



# Foundation Newsletter

## **Mission**

The mission of the Jewish Community Foundation of Durham Chapel Hill is to foster and support the members of our community in fulfilling their philanthropic goals – social, educational, and charitable – and maintaining the longstanding Jewish traditions of pursuing Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

## **Purpose**

We strive to accomplish our mission by:

- Empowering donors to convert generous ideas into deliberate action;
- Serving as a central hub and advocate for charitable giving to help individuals, families, and community organizations achieve their charitable goals; and
- Receiving, administering, investing, and disbursing funds to ensure the viability of our community life for generations to come.

## **Donor Spotlight**

As small children, we were unaware of history and politics. The communities in which we were raised placed much emphasis on education and our well-being. It was only after we had become adults did we realize the cost and sacrifices our parents made to ensure we all grew up Jewish with Jewish values. We now understand that these great blessings are not free, but rather, it is our and the community's duty to preserve and assure the same for generations to come.

Having served on many Kehillah Synagogue committees, its Board and one of us as its co-president, we are acutely aware of two opposing forces constantly at play. The shul's goal is to ensure that dues are kept as low as possible to assure affordable membership. And for members who cannot afford full dues, partial or even no dues will be considered. The contrasting pressure is to ensure that the synagogue's staff are of high quality. They need reasonable salaries in order to remain and live in the community rather than quickly seek other offers for better employment. Our desires, of course, cost money. The best avenue we found to achieve both goals is to have endowed chairs, first for the Rabbi and then for the education director. This is why we became inspired to work on establishing an endowment that will support the Rabbi's position, which will guarantee the Kehillah has funding for this position year after year, and frees up support for other purposes.

-Stan and Marion Robboy

**Performance Snapshot**

The investment committee is pleased to provide the Foundation Portfolio performance report for the fourth quarter of 2016. We apologize for the late delivery this quarter. The manager introduced a new system that caused some delay in getting our year-end reporting.

The portfolio has achieved a 3.95% net return for the calendar year 2016. While disappointing after the portfolio had achieved solid year to date returns as of Q3 in 2016, recent market uncertainty negatively affected a variety of asset classes through the end of the year.

International and emerging market stocks took the brunt of the hit in quarter 4 of last year, but by late December began to turn around. As of the end of January 2017, most of these stocks have recovered, some reaching new highs as the DOW Industrial average also did recently.

As you may be aware, the new administration has not delayed in injecting quite a bit of turmoil which, as reported by the news, is inciting reaction worldwide. As investors, this can cause us to question our planning and allocation. It is important to keep in mind that the Foundation portfolio is allocated for the longest time frame there is, i.e. the portfolio is intended to stay invested in perpetuity. We know uncertainty will hamper returns at times, but the best course of action is to start with a prudent allocation and then stay disciplined.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,  
Marc Becker, AIF  
Chair, Investment Committee for The Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill  
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*\*3 month returns of Euronext 100 and FTSE stock indices as reported by Google Finance 10/24/2016. Index returns are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual investor performance. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Index returns reported are gross of investment fees; you cannot invest directly into an index. The calculations include reinvested dividends and interest.*

### **GREAT NEWS! Introducing New User-friendly Donor Portal Coming Soon!**

We are thrilled to share that BB&T is launching the use of Stellar Donor Portal. This web-based platform is designed to provide:

- Real time information to donors, such as fund balances
- Improved options for donor services and gift processing

Throughout the first quarter of the year we will be getting the system set up and designed for the Jewish Community Foundation and for each of your funds. Towards the end of the quarter we will be hosting various trainings to help each of you to learn more about the system and practical techniques for you to manage your fund(s). This will be a great asset in continuing to improve the services provided to fund holders.

### **Funds in Action**

The Sydney and Phyllis Back Education Fund to Benefit the Elderly has provided two exceptional programs for our aging community this year.

In spring 2016, it allowed Jewish Family Services to take a group of aging adults to the North Carolina Museum of Art. Transportation was provided, an exceptional tour was given by a docent, and lunch was included. The participants had a fabulous day and an opportunity to experience the museum – something they would not have been able to do on their own.

In fall 2016, our older adult community benefitted again from this fund. This time the North Carolina Museum of Art sent one of their traveling exhibits to us at the JCC. Jewish Family Services blended this visit with our Chaverim program. This event included a lively discussion with a museum docent about how food and culture have been celebrated over time in art. Participants were able to explore painting and sculpture from around the world, from the ancient world to modern times.

It is so rewarding to see the impact such funds have on our community.

