



## MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.



## The Jewish Values that Inform our Work

### ■ **Kavod Ha'Briot: Respect and Dignity for all Human Beings**

Rabbi Eliezer says, "Let your neighbor's dignity be precious to you as your own." (Pirkei Avot 2:10)

Each and every one of us is made in the image of God – B'tselem Elohim (Genesis 1:26), which means that each one of us contains a Divine spark and that we must endeavor to always treat every person with compassion and dignity.

Every human being, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability is deserving of full inclusion and every opportunity.

### ■ **Talmud Torah: Education and Awareness**

The Rabbis said, "The study of Torah is important because the study of Torah brings us the performance of mitzvot." (Babylonian Talmud Kiddushin 40b) NCJW has a longstanding history of educating our own constituency and speaking up about the issues that help us fulfill our obligation to "love our fellow as ourselves." (Leviticus 19:18)

Education is a critical component in raising awareness in order to create meaningful social change.

### ■ **Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof: The Pursuit of Justice**

The Torah teaches that we are obligated to pursue justice for all (Deuteronomy 16:20), that we must always take action when we see an injustice (Leviticus 19:16), and that we must "do what is right and what is good." (Deuteronomy 6:18). Through tzedakah (philanthropy) advocacy and community service, NCJW works to realize its vision of a just society – a society in which everyone will have full and equal access to the quality of life to which all are entitled.

Acceptance is threaded through everything we do. NCJW pursues justice and respect for all human beings.

## Dear Friends,

An annual report is an opportunity to take a look back at the accomplishments of the past year. As we look back at NCJW's 124th year, it is clear that our mission of advancing social and economic justice for women, children, and families has never been more pressing and more necessary.

In FY2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017), we confronted serious threats to our goal of social justice for all, including the attempted repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the attempt to fill judgeships with extreme jurists who do not uphold our most essential constitutional freedoms. We also confronted the rise of white supremacist hate groups, an attack on women's right to contraception and abortion and the increasing attempt to divide our society by race, gender, ethnicity, wealth, and religion.

Rather than being daunted by these threats, we redoubled our efforts and are growing our network of courageous, dedicated activists across the United States. We have engaged in conversations with people with differing opinions, in organizing women across the country, and in starting a national conversation based on shared values and respect. And we marched together, protested together, lobbied together, and wrote thousands of letters to our elected officials to let them know what we progressive Jewish women believe.

In FY2017 we also embarked on an ambitious effort to research and analyze the status of the women's agenda in Israel. This effort, which will help us chart a course for the future of gender equality there, was led by Dr. Nancy Strichman in cooperation with the Dafna Fund of Israel and relied on interviews with hundreds of women activists, academics and donors. The groundbreaking findings were presented at a symposium in Tel Aviv on International Women's Day – March 8, 2018.

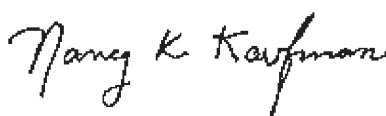
Since 1893, NCJW has been confronting the most urgent social and economic issues of the day and driving lasting social change. We are a network across communities, with the power to make change happen and to get results.

As we look forward to celebrating our 125th anniversary, we are honored to have your participation.

With thanks for your commitment and support,



Beatrice Kahn  
President



Nancy K. Kaufman  
Chief Executive Officer





# Our Work

NCJW confronts today's most urgent social and economic challenges facing women, children, and families. Powered by the Jewish imperative to ensure dignity for all, we impact policy, advocate for justice, and support the community. Your voice has never been more essential and our voices together make a meaningful difference in the world.

NCJW is unique and effective in advancing social justice because we explicitly link our values with action. We bring together activists across generations across the United States and in Israel. We create alliances and provide leadership both within the Jewish community and across all faiths and racial and ethnic groups to give voice to our common causes. By advancing social change through a faith-based Jewish lens, we bring a distinctive voice to public debates and to coalitions for change, both locally and nationally.

We are proud to share these highlights of our advocacy work in FY2016-2017.



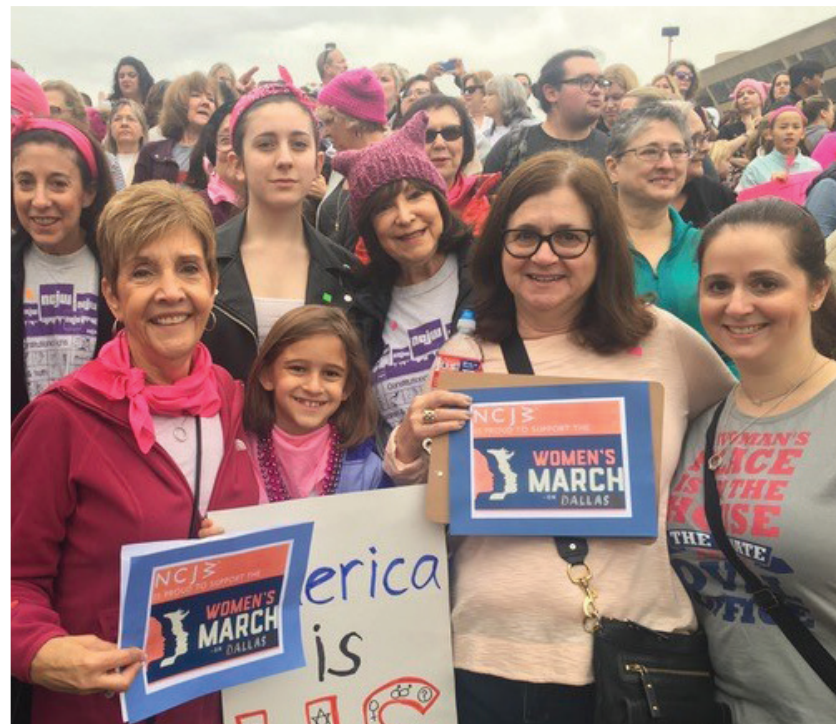




## Women's March

In 2016/17, women were on the march. We are indeed no strangers to marching. As women we have marched en masse for goals ranging from the idealistic to the pragmatic, and usually a mixture of both – the right to vote, the choice about when to give birth, family leave, and equal pay, among others. But not since the height of the civil rights movement have we felt so intensely that we are marching to save our nation's soul.

We began 2017 by marching, when NCJW members across the country prayed with their feet to stand up for women everywhere. In Washington, DC, we convened a contingent of Jewish groups, leading the charge from the 6th and I Synagogue to Constitution Avenue. Across the country, NCJW leaders took buses and cars, spoke at podiums and on stages, and raised a collective voice to insist on dignity for all.





# Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice

Since our founding, NCJW has been a leader in the reproductive health and rights movement, and while in the past 100 years much advancement has been made to secure a woman's right to abortion and contraception under the law, there is so much more that needs to be done to ensure reproductive freedom is truly accessible to all. As reproductive health, rights, and justice came under increasing attack this past year, NCJW ramped up its efforts to combat the erosion of hard-won, crucial women's rights.

## Highlights

- We mobilized grassroots efforts across the country to ensure that the Affordable Care Act remains the law of the land. The ACA has been threatened numerous times since January 2017 and still stands, in no small part because of our efforts.
- NCJW activists nationwide submitted more than 1000 comments to the Department of Health and Human Services this fall in response to its new strategic plan, which, among other things, defines life as beginning at conception, a religious tenet contrary to Jewish law, and ignores the needs of our most vulnerable communities, including communities of color, LGBTQ individuals, people facing language barriers, and low-income families and individuals.
- NCJW worked with sections to increase their engagement in our Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice work. In Cleveland, we conducted Reproductive Justice Training with facilitators from Advocates for Youth and SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. Two additional section reproductive justice trainings resulted in hundreds of NCJW members being educated and trained in the reproductive justice framework.
- NCJW was represented at the Sister Song Reproductive Justice conference in New Orleans in October and acted as the leader of the white caucus while there.
- In January 2017, we launched our partnership with In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, All\* Above All, and the National Institute for Reproductive Health, to help communities advance reproductive rights, health, and justice with local resolutions.







## Federal Courts

Judges confirmed to lifetime seats on federal courts, including the US Supreme Court, make the decisions that shape our nation. Federal court decisions impact every aspect of our lives including the schools we can attend; our privacy; our ability to start a family when we choose; the safety of the products we buy; our religious freedom; and our voting rights. NCJW was able to build on 15 years of experience and, through Benchmark: NCJW's Judicial Nominations Campaign our powerful grassroots network educated their communities about the importance of the federal judiciary, and mobilized and advocated to ensure court vacancies are filled by competent nominees committed to constitutional values.

### Highlights:

- NCJW co-led and provided support for coalitions in 7 states: Nebraska, Illinois, Maine, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and Michigan. We also worked closely with NCJW State Policy Advocates in Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Florida who are active members in their state coalitions.
- NCJW coordinated the Do Your Job campaign targeted to force a Senate vote on Obama nominee for the Supreme Court Merrick Garland. In coordination with this campaign, NCJW led hundreds of activists to the Senate to deliver letters of support for Garland and copies of the constitution to Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- We engaged activists across the country in an effort to prevent the confirmations of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court and multiple lower court judges, including John Bush (6th Circuit); Damien Schiff (Court of Federal Claims); and David Stras (8th Circuit). The nomination of Jeff Mateer to the Eastern District of Texas was withdrawn in part because of the efforts of NCJW and our partners.
- We supported 11 sections in delivering You Be The Judge and other federal court-related programs, engaging and educating more than 1,000 NCJW members and supporters.
- NCJW published four op eds by staff in outlets as diverse as The Hill, Bustle, and The Huffington Post, as well as regional outlets, such as the Minneapolis Star Tribune.
- We coordinated and helped draft an interfaith sign-on letter with 19 interfaith organizations expressing concern about Neil Gorsuch. It was sent to all Senators and entered into the official record during the Senate Judiciary Hearing on Gorsuch by Senator Chris Coons (D-DE). We also motivated nearly 1000 activists to take a stand against Gorsuch, including collecting 600 postcards that were hand-delivered to the Senate offices the week of the Judiciary Committee vote.

*NCJW's BenchMark: Judicial Nominations Campaign is generously funded by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.*





Lobby visit with Sen. Claire McCaskill

## Civic Engagement

Our vote is our voice. Civic engagement at NCJW means protecting against efforts to exclude individuals from the electoral process, promoting understanding of the issues at stake during elections, and encouraging every person who is eligible to register and vote.

Our work this past year has been focused on promoting and protecting the vote and training NCJW volunteers and advocates in the fundamentals of community organizing so they can galvanize their communities, increase their capacity to educate about the issues, change hearts and minds, and get out the vote in 2018 and 2020.

## Highlights

- Our activists engaged in the NCJW/Jewish Organizing Institute & Network (JOIN for Justice) Mobilization Power Building Pilot (MPBP) with our Essex County (NJ), Los Angeles (CA), and Pittsburgh (PA) sections in the spring of 2017, training more than 40 NCJW members and holding more than 100 one on one conversations.
- In June, NCJW partnered with JOIN for Justice on Resistance, Organizing, Action, and Resilience (ROAR!) organizing trainings, presenting five Introduction to Organizing trainings around the country attended by more than 200 members and volunteers.
- NCJW piloted access to the Voter Activation Network (VAN), an online information management tool to promote organizing and activism, with two states, Missouri and California.
- Twenty-six sections and 13 SPAs in 18 states were involved in civic engagement activities, including:
  - California NCJW State Policy Advocates (SPAs) wrote, cast, and filmed a voter engagement video, seen by more than 10,000 individuals, and
  - St. Louis (MO) galvanized voters to oppose Missouri Constitutional Amendment 6, a ballot initiative that would amend the Constitution to require certain restrictive forms of photo ID to vote.



St. Louis ROAR Training



# Hear Us ROAR!

In 2016, NCJW launched the Mobilization & Power Building Pilot Program (MPBP) in partnership with the Jewish Organizing Institute and Network (JOIN for Justice). We created a robust training program focused on advocacy, community organizing, and leadership development with the goals of skill building for leaders, strengthening grassroots engagement, and increasing NCJW's visibility.

Begun as a pilot program, NCJW and JOIN chose three sections, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and Essex County, NJ, to participate in two-day intensive trainings. Following the individual trainings, all three sections were brought together in March for a joint training at the end of NCJW's national convention in Atlanta.

The success of these pilots convinced us to continue our partnership with JOIN by participating in a new phase of training called: ROAR! A Jewish Leadership Training for Resistance, Organizing, Action, and Resilience. Through ROAR!, we trained NCJW leaders in the fundamentals of community organizing in order to increase their strategic impact and build and sustain a movement for advancing social change leading up to the 2018 midterm elections and ultimately to the 2020 presidential election. NCJW was JOIN's national Jewish partner, and we were the lead ROAR! organizer in Dallas, Detroit, Miami, New Orleans, and St. Louis.

Between June 4 and June 25, 2017, NCJW sponsored five ROAR! trainings as the lead partner, training 202 people in community organizing in Dallas (50), Detroit (44), Miami (47), New Orleans (19), and St. Louis (42). NCJW co-sponsored an additional five trainings in New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles, Orange County, and Pittsburgh.

Attendees benefitted greatly from the "organizing 101" content — which focused primarily on theories of organizing and basic overviews — followed by overviews of organizing and power and 1:1 conversations training. All five NCJW sections are engaged in post-ROAR! efforts with NCJW staff support:

- Dallas launched a Get Out the Vote campaign with a retreat for Texas members planned for March;
- Detroit embarked on a gerrymandering effort;
- Miami engaged in restoring voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals;
- New Orleans focused on both racial justice and reproductive rights education and training; and
- St. Louis embarked on a state courts effort.

Building on the first two phases, NCJW began organizing Phase III in the fall of 2017. Looking ahead, we hope to broaden the trainings we've provided to include more of our network, particularly in red and purple states, and to continue the important power-building work. We can't wait to see what 2018 brings!



Miami ROAR Training





# Civil Rights

NCJW has always advocated for equality and inclusion, and this year our work was more important than ever. At a time when anti-Semitism, racism, and anti-LGBTQ sentiment are on the rise, our national network of progressive women lead the way, as we've done for 125 years. And, we won't stop until every person is included and respected.

## Highlights:

- NCJW became a partner in Communities Against Hate in cooperation with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and a diverse coalition of civil rights organizations whose goals are to document stories, provide resources, and respond to incidents of violence, threats, and property damage motivated by hate in the United States. Through this partnership, we have created a link on our website for people to report hate and bias incidents.
- NCJW INC. mobilized members and supporters to protest the nominations of key members of the administration, including Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, former Chief Strategy Advisor Steven Bannon, former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, and nominee for Labor Secretary Andy Puzder.





# State Policy Advocates Lead the Way

NCJW's winning team of 25 State Policy Advocates in 28 states is leading innovative initiatives and making change in state houses across the country. One highlight of 2016/2017 is our work against sex-trafficking of women and children in the US. Our California team's story shows why we're so proud of our SPAs.

For 125 years, the National Council of Jewish Women has been fighting human trafficking, starting with protecting vulnerable women and children immigrants at Ellis Island. Continuing that tradition of advocacy, **NCJW CA** and its six sections scored two important victories with the passage and signing of two human trafficking bills they co-sponsored. The new laws will enhance an existing law (also co-sponsored by **NCJW CA** in 2012) by adding hotels and motels, prime locations for trafficking, to the list of 12 business categories required to post a public notice with the Human Trafficking Hotline phone numbers. The new laws also update the model notice to include a text number to these hotlines, the safest way for survivors and the community to report abuses. This type of notice is the single most important means for identifying and rescuing trafficked victims. Each year, the National Human Trafficking Hotline handles thousands of cases (7,572 cases in 2016 alone) with usage going up consistently each year. Human trafficking is a multibillion dollar criminal enterprise in California and globally.

**NCJW CA** advocates played a crucial role in the legislative success. State Policy Advocates worked with the legislators' staffs to draft the bills and strategize about a successful campaign for passage. They met with Governor Brown's chief legislative staff to identify any issues which might impede his signing the bill if it came to his desk. But it took the many voices of our California Sections' advocates in strong support of the bills to get them over the line.

Seventy-five members from across the state received training on the bills and how to lobby at the **NCJW CA** annual Lobby Day in early June 2017. The following day they visited their respective legislators to educate them about trafficking and the need for the legislation. When the bills passed the legislature, our advocates then contacted Governor Brown. Throughout the many month process, **NCJW CA** advocates made phone calls, conducted in-district visits and sent emails at critical points in response to Action Alerts put out by the CA State Policy Advocates.

All the California sections have also been active in the implementation of the original human trafficking notice law. For the past several years, sections have created regional model notices and initiated ongoing community wide efforts to educate businesses about human trafficking and their responsibility to post the lifesaving notice. Many hundreds of businesses were visited through NCJW led efforts. Further, we partnered with other key organizations fighting trafficking as well as supportive elements in the law enforcement community to strengthen the effectiveness of the notice law.

We still have much to do to fight human trafficking and our able NCJW advocates will continue to lead the way in California and sections across the country.





## Immigration and Refugees

The past year has been especially difficult for immigrants and refugees in the United States. Immigrants and refugees come to the US seeking better lives for themselves and their families. Yet billions of dollars are being spent to increase immigration law enforcement and raids to detain and deport immigrants – including children – tearing families and communities apart in the process. Refugees are currently in a similarly vulnerable position, with attempts to instate a religious ban against Muslim refugees, cut the number of refugees allowed into the US, and underfund the entire resettlement program.

### Highlights:

- NCJW joined the legal fight and signed on to five amicus briefs opposing various iterations of President Trump's Muslim and Refugee bans.
- We rallied with members, supporters, allies, and partners to protest President Trump's anti-immigrant agenda at the US Supreme Court, White House, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- Our community across the country sent letters, rallied, mobilized members and supporters, and joined numerous actions opposing the Trump Administration's shift in immigration enforcement and detention policy – from targeting individuals who have committed serious crimes, to any and all individuals without permanent legal status.





# NCJW ISRAEL

NCJW's commitment to improving the status of women and girls in Israel is and has been a key priority for almost 70 years. In 2016/17, we took some extraordinary steps to advance this goal.

NCJW's Israel Granting Program supports Israeli organizations that enhance gender equality, improve the lives of women, children, and families, and strengthen peace and civil society. Specifically, through the generosity of individuals and sections alike, in 2016/17 NCJW supported a vast array of programs that offer assistance, training, and guidance to members of the LGBTQ community, Bedouin and Palestinian women, victims of sex trafficking and prostitution, and single mothers who have left the ultra-Orthodox community. Together with NCJW's advocacy and coalition work, our strategic grant-making efforts educate and empower individuals to reclaim their civil liberties and help ensure Israel's future.

In addition to the Israel Granting Program, NCJW recently engaged in a year-long seminal research project in partnership with the Dafna Fund of Israel and supported by the Mazer Family Fund of UJA-Federation of New York, "Past Achievements and Future Directions of Feminist and Women's Organizations in Israel: A Participatory Action Research Project." This research project, in which hundreds of activists, academics, and organizational professionals were interviewed, explores and analyzes key achievements, trends, and challenges over the past 15 years in women's organizations in Israel. It also points to opportunities for future actions. The vision is to produce a document that will be useful for future organizational and strategic efforts among activists and leaders in the field to have a greater impact on making social change in Israel.

The research was capped off by an exciting day-long symposium in Tel Aviv for Israelis and Americans to discuss the findings on March 8, 2018. The symposium was held on International Women's Day, the final day of NCJW's Study Tour, in cooperation with the Jewish Women's Funding Network. The results of the research will be used to set NCJW's Israel agenda for the foreseeable future, helping us to be an agent for change and a proponent of a true civil society in Israel.

We are proud that in FY2017, NCJW made grants to the following organizations:

Hillel: The Right to Choose for support for Ex-Haredi Single Mothers and Children

Isha L'Isha – Haifa Feminist Center, Fighting Against Trafficking in Women and Prostitution (and Studying Women-without-Status)

Israel Hofsheet/Israel Be Free, Strengthening Equal Rights in Israel by Promoting Marriage Alternatives

Jerusalem Open House, Serving the Transgender Community

RIFIE, Training Bedouin Women for the Workforce as Educators in the Pre-School Sector

Tel Aviv University NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program for the creation of an Alumni Organization

Tel Aviv University's Women's Studies Forum, Bringing Academia to Wider Community and Outreach to STEM faculty

Women Wage Peace, for Israeli Salad (Inclusive Dialogue among Women from Different Communities)

JWF Collaborative Grant focused on women and employment

Women Wage Peace



# Shaping the Future, Leading the Way: NCJW's 47th National Convention

Every three years, NCJW convenes progressive women from across the country to help shape the future of our organization. This event draws on the power of our innovative leaders and creative strategists to create three exciting days of learning, training, and teaching.

In March 2017, close to 400 committed and passionate women from around the country traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to attend NCJW's 47th National Convention. Attendees heard and learned from a stunning array of issue experts who discussed trends in women's social justice, community organizing, and leadership.

Hillary Rodham Clinton received the Woman Who Dared Award. NCJW celebrated her four decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of State, and presidential candidate.

Representative John Lewis, who has dedicated his life to protecting human rights and securing civil liberties, received the Faith and Humanity Award. His emotional, dynamic speech was the highlight of the convention. He noted that he has always been "inspired to get into trouble and get in the way," and urged us to keep doing the right thing to "ensure history will be kind to us."

The Honorable Phyllis A. Kravitch, the first woman to be appointed a federal judge in the Southeast and the first woman appointed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Luma Mufleh, a Jordanian immigrant, a Muslim of Syrian descent, and a



US citizen, received the Hannah G. Solomon Award. Mufleh is the CEO and founder director of Fugees Family, Inc., a nonprofit organization that uses the power of soccer, education, and community to empower refugee children to integrate successfully into the United States.

We elected and installed our slate of officers and board members for the new triennium; considered, debated, and voted on crucial resolutions; made lasting connections and went home armed with information and techniques to engage our communities and strengthen our sections.



Opening Plenary Q&A



Opening Plenary Q&A



Neera Tanden,  
Center for American Progress

And, we believe and are inspired by the words of our newly-elected national President Beatrice Kahn: **“We are necessary. We are powerful.**

**This is our moment, let's seize it – together.”**





NCJW MN Section Receives Section Showcase Award



Monica Raye Simpson, SisterSong



Resolutions Hearing



Section Showcase



Rep. John Lewis with Pat Peiser



Amy Smith and Janet Sollit, Convention Co-Chairs



Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton



# Introducing Our New Website

## www.NCJW.org

NCJW's new website launched in the summer of 2017, after a multi-year planning, development, and implementation process.

The website is designed to show the meaningful difference we make in the world, especially our effective combination of national policy work and local community service and activism. We wanted to be sure that both prongs of our work were highlighted and clear. We are excited to see the commitment, energy and activism that we've come to expect from NCJW, displayed in full color on the screen!

*We are grateful for the vision and generosity of Honorary President Barbara Mandel. She has inspired this project from the beginning and we worked hard to ensure that it lived up to her high standards.*

## An Interview with Barbara A. Mandel

The creation of the new NCJW website has been made possible by a generous gift recommended by Barbara to the Mandel Foundation.

Barbara is a Past National President and is now an Honorary President of NCJW. Recently, she shared some of her thoughts with us about how her volunteer involvement in NCJW – and along the way learning to be, and to help others learn to be, generous givers – has positively enriched her life. We are pleased to share some of Barbara's thoughts with our readers.

"What does NCJW mean to me?"

At a young age, even before I married my husband Mort, I was already a volunteer in Cleveland. Shortly after we were married, Mort enlisted my help when he became Chair of the Young Adult Division of the Cleveland Jewish Federation –

NCJW<sup>®</sup>

National Council of Jewish Women

Leadership Retreat

News & Updates

Our Work

Stories of Impact

NCJW Near You

**90,000 activists  
fighting for  
women,  
children, and  
families**

Making

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For 125 years, NCJW has been making change through action. We provide service using a Jewish approach. We work together in communities and across



as part of their Annual Fund-Raising Campaign. I really got involved then, and along the way it became important to me to be involved also in efforts to improve the quality of life in the larger Cleveland community.

Early on, I decided to get involved in a women's organization. The women I knew who were active in the Cleveland Section of NCJW were a very bright, very impressive group who seemed able to find fulfillment in the NCJW agenda. I really enjoyed my involvement there, and learned a tremendous amount about non-profit organizations, and how to do it right!

So, first I became a volunteer in the Cleveland Section, then I was invited to join the Board; then I joined the Executive Committee; then I became a Vice-President – and eventually became President of the Cleveland Section.

This growing involvement is when I learned about NCJW, its past successes, and its hopes and aspirations for a

better, brighter future for everyone.

I still remember my first NCJW Convention. I met some wonderful exciting people there, and over time began to think about running for the National Board. I was encouraged, by people I admired and respected, to “go for it” – to run for election. So, I was nominated,

I was elected, and there I became more involved in fund-raising and served in many other positions. There I learned skills that have served me well in volunteer positions I have held at many different organizations – both here in the United States and in Israel.

I have stayed interested in NCJW for many years now because of its wonderful and important mission – which is, in very quick summary, to make our world a better place for all.

When I was NCJW National President, I was honored to testify before Congress on some “fair labor” issues. NCJW gave me the opportunity to learn how to be a Leader – and more specifically, to understand the importance of the NCJW agenda – including Advocacy and Diversity.

I would for sure advise any women trying to find her way into volunteerism to examine and then consider joining your local NCJW section, and possibly later to get involved in National NCJW activities.”

*Prior to serving as National President of NCJW, Barbara served as president of the NCJW Cleveland Section, and received the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the Cleveland Section. Over several decades of “non-stop” service to Jewish and General causes, in the USA and in Israel, Barbara became involved with the American Friends of Hebrew University and soon became their President, and is currently an Honorary President.*

*Barbara serves on the Board of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and is now their International Co-Chair of Advocacy. In addition she is Honorary Chair of the Board, and a member of the Hebrew University Executive Committee. Barbara is a Trustee of Brandeis University where she currently serves as a Co-Chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee.*

*Barbara has just completed service as the Board Chair of the Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian National Design Museum, where she has been a long serving member of their Board. Barbara is in the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and is currently vice-president of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation.*



Section Resources Stay Informed About

+ JOIN ✓ ACT ♥ DONATE

**a Difference**

**25**

NCJW has advanced social advocacy and community Jewish lens to bring activists initiatives across the country across generations.

# NCJW SECTIONS: Focus on Community Service

By advancing and implementing community service programs we put NCJW's social justice agenda into action.

Susan Gertner, Executive Director, NCJW | MI

Across the US, NCJW sections provide a wide range of programs to meet the needs of women, children, and families in their communities. Section programs impact thousands of lives in both large and small ways.

*Some highlights from the past year:*

## NCJW Essex County

The **Linda and Rudy Slucker NCJW/Essex Center for Women** was established in 1981 to serve the community as a nonsectarian center for women in Essex County and the surrounding areas. The Center for Women is funded by NCJW/Essex and is also a grantee of the State of New Jersey, Department of Children and Families, Division on Women. The Center offers career services, computer classes, workshops and support programs for women and children. In the decades since its founding, it has served thousands of women.

**Career Services** allow clients to work one-on-one with skilled staff who offer career guidance to women who would like to become "job-ready." Through individualized career counseling, resume writing and interview skills, job search strategies and access to the Career Closet (career clothing for interviews), clients become ready to enter or re-enter the workforce. Many of our clients are displaced homemakers, whose financial situations have changed because of separation, divorce, death of a spouse, disability of a spouse, or having a spouse deployed in the military.

In 2016/17, the Center for Women served 1,328 women in transition.



## NCJW Michigan

NCJW | MI Section's many community service programs include a heartwarming **Kosher Meals on Wheels** that serves over 20,000 meals per year in partnership with Jewish Family Service and Jewish Senior Life. JFS is responsible for participant intake, JSL provides the meals, and NCJW oversees the program, fundraises and packs and delivers the meals to seniors who benefit from the program. Serving 20,000 meals annually, the program involves 70 volunteers who not only bring their clients the meals, but also become their communication to the world; NCJW volunteers are often the only people who visit with these elderly individuals.

The program has been running for 45 years. This program allows seniors to continue to live in their own homes independently, knowing that this particular need will be met regardless of weather.

Working through synagogues, hospitals, and Jewish Family Service, NCJW | MI is an integral part of the Jewish community, meeting the needs of older adults in this special and loving way.

Seven NCJW Sections reported on programs dealing with hunger and food issues in their communities, serving an aggregate of approximately 250,000 meals in FY2017. They are: Bergen County, Metro Jersey, Minnesota, New York, Palm Beach, Rockland, and Sacramento.



## NCJW Minnesota

NCJW Minnesota Section's Muslim and Jewish Women of Minnesota (NCJW | MN) challenges commonly held narratives about what it means to be Muslim or Jewish women. NCJW | MN is a coalition of three organizations: NCJW | MN has over a 100 year history; Rabata and Reviving Sisterhood are new startup organizations. They initially came together around shared gun violence prevention public policy goals. More recently, addressing rising Islamophobic and anti-Semitic bias, racism and intolerance have become priorities. Acknowledging the dangers Muslim women who wear hijab face as they walk through the world, the three groups share a desire to create a powerful advocacy alliance while offering mutual support and growing understanding.

The November 2016 elections were a raw and searing time, especially for Muslim women. Coming together at an event to prepare for NCJW's lobby day, our Muslim sisters said that for the first time since the election they felt hope, and the potential power of this alliance to shape the lives of women for the future.

NCJW's focus on civic engagement provides the overall rubric for the coalition's activities. With nearly 230 women participating in multiple events, all three organizations are hoping that their alliance will convince more Muslim and Jewish women to run for office, address difficult areas of disagreement, and build and strengthen mutually supportive personal and political relationships.



“ My practice of Judaism boils down to this: We are all connected, and it is our honor and our responsibility to work together for tzedek (justice). NCJW | MN is putting faith into action. We build a more just world together – one relationship at a time, one meal at a time (because we eat together a lot!) and one policy issue at a time. ”

Sara Schonwald, NCJW |MN board member

“ I took a trip to Jerusalem... That trip was hard because I saw how faith divides. But I found hope in knowing and believing that if interfaith relationships could thrive anywhere, it would be back home in Minnesota. NCJW have become my sisters. ”

Nausheena Hussain, co-founder and Executive Director, RISE- Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment.



## NCJW Cleveland

NCJW/Cleveland Section's commitment to improving childhood literacy led its volunteers to create **Building Bridges with Books**. Beginning three years ago, a group of NCJW members with expertise in education researched a number of schools to identify those whose libraries and students could truly benefit from program to enhance library resources. Since then the section has donated and shelved over 10,000 books, either improving or creating libraries at five schools.

Books are sorted, coded with ISBN numbers, and either given to the libraries, to teachers for classroom use, or directly to students so they can develop their own home libraries.



Children's Literacy ranks as a high priority for NCJW sections. 9 sections reporting on their work in FY2017 reached more than 2,100 children with literacy programs. They include: Cleveland, Detroit, Greater Houston, New York, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Rockland, San Antonio, and Valencia Shores.

“The books that were donated to my school were very helpful, because they expanded my reading level. Before our school got the books, the library books we had were not as challenging as they are now. It's really fun to make my mind work, and I like to use clues while reading. Thank you for the books.”

Harlei McCoy, 3rd Grade, Warner Girls' Leadership Academy

## NCJW New York

NCJW NY Section expresses its concern for elders suffering from memory loss through its Helen Bloom LINC Program. The Program (Lunch, Interaction, Nurturing, & Companionship) provides a stimulating, supportive, and joyful atmosphere for these seniors, along with their caregivers. It is led by a professional facilitator three times a week; participants are welcomed individually and helped to settle in for the day's activities. Recognizing that the arts provide a unique common ground, on a given day they may explore a poem, a piece of art, or discuss a news story together – each interacting at his/her own level. Participants enjoy a light lunch together followed by a sing-along led by a professional music therapist. LINC is based on the philosophy that stimulating activities geared to participants' interests and capacities can help to stave off continued decline and boost overall mood throughout the day and week. The program models positive interaction for caregivers. What matters most is the instant personal experience participants get at NCJW NY's Council House. LINC also recognizes the needs of caregivers, many of whom come to this work without special skills or training. In observing and participating in LINC's activities, caregivers absorb behavioral models that they in turn use to provide improved care in the home setting.

LINC is unique among New York City's offerings for this cohort of the aging population. It is not respite care, but an active program designed for and serving those afflicted with memory disorders and the related degenerative conditions.

Seven NCJW sections reported Senior Outreach programs that served over 1,630 people in FY2017, including: Jersey Hills, Long Beach, Nashville, New York, SE Atlantic, Utah, and Valencia Shores.





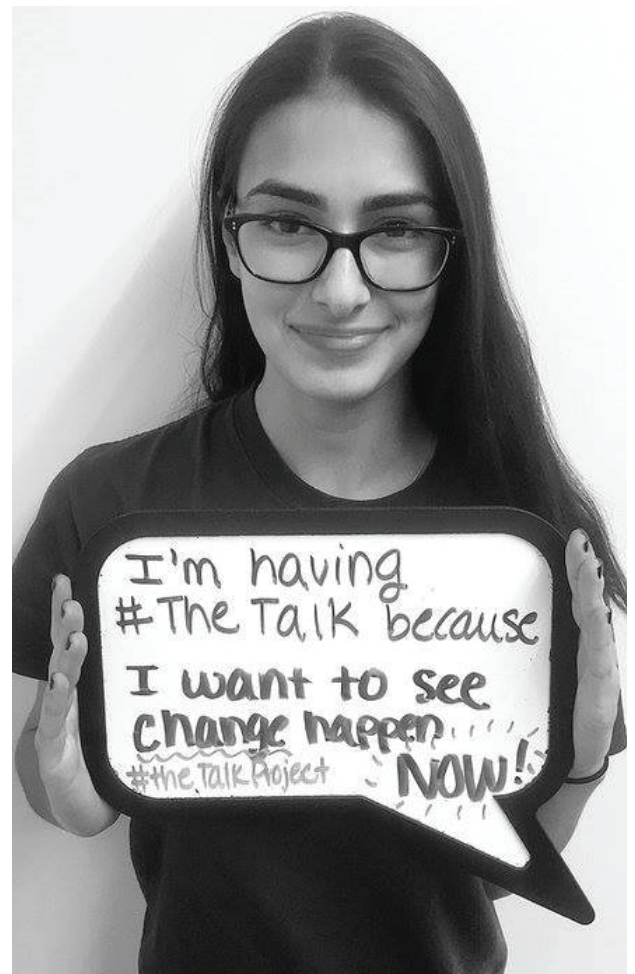
## NCJW LA

NCJW | LA launched **The Talk Project**, a program to educate high school teens about sexual violence in February 2016. In FY 2017, the Talk Project reached almost 2000 students through workshops, had 25 peer educators, and involved 9 schools and 1 youth group.

The program was inspired by the movement against sexual violence on college campuses, highlighted in the documentary *The Hunting Ground*. High school students, who were interning with the Section, wanted to create a program to combat sexual violence and worked with staff to create the peer-to-peer workshop that they bring to high schools throughout LA.

In order to reach teens beyond Los Angeles, The Talk Project's peer educators also created their own website, social media platforms, resource sheets, and blog to raise awareness about sexual violence.

The LA Section chose to implement The Talk Project as it speaks to NCJW's mission to improve the lives of women, children, and families. Students who have seen The Talk Project reported being significantly less likely to adhere to rape myths, and significantly more likely to practice consent behaviors and intervene if confronted with a situation linked to sexual violence.





# NCJW Palm Beach

**NCJW Palm Beach Section** established **Kids Community Closet** – secured emergency closets in thirteen local public elementary schools in which at least 90% of the attending children qualify for free or reduced lunch, the federal measure of poverty. The closets are stocked with pants and shorts, collared jerseys, underwear and socks. On request, the section provides school supplies and personal care items, and through its partnership with Jacob’s Shoes, a Margate, FL non-profit, schools are able to obtain free footwear for their students.

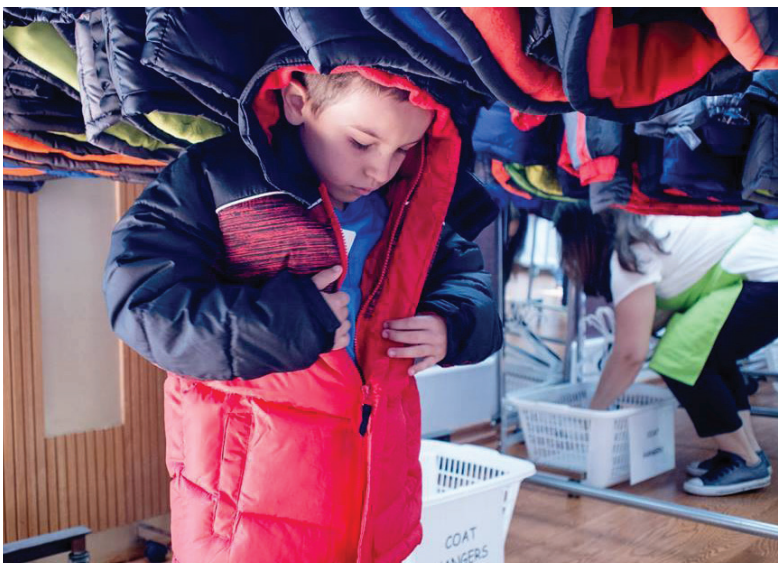


Selected school personnel distribute these items on an emergency basis; they provide proper clothing for children in case of emergency needs. The section’s goal is to keep children coming to school and focused on learning.

The section is currently serving schools with a total enrollment of over 10,000 children. NCJW volunteers serve as liaisons to the schools, checking on inventory needs and work with school personnel to make sure the closet is orderly and properly stocked. One additional closet provides socks and underwear for the 3200 homeless children and the 800 – 1000 children in out-of-home-placement foster care that attend the public schools. Through a grant funded by Allegany Franciscan Ministries, feminine care products are provided to young women who are homeless and in out-of-home-placement foster care as well. This specialized closet is located on the grounds of the Lincoln Elementary School in Riviera Beach and is managed with the staff of the McKinney-Vento Program of the Safe Schools Division of the Palm Beach School District.



Making sure that children have what they need to be able to attend school is a concern shared by many NCJW sections. Through Back to School Stores and other programs at least 14 sections provide back packs, school supplies, and clothing that reached nearly 40,000 children in FY2017. Sections reporting in include: Cleveland, Michigan, Essex, Greater Houston, Jersey Hills, Long Beach, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Palm Beach, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Rockland, and St. Louis.





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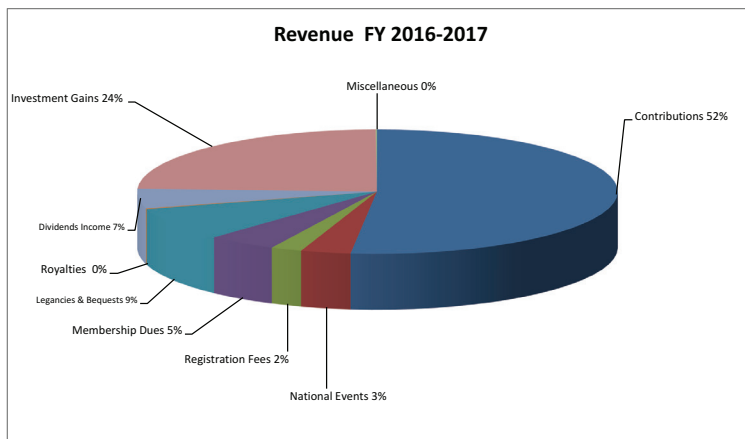
# Financial Overview

National Council of Jewish Women Inc. is profoundly grateful to the generous foundations and individuals who supported our work in FY 2016-17 and in prior years.

The Board of Directors and staff of NCJW Inc. are proud of and grateful for the regard our funders and supporters have for the work we do to advance our mission. We hope this annual report makes a compelling case for our efforts to strive for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

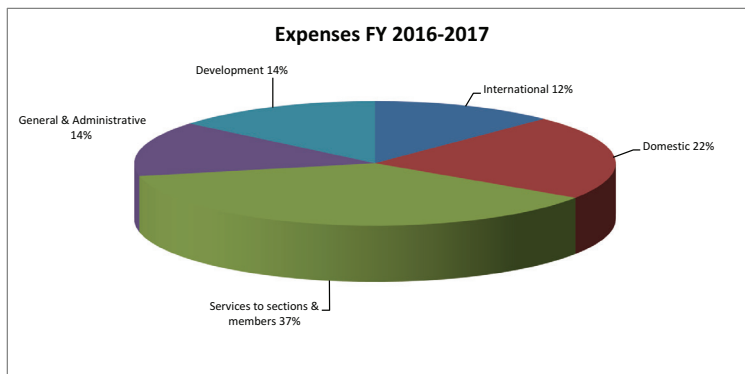
As we celebrate our achievements of the past 125 years, we know that they are attributable not only to the dedication and vision of our founder, Hannah G. Solomon and the generations of women who followed in her footsteps, but equally to the generosity of those donors named on the following pages.

*We offer our deepest thanks to all.*



## REVENUE

|                                 |                    |             |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Contribution, grants & donation | \$2,998,366        | 66%         |
| National Event                  | 135,422            | 3%          |
| Registration Fees               | 189,185            | 4%          |
| Membership Dues                 | 300,276            | 7%          |
| Legacies & bequest              | 478,793            | 11%         |
| Royalties                       | 20,190             | 5%          |
| Dividends Income                | 423,215            | 9%          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$4,545,447</b> | <b>100%</b> |



## EXPENSES

|                                |                    |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| International                  | \$602,102          | 12%         |
| Domestic                       | 1,109,557          | 23%         |
| Services to sections & members | 1,725,386          | 36%         |
| General & Administrative       | 726,253            | 15%         |
| Development                    | 677,583            | 14%         |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>\$4,840,881</b> | <b>100%</b> |





# Leaving A Lasting Legacy

## The Hope S. and Stanley I. Adelstein Internship Program

Philanthropists Hope S. and Stanley I. Adelstein long admired the advocacy and community service work of NCJW and its sections. They also recognized that internships provide a dual purpose: they are integral to enhancing NCJW's capacity to implement our national agenda of advancing social and economic justice for women, children, and families, and they give aspiring young people the opportunity to work, learn and be mentored in an environment dedicated to social justice.



As the Adelsteins were in the process of legacy planning in the summer of 2014, they created the Hope S. and Stanley I. Adelstein Internship Program. It enables NCJW to host paid interns each year to promote our mission, and help meet our advocacy, education, and program goals. As Ohioans, the Adelsteins hoped some of the interns would come from the Cleveland area, in recognition of the long-term relationship between the Cleveland section and NCJW, as reflected in the many Clevelanders who have served as national officers and board members.

Their transformational \$450,000 legacy gift was received at the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2016. In its first year of implementation in FY2017, NCJW has benefitted from the creativity, enthusiasm, and support of three dedicated summer interns based in Washington, DC, two of whom attended school in Ohio. They created advocacy training materials, lobbied on Capitol Hill, and represented NCJW at coalition meetings. Not only did NCJW benefit from their assistance, but the interns also reported that their experiences far surpassed those of their colleagues and friends. We are proud of this distinction, and look forward to honoring the memories of Hope and Stanley Adelstein through this important program in years to come.

*If you are interested in including NCJW Inc. in your estate plans, please contact Alzenia DeVerteuil, at 212-870-2742 or by email at [adeverteuil@ncjw.org](mailto:adeverteuil@ncjw.org). Your legacy gift will help to ensure that NCJW will be able to continue its work to benefit women, children and families into the future.*



# FY 2017 Donors

NCJW gratefully acknowledges these individuals and foundations whose generous contributions to the Annual Fund in FY2017 supported our ongoing work in the US and Israel.

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Wendy Wagenheim  
Allison Weinmann

## Bequests

*NCJW honors the memory of the following donors, who supported our work during their lifetimes, and made it possible for their support to continue through testamentary gifts from their estates. Their memories are a blessing to all who strive for social justice.*

Estate of Barbara Cohen  
Estate of Sarah Friedman  
Estate of Matilda Goodman  
Estate of Milton and Pearl Gordon  
Irving-Hand Family Trust  
Estate of Hortley LeBlang  
Estate of Julia G. and Morris Mash  
Estate of Marianne Nenin  
Estate of Roberta J. Shapiro



Visionaries (\$50,000 and above)  
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Hannah G. Solomon Leadership Circle (\$5,000 - \$9,999)  
Advocates (\$3,600 - \$4,999)  
Women Who Dared (\$1,800 - \$3,599)  
Supporters (\$1,000 - \$1,799)  
Friends (\$500 - \$999)  
Hannah's List (\$360 - \$499)

# Israel Giving

NCJW thanks the following generous donors who have directed gifts to support our work in Israel through our Israel General Program.

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## Israel Granting Program

The Israel Granting Program allows NCJW to support organizations in Israel whose values reflect our mission: improving the lives of women, children, and families in Israel. We thank these generous donors for their support.

### Visionaries

Estate of Marilyn Ratner

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Barbara and Bob Murray

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NCJW Cleveland Section

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NCJW Long Beach Section

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# Initiatives and Project Support

NCJW gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations and businesses who have made generous contributions in FY2017, making these programs and projects possible:

## Anti Sex-Trafficking

Eileen R. Gassman  
Geraldine Soba

## Benchmark

Open Society Foundations  
Mazer Israel Women's Research Project  
Mazer Family Fund of UJA Federation of New York

## Reproductive Justice

Amy Mandel and Katina Rodis Fund  
The Shlenker Block Fund  
The Dan and Ellen Zelman Family Foundation

## Website Initiative

Barbara A. Mandel/ Morton and Barbara Mandel Family Foundation

## Women's March

*NCJW was honored to lead the Jewish community's participation in the Women's March on Washington. We are grateful to the following foundations that made this possible.*

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation  
The Leichtag Foundation  
The Morningstar Foundation

## NCJW 47th National Convention

**Leaders for Social Change**  
Bridge in honor of Linda Slucker

### Hannah G. Solomon Leadership Circle

Stanley Blum  
Coca-Cola  
Beatrice R. Kahn  
The Marcus Foundation, Inc.  
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### Women Who Dared

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## Convention Israel Plenary Session

Liel Even-Zohar, WePower; Ghaida Rinawie-Zoabi, Injaz Center for Professional Arab Local Government; Moderator: Dina Charnin



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*\*of blessed memory*



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## CALIFORNIA

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Long Beach  
Los Angeles  
Sacramento  
Saddleback  
San Francisco

## COLORADO

Colorado

## CONNECTICUT

Danbury Affinity Group  
Hartford (Gr)

## FLORIDA

Hollywood  
Kendall  
Miami (Gr)  
Palm Beach  
Sarasota-Manatee  
SE Atlantic  
Tallahassee  
Valencia Shores

## GEORGIA

Atlanta

## ILLINOIS

Chicago North Shore  
South Cook

## INDIANA

Indianapolis

## KENTUCKY

Louisville

## LOUISIANA

New Orleans (Gr)

## MAINE

Southern Maine

## MARYLAND

Montgomery County

## MASSACHUSETTS

New Bedford

## MICHIGAN

Michigan

## MINNESOTA

Minnesota

## MISSOURI

Kansas City (Gr)  
St. Louis

## NEBRASKA

Nebraska

## NEW JERSEY

Bergen County  
Central Jersey  
Concordia  
Essex County  
Jersey Hills  
Metro Jersey  
Union County  
West Morris

## NEW YORK

Long Island  
Lakeville  
Peninsula  
South Shore  
Westbury

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Brooklyn  
New York

## Upstate

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Rochester (Gr)  
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## OHIO

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