## CHABAD OF BRADENTON & LAKEWOOD RANCH FEBRUARY 2024 DONOR REPORT





## Message from the Rabbi

Last year, we were genuinely amazed by the immense impact of the Jewish community on Chabad's endeavors. The community's collaboration and insights not only guided our initiatives but also infused them with a remarkable warmth and inclusivity. The community's support was instrumental in shaping our efforts, fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness among everyone involved. Witnessing the community's dedication and their warmth of spirit deeply moved and inspired us, reinforcing our commitment to supporting and empowering the community's needs.

As we gaze into the future, we carry the heartening warmth of the Jewish community with us. This warmth motivates us to expand our endeavors, creating even more opportunities for learning, growth, and communal enrichment. The community's influence continues to remind us of the importance of upholding values and traditions integral to our Jewish identity, propelling us forward toward a future that embraces the shared vision we've cultivated together.

Rabbi Mendy Bukist



habad of Lakewood Ranch has a major positive impact on my life and resettling in Florida. Moving five days before Rosh Hashana in 2019, I contacted Chabad and was told I could come to services with no need to buy tickets to come to the Grove. I walked in Erev Rosh Hashanah, and Rebbetzin Chanie and Rabbi Mendy were at the front and welcomed me by name. They had me by name! I couldn't believe they would remember me! Services conducted by Rabbi Mendy were excellent. I liked how his sermon was influenced by stories throughout the service.

I then began to attend the women's Rosh Chodesh classes led by Rebbetzin Chanie and accompanied by a delicious lunch prepared by Chanie. The class was stimulating and intimate enough to meet the other women. Then I started attending Torah and Tea classes led by Chanie in the privacy of her home. Once again, a stimulating and perfect opportunity to meet other women. My husband and I attended an evening class taught by Rabbi Mendy which was intriguing. My husband and I started attending many of the holiday parties and events which are always accompanied by delicious spreads.

I have been the ambassador to Chabad for my Del Webb community for the last three years. I can tell you that Rabbi Mendy, Rebbetzin Chanie Bukiet and their sons are dear friends. They do a terrific job as authentic spiritual leaders. Chabad connects the Jewish community of Lakewood Ranch and is all inclusive.





foster service in my community, mainly through my local Chabad. I have been volunteering there since I was in middle school, and this has afforded me many opportunities to help others. My Rabbi holds many events for the community and always encourages us to participate. He is in charge of CTeen at our Chabad and has us volunteer whenever he gets the chance. My personal favorite thing that we do is go to retirement homes to entertain the residents. In fact, as president of my school's National Honor Society chapter, I have been planning for them to be a part of this service as well. I also teach Hebrew to the younger children, and it is a very rewarding experience. When volunteering, I love the feeling of making a difference. The kind of connections made during this time are lifelong since selfless acts will always spark other selfless acts.

Nathaniel Mahadeo



Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts provides a fun atmosphere where my children are able to learn about the Jewish holidays and our traditions. It teaches them to read/write in Hebrew and how to pray. It has been crucial in building their Jewish identity and it supports the work we do at home in trying to have our children grow up with knowledge of their past so they can be active members of the Jewish community in the future.

We are so grateful to Rabbi Mendy and Chanie for all they do for the success of this and all other Chabad programs.

Debbie Weisleder

## Your Impact by the numbers

When the communities impact grows so does Chabad's impact grow

Adult Education **237** 

Holiday Events 3741

**CTeen 28** 

Hebrew School 78

JWC Members

63
Families reached

1235 Meals

*Medis* 6300

Volunteers 93

Welcome Baskets
53

**Members** 

Thousands! Every Jew is a Member

habad's generous donation of military gear has had an immeasurable impact on our ability to safeguard multiple settlements and military units during these challenging times. The provision of advanced protection and tactical equipment has significantly enhanced the readiness and capabilities of our dedicated team. The gear received not only symbolizes your unwavering support but also serves as a tangible expression of solidarity. With this invaluable assistance, we stand better equipped to address the unique challenges faced in safeguarding our communities. The enhanced protection not only fosters a sense of security among our personnel but also empowers us to respond effectively to potential threats. Chabad's commitment to our safety has made a lasting difference, allowing us to face adversity with confidence and ensuring the well-being of our Moshav residents. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in fortifying our defense efforts. We thank you and keep fighting forces of evil along our northern border.

Noam Joseph

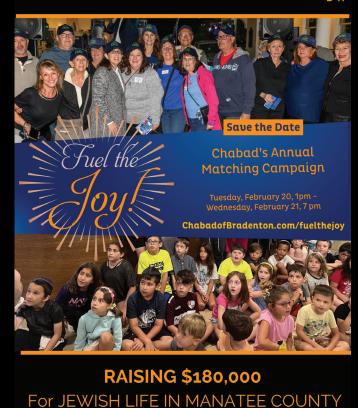


Attending Talmud class is a highlight of the week for me.

Talmud itself can be confusing unless you have a great teacher. Luckily, I have one every Monday night. Discussions range from how the Talmudic scholars reasoned, how they lived, as well as what life was like for the average Jew back then.

I may not need to know today whether my cow can or cannot wear a bell around her neck on Shabbos, but it's fun learning about the challenges our ancestors faced as they tried to live an observant life back hundreds or even thousands of years ago.







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