Photo, above: In New Orleans, Jewish teens from 8 different communities in Greater Boston participated in rebuilding a family home and constructing affordable housing to bring young families to New Orleans. This successful service trip brought together teens already engaged in TELEM programs and new participants.

Front cover: Teens participants in the TELEM: Jewish Youth Making a Difference Together service trip to New Orleans in February pause for a moment before installing a window in a house gutted by Hurricane Katrina.
LETTER

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

What a year we’ve all just endured – as a community, a democracy and a country. The divisions in our already fractured society grew deeper, the rhetoric heated up and most disturbing, we Americans came to view each other more and more, as the "other." Increasingly, we’ve retreated to our echo chambers, where our long held views are reinforced by friends, neighbors and carefully curated, partisan media outlets. All too often, we give in to the temptation to turn away from, rather than toward, each other. The places where we can come together as a community, debate our differences with open hearts and mutual respect and act in unison on our shared convictions and dreams, have become few and far between.

Enter JCRC. Throughout our seventy years, we’ve proudly sat at – and protected – the center of our community. Charged with representing the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston, we’ve worked diligently to create and nurture a space in which differing perspectives and ideologies can emerge - where all that binds us together can be affirmed. Never has it been more important to uphold this center and to put our shared values into action for the common good.

Our community is blessed with a multiplicity of perspectives and opinions, and an abundance of passion on a range of issues. We may – and do – disagree about the best way to resolve thorny social and economic challenges. But we are one united community when it comes to the need to alleviate poverty and provide civil rights for all. We may – and do – differ on the most effective way to support Israel, but we are united in our love for Israel and our fervent hopes for her glorious future as a Jewish and democratic state.

We’re pleased to share this year’s accomplishments with you, and to give you a glimpse of the many ways in which we’ve represented the heart and soul of our community in the public square. The scenes we shared with you last year took place in the schools, senior housing and food programs in which JCRC’s hundreds of volunteers regularly engage in service. This year’s stories take place in the halls of the State House, in legislative offices and throughout the community, where we organize leaders to take action on the critical concerns of our time. Whether it is through our own lobbying efforts, engaging our community’s leaders in public action or participating in powerful coalitions, we are putting our shared values into practice every day. We are building bridges within and beyond the Jewish community, to effect change on the issues that matter to all of us.

Thank you for entrusting us with the sacred responsibility of representing this extraordinary community. Thank you for your leadership, your participation in our work, and your support for all that we do.

JEREMY BURTON
Executive Director

ADAM SUTTIN
President
JCRC is the representative voice of the organized Jewish community in the public square. With Jewish community leaders, our partner agencies, and the support of donors, JCRC develops and promotes meaningful Jewish service and volunteer experiences; builds strong relationships with civic leaders; and partners with other faith communities on issues of shared concern. Through our work, JCRC advances the values and priorities of the organized Jewish community of Greater Boston in support of the Commonwealth and Israel.

“JCRC continues to demonstrate strong leadership on issues of poverty and economic prosperity for the most vulnerable in our society. JCRC is a voice we can count on to bring a high level of engagement with policy makers and stakeholders that moves issues and opportunity to those most in need. JCRC leverages its time, talent and resources to open doors, drive policy and deliver resources to the most voiceless in our state.”

> SUE BEATON, THE PAUL & PHYLLIS FIREMAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

ReachOut! volunteers Hanna Swittlekowski, Leah Robins, Liz Brenner, and Josh Ritz enjoy the festive atmosphere at JCRC Celebrates in September.
JCRC’S SERVICE IMPACT IN 2016-2017

23,500 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME

618.5K EQUIVALENT DOLLAR VALUE

In Massachusetts, 1 volunteer hour is worth $29 (per independentsector.org)

FOR EVERY DOLLAR DONATED:

$81¢ DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMS

$19¢ TO ADMIN COSTS

TELEM 8,000 HR $232,000
GBJCL 10,000 HR $290,000
ReachOut! 5,500 HR $159,500

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER
In March, volunteers get into the spirit at a Purim party with residents of Hebrew SeniorLife.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION
Jack Arbeiter poses with the 2016 Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest Upper Division Winners (left to right) Phuong Nguyen, Annie Muise, and Stephanie Ortiz.

MAKING CONNECTIONS
A ReachOut! volunteer forms a special friendship. Each of JCRC’s service programs bring into close connection individuals of different backgrounds and ages.
ADVOCATING

EQUALITY AND ACCESS FOR ALL

JCRC advocates for full equality under the law and the full inclusion of people in civil society. This year, we joined with a diverse group of legal, advocacy, community, and corporate partners to effect passage of the landmark Transgender Public Accommodations Bill and Pay Equity legislation. As we celebrate these gains, we acknowledge there is tremendous work to be done to ensure continued progress. We also continue to innovate with our partner agencies and coalitions to strengthen the social safety net and increase investments targeted towards economic growth, healthy living, and vital human supports. While state revenues greatly lag behind the need for services, we work to safeguard public investments and find creative solutions to meet persistent gaps, including helping seniors age in place, giving immigrants and refugees the tools to succeed, developing opportunities for people with disabilities to thrive, and finding stable housing options for a variety of populations.
“JCRC has been an amazing partner of the Catholic school community. As a prodigious advocate for the Commonwealth’s non-public school students with disabilities, JCRC has successfully advanced the provision of on-site special education services. In this and in other ways, JCRC has given to these same students a voice. On their behalf, I applaud for its commitment, leadership, and tenacity.”

> STEVE PERLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARENTS ALLIANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

**LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION**

In February, JCRC proudly honored four outstanding women in leadership. These women shape public policy and change hearts and minds: Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Senator Karen Spilka, Representative Patricia Haddad, and Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, the first openly transgender legislative staffer in the Massachusetts State Legislature and White House staff member. We share their passion for justice, equality, and public service and thank them for their efforts to build a more perfect Commonwealth.

“We continue to partner with JCRC to demonstrate high performing workforce development solutions which are then supported and scaled through public investments. This approach, demonstrating to government what works, and then, and only then, seeking public investment, is how government, public policy, and service delivery works best. JCRC leads the way in making this a reality.”

> JERRY RUBIN
CEO, JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES

*Photos, top: Co-chair of the Legislative Reception, Jesse Mermell, addresses the crowd in the Great Hall of the State House. Bottom: Pictured left to right, Rep. Patricia Haddad, Treasurer Deborah Goldberg, Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, Sen. Karen Spilka, Event Co-chairs Fredie Kay and Jesse Mermell*
EFFECTING CHANGE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

JCRC’s Synagogue Organizers support Jewish leaders to effect change in the Commonwealth and beyond. This year alone, hundreds of synagogue leaders participated in key actions through the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), on a range of issues. With their interfaith partners, they organized to pass a bill for individuals once convicted of drug offenses to regain their drivers’ licenses, removing a key obstacle to employment. Additionally, synagogue leaders from nine congregations helped secure over 700 votes to successfully pass a Boston city ballot measure that will generate millions of dollars every year for affordable housing.
The support of organizers from JCRC has been indispensable to our social justice work at Temple Sinai and GBIO. Over the last five years, JCRC has helped us establish community organizing and relationship-building as the core of our leadership of Tzedek@Sinai.

— Felice Mendell, Temple Sinai

We are grateful for the remarkable support of JCRC as we set out to build a new interfaith coalition that brought congregations and faith organizations together to act on climate change in the public arena. Our leaders and members benefited from our JCRC organizer’s savvy and skilled partnership. From JCRC and our JCRC organizer, our coalition and congregational leaders had a chance to learn and practice the essential skills we needed to do our work and successfully negotiate the complex landscape of legislative and public policy. JCRC stepped up and supported MAICCA at a critical, formative time. Thank you.

— Amy Benjamin
Temple Beth Elohim and the MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action

JCRC is committed to fighting the clear and present dangers of climate change and gun violence. We provided consultation and support to The Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action (MAICCA), which helped pass important legislation to invest in renewable energy including the creation of an off-shore wind industry.

Our work with the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign targets the scourge of gun violence by cultivating national allies in government and law enforcement. In large part due to this campaign, President Obama sought to leverage federal purchasing power to engage the gun industry and boost the development of “smart” gun technology. At his request, the Department of Justice has released proposed specifications for law-enforcement and military grade smart guns.

“Acting Locally, Thinking Globally”

Photo courtesy of GBIO
In May, JCRC and its partners welcomed more than 400 community members to the Community Holocaust Commemoration of Yom HaShoah. At the remembrance, Mary Beth Donovan, the principal of Tenney Grammar School in Methuen, received the inaugural Leadership in Holocaust Education Award. Earlier in her career, Donovan challenged students who denied the Holocaust in her classroom by inviting survivor Israel Arbeiter to share his story and bear witness to history. She committed to make Holocaust education a pillar of her curriculum, and each year, engages scores of students in the Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest.
COMMUNAL CELEBRATIONS

JCRC brings Greater Boston’s Jewish Community together to celebrate our strength and express gratitude for our volunteers whose invaluable knowledge and service are integral to all aspects of our work. In May, we expressed our profound thanks to our volunteers and honored two outstanding leaders, Stuart Rossman and Rabbi Barbara Penzner. In September, we celebrated the strength of our community with featured speaker Josh Kraft, who urged the audience to keep finding commonalities, especially in times of political turmoil.

“There are many obstacles that hinder our efforts. There always have been. It is both humbling and daunting. Yet striving together thoughtfully, with integrity, honesty and intelligence, we at the JCRC have not been deterred. The successes of this organization, achieved the right way, remind us why the effort is so important and why, despite the inevitable stumbles along the way, our victories are to be savored, cherished and celebrated together. ”

> STUART ROSSMAN, RECIPIENT OF THE NANCY K. KAUFMAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

> RABBI BARBARA PENZNER, RECIPIENT OF THE WARREN B. KOHN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE

“There are so many parts of our world that are in need of justice, and this room is filled with people who do that work every day. No one of us can take care of all of them. We can beat ourselves up for not doing enough. In my arba amot, my small place in the world, I have carved out a place for concern for justice for working people.”
"Ultimately the goal of our trip was not to solve a problem, or know the answers, but to gain a greater, more nuanced, and authentic understanding of a people, place, and culture."

> SENATE PRESIDENT STAN ROSENBERG

“I learned that my belief in the goodness of people holds firm. I believe more than ever, that goodness knows no geographic, political, national or religious boundaries, even in the Middle East.”

> SENATOR JOHN KEENAN
JCRC’s advocacy for a safe, secure, Jewish and democratic state of Israel is more important now than ever. Israel Study Tours are a cornerstone component of our strategy to combat anti-Israel sentiment and action by introducing non-Jewish leaders to the complexities and realities of the Middle East. Through ten days of experiences with diverse facilitators, dignitaries, and guides, JCRC engages participants beyond the headlines, and provides them with insights into the lived experiences, fears, and aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians. Participants return with a deeper understanding of the complexities of the region and a willingness to challenge simplistic formulations.

In December 2015, ten Massachusetts state senators, one-quarter of the entire Senate, traveled to Israel with JCRC. Chaired by Senate President Stan Rosenberg, the trip included multiple opportunities to learn about Israel’s successful high-tech sector and the Massachusetts-Israel business relationship; conversations with a diversity of political leaders and academics; and visits to areas of geopolitical significance including the Lebanese-Israeli border, a tour of the seam zone, and a visit to Moshav Netiv Ha’asarah, a farming community overlooking the Gaza Strip.

Building on our success engaging elected officials and Christian clergy in study tours, in August, JCRC piloted a new audience: civic leaders and political activists from a variety of sectors, including health care, financial services, high-tech, trade associations, and community groups. Diversifying trip offerings to include these participants, all of whom are leaders in their sectors, allows us to further expand support for and connection with Israel among influential Massachusetts leaders.
LITERACY AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

JCRC’s Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) flourishes as a vehicle for sustained service. In the 2015-2016 school year, GBJCL sent 300 volunteers including adults and teens from 29 area synagogues, organizations and businesses to public schools in the GBJCL partner network. Entering our 20th year, GBJCL deepened our commitment to our nearly 30 partner elementary schools by donating hundreds of high quality books. By the end of the school year, we provided over 500 new books to partner schools, a value of nearly $10,000. We will fully celebrate GBJCL’s two decades of service in 2017.
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE

JCRC creates opportunities for our community to act on our Jewish values through service. In January, nearly 200 volunteers from across the region primed, painted, weatherized, and revitalized sections of Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, the oldest public elementary school in the country. Our team of all ages joyfully participated in the project, enhancing the environment of Mather Elementary School for its students, and the surrounding community.

REACHOUT! YOUNG ADULT ENGAGEMENT

In 2015-2016, ReachOut! experienced its largest increase in volunteers in the program’s six years, adding over 50 additional volunteers to service sites throughout Greater Boston. As a result of ReachOut!’s expansion to year-round programming with an eight-week summer cycle, volunteers are even more connected to their service sites and fellow volunteers, forging meaningful relationships with those whose lives they touch.

TELEM: JEWISH YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

This year, TELEM expanded its footprint and identified new ways for teen volunteers to participate in meaningful service learning. Building on our successes with previous service trips to New York, this year we expanded to New Orleans where participants rolled up their sleeves and engaged in home repairs and rebuilds for people whose homes were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. As a result of these experiences, JCRC is emerging as a leader in service trips for Boston area Jewish teens.

“I have been working with the same student for the past year and have seen enormous improvement with his English and math skills. Having left his native Colombia at 16 without his family, he made his way to the U.S. and worked his way up to being manager at Boloco. However, in order to keep his promotion, he has to pass the High School Equivalency Exam. Through my work with ReachOut! I will help him follow his American dream!”

JEFF COHEN, REACHOUT! VOLUNTEER AT HARRIET TUBMAN HOUSE
2016-2017 JCRC LEADERSHIP

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As of 10/31/2016

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American Jewish Committee
Jason Aluia
Jill Arnold
Beth & Adam Badik
Bayer Family Trust
Sarah Benjamin & Joel Samen
William Berman
Stacey Bloom
Boston Jewish Film Festival, Newton
Rebecca Brand
Liz Brenner
Fay & Julian Bussgang
Susan A. Calechman
Congregation Ahavas Achim Men’s Club, Newburyport
Congregation Dorshni Tzedek, Newton
Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Newton
Congregation Sha’aray Shalom, Hingham
Consul General of Israel, Boston
Rev. June R. Cooper
Leslie & Alan Crane
Meredith Cutler
Rep. Sal DiDomenico
Honey Doctoroff
Jennifer Dworkin & Daniel Stodolsky
Carol & Lewis Epstein
Trudy & Lester Fagen
Bernadette & Timothy Feeley
Ellen Feingold
Albert H. Fine
Jen Finkler
Abby Flam
Rev. Lucy Forster-Smith
Judy & Jeffrey Freedman
Marion & Stanley Freedman-Gurspan
Rebecca Frost
Leslie & Michael Gaffi
Caroline Gammill
Gann Academy, Waltham
Gateways: Access to Jewish Education, Newton
Generations After, Burlington
Frances Godine
Janet & Richard Goldenberg
Ron Goldberg
Shirley & Richard Goldner
Stacy Goodman & Ingo Agustsson
State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg
Alex Goldstein
Julie & Philip Gordon
Wendy Greene & Tim Martel
Hadassah Northeast, Newton
Russell Haims
Leonard & Bonnie Hausman
Ina & Lewis Heafitz
Israeli American Council, Boston
Suzanne Jacobs
Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Newton
Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston, Newton
Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly
J Street Educational Fund
Representative Lou Kafka
Seryl Kalis
Barbara & Leo Karas
Lisa Kasser & Shmuel Sorkin
Judith & Steven Kaye
Kathryn Kerstein
Deeana Klepper
Alex Klibaner
Daniel A. Kirschner
Marjorie Kornheiser & Charles Delbaum
Gila and Bruce Kriegel
Diana Leader-Cramer
Jody & Adam Levin
Karyn Cohen Leviton
Leah Littlefield
Lowenstein Charitable Trust
Jane Matlaw
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance, Boston
Adam Marx
Deborah & Richard McCarthy
Kathleen McGrath
Bobby Meth, MD
Seth Moulton for Congress
National Council of Jewish Women, New York, New York
New England Jewish Labor Committee
Christopher Noe
Suzanne & Andrew Offit
Naama Ore
Donna Palley & Steven Scudder
Heidi & Lewis Pearlson
Carole & Fred Pritzker
Eva & Alan Radding
The Rashi School, Dedham
Jill & Don Reichman
Charlene Rideout
Elizabeth & Eric Ritvo
Joanne & Jeff Robbins
Leah Robins
Senate President Stanley Rosenberg
Lauren Rosenthal & Howard Learner
Anida & Edwin Rossman
Cindy Rowe
The Martha & Max Rubinstein Family Foundation
Rabbi Benjamin Samuels & Congregation Shaarei Tefillah, Newton
Cynthia Samuelson
Ranella & Dan Saul
Klein Schottenfeld
Andrea Serlin, Serlin Haley LLP, Boston
Susan Shevitz & Lawrence Bailis
Gail Shulman & Robert Sullaway
Dr. Henry H. Silverman
Samuel Silverman
Leslie & Craig Slater
Marsha & Marc Slotnick
Philip Small
Joan Snider
The Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston, Newton
Michael Solomons
Phyllis & Adam Sonnenschein
Barbara & Howard Sorkin
Jeffrey Stern
Barbara Strauss
Marge Sunners
Reva Tankle & John McArthur
Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley
Temple Beth Shalom, Needham
Temple Beth Zion, Brookline
Temple Emeth, Newton
Temple Israel, Natick
Temple Reyim, Newton
Temple Shalom, Newton
Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland
Temple Shir Tikvah, Winchester
Temple Sinai, Brookline
Thrive in 5
Susan W. Tofias
Elaine Tung
UBS Foundation USA Matching Gift Program
Bryna & Branch Watkins
Pamela & Peter Weil
Lori & Dan Weinronk
James P. Whitters III
Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPT. 30, 2015

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CJP Grants</td>
<td>$2,196,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports from Grants and Foundations</td>
<td>181,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Donors</td>
<td>457,893</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Revenue</td>
<td>256,958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>9,838</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td>3,102,848</td>
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**EXPENSES BY PROGRAM**

**SERVICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TELEM</td>
<td>281,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synagogue Organizing</td>
<td>163,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Relations</td>
<td>271,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holocaust Programs</td>
<td>106,618</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy</td>
<td>172,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReachOut!</td>
<td>118,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>1,114,215</td>
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</table>

**ADVOCACY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability Advocacy</td>
<td>113,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Gun Violence Advocacy</td>
<td>94,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Government Affairs</td>
<td>419,851</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>627,736</td>
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</table>

**ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>266,815</td>
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**DNEPROPETROSK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>411,183</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,419,949</td>
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</table>

**Administrative and Development Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>555,272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,975,221</td>
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**NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 127,627</td>
</tr>
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</table>
JCRC STAFF

EXECUTIVE TEAM
Jeremy Burton
Executive Director

Nahma Nadich
Associate Director

Michael Selsman
Chief Operating Officer

LEADERSHIP TEAM
Aaron Agulnek
Director, Public Policy

Emily Reichman
Director, Service Initiatives

STAFF
Jean Connolly
Senior Administrative Assistant

Shoshana Edelson
Program Coordinator, TELEM

Sasha Fastovskiy
Communications Associate

Barry Glass
Director, TELEM: Jewish Youth
Making a Difference Together

Seth Goldberg
Government Affairs Associate

Ariella Hellman
Government Affairs Associate

Julie Hollander
Coordinator, Young Adult Social
Justice Programs

Lisa Kessel Friedman
Executive Assistant to Jeremy
Burton and Events Coordinator

Rachie Lewis
Synagogue Organizer

Tasha Lipsky
Bookkeeper

Julie Manus
Development Associate

Nancy Marin
Database Administrator

Ben Poor
Synagogue Organizer

Becca Shimshak
Director, Greater Boston Jewish
Coalition for Literacy
JCRC DEFINES AND ADVANCES THE VALUES, INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES OF THE ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER BOSTON IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE.