



# NEWARK CEMETERIES REVITALIZATION A CRITICAL NEED

The Greater MetroWest community has longstanding roots in Newark that go back more than 100 years. The first Jewish cemetery in Newark was established around 1847.

As the Jewish community of Newark relocated to nearby suburbs, little or no provisions for the upkeep of the cemeteries remained as no funds had been set aside for perpetual care.

Today, the cemeteries contain approximately 60,000 Jewish graves. Most of the cemeteries are crowded, with heavy headstones that are placed close together. Vandalism, age, and growing tree roots have caused hundreds of headstones to topple.

Current available funding is only sufficient for basic maintenance (e.g. cutting the grass several times each year).



# Philanthropy Makes A Difference: We're Restoring Dignity to Our Jewish Ancestors

No other organization but Federation and its supporters can secure and protect these historic cemeteries, which represent both a link to the Jewish community of Newark and to the history of our Greater MetroWest community.

## Federation Provided Emergency Support

Sadly, the cemeteries had fallen into disrepair due to aging, vandalism, and lack of available funding. In response, Federation stepped in to provide emergency funding.

In 2018: to replace destroyed and ineffective fencing, by building high fences around the cemeteries in order to prevent vandalism. Several dangerous overhangs were removed as well.

In 2020: to remove a row of trees in the cemeteries, which will enable proper maintenance and allow us to lift and re-set the headstones.

## Honoring Our Ancestors

To fully restore the cemeteries to their proper dignity, additional funds are needed to:

- Anticipate increased cost of basic maintenance
- Cover unanticipated repairs beyond basic maintenance
- Enable improvements, such as better signage



Children's Section of the Union Field Cemetery

Prior to the tree removal made possible by Federation's emergency support, this section was so close to many of the trees that some of the graves could not be accessed or even seen due to the tree roots and poison ivy. All of the graves are now accessible.



There's an element of *chesed shel emet* here – doing a mitzvah for people who can never thank us for this.



— Dov Ben-Shimon, Executive VP/CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

You can make a difference for our Greater MetroWest community.  
Together, we will ensure the dignity of our Jewish ancestors.

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