

2016 NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP CABINET STUDY MISSION
April 4, 2016



NYL Cabinet Members at the Berlin Half Marathon, Sunday, April 3, 2016

Hello from Berlin!

‘Isn’t it wonderful that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.’ – Anne Frank

Seventy-three leaders in their 30s and 40s arrived in Germany yesterday to participate in the 2016 National Young Leadership Cabinet Study Mission to Berlin and Israel. Seventeen NYL Cabinet members spent the day running in the 36th annual Berlin Half Marathon to raise funds for Israelis in need, with their Cabinet friends lining the streets as their greatest cheerleaders.

This initiative – coordinated by third-year Cabinet member Lee Murnick from Greater MetroWest, New Jersey – exemplifies the Jewish values reflected in Anne Frank’s words. Lee said, “For me, planning and running this race was about bonding with other young North American Jews who want to be connected and help fellow Jews whether they are our neighbors at home or living overseas or in Israel. Our Cabinet study mission is about Jewish continuity and leadership: understanding our past and ensuring our Jewish future. During the mission, we will meet many people who are Federation beneficiaries, and we will bring their inspiring stories back home to share the importance of why we do what we do as Jewish leaders in our communities.”

National Young Leadership Cabinet is a multi-year training program for top lay leaders and philanthropists, 30-45 years old. First launched in 1963, the National YL Cabinet builds a pipeline of innovative, energized and forward-looking volunteer talent for the Federation movement and broader Jewish community.

What better way to put into action the value of *tikkun olam* than to have young Jewish leaders proudly running through Berlin to raise funds and awareness and to help others? The half marathon participants trained very hard on their own time and worked with JDC and JFNA to leverage their hard work as a fundraiser for The Accessible Health Zone and the Witness Theater programs.

The Accessible Health Zone (AHZ) is committed to assisting Israel's most vulnerable populations — among them, people with disabilities and special needs. JDC's AHZ aims to reverse these trends. Participants are provided with tools and programming in a supportive network to help lead more active, healthier lifestyles. The Study Mission group will be visiting the Health Zone in Rishon Letzion next week.

Witness Theater is a JDC program that connects high school students with Holocaust survivors, giving the survivors a way to share their memories with the next generation. The students and survivors get to know each other well, meeting every week over the course of the school year. With the help of a drama therapist, they create a play in which the students act out the survivors' experiences and the survivors serve as narrators.

To date, they have raised **\$11,539**, and the contributions are still coming in! You can donate at <http://support.jdc.org/halfmarathon>.

We should all be very proud – it was an amazing feeling running through the streets of Berlin! What an amazing way to kick off the mission. During the week-long Study Mission, Cabinet members will commemorate the victims of the Holocaust through meeting with survivors and visiting memorials, including the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and Track 17. The group will also engage with the young Jewish professionals of Berlin and learn about the thriving local community and have lunch with the Israeli ambassador as well as the American ambassador, before heading to Israel for Shabbat.

Looking forward to a wonderful journey! Please join follow our Mission on social media - #thisiscabinet. Applications for the next class of Cabinet members are now open and continue through May 10. For more information, contact [Lisa Robbins](#).

The NYL Cabinet Study Mission Team