

Community Connections

January 2026

Dear JCL Family,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2026, we are filled with gratitude for – you – our community’s unwavering and loyal support. This New Year brings fresh opportunities to deepen connections, celebrate abilities, fortify and expand inclusive opportunities and programs that honor the dignity of each and every individual served by JCL. Thank you for being partners in this journey- it’s your generosity, time and advocacy that make it possible for our programs and our individuals to thrive.

In this newsletter, you will find a number of beautiful pictures taken at our JCL Hanukah celebration. It feels like the perfect opportunity to highlight a truly remarkable individual, Bonnie Eisenberg Greene. Bonnie is JCL’s Judaic Program Coordinator. Judaic programming is possible through an annual allocation from the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Money is essential and the start, but this program’s life and success is due to Bonnie. It is her compassion, leadership, creative vision and commitment to the individuals that shines through.

The Judaic programming events whether they be Shabbat services, dinners, sukkah building, challah baking, education on the Jewish holidays and traditions or mitzvah days are wildly popular and filled with fun, education, inclusion community and friendship. Bonnie is a phenomenal teacher and role model. She is fiercely dedicated to the Jewish tenets of act of kindness, compassion and action. We are truly blessed to have Bonnie with us for the past two decades. Thank you Bonnie for all you do!

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy New Year.

Gloria



Beena and Mira posing with Bonnie at our Chanukah celebration.



Bonnie (center) with Dean, David, Tammy, Melissa, Jordan, Jerry and Jon in the JCL sukkah.



Bonnie, leading the prayers at Shabbat dinner with Dean, Tammy, Melissa and some of the other JCL guys.

Chanukah Celebrations

Our Chanukah celebration was a truly joyful and meaningful occasion, filled with warmth, tradition, and community. Together, we shared delicious Chanukah favorites—including crispy latkes and sweet donuts—while gathering to reflect on the beautiful story of Chanukah and its timeless messages of light, resilience, and hope. The room was filled with smiles, laughter, and a deep sense of connection as we celebrated this special holiday together.

We are deeply grateful to our donors for making moments like this possible. Your generosity and ongoing support are the foundation of our Judaic Programming, and without you, we could not provide the outstanding programs that enrich the lives of those we serve. We are also thankful for our valued partnership with the JCC's special needs program, which helps us extend our Judaic programming beyond those served by JCL to the community at large. Together, through collaboration and your continued support, we are able to create meaningful, inclusive experiences that bring Jewish traditions to life and strengthen our community.



Beena and Mira sharing the menorahs they created during the Chanukah celebration.



Cathy and Jaime enjoying a craft.



Jon having a great time celebrating with friends.

New Year's Festivities

On New Year's Eve, several JCL residents enjoyed an unforgettable night out at Mohegan Sun, where they attended Invincible: A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson. The energy of the Michael Jackson impersonator had everyone smiling, singing along, and dancing to some of his most iconic hits. Experiencing the excitement of live entertainment in such a vibrant setting made the evening especially meaningful, allowing our residents to ring in the New Year with joy, laughter, and a true sense of celebration and inclusion.



Pictured left to right: Jaime, Melissa, Jordan, Tammy, and Marianne. Jordan and Tammy all smiles together at the concert.

JCL's own Kendy hosted a New Year's Day dinner party for some of the JCL ladies. The group enjoyed a delightful evening together filled with a delicious meal, fun games, and wonderful camaraderie. To make the night even more special, Kendy graciously surprised each of her guests with a thoughtful gift.



Pictured left to right: Arsenia and Kelly receiving gifts from Kendy.

Happy
New Year

A few of our JCL guys had the opportunity to attend Glow Hartford where our guys were able to enjoy interactive light gardens, illuminated structures, and take train rides on the "Glow"-comotive.

Pictured left to right: Kendy with Larry in front of a light display; AJ, Dean, & David in front an illuminated helicopter; Dean with AJ visiting the Grinch.



Thank you to our friends at the Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The continued support that we receive from these two community partners ensures that we are able to provide exceptional service to the men and women in our care. These funds also allow us to provide Judaic Programming throughout the year to our residents and the community.



Create a Lasting Legacy Through Planned Giving

Legacy giving—also known as planned giving—is a meaningful way to support JCL while aligning your charitable intentions with your overall financial or estate plans. By including JCL in your will, trust, or beneficiary designations, you can ensure that your values and commitment to our mission continue well into the future.

A legacy gift allows you to make a significant and lasting impact—often without affecting your current lifestyle. These gifts typically take effect after your lifetime and help provide long-term financial stability for JCL, ensuring we can continue delivering life-enhancing care and opportunities for generations to come. Many donors also find that planned gifts may offer tax advantages while honoring what matters most to them.

How Legacy Giving Works

- Planned today, given tomorrow: You make arrangements now, with your gift benefiting JCL in the future.
- Integrated into your estate plan: Legacy gifts are commonly included in a will, trust, or financial account.
- More than just cash: Gifts can include appreciated securities, retirement assets, life insurance, or real estate.

Common Ways to Leave a Legacy

- Bequests: Designate JCL in your will to receive a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after other obligations are met.
- Retirement Assets: Name JCL as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), or other retirement account.
- Life Insurance: Donate a policy or list JCL as a beneficiary.
- Trusts: Establish a charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust to support JCL while meeting personal financial goals.

Why Donors Choose Legacy Giving

- Enduring impact: Your generosity continues to change lives far into the future.
- Potential tax benefits: Planned gifts may reduce estate taxes or provide other financial advantages.
- A reflection of your values: Legacy giving is a powerful way to ensure the causes you care about remain strong.

By including JCL in your plans, you help secure a future filled with dignity, opportunity, and care for individuals with disabilities—today and always. If you would like to set up an appointment to learn more about how your legacy gift can benefit JCL, please contact Sarah Winiarski at swiniarski@jcl-ct.org or 860-522-5225 x2239.



Everyday Experiences, Extraordinary Impact

These photos capture just a glimpse of the vibrant, joyful lives of the individuals supported by JCL. From creating pottery, working, and enjoying day trips to sharing laughter and new experiences, each moment reflects opportunity, connection, and independence. These enriching activities are made possible through the generosity of our donors, whose support helps provide the resources, staffing, and experiences that allow the people we serve to thrive every day.

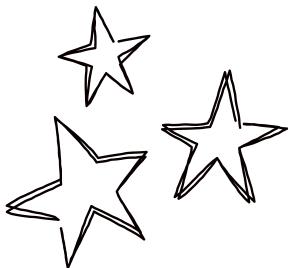


Left to right, Jessica and Kelly. Jessica and Kelly have recently tried out pottery lessons. Here are a few photos of them showing of their creative skills.

A.J. took a trip to the Basketball Hall of Fame. Here he is pictured with a cutout of Muggsy Bogues, the shortest player to ever play in the NBA.



David enjoying lunch with Vanessa , JCL's Coordinator of Programs & Services and one of JCL's supervisors, Deidre.



Jon recently met with his mother and enjoyed lunch together in Enfield.



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