Every week, thousands of people come to the JCC. As you can imagine, they come for many reasons—for physical fitness, to catch a film or lecture, learn a new skill, make new friends or get together with old ones.

What may not be as evident, however, are the behind-the-scenes efforts that enable families in need to be part of our JCC community. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the JCC is able to give out over half a million dollars in annual scholarships to people who are struggling financially. Maybe it’s the woman you see in spin class, your child’s best friend, someone you conversed with in the café or even your next door neighbor. Maybe it’s because someone lost their job, had a family crisis or encountered an unexpected illness. Whatever the case, when it comes to people in need, the JCC is proud to offer scholarships that can provide them with a glimmer of hope and the warmth of a caring community so they can maintain some normalcy while navigating difficult times.

Stephanie, who grew up in Englewood, came to the JCC all the time as a teen. Unfortunately, in her adult years, Stephanie’s life hit a rough patch and in a very short period of time, she and her husband divorced, she lost her home, and her mother, who was her back-up caregiver, moved to Florida. Emotionally broken and struggling financially, Stephanie was left the sole provider and caregiver for her four-year-old daughter, Jackie, and for months, the two of them were virtually homeless, staying with friends and family until she was able to save up enough money for a small apartment in Tenafly. Needing to work full time and with the school year ending, Stephanie knew she had to find a summer plan for Jackie. Thinking back on all her happy memories as a teen at the “J,” she thought of the JCC.

“I didn’t know what to expect or if I could ever afford to send Jackie to camp at the JCC, but when I shared the stressful circumstances I was facing with the membership director, she told me about the JCC scholarship program. Through the program, Jackie was able to have a camp experience that she just loved! The staff was caring and attentive, she was busy and entertained all day while I worked, and she made friends easily.

“With all I was going through, the JCC was my ray of sunshine, providing me with some peace of mind that I didn’t dream was out there for me. I can’t thank the JCC enough for providing such security for us. It’s a rare thing to find these days and I am so grateful.”
In scholarship grants we received from the JCC. We this would have been possible without the generous Today Josh successfully attends our public school’s sessions, and the sensory integration sessions in social and pragmatic language skills in his speech we wouldn’t have the means to do that. The staff desperate to set our son up for success and petrified into a pre-school classroom. Ultimately Josh was of everyday sounds and was terrified of walking violent temper tantrums in school, seemed afraid lives.

words the impact that the Nursery has had on their and Randi and her husband find it hard to put into danger to himself and others. Josh found thrown out of his daycare and declared a years ago, her son Josh was suddenly andi shares Stephanie’s sentiments. A few who contribute to our Scholarship Fund and make it all possible. If you are interested in making a donation or would like to learn more about our Scholarship Fund, call Jeff Nadler at 201.408.1412.

Looking for a way to mark a special occasion such as a wedding, anniversary, bar/bat mitzvah, or a birth of a child, or to honor someone’s memory? Make a donation to an individual endowment fund in their honor! All gifts over $18 are recognized with a card to the recipient and listed in this publication. For more info or to make a tribute please contact Fran Koszer at 201.408.1404 or visit jctotp.org and click “Donate.”

In today’s world, it is rare to find people who really cared and I really touched. Fortunately, the economy has recovered for my husband’s business and we are on our feet again. So when Robbie asked if I needed renewed scholarship support, I was so pleased to tell her no, that we could once again cover our costs. We went through a rough patch and the JCC saw us through it, which I’ll never forget. We are now proud contributors to the Scholarship Fund so other families in need can benefit the same incredible way we did.

It is the JCC’s hope to always serve as a warm and welcoming Center to all who come through our doors, especially in times of need or distress. We truly thank the generosity of our supporters, who contribute to our Scholarship Fund and make it all possible. If you are interested in making a donation or would like to learn more about our Scholarship Fund, call Jeff Nadler at 201.408.1412.

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