

Media Release
Jewish Foundation of Memphis
6560 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38138



For Immediate Release

Date: January 22, 2009
Contact: Josie Ballin
Phone: 374-0400
Fax: 374-0451

Despite Economic Downturn, Memphis Jewish Community Remains Generous

The Jewish Foundation of Memphis is pleased to reports that during 2008 funds disbursed to charitable organizations topped \$2.8 million. Of that amount \$900,000 was disbursed to non-profit organizations during the 4th quarter of 2008. That figure represents donations made to organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

“We are overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our fund holders,” said Laura Linder, Jewish Foundation of Memphis executive director. “Local charitable organizations are under more pressure than ever to simply survive, not to mention the social service agencies who have an increased number of people turning to them for assistance.”

The charitable disbursements are made through a fund holders Donor Advised Fund. A Donor Advised Fund is established with a minimum gift of \$5,000. These “charitable bank accounts” are a cost-effective and flexible way for donors and their families to become actively engaged in grant making and support of our local agencies.

There was a flurry of activity at the Foundation in the last days of 2008. “Many of our donors know how much they plan to give in charitable donations each year, but by year end they realize they haven’t quite met their goal,” said Linder. Donations are made to individual Donor Advised Funds in cash and by stock transfer. “All it takes is a few phone calls. One call to their broker with instructions on the transfer and one call to the Foundation to let us know what’s coming. The Jewish Foundation staff takes care of the rest,” concluded Linder.

To learn more about opening a Donor Advised Fund and the Jewish Foundation of Memphis contact Laura Linder at 901-374-0400 or laura.linder@jewishfoundationofmemphis.org.

###