



Jewish Community Foundation
of Central Pennsylvania



The
CORNERSTONE

August 2020

of the Community

Your Gifts Improve Lives

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AND YOU

Foundation dug deep, researched needs and developed several initiatives to help our friends and neighbors in the Central PA region weather this COVID 19 pandemic storm. Our Steering Committee wanted research to determine which funds to create that would best address the needs of our Central PA community. Community professionals and leaders provided details, Foundation's Executive Committee and Board agreed, and the funds (see last page) became reality.

By working together to research community needs, inquiring of our local experts and community leaders, asking businesses and you, our donors for your financial and other support we are reducing the toll of this pandemic on our Jewish families and neighbors and people we don't even know.

Thanks to your generosity our community families know that we are here for them. They can feel confident in our confidentiality - that we understand how at any time any of us might need that outstretched hand of hope and comfort. Today it is our neighbors.

You are improving the lives of our fellow Jews and others and in the most Jewish way - anonymously. Ensuring life with dignity for every Jew. **Thank you!**

DID YOU KNOW, Foundation created the **Never Again Holocaust Education Fund** to provide resources to help educators effectively utilize lessons of the Holocaust to stem the tide of hatred, prevent genocide and respect human rights, so never again means never again for anyone. It is currently a local collaboration with Penn State, providing a standardized curriculum to teachers and college students. Since the Federal government passed the Never Again Education Act the initiative is expanding and may even become a national initiative with national Jewish and Christian groups participating. Contact us for more information and to discuss how you might help.

You have heard anti-Semitic attacks have reached their highest levels since 1979 (resources say even since the Shoah). Recently, two congregations in Northern PA and one locally, were subject to anti-Semitic incidents. One Northern cemetery was vandalized.

Our Central PA region is home to 70 pockets of Jewish life. On October 27th 2019, Foundation, along with the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP), convened all 70 communities. Their greatest desire is more engagement with other Jews. We work with JCLP to help them plan and sustain their Jewish congregations and provide adequate resources for their cemeteries in perpetuity. Foundation manages five Jewish cemeteries and is working with others on plans for their perpetual care. Some Central PA communities have no more Jews yet have cemeteries and no adequate funds to care for them.

JCLP and the Foundation hosted a Western Central PA regional Tu B'av collaborative program. We are currently working with West Shore and Northern contingents in planning collaborative High Holiday services. Many no longer have buildings and those holding services are offering others the ability to join their services virtually. Their greatest financial need as congregations is technology to keep their congregants, especially immobile older adults, connected.

THANKS TO THE MANY OF YOU WHO SAID YES, OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS HAVE NUTRITIOUS FOOD

Making a choice between feeding your family nutritious meals or keeping the lights on, or the roof over your head or paying medical bills, is no longer a concern for many in our community. Thanks to you!

A fresh kosher food pantry and nutritious meal boxes for children under age 18 ensure that community members can feed their families fresh fruits, vegetables and even meat – not just belly fillers as one woman put it. She shared, “My family has not had meat in months.” Thanks to the generosity of donors who said “yes” to gifts to support the special **Emergent Needs Fund** of the Foundation her family has fresh, nutritious meal options.

As one local community leader put it, “We would not have these food initiatives without the financial support of our Jewish Foundation.”

HUMANITY DEPENDS ON PHILANTHROPY

From mid-March, when the shut-down occurred, through mid-June, Norman Gras, Kosher Food Consultant was a one man initiative offering his own food and feeding families. Thanks to the collaboration between our generous donors who said “yes, I want to help ensure my neighbors have adequate food and other needed resources to help them through” the Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA has been able to step in and offer financial resources that have expanded the number of families receiving food.

PLEASE HELP US HELP THE COMMUNITY

In addition to your generous donations, keep us informed. As donors you can be our eyes and ears in the community to help us better serve our people. What are the needs of our community members that you have learned about? Is there a way we can help?

The Foundation strives to be a trusted resource for the Jewish community. A Jewish Foundation that all can turn to in good times and now when we are all facing such challenges. If you are able to, help ease the pain by making a donation to our special COVID funds or any fund of your choice. Your gifts improve lives. On behalf of those whose lives are blessed by your largesse, **thank you!**

Thanks to our donors and volunteers who help with distribution, through the Fresh Kosher Food Pantry, food initiatives for children including the 5 breakfasts and lunches per week, families and children received more than 3000 meals in July!



Please contact the Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA to assist with any COVID 19 initiative or create your own.

Please let us know of needs in our community. We are always here to help.

For more information about any of the many Foundation initiative and to create your own, please contact Paulette Keifer, Executive Director at 904-307-2413 or at pajewishendowment.org. Mail contributions to 3211 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, Pa 17110 or visit us at pajewishendowment.org to **DONATE NOW.**

WHO WE ARE HELPING IN OUR COMMUNITY

It is Jewish tradition to giving anonymously. We understand that it is our responsibility and desire to respect the dignity, never embarrass - and maintain the confidentiality of those who today are in need of assistance. We extend an outstretched hand of hope and comfort anonymously to ensure the dignity of our fellow neighbors and friends. Today we stand shoulder to shoulder with them as we all work through this shared crisis.

Details removed to protect the confidentiality and dignity of the recipients.

A community Rabbi asked for help for a family in need of sustenance for their young children. For months we have been able to provide for food and other critical needs.

Single mothers with children, affected by COVID income losses.

A single mother without the ability to commute for the meals for children under 18 receives fresh kosher food delivered, weekly for her family.

Several families with job losses due to COVID.

Elderly couples and singles in our community call for food assistance. They appreciate the help and knowledge that someone is caring enough to check up on them and bring them nutritious food. Especially fresh fruit, vegetables and just something special.

The Jewish Group Homes have been quarantined since March. Bringing them Challah, grape juice, and other foods have been appreciated by the staff as well as residents.



COMMENTS FROM THOSE YOU ARE HELPING WITH YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

- ◆ Fortunately, the JCF pulled together to answer the call with a "YES!"
- ◆ "Thank you! The boxes are wonderful. The choice of food was inspired and varied. I love the inclusion of so much fresh fruit and veg! Thanks you for the hard work."
- ◆ "My kids are enjoying their meals...great idea. Thank you."
- ◆ "Compliments to you!"
- ◆ "Hello there! My boys' lunch always have me feeling jealous. (thank you)"
- ◆ "Since the beginning of COVID-19 in Mid March, Norman Gras Kosher Food Consultant and the Jewish Foundation of Central PA have been able to answer the call."



Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to keep our Jewish community vibrant and to ensure life with dignity for every Jew.

Historically Jews have pulled together to offer aid to our Jewish friends, neighbors and community. Please join us now. Let's *go above and beyond* to ensure life with dignity for every Jew.

You will give our people a reason to hope!

Choose from these 5 Foundation sponsored funds to help meet emergent needs of our community. Or choose another Foundation fund (or) create a fund that is meaningful to you.

Emergent Needs Fund (Community Impact Fund):

100% of gifts during the COVID 19 Pandemic will be used to support our people in the Jewish community of Central PA who have exhausted all other means of support and are in need of critical financial assistance.

Free Loan Fund: Provides interest free loans to families who have exhausted other sources of financial assistance. Recipients will not be obligated to repay the loan. They will be asked to *pay it forward* by making gifts to the Free Loan Fund when they are able, in any amount within their capacity, to help replenish the fund so it will be there for others who need it.



Legacy Program Fund:

Support year 5 of our community wide Legacy Program.

Through our legacy program we have been building critical financial resources. Many have already been received and are benefiting our people now. Legacy gifts give us hope that we can sustain our Jewish future. We can say yes to a legacy gift even if we cannot say yes to cash gifts now.

Never Again Holocaust Education Fund: "We are facing an epidemic of anti-Semitism and hate unlike anything I've ever witnessed." Rabbi Marvin Heir, Founder and Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

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 behaviors.

Philanthropy Fund of the JCF: Our synagogues and Jewish agencies are keeping us connected through creative virtual community programs. Even without events they have financial needs. There is also a need for more iPads for seniors and youths who have no way to stay connected. Food packages are essential for our children and older adults who are sheltering at home. Your gift can brighten their lives.

**Our new Executive Committee of the JCF
FY 9/2020-8/2021**



MICHAEL DOCTROW,
Chair



MAGGIE GROTZINGER,
Vice-Chair;
Finance Chair



STACY FELDMAN,
Secretary/
Treasurer



JOSH MILLMAN,
Immediate
Past Chair



SAM LEVINE,
Allocations
Chair



HARVEY FREEDENBERG,
Steering Chair



LEE SIEGEL,
Investment
Chair

Our Professional Team of the JCF

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