

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

LEVITE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



LETTER FROM THE CEO

In 2025, the Levite Jewish Community Center saw significant growth through continued financial health, increased membership, and campus-wide improvements. Yet our most profound success cannot be measured on a balance sheet. It is found instead in the enduring sense of community to which new members bring values that expand our horizons and where long-standing members provide the foundation upon which we stand.

Last year, our community was forever changed by the loss of two beloved and longtime members, Marilyn Leeds and Sam Tenenbaum. Marilyn and Sam were fixtures on our campus — a place where they felt comfortable and valued, and where they contributed to the respect and care we all share for one another.

Marilynn was celebrated for her deep commitment to health and wellness, but even more so for her ability to inspire confidence and encouragement in those around her. Sam — fondly known as the “Great Kaiser” from his professional wrestling days — spent countless hours at The J bringing a warmth, humor, and presence that followed him everywhere.

They were proudly and passionately Jewish and for them, like so many of our other Jewish members, The J was an integral part of their Jewish landscape.

The passing of members like Marilyn and Sam reminds us that when a seat in our lobby or a space in our fitness center goes empty, the impact is felt by us all. Their stories highlight that the Levite JCC is more than a building; it is a place where relationships are formed and every individual contributes to the whole.

We honor their memory by continuing to serve as a welcoming space and vibrant community for the thousands of individuals who walk through our doors each year. As we move into 2026, our primary focus remains the cultivation of the bonds that make The J so special. While we will continue to invest in our facilities and expand our programming, our greatest priority is ensuring that every member feels a profound sense of belonging on our campus and beyond.



Brooke Bowles
CEO



Marilynn Potts Leeds

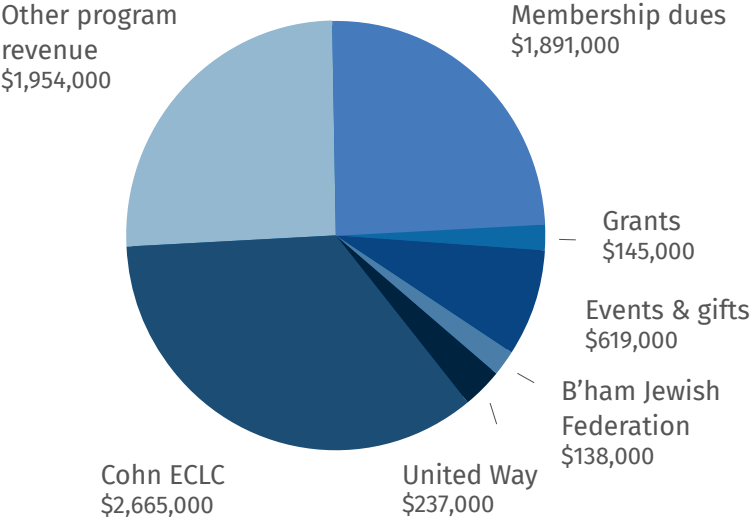


Sam Tenenbaum

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

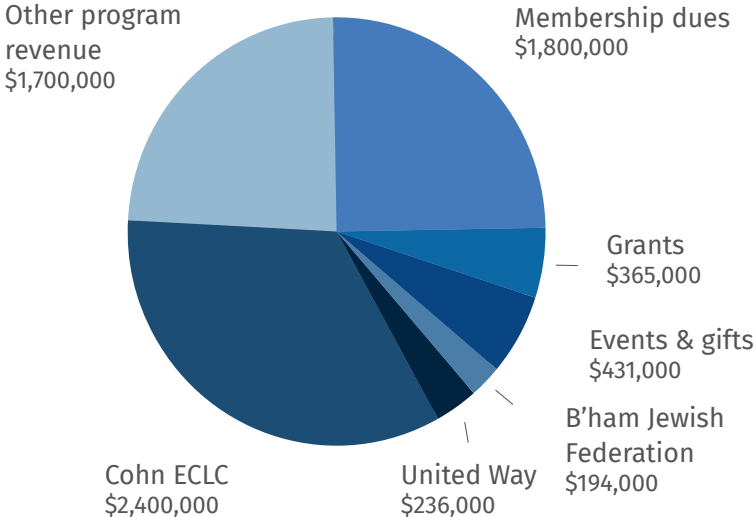
2025

\$7.6 million in annual income



2024

\$7.1 million in annual income



Charts represent unaudited financial data.

Highlights for the year:

- LJCC endowment funds managed by the Birmingham Jewish Foundation totaled more than \$2.33 million at the end of 2025, providing a vital foundation for long-term financial sustainability.
- Investments of approximately \$400,000 into campus enhancements helped improve the member experience. Key projects included comprehensive upgrades to the Fitness Floor, men’s shower renovations, and redesigns to the library and courtyard, plus critical IT infrastructure updates.
- As a significant local employer, the LJCC contributes to the regional economy with a team of 145 year-round full time professionals. During the peak summer season, our workforce expands to nearly 200 staff members.
- Despite an industry-wide reduction in grant opportunities, our development revenue increased in 2025. This growth was driven by the resounding success of our signature fundraising events and a rise in individual contributions from donors dedicated to our mission.

PHILANTHROPY + DEVELOPMENT

Continued growth in charitable support expanded access to our programs through the increased availability of scholarship funds, while also generating essential revenue to further enhance the overall membership experience.

Highlights for the year:

- Now in its fourth year as The J's signature fundraising event, the J'la Gala surpassed a major milestone by generating more than \$200,000 in income.
- The 49th Annual Sam Lapidus Montclair Run welcomed a record-breaking 1,729 participants, raising essential funds for programs at The J and contributing more than \$12,000 to Children's of Alabama.
- Grant funding continued to strengthen a wide range of initiatives, including Swim School, theater, camps, preschool, and Jewish Life, ensuring broad access and high-quality programming for our community.
- When concerns arose that community members might soon face food insecurity, The J coordinated a rapid and compassionate response. The effort resulted in several truckloads of donated food and nearly \$30,000 in financial contributions to support those in need.
- With safety and security remaining a top priority on the Montclair campus, an additional \$83,000 was raised to directly support these efforts. The LJCC and the N.E. Miles Jewish Day School jointly allocated these funds to enhance campus protection through the employment of dedicated security personnel.



\$1.14 million in fundraising income



46% increase in giving to our annual fundraising campaign



32 states represented at the Sam Lapidus Montclair Run



MEMBERSHIP, EXPERIENCE + FACILITIES

Guided by a strategic focus on member experience, The J successfully addressed several long-term facility and programming goals this year. From critical infrastructure upgrades that enhance daily comfort to the launch of our Legacy Member recognition program and continuation of Thursday Family Fun Nights, every initiative was designed to reinforce the value of belonging to our community.



Highlights for the year:

- A comprehensive renovation of the men's showers addressed one of the most frequently cited areas for improvement. The project introduced a modernized design, upgraded finishes, and newly installed shower stalls, significantly enhancing the member experience.
- The outdoor area behind The J was completely revitalized with the addition of a patio, sunshades, comfortable seating, and new landscaping. This inviting space now serves as a vibrant setting for programs, events, and member enjoyment.
- Nearly 130 Legacy Members — each with at least 40 years of dedication to The J — were celebrated during a special luncheon and recognized through the naming of our newly installed courtyard. This tribute reflects our deep appreciation for their longstanding commitment.
- The Hess Library underwent warm and welcoming updates, creating a more functional and inviting environment. The refreshed space now includes a comfortable seating area and versatile tables designed to host small events, meetings, and community gatherings.



4,768 members at the start of 2026



106 first responders received free memberships

HEALTH + WELLNESS

FITNESS

Through a diverse range of programs, The J remained committed to meeting individuals at every milestone of their wellness journey. In 2025, we advanced our mission by expanding our class offerings, reimagining our physical infrastructure, and forging innovative corporate partnerships — all designed to elevate the health of our members and the broader community.

Highlights for the year:

- The centerpiece of our facility enhancements this year was a major redesign of the Fitness Floor. The space was strategically reconfigured to accommodate athletes of all levels, from beginners to seasoned competitors. This purposeful layout fosters a more intuitive and engaging workout experience, empowering members to build strength, enhance endurance, and sustain long-term motivation.
- The addition of three new regularly scheduled fitness classes — Yang Style Tai Chi, J Walking, and J Dance — expanded our portfolio of beginner-friendly offerings. These classes are designed to reduce stress, promote overall well-being, and strengthen social connections among participants.
- The J expanded its footprint through a strategic partnership with Protective Life, managing the operations of their on-site employee fitness center. By delivering customized group classes — including J Flow, J Cycle, J Strong, and J Core — The J is actively promoting corporate wellness and strengthening professional community engagement.



26% increase in personal fitness training revenue



260 private pilates lessons provided in new studio space



45 average number of group fitness classes weekly



AQUATICS

In addition to remaining a local destination for swim lessons, strategic partnerships allowed for significant participation growth in our competitive aquatics programs. By leveraging community collaborations, we have expanded our reach and elevated the experience for our young athletes.

Highlights for the year:

- We successfully collaborated with Pine Tree Country Club to expand our swim team to 60 athletes, creating more opportunities for youth swimmers.
- We recorded the highest number of dive team participants in 13 years.
- Our dive team earned a featured story in the *Over the Mountain Journal*, bringing regional visibility to our athletes' hard work and the strength of our coaching.
- Nearly 6,000 swim lessons were provided during the school day for Cohn ECLC preschoolers.



26,282 private and semi-private swim lessons



467 private tennis lessons

SPORTS + REC

Our sports offerings continued to evolve in 2025 with new programs and facility improvements, allowing us to meet our commitment of providing high-quality athletic opportunities for every age group.

Highlights for the year:

- While resurfacing our tennis courts, we strategically added six new outdoor pickleball courts. This expansion served as a catalyst for a vibrant new community, allowing us to launch a formal league, host regular open-play nights, introduce beginner clinics, and hold two high-energy "Picklepalooza" tournaments.
- Participation in youth soccer reached our highest level in more than a decade, reflecting the program's incredible momentum.
- We introduced tumbling to our lineup of recreational offerings this year. The program saw immediate success, proving to be a high-demand addition.



ARTS, CULTURE + COMMUNITY

JEWISH LIFE

We continued to serve as a hub for Jewish life, bringing in nationally known programs while sustaining beloved local favorites.

Highlights for the year:

- In its third year, Community Canvas brought together 15 nonprofits to create original artwork. This signature program invited partners to reflect on the Jewish value *l'dor v'dor* | from generation to generation, illustrating how that value resonates within their own missions.
- Southern Jewish Voices, an oral history program documenting the experience of being Jewish in the American South, marked a historic milestone with our first-ever intergenerational interview, when we were honored to host three generations of the Pizitz family to share their lived history and legacy.
- Our educational and cultural initiatives served as a vital bridge to Israel this year, engaging more than 500 community members in programs designed to foster meaningful connections.
- In a moving tribute to the Bibas family — Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir, who were kidnapped from Israel on October 7 — our community came together to collect more than 4,000 diapers for the Bundles of Hope diaper bank.
- We filled the Pizitz Auditorium with joy as 170 guests joined us for “That’s So Jewish,” a traveling game show hosted by New York comedian Eitan Levine.
- We invested in professional development that enabled staff members to participate in educational experiences focused on antisemitism and in programs designed to strengthen institutional ties with Israel.



1,876 food samples sold at the Jewish Food and Culture Fest



725 online views of 2025 Southern Jewish Voices interview sessions



62 program activities designed to highlight Jewish history and culture



THEATER

The LJCC Youth Theater program remained a premier destination for inclusive youth performing arts, serving as a vital entry point for children at the beginning of their theatrical journey.



This year, we focused on fostering a supportive environment where the power of performance builds self-confidence, strengthens social bonds, and provides a joyful introduction to the stage.

Highlights for the year:

- Across productions of *Wizard of Oz* and *Matilda Jr.*, 120 cast and crew members gained hands-on experience in theatrical discipline, stagecraft, and storytelling.
- To ensure a professional-grade experience for both performers and patrons, we invested in modernizing the theater sound system with the addition of backstage monitors and lavalier microphones.



50% of youth theater participants were new to the program



1,697 tickets sold for theater productions

INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Our efforts to create a place of belonging continued with initiatives designed to create valuable experiences for those with developmental disabilities.

Highlights for the year:

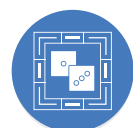
- Inclusive Wellness and Art, funded by a generous LJCC member, welcomed 20 adults with disabilities weekly for yoga, lunch, and art guided by professionals.
- A grant from Birmingham Kiwanis provided resources to hire a full time aid, allowing campers with special needs to participate fully in J Camp.

HEALTHY AGING

By prioritizing high-quality programming, we've empowered our senior community through meaningful social and physical activities that foster connection and vitality.

Highlights for the year:

- In partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Office of Service Learning and Undergraduate Research, The J launched the Tech Help series, offering seven sessions for seniors. These sessions provided individualized support and hands-on training for approximately three-dozen participants.
- A four-week course, *Telling Our Stories: A Memoir Writing Workshop*, brought together five seniors to explore the art of writing personal and family stories.



20 weekly mahjong players



CHILDREN, YOUTH + TEENS

CAMP

J Camp remains a premier destination for students during summer and school breaks. By expanding our focus on specialty programming alongside our traditional day camp activities, we have ensured that every child — regardless of their specific interests — can find a home with us, allowing us to serve a broad and diverse audience.

Highlights for the year:

- Following a rigorous review of more than 300 quality and safety standards, our J Camp and School's Out programs are now accredited by the American Camp Association. This achievement reinforces our unwavering commitment to providing a secure, welcoming, and high-quality environment for every camper.
- We continued to develop our summer offerings to best meet camper interests, successfully launching our first LEGO and Taylor Swift specialty camps.
- We partnered with Girls on the Run to host a week-long adventure for rising 3rd–5th-grade girls, combining physical activity with interactive games and art to build self-confidence and essential life skills.
- In partnership with The Knight School, we debuted an after-school chess club, providing students with a fun, strategic way to sharpen their critical thinking skills.
- Our aftercare program remained a vital resource for working families, consistently serving 22 children with dedicated care and supervision.



540 unique camp participants



16 specialty camps offered



21 zip codes represented by participants in summer camp



699 total hours of camp provided



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

As we welcomed new leadership and expanded professional learning opportunities for our teaching staff, we remained steadfast in our commitment to cultivating joyful, high-quality learning environments where children feel confident, cared for, and eager to explore.

Highlights for the year:

- Following a national search, Inna Shepard joined the Cohn Early Childhood Learning Center as director. Relocating from New Jersey, Inna brings nearly 20 years of leadership experience in early childhood education and a deep commitment to fostering strong, collaborative teams. She is recognized for her approachable leadership style and her dedication to building meaningful partnerships with families and staff.
- Partnered with Mitchell's Place to strengthen educators' capacity to understand and implement trauma-informed care in classroom settings.
- Expanded early-childhood services by opening a new infant room, increasing access to high-quality childcare for families in the community.
- Launched an enhanced professional development calendar offering teachers expanded opportunities to learn and apply developmentally appropriate practices.



218 children
enrolled in
early childhood
education



13 preschool
students receiving
need-based fee
deductions



59 dedicated
early childhood
professionals on
staff





2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chief Financial Officer

Robert Scott
Chief Operations Officer

Barbara Traweck
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45,000 drivers greeted by our marquee sign daily

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