



## Open Letter to the Harrisburg Jewish Community

*April 24, 2026*

Dear Friends,

Over the last three weeks, volunteers and professionals from the Jewish Federations of North America have visited Harrisburg and met with leaders of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg as well as many other leaders of the Harrisburg Jewish community. We have reached two conclusions from these meetings.

First, the Harrisburg Jewish community is blessed to have many wonderful, caring leaders who give of their time and resources to support Jewish life and care for the needs of the community. The synagogues, the schools, and the agencies that serve the community are deeply valued, and there is a strong sense of belonging and commitment to the Jewish people worldwide. Though a relatively small community, we saw the best of Jewish values and spirit on display.

Second, and less positive, it is unfortunately the case that the current business model of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg and the JCC, including the development of the Alexander Grass Campus for Jewish Life, is not viable and must be quickly and comprehensively addressed to ensure a vibrant future for flourishing Jewish life in Harrisburg.

Last evening, at our suggestion, the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg voted to create a Transition Committee and give it the authority to make the difficult decisions and take the actions necessary to address the situation. The Transition Committee is a distinguished group of knowledgeable and experienced community leaders who understand the seriousness of the situation and have volunteered to help in this challenging moment. They are:

**Gary H. Torgow**  
Chair

**Jeffrey A. Schoenfeld**  
Vice Chair

**J. David Heller**  
National Campaign Chair

**Dena B. Rashes**  
Treasurer

**David B. Golder**  
Secretary

**Julie B. Platt**  
Immediate Past Chair

**Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut**  
President & CEO

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Jordan Klein, Jeanette Krebs, Sam Levine, Gerald Morrison, Rabbi Ron Muroff, and Jennifer Ross. In addition, Steven Roth, the current chair of the Harrisburg Federation, and Paulette Kiefer, the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, will serve as *ex officio* members of the committee. We express our gratitude to these leaders and urge everyone to support them in their important work.

The Transition Committee will be led by Marc Terrill. Marc served 25 distinguished years as the CEO of The Associated: The Jewish Federation of Baltimore, and is one of the most experienced and accomplished executives in the Jewish world. He has led our work over the past three weeks, visiting Harrisburg twice. I am completely confident in his abilities to lead this process with excellence, vision, and compassion. Marc will have the full support of the Jewish Federations of North America in this effort. Because there will be a lot to accomplish in a short time, I have asked my colleague Beverly Woznica to help coordinate Marc's work on this project. Beverly can be reached at [beverly.woznica@jewishfederations.org](mailto:beverly.woznica@jewishfederations.org).

The Transition Committee is committed to working quickly, transparently and with the best interest of the community in mind. They will communicate regularly to keep you updated on their progress and their decisions. I know they will seek and value your input.

We know that the challenges of the Early Learning Center on the Grass Campus have been reported in the media, and this will be addressed promptly. The Board also took the necessary and difficult step of furloughing certain personnel supporting programs which have been discontinued. This too will be fully addressed by the Transition Committee. Full reports on these matters as well as future actions on these topics will be shared with the community as soon as possible.

We thank everyone who took the time to meet with us these past weeks, as well as those who have been working on solutions to these challenges. On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg and the Jewish Federations of North America, I apologize to the community, to the donors who supported the effort to build a Jewish life campus, to the families and agencies directly impacted, and to those who raised sincere and well-founded concerns about this project. While well-intentioned, there were clearly mistakes made that



have set back Jewish life in Harrisburg and caused distress and division. Despite all that has transpired in recent years, I am confident the members of the Greater Harrisburg community can come together to repair what has been broken and build a bright future.

This Shabbat we will read the famous command of our Torah:

אַהֲבַת לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ אֲנִי ה' :

*Love your neighbor as yourself – I am the Lord.*

Let us move forward with love and reverence for our community and our traditions. Wishing you a Shabbat Shalom.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Eric D. Fingerhut  
President & CEO  
Jewish Federations of North America

