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News Release

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JEWISH FEDERATION REPORTS RECORD-BREAKING YEAR OF FUNDRAISING

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh is pleased to announce a record-breaking fundraising year. In 2014-15, the Federation's total financial resource development reached \$46 million. The 2015 Annual Campaign raised \$13.63 million, thanks to more than 4,250 generous donors, including more than 650 new donors. The Federation's Jewish Community Foundation added \$25.3 million to its resources this year, the most ever in a single year.

“We are deeply grateful to our loyal contributors for helping us reach this achievement,” said Jimmy Wagner, chair of development in 2014-15. “The community support enabled us to keep our beneficiary agencies stable as we see demand for services continue to grow.”

The Giant Eagle Foundation matching grant of \$125,000 inspired donors and provided a critical boost to the Annual Campaign. Corporate-event giving resulted in an additional \$133,000. Innovations that contributed to the record-breaking year were the launch of the Men & Philanthropy initiative, to provide more opportunities for men to get involved, and the creation of POW! (Power of Women!), a series of women & volunteer events.

“The ongoing success of our fundraising is a testament to the power of innovation and to how much the Pittsburgh Jewish community cares about keeping vital programs and services alive for the next generation, here and around the world,” said Jeff Finkelstein, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

This year, assets under management in the Foundation exceeded \$225 million. Nearly 200 new funds were added. The total number of funds is now more than 1,200. These assets enabled the Foundation to distribute \$700,000 from its unrestricted endowment to fund programs and projects that foster a strong Jewish community. The Centennial Fund for a Jewish Future, launched in 2012 to strengthen the Jewish community by supporting Jewish learning and engagement, made distributions of more than \$560,000 this year.

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Two state tax credit programs — the Educational Improvement program and the Opportunity Scholarship program — helped raise more than \$4.9 million, an increase of \$600,000 over last year. These funds support Jewish day schools in Western Pennsylvania.

In addition to the Annual Campaign, Jewish Federation raised \$510,000 for the Israel Emergency Fund in 2014 as Israel faced more than 4,500 rockets fired on civilian areas. Federation also raised \$11,000 for emergency assistance to earthquake-ravaged areas in Nepal.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, one of 151 independent Federations associated with The Jewish Federations of North America, raises and allocates funds to build community locally, in Israel and around the world. With the vision of a thriving, vibrant and engaged Jewish community, the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh aims to carry out its work in the context of cooperation and inclusiveness. For more information, visit www.jfedpgh.org.

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