

Small actions, huge impacts

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Dear Friends of the Good People Fund,

Conveying to you the reader the *impact* our efforts have on those we are able to help and how *effectively* we use donated funds to *leverage* them to their maximum potential, is our foremost responsibility. We hope the stories shared here succeed in conveying those achievements.

The past twelve months have been difficult for all of our grantees both in the States and in Israel. Many worry about funding shortfalls, but of greater concern to most are increased demand for services. This is particularly true for programs that help alleviate hunger. As the issue of hunger and food insecurity grows, so has a proliferation of *creative* hunger projects, some described here in our report. Even newer ones were discovered after the close of the last fiscal year. We know that both the United States and Israel produce sufficient food to nourish its citizens; the challenge is getting the food to where it is needed. Our hunger programs do this well albeit (mostly) on a small scale.

This year, we have intensified our focus on veterans, particularly in the United States. We have consistently recognized small effective efforts directed to Israel's veterans, but with two ongoing wars, United States veterans' needs have increased dramatically. We are fortunate to have discovered several new *good people* whose personal experiences have inspired them to respond with dynamic and effective programs.

We have accomplished much with your help. There is so much more to do. We ask you to join in our *tikkun olam* work and to share our work with others. If you are already a donor we respectfully ask you to give a bit more. If you have never contributed, we ask that you consider supporting our tzedakah efforts. The Good People Fund offers donors great value by identifying, mentoring and managing small, effective organizations doing excellent work.

Small *actions*, really do have huge impacts.

B'shalom,



Naomi K. Eisenberger, Executive Director

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* indicates new program

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To make an online donation go to www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate

Statement of Activities and Functional Expenses

for the Period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

Support and Revenue:				Total
Contributions				\$881,152
Investment Income				933
				882,085
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Grants:	727,200			727,200
Expenses:				
Salaries*	35,650	17,250	4,600	57,500
Payroll taxes	3,351	1,622	432	5,405
Web-related Expenses*	4,842	1,384	692	6,918
Bank and credit card fees	2,357	674	337	3,368
Filing fees	- 0	282	- 0	282
Insurance	1,168	334	166	1,668
Marketing*	11,100	- 0	7,400	18,500
Office	2,373	678	339	3,390
Payroll service	387	111	55	553
Postage and shipping	768	219	110	1,097
Printing	110	32	16	158
Professional fees	- 0	7,935	- 0	7,935
Telephone	286	82	41	409
Travel and entertainment	3,013	1,292	- 0	4,305
Total expenses	65,405	31,895	14,189	111,488
Total grants and expenses	792,605	31,895	14,189	838,688
Change in Net Assets				43,397
Net Assets at July 1, 2010				283,834
Net Assets at June 30, 2011				\$327,231

*These costs are underwritten by specific donations made available for that purpose.

Allocations

Organization	Allocation	Organization	Allocation
HUNGER		POVERTY	
AmpleHarvest.org	12,900.00	African Refugees Development Center	17,308.00
Darchei Tzion	2,480.00	Down the Block	4,000.00
Dinner Garden	3,701.18	Female Hebrew Benevolent Society	4,475.00
Family to Family	18,345.00	House to House	21,010.00
Hunger in Israel	24,302.50	Israel Free Loan Association	450.00
The Bagel Brigade	5,320.00	Kentucky	5,194.00
Youngstown Community Food Bank	7,861.96	Keren Segulat Naomi	10,536.00
Zehava and Karyn - Feeding the Neighbors	1,331.96	Restoration Haven	2,000.00
		Romema Families and Zev Birger, ז"ל	6,500.00
		Sunday Friends	13,000.00
		The Forgotten People Fund	62,789.00
		The Redistribution Center	25,600.00
		Yad Chessed	2,000.00
ELDERS		VETERANS IN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL	
Alice Jonah and The Diplomat Hotel	6,250.00	A Package From Home	75,234.00**
Independent Transportation Network		Home Front Hearts	17,811.57
ITNAmerica	2,200.00	Tzvika Levi and the Lone Soldier Program	39,182.23**
ITN North Central Connecticut	2,000.00	Veterans Farm	4,200.00
In Their Shoes	550.00		
LiLY - Lifeforce in Later Years	6,000.00		
Project Ezra	6,620.00		
Second Wind Dreams	4,350.00		
Survivor Mitzvah Project	6,800.00		
KIDS		THE WORLD OVER	
Art Creation Foundation for Children	8,900.00	Cuba America Jewish Mission	2,000.00
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Israel	13,776.00*	Kulanu	4,660.00
Bet Haya'el	56,506.00*	MayaWorks	1,610.80
Birthday Angels	4,960.00	The PanAfrican Acupuncture Project	4,000.00
Change the Truth	2,454.00		
Jack the Bikeman	3,500.00		
Lev Leytzan ~ Heart of A Clown	3,500.00		
Reading Village	1,500.00		
Shutaf	8,900.00		
St. Joseph's Baby Corner	2,337.26		
The Quincy Kids	662.30		
ILLNESS, DISABILITIES AND WELL-BEING		PEOPLE AND ANIMALS HEALING TOGETHER	
Amuta for Emotional Support	11,050.00	HAMA	26,947.34*
ATZUM	14,400.00	Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association	34,804.00*
Hosts for Hospitals	5,000.00		
Jeremy's Circle	21,903.00*		
NY Center for Law and Justice	3,000.00		
Volunteers in Psychotherapy	2,000.00		
		HUMAN NEEDS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
		Special Individual Needs and	66,527.09
		Holocaust Survivors and Righteous Gentiles	

* A portion of this grant was donor-recommended

** All of this grant was donor-recommended

HUNGER

AmpleHarvest.org

Gardeners Helping Hungry Neighbors

USA

I can tell you how much those who utilize the food pantry enjoy the opportunity to take home some fresh produce. The turnips were flying out the door yesterday. Yes, that's right. These are the same turnips... that sit unloved in the grocery store produce section. Keep that fresh produce coming. It's good for the whole country because healthier people mean less money going to the hospitals.

These words were written by a food pantry director to **Gary Oppenheimer**, founder of AmpleHarvest.org. Launched in 2009, AmpleHarvest.org connects millions of home gardeners with an excess of crops to thousands of soup kitchens and food pantries that rarely receive fresh produce to distribute to clients. This simple idea has proven to be an effective weapon in our country's assault on hunger. With more than 4,500 pantries registered on Gary's website, gardeners locate a pantry nearby and donate excess turnips, squash, tomatoes...whatever they cannot consume. Our country produces sufficient food to feed all its citizens. AmpleHarvest.org offers a most creative, yet simple, way to get food to where it is needed.

Our funds were used to help Gary expand the organization's reach. With a mostly web-based operation and minimal staffing, AmpleHarvest.org is a lean and effective operation.

» www.ampleharvest.org • gary@ampleharvest.org

Darchei Tzion -

ISRAEL

The Beit Shean Food Pantry

Feeding Hungry People in Beit Shean

If you happen to live in Beit Shean, one of Israel's poorest cities, you may be fortunate to receive help from Darchei Tzion, an all-volunteer run food pantry and *gemach* (free-loan and lending station). For more than sixteen years, the pantry's dedicated staff has provided nutritious Shabbat meals to more than 110 families and thirty elders. While most of the food is donated by residents, caterers and restaurants, some must be purchased. This is where the Good People Fund's donations make a difference. Each Pesach and Rosh Hashanah we enjoy underwriting the cost of some of that additional food. It feels good to know people can enjoy these holidays without worrying where to find the funds to buy sufficient food.

» **Yitz Feigenbaum** • yitz@merav.net

I can tell you how much those who utilize the food pantry enjoy the opportunity to take home some fresh produce...

- A LOCAL FOOD PANTRY TO

GARY OPPENHEIMER, AMPLEHARVEST.ORG

*Dinner Garden

USA

Ending Hunger Through Home Gardening

Dear Dinner Garden,

I received in the mail yesterday an envelope with my seeds as a GIFT. I wanted to share my excitement and how thankful I am. We have been planting a garden in past years and this year with no income and four kids we were so upset that we did not have the money to go buy plants and than (sic) the mail came and to my surprise my garden-in-an-envelope... So with all the bad news... this was a truly amazing gift and I want you to know and understand how much you HELPED my family. It was like a wish come true. Thank you again.

Holly Hirshberg, who lives in San Antonio, loves to garden. When she married and raised a family, a garden continued to be part of her life. In 2008, as the economy crumbled in the Great Recession, Holly came to understand how gardens could help others. Always creative, and a successful social entrepreneur, Holly realized that people could offset lost income by growing some of their own food. If she provided the seeds, along with gardening tips, why couldn't people start their own gardens? (Even apartment dwellers can do this with container gardens.) And so the idea for Dinner Garden was born. Holly and her husband Sean registered Dinner Garden as a non-profit in 2009. Since that time, they have distributed more than 72,000 envelopes nationwide, each filled with seed packets. They also helped establish more than 180 community gardens.

When we met Holly and Sean on a visit to Texas several months ago, Holly's enthusiasm was the first thing we noticed. Surely, she could help alleviate hunger in this creative way. The Good People Fund's help included the purchase of thousands of zip-lock bags of all sizes, mailing envelopes, and postage. This dramatically reduced Dinner Garden's wait list for garden seeds. Since seeds are donated, our funds allowed Holly to start her volunteers on a packing spree and before long, garden seeds were in the mail and letters like the one above started to arrive in Holly's mailbox.

» www.dinnergarden.org • holly@dinnergarden.org

To make an online donation go to
www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate

Family to Family

USA

Providing Hunger Relief to Profoundly Poor American Families

... many here in the USA are finding the struggle to keep on going almost too much to bear. I have been quite taken aback by the daily phone calls and emails I receive from ordinary American families looking to us for help... with housing... with food...with the basics. My cell phone rings... my home phone rings... emails accumulate... what do I say... how do I handle all of this need? I find myself shaken by the sound of a voice on the other end of my phone telling me they heard from a friend... can I help... a single mom... with three "lovely little ones" she says... homeless and hungry. Times are bad.

Pam Koner, founder of Family to Family, recently shared these thoughts with us after a particularly difficult day trying to provide food to hungry people all over the country. Family to Family was Pam's response to hardships she read about in a New York Times article on rural poverty. Donor families agree to fund or provide and ship monthly a week's worth of meals. A personal connection is established between families and often, interaction begins to develop in other areas. It has been more than nine years since Pam began her crusade. In that time, she and those that work with Family to Family have provided more than 1,391,975 meals, with more than 2,000 children and adults now receiving a week's groceries each month.

A significant portion of our grants was directed to monthly food packages for families whose sponsors are no longer able to provide this assistance. We have also stepped in to underwrite the backpack program for students at McRoberts Elementary School in McRoberts, Kentucky (see Kentucky in the section on Poverty). The majority of students in this small elementary school is on a federal breakfast and lunch program. During weekends and holidays, when school is not in session, some families cannot afford nutritious food. Easy-to-prepare healthy food, put in backpacks, can enhance the children's overall nutrition.

As conditions in our country continue to deteriorate, innovative programs like Family to Family are a safety net for those who struggle to buy basic nourishment for themselves and their families.

» www.family-to-family.org • pkoner@family-to-family.org

Hunger in Israel

ISRAEL

Targeting Direct Relief to Those Most in Need

One of the most effective ways we know to reach hungry people in Israel is by the purchase of thousands of dollars' worth of supermarket scrip, known as *tlushim*. We distribute it to several of the "good people" who run programs we support in Israel.

They are people who work on the "frontlines" in social service settings and can identify individuals and families who will benefit from this extra help. We reach hundreds of people, mostly during the major holidays, and know from those who act on our behalf just how important this program is.

The Bagel Brigade

USA

Distributing Leftover Baked Goods in LA

What kid doesn't like to start the day with a good breakfast including a bowl of cereal? Unfortunately, for many kids in this country, this seemingly simple part of a day's nutrition is beyond reach. That is where our friends at Los Angeles-based Bagel Brigade step in to help.

Bagel Brigade was the inspiration of the late **Herman Berman**, ז"ל, who never forgot the hunger he felt as a child growing up in a poor family. Today, Bagel Brigade volunteers (mostly retirees and students) visit local retail establishments every day of the week. They collect leftover baked goods that fill more than 100 large plastic bags daily, or the equivalent of more than 80,000 loaves of bread and 50,000 bagels each year. Volunteers deliver the leftovers to 23 local schools and 18 local pantries, shelters, churches and housing projects. In addition to baked goods, Bagel Brigade provides large boxes of cereal to schools that offer breakfast to students who arrive hungry each morning.

When we learned that Bagel Brigade buys a large box of cereal for \$1.25 in bulk, we decided we would like to help. With our donation of \$4,320, there will be an awesome number of cereal boxes arriving to local schools in the San Fernando Valley. An additional \$1,000 donation provided the large plastic bags that volunteers fill daily as they make their rounds.

Who will ever know how many people — kids, adults — in the San Fernando Valley went to bed with a full stomach, because Herman remembered *his* early life, when food was not so plentiful. For Herman, it was just *the right thing to do*, and so he just did it!

Also, you can help the group raise funds for its minimal overhead by sending old cell phones to: Art Siegel, 18366 Collins Street, Unit B, Tarzana, CA 91356.

» Jerry Nagel, Chair • www.bagelbrigade.org
info@bagelbrigade.org

To make an online donation go to
www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate

Tova Cohen**ISRAEL**

For many years, we had the privilege of sharing the story of Tova Cohen, a Jerusalemite who spent her Wednesday mornings cooking a hot meal for those in her poor Bukharan neighborhood who might otherwise go without. There was nothing better than showing up at the door of Tova's tiny kitchen and as a welcome, receiving a bowl of this hot soup, with the perfect spices and crisp rice scraped from the bottom of the pot. Tova was a lifesaver for so many neighbors in need.

Today, Tova herself is not well and the little kitchen stands idle. As much as she loved what she did, she no longer has the strength to carry on. We know we will miss her on our Israel visits, but thank her for all the mitzvahs she performed in this special work.

Youngstown Community Food Bank USA

Feeding Hungry Families in the Rust Belt

Joe Lordi has run the **Youngstown Community Food Bank** for years. Quietly, and often at great personal expense, he helps those living in the Mahoning Valley around Youngstown, Ohio who struggle daily to put food on their table. Whether the temperature soars to unbearable levels or drops to single digits, Joe (and his volunteers) can be found outside, loading and unloading trailers and greeting those who count on the food bank for help.

Joe's work is inspired by his own family's difficulties when his successful business failed many years ago. He knows what it means to be hungry and worry about where your next meal might come from. That personal experience guides Joe's compassion and dedication in all that he does. With minimal overhead, Joe's operation is a great investment of our tzedakah dollars. Part of this year's donation helped underwrite the cost of a refrigerated truck that now enables Joe to receive donated perishable items to distribute.

Joe is always there for those in need. This past year, his community rallied to provide Joe and his family with some much-needed improvement to their *own* home. We were honored to be able to provide the funds for some new furniture and an up-to-date computer for the food bank operation.

» 94 Pyatt Street, Youngstown, OH 44502
lordij@msn.com

Zehava and Karyn -**ISRAEL****Feeding the Neighbors**

Food Packages for Neighborhood Families in Jerusalem

Some residents of Jerusalem cannot find work. Others are "underemployed" — working but not bringing in enough to feed their families. Still others are single mothers with little outside support. All reside in Jerusalem's Baka neighborhood, not usually known to be a place where people go without life's basic necessities.

For 10 of these families, the quiet work of **Zehava** and **Karyn** makes a world of difference. Each month the two women lead a group of generous neighbors who contribute or fund basic food items that are placed in packages and then delivered quietly to a neighbor's door. It is all performed with *kavod* (respect). Occasionally, word comes back to Karyn or Zehava about specific emergency needs and when possible those are taken care of as well.

We like to help make Hanukkah a happy time for the kids in such families. This past year, we underwrote the purchase of vouchers for a nearby toy store. Each child was able to select a gift of their own choosing. In addition, we distributed (through Karyn and Zehava) thousands of shekels' worth of supermarket scrip during Pesach and Rosh Hashanah.

"If it weren't for Reading Village I would not be here. I would be in the field carrying heavy loads of vegetables."

- A YOUNG GUATEMALAN SHARING HOW
READING VILLAGE HAS TRANSFORMED HIS LIFE

ELDERS**Alice Jonah and****ISRAEL****The Diplomat Hotel**

Building a Community of Elders Helping Elders

Many times I have visited the mostly Russian elders who call a single room in the once-plush Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem "home". With each visit, I often wonder how bad life could have been in their former homeland to give it up and move to a foreign country, with a new language and a one-room apartment. What dreams these former physicians, teachers, engineers and scientists must have forsaken to come to the

Holy Land to be free. It always makes me stop and appreciate even more the work done by **Alice Jonah**, who dramatically changed their lives. Initially, Alice built a real community there, complete with a choir, an *ulpan*, (Hebrew language course) library, trips and more. But, perhaps most important is her "home health aide" project which offers more able-bodied elders the chance to earn modest wages by helping less ambulatory residents. Alice's project costs about \$1,000 monthly and offers dignity to both the helpers and their recipients. This is, we believe, what tzedakah money is meant to do.

» **Alice Jonah** • aleph1@bezeqint.net

I love ITN. It fills my needs. It helps me be independent and results in me feeling good about myself. My husband died 4 years ago... ITN stepped in and my friends could tell how great it was for me.

- A SATISFIED ELDER WHO USES THE
INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Independent Transportation Network - USA ITNAmerica

ITNNorth Central Connecticut

Dignified Transportation for Seniors

I love ITN. It fills my needs. It helps me be independent and results in me feeling good about myself. My husband died 4 years ago... ITN stepped in and my friends could tell how great it was for me.

So often, it is tragedy that brings some of our good people to a place where they decide to dedicate themselves to solving a specific problem. For **Katherine Freund**, ITNAmerica's incredibly capable and dedicated founder, this was exactly the case. More than twenty years ago, her toddler son was hit by a car driven by an elderly driver who should not have been behind the wheel. After her son's very long but ultimately successful recovery, Katherine developed the first ITN model in her hometown, Portland, Maine.

Today, ITNAmerica is a national organization that makes it possible for elders (as well as blind people) to maintain their independence and dignity despite handing in their car keys and driver's licenses. People fortunate enough to live in one of

22 communities nationwide with ITN affiliates, can enroll in a door-to-door, hand-to-hand program for transportation on demand, either at no cost or greatly reduced cost. Volunteer drivers use private cars (instead of vans and buses), giving riders comfort and attention.

ITNNorth Central Connecticut is one of those successful affiliates, begun about 4 years ago. For people living in the West Hartford-Middletown area of that state, the program has been a welcome resource. As in other communities where ITN operates, elders remain independent, and local businesses retain those customers. Family members feel comfortable knowing that their elders are safe and yet able to get where they need to be, whether it is a doctor appointment, a trip to the library or some other engagement.

Our funds were used to provide for emergency expenses for ITNAmerica and for continued start-up costs for the Connecticut affiliate.

» www.itnamerica.org • itnnorthcentralct.org
info@ITNNorthCentralCt.org

In Their Shoes

ISRAEL

Creating Awareness and Understanding of Dementia and Aging

Zissie Gitel will never forget those several years when all she ever did was care for her elderly parents and in-laws. It seemed like one long nightmare. Appointments with doctors, therapists, tests, eventually finding the appropriate nursing home and extra help to work with the nursing home staff, getting medications, and keeping track of dosages...the lists were endless. Yet, nothing quite compared to the challenges Zissie faced with the dementia and Alzheimer's that plagued two of these elders. No one truly understands these diseases until they are faced with the realities of caring for someone with either disease.

It was that experience that brought Zissie to the innovative and effective program called VDT or Virtual Dementia Tour™. It was developed by Dr. PK Beville, founder of Georgia-based Second Wind Dreams (www.secondwind.org). Put in its simplest terms, the tour allows people caring for those with dementia to go through a scientifically proven exercise which closely approximates the profound confusion and physical helplessness that comes with the disease. After Zissie traveled to the states and completed training for this program, she returned to Israel and her non-profit In Their Shoes. The organization works to change attitudes about aging, dementia, and Alzheimer's by those in the healthcare field and other populations.

Funds sent to Zissie are being used to help her reach even more people with her important message.

» www.intheirshoes.org.il • intheirshoes.org@gmail.com

*LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years

USA

Aging-In-Place Manhattan Style

"Betty's" story is one I love to share... As her physical limitations grew it became more difficult for her to stay on top of the cleaning and de-cluttering in her apartment; hanging clothes in the closet became impossible as her arthritis prevented her from reaching modest heights. At some point, Betty refused to let anyone visit fearing that eviction and possible institutionalization might result.

But then, **Irene Zola** of LiLY -Lifeforce in Later Years came into her life and everything changed. Irene never understood the "nursing home scene" until her elderly mother fell and required a stay in a nearby home. When her mother died several months later, Irene knew she had to do *something*. In just her small Manhattan neighborhood, no more than about 10 blocks, the government documented 1,100 seniors. Many, like Betty, lived alone. Before long, Irene found others who shared her frustration about eldercare and LiLY- Lifeforce in Later Years was founded.

After meeting Irene, we knew LiLY was a program we wanted to support. With our funds, professionals thoroughly cleaned Betty's apartment and cleared accumulated items. Coat racks were purchased to allow her to store her clothes where she could comfortably reach them. Shortly after, Irene reported that Betty was inviting neighbors in to share a cup of tea...a victory, for sure.

In addition, the Good People Fund's matching grant allowed Irene to reach out to more elders and attract more volunteers and new funders to her work.

» www.L-i-L-Y.org • irenezola@L-i-L-Y.org

Project Ezra

USA

Serving the Frail Elderly on New York's Lower East Side

"Lillian" is 86 years old. She has always lived a fairly independent life — proud, but private. But then, Lillian did what every elderly person fears more than anything else — she fell and broke her pelvis. She was in a real crisis and remaining "private" was no longer possible. Social workers at Project Ezra learned that after rent and secondary insurance were paid; Lillian had just a few hundred dollars left to cover food, medication, utilities and other incidental expenses. Clearly

she could benefit from some help, and soon Lillian began to receive a \$30 monthly food voucher for a local store.

Project Ezra remains an important institution on New York's Lower East Side. Once a bustling Jewish neighborhood filled with a synagogue on every block, today the area is undergoing an amazing revitalization. It has become the new "hot spot" for clubs, boutiques and trendy condos. Throughout this metamorphosis, **Misha Avramoff**, one of Ezra's dedicated founders, remains committed to providing not only some of life's necessities such as food, but also some socialization and companionship as well.

We are happy that for \$360 yearly we can at least assure an elder that he or she will not go hungry and so a significant portion of our grant underwrites these monthly food vouchers for many others. In addition, when we learned that the elders who attended Project Ezra's "movie days" were watching films on a very old small-screen television, we could not help but offer the funds for a new flat-screen TV, which has only enhanced this twice-monthly gathering for fun and companionship.

» www.projectezra.org • projectezra@verizon.net

I want to thank you so much for the very generous contribution you have made to send my children P and F to camp for the second summer in a row...

- A STRUGGLING SINGLE PARENT WHOSE CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP

Second Wind Dreams

USA

Changing the Perception of Aging

"Helen" remembers with excitement the fun she had as a child visiting the local amusement park...those beautiful carousel horses that she rode up and down; how good she felt with the wind in her hair. Today, Helen lives in a nursing home, unable to remain independent and reliant upon others for many things. A visit to a nearby amusement park would do wonders for Helen's spirit and allow her to "dream" as she did in her youth.

For Helen, and even "George", also a nursing home resident who would love to spend a few hours as a train conductor as he did for more than 40 years, **PK Beville's** Second Wind Dreams allows them to dream, despite the realities of life in an eldercare community.

PK's distinguished career as a consultant in geriatric services, made her very sensitive to the needs of elders in these facilities and inspired her to establish Second Wind Dreams as a non-profit organization dedicated to making those dreams possible. Today, elder care facilities across the country and the world participate in Second Wind events. In addition, the group has been successful in raising awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of dementia and Alzheimer's patients through the dissemination of award-winning VDT or Virtual Dementia Tour™ — a simulated exercise for those working with elders with these conditions which closely approximates normal activities.

Our matching grant helped make dreams come true for people like Helen and George as well as underwrote some of the organization's administrative expenses.

» www.secondwind.org • pk@secondwind.org

Survivor Mitzvah Project

USA

Providing For the Needs of Holocaust Survivors in Eastern Europe

My very dear friends, dear people! Today I received your kind, warm, letter. You are indeed like my family. I wanted to respond to you right away...

I am very much thankful for your kind, warm feelings towards me. I am so grateful for the money!!! I didn't earn this money; it is your kind Jewish hearts that made so much for me, eased up conditions of my life... I am very much hopeful and pray to G-d that we meet someday. It will be such a joy.

Zane Buzby, founder of Survivor Mitzvah Project, gets letters like these all of the time. For many of the thousands of elderly Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe on meager sums, she is an angel. With little or no family, pensions wiped out by a declining economy, ill health and harsh winter weather, all of these people suffer greatly as they age. When Zane discovered their existence several years ago while looking for her own family roots in Lithuania she was changed forever. Their poverty moved her to begin the Survivor Mitzvah Project which delivers (many times personally) modest sums to many of them. These small sums often make all of the difference in the world...a little extra food on the table, a desperately needed medication...things we all take for granted.

With our funds, Zane was able to help even more elders and also purchase some much-needed computer equipment, which allows her small staff and volunteers to operate more efficiently.

» www.survivormitzvah.org • survivormitzvah@gmail.com

For new GOOD PEOPLE stories:

www.goodpeoplefund.org/The_Tzedakah_Diaries/Entry_Index

KIDS

Art Creation Foundation for Children USA

Providing Arts, Education, Food, Healthcare, Love and Security to Haiti's Children

For **Judy Hoffman**, the dedicated founder of ACFFC-Art Creation Foundation for Children, the lives of Haitian children were important long before the devastation of the 2010 earthquake. That disaster raised global awareness of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but Judy was introduced to the extreme poverty and vast numbers of begging street kids years before. The bleak lives of Haitian children astounded her. It was that awareness, and her love of folk art, that gave her (and others) the impetus to start this work.

ACFFC helps 100 children of all ages in the city of Jacmel. It provides scholarships and uniforms so those old enough can attend school. The program operates in a rented building where the children report daily for meals, tutoring, art lessons and additional support. The house "staff" oversees all daily activities and Judy, based in South Florida, is in constant contact, often visiting every six to eight weeks. This is a "hands-on", *personal* endeavor, and its success is apparent in many ways. This past year, the kids were invited to Canada to appear in a children's arts festival. They have also become part of the very first Haitian Youth Council.

Judy knows she cannot save every child, but for the 100 who are part of ACFFC, she succeeds. We are excited that our funds, used to underwrite scholarships, summer English lessons, and food, support her success.

» www.artforhaitianchildren.org • jh.acffc@gmail.com

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Israel ISRAEL

Mentoring Youth in Israel

As time went on I got to know my Big Brother better. I understood that no one was trying to fill the role of father as that is a slot no one but a father can fill. Instead, a loving and caring person entered my life. He has accompanied me now for seven years, in the most difficult situations and in the happiest moments. I was given a person to emulate, a male authority who is very different from the female figure of my mother. Above all, I was given a family member, a precious human being who will be with me for life.

The writer, "Lior" is one of the young people fortunate enough to be part of Big Brothers, Big Sisters Israel, begun by **Libby Reichman** in 2003. Lior was one of the first matches made by BBBS. Today, almost eight years later, he and his "big brother" have an unbreakable bond — they are family. Lior has not only finished high school but is now spending a year working with troubled youth before he starts his army service.

Lior is one of many success stories from Libby's efforts and those of her staff. To date, they have facilitated more than 550 pairs of "big" and "littles" in the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv area. When a child from a single-parent family is paired with an adult mentor, magic occurs. With ongoing support and training from BBBS staff, each couple shares fun activities like a movie or a zoo visit, as well as serious time spent on school work or just talking.

Our funds underwrite summer camp scholarships as well as very popular "Fun Days" shared by the entire group. A significant portion of our donation was donor-designated.

» www.bigbrothers.org.il • info@bigbrothers.org.il

Once I got on the farm and started working, I knew the healing effects and I knew I had to share it with others.

ADAM BURKE, FOUNDER OF VETERANS FARM,
HORTICULTURE THERAPY FOR DISABLED
SOLDIERS.

Bet Hayeled

Caring for Kids-at-Risk

ISRAEL

Who doesn't remember making s'mores over a campfire? At age nine, "Shira", one of the children living at Bet Hayeled, was looking forward to that experience and more when she attended camp at her kibbutz this past summer. Despite the trauma of being removed from her abusive parents by the court system and sent to Bet Hayeled, Shira is thriving in the loving environment provided by **Yitz Feigenbaum** and **Irit Zucker**, founders of this small group home at Kibbutz Merav, overlooking the Jordan River Valley.

We continue to support this special program in many different ways because we have seen first-hand its achievements as kids grow to adulthood, become productive citizens, and then

parents themselves. On our last visit to Israel, nothing could have made us happier than meeting "Tal" and "Geffen", two Bet Hayeled graduates. One is studying early childhood education and the other architectural design. Both of these women and others are testaments to the formula Yitz and Irit have perfected in raising the kids.

It was our pleasure to make it possible for Shira and the other children to enjoy not only summer camp and overnights, but treats including movies and a visit to a real-life chocolate factory where everyone made loads of chocolate though we never did learn if Willie Wonka was actually there. We see our support of Bet Hayeled as an investment in restoring the lives of each of its residents. A portion of our grant was donor-designated.

» www.bethayeled.org • yitz@merav.net

Birthday Angels

Birthday Parties for Needy Children in Israel

ISRAEL

Have you ever thought about a *typical* birthday party kids attend each year? Parties are held at gyms, feature cooking experiences, a magician, or perhaps a movie and birthday dinner at a local restaurant.

In Israel, **Ruthie Sobel Luttenberg's** business involved planning many of these types of parties. When she learned that one-third of Israeli kids *never* celebrate a birthday because their families do not have the means to provide even a simple cake and balloons, she decided to change her focus. In 2003, she founded Birthday Angels as a non-profit organization. Since then, it has provided more than 10,000 parties with the help of volunteers from Perach, one of Israel's premiere tutoring projects which utilizes university students to provide crucial mentoring. (This year, they even ran 157 parties all over the country on the *same day*!) The volunteers use Ruthie's creative birthday kit and the child's class joins in the celebration. A \$36 donation provides one party and the donor receives a handwritten thank-you note from the celebrant.

We particularly like Ruthie's *Teens for Tots* program which enlists the help of local teens-at-risk and teaches them to run parties. Right now this program is running in more than 40 communities with more being planned.

» www.birthday-angels.org • ruthie@birthday-angels.org

Change the Truth

Providing Opportunities for Children in Uganda

USA

School work does not come easily for some kids, no matter where they live. For students at the St. Mary Kevin

Orphanage Motherhood in Uganda, studying is doubly hard because so many of them, orphaned through the HIV/AIDS epidemic or civil war, have no parents to guide them, nor books of their own. *Sharing* textbooks is the norm.

Gloria Baker Feinstein founded Change The Truth in 2007, so the lives of the 190 children who now call St. Mary Kevin Orphanage Motherhood home could be changed in ways they could only dream about. The year before, Gloria visited Uganda as a professional photographer. What she saw in that orphanage was unforgettable. Change the Truth focuses on the children's medical needs, education, nutrition and much more. As with Judy Hoffman and the Art Creation Foundation for Children described earlier in this report, this is a hands-on, deeply personal program that ensures these kids will become self-sufficient and independent.

Our donation has made possible a library of academic textbooks for the primary school-aged children. Now, when children seek a textbook, they need only go to the library, check out the book and study hard.

» www.changethetruth.org • gbfeinstein@aol.com

*Jack the Bikeman

USA

Creative Support Of At-Risk Children

Back in 1999, **Jack Hairston** was not in the best of health. Walking was difficult and required special equipment. Life was pretty unexciting until the day he spotted a young man riding a bike that had no working brakes. Noticing that the only way the youngster could stop his bike was to put out his foot and hit the curb, Jack stopped the rider, retrieved some basic tools from his house and repaired the brakes with minimal effort. From that simple act of generosity developed a friendship, and ultimately, the program now known as Jack the Bikeman.

As word got out, kids stopped by to get their bikes fixed and then friends and neighbors started dropping off used bikes for Jack to repair and give away. And, something strange happened—Jack's health began to improve as he became involved in the lives of his neighbors—largely poor, migrant families with few resources. In addition to fixing bikes, Jack became a confidante and mentor, and in so doing prevented many kids from joining the "gang life" so common in this West Palm Beach-area neighborhood.

When we visited Jack we were quickly taken with his dedication and love for this project. What truly astounded us was the pile of bikes sitting in a nearby warehouse, all waiting to be repaired by volunteers and then given away during the holiday season to local kids who would otherwise not enjoy that childhood pleasure.

While repairing bikes is an admirable activity, Jack the Bikeman is about much more. Jack's activities now encompass the education, guidance, and training of at-risk children of migrant workers and of their parents as well. Today he is more like a one-man social service agency as he provides a free meal to local unemployed workers, disseminates critical health information, conducts HIV testing, and more.

Our funds purchased food for his complimentary meals and bought bike parts to repair that mountain of bikes. We were thrilled to learn that this past Christmas he and his "elves" managed to overhaul and give away more than 600 bikes to needy kids in the area.

» www.jackthebikeman.org • jack@jackthebikeman.org

Lev Leytzan ~ Heart of A Clown

USA

Clowning as a Therapeutic Tool

Bob was like many people we might see in a nursing facility — staring blankly ahead while everyone else bustled by. Non-responsive to the "Good morning!" greetings being offered he just continued to stare. Later, a new voice greeted him. "Good morning!" Bob looked up, now intrigued by his new visitor who asked how he was. Bob answered, "Will you marry me?" The quick-witted visitor replied, "I thought you'd never ask!" Bob laughed and held his companion's hand repeatedly asking, "Will you marry me?" In return his new "friend" continued to agree to the "marriage", all the time singing and laughing with him... Bob was having fun! Eventually all of the stimulation tired Bob out and he was soon asleep in his chair.

Bob is a gentle 86-year old man with stage-two dementia. The therapeutic clown who visited Bob that day was not only able to break through and engage him, but also made him happy. The clown had been trained by Lev Leytzan and was part of a new and unique project called *ElderHearts*. Designed specifically for patients with dementia, this program requires extensive training to teach clowns to combine humor and the five senses as a way to trigger and stimulate personal interactions for this population. Medical research shows that humor is the final faculty to shut down in people suffering from dementia.

Dr. Neal Goldberg, a psychologist, founded Lev Leytzan in 2004. The teens who take part in the extensive medical clown training develop self-confidence, maturity and learn quite quickly about the power of "giving back". The troupe spreads its joy to facilities both local and overseas.

Our funds were directed as seed money to develop *ElderHearts*, and we are pleased to report that those "seeds" have blossomed into a successful program.

» www.levleytzan.org • neal@levleytzan.org

***Reading Village**

USA

*Promoting Literacy Among Children in Rural Guatemala**"If it weren't for Reading Village I would not be here. I would be in the field carrying heavy loads of vegetables."*

To **Linda Smith**, founder of Reading Village, this simple statement from a young boy who is part of her innovative reading program in Guatemala, is like music to her ears.

The idea for Reading Village began only a few years ago when Linda lost her job. Trying to get her bearings and think about the future, Linda traveled to Guatemala — for her, a serene place filled with smiling kids. As she asked the local children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" she usually received a blank stare. Most kids in Guatemala are surrounded by profound poverty and little reason to hope things might change. When Linda came upon a tiny local library where a group of kids were learning to read, she noticed a difference immediately. Kids who knew how to read could dream about what *might be*. The "dreaming" helped change their reality.

Reading Village works in small villages and develops an environment where reading is important and encouraged. They form leadership groups of middle and high school students who act as mentors to younger children, reading *with* them and encouraging them to succeed. The program provides scholarships for the leadership group as well as free books for local institutions and groups.

The Good People Fund was excited about providing funds to buy new books — imagine the wonder in those young eyes when they can actually read about Peter Pan or James and the Giant Peach.

Reading Village also has developed a meaningful Hanukkah program, suitable for Jewish educators and families. Check it out: <http://www.readingvillage.org/light-up-literacy.html>

» www.readingvillage.org • Linda@readingvillage.org

***Shutaf**

ISRAEL

Redefining Inclusion and Community for Kids in Jerusalem

Miriam Avraham and **Beth Steinberg** are Jerusalem moms, each with a special needs child. When faced with limited meaningful summer and after-school activities, these moms decided to do something about it. Refusing to just bemoan a lack of quality programs, they started their own. What began in 2007 as a summer program with 10 children has grown into Shutaf, a well-run organization that provides summer camp, after-school activities and holiday camp experiences for *both* special needs and typical kids. This inclusive program

encourages diversity and welcomes children *with* and *without* disabilities from across the religious and economic spectrum.

We first visited Shutaf on a warm afternoon during our Israel trip this past February. Set in Jerusalem's beautiful Nature Museum, Shutaf's programs were literally buzzing with activity. As we walked the halls we noticed one group intently watching a snake handler sharing the mysteries of snakes, while another group nearby was working on an arts and crafts project. In all of the noise and activity stood Deb, Shutaf's amazing program director, totally unfazed by the chaos around her.

In the few years since they began, there is now a waiting list of families anxious to enroll their kids in Shutaf programs.

Our funds were invested in scholarships for potential campers as well as for several summer camp trips to a local gymnasium where the kids had great fun. In addition, a generous donor came forward to underwrite an amazing Purim party which all the kids enjoyed.

» www.campshutaf.org • Miriam@campshutaf.org

St. Joseph's Baby Corner

USA

Serving Impoverished Infants and Children

...The first of your baby bottles etc. have gone out the door... Three newborns each having none when they were born. So that's 18 bottles, nipples, and three bottle brushes. Having the bottles and brushes means that all we have to do is count them out instead of having to find them, check to see that they're okay to use and then count them out! Somewhere in and around Seattle there are three babies less than a week old eating happily... Thank you again! Bless you for helping them all...

As always, Jeannie

In 1988 **Jeannie Jaybush** and a friend founded Seattle's Baby Corner as a resource for local social service agencies who serve families (with few economic resources) that cannot afford baby items.

From time to time we like to stock Jeannie's shelves with items we know will help those families. This past year we donated dozens and dozens of nursing bras, so it seemed only fair that we also give some help to the moms who choose to bottle feed. Sixty dozen bottles and 360 nipple brushes were sent to Baby Corner to hopefully make for some very content newborns.

» www.seattlebabycorner.org • babies@blarg.net

To make an online donation go to
www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate

The Quincy Kids

USA

Students Helping Kids Around the World

We firmly believe that when you want something done, particularly the almost-impossible, you ask kids to do it. Kids never stop to think that it might be impossible. *They just do it.*

The students who are part of Operation Day's Work at Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, Massachusetts, along with their dedicated teacher-advisor, Ron Adams, have been improving the lives of children around the world since 1995. That is when they first met Iqbal Masih, a young Pakistani child who had been indentured as a rug weaver and spent his days tied to a loom, creating beautiful carpets. Once hearing Iqbal's story and then learning of his subsequent murder upon returning home, Broad Meadows students vowed to change the world. Believing that education was key to so much of what they wanted to accomplish, their initial efforts raised not only sufficient funds to build two schools in Iqbal's home community, but also included vast educational efforts to publicize the issue of child slavery and children's rights.

The kids meet each week as an after-school program and after much research select a country where they will direct their efforts. They raise consciousness as well as funds in many ways. In "Operation Day's Work" they donate a day's pay from a day's work of planting four gardens at the public library.

Over the years, the students at Broad Meadows move on but new students, inspired by Iqbal's story continue the work. It is our privilege to offer them the tools for their activism... pens, paper, markers, poster board, postage... a small price to pay for such great accomplishments.

» www.mirrorimage.com/iqbal/index.html
ronaldadams222@gmail.com

ILLNESS, DISABILITIES AND WELL-BEING

Amuta (Non-Profit) for the Emotional Support of Girlfriends and Fiancées of Fallen IDF Soldiers

ISRAEL

Grief Counseling and Care

The conflict that erupted in Israel in 2000 brought day after day of chilling news reports...terror attacks involving citizens, soldiers brought down in battles or bombings. For Phyllis

Heimowitz, a mother and grandmother, such deaths reminded her of when her own daughter lost her about-to-be fiancé a few years earlier. He was killed in an ambush in Lebanon just days before their anticipated engagement. Phyllis and her older daughter Tamar despaired why there were no resources for the young woman, who was neither a wife nor a blood relative of the fallen soldier. (Israel has an extensive state-supported system to help grieving blood relatives and wives.)

This lack of support and recognition inspired them in 1997 to begin The Amuta (Non-Profit) for the Emotional Support of Girlfriends and Fiancées of Fallen Soldiers of the IDF. It offers weekly group therapy and social events to strengthen the unique bonds of participants. Today, more than 330 bereaved girlfriends as well as boyfriends have been helped by the Amuta. More than half of these individuals have now found happiness and married. Despite Israel's relatively recent calm, forty bereaved individuals are currently being helped by the Amuta, including several who lost loved ones in the Carmel fire last year.

Our funds subsidized some young women's individual needs as well as the cost of providing therapy.

» www.girlfriendsidf.org.il • heimw@013.net

ATZUM

ISRAEL

*Helping Survivors of Terror, Righteous Gentiles,
and Victims of Human Trafficking*

Dear ATZUM,

I thank you... for the scholarship you gave me for a professional course in BI systems development. More than a year ago I completed my bachelor's degree... but for more than six months I was unable to find a job. Your assistance made it possible for me to take an additional training course... and even before I completed the course I secured a position as a result of the added training and knowledge I gained from this course. Again thanks for the generous help.
A.E.

Thankfully, the bombs have stopped for the most part, people can ride buses with some ease, and security guards are no longer posted at the doors of most restaurants. During those years of terror, beginning in 2000 thousands of lives changed irrevocably. Rabbi Levi Lauer, moved by their needs and by those of victims of social injustice, began ATZUM. ATZUM helps three groups: survivors of terror attacks — individuals like "A.E." whose note appears above, Righteous Gentiles who settled in Israel after helping save the lives of Jews during the Shoah, and victims of human trafficking.

Our funding to ATZUM continues to address the needs of terror survivors and the dwindling number of Righteous Gentiles

who often live on meager incomes. This past year, however, we were particularly impressed with ATZUM's most recent effort, *Project Abrah*, and contributed funds there as well. Project Abrah ("illumination" in Amharic) is an intergenerational program linking Ethiopian youth to their elder Prisoners of Zion (those imprisoned or otherwise persecuted in their homeland because of their Zionist activities.) Russians are no doubt the best known, but many Ethiopians endure similar hardship. Through oral history and film, the youth learn of their heritage, while the elders share stories and gain respect for their contribution to Ethiopian *aliyah*. In the process, Ethiopian youth can gain skills in community-building and the filming process. We have seen the films produced by this group and are impressed with this latest project from ATZUM.

» www.atzum.org • Lauer@netvision.net.il

Hosts For Hospitals

USA

Free Home Hospitality for Patients and Families

Due to an unfortunate accident we were in the Philadelphia area for three weeks while my daughter received medical care. The hospital referred me to Hosts for Hospitals. I was a bit apprehensive thinking that we would be an imposition... I was wrong. I could not have asked for a better experience. Our host was extraordinarily gracious. She opened her home to us and made us feel at home. I've made a friend for life!

This comment from the mother of a young woman sent to a Philadelphia-area medical center for treatment is echoed by the more than 1,800 patient families who have been assisted by Hosts for Hospitals since it began in 2000. Hosts for Hospitals connects patients and their families to local volunteers who open homes and hearts and helps avoid costly hotel bills.

Mike Aichenbaum and **Nancy Wimmer** were inspired to begin this model after their own serious illnesses found them seeking treatment far from home. Since July 2000, host-families have provided 1,788 patient-families a total of 61,127 nights of lodging, thus saving guests an estimated \$4.08 million in equivalent hotel expenses.

Hosts for Hospitals works with minimal staff and overhead which makes us happy to direct funds for new expenses, as the demand for services increases.

» www.hostsforhospitals.org • mike@hostsforhospitals.org

For new GOOD PEOPLE stories:

www.goodpeoplefund.org/The_Tzedakah_Diaries/Entry_Index

Jeremy's Circle

ISRAEL

Supporting Children Living With Cancer in the Family

I want to take this opportunity and say a big thank you for the wonderful activities for the children this summer. H's father died of cancer nine months ago and you managed to bring much joy in your blessed programs...

The mother writing this brief note to **Pamela Becker**, who founded Jeremy's Circle three years ago with her late husband Jeremy Coleman, z"l, and his family, expresses the feelings of all families who have found a home in Jeremy's Circle. The organization grew from the Becker-Coleman family's own experience. Faced with an advanced cancer, Jeremy and Pamela spent their days traveling to doctor's appointments both in Israel and outside the country. Treatments left Jeremy with many side-effects and Pamela found herself pressed with many roles to play. Friends and family helped, but the day that their young daughter Zoe commented that she wished that she knew other youngsters in a similar situation was when the couple knew what they had to do. That plea launched Jeremy's Circle. Within a year, Jeremy died but not before developing the organization and its focus...connecting the children of cancer patients to each other.

Programs this past year included field trips to the Biblical Zoo, the Science Museum and a butterfly and orchid park. Teens enjoyed a two-night camping experience, complete with campfires and songs. Jeremy's Circle also supports a mentorship program which pairs university students (many of whom experienced cancer in their own families) with local kids for a supportive friendship.

A portion of the funds donated to Jeremy's Circle were donor-designated and our own funds were allocated to the teen program in Haifa.

» www.jeremyscircle.org • Pamela@jeremyscircle.org

As time went on I got to know my Big Brother better. I understood that no one was trying to fill the role of father as that is a slot no one but a father can fill. Instead, a loving and caring person entered my life.

- A YOUNG ISRAELI MENTORED BY A BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS ISRAEL VOLUNTEER

***NY Center for Law and Justice**

USA

Justice for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

"John" was the victim of identity theft — a nightmare for anyone, but for John, even more daunting because he is deaf. When his credit card ran up nearly \$7,500 in debt, a law firm representing the credit card company mailed John a complaint notice. The firm had an incorrect address for John and he never received its notice — making an already difficult situation worse. The law firm filed a judgment against John, and soon after, his modest wages were garnished. Now John could not pay his rent, and soon came an eviction notice. John was about to become homeless.

For any of us, this scenario would be extraordinarily difficult. For a deaf person, navigating the legal system can be an impossible effort. With the help of the New York Center for Law and Justice that **Bruce Gitlin** founded last year, John successfully appealed the improperly served summons and complaint, had his wages restored, and the threat of eviction eliminated.

Though a seasoned attorney, Bruce never forgot his earliest years in practice when he met a deaf woman who was an activist on behalf of the deaf community. She was not a lawyer but she began a clearinghouse for the deaf community with attorneys who agreed to serve on a pro bono basis. Bruce "immediately appreciated the profound need for the representation of the indigent deaf." His interest in serving those who lived in poverty, and particularly those with a disability, never waned. When Bruce began to study for the rabbinate, he brought all of his professional skills together in an organization to help the New York indigent deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

We've met Bruce a few times and are impressed with his gentle nature, his passion for social justice and his willingness to take on this work. We have underwritten both the cost of American Sign Language interpreters who accompany indigent deaf clients to their attorneys, as well as the clients' transportation costs, when necessary.

» www.lawjusticecenter.org • bgitlin@lawjusticecenter.org

Volunteers in Psychotherapy

USA

Providing Affordable, Private Psychotherapy

I think your program is wonderful. [Public clinics] have little idea of what 'private' means. A lot of people don't even know that they're entitled to this sort of dignity.

Comments like these are what **Dr. Richard Shulman**, program founder of the Connecticut-based Volunteers in Psychotherapy-VIP, wants to hear. As managed care slowly eroded privacy, Dr. Shulman and his associates developed a model for private therapy at reduced rates. Clients commit to

four hours of volunteer work for each hour of therapy received.

When you consider the following numbers, the impact of VIP's focus is very impressive: with about 480 people (couples and families) using their services (since they began operation in 1999), more than 16,000 hours of privately documented charitable volunteer work have been completed...that is a whole "lot of good!"

Once again, our funds were directed to the group's minimal overhead expenses.

» www.CTVIP.org • CTVIP@hotmail.com

... And besides the many wonderful gifts that I have received at your hand, and the help that you have rendered... you have given me the gift of seeing the world as a friendly place once again, in spite of its troubles, and that may well be the greatest gift of all. I have not felt that way since I was a child. Thank you. You have restored my hope in the face of the adversities that we have endured as a family...

A WOUNDED VETERAN WHO RECEIVED HELP FROM THE GOOD PEOPLE FUND

POVERTY**African Refugees**

ISRAEL

Development Center*Providing for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel*

"Marjani" fled her native country with her son after her husband's death because her husband's family did not approve of their marriage and actually threatened her child's life. In desperation, she accepted the "help" of a woman who promised to save her. She found herself in the Sinai desert, surrounded by Bedouin smugglers who held her and her child captive for more than fifteen months, demanding more money from

her family to ensure her release. Throughout that time she was repeatedly raped, tortured and abused. She was forced to watch as her son was repeatedly tortured and abused as well.

By chance, the father of one of the smugglers facilitated her release. She managed to cross the border where she was immediately picked up and imprisoned in the Negev. When Israeli authorities attempted to put her on a flight back to her native country, she steadfastly refused to go. A prison social worker, knowing the extraordinary circumstances she and her child experienced, interceded and sought help for this young mother and child.

This “help” came from ARDC, the African Refugee Development Center, founded in Tel Aviv by **Yohannes Bayu**, himself a political refugee who escaped Ethiopia and arrived in Israel in 1997 on a tourist visa. ARDC has a large volunteer staff supplemented by a few professionals. All are deeply committed to helping the refugee population in Israel. That help comes in many forms — asylum application assistance, humanitarian needs, a shelter for women with children and pregnant young women who are victims of assault, Hebrew and English language classes, and advocacy.

Some of our funds aided Marjani and her child. In addition, we offered ARDC a challenge grant (which they met) to help with its organizational needs.

» www.ardc-israel.org • Yohannes@ardc-israel.org

Down the Block

USA

Helping Neighbors Overcome Sudden Financial Problems

“Jimmy” was usually a good student who didn’t disrupt the classroom... that is, as long as he took his medications. So when Jimmy’s behavior required removing him from the classroom, school officials learned that Jimmy’s mom could no longer pay for the medications. She applied for her son to receive state health benefits, but despite the school nurse’s intervention, it did not appear that anything would happen quickly.

Fortunately, the school nurse knew about Down the Block. With one call to **Wendi Weill**, the organization’s founder, the medications were purchased and Jimmy returned to school.

Wendi began this small organization about three years ago as the economy plummeted and she began to hear about local residents caught in the downturn, despite the community’s apparent wealth. There *were* people whose problems could be alleviated with some help. Providing that critical help became Wendi’s focus. She and others began Down the Block to provide for short-term emergency needs in their community.

To encourage more local contributions, we offered Wendi a matching grant. Within one month, local donors responded to her appeal. Over the past year, more people have been helped by this unique model which allows neighbors to help neighbors, anonymously and effectively.

» www.downtheblock.org • contact@DowntheBlock.org

Female Hebrew Benevolent Society

USA

Reaching Out to Jewish Women in Crisis

I want to thank you so much for the very generous contribution you have made to send my children P and F to camp for the second summer in a row... I know that through Eileen Sklaroff... you know how difficult my situation is. It means so much that there are people like you and Eileen who are able to understand and respond. My children didn’t ask for this situation, and I am so grateful, that because of such help, they are able to have the Jewish summer camp experience that means so much to them, despite the family financial difficulties...

The circumstances may be a bit different — some may be elderly and need help with a stair lift; others may be victims of domestic violence and are having difficulty managing both economically and psychologically; still others are single moms, perhaps abandoned by a husband. Common to all of them is the support they receive from Philadelphia’s Female Hebrew Benevolent Society. **Eileen Sklaroff** is the all-volunteer organization’s compassionate and efficient director. When Eileen calls with a specific need, we know that she has done her homework and that our funds will truly change lives. This past year, we did that by sending a number of kids to camp (as so eloquently acknowledged by the writer above), helping a divorced woman keep her family’s home, and more.

» www.fhbs.org • tikkun36@verizon.net

House to House

ISRAEL

Providing Basic Needs for Jerusalem’s Poor

“Ella” spent the years during World War II in a work camp. Her two brothers were less fortunate — they were among the six million who perished during the Shoah.

Now in Israel and widowed, she lives on less than \$15,000 a year. When **Darla Oz** from House to House visited Ella she saw how difficult her life was. Ella’s stove was broken; her gas dryer was also in need of repair. Someone to help clean the tiny apartment would also benefit this 80-plus year-old woman.

Her most important need, however, was working hearing aids. Speaking to Ella on the phone was almost impossible and face-to-face was only slightly easier. Socializing with friends

was difficult, leading her to even greater isolation. Darla confirmed that Ella did go to an audiologist for repairs, but he only laughed, "Look, your hearing aids are 40 years old! What do you want?"

When Darla and her husband Oz retired to Israel several years ago, they wanted to do something meaningful in their new lives there. How easy it was to find worthy needs like Ella's. They began House to House for just that purpose and today they work quietly and efficiently helping many poor families and children, as well as elderly Shoah survivors.

Our funds were directed to individual needs of such people and included monthly food and home health aides (not covered by other resources). Our favorite House to House service is Just Say, "Taxi!" which allows elders the "luxury" of taxi service, rather than a public bus, to get to appointments.

» www.housetohouseisrael.com
wecare@housetohouseisrael.com

Israel Free Loan Association

ISRAEL

Providing Interest-Free Loans to Needy Israelis

The Israel Free Loan Association (IFLA), begun more than 20 years ago by **Dr. Eliezer Jaffe**, is expert at recycling — money. Following the biblical mandate that commands us to loan money without interest to needy people, IFLA has granted more than \$140,000,000 to more than 40,000 borrowers. With less than a 0.02 percent default rate, you cannot call this program anything but a success.

The needs addressed by IFLA run from small business loans to loans for new immigrants, survivors of terror attacks, large families, single parents, Ethiopians, physically challenged people and more.

Our grant to IFLA came from designated donations.

» www.freeloan.org.il • ifla@freeloan.org.il

Kentucky

USA

Reaching Out to an Impoverished Community in Appalachia

Thank you!! I just want to make sure that we give to the community what they need in a productive way. I want what you and the Good People Fund do to have a lasting impression on them. I hope that the time and money that you all provide will change this community for the better. I want these children to grow up and be successful. And with what you all provide — (it) will make it easier for them to do so. — Amanda Sturgill, principal, McRoberts Elementary School

Most of us think of poverty in terms of large cities; centers of urban poverty might be Manhattan's Harlem or Bnei Brak in Israel. Rural poverty, however, is a totally different condition we first experienced more than two years ago on a trip to McRoberts, Kentucky. There we underwrote the cost of weekend backpacks filled with easily-prepared food. For kids at the **McRoberts Elementary School**, where more than 98 percent of the population qualifies for the federal breakfast and lunch program, those backpacks distributed at the close of school on Friday provide weekend sustenance. McRoberts is typical of once-booming Appalachian coal communities. It has a population of about 800, a nearly bare "downtown" with one blinking traffic light, above-average unemployment, and a per-capita income of about \$23,500. We came away from our first visit with a profound sense of sadness, a bit of indignation, and a desire to bring awareness to others who were, no doubt, equally unaware of this part of our country and its difficulties.

Over the past year, in addition to our visits, we continued to interact with the school and its committed principal, Amanda Sturgill, whose comments introduce this entry. Listening to Amanda and her staff, you cannot help but notice how few resources they have and how difficult it is to teach in an area where winter weather closes school for weeks on end. Our funds provided the school with modest gym equipment, basic art supplies, simple recorders for a new music program, books, and an innovative reading program which is already showing promising results.

Keren Segulat Naomi

ISRAEL

The Rabbanit Kapach — A One-Woman Social Service Agency

The Rabbanit Kapach has been helping people in Jerusalem for decades. She is approaching her ninth decade, yet her actual work began when she was just a child. Her life is dedicated to *mitzvahs* and *tzedakah* — a summer camp for city kids who would otherwise have little distraction from long, hot, summer days; Passover food for thousands of poor people; daily knocks at her door by people who just cannot provide sufficient food for themselves and their families.

We love to help the Rabbanit in her work and often provide those very items she distributes to others in need. This past year, we arranged for the purchase of hundreds of pairs of socks and underwear, staples that she just cannot seem to get enough of no matter how much she has on hand. We also underwrote a substantial percentage of the thousands of pounds of matzah she distributes in her annual Passover food drive. It is indeed an honor to be able to help her continue her life of *mitzvahs*.

***Restoration Haven**

USA

Restoring At-Risk Communities

"Lois" spent her teenage years "on the sidelines" making choices that were not the best. Eventually she dropped out of high school and drifted with no direction, no purpose, no support. When she met **Shirley Langston**, founder of Restoration Haven in Waco, Texas, life changed. Shirley is a life-long Texan who left a successful corporate life to return to her old neighborhood in the Waco projects. Shirley believes that the stubborn, hard-core, urban poverty she sees in her neighborhood can be fixed and that people and neighborhoods can be restored. Restoration Haven is her creation and with it she hopes to do just that.

Her **GAP Program** (God's Abundant Provision) provides items not covered by food stamps, but essential just the same: toiletries, detergent, cleaning supplies. Recipients, if not working or in school, must attend life skills classes to qualify. **The Critical Assistance Program** provides one-time rent payment to avoid eviction, auto repairs, work clothes, car seats, medications and more, upon needs verification and application.

Shirley knows many people just like "Lois" and works each day to give them that extra boost that might just push them up and out of the cycle of poverty and into self-sufficiency. When we met Shirley several months ago we knew that if anyone could, she was that person. Her gentle and kind demeanor is coupled with a determination and knowledge that she will not save them all, but she will save some, and that is all that matters.

Our matching funds grant allowed Shirley to continue these two new programs for this year.

» **Restorationhaven.org**
restorationhaven@grandecom.net

I want to take this opportunity and say a big thank you for the wonderful activities for the children this summer. H's father died of cancer nine months ago and you managed to bring much joy in your blessed programs...

– AN ISRAELI WIDOW SPEAKING OF HOW
 JEREMY'S CIRCLE HELPED HER CHILD.

To make an online donation go to
www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate

**Romema Families and
Zev Birger, ז"ל**

ISRAEL

For many poor families in Jerusalem's Romema neighborhood the name "Birger" evokes smiles and admiration. Trudi Birger, ז"ל, worked tirelessly on their behalf until her sudden death several years ago. Families were helped with all types of needs... food, clothing, funds to pay winter heating bills. But, in truth the very best gifts were the investment of time spent just talking to these families and the funds that subsidized higher education for their children. Dozens and dozens of kids broke through the poverty that encompassed their families and many became professionals, tradesmen...supporting themselves and their families.

At Trudi's death, Zev, her husband, assumed her role with the same can-do attitude that Trudi always showed. It was not easy. In recent years he would share how hard it was to raise the funds but he knew he must because that was what Trudi would have wanted.

A few months ago, we received an email informing us of Zev's death from a tragic traffic accident. The only person in his family to survive the Holocaust, Zev was hit by a motorcycle and died from his injuries. Trudi and Zev's legacy is huge... so many lives changed for the better because two people turned their own personal tragedies into goodness and justice.

May Zev's memory be for a blessing. He will be missed.

Sunday Friends

USA

The Working Alternative to Charity

"Renata" was born in the U.S. (but raised for a time in Mexico) ...and as a little girl had dreams of becoming a doctor. But the people in her small town never dreamt big. They thought it foolish for a girl to have such aspirations. At the age of eleven, she and her family were introduced to Sunday Friends. The only languages Renata knew then were her small town's dialect and a little Spanish. Over time she took all of Sunday Friends' English classes...determined to become fluent...and received school supplies from Sunday Friends every year when school began. Beginning high school at the age of fourteen, Renata was determined to succeed, sometimes working nearly 35 hours weekly at part-time jobs so that her family could pay her tuition at the private high school she attended. When she graduated she had earned a 3.6 GPA and was accepted to the University of California "to make a difference in my community or to be someone in life and to help to improve my society". She also now volunteers with other youngsters at Sunday Friends to repay the kindnesses she and her family received there.

Renata's story best describes the goals and successes of Sunday Friends, a San Jose, California program begun in 1997 by **Janis Baron**, then the mother of young teens, who wished to instill a spirit of giving and volunteerism in her own children.

Sunday Friends' programs target that city's poorest families, many either homeless or on the verge of becoming so. Meeting twice-monthly at a local elementary school, kids and parents participate in classes that focus on life skills, parenting, financial literacy...even letter-writing to thank Sunday Friends' donors for their support. The goal, of course, is to foster self-sufficiency and independence. In exchange, they earn "credits" that they can redeem at the group's "Treasure Chest" which is filled with necessities such as diapers, school supplies, and cleaning products.

Our donation this past year continues to fund the original *Rent Relief Project* we developed last year. Rather than redeem their credits for items, participants can "earn" either \$100 or \$200 paid directly to their landlord. We know from the letters we receive from participants that it makes a huge difference. With the rent supplement paid, funds are freed up for a pair of new glasses, some clothes, or more food...things most of us take for granted.

» www.sundayfriends.org • mail@sundayfriends.org

The Forgotten People Fund

ISRAEL

Helping Ethiopian Families One by One

I have been having a great time with the eight youngsters with whom we have begun the project and three are already swimmers and two are almost swimmers. When we began, three were so frightened of the water... and now all eight are jumping in, keeping their heads underwater and, when the hour is over, we can't get them out of the pool! ...I am having a wonderful time seeing the looks on their faces when they get the idea of what it is to swim. I feel confident that at least these eight kids will be able to SWIMSAFE.

For the lucky Ethiopian youngsters in Netanya described here by Aida Miller, the Forgotten People Fund's (FPF) SWIMSAFE program may make all the difference. The program was inspired by the tragic death of Avraham, a young boy who drowned in a summer swimming accident. FPF volunteers did not want to see another senseless tragedy like this and began swim instruction this past summer. When Avraham's father learned what they had done he thanked them "profusely and said he hoped that no other parent would suffer what he and his family have been through".

This program and others make this all-volunteer organization an important part of the safety net for the large (actually the largest in the entire country) Ethiopian population in Netanya. Begun by Anne and David Silverman and Aida and Rabbi Yosef Miller, 27 over 10 years ago, FPF volunteers, acting in concert with local social services, have helped hundreds of Ethiopian olim (immigrants).

Wendy and Jeff Starrfield are FPF's most capable volunteer

social workers. Working with them we are able to provide funds for plumbing and electrical repairs, medical needs not covered by national insurance, moving expenses, new appliances...the list is endless.

With an overhead of less than one percent, we know our funds are having an extraordinary impact. A portion of the funds sent to FPF were donor-designated.

» www.fpf.org.il • hihosilv@netvision.net.il

The Redistribution Center

USA

Rescuing New Merchandise to Help Families in Need

It is hard to imagine that with a budget of less than \$50,000 someone could rescue millions of dollars' worth of new merchandise each year, get it to people in need, and also provide emergency food for elders and soldiers when other resources are unavailable. This is exactly how **Ranya Kelly** operates. Since 1991, when she first discovered a dumpster behind a local shoe store filled with hundreds of pairs of brand new shoes, Ranya has been retrieving perfectly good new merchandise (think food, clothing, shoes, building supplies, housewares, linens, electronics, office supplies) from some of our country's largest retailers and manufacturers and getting it to people in need. To date, she has distributed more than \$50,000,000 worth of goods, including more than 700,000 pairs of new shoes. Ranya herself has donated more than 45,000 volunteer hours in these twenty years and counts almost 250 volunteers who work on her behalf.

In recent years, she began a food pantry and has given away more than 1,000,000 of food to recipients who were turned away from local food banks without sufficient stock.

Another aspect of Ranya's special work is for veterans and currently deployed soldiers. Several times each year she sends packages overseas to soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. She also works closely with military personnel in Colorado providing beds, housewares, food...whatever is needed for our injured returning veterans.

As in the past, our donations were used to stock the food pantry and underwrite Ranya's major expenses including gasoline, insurance, and vehicle maintenance.

» www.redistributioncenter.org
rci-kelly@redistributioncenter.org

For new GOOD PEOPLE stories:

www.goodpeoplefund.org/The_Tzedakah_Diaries/Entry_Index

Yad Chessed**USA***Boston's Jewish Safety Net*

For Boston's most vulnerable Jewish residents, Yad Chessed represents a short-term safety net for basic needs that include overdue utility bills, food, housing, medical care, and clothing.

Founded by **Bob Housman**, more than 22 years ago, Yad Chessed is often the only resource that will keep an individual or family from falling into a never-ending spiral of despair. This is a bare-bones operation directed with dignity and respect for those they help.

Our funds were used in conjunction with Yad Chessed's to provide a family with critically-needed work transportation.

» www.yadchedded.org • info@yadchedded.org
marc@fogels.org

Home Front Hearts**USA***Serving Military Families*

Nearly every soldier who serves our country leaves some family behind. Mother, wife, kids, husband, brother or sister... all miss a loved one and worry about his or her welfare.

Randi Cairns, founder of Home Front Hearts is "living the life" and knows *first-hand* what military families must endure. She is the wife of a soldier and knows the sacrifices families make when a loved one deploys. Her husband has left her and their four children on three separate deployments, including two in Afghanistan. Who steps in when four kids are sick, and Mom herself is pressed with responsibilities? How do kids react knowing their parent is in a dangerous place? Do they act out? Can they focus on school work? The problems are endless.

Home Front Hearts alleviates many of these problems through advocacy on behalf of the needs of families, an extensive resource directory for locating help and instruction in ways *communities* can best serve military families.

We met Randi a few years ago shortly after she began this work. How she manages four children *and* an organization, while her husband currently serves his second tour in Afghanistan, is something that amazes us. We have directed our funding to technology needs, help for individuals in crisis, and Randi's *Pay It Forward* program. This program underwrote the salary of a wife of a wounded soldier who cannot pursue traditional employment while her husband has permanent ongoing medical needs.

» www.homefronthearts.org • rscairns@homefronthearts.org

Tzvika Levi and the**ISRAEL****Lone Soldier Program***Extended Family for Soldiers Without Families in Country*

They may be from the U.S., France, South America, Africa, Russia or any number of other countries, and each of them has left family and all that is familiar for an opportunity to serve in the Israeli army. Known as *chayalim bodedim*, or lone soldiers, there are more than 5,000 men and women who commit to this rigorous and often dangerous life.

For some lucky soldiers, **Lt. Colonel Tzvika Levi** (Ret) has assumed the role of family, mentor and confidante. Officially his job is to work with soldiers who have been assigned to live on *kibbutzim*, as well as with Israeli soldiers who come from families in need. His compassion for these soldiers knows no bounds — they are treated as if they were his own family. In

**VETERANS IN THE U.S.
AND ISRAEL****A Package From Home****ISRAEL***Providing Creature Comforts to IDF Soldiers*

I am a lone soldier currently serving in the IDF and I am writing to thank you for your organization's generous donation of care packages... I, and the rest of the guys, are always extremely grateful to receive such packages as they really do make us feel that we are not alone and that there are people out there who care about us, which is especially important for those of us who are serving far from our friends and families. (We also like American candy!)... Thank you very much for helping put smiles on our faces this holiday.

Barbara Silverman, founder of A Package From Home (APFH), loves to receive letters like this one. Each letter confirms that the more than 160,000 packages sent to Israeli soldiers by APFH do make soldiers happy. Each package is assembled by volunteers and includes creature comforts like toothpaste and a new toothbrush, some sweet candy, salty snacks, a letter much like the one above, and practical items, like long underwear for cold nights or a new white t-shirt for hot summer days. All funds granted to APFH were donor-designated.

» www.apackagefromhome.org • apfh@gilor.com

addition to finding them homes on *kibbutzim*, Tzvika is often asked to provide simple but important items for his charges — fans, shavers, fleece jackets or heaters — whatever it takes to make them more comfortable.

All funds given to Tzvika's work were donor-designated.

*Veterans Farm

USA

Horticulture Therapy and Disabled Combat Veterans

Sgt. Adam Burke returned from Iraq with severe PTSD, TBI (traumatic brain injury) and a Purple Heart. Yet, he could never forget the promise he made during the earliest and darkest days of his recovery...if he returned home alive, he would help others and give back.

His recovery was slow and painful. Recalling his youth growing up on a blueberry farm, Adam decided to return to farming and in time, began to heal from his trauma. He wondered, if this work could help *him*, then why not others? Horticultural therapy is a well-respected complement to traditional medical therapies, so could the physical labor performed outdoors prove also to be therapeutic? Were there other skills involving cognitive therapy that could help? Adam had developed an effective and valuable way to help other vets returning with similar disabilities.

Today, Veterans Farm, located in Jacksonville, Florida, has two operating blueberry farms. With Jacksonville home to multiple armed forces' facilities, there is no shortage of injured soldiers to avail themselves of this excellent resource. The national agriculture industry is anxious to find skilled workers and entrepreneurs, so it seems as if Adam's idea is a perfect solution.

The Good People Fund underwrote the purchase of thousands of pots Adam used to start the blueberry bushes for the second farm.

» www.veteransfarm.com • veteransfarm@yahoo.com

THE WORLD OVER

Cuba America Jewish Mission -CAJM USA

Reviving Jewish Life in Cuba

The needs continue... we just finished constructing the list of medicines that must be bought for me to carry to several people who are with serious health problems. Times are still tough in Cuba and medicines are in even shorter supply... Unfortunately, there are fewer and fewer medicine samples so we must resort to paying for them... We now have 5 special needs children...

June Safran is the founder and former director of Cuba American Jewish Mission, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the revival of Jewish life in Cuba. When June writes about the needs of this vibrant Jewish community, we try to help wherever we can. While medications and baby supplies are its most urgent needs, we know that CAJM also fosters religious services and holiday celebrations as well as a unique program which encourages young people to interact with and lend a hand to elders.

If you have thought about travel to this Jewish community, CAJM conducts trips annually and welcomes others to get a personal glimpse of Jewish life in Cuba.

» www.cajm.org • themission@thecajm.org

Kulanu

USA

Helping Little-Known Jewish Communities Around the World

... it has been one of the greatest honors in my life to have hosted a rabbi... We are poor, but very happy because we have Torah. In a very short time the rabbi has helped us in educating our children, young people and adults, and we have benefitted greatly from his visit... The Rabbi is very serious about the study of Torah, he keeps the men very busy, and has taught us women lessons...

The writer is a member of the tiny Jewish community in El Salvador (Central America). With about sixty Jewish families in the mainstream community and another 260 people in more remote areas, the thirst for a Jewish life here is strong.

We first learned about El Salvadoran Jews from **Harriet Bograd** who currently heads Kulanu, a small organization devoted to the discovery and welfare of remote and often unknown Jewish communities world-wide. When Harriet asked if we would be willing to underwrite a month-long visit from Rabbi Aaron Rehberg to instruct community members in Jewish observance, law and ritual practice, we were excited about what this visit could accomplish. From all reports we've received, the Rabbi's trip was a success and it is hoped that he can return in the near future. Meanwhile, Kulanu's contribution of a new computer connects the community to Rabbi Rehberg in Jerusalem via Skype video.

When you look at the world map on Kulanu's web site you will be impressed by the many markers indicating remote Jewish communities.

» www.kulanu.org • donations@kulanu.org

MayaWorks*Beautiful Judaica from Guatemala***USA**

We continue to share the products of MayaWorks, a small Chicago-based organization dedicated to the welfare of Mayan women in rural Guatemala by promoting and marketing their original handiwork. While everything these women create is beautiful, we especially like the colorful crocheted *kipkot* and woven *tallitot*. If you are about to celebrate a *simcha*, these *kipkot* make a special statement about both your taste and your tzedakah values.

Check out their web site... this is money well worth spending.

» www.mayaworks.org • info@mayaworks.org

I hope that the time and money that you all provide will change this community for the better. I want these children to grow up and be successful. And with what you all provide — (it) will make it easier for them to do so.

— AMANDA STURGILL, PRINCIPAL, McROBERTS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The PanAfrican Acupuncture Project USACreating Alternative Medicine Opportunities in Africa*

While recently in Uganda, the trainees related many breathtaking stories... how their acupuncture treatments led to a significant reduction in size and pain from grossly enlarged spleens, a condition previously untreatable. ...another spoke of one of his AIDS patients who, because of his acupuncture treatments, was once again able to walk... And another described how his treatments greatly reduced the severity and frequency of epileptic seizures.

This note came to us a few months ago from **Richard Mandell**, a Boston-based licensed acupuncturist. Richard founded PAAP, The PanAfrican Acupuncture Project, in 2003 to help people living in remote corners of the world, where traditional medicine is limited or non-existent. There, diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB are daily realities. Because modern medicine is scarce, alternative choices can be true life-savers. Richard chose to address this when he began PAAP. His volunteer acupuncturists have trained more than 200 healthcare workers, primarily in Uganda, to use acupuncture's miraculous techniques in the treatment of diseases.

Richard estimates that since 2003, more than fifty trainers, a number of whom have volunteered multiple times, have provided approximately 17,000 treatments each year — a *very* impressive number. The Good People Fund provided a \$6,000 matching grant to PAAP for its good work.

» www.panafricanacupuncture.org

rmandell@panafricanacupuncture.org

PEOPLE AND ANIMALS HEALING TOGETHER

Humans and Animals in**ISRAEL****Mutual Assistance Israel (HAMA Israel)***Animal-Assisted Therapy*

The unique bond between animals and humans has been acknowledged for thousands of years. Our favorite dog knows when a warm nuzzle or wet kiss can help. Cat people know similar responses from a feline can elicit a sense of calm and well-being.

Avshalom Beni, a compassionate therapist and animal lover, recognized this special bond and began HAMA Israel so that kids-at-risk, Shoah survivors, abused children, elders, and others in emotional pain could find relief and happiness. What makes Avshalom's work unique is that many of his special animal "therapists" are themselves victims of abuse, and thus uniquely qualified to be part of this special therapy.

While part of our donation was used for one of HAMA's therapeutic groups, a significant designated grant was directed to a feline spay-neuter release program to address the proliferation of cats in Israel's urban areas and *kibbutzim* where health and quality of life issues are prevalent. Dedicated volunteers collect the animals and deliver them to local veterinarians for treatment. The program has already treated hundreds of animals and released them back into their environment. This effort has achieved significant success in the locations where it is running.

» www.hama-israel.org.il • beni.avshalom@gmail.com

To make an online donation go to
www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate

Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association ISRAEL

Therapeutic Horseback Riding for People with Physical and Emotional Disabilities

He's a young man. His name is Zak and he has seen active duty as an IDF soldier in a war zone. After returning from service Zak, like many others, suffers from severe post traumatic stress syndrome. For nearly ten years he rarely slept, his brain always running; medications left him disoriented and some medical treatments actually worsened things. The only way he could "tune out" the sounds and the images of the war was to surround himself with loud music. That is, until he arrived at the Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association (INTRA) almost one year ago to begin therapeutic riding sessions. Today, Zak is working and has developed a relationship with a young woman he met while riding. His life has changed with the benefit of therapeutic riding.

Therapeutic riding works because the stride of a horse most closely approximates that of a human being. When a disabled person sits atop a horse, the horse's movements stimulate muscles and nerves normally unaffected by traditional therapy. This physical movement and sense of developing competence also contributes to the emotional healing of the rider. **Anita and Giora Shkedi** founded INTRA and they have been on the forefront of therapeutic riding for decades. Daily they work with children and adults whose disabilities include brain injury, blindness, neurological impairments, emotional disorders and other debilitating conditions. Each day they witness the miracles of animal and human interaction.

Our funds were used to underwrite the PTSD Veteran Program as well as some operating expenses. A significant portion of our donation was donor-directed.

» www.intra.org.il • friendsofINTRA@aol.com
agshkedi@bezeqint.net

HUMAN NEEDS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Special Individual Needs and Holocaust Survivors and Righteous Gentiles

A Place to Turn When All Else Fails

There are times during the year when a specific need is made known to us and we are asked if we can help. We learn of these

needs through our unique relationships with people who work "on the front-lines". They could be teachers, social workers, or one of the many good people from organizations we fund. We can be called upon to help when other resources are not available or are too cumbersome or slow to respond. Today's economic climate has created more needs than we could possibly meet, but when we can, we do help.

Examples of where our funds have been committed include payment for utilities, rents and mortgages and food. We have also contributed to daycare for children of underemployed working parents, soccer team costs for a youngster whose only joy in life is to play in a league with others his age and whose family could never manage this expense, and a refrigerator for an elderly woman who had stored her food on ice in a refrigerator that no longer functioned. In each of these cases and others, our funds *made a difference*.

Also included in this category were the needs of indigent Holocaust survivors in both the U.S. and Israel who now face not only the natural aging process, but also physical and emotional trauma from their Shoah experiences.

In Conclusion...

Dr. Maya Angelou once remarked, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Dr. Angelou's comments were made abundantly clear to me as I finished the final read-through of this report. There was a spontaneous joy when I realized our tzedakah model works and how many people have been impacted by the actions we have taken on behalf of our donors. It is our hope that if you have read this report, whether from cover to cover or by skipping around from story to story, it has evoked those same *feelings*, that same euphoria. Our focus allows good people doing great work, person-to-person, to better the world.

We invite you to become part of this work so that you too can feel this same excitement. You can contribute funds and share word of our work with others who may not know about us. Together we can make a difference.

- Naomi