

Gates of Heaven Life and Legacy Plan

Case Statement:

For over 160 years, Congregation Gates of Heaven has been a constant and vibrant beacon of Jewish identity. As distinct as our name, we are a unique and dynamic community—rooted in Reform Jewish values of learning and committed to living meaningful Jewish lives. We create an environment where people can engage Judaism on their own terms and foster a sense of community that is open and welcoming. Through worship, study, social action and bonds of friendship, we cultivate a love and understanding of God, Jewish heritage and Torah as well as a special bond to the land and people of Israel.

We are a destination for those who choose to seek a relevant connection to Judaism. We are welcoming and affirming; embracing those who come from different backgrounds and different orientations as well as those who are curious about Judaism. We engage individuals in Jewish thought, rituals and practices as well as stimulate a personal connection to their Jewish faith. By fostering positive Jewish memories and instilling Jewish knowledge, our members become their own beacon of faith and faithfulness.

We have a rich commitment to social advocacy and make Jewish values relevant through performing acts of *Tikkun Olam* [repairing the world] with an emphasis of the principles of righteousness, justice and equality in society at large. In our eyes, Judaism is not a stagnant practice, but an active expression of our unique history. As a result, we grow and create lasting bonds of solidarity among congregants and within the Jewish and secular communities.

At the heart of what we do is a strong connection to Torah—we make the words of Torah sweet and relevant. Developing new ways of transmitting this knowledge and yearning to make people empowered to live by ancient values with a modern connection are core values for us.

Our legacy donors are dedicated and committed individuals, just like you, who want to ensure the continued vitality and vibrancy of Jewish life far into the future. They have benefitted from the fruits planted by the generations who came before and are willing to sow seeds for the future generations by affirming that our congregation always will be a special place that empowers Jewish families to live and interact in a warm and welcoming manner.

Please join us as we build on our past by looking forward to the future. - validating and empowering each soul who enters through the Gates of Heaven as he or she engages in the heart of Jewish life.