



Jeremy's Circle Potato Sack Races

Dear Friends of the Good People Fund:

I have never experienced an extended time of such need. We learn daily of people who struggle to put food on their table, a roof over their head or to pay a utility bill. The organizations with which we work are struggling to meet the demands as well. They too are small, work with minimal overhead and are overwhelmed with requests for services.

The Good People Fund, with the help of our donors who recognize and endorse our *unique and personal approach* to giving tzedakah, continues to disburse the funds we receive with *minimal bureaucracy and overhead* and prove daily that *any sum of money* can change lives.

We hope you will join us in this special work and want to share the stories of some new good people we have recently met.

Naomi

Spring 2010 Update

Jeremy's Circle

For children living with a family member with cancer, life is difficult. Often shuttled from friend to friend (or family member) while parents deal with the everyday demands of treatment, financial demands and anxiety about the outcome, the children's trauma is usually secondary to the primary focus. For Jeremy Coleman and his wife Pamela Becker, a young Israeli couple with three young children, this scenario played out for months when Jeremy was diagnosed with Stage 4 stomach cancer in 2007. When the couple's oldest child innocently mentioned her wish to have a friend who might also have a Dad with cancer, the search began as did the plans for an organization that could address this very real problem. During the last month of his life, barely a year since his initial diagnosis, Jeremy Coleman and his family developed the idea of Jeremy's Circle, an organization focused on bringing together children living with cancer in their families.

When we met with Pamela recently we learned how important Jeremy's Circle is to these kids and their families. At their latest event held during the Pesach season, kids enjoyed the activities of a local ecology center while the parents received support in a discussion with a psychologist, himself a widower who had brought his own kids.

In addition to these activities, Jeremy's Circle also sponsors a mentorship program with Hillel students on three Israeli university campuses. Students, many of whom have grown up with cancer in their own families, are paired with nearby children and provide a warm and supportive friendship.

With more than 5000 young families in Israel living with cancer in their midst we know that the funds the Good People Fund has committed to Jeremy's Circle are making a difference.

* www.jeremyscircle.org

AmpleHarvest.org

With an estimated one billion pounds of food thrown into landfills in this country each year and more than one in six people who rely on food pantries and soup kitchens to provide sustenance, creative solutions to hunger in America must be developed. Gary Oppenheimer, a N.J.-based master gardener is an innovative thinker who recognized that the copious amounts of healthy and delicious fresh vegetables, herbs and fruits grown by home gardeners could help to ease the needs of millions of people who cannot afford to feed themselves and their families.

Even if you are fortunate enough to get food from a local pantry or food bank, it is not likely that there will be fresh produce available. Gary began AmpleHarvest.org to address this need by creating a registry of all pantries and soup kitchens across the country. Home gardeners faced with more fresh produce than they could possibly use need only visit his site, find the nearest facility and drop off their excess. To date more than 1700 pantries and soup kitchens country-wide have registered on Ampleharvest.org, with more being added daily.

There are many simple but highly effective components that make up AmpleHarvest.org.

Based almost entirely on technology, there is no need for a large staff making this a very lean and direct program. Raising public awareness is Gary's primary focus right now and the Good People Fund has contributed in several ways to help make this happen.



Ample Harvest Collection Day

If you are a gardener you can help by donating your excess crop but anyone can be part of Gary's efforts by sharing word of AmpleHarvest.org and also by urging your local pantry or soup kitchen to visit <http://ampleharvest.org> so that they can register. It is really that simple.

* www.ampleharvest.org

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