

Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community Takes A Giant Step

By Rich Osborne

In May, I turn over the chair of Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community to Alan Kronovet. All of us have had the experience of working hard on a project or task and then



turning it over to successors before the results can be seen. It can be a bit frustrating, but we know that few important results occur without diligent work and planning and that such efforts can easily stretch over years. I feel

particularly fortunate, therefore, that I have seen very concrete results emerge on my two year watch at FCJC. Let me give some examples:

* FCJC ended 2007 with \$41.4 million in assets, compared to \$32.5 million a year earlier and \$24.5 million two years ago.

Again FCJC provided its institutional and individual clients reliable service, guidance and sound investment options, and our affiliation with Foundation For The Carolinas enabled us to do so at very low cost.

* FCJC disbursed \$1.8 million in grants in 2007, up from \$1.5 million in 2006 and \$957,000 in 2005. These grants go to our local Jewish organizations and, through donor-advised funds, to charitable organizations in the general community in Charlotte and to qualified Jewish organizations around the world.

* Phil Warshauer just completed his first year as the first full-time executive of FCJC. Phil's expertise, diligence, discretion and commitment quickly have made him a "go to" resource for individuals and institutions in the Jewish community.

* Margi Goldstein and Jill Newman are leading a task force to launch the Book of Life Society to recognize those making provisions in their estate plans and wills for established Jewish charities. We already have 23 members of the Society, representing ultimate gifts of at least \$6.8 million to Jewish organizations important to these members.

* FCJC successfully navigated through some unintended consequences of recent federal legislation aimed at perceived abuses among a small minority of private foundations. Foundation For The Carolinas provided the legal and tax expertise to enable FCJC to find reasonable, unobtrusive solutions to challenges that could have made services less effective and more costly.

I couldn't recite this list of recent successes were it not for the commitment and hard work of so many to launch and advance

FCJC. My two predecessors as chair, Bob Abel and Don Bernstein, never lost sight of what could be accomplished. Finally, we have been fortunate to have board members who "got it" and were willing and able to commit the time and energy to help translate a vision into a reality.

We have had many great board members, but I know they will understand if I cite two in particular - Meg Goldstein and David Epstein - who contributed time and energy far beyond the call. In addition, our first two executives - Cary Bernstein and Sue Worrel - worked tirelessly with limited budgets and on a part-time basis to establish FCJC. And our good friends at Foundation For The Carolinas - Michael Marsicano, Holly Welch Stubbing, Judy Kerns and Bart Landess - have made the success of FCJC a priority. When people of this caliber pave the way, you can understand why the ride is smooth.

Much remains to be accomplished. On the whole our Jewish institutions lack adequate endowment, and far too few individuals have established donor advised funds to make their charitable donations more efficient. We have a great tool in FCJC and have only begun to see its potential. I'm sure that our community will continue to support FCJC so that we can see an extension of the successes that I have been fortunate enough to report here. ☆

Rich Osborne is the current Board Chair of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community. For more information or questions about endowment or deferred giving please contact Phil Warshauer, Director for Planned Giving, Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@fjc.org.

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Levine JCC Set to Participate in JCC Maccabi ArtsFest for Teens in 2008

The Levine JCC has registered to participate in JCC Maccabi ArtsFest® 2008, which will take place at the Sabes JCC in Minneapolis, MN August 17-22, 2008. Minneapolis is offering Costume Design, Creative Writing, Culinary Arts, Dance/Choreography, Filmmaking, Improv/Acting, Jazz/World Music Ensemble, Musical Theater, Photography, Rock/Pop Bands, Visual Art and Vocal Music. A culminating gala performance tops off the week. Teens entering grades 8-12 interested in going to ArtsFest should contact Aree Pearlman at 704-944-6792 or aree.pearlman@charlottejcc.org to find out more information.

The mission of JCC Maccabi ArtsFest is to enable JCCs to reach out to a wider teen audience through the arts. ArtsFest is designed to inspire Jewish teens through a dynamic combination of workshop, performance, exhibition, community service, social activities, and fun to develop their individuality through the medium of artistic expression while

strengthening their bonds to their Jewish heritage, community, and Israel. The first JCC Maccabi ArtsFest held at the JCC of Greater Baltimore in 2006 was a resounding success and the excitement continued in Deal, NJ in 2007.

Teens will enjoy home hospitality, social activities, and the opportunity to take part in Days of Caring and Sharing, a community-service project, as well as developing their artistic gifts under the direction of world class artists-in-residence.

Register today by contacting Aree Pearlman, Delegation Head and Fine Arts Director, LJCC, at 704-944-6792 or aree.pearlman@charlottejcc.org. ☆

