# 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE **STUDENTS**
MADE POSSIBLE BY **YOU**

HILLEL
DAY SCHOOL



## MISSION POSSIBLE






# OUR MISSION

At Hillel, we inspire a passion for learning, responsibility to self and community, and devotion to Jewish living in a warm, innovative, and engaging environment.

Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit delivers an outstanding general and Jewish education to Jewish children from early childhood through eighth grade.
















# Dear Friends of Hillel,

*As we hold our brothers and sisters in Israel - and Jewish communities around the world - close in our thoughts, prayers, and actions, we are deeply proud to share the accomplishments of the 2024-2025 academic year and the incredible impact our kehillah (community) has achieved together.*

*Thanks to your generosity, you made our Mission Possible.*

*In a year that demanded resilience, unity, and purpose, Hillel rose to the moment. Guided by our Strategic Plan, we advanced academic excellence, ensured financial vitality, strengthened Jewish identity, and nurtured a connected, compassionate community. We continued delivering an exceptional General Studies education while imbuing every learning experience with our Core Jewish Values, ensuring our students grow into confident, thoughtful, and engaged Jewish leaders.*

*Our Mission Possible theme came to life because of you. The success of every Hillel student is powered by the philanthropy that sustains our mission. We are thrilled to share that, thanks to our families, Board of Trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, grandparents, past parents, sponsors, and friends, Hillel raised more than $1.9 million for the Annual Fund from 995 donors, including 99% of our parents. We are profoundly grateful as well to the Jewish Federation of Detroit for its $1.3 million in support and to our endowment fund holders, whose vision and stewardship enabled Hillel to receive $385,557 from the Goldman-Hermelin Endowment this year. Combined with additional sponsorships, this support made it possible for Hillel to educate 602 students during the 2024–2025 school year.*

*Because of you, our mission is not only possible... it is thriving. Your generosity empowers Hillel to nurture each child's learning, growth, and Jewish identity every single day. Every student we educate strengthens the future of a vibrant, engaged Detroit Jewish community for generations to come.*

*Am Yisrael Chai!*

*Gabriel Schuchman*
*President, Board of Trustees*

*Dr. Darin Katz*
*Head of School*

# HILLEL AT A GLANCE

**602**
TOTAL STUDENTS
ECC-GRADE 8

**70**
NEW STUDENTS
GAN-GRADE 8

**75%**
RETENTION RATE
PRE-K TO GAN

**350+**
FAMILIES

**200+**
STUDENTS OF
ALUMNI

**25**
LATERAL TRANSFERS
INTO GRADES 1-8



# IMPACT: TUITION ASSISTANCE

***Excerpts from Esther Matthies, Class of 2025***

After having spent so many of my childhood years inside these walls, it has become a second home. But more important than the place itself, the people who fill these halls have become a second family. A family who has raised me, cared for me, and supported me through all the ups and downs that life has thrown my way. I speak for all of my classmates when I say the memories we have made inside these walls make us who we are, and we owe it to ourselves to remember that. Because in these twelve years we have gained more than a typical education, we have gained an unforgettable experience that has lended us the skills we need to be successful going forward. **And all of that is because of you.**

I don't know where to begin talking about how greatly all of your beyond generous donations have impacted our school. From the modern and sophisticated building and advanced technology in each classroom to the beautiful field and outdoor utilities, **your donations have provided students at Hillel with a physical environment that not everyone can say they have experienced.** Many people don't know how much a child's environment can affect their ability to learn. The truth is, however, that a portion of our success as a school stems from the resources that you have all blessed us with.

Yet as great a contribution our physical amenities have to what makes Hillel such a special place, **the people who teach in our building out do them ten-fold. They are the kind of teachers who care for the kids they teach.** The kind who work overtime during their lunch break to help a student when they're struggling. The kind who share kind smiles when they pass you in the halls, and ask about your weekends with a true desire to hear the answer. And the kind whose actions speak louder than their words.

**They say it takes one to know one, or in this case, it takes one to teach one.** Only because our teachers are so compassionate are they able to teach us to be the same. At Hillel, everything we do revolves around our core Jewish values, which form our way of living. We are taught to be thankful, respectful, thoughtful, responsible, kind, caring, to honor learning and the Torah, and above all else, תיקון עולם, to make the world a better place. And as we live our lives with these values at our core, we echo the motto that guides us. Be respectful, כבדו את הזולת, be responsible, גלו אחריות, be kind, היו אדיבים לאחר, be yourself, היו נאמנים לעצמכם.**This is the kind of environment you support by donating to our community; the kind that works to make a world where each and every one of our lives are better than they were.**

With our Jewish values set at the center of both our community and our education, we learn how to be better people, who make a difference in the world. Who leave this school and go on to do whatever it is they set their mind on. Our generation is the future of our society. The future leaders, future politicians, future doctors, lawyers, and teachers. And the future of Judaism. Because yes, our journeys begin inside these walls, but our futures are bright with possibilities far beyond this school. **At Hillel, our dream is for everyone to be accepted, loved, and cared for, in an environment in which they can be themselves. And it's your donations that make it possible for us to keep working on making this dream a reality. So, on behalf of all the children whose lives you have had such an impact on, thank you, for supporting our dream.**



**$4.8M**

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS ALLOCATED**



**68%**

**STUDENTS RECEIVED SOME FORM OF TUITION ASSISTANCE**

# ENDOWMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Hillel ECC Teacher Excellence Centennial Fund

Hillel Day School is honored to announce the creation of the **Blanck Family Endowment for ECC Faculty Excellence,** a lasting investment in our Early Childhood Center teachers who inspire curiosity, creativity, and confidence in our youngest students.

This endowed fund will provide **sustained support for ECC faculty salary increases and professional development opportunities**, affirming the school's commitment to valuing and empowering our educators. By recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching, the Blanck family's generosity strengthens the foundation of Hillel's mission: to cultivate joyful, lifelong learners grounded in Jewish values.

We are profoundly thankful to the Blanck family for their leadership and vision. Their endowment ensures that Hillel's Early Childhood Center remains a place where outstanding educators thrive and every child's potential is nurtured with care and excellence.



## Nancy and Joseph Jacobson Hillel Day School Faculty Excellence Fund

Hillel Day School is honored to announce the establishment of the **Nancy and Joseph Jacobson Hillel Day School Faculty Excellence Fund,** an endowed fund dedicated to **supporting, sustaining, and advancing the careers of our remarkable faculty.** By providing critical resources for recruitment, retention, and professional growth, the Jacobsons' gift ensures that Hillel continues to attract and retain educators who are leaders in both academic and Jewish life.

The fund will strengthen the school's ability to **attract top-tier educators, recognize excellence, and support professional growth,** ensuring that Hillel's faculty continue to thrive and inspire the next generation of learners.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Nancy and Joseph Jacobson for their generosity, vision, and unwavering belief in the transformative power of a strong, inspired faculty.

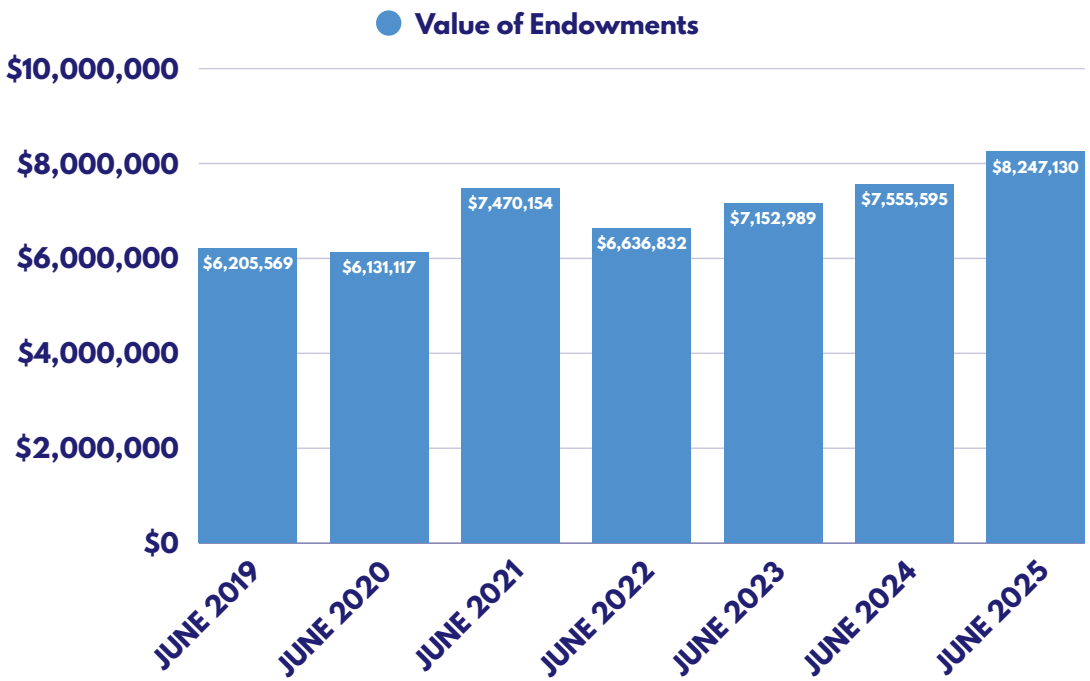


# HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ENDOWMENT FUNDS

**Hillel's endowment funds strengthen every area of our school, sustaining programs that have become essential to the educational and extracurricular experience.** We are deeply grateful to those who established and continue to support these funds, ensuring the long-term health and stability of our school.

Endowments provide a perpetual source of funding that supports our students, programs, and facilities. A strong endowment enables Hillel to plan strategically and make long-term decisions with confidence and financial security.

**Over the past five years, Hillel Day School's overall endowment has achieved an average annual rate of change of 4.6%.**




**129**

**NEW TECHNOLOGY**

DEVICES PURCHASED FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

**30**

**STUDENTS**

RECEIVED LUNCH ASSISTANCE

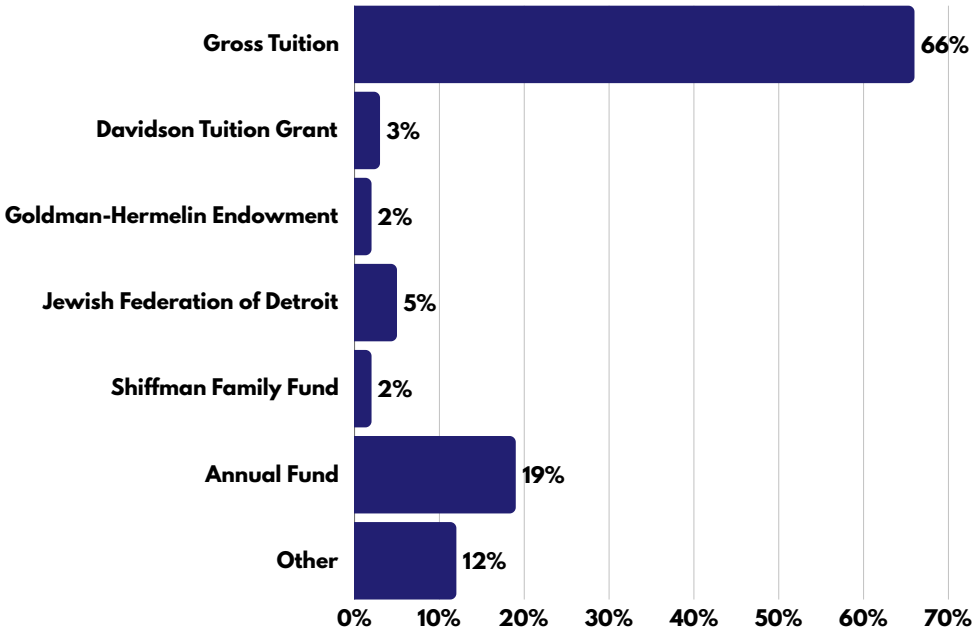
**50 NEW**

**ATHLETIC UNIFORMS**

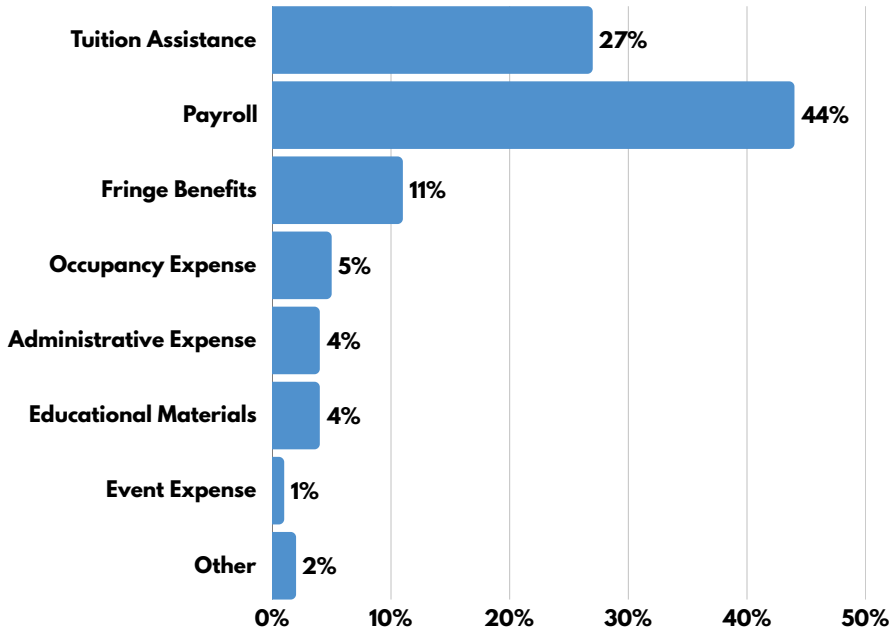
PLUS, AN UPGRATED VOLLEYBALL NET & POST SYTEM

# 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

## Revenue By Category




## Total Expense By Category




**Hillel's continued financial success results from the generosity of our donors and the support of the Jewish Federation of Detroit, the Shiffman Family Fund, our anonymous donors, and the William Davidson Foundation. In addition, the success of the Endowment Campaign helps secure the future of our school.**

# SPOTLIGHT: LAUDER IMPACT INITIATIVE

**Inspired by decades of work in Europe, the Lauder Impact Initiative (LII) was founded by Ronald S. Lauder in 2022 to transform Jewish day school trends in the US.** LII's mission is to catapult enrollment at Jewish day schools in the US through novel, disruptive approaches with existing strong Jewish day schools.

**Hillel Day School was selected as one of only five schools nationwide to join the inaugural cohort.** Since launching in Detroit in early 2024, our partnership has focused on strengthening the Jewish day school pipeline and deepening engagement with alumni, prospective families, and the broader community.

Over the past year, this work has entered a period of meaningful growth and refinement. Key early achievements include:

- Reconnecting with Alumni: A renewed effort to rebuild relationships across generations, highlighted by a downtown Detroit Happy Hour that drew over 100 alumni from the classes of 1977-2016
- Data Integrity: A focused effort on improving our data collection and launching targeted alumni communications
- Strengthening Community Connections: Laying the groundwork for long-term engagement through intentional outreach and increased visibility within the broader Detroit Jewish community

Looking ahead, we're building on this momentum. The next phase of the initiative will focus on:

- Forming an official Alumni Association
- Fostering new giving opportunities through Alumni pipelines
- Converting early successes into sustainable, long-term institutional impact

With LII's support, Hillel is not only reconnecting with its past but building a strong, engaged pipeline for the future.









## MAZEL TOV TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

## THIS CLASS PROUDLY JOINS OVER 2,500+ HILLEL ALUMNI

"Giving Jewish kids an education about who they are and their history is a choice, but **if you send your kid to Hillel they will walk away with not only a strong education but with a strong Jewish identity.** At Hillel Jewish studies is a critical part of every year at school. These classes teach students about Judaism varying from the holidays, history, Jewish life, values, Torah, and more. If Hillel did not exist or if students did not enroll here, then misinformation could spread. Also having a Jewish school allows Jewish people to feel safe. Being with people who come with a similar background makes you feel like you are a part of something. Hillel has a tight knit community, embracing their Jewishness on many different levels, which is something that cannot be found in public schools, which is why you should really consider making a contribution to Hillel Day School."

**- Lev Eisenberg, Class of 2025**

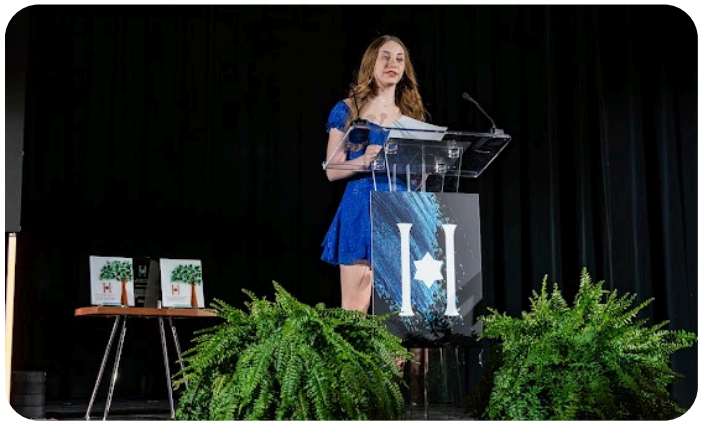
# MAZAL TOV

# TO THE HILLEL CLASS OF 2021

## ON THEIR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION









# 2025 ANNUAL GALA

**450**
**ATTENDEES**

**HONORED**

**SANDY MUSKOVITZ DANTO**

**BETH & STEVE (‘69) MARGOLIN**

**POLINA FRADKIN (‘08)**

SCAN TO WATCH THE EVENT VIDEO, SHOWCASING OUR AMAZING HONOREES

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2026 GALA**

**SUNDAY, MAY 17 2026**

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR 2024-2025 SPONSORS















































































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TEKIAH SPIRITS
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QUALITY KOSHER CATERING

# WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT OF THOSE WHOSE LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS EXCEED $100,000

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## LIFETIME GIFT OF $1,000,000 OR MORE

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The Schostak Family
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## LIFETIME GIFT OF $500,000 OR MORE

Marcia (z"l) and Eugene (z"l) Applebaum
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## LIFETIME GIFT OF $100,000 OR MORE

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Henrietta (z"l) and Alvin (z"l) Weisberg,
The Lori and Steven Weisberg Family,
The Julie and Steven Schlafer Family
Lori and Steven Weisberg, Jessica, Madeline and Matthew

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

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| $25,000+ | DAVID BEN-GURION |
| $18,000+ | GOLDA MEIR |
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UBS

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