

Why Do We Need Generations at Shalom Park?

According to a 2020 study by Arnold Dashefsky and Ira M Sheskin for the American Jewish Yearbook, only 2.2% of Americans and 0.4% of North Carolinians self-identified as Jewish. Because we are such a small minority, it is important to develop and sustain a Jewish identity and incorporate Jewish community in our daily lives. To achieve this, the Charlotte Jewish community built Shalom Park, and we have intentionally dedicated significant resources to organizations that enrich our Jewish lives and nurture strong Jewish identities. Beginning with preschool, we offer Jewish educational experiences to our children, and continue with educational offerings, like the Charlotte Jewish day School, Hebrew school and the LJCC Camp Mindy. We support Jewish agencies like the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services that respect and support our Jewish values.

Exploring and expressing our Jewish identities is not just for our children - it is a life-long endeavor. That is why Jewish senior living communities exist and why we are building Generations at Shalom Park.

Generations at Shalom Park will be a community founded on Jewish values and culture. Judaism believes that body and soul are partners in human life. As such, Generations takes a uniquely holistic approach to living, focusing on the spiritual, physical wellness, and emotional well-being. Generations is uniquely positioned to offer this holistic approach by allowing residents to take full advantage of all of the Jewish oriented agencies that already exist on Shalom Park, as well as the specially built facilities at Generations. Below are some of the holistic opportunities that will be available to residents:

- Spiritual – Temples will be an easy walk or golf cart ride. There will be a Rabbi providing chaplain services at Generations. Kosher meals will be available. Generations will follow the Jewish calendar, and it will be easy to observe the Sabbath, as well as all other Jewish holidays.
- Physical – Generations will have a dedicated fitness center in its Commons Building. Residents will also automatically be members of the LJCC with full access to its amenities. Walking paths will wind throughout Shalom Park.
- Emotional – Generations will be a haimish community, warm and welcoming. It will be small enough to feel like a neighborhood and large enough to meet new friends. Volunteer opportunities on Shalom Park help create a sense of purpose.

Generations at Shalom Park will be an extension of the vibrant culture that exists on Shalom Park and will enable residents to engage in our Jewish community each-and-every day. The name Generations references L'dor V'dor – from Generation to Generation, an important Jewish value. This name indicates a commitment to the multi-generational characteristic of Generations. Being with people of all ages renews the spirit, combats isolation, and allows us to continually form new relationships and pass on traditions. Generations at Shalom Park is mission-bound to respect and promote the Jewish perspectives, traditions, and beliefs of its residents. It provides a senior living alternative that respects and honors Jewish heritage.

With aging comes the desire to spend more time living among culture and traditions that are familiar. Concerns about antisemitism make it important to have the opportunity to be among those with whom we share life experiences and values. As we age, this is not always easy to do. Physical limitations, transportation issues, and isolation prevent many of our elders from participating. Because Generations is a Jewish living community located in the heart of our Jewish community, it addresses these barriers. Residents can be part of the community as much as they want to be. No other senior living community in Charlotte can offer this.

That is why we are building Generations at Shalom Park!