



JCFOC FUND HOLDER SPOTLIGHT

Jerome Schneider – A Thoughtful Approach to Philanthropy

For Jerome Schneider, philanthropy started with community.

Growing up in a small Jewish community in Oklahoma City, he saw firsthand how people showed up for one another, not just on holidays, but in everyday moments. “The fabric of the community was what people gave and how people showed up,” he shared. That early experience shaped a perspective he still carries today.

Over time, his approach to giving has become more focused. “Every dollar matters,” Jerome said, “but what matters most is the impact behind it.” Rather than giving broadly, he looks for ways to create meaningful, lasting change.

That mindset is what drew him to the **Jewish Community Foundation Orange County**.

Through his role on the Board of Directors and Investment Committee, Jerome is able to pair his professional expertise with his philanthropic values. He sees the Foundation as a way to extend both the reach and effectiveness of his family’s giving. “It allows us to have impact beyond what we would have recognized on our own,” he said, noting that the Foundation connects donors to needs across the community and beyond.

Just as important is JCFOC’s role as a steward. Jerome values the balance between thoughtful grantmaking and responsible investment, ensuring that philanthropic dollars can grow and support the community over time.

At home with his wife Stacey, those same values help shape family conversations and drive their collective efforts to support the mission of *Tikkun Olam*. While their kids are adults now, embodying charitable acts in everyday life began when their children were very young. As such, Jerome and his family focus their efforts around education, health, and basic needs. “Philanthropy isn’t only predicated on writing a check,” he said. “It’s about finding the most impactful way to give back to the community you’re part of. Small efforts in the right places can make oversized impacts.”

Through his leadership and involvement, Jerome advances the Foundation’s mission while helping shape a culture of thoughtful, impactful giving for the next generation.



Jerome and Stacey Schneider and Family

“Small efforts in the right places can make oversized impacts.”

An Inside Look at Healing, Connection, and Impact

JCFOC FUND HOLDER SITE VISIT

As previewed in our last newsletter, JCFOC Fund Holders recently gathered for an exclusive behind-the-scenes site visit at The Shea Center for Therapeutic Riding in San Juan Capistrano.

The Shea Center is doing transformative work with vulnerable populations through therapeutic horseback riding. During the visit, guests toured the facility, observed programming in action, and learned about the incredible care and respect shown to both the riders and the horses in the program.



Members of our JCFOC community at the Shea Center site visit on May 7, 2026

Attendees also heard several moving personal stories, including those of Sloane (pictured below left), a young child with Down syndrome, and Matthew (pictured below right), a veteran living with PTSD, whose lives have been profoundly impacted through their experiences at the Shea Center. Rooted in the Jewish value of *refuat haguf v'hanefesh*, healing of body and spirit, the visit offered a meaningful look at how this work strengthens individuals, families, and the broader community.



SCAN HERE TO VIEW A VIDEO AND **LEARN ABOUT SLOANE'S RIDE TO INDEPENDENCE**



SCAN HERE TO READ **ABOUT MATTHEW AND EQUINE ASSISTED PSYCHOTHERAPY**



As part of JCFOC's ongoing Fund Holder engagement opportunities, quarterly site visits provide exclusive access to local nonprofit organizations, offering a deeper understanding of community needs and the impact made possible through philanthropy. These behind-the-scenes experiences are one of the many benefits available exclusively to JCFOC Fund Holders.

Is a **DONOR ADVISED FUND** right for you? Contact us at (949) 435-3490.

רפואת הגוף והנפש

REFUAT HAGUF V'HANEFESH

Judaism places deep value on **refuah – healing of both the body and spirit**. At the Shea Center, the unique bond between rider and horse becomes a powerful path to that healing.

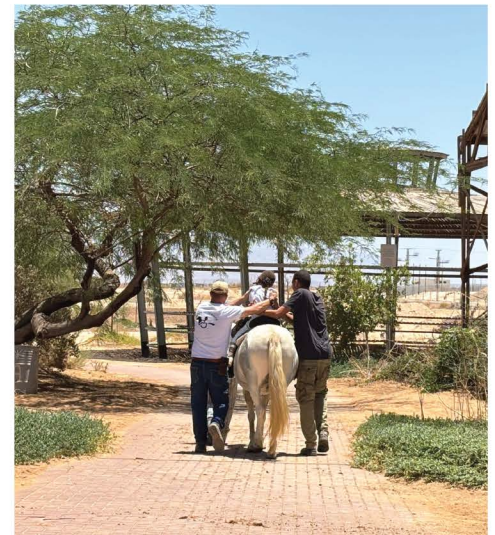


Two adorable riders with their beloved therapy horses.

HORSE THERAPY IN ISRAEL החווה הטיפולית מול הרי אדום Red Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center at Kibbutz Grofit



Kibbutz Grofit, located near Eilat, in the southern Arava.



SCAN HERE FOR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



We hear you.

Through our efforts to highlight organizations addressing critical community needs in Orange County, donors have expressed interest in learning about nonprofits doing similar work in Israel.

The **Red Mountain Riding Center** is a nonprofit whose mission closely parallels that of The Shea Center.

Located in the Arava region of Israel, the Red Mountain Riding Center is the only center of its kind in that area serving children and adults with a wide range of special needs, including cerebral palsy, autism, ADHD, brain injuries, and trauma. In the wake of October 7, as stress and trauma have deeply affected countless Israelis, the center's therapeutic horseback riding programs have become an increasingly vital source of emotional healing, resilience, and support for the community.

YOUR VOICE helps guide our work.

Know a nonprofit making an impact in our community? As JCFOC continues to expand these **meaningful Fund Holder experiences**, we welcome recommendations for future site visits. Please contact Rachael Ripps at (949) 435-3490, ext 5.



JEWISH COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

ORANGE COUNTY

NEWSLETTER | **JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ORANGE COUNTY** | SPRING 2026

1 Federation Way, Suite 230 | Irvine, CA 92603 | info@jcfo.org | www.jcfo.org