

Columbus Jewish Federation reaches donation goal

■ *The federation has raised \$7.4 million in its 2003 campaign.*

By **KATHLEEN L. RADCLIFF**

Bexley News Reporter

It's great to set a goal and reach it in less than one year, as the Central Ohio Jewish community helped the Columbus Jewish Federation reach its goal of a 10 percent donations increase in its 2003 Annual Campaign.

The increase resulted in contributions reaching the \$7.4 million mark as of last week, according to Michael Canter, 2003-04 campaign chairman and chairman-elect of the federation.

The federation's board of trustees set the goal last June, said Joshua Platt, the federation's marketing and public relations director, via e-mail.

"In a down economy, when many not-for-profits are struggling, this is a tremendous achievement," Canter said. "We are aware of no other federation that has had our success this year. Our donors generously rose to the challenge of taking care of the many needs within the Central Ohio and global Jewish communities."

According to Canter, donors' charitable efforts are making a dramatic difference here in Central Ohio, nationally and throughout the global Jewish community.

Locally, campaign contributions fund more than two

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dozen social service and humanitarian Jewish agencies, serving Jewish and non-Jewish clients, Jewish schools and synagogues.

At the national level, nearly two dozen organizations benefit from the campaign.

Internationally, the federation funds hundreds of human and social service projects assisting Jewish people in Israel, Argentina, the former Soviet Union and nearly 60 other countries around the world.

"Ultimately, the money we have raised will touch the lives of thousands of Jews around the globe," Canter said.

Highlights of the 2003 campaign include nearly 450 new donors and the return of previous donors who had allowed their gifts to lapse in recent years among the nearly 3,000 Jewish community members contributing to the federation's 2003 Annual Campaign, as well as campaign phone-a-thons which raised nearly \$250,000, Platt said.

More than 120 volunteers assisted the federation with Super Sunday 2003, held at Huntington National Bank Jan. 19, Platt said, with Central Ohio donations totaling more than \$125,000 through Super Sunday and the SuperWeek

phone-a-thons.

Prior to Super Sunday, a series of leadership phone-a-thons — led by federation board members, committee chairs and campaign divisional leaders — raised nearly \$130,000, Platt said.

"Virtually every agency and synagogue board has a 90 percent campaign participation rate or better," Platt said; as 100 percent of the board members from Congregation Beth Tikvah, the Columbus Jewish Foundation, the Leo Yassenoff Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services, Wexner Heritage Village and the federation gave to the 2003 campaign.

According to Platt, Robert

Schottenstein, chairman of the federation's board of trustees, is pleased with the results of the campaign and says that increased donations, combined with reductions of the federation's administrative overhead, are critical to the well being of the Central Ohio and global Jewish communities.

"Our beneficiary agencies are the Central Ohio Jewish community's lifeblood," Schottenstein said. "Every additional dollar we raise, every additional savings we can account for, means more money going to ensuring the continued, significant survival of the Jewish community."

"All of us should be proud of this campaign. Through our efforts, Columbus once again takes its rightful place as a leader among Jewish communities in North America."

Federation President and Chief Executive Officer Marsha Hurwitz echoed Schottenstein's sentiments, and

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credited the hundreds of members of the Jewish community who volunteer their time to the federation, working passionately on the campaign and other federation projects.

"Were it not for the generos-

ity of our donors and the hard work of our many devoted volunteers, none of this would be possible," Hurwitz said.

For additional information about the 2003 campaign, or to make a contribution, call Deborah Goldfarb at 559-3202, or e-mail campaign@tcjf.org.