



Lawrence Family
Jewish Community Center
JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

IMPACT REPORT 2025/2026

Lives Changed. Community Built. Jewish Life in Motion.



COMMUNITY IS NOT BUILT IN BIG MOMENTS ALONE. IT HAPPENS IN THOUSANDS OF SMALL ONES.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is to connect the community to Jewish heritage, identity, experiences and values to ensure the continuity and vibrancy of the Jewish community. We accomplish our mission by promoting the physical and mental well-being of the community and offering a rich array of stimulating and innovative social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs and services. The LFJCC is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for San Diego's diverse Jewish community and its greater general community.

Core Values:



Hachnasat Orchim Livnot Kehillah | הכנסת אורחים לבנות קהילה
Welcoming Guests to Build Community



Ahavat Limud | אהבת לימוד
Love of Learning



Shmirat HaGuf | שמירת הגוף
Guarding the Body, Connecting Physical Well-being and Holistic Health



L'dor V'dor | לדור ודור
Linking Generations



Hiddur Mitzvah | הידור מצווה
Enhancing Our Humanity through Creative Expression

Every year, I have the privilege of seeing something extraordinary happen at the Lawrence Family JCC.

I see a new parent walk into a Shalom Baby gathering and leave with new friends and a sense that they are no longer doing this alone. I see campers step off buses with nervous smiles and return home with confidence and friendships that last long after summer ends. I see teens discovering their voices, seniors finding connection, children growing into curious learners, and neighbors becoming community.

I also see something else.

I see generosity in action.

Because behind every moment in this report, there is someone who made it possible. Someone who gave their time, their resources, their energy, or their heart.

This year, thousands of people found belonging here. Families celebrated milestones together. People strengthened their minds and bodies. Jewish culture came alive through art, learning, and shared experiences. We welcomed new faces and deepened lifelong relationships.

The numbers you will see in these pages are important. They help tell the story. But the real story is about people.

It is about a child feeling included.

It is about a parent finding support.

It is about someone walking through our doors and realizing they have found a place where they belong.

At the J, community is not something we simply talk about. It is something we build together, every single day.

Thank you for helping us create a place where Jewish life thrives, where every generation matters, and where connection continues to grow.

Thank you for believing in this community. Thank you for making this impact possible.

With gratitude,

Liz Nederlander Coden

Board Chair, Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center



Belonging happens here.

*Reflections by Jonathan Cane,
Marketing Director*

When I arrived at the Lawrence Family JCC a year ago, I thought I understood what belonging meant.

I was wrong. Like many people, I assumed belonging was a nice idea. An organizational value. Something you put on a website or print on a brochure. Then I spent a year here.

The first person who helped me understand Belonging was Anne Chao. I interviewed Anne for the Shalom Baby 25th Anniversary Bash, celebrating a program whose entire purpose is simple: letting new families in San Diego know they belong here. Anne told me about finding community through Shalom Baby. She said, "Shalom Baby didn't just help me meet people. It helped me find my people." What started as a program became a community that has supported my family every step of the way."



Anne Chao

As a Chinese immigrant from a different faith background, she wasn't necessarily the person people imagine when they think about a Jewish Community Center. But that's exactly the point.

She wasn't welcomed because she fit a particular mold, and what started with a simple welcome became something much bigger. It became a village.

A few months later, I sat down with the Asciutto family for our Faces of Belonging campaign. Even the campaign title tells you what we were trying to explore. What does belonging actually look like? Their story was powerful. It was personal. It was moving. Meredith Asciutto put it plainly, "belonging is just being here, and feeling welcomed and not being othered."



The Asciutto Family

As were the stories of Ava, Max, William, Kai and so many more.

Allison Brown, with her son Max on her lap, told me, "when my family walks into the JCC, we feel a sense of belonging. We feel love, we feel accepted. We just are who we are, and it feels so great to just be here."

Conversations with the children and parents impacted by our incredible Inclusion program helped me understand that Belonging doesn't happen in a moment. It grows over time. That's the essence of L'dor V'dor, the Jewish value of linking generations.



Allison and Max

Gearing up for the Campfire Gala, I had the privilege of interviewing generations of Camp Jaycee campers and staff. That's when I learned about Jonathan Baron.

30 years before I stepped foot in the J, Sharon Lerner Baron brought her son Jonathan and daughter Michelle to Camp Jaycee. Jonathan is on the autism spectrum. At the time, the only option for Sharon was to split her kids up - one goes to "regular" camp and the other goes to a "special needs" camp. That wasn't acceptable to Sharon, or the J. That isn't Belonging.

So Camp Jaycee adapted.



Jonathan Baron, 1992

When Jonathan attended Camp Jaycee, the goal wasn't to create a separate experience for him. The goal was to make sure he could participate in the same experience as everyone else. Not a different camp. Not a special version of camp. Just Camp. We found ways to make inclusion possible without making him feel different.

Once I saw it, I started seeing it everywhere. In Shalom Baby. In Camp Jaycee. In the Friedenbergs Pool. In Nierman classrooms. In every CJC program. At Shine-A-Light Shabbat tables.

By the end of my first year at the J, I realized something simple: Belonging is not a department, a program, or a campaign. It is the thread that connects everything we do.



Sharon Lerner Baron and Jonathan Baron, 2026

"Belonging is about community, that delicate yet powerful network of relationships where we learn moral literacy - by being there for other people when they need us, knowing that they'll be there for us when we need them."
- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Connecting happens here.

*Reflections by Natasha Mulholland,
Managing Director CJC*

I've always believed that culture has the power to connect people and strengthen community. When we gather to learn, celebrate, and share experiences, we live the Jewish values of Hachnasat Orchim, welcoming guests, and Livnot Kehillah, building community.

One of my favorite stories of connection started with a single event.

When author and Mah Jongg expert Michelle Frizzell came to the J for A Day of American Mah Jongg, she expected to teach strategy and gameplay. Instead, she told me she was struck by how quickly strangers became friends around the table. As Michelle put it, "The tiles bring people together, but it's the conversations that keep them coming back."



Jan and
The Mah Jongg Club



Audience Connecting
With Hen Mazzig

The real magic happened next.

Building a community takes more than a successful event. It takes people willing to create something lasting. Jan Friedman understood that immediately. Jan often says that Mah Jongg is just the excuse. The real purpose is gathering people together.

Through a partnership between volunteers and staff, that initial spark became our first official Mah Jongg Club. As Jan told me, "We started with a shared love of the game, but what keeps people coming back are the friendships around the table."

Now I regularly hear laughter spilling out of those rooms and see friendships forming in real time.

We're not just Connecting our people. Community is built by connecting our neighbors and by turning strangers into friends. It's what we do at every Shine a Light Shabbat, one of the dozens of Jeighborhood events we organize each year.

Pastor Chase Feindel, who hosted a Shine A Shabbat with his family at Anthem Church in Vista, said it best, "That evening reminded me that meaningful relationships are built around tables, not headlines. We came from different backgrounds, but we found connection in conversation, hospitality, and shared values."



Adam and Simone
Shine a Light Shabbat



The Feindel Family
Anthem Church

Witnessing people of completely diverse faith backgrounds break challah together, I realized this wasn't a lesson in theology. The Jeighborhood is a masterclass in empathy.

In a world that can feel incredibly fractured, those tables showed me that our deepest commonalities are discovered the moment we agree to look each other in the eye and share a meal.

But connecting isn't always easy or comfortable; sometimes, it requires the brave work of wrestling with heavy ideas together.

At the Z3 Conference in December, we opened a landscape for raw, nuanced, and deeply modern dialogue surrounding Zionism and global Jewish identity.

For participants like Daniel Kahn, Z3 wasn't a passive lecture, it was an intellectual awakening. "Z3 reminded me that meaningful connection doesn't require agreement on everything. It requires curiosity, respect, and a willingness to stay in conversation."

In a historical moment where global conversations feel incredibly polarizing, Daniel found himself connecting with peers willing to engage honestly. It reminded me that a strong community isn't defined by uniform thinking, it is defined by a shared commitment to stay connected.



Z3 Panelists

A community is not a mere collection of individuals; it is an organism where each part sustains the other.
— Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook

Thriving happens here.

*Reflections by Angela Harrington,
Human Resources Director*

People don't generally think about Human Resources when they think about Shmirat HaGuf, the Jewish value of caring for our bodies and well-being, but whether we're raising future leaders, supporting young families, running a 5K, or helping someone take their first lap across the pool, Thriving happens when people are given the support they need to grow stronger.

Over this past year, I've realized that "thriving" isn't a passive state. It's an active, daily choice made possible by the people we bring into this building. From our tiniest newborns to our most dedicated staff, I get a front-row seat to watching a community grow, push its limits, and sustain itself across generations.

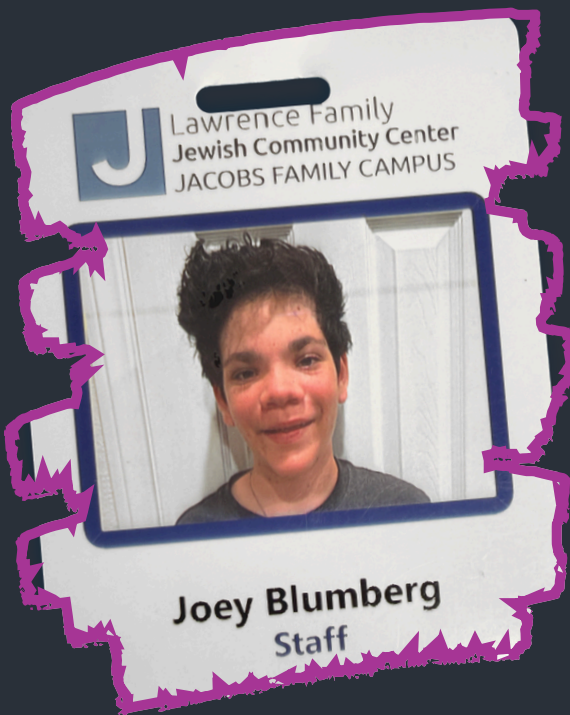
Joey Blumberg (Camper)
and family



One of the greatest joys of my job is watching the children who grew up in our hallways come full circle. This year, I had the privilege of officially hiring Joey Blumberg to be a Camp Jaycee counselor. I remember when Joey was just a camper himself, following in the footsteps of his mother, Marcy.

Standing on the other side of the desk during his interview, watching his transition from a kid playing under the sun to a young leader ready to inspire the next generation, was incredibly moving. As he says, "Camp Jaycee shaped who I am. Coming back as a counselor feels like giving back to the place that helped me grow."

When we invest in our youth, we aren't just filling a summer schedule; we are building a lifelong pipeline of leadership. Seeing Joey lead his cohort proved to me that the magic of this place is a continuous loop.



Thriving means expanding to meet the evolving needs of our families. This year, my team faced the massive challenge of staffing up our brand-new Shalom Baby Infant Care Center from scratch. We needed caregivers who brought immense warmth and safety to our tiniest community members.

I think of David Shapiro, whose family was one of the very first to trust us with their newborn in the infant care center. "What started as a way to meet other new parents through Shalom Baby quickly became our community. Enrolling our daughter in the Infant Care Center felt like the natural next step, and we're excited for her journey through Nierman Preschool. It's an amazing place."



Like many parents, David described that first drop-off as both exciting and terrifying. What gave him confidence, he said, was knowing his child was surrounded by people whose first priority was care. That trust is sacred.

Sometimes, thriving means physical perseverance. This year, I didn't just coordinate the staffing for the return of the Festival of Lights Run, I laced up my sneakers and ran the 5K alongside 250 neighbors. Collectively, we logged 610 miles that day. Standing at the starting line and looking out at a sea of runners, the energy was pure joy.

For me, crossing that finish line was a physical manifestation of our collective vitality.



Festival of Lights
Runner

Finally, thriving is about creating a sanctuary of physical and mental wellness. That is exactly what went through my mind when I hired Kathy to join our aquatics team as a swim instructor.

Her philosophy is clear, "Every swimmer who steps onto the pool deck is capable of more than they realize. My job is to help them discover that strength."

Kathy doesn't just teach strokes, she builds an environment where people feel safe enough to conquer their fears and find their strength. When I walk out to the Friedenbergs Pool and see Kathy on the deck, guiding swimmers of all ages, I see the true definition of total well-being. The pool deck has become a multi-generational crossroads where deep, life-affirming friendships thrive in the water.



Kathy Patoff

"A joyful heart makes for good health; despondency dries up the bones."

— Proverbs 17:22

Celebrating happens here.

*Reflections by Adam Nicolai,
Senior Director Community Engagement*

For me, Celebrating isn't something you put on a calendar, it is the very oxygen of Jewish life. My job is to help create the spaces where our community can experience joy, connection, pride, gratitude, and sometimes even healing.

That is an expression of Hiddur Mitzvah, the Jewish value of beautifying a mitzvah. We do not simply mark moments, we elevate them. Through meaningful experiences, thoughtful details, and shared celebration, we transform ordinary gatherings into something memorable, helping people connect more deeply to one another, to Jewish life, and to themselves.

Over this past year, I've learned that celebration at the JCC is a spectrum. Sometimes it looks like pure summer magic, sometimes it is a defiant act of joy, and other times, it is the raw, tearful relief of a prayer answered.

One of my favorite celebrations is Family Fun Nights. I absolutely love being out on the pool deck with our community under the San Diego sun. Nierman Preschool parent Kirby Ryan said it best, "what's not to love?!"

It's a simple celebration of being together, of family, and of the easy warmth that defines the best parts of this community.

Celebration can also be a profound statement of who we are. This year, we found ourselves scrambling to set up our own JPride event as a vital counter to San Diego Pride, ensuring our LGBTQ+ community had a space that felt entirely safe, culturally resonant, and celebratory.

To really get the party started, we brought in award-winning Israeli-American soprano Shanee Zamir. She said, "performing today was amazing. It wasn't just a party, this was an act of radiant, defiant joy." We created a sanctuary where people could dance, sing, and celebrate every single layer of their identity with pride and absolute peace.



Summer Family
Fun Nights!



Shanee at
JPride Festival

Then there are the celebrations that shake you to your core. On October 9th, we drew strength and commemorated October 7th with the Project Heroes concert. Just a few days later, on October 13, our campus became the site of an impromptu gathering that I will never forget. We came together in relief and gratitude to celebrate the return of the final 20 surviving Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

The atmosphere was thick with tears of joy, and tears of absolute relief. In the middle of the crowd, I caught sight of our CEO, Betzy Lynch hugging through tears, a profound, quiet moment of shared weight lifting off shoulders that felt forever memorialized right then and there. It reminded me that in our tradition, we do not carry grief alone, and we certainly do not celebrate alone.



Hannah Cohen

Beneath these massive milestones are the consistent, beautiful rhythms of Jewish heritage. We celebrate every single Jewish holiday... because, of course we do.

One of the greatest personal joys I get in this role is watching our Nierman Preschool performances for Purim and Passover.

Seeing our tiniest children step onto the stage, dressed up, singing, and telling stories connects us directly to our past and our future.



Purim

And finally, there are the weekly Shabbat celebrations at Camp Jaycee.

Every Friday afternoon, in the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, camp becomes a collective reset button for the soul.

"You know, you close out with a big celebration and a wonderful Shabbat and to me that's just it brings me such joy to see every week." Benji Stein

Singing together, welcoming the peace of the weekend, we remind ourselves that no matter how noisy the world gets, we always have a place to return to.



Celebrate Israel Day

"Joy breaks all barriers"
- Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson



REVENUE & SUPPORT

\$16.2M

total resources

EXPENSES

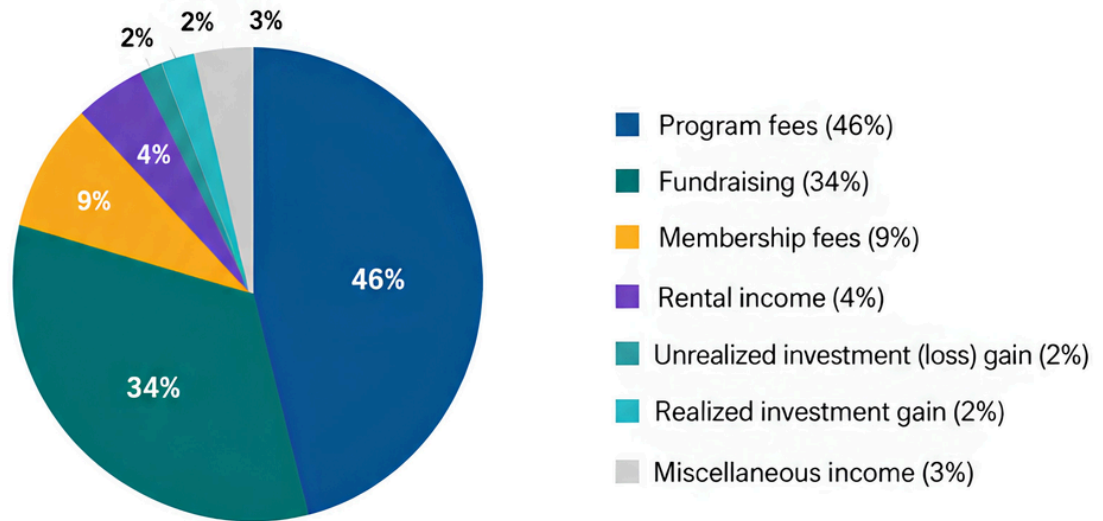
\$16.2M

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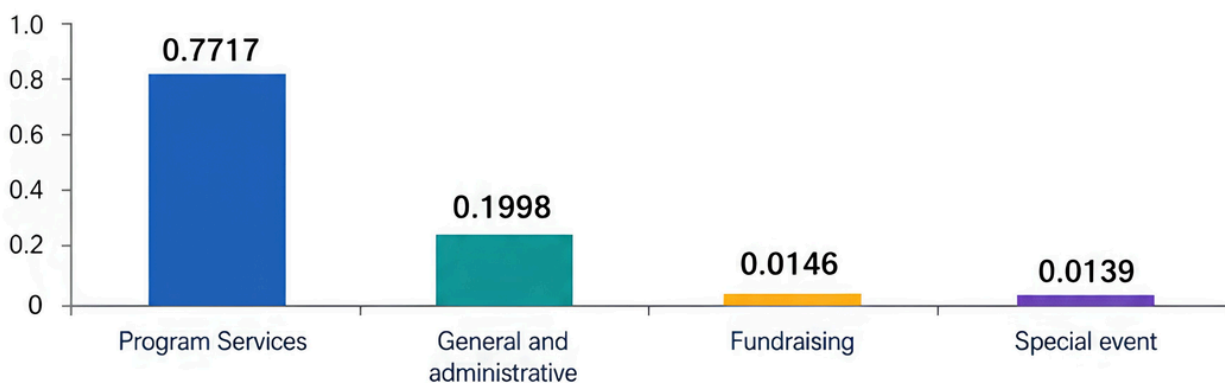
NET INCOME

-\$18K

Revenue & Support Mix



Expense Allocation



77% of expenses are program services
Mission delivery remains the dominant use of resources.

Primary revenue drivers

Program fees (46%) • Fundraising (34%) • Membership fees (9%)

REVENUE & SUPPORT

\$1.59M

total resources

EXPENSES

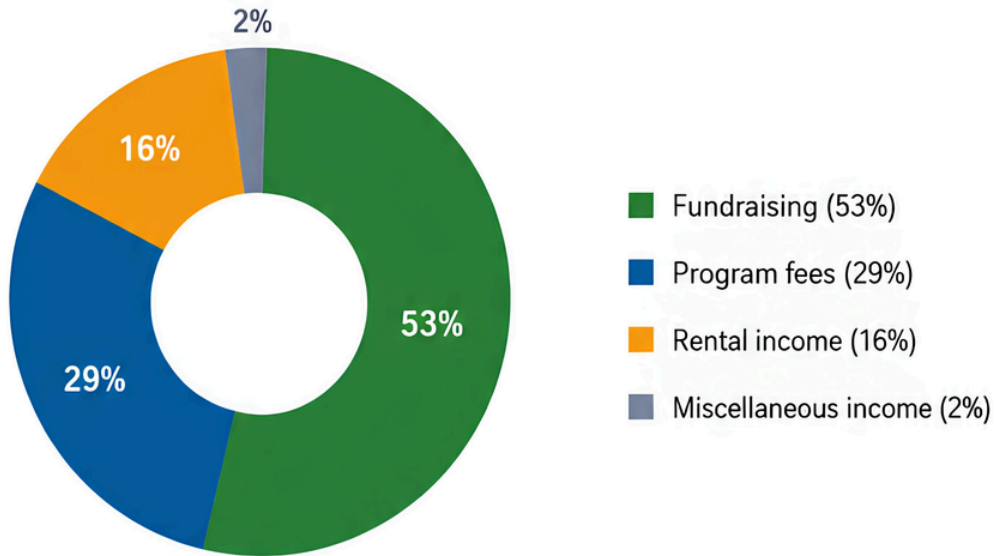
\$1.59M

total uses

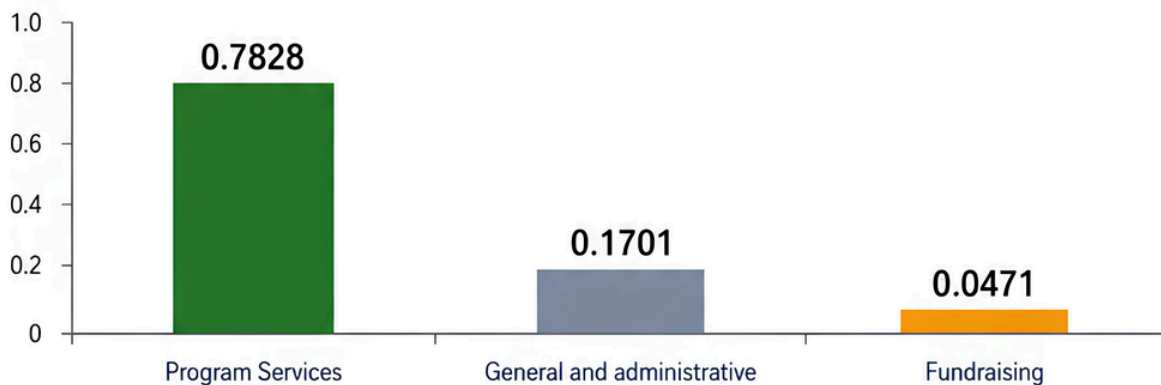
NET INCOME

\$0

Revenue & Support Mix



Expense Allocation



78% of expenses are program services

Mission delivery remains the dominant use of resources.

Primary revenue drivers

Fundraising (53%) • Program fees (29%) • Rental Income (16%)

Did you **Know?**

610 Miles were collectively walked/run in the Festival of Lights Run.

228 Babies were welcomed to our community through Shalom Baby.

128 Children with Special Needs participated in Camp Jaycee.

78 Little Actors got on stage to perform in Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

2087 People were introduced to Jewish life and culture through our Neighborhood programs.

\$500,000 in Financial Assistance given to ensure the JCC, Camp Jaycee and Nierman Preschool are accessible to as many as possible.

\$250,000 was allocated from the Regional Center, covering the tuition for children with special needs to attend camp at no cost to the families.

Funding from the county's Alternative Payment Program allowed over **60 Families** to attend Nierman Preschool.

Programs fees and memberships aren't enough to cover the cost of keeping the building open year-round, which is why fundraising is so important.

Interested in supporting the LFJCC?

Please email Ludivine De Anda at ludivined@lfjcc.org.





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