

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FEDERATION

by Jeff Goldman, Media Relations Manager

The Jewish Community Federation (JCF) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties was founded just after the turn of the 20th century to ensure that San Francisco's growing Jewish community could provide its members with funds for food, shelter and burial. Today it ensures the survival and growth of the Jewish community through fund-raising, planning and community building. The JCF is a unique model for community involvement and action; volunteer members work together to assess needs, develop plans, raise money and develop financial resources to serve the needs of the Jewish community locally, nationally and around the world.

JCF's fundamental philosophy derives from the religion, culture and accumulated wisdom found in Jewish literature and experiences throughout history. Among these is *tikun olam*, translated as "repairing the world." JCF embodies the Jewish belief that human beings must act as guardians of the world and act with compassion toward the most vulnerable people in it.

While 100 Federation employees manage day-to-day operations, the JCF

ultimately is governed by a volunteer board of directors and dozens of committees. Lay leaders chair and staff various committees that make decisions on behalf of the community.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of its volunteers, staff and lay leaders, the JCF last year was able to raise more than \$22 million through more than 15,000 individual gifts made by Jews living in this service area. More than half the funds support local agencies and institutions that provide a wide array of services in areas such as Jewish education; campus programming and support for more than 10,000 Jewish students at seven universities in Northern California, culture and the arts, émigré resettlement, day care for the very young, nursing home care for the elderly, and family and youth services. Several of JCF's programs also support the community at large; in particular, the Community Centers, the social service agencies and early childhood programs are used by a wide variety of people in the community.

One of the JCF's local constituent organizations, the Hebrew Free Loan Association, provides interest-free loans to

community members who want to buy a home, finance a small business, or who need assistance in covering basic living costs. The loans provided by the 100-year old association make dreams of homeownership, enterprise, and education a reality.

A portion of funds are also allocated to the United Jewish Communities (UJC), the single largest Jewish philanthropy in existence, which fulfills JCF's mission on a national level. Approximately one-third of JCF's 2001-02 annual campaign was allocated for Israel and overseas services. The majority of these funds were sent to international organizations that provide for Jews in need in Israel and throughout the world, including the Jewish Agency for Israel, which resettles immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Kosovo, Ethiopia and other countries.

To learn more about the services of the Jewish Community Federation, contact Jeff Goldman, media relations manager at 415/495-4897 or via email: jeffg@sfjcf.org. The website address is: www.sfjcf.org.