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CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEDERATION

Supplementary Report #2

Prepared By

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Supplementary reports, focusing upon specialized topics, have limited distribution. Copies may be obtained only from the relevant agency.

### Contributions to Federation

In the table on the following pages is an examination of the characteristics of people and households that are associated with contributions of \$100 or more to the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation during the past year. For the entire area and for each group of towns, the first figure presented is the percentage of all Jewish households that contributed. Thus, 33% of all households in the entire area gave at least \$100. The figures that follow focus upon the characteristics which most generally made a difference in rates of contribution, including:

- 1) Household type -- when both husband and wife had Jewish backgrounds contributions were more frequent than in mixed households or one person households. (The latter often involve elderly and widowed persons of limited financial means.)
- 2) Professional occupations -- primarily including physicians, dentists and lawyers. Such households are more affluent and more likely to contribute. (Households with a professional were about twice as likely to contribute as non-professional households.)
- 3) Members of synagogues -- more likely to contribute than non-members. This difference is generally very pronounced in the core area (Bloomfield, Hartford and West Hartford) and in east-of-the-river towns. In other west-of-the-river towns, synagogue membership makes little difference.
- 4) Jewish identity -- When identity is strong contributions are more likely, and the difference is sizeable, except in West Hartford. Because of the large Jewish population of West Hartford, the overall effect of identity in the entire Hartford area is diminished.
- 5) Visiting Israel -- A relatively large percentage of the Hartford area adult Jewish population (28%) has, at some time, visited Israel; and those who have are a little more apt to have contributed to Israel. However, differences by towns are marked. It is particularly in the core area that visits to Israel are associated with higher contribution rates.
- 6) Primary charitable interest -- People, in general, are less interested in needs in Israel than in the American Jewish community. (See table five, page 32.) However, people who are more concerned with the American Jewish community are less likely to contribute to Federation.

To illustrate, suppose all the Hartford area Jewish people met in the auditorium of the Civic Center, and they were asked to stand up if they believed most Jewish financial support should go to Israel rather than stay here or be divided evenly. Fewer than 15 percent would stand up, but over 40 percent of those standing contributed \$100 or more last year. On the other hand, over 42 percent would stand in favor of emphasizing needs in the American Jewish community, but only 25 percent of them contributed.

## Contributions to Federation

Entire Greater Hartford Area	<u>% Contributing \$100 or more to Federation in past year</u>
All households	33
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	43
Mixed religious backgrounds	14
One person households	15
Professional occupations <sup>1</sup>	52
Members of synagogues	45
Non-members of synagogues	21
Strong Jewish identity <sup>2</sup>	42
Weak Jewish identity	29
Ever visited Israel	42
Never visited Israel	30
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	41
American Jewish community	25
Equal	42
 Avon - Farmington	
All households	35
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	32
Mixed religious backgrounds	25
One person households	--
Professional occupations	33
Members of synagogues	32
Non-members of synagogues	32
Strong Jewish identity	44
Weak Jewish identity	23
Ever visited Israel	25
Never visited Israel	38
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	57
American Jewish community	14
Equal	38

<sup>1</sup>Household is considered professional if either spouse, or adult head of household, is a professional (i.e. physician, lawyer, dentist, etc.)

<sup>2</sup>Question: "Being Jewish makes a difference in almost everything I do."  
To agree indicates strong identity. To disagree (or be unsure) indicates

Contribution to Federation - 2 -

Bloomfield	<u>% Contributing \$100 or more to Federation in past year</u>
All households	35
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	44
Mixed religious backgrounds	5
One person households	24
Professional occupations	59
Members of synagogues	45
Non-members of synagogues	18
Strong Jewish identity	48
Weak Jewish identity	25
Ever visited Israel	53
Never visited Israel	30
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	47
American Jewish community	19
Equal	49
 East	
All households	25
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	29
Mixed religious backgrounds	13
One person households	--
Professional occupations	83
Members of synagogues	37
Non-members of synagogues	12
Strong Jewish identity	42
Weak Jewish identity	17
Ever visited Israel	29
Never visited Israel	24
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	25
American Jewish community	18
Equal	40

Contribution to Federation - 3 -

Hartford	<u>% Contributing \$100 or more to Federation in past year</u>
All households	36
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	78
Mixed religious backgrounds	<5
One person households	12
Professional occupations	75
Members of synagogues	88
Non-members of synagogues	23
Strong Jewish identity	44
Weak Jewish identity	27
Ever visited Israel	60
Never visited Israel	22
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	50
American Jewish community	25
Equal	38
 North-West	
All households	10
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	14
Mixed religious backgrounds	<5
One person households	--
Professional occupations	33
Members of synagogues	<5
Non-members of synagogues	25
Strong Jewish identity	<5
Weak Jewish identity	17
Ever visited Israel	<5
Never visited Israel	17
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	--
American Jewish community	<5
Equal	<5

Contribution to Federation - 4 -

Simsbury - Canton	<u>% Contributing \$100. or more to Federation in past year</u>
All households	27
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	54
Mixed religious backgrounds	< 5
One person households	--
Professional occupations	75
Members of synagogues	36
Non-members of synagogues	17
Strong Jewish identity	38
Weak Jewish identity	22
Ever visited Israel	14
Never visited Israel	32
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	50
American Jewish community	25
Equal	29
 South-East	
All households	25
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	30
Mixed religious backgrounds	14
One person households	--
Professional occupations	25
Members of synagogues	42
Non-members of synagogues	13
Strong Jewish identity	57
Weak Jewish identity	20
Ever visited Israel	43
Never visited Israel	19
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	33
American Jewish community	24
Equal	17

Contributions to Federation - 5 -

South-West	<u>% Contributing \$100 or more to Federation in past year</u>
All households	19
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	20
Mixed religious backgrounds	17
One person households	--
Professional occupations	38
Members of synagogues	20
Non-members of synagogues	17
Strong Jewish identity	25
Weak Jewish identity	16
Ever visited Israel	17
Never visited Israel	19
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	--
American Jewish community	16
Equal	30
 West Hartford	
All households	50
Household type	
All Jewish backgrounds	61
Mixed religious backgrounds	26
One person households	23
Professional occupations	56
Members of synagogues	60
Non-members of synagogues	29
Strong Jewish identity	48
Weak Jewish identity	52
Ever visited Israel	65
Never visited Israel	44
Primary charitable interest in:	
Needs in Israel	47
American Jewish community	41
Equal	62

It is difficult precisely to compare contribution patterns across different areas because different amounts of money (\$5, \$100, etc.) have been specified in the question itself.

In Rochester, 78.6 percent contributed any amount to the local United Jewish Welfare Fund in 1981. This was down from an estimated 93 percent in their 1961 study. The Rochester figure for 1981 must be suspect, however, because much of their sample was taken from synagogue membership lists, and we have already noted that members are more likely to contribute.

In Boston, 44 percent contributed any amount to the local Jewish Federation in 1975; down from 59 percent who contributed \$5 or more in 1965. (The authors of the Boston study concluded that there was an actual decline in the percent who contributed and that it was not due to the \$5 criterion in 1965.)

If we assume that about one-fourth of all contributors give less than \$100 to the Greater Hartford Federation, than giving patterns in the Hartford and Boston areas are substantially alike. The comparable percentage in Rochester is probably higher, but differences in study design make it impossible to state precisely how much higher. In every community there is probably some tendency for estimates to be inflated; that is, for non-givers to claim they did contribute. (See methodological appendix two, pp. 103-104.) However, this "inflation" factor may be about the same in all the studies.

In both the Boston and Rochester studies, the percent who contribute is related to their family income. (Wealthy persons are more likely to contribute.) Given the relatively high socio-economic status of the Hartford Area Jewish population (see page 56), a somewhat higher percentage of the population might be expected to contribute than has in the past.

For planning purposes it should also be noted that both the Rochester and Boston studies report a decline in the percentage who have contributed. (Both communities had earlier studies to compare to their more recent studies.)