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For Immediate Release

Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Hosts Annual Meeting

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati held its 17th Annual Meeting last week at the Mayerson JCC. The Foundation's leadership reviewed the core themes and principles guiding its investments in our community, reported on its grant-making activity during the past year, and outlined some of the priorities that the Foundation will focus on in the year ahead. The Foundation also paid tribute to one of its original Trustees, Benjamin Gettler, who passed away in June.

Jewish Foundation President Michael R. Oestreicher opened the meeting by reviewing the progress made by the Foundation since the sale of the Jewish Hospital. During this period, the Foundation developed and began implementing a strategic plan for investing new community resources, established basic principles for its overall grant-making approach, and began to see the fruits of some of its early major philanthropic investments.

"We are Trustees of financial resources that, in a certain sense, belong to the entire community: those who participate in it, those who need help from it, and those who support it," said Oestreicher. "We made a solemn commitment to our community to work hard on its behalf, and to be transparent and accountable. Our Annual Meeting was an opportunity to report on our early progress, and to give a preview of what's in store for the coming year."

Jewish Foundation Chairman Gary Heiman provided updates on the four initiatives featured at last year's Foundation Annual Meeting – the Foundation's investments in Senior Services and Cedar Village, Community Engagement and Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Jewish Poverty and Jewish Family Services' Barbash Family Vital Support Center, and Maximizing Individual Giving and the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

The Foundation's Executive Director, Brian Jaffee, reported on the significant grant-making activity during the past year. The Foundation's investment in Jewish Education was emphasized – including, for the first time, financial support for individual congregations – along with its additional support for Cincinnati's Jewish Day Schools and an enhanced investment in Overnight Jewish Camping. The report also focused on progress in each of the Foundation's goal areas – Unmet Basic Needs, Jewish Education, Leadership Development, Continuous Jewish Involvement and Israel Connection – and described the Foundation's continued involvement in initiatives that are consistent with its legal charter to advance the Jewish community, but benefit the entire community as well.

Special video presentations showcased the Foundation's investments in Overnight Jewish Camping, Jewish Education, as well as a new partnership forged among the Jewish

Foundation, Mayerson Foundation and Mayerson JCC to enhance the J's programming and engagement expertise in ways that will benefit local congregations and other Jewish organizations along with the JCC itself. These videos, along with video recordings of the live presentations at this year's Annual Meeting are available on the Jewish Foundation's website: www.thejewishfoundation.org

Oestreicher then closed the meeting by explaining how the Foundation's investments are interwoven in a "community tapestry" that is beginning to come together, the content and design of which will become even clearer in the years ahead. Examples of this include the inter-connection between HUC and Jewish Family Service in the grants made to the Barbash Family Vital Support Center, and the partnerships that have formed, and continue to evolve, among the Jewish organizations responsible for senior services.

Oestreicher also described the capacity-building initiatives at the Federation and JCC as further strengthening of the "three-legged community stool" in which the Foundation is the unique investment resource, the Federation represents fundraising and leadership development expertise, and the JCC provides programming and engagement expertise.

"Our grantees have been successful in finding exciting and gratifying points of connection with other organizations and leveraging each other's strengths to enhance what each is doing – and what they and their constituents, and our community, are receiving in return," said Oestreicher.

In the coming year, the Foundation's priorities and key activities will focus on continued monitoring of the outcomes and impact of its current community investments, significant progress in its efforts to support congregations, new investments in jobs and career services and other unmet basic needs, a reorganization of its Israel Connection goals and objectives, and several other projects intended to strengthen the Cincinnati Jewish community.

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The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati invests in high impact, transformational initiatives in the areas of Unmet Basic Needs, Jewish Educational Opportunities, Leadership Development, Continuous Jewish Involvement and Israel Connection. Since its founding in 1995, the Foundation has significantly enhanced the cohesiveness and culture of the Cincinnati Jewish community, and has invested more than \$90 million in a vision to make Cincinnati one of America's great cities for Jewish life.