DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF HILLEL DAY SCHOOL:

There is good reason Hillel Day School’s enrollment has grown for the second year in a row. It is the result of a remarkable partnership between the school, and you, our valued supporters and donors.

The Davidson Grant has made tuition more affordable to a larger population than ever before. Additionally, our school has been almost completely renovated to support an educational experience that prepares students for the world they will inherit. The Audrey and William Farber Family IDEA Collaborative has the tools and materials to inspire our children to deconstruct, explore, design, create, and problem solve. This space, along with our new Learning Communities, is one of the first of its kind in Michigan, and in any Jewish day school nationally.

Our school is more vital than ever. To be successful, one needs knowledge, skills and ethics; our dual curriculum graduates well-rounded mensches who can navigate an increasingly complex world through a Jewish lens. Hillel alumni are deeply committed to their careers and communities, and are the living embodiment of our Jewish tradition and values.

We would not be successful without the strong financial commitment of all of our donors. We are pleased to report that the 2015-16 Annual Fund raised $679,000, an increase over last year’s total of $645,000. Additionally, we are pleased to report that a majority of the Hillel staff participated in the Annual Fund. Overall participation increased 10 percent over last year.

Finally, we are grateful to everyone who has made an early commitment to our 20-by-60 Endowment campaign. We are committed to securing the future of Hillel for generations to come by increasing our Endowment from $5 million to $25 million by the school’s sixtieth anniversary next year! In just six months, we have raised over four million dollars. We are looking forward to every family who believes in Hillel to participate in the Endowment campaign.

Your significant commitment and support allow us to enroll at Hillel as many Jewish children in metropolitan Detroit who wish to receive this education, and for that the school is profoundly appreciative. Thank you again for your participation, trust and support. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life in 5777.

Shanah Tovah!

Steve Freedman             David Feber
Head of School           President, Board of Trustees

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Enrollment for the 2015-16 year at Hillel rose for the first time in 15 years to 546 students in the Early Childhood Center through eighth grade.

Steve Freedman, Head of School, attributes the upswing to the tremendous buzz in the community about our new learning communities and our educational philosophy, as well as to our commitment to making a Hillel education affordable to as many Jewish families as possible through our Davidson Tuition Grant and generous tuition assistance program.

“Hillel teaches students to learn meaningfully, to persevere, and to master skills that will carry them through life, while also strengthening their Jewish identities and learning to navigate the world through a Jewish lens that emphasizes Derekh Eretz, Tikkun Olam, and K’lal Yisrael, among other core Jewish values,” Mr. Freedman said.

Enrollment has grown again for the 2016-17 school year to 560 students! May we continue to go from strength to strength.
In the fall of 2015, Steve Freedman, Head of School, and the William and Audrey Farber Family, introduced the 7-8 students to their new space, which was the result of the Farber family’s transformative gift to Hillel Day School, and which responds to students’ desires for self-driven learning and creativity.

“What I saw was breathtaking,” Jacob Ellenbogen (class of 2016) said. “The new space is amazing. It’s open, there are mobile chairs and tables, booths, couches, monitors, and, of course, lots of color. Each learning studio can easily be arranged to suit the teacher and students on any given day. Each common area has its own special comforts and lots of natural light. It feels like the perfect place to learn. And I love the dry-erase walls!”

“I realize just how lucky I am, not just for the space, but to attend a wonderful Jewish school, and to have people like the Farbers who care about our education,” he said.

Our students now have their hands on a 3D carving machine, a powerful piece of technology that is capable of creating precision parts and designs from materials like wood, plastic and metal.

Hillel was one of 50 schools in the U.S. to win a 3D carver from Inventables, a creator of digital manufacturing tools. CEO Zach Kaplan had committed to placing a carving machine in all 50 states in response to President Obama’s call to create a “nation of makers.”

Hillel’s winning idea, to use a 3D carver to build a “condominium of birdhouses” for different species, combines collaborative design and manufacturing, art and ecology. Students will “think wild,” but build functional birdhouses. In doing so, as well as by observing bird behavior using webcams, students will learn that today’s design helps not just people, but nature and our ecosystems.
Our fifth graders read Torah from the Tanakh as part of their learning at Hillel, but this year, in a new program, they chanted verses from Parashat Beshalach, and their voices filled the school’s mercaz.

Surrounded by their loved ones, pairs of students from each fifth grade class chanted from nine Torahs laid out on nine tables, using the Torah tropes they learned from Rabbi Jonathan Berger, Rav Beit Hasefer.

Rabbi Berger taught the students how to layn (read Torah) in fifth grade so that they see it as a skill they can use all their lives in their congregations, and not just in preparation for their b’nai mitzvah.

“Learning to read Torah requires dedication and discipline to master the notes and techniques for reading directly from the sacred scroll,” teacher Clara Gaba said. “Not only are our students already on the right path for their bar and bat mitzvahs, but the ability to read Torah is truly a reward in itself.”

Our Early Childhood Center has been accredited by NAEC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a mark of quality given to only eight percent of preschools nationwide. The process by which schools receive accreditation is a rigorous one, involving self-study, extensive portfolios, and a site visit.

“Getting the final stamp of approval validates the hard work our staff does every day for the benefit of our children,” said Robin Pappas, ECC director.

“NAEC is the gold standard,” said Steve Freedman, Head of School, “and earning it demonstrates our commitment to excellence in education for all our children.”
Growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas, Beverly Liss never dreamed her children and grandchildren would attend Jewish day school. Liss reflected on her gratitude for the gift of such an education at Hillel Day School’s Annual Gala in May, held at the school, where she and her husband, Arthur, were honored with the school’s Dream Maker Award.

“We are truly blessed,” Beverly Liss said, her faint Southern accent resonating with the crowd of over 425. “Eight of our nine grandchildren attend a Jewish day school. And the ninth, who is a baby, will, too!”

The gala also celebrated Michael and Norma Dorman with the Jacob E. Segal (z”l) Award, named for the founding rabbi of Hillel. The parents of four Hillel graduates, the Dormans have tirelessly worked for the school, positively impacting all of its constituents, from students to staff to the Board of Trustees.

“Everything we did, we did with love, for Hillel helped us do what we did best – turn out four mensches,” Norma Dorman said.

Steve Freedman, Head of School, also took time to acknowledge the year’s Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, Dr. Ron Gaba, director of clinical and translational research in radiology at the University of Illinois, Elanah Nachman Hunger, a rising arts patron in Detroit, and Charles Ornstein, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. “You truly are the school’s living legacy,” Mr. Freedman said.

The evening included a cocktail reception sponsored by Telemus Capital and Fischman Insurance Group, strolling dinner, bars sponsored by Talmer Bank, silent and live auctions sponsored by Lori and Maurice Pogoda, and speed painter Dave Santia.

The gala raised close to $100,000 for the school’s tuition assistance program, which helps to ensure that as many Jewish children in metropolitan Detroit who wish to attend Hillel Day School may do so.
THE ANNUAL FUND: ANSWERING THE CALL

“The gift of a Jewish education is priceless,” said Karen Rosenberg of West Bloomfield. “As students at Hillel, my kids have wholly embraced their Jewish identity in an immersive environment, and they feel empowered by the knowledge they have gained to become passionate supporters of Israel and the Jewish community, to speak out against injustice, and to take on leadership roles.”

Karen and her husband Howard are professionals in the community, and yet sending their four children to Hillel has required adhering to a budget, and when necessary, applying for tuition assistance. The school has always answered the call.

“We’re so grateful,” Karen said. The couple’s oldest son, Jeremy, now a senior at Frankel Jewish Academy, is “very involved Jewishly, and puts himself out there, and it’s because of his Hillel experience.”

Rosenberg, who grew up in West Bloomfield and attended Hebrew school, did not feel particularly proud of or connected to Judaism as a child. She is grateful that tuition support from Hillel has allowed her and Howard to invest in their children in the deeper way she craved.

“The living history, the passion for Judaism, it cannot be replicated elsewhere, not in Hebrew school, and not in public school,” she said.

“We are so privileged to live in a community that is able to provide opportunities for families like mine, and which invests in our children,” Rosenberg said. “I am proud to say I received this gift. And when we can give, we give because of what we’ve gotten. It’s sometimes hard to do, but I do it for the generosity of all of the others.”

2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 financial results were in line with planned expectations. Hillel’s continued financial success results from the generosity of our donors and the support of the Jewish Federation and the Shiffman Family Fund. In addition, due to the generosity of the Davidson Foundation and the Farber family, the K-2 and 3-6 hallways were demolished to the shell, and The David and Nanci Farber Learning Community and The William Davidson Learning Community were created.
Hillel Day School recognizes the invaluable support of those who have given lifetime contributions of over $100,000.

LIFETIME GIFT OF $1,000,000 OR MORE
Anonymous

The Blumenstein Family
Kasan and Bill Davidson,
Gershon and Ethan Davidson,
Maria Davidson
William Davidson Foundation
The Audley and William Father
Family
The Frankel Family
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
Jay Kogan
The Puczowski Family
The Schostak Family
Lois and Milton Shiffman, Lisa and Gary Shiffman

LIFETIME GIFT OF $500,000 AND ABOVE
Marcia and Eugene Applebaum
Mala and Henry Dorfman
Nadine and David Farkas,
Hunter, River, Fischer
The Ruth and Nathan Frankel
Family
The Sipper and Harriet Frankel
Family, The Karen and
Jim Berger Family
Nancy and James Grossfield
Dorset and David B. Hermelin
Foundation
Shar (Ferber) and Alan Kaufman
Son and Alan Jay Kaufman and
Family
Marcia and Rob Orley, Matthew,
Alex, Jason and Olivia

LIFETIME GIFT OF $100,000 AND ABOVE
Sharyl and Alan Ackerman, Elana,
Matthew and Daniel
Annette Feinberg Adelman
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Foundation
The Bar-Levav Family Foundation,
Drs. Leora Bar-Levav and Gary
Edelson
The Baum Family
Madeleine and Mandell Berman
Dorothy and Eddy Barak, Doris
and Frederick Blechman, Sharon
and Martin Gene, Karen and
Kenneth Goss

Jim Berger, Hallie, Joshua and
Jaclyn
The Berry Family
The Bluestone Family, Eleanor,
Saul, Bradley, Billy and Barry
Dana and Herman Brodsky
Robyn and Bob Carverian, Jack
and Ben
The Charlap Family
The Cohen Family
Robin and Leo Eisenberg, Max,
Anna and Louis
Susan and David Feber
Miriam and Fred Ferber
In honor of Our Children and
Grandchildren
Helen and Jeffrey Garden and
Family
Paula and Louis Glazer
Max Goldfinger
Martin Goldman
Jodi and Rob Goodman, Rachel,
Jeanna and Emily
Sarah and Harold Gottlieb
Cathy and Michael Groesch, Colton,
Erik and Megan (“E”) Groesch
Hillel Day School PTO
The Joel E. Jacob Family
Sheri and David Jaffa, The Eden
and Kevin Elbinger Family, The
Brian and Sabrina Kaufman Family
The Laker Family
Adams and David Margolin, Beth
and Steven Margolin and Family,
Nancy and Alan Simons and
Family

Mary and Mike Mant
Michelle and Linda Nelson
Natalie and Bill Newman
Ann and Rudy (“R”) Newman and
Family
Barbara and Irving Nauman
Sally and Graham Orley
Suzanne and Joseph Orley
Samantha and Rose Partrich
Nancy and Rob Reed, Rachel,
Evan, Leah and Isaac
The Bignam and Sophie Rubick
Foundation
The Roses Family, Rena, Tocki,
Zachary and Brandon
Terri Farber and Rob Roth
Cheryl and Steven Schanes,
Jennifer and Lauren
Emma and Morris Schaver
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and Scott
The Schuchman Family
Irene and William Schuman
Rosalea and Rudolph Shulman
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Family
Tyrria and Saul Waldman
Harridgetta and Abin Weisberg
The Lori and Steven Weisberg
Family, The Hille and Steven Schuhler
Family

Lori and Steven Weisberg, Jessica,
Madeline and Matthew
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If an error has been made, please accept our apologies.

If you would like to contribute to Hillel Day School, please contact the Advancement Office at 248-851-6950.

It’s a wonderfully unique time in the history of Hillel. The facility has been completely transformed to unleash creativity in all of our students. The latest technology is placed at their fingertips. Tradition and kindness are embraced through an inspiring dual curriculum that accelerates learning and paves the way toward a meaningful Jewish life. Enrollment is up. Culture is vibrant. Everything points to a bright future for our students.

This future depends upon a more secure financial foundation. In order to sustain critical demands for the next generation, and to maintain and grow the innovative environment in which our students learn, the substantial growth of our endowment has become a top priority. We have embarked on the largest campaign in Hillel’s history to raise $20 million by our sixtieth anniversary in 2018.

There is no greater investment than in the excellence of education for our children. A strong foundation will allow Hillel to attract and retain quality teachers, enhance our commitment to innovative education, and provide much needed tuition assistance to meet our families’ demands.

Thank you to the donors who have already made commitments at the following giving levels:

$1,000,000
Nanci and David Farber

$500,000-999,999
Bob and Les Eisenberg
Nadine and David Farbman
Rob Orley

$250,000-499,999
Terri Farber
Sue and Alan J. Kaufman

$100,000-249,999
Niki and Todd Fink
Samantha and Ross Partrich
Kara and Gabe Schuchman

$50,000-99,999
Susan and David Feber

$10,000-49,999
Ellen Folbe and David Grey
Amy and Bryan Gottlieb
Hilary and Larry Handler
Shayna and Josh Levine
Robyn and Mitch Presser
Kelly and David Victor

To join in this historic endeavor, please contact Amy Schlussel at (248) 539-1484.
Every year, Hillel holds various fundraisers and community building events to enhance our educational programs, support development of faculty and provide critical tuition assistance dollars to families who might otherwise not be able to afford a Hillel education. In 2015, Hillel launched a sponsorship program. Our sponsorships offer opportunities to market a business or product to a wide range of families, while at the same time supporting one of the country’s most innovative independent schools. We would like to thank our 2015-2016 sponsors.
Parent volunteers are the engines that keep the school running. From serving lunch to setting seder tables, raising funds for field trips and delivering mishloach manot, our volunteers enhance our students’ experiences throughout the year.

Each year, we hold a Volunteer Appreciation Minyan and Breakfast to recognize the parents who give their time to Hillel. Our 7-8 students always attend so that they internalize the importance of volunteerism and hesed.

This year, Robbie Sherman, a longtime parent volunteer and former president of the PTO, was named Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Sherman, a tireless advocate for many Jewish organizations in Detroit, Hillel foremost among them, was cited for her years of service setting seder tables, raising money for the Annual Fund, and chairing the silent auction at the Annual Gala.

Thank you to all our volunteers! We couldn’t do it without you!

“...We cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity and selflessness.

Our daughter has loved every minute of Hillel. As summer comes to a close, she is counting down the days until school arrives. She is speaking in Hebrew over the summer, delighted to make Shabbat at home. She is immersed in the totality of a Hillel education—the joy of learning along with the cultural sensitivity and goodness it shapes.

Our hearts are full and we are humbled. With your help, you made it possible. You made all the difference.”

- Letter from a tuition assistance recipient
Hillel will celebrate its 60th year during the 2017-2018 school year!

Please fill out the contact form at http://www.hillelday.org/Page/Alumni/Keep-in-Touch so that our entire community, past and present, can take part in marking this milestone in our school’s history.