



Meet Tammy and Bruce Werner: *"People we will never know made their commitments over the last 144 years so that there was a shul for us to walk into when we were young and looking for a community. It just seems right that we should pay it forward to future generations."*



This article is the third installment in a series of Q and A discussions with donors to the Legacy & Endowment (L&E) Program. Its purpose is to share insights about their connection to Temple Beth-El and why their generous support of the L&E Program is important to them. In this article meet Tammy and Bruce Werner of Lincolnshire who share their thoughts with our membership.

1. Can you give us some background on your connection to Temple Beth-El?

TBE has been our spiritual and communal home since our kids were little. This is where our kids grew up, we became adults, and we learned the benefit of being part of something larger than ourselves. As time goes by, our connections grow deeper and broader. The time we invest in the community continues to pay increasing dividends, often in ways we had not expected.

2. What are some of your most meaningful memories as a member of the TBE community?

The best memories we have are, obviously, experiencing the numerous life cycle events (especially the kids!) we have enjoyed with our friends at TBE. One of the most moving things for me was to see the impact of our gift to the Phase III campaign. We joke that it is the "gift that keeps on giving" as we see families enjoy their life cycle events in the Werner Family Social Hall. It gives us tremendous joy to see them enjoy the great moments of their lives, and knowing that we were able to help make it happen.

3. Why did you take a leadership role in the Legacy and Endowment program?

From when we were young we were taught that it is not enough just to take care of yourself, we need to take care of each other if we are to survive as a community. Tzedekah starts at home. Judaism has not survived for 6000 years by people only thinking about themselves. We were fortunate enough to be in a position to help others, and feel an obligation to help them. It is just the right thing to do.

4. What difference do you think your gift will make to the future of TBE?

Just as we saw the impact of our Phase III gift to families here today, we now understand that our Legacy gift will help families in the future. People we will never know, made their commitments over the last 144 years so that there was a shul for us to walk into when we were young and looking for a community. It just seems right that we should pay it forward to future generations.

5. What advice would you give to others who are considering making a gift to the Legacy and Endowment program?

Our advice to others is to think beyond today, and focus on what you believe is important in the world. If you care about the future, and are thankful for what you have today, it is imperative to do what you can do to help future generations. In 1000 years from now, we hope that tomorrow's Jews will say "we stand on the shoulders of giants."