



**ALEPH
INSTITUTE**
No One Alone,
No One Forgotten.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

Mission Statement

07

Shifra Program

02

Message From Our Leaders

08

Shifra Shed

03

Re-Entry Support

09

Miriam's Center & After School

04

Alternative Sentencing Program

10

Financial Highlights

05

Religious Services

11

Board

06

Dorothy & 12 Step Programs

12

Thanks & Contact Information

MISSION

The Aleph Institute is a non-profit Jewish religious, educational, and humanitarian organization offering services to imprisoned Jewish men and women and their families. No one is alone, and no one is forgotten.

In Prison, Re-Entry & Family Support Programs

Addressing high incarceration rates by supporting alternatives to incarceration, providing in-prison resources, re-entry services and family support programs. Our programs advocate for humanitarian needs, religious accommodations and provide spiritual and educational services for incarcerated individuals.

Family Support Programs

Leading community programs that lessen the burden on households in the Jewish community of Greater Pittsburgh. Aleph offers a community food pantry, support groups for women, and an after-school program. Programming benefits every family member by increasing the family's quality of life.

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

The Aleph Institute continues to play a vital role in the Pittsburgh Jewish community by supporting incarcerated Jewish men and women, as well as their families during incarceration and throughout the re-entry process. We work closely with individuals at every stage—from arrest through reintegration—while also engaging with the courts to advocate for fair and constructive sentencing that preserves family stability whenever possible.

In recent years, Aleph has expanded its efforts to provide earlier intervention, offering guidance and advocacy at the point of arrest and throughout legal proceedings. This approach helps mitigate long-term harm to individuals and prevents unnecessary disruption to family life.

In addition, through its Shifra Program, Aleph operates and continues to grow a range of essential services, including a food pantry, after-school programming, and a motherhood support center. The Shifra Program has become a trusted resource within the Jewish community, providing counseling, material assistance, and ongoing support to families in need.

Aleph collaborates with partner organizations such as Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) and National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), helping connect families to both Jewish and broader community resources.

Through these partnerships and direct services, Aleph has become an essential support system for hundreds of Jewish families across Pittsburgh.

RE-ENTRY SUPPORT

Returning to the community from prison leaves ex-inmates without stable housing or jobs, often leading to reoffending, with Pennsylvania's total recidivism rate at 54%, costing the state \$3.1 billion annually.

In 2025, Aleph's Re-Entry Program provided assistance to break this cycle through securing housing, healthcare, and employment for these individuals. Our staff offered counseling to rebuild confidence and arranged religious programs to reconnect participants with Jewish traditions, fostering a sense of belonging. Partnerships with local agencies helped find apartments and job opportunities, ensuring practical and effective steps toward independence.

Our work went beyond these operations, providing emotional support to mend family ties strained by incarceration; we saw families unite and workers regain stability. Volunteers played a massive role, connecting ex-inmates to community resources.

This program reduced the community's social and economic strain, demonstrating that structured support can pave the way for lasting freedom. By addressing immediate and long-term needs, Aleph built a model for recovery, ensuring no one faces reintegration alone and giving ex-inmates the tools to thrive with purpose and connection. Our efforts this past year showed that practical care can rewrite futures, strengthening the community one life at a time.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAM

Incarceration is incredibly expensive, costing the state \$60,000 for state prisoners, and \$33,000 for county inmates annually. Aleph's alternative sentencing program in 2025 supported dozens of individuals.

Through over 20 local partners, collaborating with courts to arrange community service instead of jail, we were able to preserve families and provide job opportunities, while reducing public expenses.

Our team provided ongoing guidance to ensure participants avoided prison's lasting harms, working closely with local organizations to advocate for fairer outcomes that prioritized recovery and rehabilitation over punishment.

Our successful efforts kept parents at home and their families futures intact, showing that tailored justice can heal communities. People serving society rather than time spent under incarceration allows for a second chance, and allows for rehabilitation work that is grounded in practical and effective support. Volunteers and allies within the court system helped create plans that restored lives with stability, and played a key role in bringing our goals into fruition.

This program helps remove the financial and social toll of incarceration, offering the country a plan for humane sentencing that fosters growth rather than division. By keeping families together, Aleph strengthened the community's fabric, demonstrating that care-driven justice not only saves costs, but also builds a stronger, more cohesive future for all involved.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Incarceration is isolating: it severs ties with the community and for our Jewish inmates, separates them from their faith, which adds onto an even more overwhelming feeling of isolating and abandonment. To counteract these effects, our religious services program provides spiritual services.

We provided the Torah Weekly newsletter, counseling, virtual sermons, holiday supplies such as Shabbat Candles and Passover Seder items to enable observation, and our Aleph library for Jewish texts and books. Through our regional volunteers, we were able to expand our scope for providing spiritual materials to individuals.

Our efforts prove the resilience of our community members under incarceration, and how they can remain connected to society through their faith.



Dorothy's Program

Aleph's Dorothy Program provided dedicated support, with staff and volunteers offering regular visits and spiritual care to dozens, ensuring dignity amidst institutionalization. By delivering counseling and religious resources, we helped patients maintain their Jewish identity, fostering a sense of connection with their community. Partnerships with regional organizations expanded our reach, reflecting Aleph's commitment to care, proving how empathy offers comfort and a sense of hope to those who feel lonely or abandoned in state hospitals.

12 Step Program

Incarceration and addiction are closely intertwined. Addiction is isolating and can lead to reoffending, placing individuals in an revolving door of incarceration. With the 12 Step Program, we helped individuals achieve and maintain sobriety through the support of their peers and community. Care is transformative during the process of recovery. Through hosting weekly meetings with help from our local organizers, we saw great success for our participants. Our program helped strengthen our community and prove how regimented support is important work which helps rebuild lives.

SHIFRA PROGRAM



ABOUT

The Shifra Program, named for a midwife in the Torah committed to protecting human life and ensuring that families thrive, is a resource available to mothers in Pittsburgh’s Jewish communities. The program was established in partnership with and funding from Allegheny County’s Department of Human Services. The Aleph Institute embodies the spirit of Shifra’s legacy in community-based programming that supports families in all aspects of their lives, through the Shifra Program, Shifra After-School Program, and the Shifra Shed food pantry.

SERVICES OFFERED

Caseworkers are dedicated to supporting women and their families by providing or connecting them with the following services: employment, housing, food, school supplies, childcare, mental health resources, and women’s support groups.

**If you or someone you know could benefit from the services offered by the Aleph Institute’s Project Shifra, please contact:
shifra@alephne.org or 412- 421-0111 Ext. 115**



SHIFRA SHED

Food insecurity challenges Pittsburgh's Jewish community, with kosher options often limited and expensive.

In 2025, Aleph's Shifra Shed, supported by grants and partnering with 412 Food Rescue, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, individual donors, Giant Eagle, and other local organizations, we provided fresh produce, baked goods, and 40-50 ready-made meals, distributing over 1½ tons of food weekly.

By removing barriers to food, our community can focus on what is truly important. This discreet pantry ensures dignified access, relieving hunger and supporting faith practices, encouraging healthier lives in Squirrel Hill.

MIRIAM'S CENTER & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Pittsburgh's Jewish women often face isolation due to a lack of culturally acceptable spaces. In 2025, Aleph's Miriam's Center continued providing a welcoming social setting for women, offering counseling that is culturally appropriate, workshops, and gatherings to build community ties, with caseworkers tailoring support to address challenges like financial stress. The Shifra Afterschool Program aided youth in our community daily with free homework help, activities, and hot meals in a nurturing environment, fostering academic progress and easing parental burdens.

Local partnerships ensured access to resources, strengthening both programs. Aleph's 2025 efforts empowered women and children, providing appropriate social and practical support empowers Pittsburgh's Jewish families, creating a resilient community through care and connection.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUES

Private Donations	125,075.29
Foundations	58,289.06
Government Contracts	153,585.21

TOTAL REVENUES **336,949.56**

EXPENSES

Salaries and Wages	153,674.52
Hospital Programs	16,214.78
In-Prison Programs	42,178.42
Training Programs	23,365.08
Re-Entry Programs	32,215.78
General Admin and Fundraising	28,259.71
Shifra Programs	67,320.14

TOTAL EXPENSES **363,228.43**

NET TOTAL **-26.728.87**



**ALEPH
INSTITUTE**
No One Alone,
No One Forgotten.

EXECUTIVE BOARD



Marty Davis
Chairman



Neil Notkin



Estelle Comay



Eytan Rosenthal
Treasurer



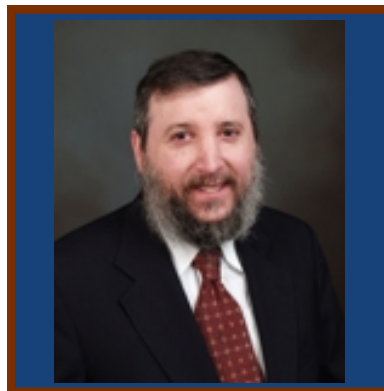
Chuck Perlow



Jon Pushinsky



Jim Lieber Esq.



Charlie Saul



Bill Rudolph



ALEPH INSTITUTE

No One Alone,
No One Forgotten.

Aleph Institute is grateful for all our supporters and donors. We deeply appreciate your consistent commitment over the past 36 years in establishing vital resources for both the Jewish community in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, and incarcerated Jewish individuals in the Northeastern United States. Your enduring support has been instrumental in making a meaningful impact in our communities. Thank you for being an integral part of our mission, we would not be able to do it without you.

THANK YOU!



412-421-0111



5804 Beacon St. Pittsburgh, PA 15217



info@alephne.org



alephne.org