

Corporate Commitment Links Campus and Community

"Im ein kemach, ein Torah; im ein Torah, ein kemach – where there is no substance there can be no Torah; where there is no Torah, there can be no substance."

Pirkei Avot 3:17

Simon Lazarus, a rabbi and gifted businessman, may never have imagined that the apparel store he founded a hundred years ago would someday contribute to the advancement of his beloved Reform Judaism. After studying to be a rabbi in Wurtenburg, Germany, Lazarus relocated to Columbus, Ohio, in 1850, where a small congregation was searching for a spiritual leader. Lazarus served as the rabbi without compensation during the years 1851-1855 and at the same time launched his new store. Working closely with his two sons, Fred and Ralph, he served as President and owner of S. Lazarus & Sons until his death in 1877, when the store was renamed F. & R. Lazarus. Years later, F. & R. Lazarus & Co. merged with Abraham & Straus of Brooklyn, Filene's of Boston, and Bloomingdale's of New York to form the merchandising giant Federated Department Stores.

Simon Lazarus's lifelong commitment to Reform Judaism continues to be sustained today through Federated Department Stores' generous support for HUC-JIR's academic programs and treasured research resources. This corporate support reflects the strong partnerships that have been forged between HUC-JIR and Cincinnati's business community. It also demonstrates the corporate community's appreciation for HUC-JIR's significant contributions to the educational and cultural life of Cincinnati and the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana tri-state region.

During the past twenty-three years, the annual HUC-JIR Cincinnati Associates Tribute Dinner has honored a number of distinguished corporate executives in recognition of their commitment to



HUC-JIR's mission. This past year, the honoree was Richard K. Davis, President and Chief Operating Officer of U.S. Bancorp, an exemplary model of civic and philanthropic leadership and achievement.

Millions of dollars have been granted to HUC-JIR throughout the years by neighbors and friends in the corporate community. American Financial Group, Inc.; Bartlett & Company; Cincinnati Bell; Cincinnati Financial Corporation; Cinergy; Cintas Corporation; Corporex Companies, Inc.; Federated Department Stores; Fifth Third Bank; Frisch's Restaurant, Inc.; GE Aircraft Engine; National City Bank; Ohio National Financial Services; PNC Bank; Procter & Gamble; The E. W. Scripps Company; The Kroger Co.; Time Warner Cable; U.S.



(Above) At the 2005 Cincinnati Associates Tribute Dinner: Rabbi Ellenson presenting a tzedakah box to Richard K. Davis, President and Chief Operating Officer of U.S. Bancorp.

(Left) Karen M. Hoguet, Tribute Dinner Co-Chair and CFO, Federated Department Stores.

(Right) Joseph A. Pichler, Former Chairman of the Board, The Kroger Co., and Thomas G. Cody, Vice Chair, Federated Department Stores.

Bank; University of Cincinnati; Western and Southern Life Insurance Company; and Xavier University are just a few of those that have helped make many of HUC-JIR's programs, centers, and exhibitions possible.

The potential for corporate partnerships is growing with the planned renovation and transformation of the historic Cincinnati campus. The development of innovative programming, educational facilities, and leadership training resources will further enrich the diverse religious, educational, and communal institutions and organizations of Cincinnati and will have an impact on the North American Jewish community and throughout the world.

Simon Lazarus's legacy as a rabbi and businessman symbolizes the enduring symbiosis between the College-Institute and its corporate supporters, where the values of faith, education, culture, and heritage, together with the support of philanthropic resources, strengthen the foundations of community and ensure continuity. Simon Lazarus would surely be proud that his own aspirations are being fulfilled a century later by HUC-JIR's training of rabbis who will lead Reform congregations, similar to the one he once served.

