

It is a sign of a mature organization and a forward-thinking board to establish permanent endowments that will support the organization for the long-term. Congregation B'nai Israel has done just this, opening two new endowments with the Jewish Community Foundation of the West that will provide permanent financial support for causes that are important to its members.

The new funds are the CBI Sanctuary Endowment Fund and the CBI Youth and Education Endowment Fund. These funds were established to support a legacy program that has been launched at B'nai Israel so that donors who leave bequests might choose to donate to these funds.

“We created these funds in conjunction with a planned giving program that we started,” explained Dale Kasler, CFO of B'nai Israel. “We wanted to create a vehicle that would inspire long-term support for these important causes.”

Previously, said Kasler, benefactors only had the option of donating to endowments supporting general operations or building maintenance. “Having endowment funds that are more focused will enable potential donors to lend their support in a more targeted way,” he observed.

Because endowments are permanent, the new funds will continue to grow, ensuring the financial stability of both worship and youth programs at B'nai Israel. Donations can be made by anyone at any time to commemorate a simcha, honor a loved one's memory, or leave a lasting legacy at the end of one's life.

“Right now, this is seed money to generate excitement for planned giving,” said Kasler. “As we start promoting the funds and the planned giving program, we hope to inspire people to really think about the future.”

“What B'nai Israel has done should serve as a role model for other Jewish organizations,” said Foundation President Michael Rochman. “The best way to ensure the longevity of causes that are important to us is to provide permanent financial support through endowments.”

For more information about creating endowment funds through the Jewish Community Foundation of the West, contact Hannah Olson, JCFW Director of Philanthropy, at director@jcfwest.org.