

Molly McGuire

From: Dana Azose <danaaz@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 9:08 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: The JCC builds future leaders

I have been a member of the JCC my entire life. I grew up there, and later I raised my own children there. I'm sure you've heard many reasons why people choose to invest in the J, but I'd like to share one that is especially meaningful to me.

The J doesn't just serve families—it helps shape the next generation by giving young people meaningful opportunities to work, lead, and grow. Both of my children, along with countless others, got their first jobs at the J as camp counselors. They learned responsibility, accountability, teamwork, and what it means to show up for others.

For my daughter, working as a camp counselor sparked a passion for teaching. She went on to earn her master's degree in education and now has a career she truly loves. My son chose a different professional path and works in banking, but the values he developed at the J stayed with him. For the past 15 years, he has continued to coach youth sports, giving back to the next generation in the same spirit that the J invested in him.

Today's job market is challenging, and it can be difficult for young people to gain the experience employers value. The J provides that critical first opportunity. Every summer I watch new camp counselors, lifeguards, coaches, and teachers begin their journeys there, building confidence, developing leadership skills, and discovering passions that often last a lifetime.

I am proud to support an organization that strengthens our community not only through its programs, but by investing in young people and helping develop the skills, character, and leadership of our future.

Thanks for your consideration,
Dana Azose