

# PRESIDENT’S LETTER



and we are already seeing positive results.

We have made great progress on our goals and still have work to do. At last year’s annual meeting, I announced our renewed focus on the following strategic priorities:

- 1. To offer destination worthy programming.** Our preschools continue to thrive. Last summer’s camp season was extremely successful, and our programming and registration for the upcoming summer look better than ever. Cultural arts, gymnastics, tennis and many other program areas continue to offer strong “destination worthy” programming. While our new fitness, aquatics and culinary studios are open and off to a strong start, much work remains to achieve our vision.
- 2. To be the connector and convener for pluralistic Jewish cultural, educational and civic engagement within the Jewish and Greater Houston community.** We have hosted several collaborative events in our space over the past months, and our J continues to engage communities across the city. Positive partnerships with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, United Way and other organizations across Houston strengthen our community

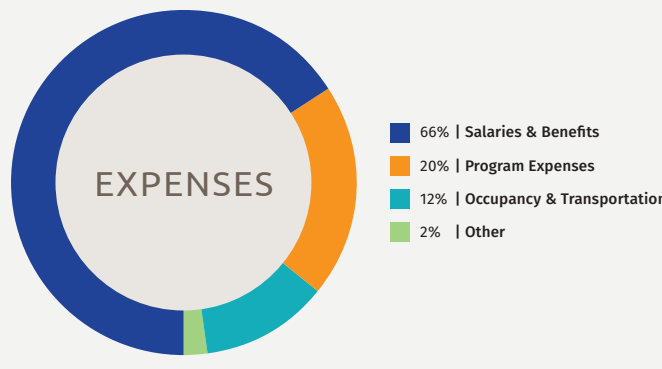
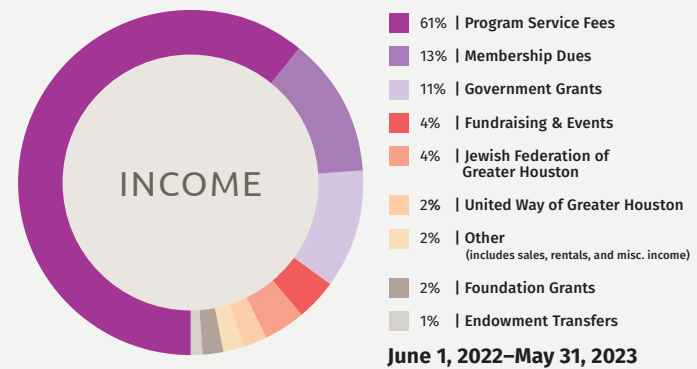
JEREMY SAMUELS, PRESIDENT  
ERJCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Jeremy Samuels*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### OPERATING BUDGET | \$15,986,000

With an operating budget of \$16 million, the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center serves the Greater Houston Jewish and secular communities through a multitude of programs and services. The long-standing tradition of providing for every segment of the population in Houston is sustained through grants, membership dues, program fees and donations.



### SCHOLARSHIPS | \$487,730

The J strives to make programs accessible to all, regardless of financial need. We help those in need with financial assistance in many different areas of the J. Many of the scholarship dollars are made possible by the Irvin Kaplan Children’s Scholarship Fund which is supported through individual donations and the annual Children’s Scholarship Ball.

## AT THE CENTER OF IT ALL. OUR NEW J.



### 2022–2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Executive Committee Appointment*

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Jody Sweed

Jennifer Haikin Zach

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Noah Kruger

Dr. Stacey Rose

\*Past President

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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#### BAS

#### Book Festival

#### Budget & Finance

#### Building

#### Children’s Scholarship Ball

#### Children & Camping

#### Culinary

#### Dedication

#### Family Engagement

#### Film Festival

#### Fitness

#### Horvitz

#### Maccabi

#### Medical Advisory

#### Teens

#### Tennis

#### Theatre

#### West Houston

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Diane Lee Kraitman

Yvette Pintar

Michael Pappert

Joe Pryzant

Murray Kalmin

Dr. Stacey Rose

Jessica Leif

Harold Graham

Lonny Hoffman

Sara Edelman

## Our New



at the  
**CENTER**  
of it all



## 2022–2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

### Impact Report

EVELYN RUBENSTEIN JCC HOUSTON  
5601 S. Braeswood | Houston, TX 77096-3907  
713.729.3200 | erjccchouston.org



erjccchouston.org



“To be the town square of our vision, we must continue to bring all members of society together.” – *Jeremy Samuels, J President*



## 5,697 People

experienced arts and culture season at literary, film and performing arts events throughout the year.



## 100% Delicious

Our new Cramer-Jacobs Family Culinary Studio launched in early March and has offered 19 classes for children, teens and adults, including Lunch in Tel Aviv with Hamsa's executive chef, a cupcake decorating class and two challah baking classes.

“It was so much fun! The two chefs were delightful and energetic young women who were so helpful, attentive and wonderful. In a short time we whipped up some very tasty treats. The quality of the food was also excellent as well as the wine and champagne. It was really fun, delicious and well executed.”  
–Elise S.



## 530 Unique Families

attended one or more of our family engagement programs this year. These programs offer young families the opportunity to enjoy play dates, community events and holiday celebrations that connect families, build friendships and introduce Jewish values through play-based programs, such as Tot Shabbats, Toddler Tales Story Times, Havdalah programs, family performing arts shows and more!



## J Staff & Lay Leaders

Participated in the Leadership Project with Keshet's, an organization that works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and our families in Jewish life. During J-Serve 2023, teens wrote letters to the Texas House Public Health Committee again HB1686, made care packages for homeless queer youth and learned about the Jewish connection to LGBTQ+ topics.



## 47,837 Senior Companion Program Hours

of face-to-face, one-on-one companionship, pairing low-income seniors with home-bound seniors to help keep them independently living in their own homes, or giving respite to a family caregiver.



## 650 Volunteers

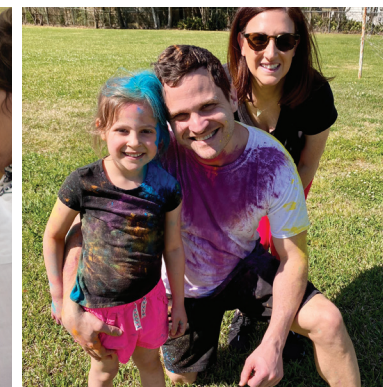
served with the AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program. RSVP volunteers partner with nonprofit and public organizations to support Healthy Futures, education and disaster relief services.



## 113,457 Meals

were delivered to 630 home-bound seniors from over 300 volunteers in our Meals on Wheels program.

“The people that commit to this service are extremely caring people, very polite and compassionate. This world is in desperate need of people with such compassion.”  
–Lonnie M.



## \$380,836 Raised

at our Children's Scholarship Ball benefiting the Irvin Kaplan Children's Scholarship Fund which provides financial assistance to children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities for early childhood education and summer day camps. 550 people attended the first Children's Scholarship Ball to be held at Our New J.

“The event was wonderful, and it did an excellent job of showcasing our new building.”  
–Liz R.



## Over 20% Increase

in our memberships since January 1. Membership has grown from 5,110 to over 6,500 individuals.

“Our family loves the JCC and all it has to offer. The new facility is beautiful and the wide range of activities rock!”  
–Karen N.



## 252 Children

paired with Foster Grandparents at 25 schools throughout Harris County. Children in the Foster Grandparents program show increased academic performance and higher self-esteem. In the past year we have expanded recruitment efforts and received additional federal funding to increase volunteer engagement and retention.



## 83% Re-Enrollment

for our early childhood 2023-2024 education programs at the Bertha Alyce and Ellen Boniuk Early Childhood Schools.



## 530+ Gymnasts

enrolled in classes, teams and camps with the Houston Gymnastics Center at the J. More than 2,500 gymnasts participated in our worldwide Houston National Invitational gymnastics meet.



## 11,591 Workouts

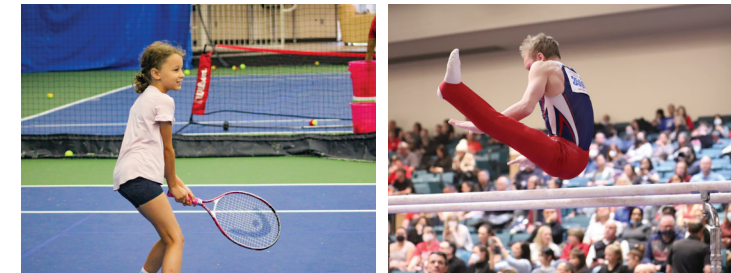
have taken place in the Laurie and Milton Boniuk Wellness Center.

“Very impressed with new fitness facilities and wonderful staff. They are working hard to create a welcoming environment! Great to see old friends and new members.”  
–Jamie.



## 1,100 KidZone Rides

for 60 children from six local elementary schools. KidZone is a terrific program for afterschool children to unwind with interactive games, arts and crafts, and open playtime in our state-of-the-art gymnastics center and playground.



## 1,143 Children

enjoyed a fun summer at J Camps participating in a wide variety of camps, including art, performing arts, sports, tennis, gymnastics and dance.

“My favorite thing about the J is all the activities. You can do art, culinary, theater, gymnastics and KidZone. You can do something different every day if you want. It's so fun!”  
–Martha L., Age 9



## 125 Children

ages of six to 18 participate in our Levine Family Tennis Academy.



## 170 Children

ages three to 18 presented 10 productions on the Kaplan stage in our children and teen theatre department.

“Behold how good and pleasant it is when all people live together as one.”

–Psalm 133