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## For Immediate Release

### **Jewish Foundation Annual Meeting Focuses on Leadership, Partnership in Community**

The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati held its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting last week, showcasing the importance of leadership and featuring several dynamic partnerships that are helping to move the community's agenda forward.

Lindsey Danziger – a 4th year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and one of 34 Jewish Foundation Sacred Service Learning Fellows – opened the program with a teaching on leadership, drawing on traditional Jewish text, as well as contemporary interpretation. Jewish Foundation President Beth Guttman then delivered her President's report, which continued the leadership theme by highlighting the recent graduating class of the first Wexner Leadership Program, as well as a collaborative leadership development and talent management planning process being undertaken in partnership with the Jewish Federation.

"Time and again, we have found that leadership – specifically, having visionary and skilled volunteer and professional leaders – is the critical factor determining whether or not an organization will be successful in delivering on its overall mission, or even on the particular objectives of an individual grant," said Ms. Guttman. "Strong leadership is the key to an organization being able to see a need in the community, understand how they can address that need, articulate the opportunity to funders, and then responsibly steward community resources to make a positive impact."

Ms. Guttman also featured the collaborative efforts of the Senior Services Working Group, comprised of Cedar Village, Jewish Family Service, JVS Career Services and the Mayerson JCC, which in the near term will result in a new central information and referral center for all things related to aging services in the Jewish community. Additionally, a new Jewish Teen Education and Engagement initiative will be launched in 2016, and it will involve the collective involvement of the Mayerson JCC, congregations, youth groups, Hebrew High School programs, Jewish Federation and HUC-JIR. This initiative will not create a new organization, but will rather invest resources in a connective web of programming and support services designed to fill in existing gaps, and encourage new partnerships and collaborations for the benefit of Jewish teens in Cincinnati.

Jewish Foundation Chairman, Michael R. Oestreicher, followed Ms. Guttman at the podium to announce the election of two new Trustees, Gloria R. Lipson and Arna Poupko Fisher, and to express appreciation for Michael Fisher, who recently resigned from the Foundation Board.

"For the past four years we have benefited from Michael's wisdom, experience, and strategic thinking skills, and his myriad contributions to the shaping of our new persona as a 'trusted, high impact investor' in the Jewish community leaves an indelible mark," said Mr. Oestreicher. "Gloria and Arna have already served with distinction in just their first few months on the Foundation Board, and each of them has made significant contributions to key initiatives being featured at our Annual Meeting."

Executive Director Brian Jaffee reviewed the Foundation's grantmaking activity since the 2014 Annual Meeting, reporting on major investments in each of the Foundation's five priority funding areas, including:

- Continuous Jewish Engagement – summarizing the Foundation's new strategies for strengthening congregational life;

- Jewish Education – describing accomplishments at each of the community Day Schools, as well as new efforts to partner with them on long-term financial stability planning;
- Unmet Basic Needs – highlighting the progress of the Barbash Family Vital Support Center and SAFE Cincinnati’s work to improve security across the community;
- Israel Connection – detailing the Foundation’s ongoing investment in Cincy Journeys Israel and Camping grants, and it’s partnership with REDI Cincinnati to attract Israeli business investment in our region;
- Leadership Development – introducing a second video segment featuring local Jewish leaders sharing their thoughts on what makes a good leader

Reflecting on the activity and accomplishment from the past year, Jaffee emphasized the work of others, and the value of having such incredible community partners, saying: “It truly takes a collective effort, and we hope that the community will be inspired by the tremendous work being done by so many organizations involved in fulfilling our shared mission of strengthening our community.”

In total, the Foundation distributed \$14.6 million in grants and other charitable program expenses, and awarded \$12 million in new grants during the past year.

Ms. Guttman concluded the annual meeting with remarks on the Foundation’s focus areas for the year to come, including more partnering with the Jewish Federation, the JCC and others on major community initiatives. These include developing new ideas for use of the former Temple Sholom property in Amberley Village, as well as new community-wide initiatives in higher education.

“As we work on those projects and others in the year ahead,” Ms. Guttman concluded, “we renew our commitment to treat the precious resources held by the Jewish Foundation as community assets, intended to help our community reach its full potential.”

Guests were then invited to enjoy a dessert reception and a “gallery walk,” which featured representatives from more than a dozen Foundation-funded agencies on-hand to discuss their various program offerings.

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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 \$110 million in a vision to make Cincinnati one of America’s great cities for Jewish life.*