

IMPACT!

DONOR APPRECIATION REPORT

JUNE 2026



THE LIVES YOU ARE IMPACTING

Find out how YOU raised Jewish pride and commitment throughout our community





MY CAUSE

Judaism was always deeply important to me, just complicated.

I grew up in the yeshiva world, but never fully fit into it. My single mother fought incredibly hard to give me a Jewish education, even when schools told her we weren't religious enough, or didn't fit the image they wanted.

But despite all of that, Judaism shaped me in beautiful ways.

Then life happened. I got married young. I struggled with infertility. My marriage ended painfully. I became angry at religion in a lot of ways. I stopped keeping Shabbos and kosher, dated non-Jews, and honestly felt very disconnected from the Jewish world. But somehow I never fully left.

Then I met Joe. I warned him very early on that if I ever had children, they would be raised Jewish. He wasn't.

Years later, after we moved to Commack, I spent Yom Kippur alone in our apartment while he was at work. Feeling incredibly lonely, I googled "Chabad near me." That changed my life.

I sent an email to Chabad of Mid-Suffolk explaining who I was asking, "Is there even a place for someone like me here?"

Within five minutes, Rabbi Teldon called and he simply invited us for a Sukkot meal and said: "Bring Joe with."

That was it...No shame. No interrogation. No making me feel less than. Just: "Come."

At that moment, Chabad of Mid-Suffolk became family.

Rabbi Mendy and Brocha welcomed us into their home and their community. They named my daughters, and celebrated my sons' bris. They put mezuzahs on our doors and showed up for our simchas, our struggles, and every messy in-between moment of real life.

Even now, years later, after moving away from Commack, they are still family to us.

And the impact they had didn't stop with me. My children as well are growing up proudly Jewish.

People often think donating to Chabad means donating to programs or buildings.

But what you're really supporting are relationships. The lonely person searching for connection. The child trying to figure out where they fit. The family looking for community.

You're supporting people like me.

And for that reason, no matter where life takes me, Chabad of Mid-Suffolk will always be home.

- Rachel Lessard



MY COMMUNITY

Growing up as a secular Jew, Judaism was always a part of my identity, but for much of my life it felt a bit distant. I celebrated the holidays, valued family traditions, and understood the importance of being Jewish, yet I never truly felt connected to Hashem or to the deeper meaning behind Judaism. That began to change when my husband, Rick and I, along with our 3 adult children became involved with Chabad.

What Chabad means to me is acceptance, warmth, and belonging. From the very beginning, Rabbi Mendy and Brocha embraced us without judgment or expectations. They welcomed us exactly as we were and created an environment where Judaism felt approachable rather than intimidating. Through their kindness and sincerity, they opened a door that I never realized had been closed for so long.

One of the most meaningful things about Chabad is the way they make Judaism accessible. Instead of making me feel like I needed to know more, do more, or be more observant to belong, they showed me that every small step toward Judaism matters. Whether through Shabbat dinners, holiday celebrations, meaningful conversations, or simple acts of kindness, Rabbi Mendy and Brocha helped me discover that Judaism is not about perfection—it is about connection.

Because of Chabad, my level of Judaism and my connection to it have grown tremendously. What once felt like a cultural identity has become an active and meaningful part of my daily life. I have become more engaged in Jewish traditions, more interested in learning, and more aware of the spiritual values that Judaism brings into my home and family. Chabad has inspired me to deepen my understanding of Judaism in a way that feels authentic and joyful.

Perhaps most importantly, Chabad has given me and my family a place where we feel truly welcomed and valued. In a world where people can often feel disconnected, Rabbi Mendy and Brocha have built a genuinely warm and loving community. Their impact on my life has been profound, and I am deeply grateful for the way they have helped me rediscover the beauty of Judaism and strengthen my connection to Hashem.

- Ariann Lewis

a. Close to 1,500 handmade Shmurah Matzahs were delivered around town for Passover.



b. Purim was filled with wonderful laughter at our adults comedy night!

c. Starting off the week with some Torah



d. Our monthly HCC in Commack High School learning about Lag BaOmer

e. Hebrew School learning the Alef Bet and preparing for Passover by making matzah

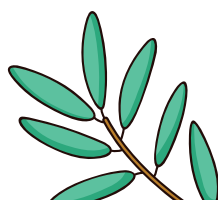


f. The next generation bound to our Father in heaven

g. Lag BaOmer BBQ with our community!



h. Yeshivah night, revealing the secrets of the Torah





THOUGHTS FROM THE RABBI

DEAR FRIENDS,

At Shavuot, we stood once again at Sinai.

Our sages teach that before G-d gave the Torah, He asked for guarantors. The Jews offered the Patriarchs, then the prophets, and then the sages. But only when they said, "Our children will be our guarantors," did G-d give us the Torah.

That is not only an ancient story. It is our mission today.

Every child who walks into Hebrew School or Hebrew Culture Club, every teenager who discovers Jewish pride, every family that lights Shabbat candles for the first time... this is Sinai happening again in our generation.

And you make that possible.

Your support does more than fund programs. It places Judaism into the hands, hearts, and homes of Jewish children and families right here in our community.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in the next generation, and for helping ensure that the voice of Sinai continues to be heard today.

- Rabbi Mendel & Brocha Teldon

GREAT YESHIVA NIGHT TONIGHT. Thank you everyone who organized, helped, and came out. Beautiful event and great energy all around.

- Noah

NOT SURE IF YOU REMEMBER ME, but I wanted to thank you so much for the box of Shmurah Matzah that David gave me, on your behalf. So nice of you. Love it. Thank you.

- Jaime

I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SENDING US THE MATZAH. It's so nice to be supported, even though we no longer live locally. It reminds us of how much we love you guys at Chabad and how much we've gotten emotionally and spiritually from you over the years, it has just been unforgettable.

- Jenn

MY FIRST IMPRESSION AND EXPOSURE TO CHABAD WAS VERY WARM AND WELCOMING. It was a great feeling to know that the Rabbi knew me before I spoke to him. Truly left an impression and warm impact.

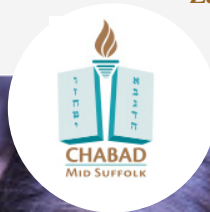
- Cynthia

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO VISIT AND LEARN ABOUT THE JEWISH RELIGION. Everyone was wonderful, welcoming and so inviting, it was such a nice, pleasant experience.

- Pam

You helped me go from questioning Judaism to going to temple more times in the last 4 months than I ever have in my life. Thank you so much!

- Zack



LEAVE AN ETERNAL LEGACY

Contact Rabbi Mendel Teldon about the spiritual and financial benefits that a legacy gift can bring to you and your family: 631.767.3144.

Remember Chabad of Mid-Suffolk in your will.