

Hillel at Ohio University

Transforming Jewish Life on Campus

Ohio University is poised to become the very best university of its kind: a public institution that has remained dedicated to providing superior undergraduate education while striving to advance programs in research and graduate studies. And, we have been nationally recognized for doing so. In fact, in its annual “America’s Best Colleges” editions, *U.S. News and World Report* consistently ranks Ohio University among the nation’s top public universities. But, we must work harder than ever to secure our position as a prominent national university with a strong campaign for Jewish life on campus.

One of the University’s greatest challenges is to continue the growth of our endowment, currently at more than \$280 million. Resources provided by endowment income are critical as we compete to recruit and retain the best students and the best faculty – and to develop and maintain innovative programs that will prepare our students for the future. In support of the University’s goal of attracting the brightest students, faculty, and scholars, we must build on Hillel’s strengths as a center for Jewish life at Ohio University. We respectfully invite you to consider a major gift in support of any of the Jewish initiatives detailed in this proposal. Jewish and non-Jewish students deserve a greater investment in understanding Jewish life and culture, and we hope you’ll join us in creating and sustaining Jewish opportunities at Ohio University.



Giving Opportunities

✧ **Programmatic and Engagement Professional Team** – \$75,000 annually

Jewish students crave quality opportunities that enhance their identities, deepen their knowledge, and enable them to promote global awareness and civic responsibility. Hillel at Ohio University requires two additional full-time staff professionals to meet the needs of our growing student population.

✧ **Education Abroad to Tel Aviv University** – \$40,000 annually

The College of Arts and Sciences, together with Hillel at Ohio University and Tel Aviv University (TAU), have ushered in the first Ohio University Study Abroad trip to the Middle East. Fifteen students will study with several renowned TAU faculty as well as with Ohio University English professor, Kevin Haworth. This newly minted program will position students to better understand the implications of the historic conflicts of the region, all while celebrating with deep, rich tapestries of Middle Eastern culture and politics.

✧ **Peer Network Intern Team** – \$20,000 annually

Our nationally-recognized Hillel was invited to pioneer a student intern team program to train student leaders in new methods of campus engagement, program development, and advocacy work. Support at this level means providing six prestigious paid internships to bright and dedicated Jewish students on campus, one week retreats for each intern to the Schusterman Student Leadership Retreat, participation in Taglit Birthright Israel Trips, and weekly support and leadership training with Rabbi Danielle Leshaw and other campus professionals at Ohio University.



Giving Opportunities *continued*

✧ **Shabbat and Holiday Celebrations** – \$15,000 annually

Jewish students and community members crave opportunities to celebrate holidays and Shabbat with festive kosher meals, talented student musicians leading services, and social opportunities. Students are also hoping to gain an understanding of Jewish life outside their parents' homes. What do religious services and celebrations look and feel like with different people and in a different place? Providing excellent prayer spaces and quality meals ensures that our students will join others for dialogue and discussions about Jewish life on campus and beyond.

✧ **Alternative Spring Break** – \$5,000 annually

Each year, Hillel organizes, recruits and leads a group of 12 – 14 Ohio University students on a life-changing trip of service and learning. Through this experience, Hillel deeply influences the lives of Jewish students and ultimately helps each participant better understand the value of tikkun olam. Support at this level ensures that our students make lasting and significant contributions to the world.

✧ **Israel Advocacy and Education** – \$2,500 annually

Israel is a gateway for Jewish students to explore issues on identity, history, and the Jewish future. Our student organization, Bobcats for Israel, provides Israel advocacy speakers and Israeli cultural opportunities for the entire campus community. Each year, we organize a winter break Taglit Birthright Israel trip and recruit students to participate in post-graduate social service opportunities through Masa Israel Programs. Your support at this level ensures that our students experience the wonderful innovation and diversity of Jewish culture.

✧ **Got Swabbed? Bone Marrow Drive** – \$1,000 annually

Since 2009, Hillel has registered over 4,500 Ohio University students, staff, and faculty for bone marrow matches with The Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry. We lead the country in campus drives, swabbing more 18-26-year-olds than any other university in the United States. Supporting at this level ensures that we recruit and train the best volunteers for this unique job, and that Ohio University continues to save lives through this amazing effort.

...Towards a Brighter Jewish Future

Hillel at Ohio University is recognized as one of the leading small Hillels in the nation. From a nationally recognized Bone Marrow Swabbing Drive to a unique, unprecedented Education Abroad partnership with Tel Aviv University, Hillel at OU paves the way for new initiatives, new vision, and strong leadership. Our regional Board of Directors consists of alumni, parents, students, and friends, each with a deep commitment to supporting a growing and changing Jewish community on campus. Led by Rabbi Danielle Leshaw, one of only six Hillel Directors in the United States to serve on the Schusterman International Board of Directors, Hillel is an indispensable campus partner, working to ensure that Jewish students receive exceptional opportunities that transform themselves, their campus, and ultimately, the world. We look forward to your support!



The Ohio University Foundation

As the fund-raising arm of the university, The Ohio University Foundation is the repository for all private gifts through annual giving programs, capital, and special campaigns and planned or deferred gifts. The Foundation is an institutionally related, non-profit, tax-exempt, 501c(3) organization.

Rabbi Danielle Leshaw

Director, Hillel at Ohio University
21 Mill Street
Athens, OH 45701
740.592.1173
leshaw@ohio.edu

Ellen Fultz

Executive Director of Development
McGuffey Hall 309
Athens, OH 45701
740.597.2145
fultz@ohio.edu

