

CONTRIBUTIONS IN ACTION

In just the last year, support of our annual campaign enabled our network of agencies to help more than 4.5 million people in New York, in Israel, and around the world. In fact...

-  **9.5 million** meals were distributed to struggling New Yorkers to prevent hunger.
-  **300,000** Israeli Jews learn about all branches of Judaism to create a more inclusive, diverse society.
-  **13,000** people with physical disabilities have experienced the joy of summer camp and year-round residential programs for nearly three decades.
-  **577,000** seniors in New York, Israel, and the former Soviet Union receive food, homecare, and other vital support.
-  **78,500** New Yorkers get free legal services to help them access benefits, stave off evictions, and protect themselves from domestic abuse.
-  **234,000** struggling Jewish seniors in the former Soviet Union receive crucial groceries, homecare, skilled nursing care, and housing.
-  **440,000** counseling sessions helped New Yorkers of all ages cope with mental health issues.
-  **245,000** disenfranchised Israelis have received crucial assistance to help them find employment since 2005.
-  **16,900** local students stay connected to the Jewish community through 11 campus Hillels.
-  **47,000** young Jews from the former Soviet Union discovered what it means to be Jewish last year.

To make a gift to UJA-Federation, please visit ujafedny.org/NewsletterDonate, or contact our Donor Center at 212.836.1486 or donorcenter@ujafedny.org.

Thank you for your commitment to your community.



GROWING OLDER AND STAYING INDEPENDENT

Ellen Schwartz has been living in Co-op City, Bronx, for 18 years, but since retiring in 2012 she has found new satisfaction by participating in the activities of a NORC.

NORCs, or naturally occurring retirement communities, are locales for organizing and delivering supportive services that help individuals remain in their own homes as they grow older.

Ellen participates in the programs of the Co-op City NORC established by JASA (Jewish Association

Serving the Aging), a UJA nonprofit partner. In fact, UJA played a critical role in creating the innovative NORC model — which has now become part of the vernacular — in response to the challenge posed by New York’s graying demographics.

“I’m more than happy,” she says. “There are so many activities. And it’s right across the street.”

Among the activities Ellen enjoys in the NORC community room are line dancing, Zumba, and exercising. All of the classes are led by professional instructors who have a special affinity for engaging with older adults.

She is also a member of the Health Committee, which works to ensure that all NORC participants are aware of ways and means to develop good health habits. The committee recently organized a health fair, which provided blood pressure screenings and other preventative services to residents.

“I’ve made new friends and I’ve become better acquainted with people I already knew,” Ellen says. “I’m lucky.”



Ellen Schwartz participates in an exercise class at Co-op City NORC (naturally recurring retirement community).



SINGLE MOM COPEs WITH DAUGHTER'S DISABILITY AND JOB LOSS

Maria is a single mom to her daughter Danielle, who lives with severe autism and requires 24-hour care. To make matters worse for the family, Maria lost her job when the restaurant she worked for couldn't renew its lease.

"As much craziness as there is in my life, somehow you've gotta say, 'one more day, one more day,'" she says. "And it's always like that, with my daughter, and hopefully that pushes you ahead," she says.



Maria, left, shares a moment with her daughter, Danielle, who lives with severe autism.

When Maria got laid off and had no money in the bank, she was terrified she would lose her home because she fell behind on her rent.

"I spent many months just out with Danielle and crying," she said. "UJA saved me."

Because of the help she received through the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, both UJA nonprofit partners, Maria made her rent.

"I'm forever grateful," Maria says. "People's generosity and good will — sometimes you lose faith in that when you're faced with horrible things every day. Sometimes a little bit can really change someone's whole life. It really is life-saving. I don't know where I would have been without it."



CAMPUS ISRAEL FELLOWS EMPOWER JEWISH STUDENTS

"Through a personal connection with an Israel Fellow like me, Jewish students learn what's positive in Israel and the challenges Israel faces," Noa Partuk says. "People may not remember a program. They will remember a person who was there for them."

That's how Noa, an IDF veteran and university graduate, sees her impact as a Campus Israel Fellow at Tanger Hillel, Brooklyn College.

Fellows are young Israelis who share their firsthand experiences about Israel's complex society. Noa served as a communications technician in the IDF, and worked as a soldier with the Gaza disengagement in 2005.

"I saw conflict in a real way," she says. "The subject is very complicated, and that's the key point."

Noa tries to bring an understanding of Israel's many nuances to the students she meets. And she empowers students to respond to anti-Israel bias on campus, which has heated up with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Israel Fellows help train students to respond to questions, write op-eds, and engage in conversations both one-on-one and in social media.

With the support of UJA-Federation of New York, together with the Jewish Agency for Israel and Hillel International, Campus Israel Fellows are currently serving the Hillels at Columbia, Baruch, and Stony Brook, in addition to Brooklyn College.



Campus Israel Fellow Noa Partuk, second from right, with Tanger Hillel Brooklyn College students.