

BUILDING A CULTURE OF JEWISH PRIDE

Pride is often misunderstood.

Jewish pride is not about believing we are better than anyone else.

It is about refusing to apologize for who we are.

It is about understanding that Jewish civilization has survived for thousands of years because generation after generation chose to preserve it. Jewish pride means teaching our children where they come from.

It means learning our history.

It means participating in Jewish life.

It means showing up.

It means understanding that our traditions, values, culture, and peoplehood are worth preserving.

Communities built on pride produce volunteers.

Volunteers become leaders.

Leaders build institutions.

Institutions secure the future.

That process begins with ordinary people deciding that Jewish life matters.

FROM REACTION TO CONSTRUCTION

The Jewish community has spent much of the past several years responding to challenges. While advocacy and security remain important, a strong future cannot be built on reaction alone.

The strongest response to uncertainty is construction. Building schools that inspire the next generation. Building programs that strengthen Jewish identity. Building leadership pipelines, volunteer networks, and community institutions that will serve our children long after we are gone.

Jewish Frontline exists to help strengthen the foundations of Jewish life in Michigan through public engagement, educational initiatives, community-building, leadership development, and advocacy. Our goal is not simply to preserve what exists. Our goal is to help build what comes next.

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

The future of Jewish Michigan will not be built by someone else.
It will be built by those willing to take responsibility for it.

Learn more, get involved,
or support our work at:

JEWISHFRONTLINE.ORG

BUILDING THE NEXT CHAPTER OF JEWISH MICHIGAN



**Strong communities
are not inherited.
They are built.**

THIS IS OUR MOMENT

There are moments in history when a community can simply continue along its current path, and there are moments when it must decide what kind of future it wants to create.

This is one of those moments.

Across Michigan and throughout North America, Jews are asking difficult questions. We see rising antisemitism. We see increasing polarization. We see young people struggling to connect to their Jewish identity. We see institutions working hard to meet new challenges while facing changing demographics, changing expectations, and limited resources.

It is easy to look at these problems and ask, "What is somebody going to do about this?"

The better question is: "What are we going to do about it?"

Every generation inherits a Jewish community built by those who came before them. The schools our children attend. The synagogues where we celebrate and mourn. The camps that shape Jewish identity. The organizations that advocate for our interests. The charities that care for those in need.

None of these appeared by accident.

They were built by ordinary Jews who chose to invest their time, resources, and energy into something larger than themselves.

Now that responsibility belongs to us.



WE ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF BUILDERS

Walk into almost any Jewish institution in Michigan and you will see the names of people who came before us.

Families who donated.

Volunteers who organized.

Community members who took risks.

Leaders who saw needs and refused to wait for someone else to address them.

Many of them arrived in this country with very little. Some were immigrants. Some were survivors. Some were the children of immigrants who worked long hours simply to provide for their families.

Yet somehow they still found the time to build.

They built schools because Jewish education mattered.

They built synagogues because Jewish life needed a home.

They built organizations because communities require structure to survive.

They understood something that we sometimes forget:

Jewish continuity is not automatic.

Every generation must choose it.

Every generation must invest in it.

Every generation must build it.

The institutions we inherited were gifts from people who believed deeply enough in the future to sacrifice for it.

The question before us is whether we will do the same.

THE ANSWER IS NOT RETREAT

For many Jews, the past several years have been unsettling.

There is a temptation to become smaller. Quieter. Less visible.

To keep our heads down and hope the storm passes.

Jewish history teaches the opposite lesson.

The communities that thrive are not the communities that disappear from public life.

They are the communities that become stronger, more connected, and more engaged.

The answer to antisemitism is not only security.

It is community.

The answer is not only defense.

It is construction.

The answer is not only responding to attacks.

It is creating something so vibrant, meaningful, and resilient that future generations are proud to inherit it.

Strong Jewish communities are not built in moments of comfort.

They are built by people who understand that challenges are invitations to lead.

