

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



People ask me what is special about the J? Naturally, I mention our amazing state-of-the-art facilities. However, the vibrancy of the Samuels Family Community Pavilion, the warmth of West Houston and the energy at the Merfish Teen Center are fueled by people!

### 9,000 members share life experiences.

Walking around, one can hear multiple languages, Shabbat stories being read to toddlers and laughter from seniors enjoying a Kosher lunch. One can see elementary age thespians in costumes, teens and adults heading to workout, people conducting a business meeting and others learning how to paint. One can smell the scent of chlorine from the swimmers and the aroma of spices from aspiring chefs. **Members reflect all life stages and slices of our community.**

**Dedicated staff energize operations.** Every hug from a teacher or counselor, compliment from a coach or instructor, idea from a lecturer and bingo number called adds to the J experience. Every question answered, ticket sold, marketing material produced and car observed creates a welcoming and secure environment. Every IT solution created, payment processed, employee hired and equipment serviced keeps the organization functioning at maximum capacity. **Staff are true partners.**

**Talented volunteers add tremendous value.** Seniors receive weekly Meals on Wheels from volunteer drivers, ushers greet guests at the theatre, parents provide another set of hands, committees plan programs and events, and leaders provide

agency oversight. Hundreds of volunteers will help the J plan and host the JCC Maccabi Games® & Access. **Volunteer engagement is a unique aspect of the J culture.**

**Generous donors invest in the J.** Patrons support the arts and culture programs and fund scholarships for children. Capital campaign donors have built and renovated our facilities for generations. Endowment creators sustain Jewish experiences, scholarships, leadership development and ongoing maintenance of facilities. **Philanthropists are partners and visionaries.**

Together, with our members, staff, volunteers and donors, the J is the heart of the Jewish and wider Houston community.

I would like to leave you with a call to action. Here is a menu for your consideration...

- Invite someone to join the J.
- Say thank you to a staff member for a job well done.
- Volunteer at the upcoming JCC Maccabi Games® & Access.
- Include the J when planning your philanthropy.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as the chair of the board at the J.

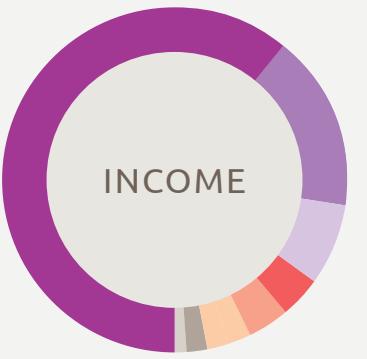
**CHEERS,  
DEBBIE**

*Debbie Diamond*

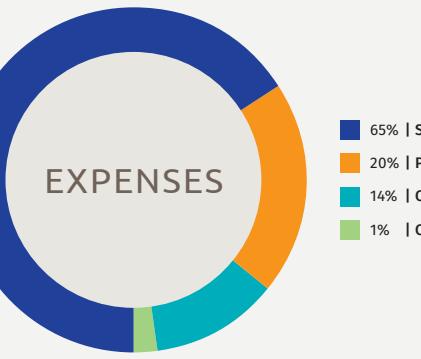
## FINANCIAL REPORT

### OPERATING BUDGET | \$19,855,000

With an operating budget of \$19.9 million, the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center serves the Greater Houston Jewish and secular communities through a multitude of programs and services. The longstanding tradition of providing for every segment of the population in Houston is sustained through grants, membership dues, program fees and donations.



June 1, 2023–May 31, 2024



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### 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Honorary President

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Vice President

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Executive Committee  
Appointment

Marcy Laviage  
Executive Committee  
Appointment

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#### Committee Chairs

Audit

Bertha Alyce School

Book Festival

Budget & Finance

Children's Scholarship Ball

Children & Camping

Culinary

Family Engagement

Film Festival

Fitness

Maccabi

Marketing

Nominating

Theatre

West Houston

Steve Finkelman

Lauren Sancton

Marcy Laviage / Jeryl Golub

/ Christine Laskin

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Michael Pappert

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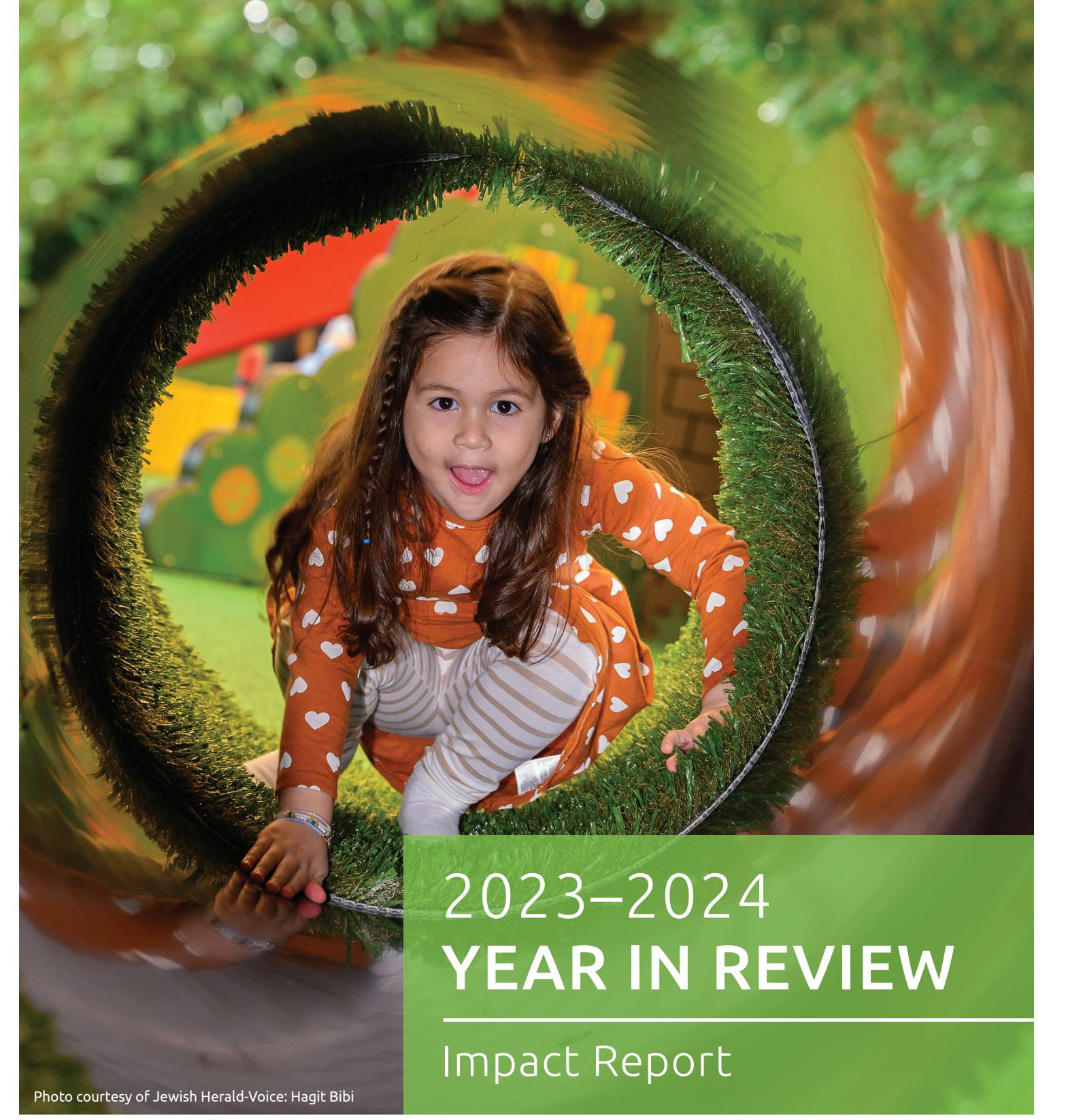
Jessica Schreiber Solera

Jeremy Samuels

Lonny Hoffman

Sara Edelman

## EVELYN RUBENSTEIN JCC HOUSTON



## 2023-2024

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### Impact Report

Photo courtesy of Jewish Herald-Voice: Hagit Bibi

EVELYN RUBENSTEIN JCC HOUSTON

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