



JEWISH LEARNING CENTER *of* SPRINGFEILD

Dear Friends,

The best things in life are accomplished through partnerships. Families, businesses, and communities – any time we try to build something to be the best it can be, it requires many partners. They may fill different roles, they may be more or less engaged, but every partner brings their own unique qualities and talents that help create something that couldn't exist without them.

With you as our partners and with G-d's help, we have been lucky enough to have created something real here in Springfield. In our first four years, the Jewish Learning Center has been filled with activity – day by day growing, day by day reaching more and more people and bringing them in to this unique experience. An experience of living Judaism. An experience of joy-filled Judaism. An experience of Jewish community. An experience of family.

Whether it's dozens of people joining together for a community Shabbat dinner, weekly classes challenging our participants to think and grow, or holiday programs delighting kids of all ages, the Jewish Learning Center's family has grown from day to day.

We are so thankful for all of the partners that have helped us reach this point. Participants, donors, sponsors, volunteers – each adds a special spark to the flame of Jewish life we are lighting together. But there's so much more to do.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe taught us to care deeply for every single Jew. As long as there are Jewish families in Springfield not yet being reached, as long as there are Jewish children not yet being inspired, we cannot be satisfied with our accomplishments. And that is why we turn to you – our partners – to create a deeper partnership; one that will allow us to continue to grow and achieve so much more.

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There are some 4,000 Chabad Houses around the world, bringing light and hope to Jewish life everywhere. But a common misconception we face is the idea that there is some sort of central funding mechanism. **We neither receive funding nor give funding to any national or regional body. Jewish Learning Center of Springfield is a completely independent 501(c)3 and is funded solely by the generosity of its own donors and friends.**

In an effort to continue to grow, we ask you to consider a new level of partnership with us. We know that many of you are members in various organizations and synagogues – and we value that engagement. We have chosen not to institute a formal membership requirement – specifically so that people from every walk of life and circumstance can feel comfortable and able to participate, as in fact so many have. But as our activities grow and the number of people we reach continues to grow, our budget too has continued to grow.

Our budget for 2015 is \$122,155. (This low number is achieved only because of our extreme dedication to stretching every dollar to its fullest. As philanthropist George Rohr says: I give to Chabad because I get – by far – the most bang for my charitable buck!) Half of that is now covered: \$32,000 of income (fees, etc.), and another \$30,000 of commitments that we have already raised. That leaves us with a current fundraising need of approximately \$60,000 to allow us to continue operations and programming growth as planned.

Please consider a voluntary monthly contribution to help us achieve this goal. While each of you has unique financial circumstances and obligations, we ask you to consider a commitment in the range of \$100 per month. Of course, not everyone will be able to. If that is beyond your means at this time, please consider making a monthly commitment of whatever you can. And if you are blessed to have the means to help cover for some of those who can't, larger commitments will of course be deeply appreciated.

With your help, we will continue to grow – to reach both wider (more people) and deeper (more and better programs). And with your partnership, we know that the community we have begun to build together will continue to make a meaningful difference in all of our lives – bringing ever more joy and nachas to us all.

Rabbi Mendy and Aidela Blesofsky

P.S. For your convenience, there are two easy ways for you to partner with this initiative:

- A) Send head checks to the Jewish Learning Center – 810 S. Springfield Ave
Springfield, NJ 07081
- B) Enter your credit card information online at www.mylc.org – please make sure to choose the “monthly” option and specify the number of months.