



Members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City and Moore Public School District officials participate in a ribbon cutting at the Moore Central Junior High School stadium just prior to the first football game of the 2014 season. A grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City helped to rebuild the facility that was damaged in the May 2013 tornado.

Oklahoma City Jewish Community Foundation *Helping to Bring a Community Back Together*

The idea of “community” can mean different things to different people. For many residents of Moore, Okla., their sense of community was undone when a tornado devastated the area in May 2013, taking with it many neighborhoods, businesses and schools that had served as local gathering places for the community.

The football stadium at Central Junior High School was one of the most prominent landmarks badly damaged in the storms.

The 50-year-old facility is a place where generations of students participated in events ranging from football games to Civil War reenactments. In 1999, the Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City established the Oklahoma City Jewish Community Foundation, an endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Thanks to a \$900,018 grant from the endowment fund, the stadium was rebuilt and related facilities upgraded so the Moore community can once again come together and unite behind their sense of school pride.

Edie Roodman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Oklahoma City, says the grant amount of \$900,018 was significant because the number 18 symbolizes “life” in the Hebrew language, and in the Jewish faith gifts in increments of \$18 bring blessings.

“This particular facility is the heartbeat of the district, and I think really more than that the heartbeat of Moore in general,” says Edie Roodman, the federation’s executive director. “I think that it certainly underscores ‘Moore Strong’ and the Jewish Federation is extremely honored to have such a meaningful partnership.”

The stadium was completed in September 2014, just days before the first football game of the season.



A Moore Junior High football player on his way to scoring the first touchdown in the rebuilt stadium.