

Kimberley Kushner

Why I joined BCLC:

Since moving to Kansas City with my husband in 2016, I have been actively engaged in supporting our local Jewish community through a number of committees and councils. In doing so, I've discovered a true sense of belonging at the J and have been so impressed with the collaborative, customer-service driven atmosphere the staff and volunteers create daily. I could not imagine my life in KC without the J, and I am looking for a way to give back.

What I hope to accomplish through BCLC:

Most of my Jewish community engagement revolves around my family, and I am excited to apply my expertise in fundraising, volunteer/project management, and external relations/constituent engagement as a member of BCLC. Research for my doctoral dissertation at UMKC has focused largely on the importance of young Jewish people feeling a sense of belonging and being called to serve as engaged future leaders in their community. I want to play a part in supporting the J's mission to build a strong, vibrant, and inclusive community that enhances wellness, meaning, and joy, based on Jewish values, heritage, and culture.

The J value that resonates most with me:

The J value that resonates most with me is *Welcoming and Inclusive (Hachnasat Orchim)* because the J strives to provide an environment where everyone is respected and valued. The J achieves this task through a variety of manners that involve its staff/volunteers, its infrastructure, and its active and passive programmatic offerings. The J is a holistic community center, and I am excited to learn more and help this organization nurture and care for members and non-members of all backgrounds.