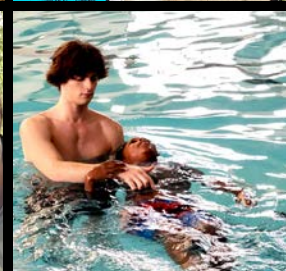
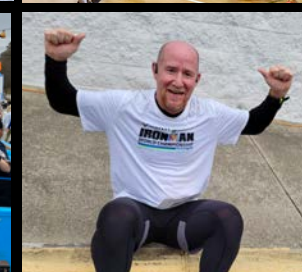


LEVITE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

JANNUAL REPORT 2024





From the director

Brooke Bowles

The year 2024 was not easy. The war in Israel and the unprecedented level of antisemitism kept our Jewish community unsettled, fearful, and confused. And the fierce political climate led to increased division.

Our response to this difficult year was one of compassion. While we faced a variety of challenges, we united with a shared purpose and a commitment to strengthening the connections that bring us together. This spirit made *kehillah*, or creating community, feel natural. The J truly is a place for everyone.

Thanks to our strong community, we were able to address some major issues including spending close to \$900,000 in building projects for new roofing, continued HVAC repairs, and acquiring new indoor pool equipment.

Our newly created Office of Jewish Life prioritized the idea of spreading “Jewish Joy” to members of all ages. Meanwhile, our community outreach increased by welcoming children with disabilities to J Camp, building an inclusive theater program, and enhancing the health and wellness of more than 150 veterans and adults with disabilities. We also distributed \$225,000 in discounts and need-based scholarships that benefited 171 families.

In 2025 our focus is on *tikvah*, or hope. Our hope is that The J continues to be a place where people from all across our community can feel welcome.

2024 by the numbers

157 Veterans Affairs members utilized aqua therapy at The J

262 plates of homemade kosher brisket served at the annual Jewish Food and Culture Fest

1 thank-you note mailed by King Charles III to the Roz Feigelson Circle of Life Knitting Group

1,681 runners represented 34 states in the 2024 Sam Lapidus Montclair Run

12.1 million online searches included the LJCC “Jewish Holidays” website page

228 units of blood donated at American Red Cross blood drives (impacting some 700 people)

240 plated gourmet kosher meals served at the J’la Gala

523 volunteer hours fulfilled by LJCC members

4,258 viewers of The J’s Instagram reel of the Grand Menorah lighting event

435 J Camp attendees, who collectively spent 1,034 weeks at summer camp

171 Families that benefited from \$225,000 in discounts and need-based scholarships



We are The J

Through the lens of Jewish identity and values, the Levite Jewish Community Center provides a welcoming, family-oriented gathering place for our diverse membership to engage in meaningful experiences of the mind, body, and soul.

KEHILLAH

Creating community

Connecting with each other to improve well-being.



TIKKUN OLAM

Serving community

Helping each other to serve the greater good.



EDAH

Enhancing community

Understanding each other through shared cultures.



Granting organizations



Alabama State Council on the Arts

ALTEC Styslinger Foundation

Birmingham Jewish Foundation/Federation

Birmingham Kiwanis



The Caring Foundation

EBSCO

GoodUse (SouthFace)

Hill Crest Foundation Inc.



Jewish Community Center Association

Medical Properties Trust

Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Poarch Creek Indians



Protective Life Foundation

Robert R. Meyer Foundation

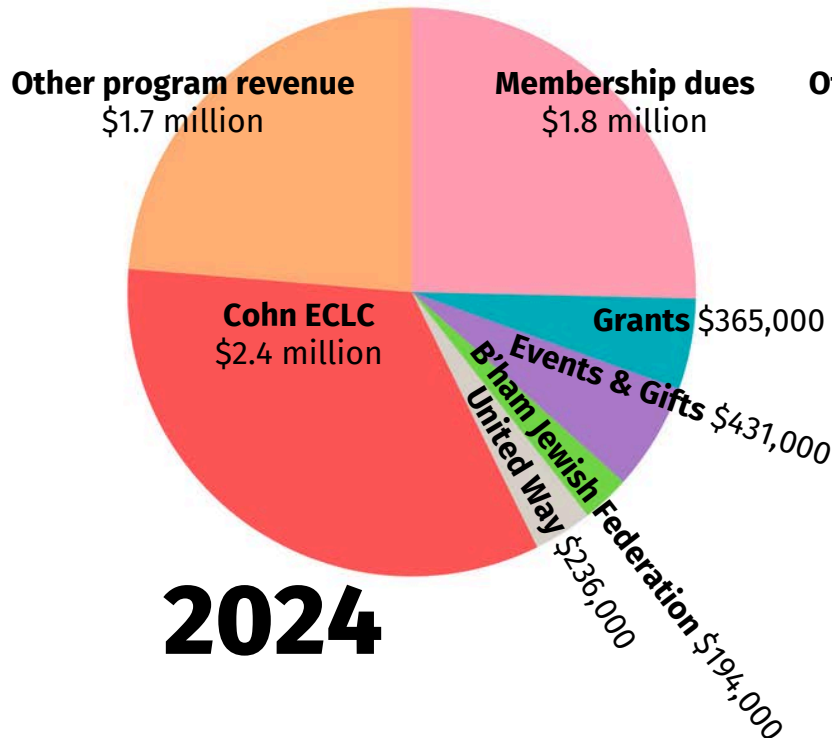
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust

USA Swimming Foundation

**Total grants
awarded
to The J:
\$365,191**

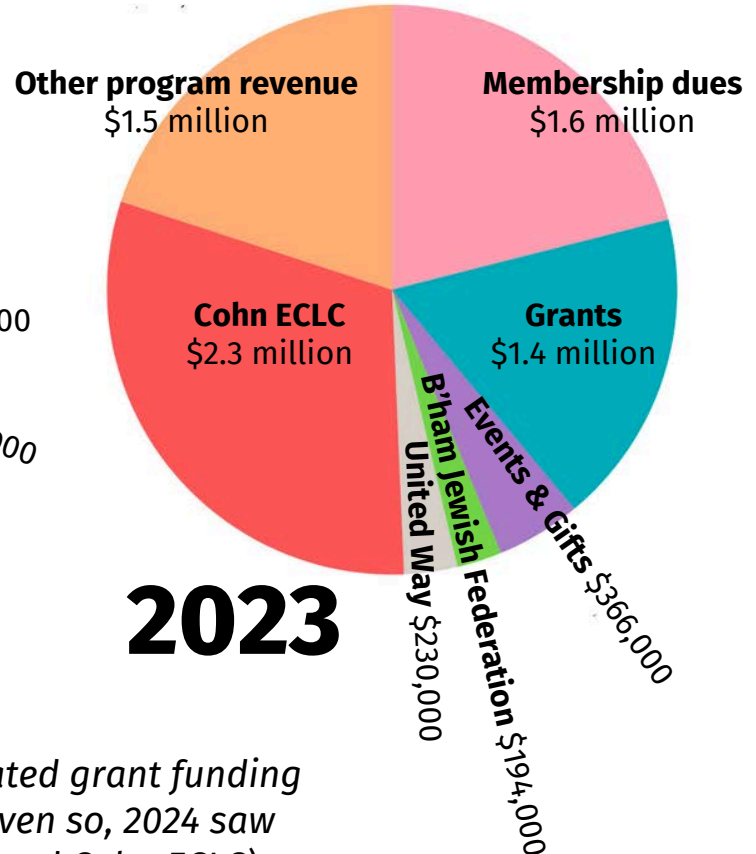
Financial health

\$7.1 million



2024

\$7.6 million



2023

Note: The nearly \$1 million in pandemic-related grant funding received in 2023 was not repeated in 2024. Even so, 2024 saw operational revenue (from programs, dues, and Cohn ECLC) increase by three percent over 2023.

Program highlights

- 👤 Hired Shannon Brasovan as Jewish Life Coordinator, who with Director of Special Projects Zoe Weil created the Office of Jewish Life
- 👤 Increased Jewish programming across the lifespan
- 👤 Close collaboration with other Jewish organizations
- 👤 Total audience for Southern Jewish Voices of more than 500 in-person attendees and hundreds of online visitors
- 👤 Educated 129,000 visitors to our online “Jewish Holidays” informational page
- 👤 Collaborated with Birmingham Jewish Federation to host October 7 “Hope and Resilience” event
- 👤 Implemented and hosted major Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration
- 👤 Continued The J's "big tent" concept by allowing multiple perspectives while remaining committed to peace in Israel
- 👤 Hosted more than 2,000 individuals for Jewish Food and Culture Fest
- 👤 Taught 107 i3 Academy students in our Swim School
- 👤 Established inclusive programming for adults with disabilities, including art and tai chi
- 👤 Served 157 veterans
- 👤 Built inclusive fee-free theater program for 54 children who produced three sold-out *Annie Jr.* shows
- 👤 Welcomed 11 summer campers with developmental disabilities to J Camp
- 👤 Invested in free memberships for 103 first responders

Impacting lives



"I'm so thankful for The J's scholarships over the past two years," says **Emma "Birdie" Harris**. "Not only was I was able to work and provide for my son Greyson, but it also gave me the time I needed to finish school. Grey has learned so much [at Cohn ECLC], and we've come to know so many people."



Bev Williams is grateful for the social bonds she's found at The J. "This has to be the most welcoming place I've ever been in my entire life." It's all just a direct reflection of one of the most prominent teachings in the Torah: Welcoming the stranger.



I3 Academy student **Micah Powell** loved his Swim School coaches and got a boost of confidence from The J's program. Every day he would excitedly tell his mom about his latest pool adventure. She says she had never seen him so excited.

Facilities highlights

- ✂ Secured Robert Scott as facilities director
- ✂ Executed major capital projects including roof, HVAC, and indoor pool equipment replacement and installation of new sound system in Pizitz Auditorium
- ✂ Continued GoodUse and FEMA grant funding to support power and water conservation and security
- ✂ Hired full-time security personnel and continued “hardening” the facility with access control, enhanced video surveillance, and reworking the front entrance

Laid groundwork to complete the following projects in 2025:

- ✂ Update restrooms across from the senior lounge and on the fitness floor
- ✂ Lease new fitness equipment and reorganize fitness floor
- ✂ Update showers in the men’s and women’s locker rooms
- ✂ Fill in jacuzzi tub spaces in men’s and women’s locker rooms
- ✂ Construct usable courtyard patio to be accessed from the library
- ✂ Resurface tennis courts



Board of Directors

2025

Isa Dorsky, President
Steven Corenblum, Vice President
Frank Siegal, Vice President
Terry Bernstein, Treasurer
Marissa Grayson, Secretary
Lauren Axelroth
Hilton Berger, Immediate Past President
Mark Cohen
Jennifer Cordover
Marquise Johnson
Jon Kimerling
Abraham Kunin
Susan Lapidus
Sarah Mackintosh
Sam Miller*
Andrew Newcomb
Rebecca Rothman
Amy Saag*

**New for 2025-26*

bhamjcc.org

*Thanks to
our funding
partners*

