

CHABAD OF BRADENTON & LAKEWOOD RANCH

# Impact

MARCH 2025

DONOR REPORT



**Chabad**  
Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

# Message FROM THE Rabbi



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together as a community. It has been a year of incredible growth—in our programs, in our learning, and most importantly, in our unity.

Through our collective efforts, we have expanded our reach, deepened our connections, and strengthened the foundation of our vibrant community. From inspiring classes and holiday celebrations to acts of kindness and support for one another, every step we have taken has brought us closer as a family.

One of the most exciting milestones we are witnessing is the progress of our new building—a space that will serve as a beacon of Torah, community, and Jewish life. This is more than just bricks and mortar; it represents our dedication to the future, ensuring that generations to come will have a place to learn, grow, and connect.

As we look ahead, let us continue to strengthen our spiritual journey. Let us commit to growing in Torah study, mitzvot, and acts of goodness and kindness. With Hashem's blessings and our united efforts, we will build an even brighter future together.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. May we continue to go from strength to strength!

With warmest blessings,

*Rabbi Mendy Bukiet*



## Adult Education

STRENGTHENING JEWISH  
IDENTITY THROUGH  
LEARNING

Judaism is a very deep religion. Rabbi Mendy explores those depths with us in his classes in very plain language, and makes it easy to understand. I always feel very motivated to become more observant, the more I learn from him because I feel like I understand the “why” of it, and begin to cherish its value.

Rebbitzin Chanie prepares her classes with care and love. She is always open to questions, and explains everything in a down-to-earth way. Her Torah and Tea class is a real gem, as are all of her classes throughout the year. We are blessed to have her as our Rebbitzin.

*Ann Oberle*



## CTeen

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH LEADERS

CTeen is such a fun and welcoming place where Jewish teens from all backgrounds come together. It's more than just events and programs—it's a space where I've made amazing friends, learned more about my Jewish identity, and felt like I truly belong.

Through different experiences, from volunteering to exciting trips, CTeen has helped me grow in so many ways. It's not just about being part of a group—it's about finding a family that supports and inspires me. I love that I get to make a difference while having a great time, and I always leave feeling more connected—to my friends, my community, and my heritage.

*Karmelia Sapov*

Over the past few years of taking classes and learning with you, my heart has softened, my commitment as a Jew has been strengthened, and when I am learning with you I always know that I am in the right place.

*Shlomo Taub*



## JWC

A SISTERHOOD OF FAITH, CONNECTION, AND TRADITION

The Jewish Women's Circle (JWC) of Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch has become a cornerstone of connection and unity, bringing together Jewish women from all backgrounds and levels of observance. I have been a member for the past several years now and it has enriched my connection to my Judaism, as well as strengthened it for me and many of my friends here in the Lakewood Ranch area. Through engaging programs such as the Mega Challah Bake, Resin & Rosé and The Miracle of Chocolate, meaningful discussions such as those at Rebbetzin Chanie's Torah & Tea, and shared traditions, the JWC fosters a strong sense of sisterhood, creating a space where every woman feels valued and inspired. Most importantly, it has played a vital role in welcoming new Jewish women to the community, ensuring they feel at home from the moment they arrive. Whether through holiday celebrations such as Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot and Chanukah, social gatherings, or acts of kindness such as delivering Shabbat meals to those who are ill, the Jewish Women's Circle continues to strengthen the bonds of Jewish life in Lakewood Ranch, making it a warm and inclusive community for all.

*Trudi Krames*



## CHS

THE MAGIC OF JEWISH EDUCATION

It is hard to put in words the value of a Jewish education. This is especially difficult to surmise as first generation Americans hailing from cold Soviet regimes known for their hostility towards Jews. But, there is a certain loveliness seeing your child proudly come home from Hebrew School, rattling off aleph beis and centuries long traditions. You begin to see the unbelievable survival of the Jewish nation right in front of your eyes in your very own child. In some ways, that is the magic of a Jewish education. It is the reminder of our past, a beacon of our present, and a guide to our future.

*Sonya Zarkin*

## Your impact BY THE Numbers

CHABAD'S IMPACT OF  
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
ON BRADENTON &  
LAKEWOOD RANCH

330  
ADULT EDUCATION

4157  
HOLIDAY EVENTS

28  
CTEEN

73  
HEBREW SCHOOL

1252  
FAMILIES REACHED

7300  
MEALS

130  
Volunteers

40  
WELCOME BASKETS

*Members  
Thousands!*

EVERY JEW IS  
A MEMBER.

# Donor Testimonial

INVESTING IN JEWISH CONTINUITY: A LEGACY OF SUPPORT AND BELONGING

When we discovered Chabad of Lakewood Ranch, we were delighted to have the opportunity to play a key role in supporting a rapidly growing Jewish community. Our commitment to financially supporting Chabad helps establish a lasting legacy where Jewish life can thrive, and where children have a place to grow into knowledgeable, compassionate individuals who cherish their Jewish faith.

Chabad has become a beacon of support for all of us. The warmth and inclusivity that Chabad fosters create an environment where everyone feels valued and connected. This spirit of community is something we cherish deeply and strive to nurture for years to come.

We wholeheartedly believe that our financial support is not just a donation. It is an investment in the future of our community. We have been especially pleased to see that our donations have been used in the intended way, directly benefiting the community and enhancing our shared experiences.

We invite everyone to consider the necessity of supporting Chabad. Together, we can build a Jewish home for generations to come.

*Gil and Celeste Ben-Ami*



INTRODUCING THE  
**NEW  
CHABAD  
CENTER**

BRADENTON  
& LAKEWOOD RANCH

**\$908,796 OF \$7,000,000 RAISED**



**TURN IT UP**  
for Chabad of Bradenton

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Tuesday, March 18, 1:00 pm  
Until Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 pm

Chabad's Annual Matching Campaign  
[ChabadofBradenton.com/turnitup](http://ChabadofBradenton.com/turnitup)



**RAISING \$200,000**  
**For JEWISH LIFE IN MANATEE COUNTY**

Adding a picture will attract more attention to your post.



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

[chabadofbradenton.com/](http://chabadofbradenton.com/)  
[#turnitup](https://twitter.com/turnitup)

**Help Chabad TURN IT UP for Jewish Life in Manatee County**

Every donation counts!  
**NO DONATION IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL!**



**DONATE**  
to the campaign on  
Tuesday, March 18  
[chabadofbradenton.com/turnitup](http://chabadofbradenton.com/turnitup).



**FORWARD**  
"TURN IT UP"  
campaign emails.



**SHARE**  
Our Campaign Facebook Event  
[chabadofbradenton.com/turnitup](http://chabadofbradenton.com/turnitup)



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