Rabbi Mendy Labkowski

Founder & Executive Director, Chabad Center for Jewish Life of Buffalo · Director, Chabad Young Professionals (CYP) Buffalo · Chaplain, Buffalo Police Department, Kaleida Health & ECMC



SUGGESTED IDENTIFICATION

> Rabbi Mendy Labkowski, founder and executive director of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life of Buffalo and a chaplain with the Buffalo Police Department

SHORT BIO

Rabbi Mendy Labkowski is the founder and executive director of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life of Buffalo, which he co-directs with his wife, Chaya Mushka; together they opened Chabad of downtown Buffalo in 2021. He is also director of Chabad Young Professionals (CYP) Buffalo. Born and raised in Amherst, he studied at Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto before receiving rabbinical ordination in 2018 and judicial ordination as a rabbinic judge in 2020. He is a chaplain with the Buffalo Police Department and at Kaleida Health and Erie County Medical Center (ECMC).

Full bio

Rabbi Mendy Labkowski is the founder and executive director of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life of Buffalo, which he co-directs with his wife, Chaya Mushka. Together they opened Chabad of downtown Buffalo in 2021 to serve the thousands of Jews living in the city's neighborhoods, from the medical campus and Allentown to Elmwood Village and Canalside. He is also director of Chabad Young Professionals (CYP) Buffalo, a growing community of Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s.

Born and raised in Amherst, Rabbi Labkowski studied at Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto and spent a year of study in Brooklyn, New York. In 2015–2016 he served the Jewish community of Caracas, Venezuela, and later taught in Brooklyn. He received rabbinical ordination from the Central Chabad Yeshiva in Brooklyn, NY, in 2018, and judicial ordination as a rabbinic judge in 2020.

He serves as a chaplain with the Buffalo Police Department and at Kaleida Health and Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), offering spiritual care, crisis response and grief support. He officiates Jewish weddings, bris ceremonies, bar and bat mitzvahs and funerals throughout Western New York, and is a frequent voice on local television and radio and in national Jewish media on Jewish life, the Jewish holidays and the issues facing Buffalo's Jewish community.

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