

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

An Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte

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August 2015

## LARGEST CAMPAIGN IN JEWISH FEDERATION HISTORY

### Annual Giving Total = \$3,762,792 as of July 13, 2015

The last pledge came in at 11:55 PM on June 30 – five minutes to spare to secure a \$35,000 Matching Gift from The Leon Levine Foundation and meet the largest Annual Giving Goal in the history of the Jewish Federation - \$3,700,000.

“The suspense was killing me, but I went to sleep. Of course, I was up with the birds to check. These last few days have been wild. They showed me we have an incredibly committed team. Thank you all,” said Holly Levinson, President.

In an email to the Federation Board and Campaign Leadership, Alison Lerner, 2015 Campaign Chair, said: “We reached our goal! With minutes to spare before the midnight deadline to receive the Levine Match, our Board, our Campaign Team and many of our passionate donors stepped up, made calls, made donations, and made this happen. Thank you all for your dedication, your time, your energy and your money. This

Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

**\$3,762,792**  
as of July 13, 2015

WAS RAISED BY

**1600 donors and 183 campaign volunteers**

was truly a team effort and an incredibly inspiring one for me. I am grateful to be a member of this wonderful community.”

Thank you to all of our generous donors and volunteers for their gifts of time and resources for the 2015 Campaign. We appreciate the entire 2015 Campaign Team for its extraordinary efforts in completing, meeting and exceeding the 2015 campaign goal of \$3,700,000. We also applaud the efforts of our 2014-2015

Board of Trustees for its leadership and encouragement during this campaign.

Special thanks go to Alison Lerner, 2015 Campaign Chair; Tracy Brown, Major Gifts Chair; Adrienne Gossett and Dale Polsky, Lion of Judah Co-Chairs; Jill Halverstam and Stacey Schanzlin, Pomegranate Society Co-Chairs; Zach Schwartz and Julie Sheffer, Impact 365 Co-Chairs; Marcie Jacobs and Jeff Turk, Super Sunday Co-Chairs; Gail Baron, Risa

Miller and David Van Glish, Chairs of the Campaign Teams; and Rich Osborne, Chair of Federation’s Create a Jewish Legacy Team.

#### 2015 Campaign Highlights:

A matching gift pool of \$80,000 was secured to motivate donors to make new and increased gifts. We thank Howard Levine, The Leon Levine Foundation, Larry Schwartz, and Eric and Lori Sklut for their vision and philanthropic leadership – their matching gifts inspired our community to reach an extraordinary goal.

Other highlights include:

- \* six new or recovered Major Donor Families (\$10,000 per household)
- \* six new or recovered Lions of

Judah (\$5,000 to Women’s Philanthropy)

- \* 38 new “Create a Jewish Legacy” donors

- \* Increased gifts outnumbered decreases 3:1.

- \* Team competitions encouraged solicitors to complete their cards in a timely manner and to meet face-to-face with community members.

To learn more about how you can volunteer for the 2016 Campaign, please contact Sue Littauer, Director of Development; or Tair Giudice, Director of Outreach and Engagement, at the Federation office: 704-944-6757; sue.littauer@jewishcharlotte.org or tair.giudice@jewishcharlotte.org. ☆



Jewish Federation OF GREATER CHARLOTTE

## Former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke to Headline The Echo Foundation Annual Student Dialogue and Awards Gala

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will be honored at The Echo Foundation 17th Annual Awards Gala with the first Levine Medal For Life on Thursday, September 17 at the McGlo-

hon Theater at Spirit Square.

He will also have a dialogue that morning with area high school students – one for which they will be well prepared.

More than 2,500 area students

will soon begin studying a curriculum – a collection of articles, interviews, videos, study questions and more – created by nine high school Echo student interns with guidance from area banking professionals and university professors. Student Interns are chosen each year based on their interest in the subject matter, their dedication to excellence in education, and their commitment to making a difference.

The curriculum is available at no charge to individuals, schools, and organizations via the Echo website.

The Echo Foundation chooses area students each year to build a curriculum that focuses on world humanitarians and global leaders. Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners in Health, and Echo Honorary Chair and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel have been the focus of past curricula. This academic year, the focus is on Bernanke and the power of economics to shape democracy.

The 17th annual project includes a dialogue with some 700 students from Charlotte area public, private, and home schools scheduled for September 17 at 9:30 AM at Myers Park High School. Participating students will

study the curriculum to prepare for Bernanke’s visit.

“The link between finance and humanitarianism may not be immediately evident,” said Stephanie Ansaldo, The Echo Foundation president. “But without a stable economy, people suffer. Ben Bernanke helped reduce the impact of the global financial crisis in 2008. Without his vision and leadership, the impact could have been far worse.”

The students who developed the curriculum make the lessons entertaining. They get to compile the information they find interesting. In addition to the weighty economic matters the curriculum covers, there are fun facts about Bernanke. For instance, it is seldom reported that he won the S.C. state spelling bee when he was 11.

There is also a section on personal financial literacy for teens, including sections on credit scores, the power of compound interest and avoiding fraud and scams.

Since 1997, some 736,000 students have been exposed to Echo’s mission through its programs that promote fighting against indifference. Many students who have participated in Echo projects have pursued ca-



Ben Bernanke

reers in science and medicine, the arts, education, social activism and in the nonprofit sector. Last year, Echo provided approximately 22,000 students with the opportunity to study its curriculum and program materials.

The Annual Echo Award Ceremony will be at 6 PM on September 17 at McGlohon Theater. Bernanke will deliver the keynote, and awards will be presented immediately following his remarks. Bernanke will accept the inaugural Sandra and Leon Levine Medal For Life Award.

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