Why JCF? The mission of the Foundation is to honor the values of tzedakah and tikkun olam. By creating permanent and temporary resources we help meet the ever-changing challenges and needs of the Jewish community. We help individuals, families and affiliates experience the rewards of giving and the impact of their current, planned and endowed gifts. Foundation grants serve the needs of the local and global Jewish community.

Our JCF serves the broader Central PA Jewish Community. We support Jewish cemeteries in North Central PA, and worked with York and Reading Jewish Communities on legacy programs. We manage over $25 M in assets in nearly 100 Donor Advised Funds, established by folks like you and I, and another 300 restricted funds supporting specific Jewish organizations. The Foundation presently distributes over $2 M per year to Jewish causes and organizations, mostly right here in Central PA. The JCF and your donor advised and endowed funds are essential to the Central PA Jewish Community.

Thank you JCF Board members, for your willingness to serve, dedicating countless hours offering your time and talents in the service of our community. Thank you to those who have completed their terms. Thank you to our donors for your support of our Jewish Community and the causes that are important to you. You are ensuring and securing the future of our Jewish Community here and throughout the world. You have trusted us to help you create and manage your legacy.

Through the Foundation, you, our Donors lend your hands of hope and comfort to others. You improve Jewish lives, ensure that our synagogues - our spiritual homes - are always open, and that our Jewish Community Centers are gathering places for all to enjoy- now and for the future.

With 70 pockets of Jewish life it is a lofty goal for our JCF to ensure a vibrant Jewish community for today and a secure Jewish future. Here is a taste of what we are doing now and planning for the future:

1. The JCF has undertaken to manage and is in the process of developing plans to ensure the future of 5 Jewish cemeteries in North Central PA where communities are shrinking.
2. We are strategizing how to identify and assess Jewish community needs; connect donors to the those needs; ask you how you want to have an impact on the lives of our people and our future; and build financial resources that will address the needs of our people to ensure life with dignity for every Jew.
3. We saw needs during the COVID-19 crisis, so we acted.

The Steering Committee reviewed what people needed, and came up with new or existing funds to respond to those emergent needs. Extraordinary times are trying for us all; more so for our people facing enormous hardships. Donors want their gifts to have an impact and help in a meaningful way. That is what our JCF does. We reflect on past planning and make corrections as we move forward. We learn about what we are - and are not - able to do to respond to the needs of our people. We develop strategies and mechanisms to assure the sustainability and viability of Jewish life in our region.

With humility and pride, the Foundation acknowledges we have this opportunity to relieve some suffering. Thank you for joining us on this journey supporting our Jewish friends, neighbors and community when help is needed most. We appreciate your willingness to support the efforts of the JCF to provide life with dignity for every Jew during these challenging times. Thank you for being part of our Jewish Community Foundation family and for all that you do to sustain Jewish life now and ensure our Jewish future.

Many of you, our donors, have made gifts to help with critical needs of struggling families. Your gifts have given our people a reason to hope! Please consider contributing and choose from these 5 JCF sponsored funds to help meet emergent needs & make an impact on our community.

Emergent Needs Fund: 100% of your gifts during the COVID 19 Pandemic will be used to support people in the Jewish community of Central PA who are in need of critical financial assistance. Through this fund we have been providing fresh kosher food and grants to pay for food.

Free Loan Fund: Provides interest free loans to families who have exhausted other sources of financial assistance. Recipients will not be asked to repay the loan. They will be asked to pay it forward by making gifts to the Free Loan Fund when they are able to help replenish the fund.

Never Again Holocaust Education Fund: Your gift will support Holocaust education and curriculum resources for teachers - and other initiatives - to teach lessons of the Holocaust to help prevent anti-Semitism, bigotry and hate behavior. We are working in collaboration with Penn State to present this program that was developed and is supported by the PA State Department of Education.

Legacy Program Fund: Your gift will keep our community wide Legacy Program building critical financial resources to provide support for our Jewish community. Legacy gifts are essential to our future. Many gifts are already benefiting our people now. We can say yes to a legacy gift even if we cannot say yes to cash gifts now. We help you create and manage your legacy.

Philanthropic Fund: Our beloved synagogues and Jewish agencies are keeping us connected through creative virtual community programs. Even without face to face events they have financial needs. You are providing grants to help with new, unanticipated technology needs that will ensure our synagogues, seniors and youth stay connected. Such as audio equipment to ensure isolated seniors with hearing challenges can talk to their families.

We are working in collaboration with Penn State to present this program that was developed and is supported by the PA State Department of Education.

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