

JCC Budapest was founded in 1994 by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), launching Hungary's Jewish revival after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Today, it serves as the center of Jewish life in the heart of Budapest. In 2022, JCC Budapest became an independent local NGO, and in 2024, our supporters established Friends of JCC Budapest as a registered 501(c) (3) in the United States. To learn more about joining our cadre of overseas friends and investors, please visit www.friendsofjccbudapest.org.

Special thanks to Merri Ukraincik for her assistance in creating this report.

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This commitment to the younger generation is an investment in our community's future – one we make with joy.

JCC BUDAPEST

STRENGTHENING THE CORE OF HUNGARIAN JEWISH LIFE



**ANNUAL
IMPACTREPORT**
OCTOBER 2025



WELCOME



HOME!

Dear Friends,

This was a tumultuous year for the Jewish people, and I've been thinking about what that has meant for JCC Budapest.

I am honored to share that we were a source of light and stability, a place where Hungarian Jews celebrated and learned about their heritage, gathered and felt the comfort of home.

Despite what is happening in the world, the positive energy at our JCC is palpable. There's an enthusiasm for Jewish experience and belonging that fills me with enormous optimism, especially as we redouble our efforts to build a vibrant Jewish future here in Hungary.

The attached report invites you to follow along as we tell the story of a meaningful year gone by. I hope it will inspire you to join us on the next leg of our journey.

With gratitude,

Marcell Kenesei
Chief Executive Officer
JCC Budapest



PASSION & PURPOSE

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

“

JCC Budapest is proud to be the hub of an exciting Jewish renaissance unfolding in Hungary today. Jews are enriching their identity, standing up for themselves, and investing in our community. This blossoming of Jewish life inspires me. I can't wait to see what comes next.

-Marcell Kenesei, Chief Executive Officer

“

We've come full circle since we inaugurated our JCC more than thirty years ago. Parents who first came here as children themselves now bring their sons and daughters to our cultural and educational programs, helping to grow the next generation of Hungarian Jewry. I have deep gratitude for the leadership that laid our foundation and take satisfaction in the vibrant, inclusive space we've created together since.

-Jutka Lübeck, Deputy Director

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THANK YOU/TODAH RABAH/KÖSZÖNJÜK!

Thanks to your ongoing support, JCC Budapest is much more than a building. We are the heart and home of Hungarian Jewish life, where members find authentic experiences and a sense of belonging at a time when Jewish connections are more important than ever.



IMAGINING TOMORROW, TOGETHER!

At the dawn of the post-Communist era, a small group of dreamers – including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Bálint family from England – imagined a vibrant space in the center of Budapest that would serve as the hub of Hungarian Jewish revival. JCC Budapest is their vision come true.

Today, we remain steadfast in our original mission to welcome Jews of all backgrounds, ages, and experiences, offering them multiple points of connection with their Judaism. Our foundational Jewish values still guide us. And we continue to represent our community's diversity and resilience while serving as a role model for other JCCs throughout Europe.

But we, too, are dreamers.

After celebrating our milestone 30th anniversary in 2024, we asked ourselves: What's our vision for JCC Budapest 2.0?

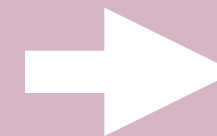
In 2025, we began to reimagine it as a modern-day Beit Knesset, or House of Assembly – rooted in the past yet forward-thinking and adaptable to the rapid changes unfolding around us both locally and globally. We met evolving interests and needs with vitality and renewed creativity, putting a contemporary spin on ancient traditions.

We also focused on strengthening the core of who and what we are – by inspiring our members, leaders, and volunteers to invest in our goal of long-term, institutional self-sustainability.

What has proven an especially challenging time for the Jewish people has also been an opportunity for us to rise to the occasion. We move forward with confidence in what we have built so far and faith in our determination to reach new heights in the year ahead.



Read on to learn more about JCC Budapest and what we've been up to this year.



OUR IMPACT BY

THE NUMBERS

20,000+

Actively
identified &
affiliated Jews

100,000-120,000

Estimated Jewish
population in Hungary

ENGAGEMENT

52,000 (up 48.5%)* Total
Program Attendance

80%

of Hungarian
Jews live in
Budapest

Established in
1994

Years of operation
31

Became an independent local NGO in
2022

JCC Budapest is one of Hungary's largest Jewish NGOs and the largest JCC in Central and Eastern Europe.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

4,000 JUDAFEST

8,000+ ZSIFI FILM FESTIVAL &
ZSIFI YEAR-ROUND

247

JCC Programs

1,270

Partner Programs
(up 5%)

8,000

Registered
Community
Members

200+

Volunteers &
Ambassadors

1.5 million

Social Media Reach on Instagram
& Facebook (up 15 %)

7,000+

Hungarian
newsletter
subscribers

400+

Jewish Camping
JCamp &
Camp Jichák
Family Camp

500+

Friends of JCC Budapest English
newsletter subscribers

65,000

Unique website
visits
(up 18%)

*This figure reflects total participation in our programs, not unique individuals. The number may include attendance at multiple events by the same person.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

Our signature programs are powerhouses of Jewish heritage, history, and culture. Each year, they draw thousands of people to JCC Budapest, help combat stereotypes, and spread Jewish positivity throughout the city among Jews and non-Jews alike.



JUDAFEST

2025



IT RAINED THE
ENTIRE DAY, BUT

4,000

PEOPLE SHOWED
UP FOR JUDAFEST
ANYWAY.

A TASTE OF JEWISH LIFE

As always, JCC Budapest's annual street festival gave participants the chance to experience the richness and diversity of Jewish culture first-hand. There was something for everyone – lectures and walking tours, Jewish and Israeli food tastings, and live musical performances, plus special programs for youth.

“

Initially, the idea of the festival seemed risky. Jews here generally feared that kind of visibility because of past trauma. Today, it's not only widely accepted to be open about our heritage. It's a tradition.

- Pepe Berényi, Operations Director, JCC
Budapest

Judafest launched in 2008 with over 2,000 attendees and seven participating organizations. Fun fact: At the first few festivals, we offered camel rides.

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

While still free and open to the public, Judafest has grown into Hungary's largest Jewish communal event with over 20 participating Jewish NGOs. We now run so many activities that we no longer have time on the program for camels.



This past year, we celebrated Judafest's 18th birthday at a new location in the heart of the Old Jewish Quarter. The move made it possible for us to create a much-needed, dedicated space for expanded children's activities as well as a picnic area.

ZSIFI₂₀₂₄

Jewish and Israeli Film Festival

TOTAL FILMS
SCREENED SINCE
THE FESTIVAL
LAUNCHED

248



THE LARGEST JEWISH AND ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL TURNS 13

We re-envisioned our concept of the ZSIFI Film Festival in November 2024. The changes added new energy to this beloved Budapest cultural institution, keeping it timely, relevant, and entertaining. Ticket sales went up, too.

First, we expanded the Festival's footprint to reach a wider audience. We extended the event from five to six days, screened 27 diverse contemporary films, and launched a

year-round series that brought ten additional screenings to Budapest and beyond.

In today's complex global climate, we continued to use film as a platform for dialogue on identity, democracy, and Jewish life. Films like the Israeli documentary #Nova helped correct some common misconceptions about Judaism, the Jewish community, and Israel.



SECRET CINEMA

To attract young audiences to ZSIFI, we posted a cryptic invitation on social media to an exclusive screening with just a date and time, revealing the film and location only on the day of the event. The night was a huge success, drawing 50 people to the Israeli film *Running on Sand*.

OPENING NIGHT FESTIVITIES

We hosted a private reception for VIP guests and dignitaries, including Budapest Mayor Gergely Karácsony, Israeli Chargé d'Affaires Moran Birman, and German Ambassador Julia Gross, then opened the festival with a screening of the German film *Treasure*. A public reception followed, giving theatergoers the chance to mingle and celebrate Jewish film culture here in our beautiful city.

“

Secret Cinema was a great opportunity to get to know other young Jews with interests like mine
– Hédi, program participant

JEWISH KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING

We cultivate a vibrant gathering space for Jewish cultural, holiday, educational, and social events, as well as opportunities for thoughtful dialogue about what it means to be a Jew in today's world. The people who find their way to JCC Budapest keep our initiatives fresh by weaving their personal experiences into the tapestry of local Jewish culture.



“

I didn't learn how to celebrate the Jewish holidays from my parents. But with the help of the JCC, I'm teaching my parents and my children about our traditions so we can celebrate them together.

- Hanna, JCC Budapest Holiday Ambassador

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Our fun-filled, family-friendly holiday celebrations are the cultural cornerstones that unite the generations of our community around the Jewish calendar and pack the house for our events.



TOTAL HOLIDAY
AMBASSADORS
SINCE PROGRAM
LAUNCH IN 2022:

50



INDIVIDUALS WHO
CELEBRATED
THE HOLIDAYS
WITH US

1000

ROLE MODELING THE HOLIDAYS

We stepped up our mentorship program for our holiday ambassadors, enabling them to expand their core Jewish knowledge. They serve as role models of meaningful communal engagement, hosting holiday celebrations that inspire family and friends to make their own connections with Judaism.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Once again, our interactive holiday programs were among our most popular in-house events. We offered a game-filled Rosh Hashana, child-friendly Tu B'shvat and Passover seders, a Chanukah menorah-lighting ceremony, and a Purim shpiel with a comedic twist on the Queen Esther story. For those looking to observe the holidays in a more traditional way, we provided that option as well.

“

When I arrive at JCC Budapest for our family holiday celebrations, I see the smiling faces of the staff at the door and the familiar, friendly faces of other community members. It's like coming home.

- Gabi, Holiday program participant

COMING SOON:

Enthusiasm for Dafke Debate proved the need for more dialogue within the community about the issues that define who we are. The program will roll out as part of our regular JCC Budapest learning agenda in Fall 2025.

“

FIRST CHANUKAH LIGHT

We sat around the table to celebrate, nervous because we had so little experience in how to do it. Then we took the JCC Budapest Chanukah Book and began following along. We told the story of the holiday, lit the first candle, said the prayers, and admired the beauty of the flame together, as Jewish families have been doing for thousands of years.

-Miklós, Holiday Ambassador



New friends connected around holiday fruits and age-old blessings at our Tu B'shvat seder, sweetened by a chocolate fountain and updated with a modern, environmentally conscious approach.

LATE NIGHT WITH THE JCC

At our annual Nightlong Shavuot Learning, 240 participants learned and reflected on the theme Homeland and what it means today in Hungary, Israel, and the wider global Jewish community. They were especially excited about a new JCC Budapest initiative – Dafke Debate, an unconventional platform for weighing tough questions, like Has the Hungarian Jewish community become stronger since October 7?

One of the initial programs we offered when JCC Budapest opened its doors in 1994, Shavuot Learning has always been free. But we charged for tickets this year instead, giving community members the opportunity to invest in our success and sustainability.



“

Being a holiday ambassador gives me the opportunity not only to live the traditions, but to help others experience this joy by reconnecting them with their roots.

- Judit, Holiday Ambassador



FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES



Our informal Jewish educational programs give youth the time and space to build new friendships, cultivate interpersonal and leadership skills, and take a break from the pressures of social media – all while falling in love with their Judaism.

Both JCamp and Family Camp take place on the beautiful JDC-Lauder Szarvas campus, two hours outside Budapest. Thanks to our partnership with JDC, we are able to host these programs in a setting that has become a symbol of security, belonging, and Jewish spirit for our community.

HAPPY CAMPERS

JCamp was once again a huge hit with our Hungarian crew. But this year, we also had the special privilege to create a safe and fun experience for members of two partner communities facing unique challenges, reinforcing JCamp values of kindness and inclusion.

A delegation of Ukrainian campers added a powerful international dimension to the camp atmosphere as they connected with their Hungarian peers. For the third time, we welcomed members of our JCC Budapest All Hearts community for adults with autism and Down syndrome, who joined in for dance and arts and crafts.



The best thing about JCamp was making new friends.

-Eszti, Hungarian camper

UP NEXT AT JCAMP:

Next spring, we plan to host campers from additional countries, making it a truly regional experience.



Our child returned inspired, with new knowledge and a desire to keep learning. Thank you for the safety, care, and love you provided.

-Parent of a Ukrainian camper

JCAMP ATTENDANCE

180

(UP 80%), OUR HIGHEST PARTICIPATION EVER



A CAMP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

At Camp Jichák, children and their parents experienced the best of traditional camp activities and immersive Jewish learning, from a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat and a new obstacle course to Bibliodrama Torah and a Star of David talent show. The camp's laidback atmosphere allowed them to explore their Jewish roots at their own pace while building a supportive circle of Jewish friends. For our youngest campers, Camp Jichák was a great introduction to camping and a first taste of Jewish learning.

“

Family Camp let me sample the ‘Szarvas Camp feeling’ for the first time. Those few days truly recharged me.

- Tamás, Community Member

FAMILY CAMP JICHÁK
ATTENDANCE

160

MIND THE GAP

Our Global Ambassadors Program (GAP) builds connections between Hungarian and American Jewish youth, cultivating new friendships as well as the future leadership of world Jewry. In July 2025, teens from Budapest reunited with the San Diego, California delegation that visited Hungary the previous summer. Their time together combined local experiences – including a Padres game, kayaking, and the San Diego Zoo – with opportunities to explore Jewish life through a Shabbat with their host families and shared learning. These moments of discovery and

connection deepened friendships across borders and strengthened the group's sense of belonging to a global Jewish community. We also launched a new exchange cycle as Hungarian teens welcomed a group of their peers from Palm Beach, Florida. For four days, they explored Budapest's cultural and historical highlights as well as its Jewish heritage, all organized by JCC Budapest. They then had the life-changing opportunity to attend the second session at the JDC-Lauder Szarvas camp in the countryside.

LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED

Our Yalla Balagan events energize the Jewish experience in ways that resonate with young adults ages 18-26. This year's parties, held in December and March, attracted close to 200 participants each, merging traditional festive vibes with modern music for safe, unforgettable evenings of connection, community-building, and dancing until dawn.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“

We don't come here by chance – we've established friendships.

- Zsuzsa, Shalom Club member

We continue to offer Hungarian Jews fresh points of entry to the community and additional opportunities for connection with their Jewish heritage – and one another – by enhancing existing programs and regularly adding new initiatives to our roster.



SHALOM CLUB



SENIORS CELEBRATE LIFE

Holocaust survivors and seniors who endured the hardships of communism benefit from a wide range of critical services provided by local Jewish community institutions as well as the MAZS Foundation-Claims Conference and JDC.

JCC Budapest's Shalom Club complements those services by focusing on the mental and physical wellbeing of its members. For example, it offers cultural and intellectually stimulating activities while creating an environment where life-sustaining friendships can grow.

UP NEXT

Many seniors have continued to participate online post-Covid lockdown. Our new Shalom Club coordinator has begun to gently guide them back into the JCC Budapest building and encourage them to join our outings as a balm from loneliness. We are also refreshing the club's physical space and expanding outreach to younger seniors 65+ and second-generation Holocaust survivors.



No matter your background or at what stage of life you join, the Shalom Club is a place where you're welcomed, valued, and quickly feel at home.

-Eszter, Shalom Club Coordinator



SHALOM CLUB
MEMBERS

160+



The Shalom Club provides
meaningful structure every day,
and a sense of belonging.

-Judit, Shalom Club member

SUBSCRIBERS TO
THE SHALOM CLUB
NEWSLETTER

350

GETTING ENGAGED

CULTURE CLUBS

We continued to host two well-attended cultural groups, including Israeli folk dancing at the Hora Dance House on Monday evenings and our amateur Community Choir, which performed at JCC Budapest and events throughout the city.

FILMS

Our ZSIFI Year-Round film events are among our most successful tools for community engagement. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz on January 27, we screened the German film *The Investigation*, followed by an audience Q & A with Dorka Gryllus, a Hungarian actress in the film.



OPEN UNIVERSITY

This bi-weekly lecture program delved into hot topics with its timely new series on the conflict in the Middle East. The program caters to adults aged 40+, giving them access to foundational Jewish teachings, and young adults aged 16+, who get to explore complex questions about Jewish identity.



I've learned more about Judaism here than anywhere else.

-Csilla, community member

FEAST FOR THE SENSES

Since most of our programs are family-centric, we created this elegant evening series exclusively for empty nesters and adults ages 30-60 without children. Four times a year, participants enjoy a sensory celebration of the Jewish holidays – through food, drink, music, literature, and festive traditions.



The Shalom Club provides meaningful structure every day, and a sense of belonging.

-Judith, Shalom Club member

UP NEXT: JUDAISM 201

We're adding a whole new series of engaging, easy-to-understand videos about basic Jewish culture and holidays to our Judaism 101 library, designed for beginners and anyone who needs a refresher.

PICK A CARD, ANY CARD

Our Jewish Knowledge Center designed a new card game that encourages players to think about their Jewish identity in fresh ways. Its age-appropriate activities for kids, young adults, and madrichim make it the perfect resource for schools and youth groups.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

“

Volunteering here pulls me out of my routine. It's a beautiful exchange: I give something, and I get something back.

- Anna, JCC Budapest Volunteer

We lean into the Jewish values of kindness and mutual assistance, promote unity while embracing diversity, and leverage resources and partnerships to make the world a better place. We are honored by the dedication of our volunteers, who help us do the work.



SHARING OUR SPACE

We gave two special summer day camps the chance to host their programs at JCC Budapest – the Special Needs Inclusion (SNI) camp organized by one of our partner NGOs and the camp run by the local Ukrainian school, where teenagers who resettled with their families in Hungary had the chance to learn English.



It felt good to help others, to make their day a little brighter.

- Lili, Mitzvah Program participant



HOURS OF
VOLUNTEERING
COMPLETED OVER
MITZVAH WEEKEND

300



C'MON AND DANCE

Our All Hearts community of nearly 40 adults with autism and Down syndrome is a vital part of Jewish life in Budapest. This year marked the group's 18th year of folk dancing on Monday afternoons at JCC Budapest, where members find opportunities for positive social interaction, personal growth, and fun. We also include them in our spring JCamp and support their annual summer camp experience at the JDC-Lauder Szarvas Camp.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF OCTOBER 7TH

In cooperation with the Israeli Embassy and other partners, we commemorated this somber day with a screening of the Israeli documentary, #Nova. Later that evening, fifteen BBYO Hungary members joined the All Hearts community in a dance honoring the memory of Noa Zender, who was killed at the festival, while celebrating the legacy of her work with children with disabilities.

ASSISTANCE TO ISRAELIS IN BUDAPEST

JCC Budapest welcomed Israelis grounded in the country during the June 2025 war with Iran as they awaited flights home, offering them access to co-working spaces with Wi-Fi, restorative coffee and snacks, and a warm welcome at community events. Special thanks to JDC for participating in this effort.

WEEKEND OF GIVING

We tripled the impact of our annual Mitzvah Day by extending it into a three-day Mitzvah Weekend. Volunteers and our staff, together with teens who completed our Mitzvah Program training sessions, engaged in volunteer opportunities like tree planting and visiting residents at the Jewish old age home. Since we at JCC Budapest love to celebrate, the meaningful weekend culminated with a big party featuring festive Israeli dancing with the All Hearts Club.

PRIDE AND LGBTQ+ SHABBAT

While these are difficult and complicated times for Pride rallies and LGBTQIA+ rights in Hungary, JCC Budapest has persevered by reaffirming its commitment to equality and inclusion and strengthening its alliance with Budapest Pride.

Most critically, we galvanized twenty-plus Jewish community organizations to attend the 2025 Pride March in solidarity, our voices strong among the 200,000 participants – nearly six times last year’s attendance.



JCC Budapest has been designated a safe space by Budapest Pride and was the first Jewish NGO in Hungary to participate in both the Budapest Pride March and the Civic Village, its tandem information fair.

We also promoted our popular Hate Is Not Kosher merchandise at the JCC Budapest tent, one of the most popular stops along the Pride March route with over 500 visitors.

During Pride Month, our events included a Pride Shabbat, collaborations with other in-house JCC programs, and a screening of the Israeli film Kicking Out Shoshana, starring Gal Gadot. We also welcomed two organizations that hosted their Pride activities at JCC Budapest.

OUR PRIDE INITIATIVES
ARE SUPPORTED AND
EMPOWERED BY A

2

YEAR GRANT FROM THE
EUROPEAN UNION.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH

Our focus for JCC Budapest 2.0 is on strengthening our institutional core – our programs, professional and lay leadership, staff, cadre of volunteers, and community – with the goal of long-term sustainability.



FRIENDS OF JCC BUDAPEST

In 2024, our American friends and supporters established Friends of JCC Budapest as an official 501(c)(3) in the US. This development has enabled us to apply for grants, build important new relationships, and facilitate financial contributions that champion Jewish life in Hungary.

The organization's first year was one of impactful engagement and education. We visited numerous communities throughout

the US, launched meaningful partnerships, and uplifted Hungarian Jewish life by strengthening JCC Budapest's institutional core..



A strong JCC Budapest brings together and advances the Jewish community in Hungary. These developments are made possible by the investment, encouragement, and commitment of our wonderful stateside supporters who recognize the importance of growing Jewish life in the heart of Central and Eastern Europe.

- Dan Alpert, Executive Director,
Friends of JCC Budapest



CHANGES IN THE FINANCIAL STRUCTURE OF JCC BUDAPEST

This year, JCC Budapest has focused on enhancing our financial sustainability by diversifying our income streams alongside ongoing support from grants and donations. We've expanded our room rental services, introduced event planning options for clients, and launched our own travel agency to organize personalized missions to Hungary. These initiatives invite visitors to experience the vibrant Jewish life of Budapest—connecting with our community, participating in programs, and exploring the city's Jewish heritage. Additionally, we made the strategic decision to adjust ticket prices to better support the increasing needs of our organization. As a result, we've seen an impressive 35% growth in our own income streams, underscoring our dedication to building a more sustainable future for JCC Budapest while continuing to rely on our valued donors and partners.

Palm Beach's Budapest Committee facilitates a partnership between JCC Budapest and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH JDC

JDC's visionary thinking and faith in the sustainability of Hungarian Jewry launched JCC Budapest more than thirty years ago. That we are now a flourishing Jewish community center is JDC's dream come true – and the proudest return on its investment in us. In our new iteration as an independent NGO, JDC remains our strategic partner, providing funding, professional support, training, consultancy, and mentorship. But our relationship is about far more than running a successful JCC. Together, we are building upon JDC's original vision with our eyes on the future.

ABOUT JDC

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian organization. Founded in 1914, JDC is essential to the survival of millions of people and the advancement of Jewish life in over 70 countries around the globe. For more information, please visit www.JDC.org.

A CULTURE OF GIVING & GRATITUDE

Deep-seated Jewish traditions of philanthropy and volunteerism lost ground during the Communist era in Hungary. Today, we are working to nurture a new culture of giving rooted in ancient values of chesed (loving-kindness), tzedek (justice), arevut (mutual responsibility), tikkun olam (repair of the world), and love of community.



A GIVING MINDSET

After a year of strategic planning, we launched our Giving Is Kosher awareness campaign to inspire the Hungarian Jewish community to invest in the future of JCC Budapest, everyone according to their ability. But the campaign did not focus exclusively on fundraising. We wanted to create a new understanding – that giving elevates our sense of connection and belonging.

For 2025, our goal is to increase the number of local micro-donors to 30 per month. We also aim to secure substantial commitments from Hungarian donors to fund the long-overdue renovation of our building.

NEW HUNGARIAN DONORS
TO JCC BUDAPEST

210

CHEERS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We thrive on collaboration with our cadre of dedicated volunteers. Our JCC Budapest volunteer coordinator matches their strengths and passions with opportunities that let them contribute in the most meaningful way to our dynamic, inclusive programs.

LEVERAGING 1%

A government campaign allows Hungarians to make 1% charitable contributions from their personal income tax to an NGO of their choosing. As of 2025, JCC Budapest is on the list of eligible beneficiaries. While 1% does not seem like much, we hope the cumulative sum will have massive impact.

Our 2025 Chanucatalyst award winners, including our first-ever Volunteer of the Year, were selected by 5,400 community members, a 50+% increase in voters over last year.

SAYING THANKS

Because gratitude and empowerment are essential JCC Budapest values, we hosted an intimate Friday night Partner Shabbat to thank our volunteers, holiday ambassadors, board members, and mini-board members. Our 30th anniversary gala was another chance to celebrate the core community members and key partners who brought us to this milestone.

“

Because of JCC Budapest, I feel close to the Jewish community again. So when Marcell asked for help with fundraising, I said yes right away. I'm proud to support our projects. But it's an especially rewarding challenge to encourage others to join us and to see how much we can achieve when we work together.

- Edina, Fundraising Ambassador

CHANUCATALYST

Our annual award ceremony not only celebrated Chanukah by honoring the miracles and heroes of the holiday. It also paid tribute to the community heroes who brighten our community with their light every day through Jewish knowledge, engagement, and exemplary acts of tikkun olam.

“

It feels good to give. And if I'm giving, I want to do it in a place like JCC Budapest, where real values are created.

- Csilla, Volunteer

JCC BUDAPEST VOLUNTEERS

150

AND GROWING

BOARDS, COMMITTEES, PARTNERS & FRIENDS

JCC Budapest is deeply grateful to the many people who enabled us to grow and thrive over the past year, strengthening our role as the leading Jewish institution serving the diverse needs of Hungarian Jewry.

Our local leaders and board members reaffirmed their dedication to our mission and our vision of long-term sustainability. They gave us their time and talents, working together with our devoted team of

professionals, activists, overseas partners, and the Friends of JCC Budapest Steering Committee to bring about lasting change.

Donors and US-based Jewish Federation delegates helped us as we expanded our programmatic reach. These partnerships were a testament to an impactful alliance between American and European Jewry at a precarious moment in Jewish history and an important time of change.



AMERICA-BOUND

Executive Director Marcell Kenesei made four trips to connect face-to-face with ten Jewish communities throughout the US. These visits established new friendships, enriched meaningful partnerships, and leveraged critical support for our programs. His itinerary included New York, Baltimore, San Diego, Los Angeles, Palm Beach, Miami, Salt Lake City, Dallas, and Washington, DC.

“

A very sincere thank you to all the supporters of JCC Budapest for helping to sustain, strengthen, and ensure the future of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe.

- Cathi Luski and Joel Beckman, Co-Chairs,
Friends of JCC Budapest

“

We are so proud to see how JCC Budapest has flourished since its founding in 1994 and has been so successful in reawakening, supporting, and revitalizing Jewish life in Budapest. We are happy to be a partner in that success.

- Marilyn and Bob Gellert

HONORABLE MENTION

Thank you for your service, Gabriel Balint-Kurti, as you pass down your seat on the Steering Committee to your sons Daniel and Roy Balint-Kurti. We are grateful to the Bálint Family for its multi-generational support since our earliest days as a JCC.

And to Katty Rosenstock and Carolyn Wilkov, we welcome you and the Dallas Federation on board, and to Traci Rollins from the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach. We extend our gratitude for your friendship and support, and look forward to working together to build a stronger Jewish future here in Budapest.

New Donors to
Friends of JCC Budapest
Inc.

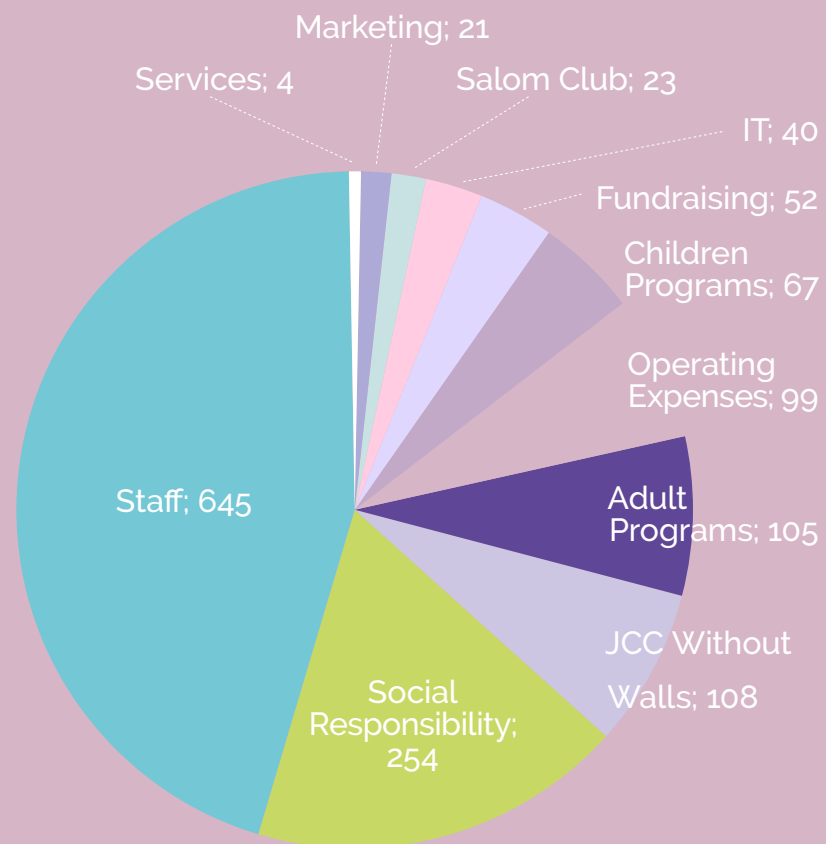
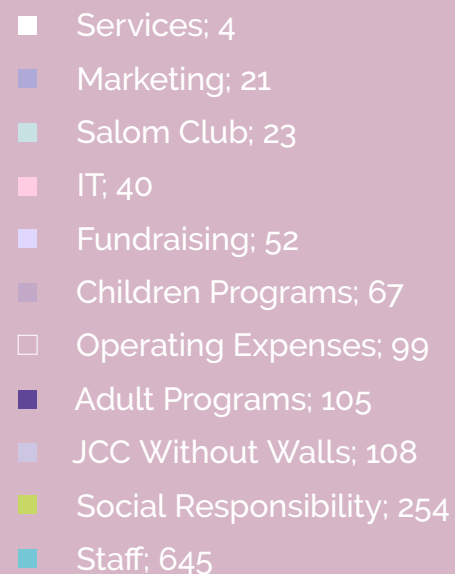
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FRIENDS OF JCC BUDAPEST, INC. STEERING COMMITTEE

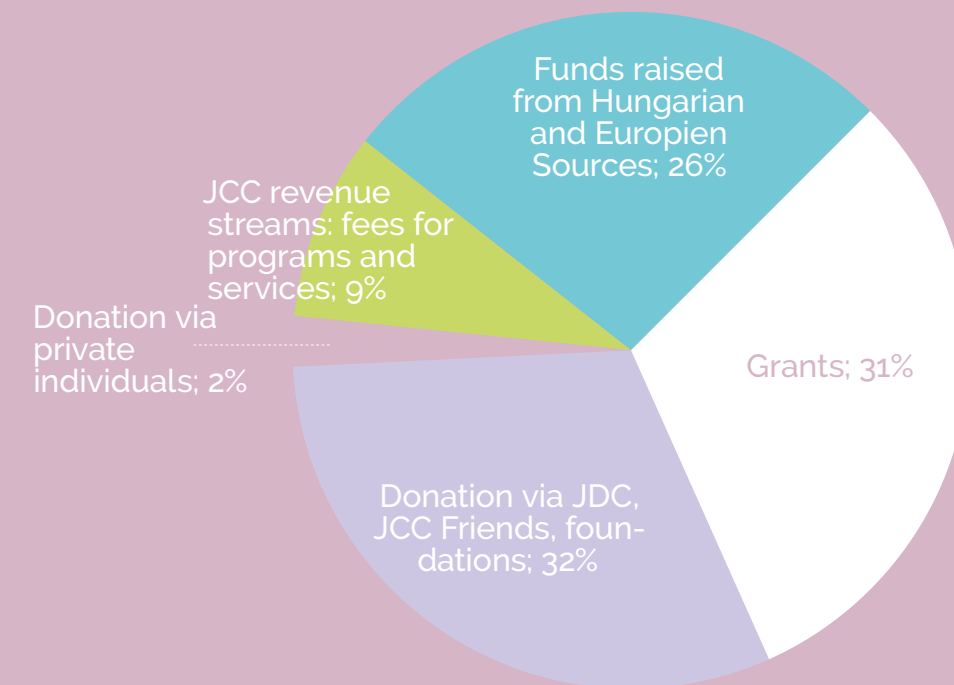
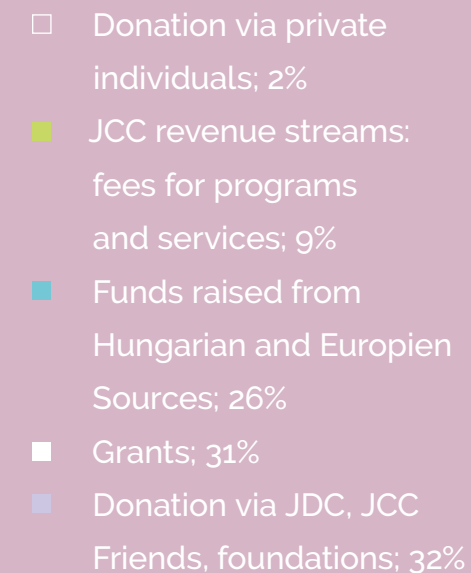
- Cathi Luski, Co-Chair
- Joel Beckman,
Co-Chair
- Daniel Balint-Kurti
- Roy Balint-Kurti
- Marilyn Gellert
- Rina Rich Langer
- Stan Rabin
- Katty Rosenstock, as
representative from
Jewish Federation
of Greater Dallas
- Shari and Frederick
Schenk
- Beth Wayne and
- Traci Rollins, as rep-
resentatives from
Jewish Federation of
Palm Beach County

2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

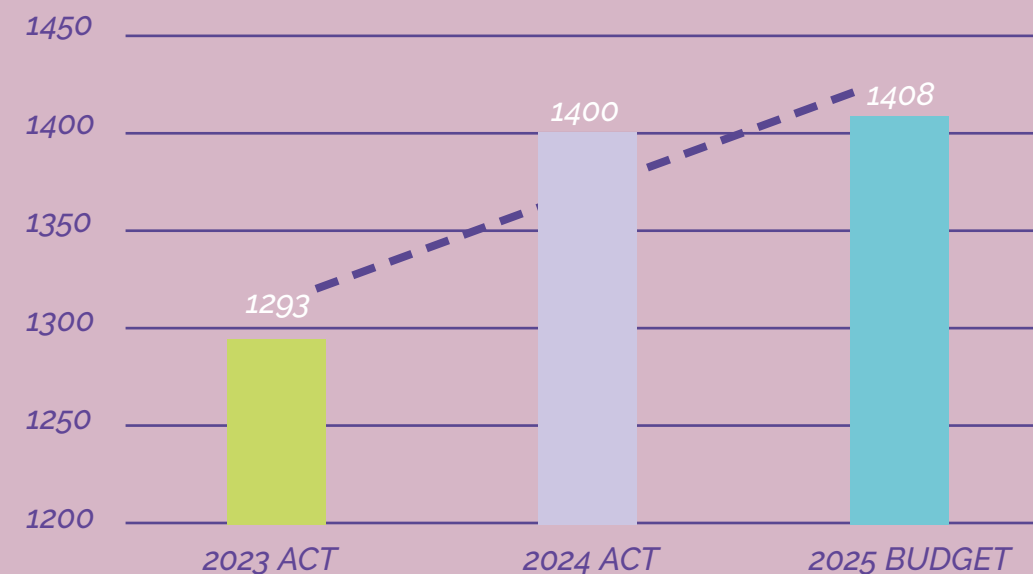
EXPENSES 2025 (\$k)



REVENUE 2025 (\$k)



JCC BUDGET EVOLUTION



BUDGET

EXPENSES	2025 Expenses (\$US)	INCOME	
Adult Programs	104 846	Donation via JDC, JCC Friends, foundations, Federations	667 560
Children Programs	67 100		
JCC Without Walls	108 407	Donation via private individuals	25 812
Shalom Club	23 367	Funds raised from Hungarian and European	286 900
Social Responsibility	253 864	Grants	344 288
STAFF	644 700	JCC revenue streams: fees for programs and services	94 051
IT	40 199		
Operating Expenses	99 020		
MARKETING	20 964		
FUNDRAISING	52 328		
Services	3 816		
Total	1 418 610	Total	1 418 610



EXPLORE JEWISH BUDAPEST WITH US

LET US CREATE THE PERFECT BUDAPEST JEWISH EXPERIENCE
FOR YOU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT **EXPLORE@JCC.ORG.**



PLANNING TO VISIT OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY AND LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN A TYPICAL TOUR?

We build unforgettable Jewish journeys that connect people to community.

Our new JCC Budapest Visitors Center offers customized itineraries that go beyond the touristy and the traditional to immerse travelers in the vibrancy of authentic Hungarian Jewish life.

We cater to:

- Youth programs, including regional camps and international exchange programs
- Jewish organizations, Federations, missions, delegations, and official visits
- Individual and family trips

BE A MENSCH!

MENSCH

(below 360 USD)

- Benjamin Lehrman
- Daniel Alpert
- Bruce and Debby Powell
- Anonymous
- Andreas Petrou-Zeniou
- Benjamin Alpert
- Adir Koschitzky, dedicated to Rachel Meyerowitz
- Ben Jablonover
- Bruce Freyer in honor of Joel and Shari Beckman
- Carol Caplan
- Barbara Craft in honor of Susy Oster
- Frederic Schragger
- Alex Weisler and Rabbi Alex Braver
- Daniel Burkeman
- Daniel Zaas in honor of Erika Gold
- David Altschul
- David Dulberg
- David Steinberg
- Dikla Schaap
- Eileen and Mark Wesley
- Erika Gold in honor of Maryann Lannoch and Cheryl Warner
- Frances and Joel Grossman Charitable Fund
- Franceska Isaly
- Gerald Creem
- Gerald Goldman
- Gideon Epstein
- Glenys Lindenberg
- Hadar Boker
- Henry Morton, dedicated to Rachel Meyerowitz
- Holly Boker
- Honey Levick
- Howard Goren
- Janet Dashevsky
- Jil Levick
- Joanna Kramer
- Jody Alpert
- Jonathan Allen
- Jonathan Cutler in honor of Herbert Lichtenstein
- Jordana Price
- Jordyn Loring
- Jose G Hernandez
- Judy Acs
- Julia Winston
- Julian Bussgang
- Linda Foley
- Linda Rattner Nunn
- Linda Singer
- Lois Fioretti
- Lynne Rubin
- Marissa Porter
- Max Alpert
- Michael and Ruth B. Margolin Fund
- Michael Mintz
- Mindy and Andrew Feldman
- Rachel Meyerowitz
- Richard Rossman, in honor of Rabbi Michael Paley
- Robert Stone
- Robyn Goldberg in honor of Shari and Fred Schenk
- Robyn Goren
- Ron Kaplan
- Sarah Kayle
- Shael Rosenbaum
- Sheri Bell
- Steven VanGrack
- Susan Hock in honor of Joel Beckman
- Susan Weisman
- Toni Greenberg
- Victor Ney
- Wanda Grasu in honor of Dan Alpert
- Wendy Kantor
- Yakov and Mushky
- Yaron Deckel
- Zach Silver

TO US, EVERY FRIEND OF JCC BUDAPEST IS A MENSCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

BRONZE

(360 – 1799 USD)

- Arleen Priest
- Cynthia Gersony
- Elissa Oshinsky in honor of Marilyn Gellert
- Daniel Kramer
- Amy and Jonathan Bergner
- Alyssa Mass
- Cheryl Rattner-Price
- A Richard Barros and Andrea L Barros
- Beth and Hawkeye Wayne
- David and Deborah Kornberg
- David Rabin
- Berry Meyerowitz
- Leslie and Shlomo Caspi
- Alan Gill
- Gary Krausz
- Gregory Feldman
- Harold Brooks
- Harold Treiber
- Herbert Lichtenstein
- Howard Abner
- Ilana Rabie
- Jane Fantel
- Johanna Chanin
- Judith Darsky
- Leslie Richmond
- Leslie Teicher
- Linda Schottenstein Fisher
- Lori Rosenthal, dedicated to Rachel Meyerowitz
- Mary Haskins in honor of Susanna Green
- Michael D. Weinberg
- Michael Oliver
- Michael Paley in honor of Bob and Jayne Goodman
- Oliver Steinberg
- Philip Lieberman
- Richard Biller
- Ronald A. Nagel
- Samuel Spector
- Sara Cass
- Scott Zeger
- The Lelkes-Palgon Charitable Fund
- Wendy Sandler, in honor of Joel Beckman
- Jewish LGBTQ Donor Network

BE A MENSCH!

TO US, EVERY FRIEND OF JCC BUDAPEST IS A MENSCH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SILVER

(1800 – 2499 USD)

- Doron Epstein
- Meira Fleisch
- Zigman Giving Fund
- Michele Levin
- Carol Becker
- Betsy and Richard Sheerr
- Laura Solomon
- Abby Goldstein
- Janie and Adam Frieman
- Robyn Schneider in honor of Mona Crandell
- Traci and Jeffrey Rollins
- Isaac Sonnenfeldt
- Amy Lebovitz

GOLD

(2500 – 4999 USD)

- Carol and Ted (z"l) Levy
- Cheryl Fishbein & Phil Schatten
- Gary Zimmerman
- Honorable Lynn Schenk
- IKAR
- Judi Gottschalk
- Julie Platt
- Martine Fleischman
- Rafael Pastor, in memory of his grandfather Karoly Wilhelm (1886-1951), a prominent leader of the Budapest Jewish community in the 1940s.
- Steven E. and Gloria F. Vogel Family Philanthropic Fund
- Susan and Eric Weisman
- Na'amit & Zev Nagel

PLATINUM

(5000 – 9999 USD)

- Alan Reinitz, In honor of Blanka Reinitz z"l; Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman z"l and Rebbetzin Roza Reinitz z"l; Majer z"l and Betti z"l Gottlieb.
- Eva Gero & John Cillag
- Harriet and Marc Suvall
- Irene Fayn
- Sandra and Edward Weinstein
- Sydelle Sonkin
- The Plum Foundation
- National Center to Encourage Judaism

DIAMOND

(10,000 USD AND ABOVE)

- Andres Balint Charitable Trust
- Anonymous
- Balint Charities
- Beckman Family Foundation
- Cathi and David Luski
- Charles and Seryl Kushner In honor of the Gellert Family
- Dorot Foundation
- Drs. John and Daisy Merey
- Gellert Goldreich Family
- George & Martha Rich Foundation (Langer Family)
- Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas
- Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County
- Lisa and Victor Kohn
- Lori and David Moore
- Louis B. Thalheimer and Family
- Nicky Yakubovich
- The Kramer Family
- Shari and Frederick Schenk
- Sharon and David Wax
- Stan and Barbara (z"l) Rabin
- Susanna and David Green
- The Alexander (z'l) and Valerie Viterbi Fund at the JCF of San Diego
- The Jack Buncher Foundation
- The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation
- The Rosaline Katz Family Foundation
- JCC Global (Roadburg Foundation)
- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- United Jewish Federation of Tidewater

*This list supporters is accurate as of September, 2025. Please contact fundraising@jcc.hu with any questions or requests to modify.

HUNGARIAN GIVING CIRCLE ...

- Acsády Zsoszó
- Ákos Vándor
- Ausztrics Andrea
- Balla Ágnes
- Barta Orsolya Sára
- Barta Péter
- Bedő Laura
- Bobár Gabi
- Bodnár Péter
- Bordás Andrea
- Borszeki Kata
- Cernov Mircea
- Csomós Rita
- Demján Alapítvány
- Dr. Benisch Gabriella
- Dr. Juhász Katalin
- Dr. Mandl Judit
- Fajzi Katinka
- Fehér Zsolt
- Frigyes Olga
- Hemera Tina
- Herczog Péter és családja
- Horvath Lindberg Judit
- Husz Mária
- Jeszenszky Ádám
- Kádár Judit
- Kalamar Katalin
- Katz Petra

- Kepecs Judit
- Lantos Veronika
- Lányi Eszter
- Lázár Károly
- Lieberman Mirus
- Lőwy Judit
- Marton Marcell
- Papp Katalin
- Pásztor György
- Polivoda-Dolinay család
- Prágai Éva
- Práger Éva
- Rácz Edit
- Régner Eszter és Régner Márton
- Reményiné Bíró Mária és Reményi János
- Rudas Ágnes
- Schön Edina
- Selmeci Péter és Ungár Judit
- Siegfried-Tompson Erika
- Szabados Amy és Gál Tamás
- Szirtesné Deák Éva
- Tamás István
- Török Flóra
- Török Petra
- Ungár család
- Vajda András
- Winkler Katalin

+ 159 SUPPORTERS

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

-
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Austrian Cultural Forum of the Austrian Embassy
- Claims Conference
- Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Embassy of the State of Israel
- Erőművház
- European Commission
- European Union of Jewish Students
- French Institute / Institut français en Hongrie
- MagNet Bank KAP program
- Magyarországi Zsidó Örökség Közalapítvány
- Municipality of the 6th District of Budapest
- Municipality of the 7th District of Budapest

...AND OUR SUPPORTERS IN EUROPE

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L'HITRAOT!

We are living in precarious times.

Here in Hungary, our civic spaces are increasingly restricted. Meanwhile, global antisemitism has spiked to levels we have not seen since the Holocaust.

All of this makes our JCC Budapest mission more vital than ever: to be the heart and home of Hungarian Jewish life.

We continue to sustain an atmosphere of kindness and mutual support, stability and

community, curiosity and gratitude for our Jewish heritage.

We also proudly promote democratic and foundational Jewish values by standing for inclusion, resilience, and open dialogue.

JCC Budapest 2.0 is a chance to build upon our strengths and the wisdom of experience gained over the past three decades.

These may be challenging times, but we have big dreams for the future. Join us in making them come true.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

