

Focus on Federation — Part III

By Rita C. Mond

The Charlotte Jewish Federation is a part of the North American Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) and the national allocation of Campaign monies is extensive with respect to its recipients. Locally, our Federation is comprised of constituent agencies to which funding is given according to need and budget. There is a strict and detailed system whereby every assurance is given that these funds will be properly administered through the Federation's Allocation Committee. This committee consists of community members well versed and knowledgeable of the Charlotte Jewish community and having an expertise in business practices, accounting and budgetary responsibilities. Each group requesting funds must appear before the Committee with a carefully documented request for funds which includes an estimated budget. The representatives of the various groups must be prepared for extensive questioning by the Committee. It is a painstaking and demanding schedule to ensure that the entire needs of the community are met and each group has displayed financial responsibility in requesting their respective needs.

Based on a proposed 1988 Allocation of approximately \$1.25 million, \$715,000 is to go to the constituent agencies and \$525,000 to UJA. Some of the agencies and the amounts being allocated to them this year are: Jewish Community Center, \$190,000; Foundation, \$150,000; Jewish Family Services, \$63,000; Blumenthal Home, \$51,000; Charlotte Jewish Day School, \$38,000; Hillel, \$9,000; Lubavitch, \$5,700; Hebrew Cemetery, \$5,000; BBYO, \$4,000; ADL, \$2,000; plus various local and national small agencies, \$9,000. The Federation receives an operating/program budget of \$200,000. Michael Minkin is the Federation executive director; Bobbi Bernstein is president.

The Foundation

The Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community, Inc. was chartered October 8, 1980 as an independent organization consisting of representatives of the autonomous institutions of the Charlotte Federation: The Jewish Community Center, Charlotte Jewish Day School (formerly the NC Hebrew Academy), Temple Israel and Temple Beth El (now known as Temple Beth El V'Shalom).

Its purpose was to spearhead the planning, fundraising and construction of Shalom Park and its facilities.

In May 1986, Shalom Park, Phase I of which includes the Blumenthal Education Building and the Leon and Sandra Levine Jewish Community Center Building, became a reality and opened its doors for service. Since that time the Foundation has become the

This is the third part of a multi-series of articles to better understand the importance and functions of The Charlotte Jewish Federation.



Special program held for children at Gorelick Hall at Shalom Park.

property management institution for Shalom Park. It also provides the administration and support services for all of the participating partners functioning within this 54-acre site.

The Foundation functions through nine (9) working committees made up of representatives of each of the five participating institutions who are partners in this joint venture. These committees are: management, space utilization, religious practices, personnel, support services, public relations, visual arts, food services and library. Through these committees, space coordination, centralized telephone, production and office support along with maintenance, housekeeping and grounds upkeep are all provided for the benefit of the participants at Shalom Park. The Foundation also makes facilities available to other Jewish organizations, civic groups and outside non-profit organizations thereby offering community service and maintaining a bridge into the general community.

Phase I of Shalom Park includes the sharing by the institutions of the following facilities: classrooms, craft room, library, music room, lounges, art gallery, meeting rooms, offices, auditorium, gymnasium, indoor and outdoor pools and tracks, ballfields, tennis courts, Health Club, racquetball courts, playgrounds, etc. Future plans are for Phase II which will be the building of the sanctuary-social hall of each of the temples, Beth El V'Shalom and Israel, on their respective acreage at Shalom Park.

The Jewish Community Center

The Charlotte Jewish Community Center provides the recreational, cultural and educational needs of the Charlotte Jewish community. It is located on the campus of Shalom Park and has outstanding facilities: indoor and outdoor athletic activities, including swimming, basketball, track, tennis and racquetball courts; a health club for men and women, with weight rooms, saunas, hot tubs and steam rooms.

The 'J' offers programs and activities for all ages: an extensive schedule of classes programmed throughout the year for seniors, adults (both married and single), children

and families. It has an excellent summer day camp for pre-kindergartners, K-6, and teenagers, with a variety of programs; adult softball and tennis teams; youth soccer, basketball and swimming teams; Mother's Morning Out (ages 6 months to 2 years); Chai-lites (senior adults).



League Volleyball at the 'J'.

The staff is professionally trained to supervise its various departments. Membership is open to the community. Barry Hantman is executive director; Scott Snyder, program director; Larry Gerber, president.

Jewish Family Services

The Department of Jewish Family Services, a constituent agency of Federation, has an extremely capable professional casework staff. It provides a full range of social work services to the Jewish community in the areas of older adult, vocational, and marriage and family counseling issues, and adjustment to



Adrienne Rosenberg with Passover packages for needy and elderly in nursing homes.

changes. It is involved with interfaith support groups, barrier awareness, parenting adolescents and has a Substance Abuse Task Force which meets monthly. It is involved in starting a support group for Jewish single adult women. Recently JFS added to its staff Dr. Byron Wilkenfeld, psychiatrist, as its first medical director.

Ms. Adrienne Rosenberg is the Family Services Director and may be contacted at 364-6599.

Blumenthal Jewish Home

The Blumenthal Jewish Home began as a dream to provide a place for the Jewish elderly to come to live in dignity, a home dedicated to the highest standards of resident care and quality of life. The dream of a medically-oriented, continuing care complex began to shape into a reality when an 118-acre site in Clemmons, NC (outside of Winston-Salem) was chosen.

The Associations of N.C. Men and Women spearheaded the drive to raise the money and to build a nursing wing for 46 residents (1965).

From the moment one enters the tree-lined drive, it is noted that this is an extraordinary place to live. Expansion in 1974 increased the capacity to 134 beds. The 1987/88 renovation and expansion project extended care to 46 older

nursing, social services, dietary, and resident activities, assures that the needs and abilities of each resident are addressed with the appropriate plan of care. This holistic view is aimed at the physical, mental/emotional and spiritual well-being of the residents. One of the big differences in BJH is that residents are up and dressed daily, unless totally incapacitated. A wide variety of activities are offered both for cultural enrichment and therapeutic effect. Increased volunteer involvement and a bus have made it possible for more residents to make outings more frequently. An endowed concert and lecture series provides a diversity of programs in-house, assuring that even the most debilitated have the opportunity to attend. Staff and volunteers lead discussion groups from current events and contemporary issues to "remembering when...."

The Craft Shop is always a beehive of activity. It is a meeting place for social interchange as well as having produced numerous Dixie Classic Fair prize-winning crafts.

The majority of the residents of the Home and FAIR OAKS are Jewish, but those of other faiths are welcomed, and in recent years have constituted 40% of the resident population.

The Laws of Kashruth are observed in the kitchen for all. Sabbath services are held on Fridays and Saturdays in the Synagogue, and major Jewish holidays are observed throughout the year. Interfaith services are held weekly in Friendship Chapel and major religious holidays are observed with special programs.

FAIR OAKS is another step toward the goal of providing a comprehensive and progressive service delivery system to



View of the Commons of FAIR OAKS; A-wing nursing unit BJH in foreground.

tries, and much needed elevators. Connecting this area to the Commons is a wide passageway that houses a new craft shop, complete with office, bath and kiln room.

Concern for the quality of life of each individual has always been paramount in program planning. Few homes in the country can boast of a full-time medical director on staff. In addition, two other physicians are on call and make rounds twice a week. The Director of Nursing oversees a nursing staff of 18 other RNs, 11 LPNs, and 62 Nursing assistants covering both the nursing home and FAIR OAKS. The Home maintains its own pharmacy.

A team approach involving

meet the needs of older adults. In years to come, it is planned to add apartments, condominiums, and possibly private homes.

BJH serves and participates with the entire community encompassing North and South Carolina, dreaming, building, caring, to make life better for older adults in its charge.

Donald Morris is the executive vice president. For further information call 919-766-6401.

(Editor's note: Thanks go to Mike Minkin (CJF), Barry Hantman (Foundation), Scott Snyder (JCC), Ellen White (BJH) for contributing to this article. August's "Focus" will be on the other constituent agencies of Federation.)