

JEWISH BLIND & DISABLED IMPACT REPORT 2024

Our impact report provides a snapshot of our work and the impact Jewish Blind & Disabled has made on people's lives in the past year.

For over 55 years, we've proudly supported Jewish individuals with physical disabilities or vision impairments. Today, we face the greatest challenge in our history. When our founder, Cecil Rosen, established this charity, he could never have foreseen the scale of need we now experience. Since becoming Chair in 2021, I've seen an unprecedented surge in demand for our housing and support services - one that continues to grow.

We want to help every Jewish person who needs us, but we are all too aware that in 2024 we have not been able to meet the current demand. This is our greatest challenge to date, but we are determined to grow and develop to ensure that we change this.

“We want to help every Jewish person who needs us.

Over this past year, I've eagerly watched as 30 new accessible apartments at Ephraim Court took shape in the heart of Mill Hill East's thriving Jewish community. We are eternally grateful for the generosity of individuals, families, Trusts, and Foundations whose support has ensured this project is now fully funded.

Just two miles away in East Finchley stands our oldest development, Fairacres. Nearly 40 years old, its

original roof, heating, and water systems need modernisation to serve future generations. In January 2025, we secured planning permission to redevelop the building - an ambitious project that will enlarge all flats to meet wheelchair accessibility standards, add 11 new apartments, and transform Fairacres into a modern, sustainable, fully accessible home.

This is a unique opportunity to both modernise and expand a current building. But we cannot proceed without securing the remaining funds for this £14m project. We've made a strong start in 2024, securing nearly 50% of the funding. Without the rest, we risk missing this vital opportunity.

Alongside housing, we've expanded our community-based services, offering support and advice to people living in their own homes through our Independent Living Advisory Service, Sight Loss Support Groups, and JEMS (support group for those impacted by Multiple Sclerosis).

We have a huge challenge ahead; one we are determined to meet. We know we can't do this alone, and we are so grateful to our generous supporters, volunteers and our wonderful, dedicated staff team. Working together we can transform lives.

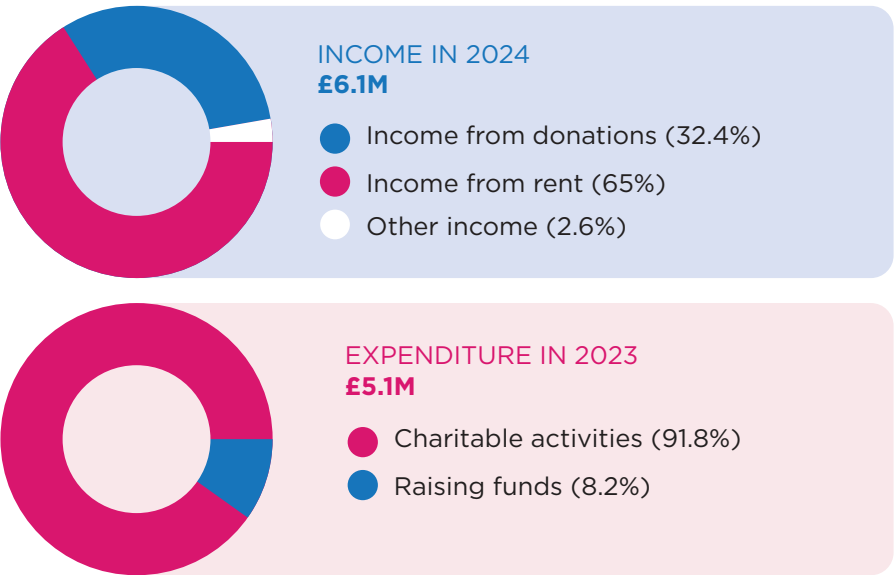
Marc Gordon
Chair

ADVICE AND SUPPORT

All our tenants pay rent. Over 80% of our tenants are in receipt of housing benefit, which will only cover 50% of the cost of our 24/7 House Managers support service. The rest of our tenants are self-funders who pay an affordable market rent level and the full cost of the 24/7 house management service provided by Jewish Blind & Disabled.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, we own most of our developments, which allows us to keep rents affordable. We receive no government funding, so the community's support also enables us to offer a wide range of services including our Independent Living Advisory Service, our shopping minibus and our Tenancy Support Team who support tenants with benefits claims, access to health and social care, volunteering and employment and other matters that support them to live independently.

Our fundraised income for the year reflects increased fundraising due to our current capital project.



Most of the surplus funds from 2024 have been ring fenced for future buildings or refurbishment of existing buildings. There is currently £5.7m in the fund.

Our 2024 Annual Report & consolidated financial statements provides more detail about our work and our finances and can be found on our website - www.jbd.org or by calling us on 020 8371 6611.



LIVING AT JBD



360

tenants lived in one of our 7 JBD developments where we provided them with an accessible home and peace of mind with 24/7 onsite support

26

is the age of our youngest tenant, our oldest is 100



110+

households on our housing waiting list at its peak in 2024, compared to 100 households in 2023

250k+

individual phone calls were made by our house managers to tenants. Our twice daily checks provide tenants and their families with peace of mind



ADVICE AND SUPPORT



208

people living in their own home in the wider community were given advice and support, to enable them to remain safely in their own home, through our Independent Living Advisory Service (ILA)

20

days is the average time from an application for our ILA service to an occupational therapy visit. The wait for a local authority service is over a year



145

tenants were provided with advice and support to ensure they had access to the benefits and care they are entitled to which in turn enables them to live independently and safely in a JBD property

75

people attended one or more of our support groups in 2024



JBD AND THE COMMUNITY



350

shopping minibus trips were made to local supermarket and kosher shops enabling tenants who struggle with public transport to do their own shopping, retaining their independence, and in turn enabling them to cook for themselves

58

volunteers supported JBD in 2024 undertaking a wide range of roles including befriending, minibus driving, leading activities and events and office support



1600

pupils engaged with the Jewish Blind & Disabled Schools Programme delivered by our tenants to raise awareness of disability from a young age

728

shabbat candles lit across our developments and celebrations for every festival of the year in our unique JBD supportive Jewish communities

