



Dear Members and Friends,

As the JCC's new Chief Development Officer, I'm excited to introduce myself (or say hello again!) and share a little of my JCC story. In the coming weeks and months, we'll be sharing more stories in our *People Make the Place* series, highlighting the members and staff who keep this community thriving.

My relationship with the J began long before I ever imagined working here. In 2002, still fairly new to Utah, I walked into the JCC and wondered, "How can I belong here? I'm not Jewish." But long before "third place" became a buzzword, the J became exactly that for me. Between my office and home, you could find me in yoga class, swimming on a summer Sunday, or celebrating milestones. The J even hosted my bridal shower. I had found my place.

In 2008, I became an ECC mom, and the following year, the JCC's Development Director. As my world changed, the J changed with me. While my kids learned to swim, make friends, and sing Shabbat songs, I was learning how to be a parent. And let's be honest—most of us have sought reassurance from Karla Pardini at some point: yes, your child is okay, and no, he will not be taking that stuffed monkey to college. What we all learned, together, was that we belonged to this community.

As life often goes, my husband's work brought our family to Ohio for a decade. We carried pieces of the JCC with us—Challah on Fridays, ECC time capsules opened at high school graduations—but there was always something missing.

Walking back into the JCC on November 17 felt like coming home. While some of the building has changed: the warmth, the welcome, and the sense of belonging that define this community have not.

As you consider your year-end giving, I invite you to join me in supporting your JCC community: health and fitness friends, fellow ECC families, or the smiling faces that greet you at the front desk. Membership dues and tuition cover only 84 percent of our operating costs. Giving is easy, tax-deductible and through December 31st, every

gift made is matched dollar-for-dollar through the incredible support of the I.J. & Jeanné Wagner Charitable Foundation. Your generosity does more than bridge the gap; it ensures the J remains a true third place for everyone, at every stage of life.

Thank you for being part of this community. I look forward to seeing you at the J.

Warmly,



Beth Gresh
Chief Development Officer
I.J. and Jeanné Wagner Jewish Community Center

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First Day of Kindergarten at the J
(2011)

Family Photo
(2025)