and harder to finance their studies.

The international association of Buncher graduates, an alumni program established with additional funds from the Buncher Family Foundation and support from the Pincus Fund, continues to expand its activities. A descriptive directory of alumni is now available on the Buncher Program's updated Web site (www.buncher.org). Designed as a “virtual learning community,” the site is facilitating networking and the exchange of information among those engaged in serving Jewish communities the world over.
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 organize events and create a richer Jewish life. The regions link communities which have a common geographic, cultural, language, and/or historic base, and they emphasize integration and cross-fertilization between East and West. The Mediterranean and Central European Regions are now well established, and a Balkan/Black Sea Region is in the process of development. Programs within regions have proceeded along two tracks, one for community professionals and lay leaders and another for community members with common interests, with activities and gatherings for young adults and singles proving to be particularly successful.

INTERNET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Over the past year, JDC has been developing a series of Web sites that can be used as tools by professionals and lay leaders in communities of varying sizes. Presented in four languages at www.jewishprograms.org, the Web sites provide access to a huge online database of programming ideas and resource materials, which can be “custom-mixed” to fit each user’s specific needs. The Web sites also facilitate networking and should prove particularly useful to those working in the more isolated Jewish communities.

THE EUROPEAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS (EUJS)

JDC provides EUJS with financial support for its Summer University, which regularly brings together some 300 Jewish students from all parts of Europe. Last year’s conclave was held for the first time at the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp in Szarvas, Hungary. Through Leatif Europe, JDC also provides EUJS’ leaders with training and professional guidance for various programs. These now include a sleek new Web site (www.eujs.org) designed to promote Jewish identity and inter-community contacts among Jewish youth.

SPAIN

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. JDC has also been working with the Spanish Federation of Jewish Communities, which is deeply involved in the regional and pan-European programs described above.

THE BALTIC COUNTRIES: LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ESTONIA, AND THE KALININGRAD REGION

Jewish community development has been proceeding apace throughout this part of Europe, and the region’s three main cities—Riga, Vilnius, and Tallinn—have established comprehensive communal frameworks that include social services, Jewish day schools, and Jewish community centers (JCCs). Generous support from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and from Sweden’s Baltic Forum has made it possible to expand needed welfare programs for the region’s elderly and increasingly ailing Holocaust survivors.

A worsening economic situation and the achievement of greater access to outlying areas has resulted in a quadrupling of the welfare caseload in recent years, as JDC helped individual communities adapt the Hesed-style
welfare organizations it developed in the former Soviet Union to meet local needs. Volunteer networks have been established throughout the region; thousands of food packages are delivered before Jewish holidays; hundreds of hot meals and meals-on-wheels are provided in each locality; and “warm homes” programs are helping to reduce the social isolation of many Jewish seniors. Care is taken by all those providing these services to protect the dignity and self-respect of the elderly.

A joint program between the Jewish community and the Riga Jewish Hospital has begun providing for the health care needs of the Jewish elderly, with JDC funneling in-kind donations of needed supplies to the hospital. A new initiative with Jewish Healthcare International will furnish the hospital with updated equipment and provide additional training for its medical and social service staff.

The renewal of Jewish education and Jewish studies in cities that once were renowned centers of Jewish learning has been a major focus of JDC’s activities in this region. JDC sponsored a Jewish studies program in Vilnius developed by the local community and Vilnius University, and it helped establish a Center for Jewish Studies at Riga University. Lecturers and teachers from both of these programs have been actively involved in Jewish communal events and activities.

Jewish libraries have been supplied to the local communities by JDC, which has helped to develop many of the new Jewish kindergartens, day, and Sunday schools. JDC provides training courses for Jewish teachers and school principals, including regional programs, and it has been working with the schools to create extra-curricular activities with Jewish content that can involve the entire family.

Jewish children’s clubs are active throughout the region. Vilnius’ Club Ilan, which has been celebrating its tenth anniversary, provides a year-round schedule of activities for some 150 children; its success has been duplicated by the Le’at Le’at Children’s Club in Riga and a newly opened children’s center in Tallinn. Ilan’s programs have also been replicated in smaller towns like Kaunas, Siauliai, and Klaipeda. Youngsters from each of the Baltic countries and the Kaliningrad region have been regular participants in the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation/JDC International Summer Camp at Szarvas, Hungary.

Regional exchanges and activities have been a key aspect of Baltic Jewish renewal, and they continue to be encouraged by JDC. In addition to the Baltic Knesset or General Assembly, a number of regional seminars were conducted last year, there were training programs for youth counselors, and a variety of events were organized for the region’s young adults.

Over the past two years, many of the Jewish community centers (JCCs) opened in the mid-90s have been renovated and enlarged to accommodate the more inclusive programming that JDC has been helping to develop, with activities for every age group. The Alef Community Center of Riga, whose recent renovation was sponsored by Amb. Joseph B. Gildenhorn and his family, JDC, and the local community, has been moving full steam ahead, with a steadily growing number of members and programs. With Europe Community Development Committee Chair William Marcus in attendance,
a dedication ceremony was held in Tallinn in September 2000 for the Dor va
Dor Community Center. Renovated with help from JDC, this newly modern­
ized complex includes a synagogue, a welfare office, and multi-purpose activity
halls. JCC activities are under way in Vilnius even as building renovations there
continue, and Vilnius is also providing support to the small JCC in Kaunas.

Programs at the new youth center in Riga include Shabbat and holiday
celebrations, workshops and training sessions, a job databank, and summer and
winter camps. Virtually all these activities are being run by local graduates of the
Buncher Program and Leatid Europe, indicating that JDC's leadership develop­
ment efforts are indeed bearing fruit. A
second all-Baltic group of trainees com­
pleted the Buncher Program in Israel
last year, and many of the young leaders
spearheading the JCCs' revitalization
were among the participants. JDC has
also been encouraging the establish­
ment of local fundraising bodies like the Esera
Fund in Latvia and Estonia's synagogue
renovation campaign.

JDC has been working with
some 20 small Jewish communities
outside the major cities, helping to
design programs that tackle each locali­
ty's particular needs. It has also been
enabling communities to establish new
connections via the Internet. The three
national federations have been strength­
ened so that they can provide more effective assistance to these smaller commu­
nities and to isolated pockets of Jews. The overarching goal is to provide every
Jew in this region with the same standard of service, with regard both to welfare
programs and to community development activities.

TRANSMIGRANTS

JDC's transmigrant caseload is concentrated in Vienna. Although
there was a slight increase in the number of assistees last year, the period of
stay has remained 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 is currently
being used by only a small number of people, but it remains important since
the need for housing grows with any rise in the caseload.

The range of activities offered to children and adults awaiting
processing was expanded last year. In addition to English classes and special
programs for the Jewish holidays organized in cooperation with the Vienna
Jewish community and local rabbis, computers and Internet access have been
made available to clients at the JDC office. This is fast becoming a key attrac­
tion, and not only among the younger clients. The Vienna office also provides
a variety of support for JDC's programs in Eastern Europe.
HELPING TO MAINTAIN THE INSTITUTIONS NEEDED FOR JEWISH LIFE

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

JDC's continuing support for the Jewish population that remains in Morocco is vital to the community's well-being. This is true of the actual assistance rendered as well as of the reassurance it provides to this small but vibrant segment of world Jewry. The JDC Board members who took part in the Africa and Asia Area Committee Mission last September saw evidence of this at firsthand.

The unsettled mood that has prevailed among community members in recent months has adversely affected local fundraising efforts. This is especially regrettable in view of the fact that community support for essential programs and institutions had been increasing steadily over the past few years, as budget constraints forced cuts in JDC appropriations. The community has been utilizing its reserves to cover monthly costs and has requested loans from JDC to avoid disruptions in vital services.

JDC continues to help support the Casablanca community's social welfare program, which provided monthly cash assistance—covering only basic necessities—to 113 needy families last year, or a total of 289 individuals. An additional 84 families living in eight smaller communities were also helped. The threshold for qualifying for assistance was adjusted last year to take account of the increase in living costs. These rising costs have made the need for services more critical than ever among the elderly and impoverished Jews who constitute a disproportionate share of this community. Special grants were made to 77 people in 2000 from a fund set up to help with emergencies and special needs.

With JDC's assistance, the Casablanca community maintains a home for the aged, which currently provides residential and medical care to 66 residents. JDC has been encouraging the community to develop a day care center for the elderly within the Casablanca home, and it supports the efforts of Ozar Hatorah and Lubavitch to provide religious and social activities for the elderly. In Tangier, JDC has been helping the local community maintain two small nursing homes with a total of 23 residents.
Over the past year, some 1,320 individuals—from infants to the elderly—benefited from the medical and dental services provided by OSE (Oeuvre Secours aux Enfants) with JDC’s support. Given the lack of local facilities and the rapidly rising cost of private care, the demand for OSE’s services has increased tremendously among Jewish families, including those who have recently fallen on hard times. Emergency assistance is also provided to both needy and middle income families who cannot meet the high cost of private medical care at home or abroad when such treatment becomes necessary; 98 people benefited from this special fund in 2000.

With JDC's encouragement and support, OSE initiated a preventive health care program which benefited 250 people in Casablanca last year. The program includes screenings for cancer, cardio-vascular problems, and osteoporosis, and flu vaccines were administered to some 600 aged and vulnerable members of the community.

JDC continues to subsidize the three Jewish school networks—Ozar Hatorah, Lubavitch, and Ittibad—that together provide both a secular and a Jewish education to about 950 youngsters. While JDC has encouraged the schools to raise tuition to make up for budget shortfalls, it has established a scholarship fund to help families—particularly those with more than two children—cope; scholarships were awarded to nearly 200 children last year.

JDC has been urging the schools to incorporate computers into their curriculum. Lubavitch has slowly begun to do so, and Ozar Hatorah introduced computer classes at its primary school in 2000. JDC pays stipends to the teachers participating in two adult Jewish study programs for men and women, which had a total of 34 participants in 2000.

JDC helps subsidize the very successful Jewish youth programs operated by DEJJ (the Department Educatif de la Jeunesse Juive au Maroc), whose Casablanca center serves some 80 children each day. The center is one of the very few places in the city today where Jewish youth can congregate in a worry-free environment. JDC funds go primarily toward helping children from lower income families participate in the center’s sports and computer programs and its social and cultural activities. JDC has also been subsidizing the attendance of the needier children at the summer and winter camps conducted by DEJJ, by Lubavitch, and by Ozar Hatorah, programs which benefited some 250 children last year.

JDC has been helping the small Jewish population of Tunisia maintain essential communal institutions and services so that all remaining members of this Jewish community can live with dignity and the children have access to Jewish education. During the course of the study mission made last September by JDC Board members, JDC’s many decades of support for Tunisian Jewry and for its Jewish schools was warmly and frequently acknowledged.

In cooperation with the local Jewish communities, JDC currently provides essential cash assistance each month to some 80 ill and impoverished elderly Jews living in Tunis and in four provincial towns. Together with the Tunis community, it is engaged in an effort to make basic housing repairs and ensure that even the poorest Jews in Tunis live in conditions that are clean and decent. JDC subsidizes medical care for all welfare assistees and for another 40...
needy Jews who reside in the Jewish Home for the Aged in La Goulette, on the outskirts of Tunis.

As a result of research undertaken by JDC on the impact of the Holocaust on Tunisian Jewry, the Claims Conference has now approved a nationwide grant to improve health care for elderly survivors, and needy elderly Tunisian Jews have also been deemed eligible for assistance from the Swiss Humanitarian Fund. The national distribution committee that has been set up under JDC’s guidance will also enable the community to obtain greater insight into the social and medical problems facing these elderly Jews.

This year. On the island of Jerba, where enrollment in the Jewish schools has been increasing each year, JDC continues to support two Jewish schools in Hara Kabira. The boys’ yeshiva, which has been a major Jewish institution in Jerba for centuries, had an enrollment of 100 this year. The other school, Torah V’Hinukh, which is funded by JDC and the parents of the schoolchildren, provides both a Jewish and general education to the children enrolled in its classes, which begin at the nursery level. There were 171 students, primarily girls, enrolled this year, most of whom would otherwise go without formal Jewish schooling. The school also provides a few hours of instruction each day in secular subjects to many of the yeshiva students.

JDC also helps fund the nursery/kindergarten and Jewish schools for girls and boys in the small community of Zarzis, which had a total of 37 children this year.

Generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation for a major renovation of the La Goulette Jewish Home has helped make it the best facility of its kind in the country. In addition to technical assistance, JDC provided an interest-free loan for this project, which the community has recently begun to repay. In cooperation with the Tunis Jewish community, JDC is currently developing a program of recreational and cultural activities for the residents of the home. It also co-sponsors monthly consultations by a French psychiatrist who has volunteered to follow the psychological status of the residents, many of whom are mentally frail.

JDC continues to fund 70 percent of the budget of the only Jewish school in Tunis, which is run by the Lubavitch movement and served 70 pupils educational standards, and it has been providing new Jewish educational materials and other supplies. It has been helping to repair and refurbish classrooms and expand facilities and has furnished the schools with new play equipment with the aid of London’s Jewish Child’s Day. A recent donation from the Durschlag family of Chicago will permit JDC to continue these improvements.

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 has no diplomatic relations and only very limited communications with Israel, JDC has been serving as the arm of the organized Jewish world in this country. It has made departure arrangements for community members, receiving generous support for these efforts from World Jewish Relief (UK). Some 800 Jews have left Yemen since 1992; many were aided by JDC envoys who made repeated trips into the country to complete the difficult and complex process of bringing families out. JDC remains responsible for the welfare of this Jewish community and, in partnership with the Jewish Agency, for its aliya.

OTHER MOSLEM COUNTRIES

In the aftermath of the 1999 earthquakes in TURKEY, JDC, in cooperation with the Jewish community and government agencies, has been involved in a variety of non-sectarian relief and rehabilitation projects, which are described in the JDC-IDP section of this annual report.

While the country’s recent economic difficulties have deeply affected the Turkish Jewish community, the community remains financially self-sufficient and is not in need of JDC funding. However, it has requested technical assistance from JDC over the past few years to upgrade various communal services.

Renovation projects completed with the help of JDC-sponsored experts and generous support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation include new physiotherapy and occupational therapy facilities at the Ohr Haba’ym Jewish Hospital and an occupational therapy room and space for volunteers at the Jewish Home for the Aged. JDC has also helped to improve the programs and activities offered at these two Istanbul institutions. In January 2001, a JDC Jewish Service Corps volunteer began working with the Izmir community to strengthen informal Jewish educational programs for Jewish youth and young adults.

In EGYPT, JDC, in partnership with the tiny Jewish communities in Cairo and Alexandria, provides cash assistance to some 34 indigent elderly, along with funds for medical care. It also covers the cost of nursing home care for three elderly Jews in Alexandria. At the community’s request, JDC recently shipped in wheelchairs, canes, and other assistive devices for the elderly, and a consultant from its former Soviet Union welfare program was sent to demonstrate how to use the equipment most effectively. JDC sends a cantor to Alexandria for the Jewish holidays, and it provides Jews both there and in Cairo with Passover supplies and other kosher...
foods. The Alexandria community shares in the cost of these items with the proceeds from the sale of a synagogue.

JDC provides supplementary financial help and Passover supplies to one remaining assistee in ALGERIA, and it keeps in contact with this frail elderly woman via telephone and mail from Paris. 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

Through private clinics that it supervises in Addis Ababa and Gondar City, JDC has been providing humanitarian medical assistance to thousands of Felas Mora who moved from their villages to these two cities to await the processing of their requests to go to Israel. In leaving their villages, the Felas Mora abandoned a self-sufficient agrarian lifestyle and now live under difficult conditions.

In addition to routine examinations and treatment, the services offered at the clinics, which undergo constant re-evaluation, include testing labs, TB treatment, health education, and a program for pregnant and nursing women. Health facilitators act as liaisons between the clinic staff and the Felas Mora communities. JDC, through these two clinics, has a supplementary feeding program open to children and adults who are malnourished, pregnant women and nursing mothers who are in need, special social cases, and people with tuberculosis. The clinics have brought the mortality rate among the Felas Mora significantly below that of the general Ethiopian population.

JDC continues to provide all those who are accepted for aliya with up to one month of care and maintenance while they await their departure for Israel.

INDIA

Ed. Note: See the JDC-IDP section of this annual report for an account of relief and reconstruction efforts undertaken following the January 2001 earthquake in Gujarat State.

The Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center (EPJCC) in Bombay was named this past spring in loving memory of the woman who helped to make it a reality. In the eleven years that Evelyn Peters served the Indian Jewish community as JDC's Country Director, JDC was able to establish vital new programs and bring a new spirit to Indian Jewish life. This two-year-old JCC, which has quickly become a magnet for Jewish activities in the Bombay/Thane area, is a fitting symbol of these efforts.

Supported in major part by funds from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the EPJCC has attracted Jews of all ages heretofore uninvolved in Jewish life. It already boasts over 175 paying members, and its board of directors is made up of people of stature within the community who are proud to be part of this new institution. On Sundays, it is literally packed with programs and people, and it has become a focal point for Jewish holiday celebrations. Overall, the EPJCC has provided a more accessible venue than
JDC's office for many of the informal Jewish educational programs and activities that have been established over the years by JDC's Bombay staff, its expatriate Jewish Service Corps (JSC) volunteers, and a dedicated group of local community volunteers.

Glancing at a JDC-India calendar of activities for any month this past year, one is struck by the volume and breadth of the programming listed: supplementary Sunday school classes for children and workshops for their parents; Shabbat and holiday classes and programs; weekend and vacation camps for all ages as well as for family groups; day camps, youth groups, and young leadership camps; beginner and advanced classes in Hebrew and a variety of Jewish subjects; bar and bat mitzvah classes, a Rosh Chodesh women's discussion group; and meetings and outings of the ever-expanding Golden Age Club. Increasing use is also being made of the Jewish library now housed at the EPJCC—one of five established by JDC in different localities—and of the center's computers, which provide access to the large store of Jewish knowledge available via the Internet.

The two Jewish educators who served as Jewish Service Corps volunteers in India in 1999-2000, and the couple who succeeded them in 2000-2001, played an active part in these activities, helping especially to enrich their Jewish content. The Naar Club, a new program for teenagers initiated by one of this year's volunteers, has evoked a tremendous response.

Early in 2001, the newly ordained young rabbi from Bombay whose studies in Israel were supported by JDC returned to India to serve the community for a multi-year period, the first Bene Israel rabbi in four decades. His impact on programming is already apparent, adding to the variety of classes and the number of localities served, with special holiday and Shabbat celebrations and a host of new study sessions. He oversaw the production of Passover matza this past spring and was involved in the seven seders organized by JDC for a total of over 550 participants.

*Kol India*, JDC's colorful quarterly publication, is read by the majority of Jews in India today, bringing them news of events and activities of interest locally and around the world. It has become an important vehicle for Jewish education, and has been helping to reinforce the Jewish identity and sense of group affiliation of this widely-scattered Jewish population. The new rabbi has taken over responsibility for the "Ask the Rabbi" column, and he is hoping to share his views with the community on a variety of topics.

The number of individuals receiving modest monthly grants from JDC increased from 117 to 145 in 2000, while JDC's two social workers have...
been working to strengthen the social assistance program, aided by the trained social worker who served as one of this year’s JSC volunteers. The number of home and hospital visits made to assistees has increased; job training efforts for the younger clients have been attempted; and physical improvements have been made in the living conditions of the most needy, particularly with regard to safety measures. Expanding on last year’s initiative to extend the benefits of the popular camp program to assistees, two outings—a weekend Shabbaton and a picnic—were organized for welfare clients in 2000.

JDC pays for medical care for the neediest individuals, and it continues to sponsor monthly medical clinics—directed by a dedicated volunteer doctor—in Alibag for the Jews living in the Konkan coast villages. The clinic days are often combined with informal Jewish educational programs for children and adults.

The possibility is currently being explored of establishing a second small old age home in the Bombay area that would duplicate the caring homelike atmosphere achieved at Bayiti. This tiny much-praised residence in Manpada, which provided a haven for homeless and infirm elderly who had known nothing but hardship in their lives, was opened by JDC in 1996 with generous support from the Weinberg Foundation. Activities at Bayiti have increased this past year. A young man living nearby has been bringing his family on Friday evenings to usher in the Sabbath with the residents, and one of this year’s JSC volunteers established a weekly activity program for the residents and a group of elderly from Thane. The latter are driven to Manpada in the van purchased for Bayiti with Weinberg Foundation help.

The Israel-based Buncher Community Leadership Program continues to occupy a critical place in JDC’s local community development and training efforts. Sixteen Buncher graduates are working on educational and community building efforts in over half a dozen localities, and four new candidates began the training program in Israel in January 2001. Follow-up sessions are regularly organized by JDC to facilitate networking among the alumni and add to their skills; a seminar was held in India for all Buncher graduates in September 2000.

Over the past year, JDC has also put together special training programs for local staff, with study visits to the US and Hungary made last year by JDC’s country manager and a training stint in Israel arranged for the manager of the JCC. A study visit to Szarvas was organized this summer for the new rabbi and a local youth leader to enable them to explore the wide possibilities of Jewish camping.

JDC’s accomplishments in India over the past decade and the warm relationships established by its staff have earned it a reputation among local leaders as a neutral convener of the disparate groups that comprise the Indian Jewish population. As Evelyn Peters used to say, when the different communities know JDC is involved in a given program, they come. This is true of the All-India conferences convened by JDC each year, and it is true of JDC’s local Advisory Committee. Established less than ten years ago, the committee today is a representative body for all of the local communities. It is a well-respected, devoted, and capable group that works together for the good of Indian Jewry, and it is proving invaluable in helping to move this community forward on the path to self-sufficiency.

**CHINA AND MYANMAR**

JDC provided assistance payments to three elderly individuals in CHINA last year, while in MYANMAR it aided six indigent members of the tiny Jewish community in Yangon.
JDC'S OBJECTIVES IN LATIN AMERICA

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

It does this by responding to the communities' requests for technical assistance and by helping them to mobilize and make the fullest use possible of their own resources.

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 works 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 reestablishment 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 urgent short-term needs by establishing a bridge of support to the community. It is providing direct aid to those elderly in greatest need; furnishing technical assistance to the communal structures and institutions, welfare centers, and volunteer network established with its support; and helping with job training efforts and the development of employment opportunities.

ARGENTINA

The toll that Argentina's sharp recession has taken on the Jewish community's middle class mainstream is but one of a series of major traumas that has shaken the Jewish community to its core. The series began with the still unsolved bombings of the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and the AMIA Jewish community building in 1994. The more recent collapse of financial institutions that had been major sources of communal support, and the institutional collapse of AMIA itself under the weight of a $20 million-plus debt, combined with the country's continuing economic crisis to leave Jewish community members and the institutions they depend on reeling, and in need of emergency aid.

A new class of Jews, the so-called "new poor," has been created, comprised of former middle management professionals and small business owners who have lost their jobs and income. Many have been forced to settle for work at salaries 75 to 90 percent below their previous level; others are without any income at all and are fast losing hope. Those at greatest risk today are people in their 40s and 50s who have traditionally been the economic backbone of the family unit. By default, many families are now being supported by adult children in their 20s who are living at home and helping parents and grandparents. And Jewish institutional life continues to suffer, because even those who remain in decent jobs have been scaling back their communal involvement to conserve financial resources. As a result, day school enrollments and synagogue and Jewish

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1 Figure is approximate.
Community Center (JCC) memberships have declined precipitously over the past few years.

In the last two years, the number of Jews living below the poverty line has ballooned from 4,000 to over 25,000. To help the community respond to increasingly urgent social welfare needs, the JDC Board of Directors approved an emergency grant of $1 million in December 2000, in addition to its regular appropriation of $339,000 for 2001.

For the past five years, the young volunteer pictured at left has been helping to distribute food packages to community members in need; JDC Board member Jodi Schwartz (at l. in 2nd photo from r.) at the community baking company JDC helped develop; clothing distribution at a Social Assistance Center.

Photos: Roy Mittelman

Half of this emergency grant is being used for direct assistance, with a food basket and medicines provided each month to 1,000 of the poorest elderly Jews. The other half is going toward a new small business revolving loan fund and to expand the job creation, employment programs, and social welfare initiatives that JDC has helped its local partners develop in response to this ongoing crisis.

Under the auspices of JDC, the local Tzedaka Foundation, and the Volunteer Network that JDC helped initiate, some 11,000 individuals are currently being aided through the Volunteer Network and Social Assistance Centers that have been established in JCCs, day schools, and synagogues throughout the greater Buenos Aires area and in the outlying provinces.

About 73 percent of those receiving help with food, shelter, medicines, and clothing through these centers are among the “new poor.” In addition to basic assistance efforts, a variety of counseling services and special programs have been established, including activities for children and teenagers. Some 45 centers of varying sizes are expected to be fully operational by the end of 2001, but this will still leave about 14,000 individuals without the services they need in the current economic climate. And JDC’s emergency grant is only scratching the surface, with the monthly assistance now being provided to impoverished Jewish elderly falling far short of what is needed.

Responding to community members’ oft-expressed plea that they urgently need employment, JDC is also engaged in helping its local partners expand the various employment initiatives undertaken in recent years. These include labor retraining efforts, employment bureaus and vocational service centers, and the development of new service-oriented microbusinesses. A baking company that distributes its challah and cakes through a network of kiosks in Jewish institutions, a taxi service with special accommodations for children and those with disabilities, and a direct marketing mailing service that involves entire families are some of the more successful ventures that have been established in recent years.

The small business revolving loan fund that JDC is helping to set up will aid in the development of additional enterprises of this sort, and it will facilitate the reorganization efforts needed to save many existing but ailing small businesses. In addition to managing this loan program, the staff of an expanded Small Business Development Center will furnish community members with the professional support, “mentoring,” and “new economy” savvy they need as they try to rebuild their economic lives.
Since it was established 10 years ago, the Tzedaka Foundation has been JDC's active partner in Argentina. With assistance from several North American Federations, including Baltimore and San Francisco, and a generous challenge grant from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Tzedaka Foundation’s local fundraising capacity has increased dramatically over the past three years. To help the Foundation maintain this momentum and meet ever-expanding local needs, JDC is seeking to enhance its professional capabilities even further.

Working with numerous local organizations, JDC has been helping to design new strategies to respond to the economy-driven decline in institutional membership and day school enrollment. It has been helping the community rethink its mode of organization in these difficult circumstances, working to engineer organizational mergers as appropriate, and encouraging efforts to relocate or create new facilities to serve the needs of those living in the new Jewish neighborhoods.

Past efforts in the area of Jewish education have provided a good example of how institutions can be merged while maintaining program quality. In 1997, JDC and the Jewish Agency, working as equal partners pooling their different areas of expertise, helped create a new coalition to address the decline in student enrollment and educational quality in the Jewish day schools. A pedagogic model used successfully in Israel and France was introduced initially in six participating day schools. The changes it produced were remarkable, enhancing the quality of learning, helping to reduce the dropout rate, and even attracting new students. As a result, over 700 teachers and principals from 14 schools have become part of this initiative, and four schools have been merged into two.

Local institutions and the Pincus Fund have joined JDC and the Jewish Agency in a complementary effort that builds on the success of this pilot program and promotes its replication through teacher training and the development of new Jewish educational materials.

JDC has been working with the new leadership groups that have been emerging in various communal institutions, and it recognizes that the training of lay and professional leaders (through programs like those described in the Regional section below) is an important component in any communal rebuilding effort. It recognizes too that it will take some time to heal the demoralizing impact of nearly a decade of crises. But JDC is prepared to go the distance on behalf of Argentinean Jewry, and it is determined to help this fourth largest Jewish community in the Diaspora become once again a pillar of strength for the Jewish world.
CUBA

JDC continued its support last year for the programs and activities that over the past decade have brought about a resurgence of Cuban Jewish life. While most Cuban Jews live in Havana, there are small but active communities today in Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo, Santa Clara, Sancti Spiritu, Cienfuegos, and Camaguey. The challenge is to help them sustain their level of activity as their size continues to diminish.

To help meet community members’ humanitarian needs in the face of continuing shortages of basic necessities, JDC has been sending in shipments of kosher food for distribution 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, medications shipped by JDC or brought by visitors are distributed via the Havana Jewish community to all parts of Cuba. This effort has greatly enhanced the health of community members, as has the assistance provided by visiting doctors in JDC-IDP’s non-sectarian medical education program.

Chicken dinners are being provided to community members throughout the island every Friday evening, thanks to the generous contributions made by participants in the monthly missions to Cuba organized by the North American Federations and UJC. In addition to conveying their solidarity and concern, mission members, through the supplemental donations they have been making to this community, have been helping to support social assistance efforts as well as Jewish programming.

JDC has been sending Argentinean communal professionals—experts in community development—to be its resident representatives in Cuba. They have been concentrating on training new community members as needed to take over responsibility for Jewish educational, cultural, and religious activities. In addition to training Jewish teachers and youth counselors, cantors and Torah readers have been tutored by JDC’s representatives to take charge of religious services in various local synagogues.

The rededication of Havana’s Beth Shalom or “Patronato” Synagogue in May 2000, following its complete renovation, was the occasion for a major community celebration. The renovation was accomplished with generous support from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Community welfare programs and activities for different age groups are being accommodated with greater ease at the “Patronato” Community Center, whose refurbishment was made possible by the generosity of the Scheck family of Miami. The Jewish library has also been renovated, thanks to generous support from Miami’s Zelcer family. International Jewish leadership from the US, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile were all present for the rededication ceremony.
Two other synagogues in Havana have been undergoing restoration, and synagogues have been refurbished and reopened in recent years in Santiago de Cuba and in Camaguey.

Jewish study groups continue to flourish in those three cities, along with the Sunday Schools for youngsters and programs for their parents that have been established there and in Cienfuegos. A senior citizens’ group meets throughout the year in Havana, and generous extra-budgetary support has enabled JDC to help organize camp programs for different age groups.

The Jewish youth organization maintains an active schedule of programs and camps, and Israeli dance groups have become increasingly popular in various local communities. In July 2000, four students from the Ramaz School in New York joined the youth summer camp and helped serve as counselors.

JDC has supplied Hebrew- and Spanish-language books on Jewish topics, prayerbooks and other religious items, and a video library that circulates among the communities. Extra-budgetary contributions have enabled JDC to equip computer centers in Camaguey, Santiago, and Havana. The latter is being used to produce the Havana community’s monthly publication, Menorah, as well as the youth group’s newsletter, both of which are supported by JDC.

JDC coordinates visits from rabbis and Jewish educators who have enriched local programs of Jewish learning and facilitated the observation of Jewish holidays and life cycle events. Along with the communal holiday celebrations that JDC continues to sponsor, its resident representatives began helping a small number of families to conduct their own Passover seders at home last year, a milestone event in the life of this remarkable Jewish community.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Providing technical assistance to help strengthen Jewish community life is the foundation for JDC’s activities in Latin America. JDC also maintains the capacity to react to emergency situations, like the one described above in Argentina, and it has been monitoring the condition of Jewish communities in other Latin American countries where similar problems may be developing.

In May 2001, the JDC Board voted to extend a five-year interest-free loan to the Jewish community of Lima, Peru, which lost $4 million in communal assets following two bank failures there last November. The loan will help provide operational funds for two homes for the aged and facilitate the merger of these two institutions into a single facility.

In the area of technical assistance, JDC has been especially active over the past two years in Central America, helping the smaller Jewish communities there and in neighboring countries with informal Jewish educational programs, religious activities, camp programs for youth and families, training efforts for teachers and counselors, and study and training seminars for Jewish leaders. JDC’s professional consultants last year assisted various institutions and several small communities engaged in strategic planning or restructuring efforts, and in November 2000, Leatid Latin America completed its first one-year program for Central American lay leaders. Fifteen Jewish leaders from five different countries attended the intensive seminars that were held in El Salvador and Guatemala.
JDC actively uses the Internet to communicate with the more isolated Jewish communities throughout Latin America, offering different forms of “e-learning” and resource materials through its Web site to lay and professional leaders.

Working together with various local and international organizations, JDC continues to be involved in efforts to improve Jewish day schools. The Education for Diversity model that has been working so well in Buenos Aires has been replicated with equal success in Rio de Janeiro and Asuncion and is being adopted this year in Sao Paulo, Montevideo, and San Jose.

A new generation of lay and professional leaders is emerging in Latin America, most of whom have benefited from the training provided by JDC through Leatid Latin America. In addition to in-service training in local communities, Leatid's core programs include an Institutional Directors Training Program, the Amit Training Program for Young Communal Lay Leaders, and the Electronic Forum for Jewish Institutional Leadership. Seventeen top professionals from seven countries in Central and South America completed a two-year series of seminars last year, in the fourth course of this kind to be conducted by Leatid. Leatid was also responsible for recruiting the sixth group of Latin American participants in the Israel-based Buncher Community Leadership Program.

The Latin America Data Bank—Einstein Virtual Campus is a computer-based network that brings Jewish graduate students and young professionals together 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. In addition to exploring job possibilities and exchanging professional information, activities with Jewish content are encouraged. A concerted effort is made to enhance the participants’ sense of communal responsibility, with JDC viewing this kind of “virtual community” as a new tool for developing the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Contacto, JDC's quarterly Spanish-language newsletter, continues to be an important source of information on communal programs and events and topics of interest around the Jewish world. It also brings highlights of JDC's work to lay and professional leaders throughout Latin America.

In helping to develop a solid network of Latin American Jewish communities, JDC has actively encouraged the creation of a regular forum similar to the North American General Assembly or GA. In March 2000, the seventh meeting of Latin American Jewish Institutions and Community Leaders was held in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Some 500 lay and professional leaders from 22 countries took part in this GA. Together, they represented all aspects of Jewish life, and they brought their various perspectives to bear on discussions of education, welfare, Jewish continuity, and other pressing issues. An important aspect of this gathering was the participation of lay and professional leaders from North America who were able to share problems and solutions with their Latin American counterparts. Through meetings like these, a new sense of Jewish community has been emerging in Latin America, and the eighth Latin American GA, which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in October 2001, will give further momentum to this process.
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.

• JDC’s “Open Mailboxes” provide a mechanism through which the Jewish and general public can participate in emergency responses to disasters overseas.

• 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 this Jewish response.

• By using Israeli experts as much as possible, JDC enables developing countries to benefit from Israel’s development experience, technological innovations, and products.

• 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.

BOSNIA

JDC has been helping to support a home care project for the elderly run by La Benevolencia, the humanitarian arm of the Sarajevo Jewish community. About 540 individuals from the city’s different ethnic groups, including some 180 Jews, are currently receiving hot meals, home care visits four times a week, and medical help. In addition to ensuring the welfare of these needy and lonely individuals, the project is providing much-needed employment to the 38 social workers—also a multi-ethnic group—who conduct the home visits.

EL SALVADOR

In response to a series of three earthquakes in January and February 2001, JDC established an “Open Mailbox” to collect funds for the hundreds of thousands left homeless, with over $170,000 received to date. Immediate assistance was provided to Direct Relief International and Latet, an Israeli NGO (non-governmental organization), to help cover the cost of shipping essential relief supplies. A project is under way with the local Jewish community to rebuild two schools destroyed in the quake. The Jewish Coalition for El Salvador Earthquake Assistance convened by JDC has been supporting two local agencies—both former partners in Hurricane Mitch relief efforts—that are helping to build permanent housing, particularly in outlying communities.

ETHIOPIA

The Jewish Coalition for Aid to Ethiopia was convened by JDC in the late spring of 2000 to help address the effects of a persistent drought and severe food shortages. In consultation with JDC staff members with long-term experience in
Ethiopia, funds have been committed to a groundwater development project in the Dabat Woreda area of the Gondar Region. Ethiopia's Zonal Department of Water, Mining, and Energy and the Zonal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission are involved in all aspects of the project.

**INDIA**

On January 26, 2001, India suffered its strongest earthquake in over 50 years, with the most severely affected areas in Gujarat State, on India's western coast. Over 350,000 households—homes, apartments, or huts—were destroyed and 873,000 damaged, leaving up to 2 million people homeless and nearly 16 million affected in all.

Over $583,000 has been received to date in contributions to the “Open Mailbox” that JDC established, and the Jewish Coalition for India Earthquake Relief was convened by JDC to facilitate a coordinated Jewish response to the crisis.

In the immediate aftermath of the quake, JDC collaborated with the Vagad Medical Relief Trust on an emergency distribution program in the Bhachau area, where the local hospital had been reduced to rubble. With JDC’s aid, the program was expanded to cover 38 villages in this hard-hit area, reaching some 200,000 people. Among the items procured and distributed were medicines and medical supplies, tents, clothing, and basic foodstuffs.

JDC subsequently formed a partnership with the Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), a local NGO that advocates for over 200,000 poor women, two-thirds of whom reside in Gujarat, to establish and operate 15 child care centers in Kutch, Surendranagar, and Patan. The centers provide meals and health care to children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers, along with child development and recreational activities and trauma counseling by trained personnel. Two new initiatives are currently in the planning stage: one with Handicap International will strengthen services for victims with disabilities, and another with World Vision will help rebuild schools and community centers. New partnership agreements are also being developed in the area of vocational training.

The Jewish Coalition made initial contributions to Operation USA and to Direct Relief International to help cover the shipping costs for 200,000 donated water purifying tablets and other emergency supplies.

Over the past six months, the Coalition has supported SEWA’s efforts to address potable water needs by constructing community water tanks that will be maintained by its members. It is also funding the rebuilding of a primary school for 400 students in the remote village of Neelpar. The students themselves and residents of nearby villages are providing the labor for this project, allowing them to earn much-needed income while strengthening their skills.

Coalition support is also enabling CRY, a well-respected Indian NGO, to establish and operate 10 Child Activity Centers in Gujarat. The centers will work with children aged six and under in the morning, those aged 7 to 18 in the afternoon, and the children’s parents in the evening. Navsarjan, a grassroots NGO determined to ensure that housing reconstruction plans are equitable and encompass marginalized communities, is building 566 sound one-room houses with Jewish Coalition support. Local men and women will receive training in masonry and carpentry skills as an integral part of the project.
The American Jewish public's response to the Kosovo refugee crisis was unprecedented. Contributions to JDC's "Open Mailbox," primarily but not exclusively from American Jews, exceeded $5.4 million—the largest "Mailbox" campaign to date—and 42 Jewish organizations joined the JDC-coordinated Jewish Coalition for Kosovo Relief and Assistance, which raised close to $600,000.

Over the past year, a mosque in the village of Gjakova that was destroyed in the fighting has been rebuilt with the direct assistance of JDC, the Roman Catholic Church, and the local Muslim community. A rededication ceremony was held in September 2001. This interfaith effort is an example of the long-term development work JDC fosters in response to the devastation caused by natural or man-made disasters.

Indeed, JDC's initial relief efforts in Albania and Macedonia (described in detail in previous Annual Reports) were quickly succeeded by a variety of reconstruction efforts in Kosovo itself, as JDC quite literally followed the refugees home. At the request of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, its doctors accompanied thousands of the refugees who were repatriated by train to Kosovo following the cessation of hostilities.

At the request of UNICEF, a coordinating body for reconstruction activities in Kosovo, JDC to date has rebuilt and rehabilitated over 30 local schools. It also provided winterized tents for use as temporary school facilities; it distributed school bags and supplies in 20 schools; it furnished 15,000 pairs of winter shoes to orphaned or needy children; and it continues to provide the local schools with a variety of teaching materials and equipment. JDC has also been helping to publish a youth journal in Pristina to which all of the city's 10,000 high school students have been invited to contribute.

These school reconstruction efforts have enabled thousands of children to return to school, restoring some measure of normality to their lives and enabling their families to concentrate on regaining their livelihoods. To aid in their efforts, JDC, in partnership with the World ORT Union, established vocational training programs and set up computer labs in some of the schools to help these adults acquire new marketable skills. In addition to a variety of computer training courses, English classes and courses in sewing, metalworking, and carpentry have been offered. JDC also donated pharmaceuticals, linens, and other supplies to hospitals in Prizren, Pristina, and other locations.

JDC continues to coordinate the efforts of the Jewish Coalition, whose funds have been allocated to projects established in partnership with, among others, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Mercy Corps...
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 Brith 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 • UKJ-AID (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 • Va’ahavta: Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee • Women of Reform Judaism • Women’s American ORT • Women’s League for Conservative Judaism

International, The Forum, the East-West Management Institute, and Matrat Qrizazi, the Albanian-American Women’s Association. Project activities have included the rehabilitation or enhancement of additional school facilities and the provision of teaching materials and equipment; the establishment of Women’s and Children’s Centers and the development of new public health services and preventive care for women, children, and families; trauma relief training and services; and efforts to strengthen local NGOs and facilitate the development of civil society in Kosovo.

MACEDONIA

Following the repatriation of the Kosovo refugees, the health clinic established originally by JDC in partnership with the IRC to aid refugees and their host families was moved to an impoverished community of approximately 40,000 local and refugee Roma. The clinic provides basic medical care as well as support for a public health outreach and education effort. The latter is the purview of ESMA, a Roma women’s organization that JDC has been helping. ESMA’s members conducted a survey through the clinic of their community’s reproductive health needs; this has resulted in the initiation of screenings for cervical cancer and various other conditions.

JDC, in partnership with the IRC, La Benevolencija-Skopje (the welfare arm of Macedonia’s Jewish community), and UKJ-AID, initiated a Back to School program for Roma children who had been identified through the clinic as not attending school. New teachers were hired, desks were bought, and the children were provided with books, clothing, and winter shoes, and screened and treated at the clinic for health and dental problems. Between 70 and 80 percent of these children are now continuing their education.

MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM

The Middle East Program was designed to improve the lives of citizens of the region and promote professional cooperation by developing new health services in a field in which JDC has acquired considerable expertise.

A pilot child development project was initiated in the Hebron region to aid the area’s estimated 2,800 Palestinian children under age 6 who have special needs that require early professional evaluation and treatment. The project has built upon an existing effort of the volunteer-supported Palestinian-Israeli Health Care Group and is adapting systems used by Israel’s network of Child Development Centers. Eight Israeli and eight Palestinian health professionals screened, diagnosed, and treated children for a variety of disorders in the three Child Development Days held to date, and some 50 area professionals participated in the Professional Development Days.

The JDC-Brookdale Institute and Bar-Ilan University, in cooperation with the Gaza Health Services Research Center and Al-Quds University, have implemented a cross-cultural study designed to promote adolescent health.
The study, which is based on the World Health Organization’s Health Behaviors in School-Aged Children survey, stresses the psycho-social determinants of problem behavior. The resulting database will facilitate the planning of more effective programs. JDC received a $1.4 million grant from USAID/MERC last year to carry out the full survey, the second grant made to this project by USAID.

Focusing on a much younger age group, the JDC-Brookdale Institute and Al-Quds University initiated another research study in 2000 to measure the well-being of children aged three to five in both Israel and the Palestinian Authority through in-depth interviews with their primary caregivers. Here too the aim is to develop programs and policies that encourage health promoting behavior.

In partnership with the Israel Association for the Advancement of Women’s Health and the Patient’s Friends Society-Jerusalem, JDC-Israel has brought together Israeli and Palestinian professionals and women living with breast cancer. Using lessons learned from JDC’s women’s health empowerment project in Israel, the project is introducing concepts of peer support, empowerment, and advocacy, and establishing culturally sensitive support services for those coping with breast cancer.

JDC, the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, Yad Sarah, and the CRB Foundation have worked together 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. Four centers are now operational.

**TURKEY**

Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction: The American Jewish community responded generously to the victims of the two massive earthquakes that devastated northwestern Turkey in August and November 1999, contributing close to $1,300,000 to JDC’s “Open Mailbox.” JDC also convened and continues to coordinate the Jewish Coalition for Turkey Earthquake Relief. Comprised of 45 member agencies from North America, South Africa, and the UK, it is the largest Coalition to date and has raised over $98,000.

JDC responded to initial needs by supplying winterized tents, sleeping bags, blankets, and warm clothes, with shipping and distribution accomplished via the Israel Defense Forces, the Turkish military, Turkish Airways, the Red Crescent Society, and the Turkish Jewish community. JDC also flew a number of individuals to Israel for medical care not available in Turkey. These individuals have subsequently returned home. Assistance was provided to the “Israeli Village” in Adapazari, which was established in one of the hardest-hit areas with the help of Israeli government agencies and voluntary organizations. Some 1,300 earthquake survivors still reside in the village, whose services are being supported by the Turkish government.

Allocations from the Jewish Coalition were used to expand children’s activities at the “Israeli Village,” and to establish partnerships with a number of agencies in support of several health-related projects. These included outreach efforts designed to promote public health and facilitate access to primary care.

In August 2001, members of the JDC Board Mission to Turkey attended the opening ceremony for a new primary school in Adapazari built...
with the help of “Mailbox” funds. This much-needed school, which will serve some 960 children a year, was constructed through partnerships established by JDC with the Turkish Prime Minister's Office, the Turkish Ministry of Education, the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the Association of Immigrants from Turkey to Israel, and the Turkish Jewish community.

JDC has funded a variety of other activities with long-term impact that were developed in conjunction with the Turkish Jewish community. These include an innovative trauma therapy training program in which experts from Israel's Kiryat Shmona Emergency Center have trained 20 local professionals, each of whom has gone on to train 12 additional colleagues. A second trauma program is serving as a model for the establishment of psychological intervention centers throughout the affected area; it was carried out in collaboration with the Tel Aviv municipality and Turkey's Marmara University.

JDC is also supporting a new project, undertaken in conjunction with Project Hope and various Turkish agencies, in which experts from Israel's Beit Levenstein Rehabilitation Center and the Schneider Children's Hospital will train doctors, psychologists, and occupational and physical therapists working at a newly established rehabilitation center in Izmit. This center is the only facility of its kind in the area of the 1999 quakes.

Working Children's Project: In Diyarbakir in the southeastern region of Turkey, a project initiated by JDC-IDP in 1999 has been striving to improve the quality of life for the large number of primary school age children who work on the streets at a variety of menial tasks to earn small amounts for their impoverished families. Through a newly established center, JDC, with major funding from the Turkish government and additional support from the International Labor Organization, has been working with the Governate of Diyarbakir and Dicle University to provide the children with nutritious meals, health care, counseling services, recreational activities, and an opportunity to develop the skills that can save them from a life of continued poverty.

UKRAINE

Through a new partnership with PATH, a Seattle-based NGO, and Connections Health Consulting, JDC is continuing its efforts to assist women affected by breast cancer. Using lessons learned from the women's health empowerment programs carried out in the Czech Republic and in Israel, American cancer survivors are working with their Ukrainian counterparts to develop or strengthen self-help organizations, support mechanisms, and public education efforts that promote early detection.
YUGOSLAVIA

With the help of JDC and World Jewish Relief, medications and emergency supplies have been distributed by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia to hospitals and clinics that have been helping the many Serb and Roma refugees from Kosovo. Hot meals have been provided at Jewish community soup kitchens in various cities, and refugees have been included in the popular entrepreneurship training program that was established by JDC in Belgrade.

OTHER JDC-IDP ACTIVITIES

CENTRAL AMERICA: Based on the results of field evaluations conducted by JDC-IDP staff in 1999 and again in May 2000, the Jewish Coalition for Hurricane Mitch Relief has continued to support the ongoing reconstruction efforts undertaken by local partner agencies in the aftermath of that 1998 disaster. These include projects to help rebuild sanitation and health systems, reconstruct housing, and reestablish small businesses. MOZAMBIQUE: With funds contributed to an “Open Mailbox” established by JDC in March 2000, JDC developed a partnership with the South African Jewish community and an Israeli NGO that enabled South African and Israeli doctors to provide flood victims with emergency medical assistance and supplies. A partnership with Project HOPE helped leverage additional donations, which resulted in the purchase, shipment, and distribution of over $1.5 million in medicines and medical supplies. Support was also provided to Health Alliance International for a malaria prevention project. RWANDA: JDC’s back-to-school project in the Kibungo prefecture is enabling some 1,500 orphans to receive a secondary school education, thereby helping these young people as well as their local communities.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS: JEWISH EDUCATION

In addition to allocations for formal and informal Jewish educational programs made as part of various country budgets, JDC has historically made global allocations on a subsidy basis to the Alliance Israelite Universelle, a French organization which operates schools in seven countries, and to the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training (ORT). 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 2000 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, assisted the World ORT Union by providing subventions to its Jewish schools in countries in which JDC operates. Beginning in 2001, ORT will be receiving an allocation directly from UJC, rather than via JDC.
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, 2000, and the related statements of operations and changes in net assets, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of JDC's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.'s December 31, 1999 financial statements and, in our report dated May 18, 2000, we expressed a qualified opinion on those financial statements which included, as discussed in Note 3, an explanatory paragraph that described the method used to fund the pension plan.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. as of December 31, 2000, 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

April 19, 2001
### THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
### BALANCE SHEET
#### DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

#### ASSETS

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<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,656,781</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>1,706,784</td>
<td>1,706,784</td>
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<td>36,520</td>
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<td>Contributions receivable (Note 11)</td>
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<td>6,499,321</td>
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<td>Pension reversion income receivable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans to communities, other receivables and other assets (net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of $426,070 in 2000 and 1999)</td>
<td>731,738</td>
<td>731,738</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45,207</td>
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<td>Due from employees</td>
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<td>302,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>72,370</td>
<td>72,370</td>
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<td>Interfund receivable (payable) (Note 7)</td>
<td>(950,278)</td>
<td>(950,278)</td>
<td>950,278</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$26,464,255</td>
<td>$159,562,414</td>
<td>$186,026,669</td>
<td>$103,190,747</td>
<td></td>
<td>$16,483,216</td>
<td>$305,700,632</td>
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#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

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<th></th>
<th>Temporary Restricted</th>
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<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$37,559,885</td>
<td>$297,237</td>
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<td>$8,882,001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annuity obligations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,864,059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans payable (Note 4)</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
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<td>1,500,000</td>
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<td>Due to (from) Schusterman-JDC Support Foundation</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>39,059,885</td>
<td>297,237</td>
<td>39,357,122</td>
<td>10,746,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets (deficit) (Exhibit B) (Note 10)</strong></td>
<td>(12,595,630)</td>
<td>159,265,177</td>
<td>146,669,547</td>
<td>92,444,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td>$26,464,255</td>
<td>$159,562,414</td>
<td>$186,026,669</td>
<td>$103,190,747</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.**

**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**

**Year Ended December 31, 2000**

*(With Summarized Financial Information For 1999)*

#### Revenues, gains and other support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>$56,891,914</td>
<td>$56,891,914</td>
<td>$7,925,394</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$64,817,308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>534,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>64,784,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension reversion income (loss) (Note 3)</td>
<td>$2,621,263</td>
<td>(36,677)</td>
<td>62,144,787</td>
<td>$18,708</td>
<td>(36,677)</td>
<td>70,985,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income - exchange gains (losses)</td>
<td>12,431</td>
<td>929,699</td>
<td>942,100</td>
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<td></td>
<td>942,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental extra giving opportunities</td>
<td>3,001,170</td>
<td>3,001,170</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,001,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income (loss) (includes unrealized losses of $42,568,941 and realized gains of $31,721,097 in 2000)</td>
<td>(1,201,809)</td>
<td>(411,922)</td>
<td>49,170</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,564,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain on annuity obligations</td>
<td></td>
<td>66,022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions (Note 10)</td>
<td>76,547,489</td>
<td>1,763,163</td>
<td>78,310,652</td>
<td>(8,586,371)</td>
<td>67,724</td>
<td>132,010,652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td>136,453,004</td>
<td>4,075,609</td>
<td>140,528,613</td>
<td>(8,586,371)</td>
<td>67,724</td>
<td>132,010,652</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Expenses (Exhibit C)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Legacy Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>54,867,811</td>
<td>54,867,811</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47,363,670</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>9,669,360</td>
<td>9,669,360</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,493,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>12,131,480</td>
<td>12,131,480</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,868,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>20,177,253</td>
<td>20,177,253</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20,401,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower development</td>
<td>6,670,326</td>
<td>6,670,326</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,738,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>22,583,151</td>
<td>22,583,151</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,598,283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>8,768,308</td>
<td>8,768,308</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,046,462</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total program services</td>
<td>134,867,689</td>
<td>134,867,689</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>115,510,657</td>
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(continued)
## EXHIBIT B (CONTINUED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Fund</td>
<td>Legacy Funds</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>$7,366,900</td>
<td>$2,609,658</td>
<td>$9,976,558</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,976,558</td>
<td>$7,619,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund raising</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>246,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Supporting services</td>
<td>$8,666,900</td>
<td>$2,609,658</td>
<td>$11,276,558</td>
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<td>$11,276,558</td>
<td>$7,866,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses*</td>
<td>$143,534,589</td>
<td>$2,609,658</td>
<td>$146,144,247</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$146,144,247</td>
<td>$123,377,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets before other changes</td>
<td>($7,081,585)</td>
<td>$1,465,951</td>
<td>($5,615,634)</td>
<td>($8,586,371)</td>
<td>$67,878</td>
<td>($14,134,127)</td>
<td>$63,360,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other changes in net assets</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>(2,000,000)</td>
<td>($8,586,371)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>($8,586,371)</td>
<td>67,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer for deficit reduction</td>
<td>5,150,750</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,150,750</td>
<td>63,360,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets (Exhibit D)</td>
<td>$269,165</td>
<td>(5,894,799)</td>
<td>($5,615,634)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(8,586,371)</td>
<td>67,878</td>
<td>($14,134,127)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets (deficit) - beginning of year</td>
<td>(12,864,795)</td>
<td>165,149,976</td>
<td>152,285,181</td>
<td>101,031,058</td>
<td>16,415,338</td>
<td>269,731,577</td>
<td>206,370,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets (deficit) - end of year (Exhibit A)</td>
<td>($12,595,630)</td>
<td>$159,265,177</td>
<td>$146,669,547</td>
<td>$92,444,687</td>
<td>$16,483,216</td>
<td>$255,597,450</td>
<td>$269,731,577</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes interest expense of $1,050,800 in 2000.

See independent auditor’s report.
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.
THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM SERVICES</th>
<th>SUPPORTING SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Relief and Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants to local communities</td>
<td>$25,033,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash assistance</td>
<td>2,003,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and clothing to needy individuals</td>
<td>16,124,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care and rehabilitation</td>
<td>510,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical supplies</td>
<td>235,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious, cultural and outreach programs</td>
<td>312,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and scholarships</td>
<td>101,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and communal workers</td>
<td>3,068,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy, warehousing, repairs and equipment</td>
<td>576,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency assistance and relief</td>
<td>1,948,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home care and professional assistance</td>
<td>1,845,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social, recreation and communal organizations</td>
<td>1,109,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll, social security, benefits and consultants</td>
<td>1,182,593</td>
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</table>

(CONTINUED)
### PROGRAM SERVICES

<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</th>
<th>Education and Manpower Development</th>
<th>Social Development</th>
<th>Multi-functional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$156,536</td>
<td>$44,261</td>
<td>$62,644</td>
<td>$197,651</td>
<td>$25,085</td>
<td>$155,835</td>
<td>$52,688</td>
<td>$694,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone and fax</td>
<td>58,056</td>
<td>16,416</td>
<td>23,233</td>
<td>73,305</td>
<td>9,903</td>
<td>57,796</td>
<td>19,541</td>
<td>257,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, media and</td>
<td>56,422</td>
<td>15,954</td>
<td>22,580</td>
<td>71,242</td>
<td>9,942</td>
<td>56,170</td>
<td>18,991</td>
<td>250,401</td>
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<td>public relations</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supplies and other</td>
<td>164,614</td>
<td>46,545</td>
<td>65,877</td>
<td>207,851</td>
<td>26,379</td>
<td>163,876</td>
<td>55,407</td>
<td>730,549</td>
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<td>expenses</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and bank</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>charges</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>379,495</td>
<td>131,115</td>
<td>68,818</td>
<td>137,071</td>
<td>25,239</td>
<td>89,416</td>
<td>151,391</td>
<td>982,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$5,867,811</td>
<td>$9,669,360</td>
<td>$12,131,480</td>
<td>$20,177,253</td>
<td>$6,670,326</td>
<td>$22,583,151</td>
<td>$8,768,108</td>
<td>$134,867,869</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SUPPORTING SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Management and General</th>
<th>Fund Raising</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$336,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>$396,000</td>
<td>$1,090,700</td>
</tr>
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<td>Telephone and fax</td>
<td>321,200</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>356,200</td>
<td>613,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences, media and</td>
<td>541,700</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>596,700</td>
<td>847,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public relations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted services,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supplies and other expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and bank charges</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>671,800</td>
<td>188,500</td>
<td>860,300</td>
<td>1,590,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,050,800</td>
<td>1,050,800</td>
<td>2,101,600</td>
<td>4,203,249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See independent auditor's report.

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

**The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000 AND 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in net assets (Exhibit B)</td>
<td>$(14,134,127)</td>
<td>$63,360,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>(18,708)</td>
<td>(3,565)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>(49,170)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions restricted for annuity agreements</td>
<td></td>
<td>(534,741)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized and unrealized (gains) losses on investments</td>
<td>10,847,844</td>
<td>(19,728,917)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain on annuity obligations</td>
<td>(66,022)</td>
<td>(345,339)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease (increase) in assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from United Jewish Communities</td>
<td>(2,656,781)</td>
<td>6,718,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from United Israel Appeal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts and accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>(120,682)</td>
<td>(265,970)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>(6,138,830)</td>
<td>(360,491)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension reversion income receivable</td>
<td>13,691,351</td>
<td>(13,691,351)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan to communities, other receivables and other assets</td>
<td>212,233</td>
<td>662,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances on account of future year's programs</td>
<td>60,396</td>
<td>81,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase (decrease) in liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>5,291,857</td>
<td>2,473,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to/from Schusterman-JDC Support Foundation</td>
<td>(2,700,000)</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash provided by operating activities</strong></td>
<td>4,225,361</td>
<td>41,073,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of investments</td>
<td>(88,856,300)</td>
<td>(131,677,089)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of investments</td>
<td>78,980,165</td>
<td>110,212,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash used by investing activities</strong></td>
<td>(9,876,135)</td>
<td>(21,464,241)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from financing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of loan</td>
<td>(1,500,000)</td>
<td>(13,650,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from loans</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted contributions</td>
<td>18,708</td>
<td>3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted investment income</td>
<td>49,170</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment of annuity obligations</td>
<td>(287,740)</td>
<td>(255,914)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from contributions restricted for investment subject to annuity obligations</td>
<td>1,930,115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from investment income subject to annuity obligations</td>
<td>168,640</td>
<td>198,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash used by financing activities</strong></td>
<td>(1,551,222)</td>
<td>(8,474,125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net increase (decrease) in cash</strong></td>
<td>(7,201,996)</td>
<td>11,135,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash - beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>29,702,094</td>
<td>18,566,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash - end of year</strong></td>
<td>$22,500,098</td>
<td>$29,702,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid during the year for interest</td>
<td>$1,038,704</td>
<td>$789,605</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2000

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, Schusterman-JDC Support Foundation, the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Civilization, Inc. and the Center for Jewish Community Development Inc. through common board control.

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

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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 those 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, 1999, 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, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose of the restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified as unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

NOTE 3 - RETIREMENT PLAN

As of September 1, 1999, the pension plan for the employees of The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. was terminated and, as of that date, a new plan was established. In prior years, JDC 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, JDC recognized pension reversion income of $13,691,351, which included the recognition of the prepaid pension cost of $7,671,200.

The JDC has a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan covering its New York staff and overseas service personnel. Prior service cost has been fully funded. The JDC's policy is to fund pension cost accrued. As of January 1, 2001, there were 214 participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit obligation</th>
<th>$12,193,241</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair value of plan assets</td>
<td>12,157,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded status</td>
<td>$15,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued pension benefit cost</td>
<td>$4,755,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer contribution</td>
<td>$1,116,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits paid</td>
<td>(1,628,233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net periodic pension cost</td>
<td>110,980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighted average assumptions

Discount rate 7.75%
Expected return on plan assets 7.50%
Rate of compensation increase 5.00%

During 2000, $36,677 was refunded to the pension plan due to the overestimate of pension reversion income in 1999.

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, 2000 is $0.

JDC obtained a $12,000,000 loan on September 14, 1993 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 31, 2001. JDC will pay interest on the outstanding balance at 4% above the LIBOR rate.

(Continued)
The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 2000 is $1,500,000. The interest rate is 6.85% at December 31, 2000. JDC has pledged unrestricted investments held in the Bank Leumi custodian account with a market value of approximately $21,922,319 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 .4% above the LIBOR rate. The outstanding principal balance at December 31, 2000 is $-0-. JDC has pledged unrestricted investments held in a Chase bank account with a market value of approximately $4,419,300 as collateral for the line of credit.

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>Rental Commitment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$702,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>702,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>720,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>720,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>737,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>737,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>755,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>755,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>772,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>772,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,375,972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 6 - INVESTMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government obligations</td>
<td>$83,282,715</td>
<td>$90,554,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Israel bonds</td>
<td>3,176,601</td>
<td>3,395,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate bonds</td>
<td>18,364,807</td>
<td>12,096,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common and preferred stocks</td>
<td>58,327,003</td>
<td>122,454,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual funds</td>
<td>99,251,567</td>
<td>35,112,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$262,603,591</td>
<td>$264,074,154</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, 2000 is $950,278, which includes accrued interest of $50,278. 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, 2000, the interest rate was 5.2%. 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 1, 1994.

NOTE 8 - CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

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

NOTE 9 - FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

- **Cash** - 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.

- **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.

(CONTINUED)
NOTES (CONTINUED)

### NOTE 10 - TEMPORARILY AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets at December 31, 2000 and 1999 are available for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$22,500,098</td>
<td>$27,500,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposit in Israel</td>
<td>8,545,720</td>
<td>8,545,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>262,603,593</td>
<td>264,074,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>6,499,321</td>
<td>360,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from employees</td>
<td>302,500</td>
<td>302,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity obligations</td>
<td>1,864,059</td>
<td>2,049,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans payable</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Schottenheim-JDC Support Foundation</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
<td>2,700,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During 2000 and 1999, temporarily restricted net assets were released from restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the following restricted purposes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purposes</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$41,726,596</td>
<td>$12,057,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>5,953,626</td>
<td>3,455,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>6,872,478</td>
<td>8,129,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish education and religious</td>
<td>3,584,403</td>
<td>3,308,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and manpower</td>
<td>4,564,463</td>
<td>2,613,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social development</td>
<td>9,500,805</td>
<td>4,758,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>6,108,781</td>
<td>4,212,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$78,310,652</strong></td>
<td><strong>$58,532,589</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2000 and 1999 are restricted to investment in perpetuity, the income from which is expendable to support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purposes</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief and welfare</td>
<td>$4,427,362</td>
<td>$4,427,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services to the aged</td>
<td>1,780,717</td>
<td>1,780,717</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>274,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifunctional</td>
<td>9,900,968</td>
<td>9,833,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,483,216</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,415,338</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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$4,215,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thereafter</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Less discount to present value | (316,122) |
| Present value of contributions receivable | $6,499,321 |
2000 PROGRAM BUDGET

Geo Graphic Distribution

AFRICA & ASIA 6.2%
EASTERN EUROPE 11.2%
EUROPE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 1.9%
FORMER SOVIET UNION 39.8%
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT 0.7%
ISRAEL 30.8%
LATIN AMERICA 2.2%
ORT 5.1%
SPECIAL GRANTS 1.5%
TRANSMIGRANTS 0.5%

JDC ANNUAL REPORT
DISTRIBUTION BY PROGRAM AREA

HEALTH SERVICES 8.3%

JEWISH EDUCATION 23.0%

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT 3.6%

MULTIFUNCTIONAL 7.9%

RELIEF & WELFARE 23.1%

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES 5.0%

SERVICES TO THE AGED 9.0%

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 22.1%
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- Lois Zoller

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- Howard Rubin, Boston, MA
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- Henry Taub, Bergen County, NJ
- Norman Tilles, Providence, RI
- Marshall M. Weinberg, New York, NY
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- *deceased
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