

# NSJews News



SPRING 2024  
IMPACT REPORT

*Soak in these smiles.  
YOU put them there.*

# IT'S RIGHT HERE!

The last Shabbat of this semester's Shabbat Dinner was so packed we didn't even try to sit inside. Students overflowed the rows of tables on the grass, the patio, and anything they could sit on. We looked around and smiled. The energy was electric. There were clusters of students laughing, chatting and bonding as they built friendships that will last a lifetime. Am Yisrael Chai sang loud & strong. We took a deep breath. **This is it.** The powerful, strong Jewish future - **its right here.**

Week in and week out, YOU ensure that young Jewish Students tap into their Jewish identity, experience the tranquility of Shabbat and make Judaism their own, especially amidst the chaos and demands of Academic life. In partnering with us, you showed up for NSJews continuously and gave students a vibrant and inspiring semester, a joyous Purim, a meaningful Pesach and you fueled their desire and **they keep asking for more.**

The world may be filled with negative voices and being a Jew on campus has its own set of challenges, but the care you show empowers each student to be confident in themselves and overcome whatever obstacles come their way! On these pages, we've tried to capture some of your impact. We invite you to step inside and get to know the **lives you are changing every single day.**

Thank you! - Rabbi Aryeh & Ety Schwartz & the entire NSJew Family



# A STAGE I DID NOT EXPECT

BY ELIA GORELIK

Ever since I was little, I adored dance. I loved the adrenaline and excitement of getting to perform for my family and friends on a big stage. After I quit dancing to move to a new state and to start a new chapter of my life, I didn't think that I'd be dancing again... **until I met Chabad at NSU!**

Chabad gave me my first real Shabbat- a weekly experience I would have never had otherwise. Chabad gave me the opportunity to **ask questions**, to strengthen my faith in Judaism through Sinai Scholars. Chabad showed me how to enhance my connection with G-d through the performance of mitzvahs. Chabad gave me a home away from home with the most beautiful community of Jewish students who will always have my back. Chabad taught me that I can work hard to **stand up for Judaism and Israel** whenever it may be needed.

Most surprisingly, **Chabad gave me a stage**, just like the one I used to dance on at home, where I can express my creativity, learn to be my **best self**, and use the skills I have to be a **proud Jew and put a stop to antisemitism.**

Here I have gained hope that even in the face of challenge, we will flourish as a community and that **we will always dance again!**



# I LEARNED THAT A JEW= FAMILY

BY RACHEL GRUBOY



My time at Chabad started as a Sinai Scholar, but it quickly turned into a community of people I now call family and a place that I could call home. The more I learned, the more I wanted to immerse myself into Jewish culture and traditions. I began to attend weekly Shabbat dinners, holiday services, and as many events as I could.

Through Chabad at NSU, I have gained many things: friends, mentors, wisdom, and most importantly a stronger sense of Jewish pride. **Especially during times of unrest, the simple greetings, Torah study, and comforting meals helped me embrace and celebrate my Jewish identity on campus with greater strength.**

**Here I learned that a Jew means family.** Here I found a family that makes me laugh, holds me when I'm down and inspires me even hours after Shabbat dinner has ended. I found a family that gets me to ask the deep questions. And I have found a family that supports one another through celebration and adversity.

I am thankful beyond words for my home away from home and I feel excited knowing I will continue to have my Chabad family by my side even into my graduate years at NSU and beyond.



# MEET THE PRESIDENT

BY BECCA FORGOSH

Connecting to Chabad upon beginning college was surprising for me! What started with masked Shabbat-to-gos during covid as a freshman, turned into a warm, loving Jewish community and then into a huge NSJew family.

At Chabad, I got so many incredible opportunities to grow as a person and as a leader. From starting as a Sinai scholar and a member of the Chabad Board, I grew from IOC Chair to Vice President and finally as President. **I never thought of myself as a Jewish leader but looking back, I am filled with pride at all the growth!**

And as much as I led, I also received. I could never have imagined getting through this year without having the rock-solid support of this amazing community.



As shocking as it sounds, **in college is where I laid the foundation for me to continue to build my relationship and knowledge of my Judaism;** something I will take with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you for your support and for the profound impact you've had on me!

Mazel Tov!



A simcha is a real celebration with our NSJews!

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When our daughter moved in for freshman year, we were comforted knowing that she had a **home-away-from-home** at Chabad.

There, she grew her self-confidence, developed leadership skills, and discovered a love for learning that she never knew she had.

**We couldn't be more grateful!**

-April and Jordan Eckert, Parents

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# YOUR NSJEW INVESTMENT



Shabbat Dinners overflowed to 80+ attending students multiple times this semester - often overflowing outdoors!



Pizza & Parsha boomed to 25-40 students per week. Huge increase in the Torah learned & lunches served!



32 NSJews became Sinai Scholars! 8 classes, 2+ hours each, diving deep into their Judaism! Double past years!



NSU recognized Chabad's impact and nominated the NSJews for both a STUEY & a GOLD FIN Award!



ChaBoard Leaders at the STUEYS



Cookies & Conversation



Pita & Parsha



Sinai Scholars Spring Cohort

