

# WINDSOR STAR

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## Zekelman family donates \$15M to Holocaust Memorial Center

*The latest gift from Barry Zekelman and Zekelman Industries to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan, is the largest single donation in the center's history.*

By Dalson Chen



Exterior of the Zekelman Family Campus at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. PHOTO BY MARX LAYNE AND COMPANY /Windsor Star

The Holocaust Memorial Center in Michigan is thanking the Windsor-Essex region's billionaire Zekelman family for making a major donation to the organization's efforts.

On Tuesday, the centre announced it has received a \$15-million donation from Zekelman Industries — a “transformational gift” that represents the single largest charitable contribution the centre has received in its history.

“We are truly humbled by and grateful for the continued generosity of the Zekelman family and Zekelman Industries,” said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, the centre’s chief executive officer.

“This major donation will enable us to expand the important work we do to teach the lessons of the Holocaust and confront antisemitism and hatred.”

The centre was founded a group of Holocaust survivors. After years of planning, the centre’s location was opened in 1984 with the expressed goal of educating and serving as a museum about the European Jewish experience during the Shoah.

In total, the Zekelmans have given \$25 million to the organization over the years. The center’s campus is named for the Zekelman family.

Barry Zekelman, chair and CEO of Zekelman Industries, said his family has “always been impressed by the positive and lasting impact the Holocaust Memorial Center has had on millions of lives. It’s truly inspiring.”

“With anti-Semitism and hate crime on the rise, we feel a sense of urgency to help organizations like the Holocaust Memorial Center that are passionately working to combat it.”

The organization plans on using the Zekelman family’s gift for operational funding, facility maintenance, and expansion of programs such as educational offerings, travelling exhibits, and special events.

The center estimates it has had more than a million visitors since its founding. Along with its 55,000-square-foot museum, the facility has core exhibits such as a memorial wall, an eternal flame, a boxcar used by Nazi Germany during the Second World War, a tree dedicated to Anne Frank, and more.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is the only facility of its kind in Michigan.

Barry Zekelman said Zekelman Industries strives not only to be a leader in industry, but in philanthropic activities involving employees and business peers.

Zekelman Industries can trace its roots to Atlas Tube — a structural steel tubing company founded by Harry Zekelman in Harrow in 1984.

Now headquartered in Chicago, Zekelman Industries is the largest independent steel pipe and tube manufacturer in North America, and is also an innovator in modular construction.