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SHINING A LIGHT

Rabbi Chaim and Bassy Landa

No Jew left behind!

That is the mission of Rabbi Chaim and Bassy Landa. This local Jewish power couple moved to Saint Charles in 2019 and founded the Chabad Jewish Center of St. Charles County. Since then, they have been serving as its directors and spiritual leaders for the County's nearly 6,000 Jews.

"We want to create a space where every Jew feels at home," says Rabbi Chaim Landa. "The Rebbe, Rabbi Schneerson, taught that Judaism is a birthright; it's yours from the get-go and we really try to eliminate all potential barriers and allow people to engage at whatever level they feel most comfortable."

With Rabbi Chaim's background in community relations and Bassy's childhood education career, they've exceeded every expectation and have already brought so many opportunities to the Jewish community in Saint Charles.

Area Jews who once thought they were alone have now found solace and community at their many annual events, such as the upcoming "St. Charles Jewish Festival," "Rosh Hashanah in the Park," and "Chanukah on Main Street."

"I give a lot of credit to Mayor Dan," says Rabbi Chaim. "A lot of what you'll see at the festival is his vision, his encouragement, and his eagerness to really embrace and support this community."

Rabbi Chaim and Bassy married in 2016 and have three daughters: Chaya, Mussia, and Cherna. A young family themselves, they've made it a primary focus to provide for other young, Jewish families. The Chabad Jewish Center regularly hosts community Shabbat and Holiday celebrations, as well as "Mommy and Me" get-togethers and "Young Family Shabbat Dinners" specifically focused on a younger demographic.

"We are beyond thrilled to, once again, bring the Jewish Festival to St. Charles and create an opportunity for the entire community, Jews and non-Jews, to celebrate our county's diversity and learn about Jewish life and culture," says Bassy Landa, who, in addition to her many other responsibilities, also directs the "St. Charles Jewish Family Network," a warm and child-friendly community for young Jewish families.

Meet Rabbi Chaim and Bassy Landa at the second annual "St. Charles Jewish Festival" on Sunday, August 14th at the Foundry Art Centre. To secure your FREE ticket, visit www.JewishStCharles.org/Festival.

