

# Charlotte Jewish Federation

## Many Contribute, But More Receive

By Joel Goldman

"What is the Federation?"

"What does it do for me?"

"And how come I am being asked to give money to it again?"

More than likely, you've asked yourself and others these questions on several occasions. And, just as likely, the answers have never quite explained what seems to be a simple thing become complex.

To begin with, the Jewish Federation is a rather complex entity. It wears many hats. It is a giver to Israel and at the same time it dedicates much of its efforts to each of us as individual Charlotteans. It assists the elderly and it provides funds so that the young can receive a worthwhile Jewish education.

It practices the Jewish tradition of "tzedakah" — the Hebrew word meaning charity and justice. It gives a majority of its funds to the United Jewish Appeal, but at the same time it makes sure that a new Jewish couple or individual arriving in Charlotte is made to feel welcome and a part of the community.

It provides vocational counseling for a middle-aged man suddenly without a career, and it donates money to an entire Israeli community in need of capital equipment to realize a self-sufficient

economy.

And for as many as give to the Federation, there are many more that receive from it. This giving and receiving is a never ending cycle, and when certain facts are known it becomes a miracle that the Federation can survive on only one campaign a year. But it does, through the strength of its lay leadership and all the annual contributions that support Jewish causes year after year.

There are some interesting facts worth knowing about Jewish Federation. A basic, but sometimes unknown fact, is that our Charlotte Jewish Federation is a member of the Council of Jewish Federations. The Council is a nation-wide organization, headquartered in New York. Once a year, the national chapters come together in the General Assembly. This year, the General Assembly will convene in Miami, Florida and over 3000 leaders from all walks of Jewish life will attend. Our delegation will be led by Federation President Ron Katz, and will consist of outstanding leaders from our chapter.

It is a matter of pride to note that the Charlotte Federation has consistently been acknowledged at these conventions as one of the most progressive and dedicated associations in the nation.

The scope of coast to coast organizational work within the Federation accounted for over 4 billion dollars expended in 1985 on charitable services. The Federation, nation-wide, supports more than 1300 social agencies, community centers and schools. Federation activities exist in every U.S. and Canadian city of any consequence, and more than one million people contribute to the various North American campaigns. That is all well and good for the U.S. and Canada as a whole. However, what about Charlotte, North Caro-

lina and how do we service our own community?

Last year, the Charlotte Jewish Federation committed itself to raising \$1,250,000 to cover all aspects of Jewish "tzedakah" within our own city. This year the Federation will seek an increase because the costs of doing business have risen in only one year. What groups and agencies come under the category of recipients for this amount? They are diversified in their individual goals, but share the common objective of improving life for the Charlotte Jewish community as a whole.

1) Jewish Community Center.

2) The Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community.

3) Jewish Family Services: counseling and support of numerous types are provided to the unemployed, the elderly, the needy youth of our city and the family unit.

4) Shalom Y'all: a welcoming entity to greet and assist all Jewish newcomers to our city.

5) Missions to Israel: trips to Israel comprised of members representing the present and future leaders of Charlotte. These trips are led by Federation members and allow participants to better understand Israeli needs and convey them to all segments of Charlotte society.

6) Leadership Develop-

ment: a continual dedication to the training and guidance of future community leaders.

7) The Jewish Day School: provides a structured religious education for the Jewish youth of our community.

8) Blumenthal Home: provides care facilities for the elderly as well as medical services and recreational programs.

9) Hebrew Cemetery: offers a proper sacred resting place according to the specifications of Talmudic law.

10) B'nai B'rith Agencies: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (supports the goals of this worthwhile movement); Hillel (helps provide a Jewish entity for college students); Anti-Defamation League.

11) Lubavitch of North Carolina.

Of course, the majority of funds raised goes to the United Jewish Appeal. The Federation is now committed to over 50% of its campaign income going to the UJA.

Other organizations on a national level also receive a portion of the funds raised by the Charlotte Federation. HIAS, active in Soviet Jewry resettlement, the JDC, also active in the Soviet Jewry issue and the Conference on Soviet Jewry, are all recipients of pledges made by the local Federation campaign.

Within Charlotte itself, funds go to such agencies as

the Charlotte Crisis Assistance Center, the Sheppard Center, TO LIFE, and the International Institute at Wildacres.

If not all, then certainly some of the above organizations and activities will be of interest to you. At least one of the entities described will touch you or your loved ones or friends. Whether you enjoy the "J" for its recreational programs or have a parent in the Blumenthal Home or have a relative desperately seeking exodus from the Soviet Union to Israel, you receive something from the Federation and will be asked to contribute to the 1988 Campaign.

It is all the more important, therefore, that you should ask, and have the right to know, who represents you — the bottom line individual — in all of this. Who will be responsible for the up-coming campaign? Who will see to it that funds contributed will go to the proper recipient organizations? How are these funds allocated?

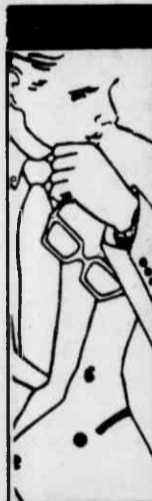
These are questions well worth asking, and as the campaign draws closer, *The Jewish News* will address these points.

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You have the right to know.



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