

# IMPACT

## REPORT

MARCH 2023





# Message from the Rabbi



Over the last couple of months, there have been many changes. Our economy is slowing down and inflation is rising. People are slowly starting to emerge from amidst a scary pandemic.

Here at Chabad, we've seen lots of positive change. We've seen an amazing boom in all areas of Chabad's impacts to the community. From an astonishing 250 women at a Mega Challah Bake to major growth in our Hebrew school, and to plans for our largest CTeen group to the NY Shabbaton, we've seen beautiful growth in all areas of Jewish education.

As our community flourishes, so do the friendships and community involvement from our very dedicated volunteers and donors who make everything happen behind the scenes.

A massive thank you to all those who make this growth possible. With your tremendous dedication and generosity, you make all this growth possible at Chabad. We at Chabad and the Manatee County Jewish community feel all your dedication. We are looking forward to continued growth and impact in the upcoming years.

*Rabbi Mendy Bukiet*

Although our family has only been part of the Lakewood Ranch Chabad for 5 months, we have felt and seen the positive effect it has provided for both our kids and family. Most notably, our kids are proud and excited about their Jewish identity. They look forward to Jewish holidays and attending Hebrew School every week. During Hebrew school, they have connected with other Jewish children, happily learned the alphabet and Jewish history, and created weekly on topic projects. Outside of Hebrew school, we have participated in several events hosted by the Chabad. We feel welcome at each event and each event has provided an opportunity for our family to positively connect with other Jewish families in the community - important as we just moved from out of state last summer. We look forward to many years with the Chabad in Lakewood Ranch!

*Lenny & Elana Schwartz*



What started as giving back to our community has become in equal measure a special gift to me. Friday Challah delivery means I get to have a brief but always lovely chat with Rabbi Mendy and Chanie before delivering Chanie's delicious fresh baked challah.

The special group of women who shop and prepare soups and salads to accompany the challah have made my deliveries that much more special. At each door I'm welcomed with smiles, gratitude and Shabbat Shalom. Some weeks my route is different and I get to meet new people. Other weeks it means visiting with those I have delivered to on a regular basis and we catch up on the past week. I feel blessed being able to enjoy the rich history of wonderful men and women from different parts of the country and different backgrounds. Listening to those who enjoy sharing brings me such joy. I often repeat what I have learned to family and friends. Thank you for allowing me to always look forward to Friday mornings.

*Audrey Thompson*



I moved to Florida 3 and half years ago from New Jersey. I had been Bar Mitzvah but really never went to temple. I was always proud on my heritage but never really practiced it until I met Rabbi Mendy. It really has opened my eyes to my faith. Rabbi Mendy and his wife welcomed me with open arms. I had been having some personal problems and would go and pray with Rabbi Mendy. They really have made a huge difference in my life as well as introduced me to a whole new world of praying and believing. I'm forever grateful and will continue to go to Chabad in Lakewood Ranch.

*Bill Hyman*



Chabad's impact on us has been phenomenal. The opportunities for personal growth and learning -- JLI classes and retreats, Torah & Tea, and Rosh Chodesh programs -- give us an increased focus on faith and HaShem. Kiddush on Shabbat always has the feeling of being part of a large warm family. The family continues to expand, and we really enjoy meeting new people with similar interests in learning and Yiddishkeit. The weekly Mah Jongg group which Barbara helped to organize has also provided a great opportunity for her to connect with other women. Rabbi Mendy and Chanie's sense of purpose is inspiring, with celebration and joy added to every holiday and event. We are forever thankful to be part of the Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch family.

*Barbara & Barry Dolin*

CTeen has impacted us and how we live our lives in a multitude of ways. Not only did the CTeen events help to improve our connection to Judaism and the rest of the Jewish community at Chabad, the International Shabbaton went even further in elevating that connection. Spending that time with other Jewish teens, especially in New York City, genuinely paints a different perspective on life within such a tight knit community that thrives so much on spirituality. CTeen is such unique and wonderful opportunity, it is something all Jewish teens should experience. Overall, CTeen as a whole has really helped to shape us and who we are. The moments shared, the events, dinners, parties, and performances will be moments we will remember for years to come.

*Simon & Gannon Weiner*



# Your Impact by the Numbers

## NUMBERS OF ATTENDEES

  
**2841**  
HOLIDAY  
EVENTS

ADULT  
EDUCATION  
**138**

**23C**  
CTEEN *teen*

  
**1063**  
FAMILIES  
REACHED

AS THE  
COMMUNITY  
GROWS SO  
DOES  
CHABAD'S  
IMPACT

  
**50**  
WELCOME  
BASKETS

  
MEMEBERS **54**

  
**79**  
VOLUNTEERS

  
HEBREW  
SCHOOL **73**

MEALS   
**5400**

Members  
*Thousands!*  
Every Jew is a Member





"Oh my" is what I said to myself in January of 2022. I was moving to Florida with my husband from Cleveland, Ohio, my home of forever in just a few weeks. What can I do to make myself feel better besides eating a tub of ice cream? Call the Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch where Rabbi Mendy assured me that they would be glad to welcome me into their family and suggested I attend Torah and Tea taught by his wife Chanie.

I was a bit skeptical about attending a Torah class due to past experiences. But this was so much more than a Torah class. From the moment Chanie warmly greeted me into her home, my life changed for the better. I was able to make sense of so many things in my life. For example, I now know that Florida is where G-d wants me to be and I am making an amazing life here.

Life is not always easy, but after my Torah and Tea class, I leave with a stronger connection to G-d who makes anything and everything possible and peace of mind. Who doesn't want peace of mind?

Thank you so much Chanie for sharing your wisdom and your home. And my husband thanks you too. Not only does he love my elevated mood when I return home from your class, but he cannot wait to hear what I have learned.

*Sherry Caplin*



One of the most remarkable trips I have ever been on. In many ways, spiritual, historical, adventurous, and made me feel like I was living "Judaism." As a Jew, I felt connected not only to our Rabbi but to the Rebbe himself. I arrived back in Florida attaining a new level of awareness as to who I was as a "Jew" and in a "mystical sense" felt invigorated to follow in the footsteps of our Jewish heritage.

This trip should be mandatory protocol for all Jews to learn an in-depth closeness to our Chabad, and will most certainly make you proud to be and call yourself "Jewish!"

*Dr Allen Lawrence Karpe*

# Here We GROW!



## CHABAD'S ANNUAL MATCHING CAMPAIGN

**Tuesday, March 14 at 1 PM -  
Wednesday, March 15 at 7 PM**

**RAISING \$180,000**

**For JEWISH LIFE IN MANATEE COUNTY**



**DONATE**

to the campaign on Tuesday, March 14  
[chabadofbradenton.com/grow](http://chabadofbradenton.com/grow).



**FORWARD**

"Here We Grow"  
campaign emails.



**SHARE**

Our Grow Campaign Facebook Event  
[chabadofbradenton.com/growFB](http://chabadofbradenton.com/growFB).



**CREATE**

Your own team. Encourage your  
friends and family to donate.

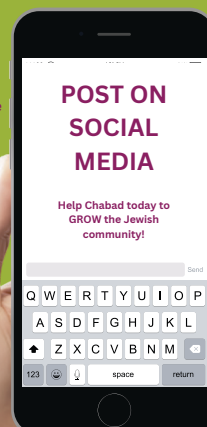
## Help Chabad GROW Jewish Life in Manatee County

**Every donation counts!**

**NO DONATION IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!**



Adding a  
picture will  
attract more  
attention to  
your post



**Every dollar you  
donate brings  
growth to the  
Jewish  
community in  
Manatee County.**

**[chabadofbradenton.  
com/grow](http://chabadofbradenton.com/grow)  
#herewegrow**