

# ENSURING OUR FUTURE



**HAR ZION**  
West Suburban Temple Har Zion

Thank you for considering a donation.

## FAQs to help you decide your donation.

### What is the current state of Har Zion?

Our congregation is thriving! Our membership has grown steadily since 2015. Our calendar is full of social, educational, and religious programming. We host the western suburbs daily minyan. Our younger religious school classes have larger class size; in 2024, we had the largest enrollment in the religious school in the past decade. Our preschool is at capacity. Post-Covid, we have restarted Kallah and the Sisterhood. We are able to celebrate 75 years of wonderful history while we begin to build for our financial future.

### Why are we launching the campaign now?

We have exhausted our other sources of funding support. Specifically, L'dor V'Dor, a campaign which was funded nearly two decades ago and raised approximately \$800,000, was depleted in 2019. Since then, we bridged the funding gaps first through Endowed Positions and then through Payroll Protection Program grants. The PPP program has expired, and the congregation needs new sources of funds to support operations and development.

The additional funds will help the Synagogue reach its potential. While the number of families in the Congregation have been steadily growing, the Synagogue's revenues have not matched its expenses, in part because historically, newer members have not created the same financial growth as members with longer tenure. These funds will help bridge the gap as our revenue growth will more closely align with expenses.

### What will the funds be used for?

The funds raised in the campaign will be used to fund ongoing operations and invest in our Congregation's continued future development. Additionally, in the next decade, we anticipate significant needs to our building including the roof and flooring.

### What is the impact of my donation?

Donations to the Atid Campaign ensures that our Congregation thrives and will be able to continue to provide robust religious and spiritual life, quality programming and a welcoming Jewish community. Our Congregation is growing, especially relative to other Jewish communities in the Chicago area. Our

membership has been steadily rising, especially with younger families. For example, in the 2024-2025 school year, we have eight new families in the religious school, the younger religious school classes have large enrollments, and the pre-school is at full enrollment. Programming has expanded drastically post-covid. We often have musical shabbat, both in-person and virtual classes and have resumed significant activities such as Kallah and the Sisterhood. Your donation provides financial security so that the Congregation will continue to grow and be a home for our Jewish community to learn, pray and develop life-long friendships.

### How much do we need to raise in order to keep the congregation viable and what happens if we do not reach that goal?

The goal of the campaign is \$2,000,000 in aggregate over the five-year period. This amount should ensure the Synagogue's future into the next generation. We expect this amount to allow the Congregation continue operations, meet its fiscal obligations and invest funds to generate additional income for the future. It will provide financial stability as the Synagogue continues to grow. If the campaign does not reach its goal, financial strain will require the clergy, staff, board, and entire congregation to spend more time on fundraising activities (and by default have less energy for social and ritual activities) and may require the Synagogue to eliminate important resources and activities.

### How will the funds be managed?

The Funds will be managed by a professional money manager at Morgan Stanley. The funds will be invested in a mix of equity and debt in both domestic and international markets. Additionally, assuming we meet our fundraising goals, the intent is to invest in higher return assets that have lower liquidity.

### I've heard that there is a deficit in the budget, but we're not using the Atid funds to pay for operating expenses. Please explain.

Money from dues, Yom Kippur Appeal, and general contributions are used first for our annual operating expenses. The Atid funds will be used to help mitigate deficits and shortfalls.

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### Who (or what committee) is managing the funds and determining their use?

The fund will be managed by a Committee separate from the Board.

### How long should the funds last?

We expect the funds to last well into the next generation. The length of time depends on several factors such as the amount raised, when those funds are collected, the needs of the Synagogue (especially dependent upon the status of the building), membership growth, the size of other revenue generated, inflation's impact on the Synagogue's expenses and the rate of return on the Atid funds donated.

### How will this campaign change dues and the Yom Kippur Appeal?

At the current time, dues and Yom Kippur Appeal have not changed. If your financial situation is stable or improved, we ask that you continue your current level of dues and Yom Kippur Appeal, or increase your amounts as you are financially able. As always, membership is inclusive regardless of financial ability; we value your personal contributions (such as participation in committees, attendance at events, and friendship).

### What is the average donation to Atid?

If every member family contributes \$10,000 to the Atid campaign (or \$2,000 annually for five years, or \$167 monthly over five years) over and above their current level of dues and routine contributions, we would exceed our goal. We recognize that not all families can do this. Members who can donate larger amounts subsidize and sustain us. Leadership levels include those from \$30,000-\$1,000,000 and beyond.

### What does a "leadership level" donation mean?

Pledges of \$30,000 or more (\$6,000 per year over 5 years) are "Leadership" level. There are naming opportunities for leadership level donations.

### Do I have to pledge over a five year period?

No! You can submit funds however it works best for you. For tax (or other) purposes, some people prefer to give all or most of their pledge in the first year of the campaign, or some particular year(s). However, most people prefer to distribute their giving over the entire campaign.

### I truly love Har Zion, but I do not have enough funds to contribute a significant amount to this campaign at this time. Do I belong here?

We hope that you can contribute any amount, even a modest one. We hope for 100% participation, however, it is optional and every member is still a part of the Har Zion family. Part of the rationale in creating a five year campaign is that if you have a difficult year, perhaps you will be able to contribute in the future.

### How can I ensure that my donation is anonymous?

You can deal directly with Charles Shapera or Rabbi Glick to discuss an anonymous donation or an undisclosed amount and mark it on your pledge form. (Or just drop off a suitcase filled with cash!!! 😊) We already have several anonymous and/or undisclosed pledges!

### How will my donation be acknowledged?

We plan to design a display with the names of donors. For leadership level donations, naming opportunities are available. Please discuss with Charles for specific availability. Donations of \$5,000, \$3,600, \$3,200, and \$1,000 may name a portion in the Haftorah scroll (a great way to honor a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, birth, or another milestone).

### How can I donate?

To donate, please contact Charles or the Rabbi. For questions about the campaign, you can contact either of them or any Atid committee member (Jeff Levine, Renee Slade, Mike Weinstein, Barb Yong).