

**JUST WHO ARE**

**GOOD**



**PEOPLE?**

**LOOK INSIDE AND FIND OUT**

**GOOD PEOPLE GUIDE 2012 [WWW.GOODPEOPLEFUND.ORG](http://WWW.GOODPEOPLEFUND.ORG)**

*Small **actions**, huge **impacts***

# OUR STORY

Dear Friends of the Good People Fund:



Photo by Mark Berkley

**SO, JUST WHO ARE GOOD PEOPLE?** Five years ago, as we developed our vision for this organization, the term “Good People” seemed a perfect description. The phrase encompassed not only the people whose work we supported, but also each of you who contribute to those efforts.

Surely, there are many amazing organizations doing admirable work on behalf of the better good, but what distinguishes our programs is the presence of Good People, those who have encountered something in this world that needs fixing and dedicate themselves to that end, often at great personal risk and expense. They all work quietly, with relatively small budgets and often, few staff. What a privilege it is to work with them, to be inspired by them.

### WATERING THE FLOWERS

Clearly one of the best parts of our work is getting to meet each of our Good People personally – to share a meal, to hear firsthand just why they do what they do. Their passion is extraordinary and uplifting. We love nothing more than to help them manage that passion – to guide them and mentor them in the best ways to run an effective organization.

I often compare this deeply personal connection to nurturing a garden; watering our flowers, tending to their needs and watching them flourish. Though not always grand in scale, the work performed by our Good People is highly effective, often incredibly creative and makes a significant difference.

I’ve talked a lot about the Good People we fund. But what about the Good People Fund? What sets us apart from other worthy organizations out there? What makes us special and unique aside from the Good People at the heart of what we do?

### THE FOUR S’s

We believe that what makes our work both unusual and highly effective can best be described by the four S’s – **scope**, **screening**, **supervision** and **speed**:

- S SCOPE:** The programs we work with cover a broad spectrum of needs – from poverty and hunger to elders and disabilities, and more.
- S SCREENING:** We take the screening process very seriously, carefully vetting each organization we fund to be sure their work is legitimate.
- S SUPERVISION:** Once we commit to an organization, we don’t just hand them a check. We supervise their work and guide them on their way.
- S SPEED:** When needs are great, time is of the essence. We work efficiently and often on a moment’s notice to insure that needs are met as swiftly as possible.



### SO, WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN OUR EFFORTS?

If you want your donation to have *maximum* impact, to repair the world in effective and innovative ways, you have come to the right place. Much like our grantees, the Good People Fund operates with minimal overhead, and our few salaries are underwritten by grants specifically directed to that purpose so that your donation goes to the people who need it most, not to our overhead.

Someone recently likened us to a “boutique hedge fund” ... matching donors seeking creative solutions to problems around us, with Good People working quietly and diligently to resolve those very same problems. Day after day we prove that small actions can have a huge impact. We hope that your act of tzedakah can make our collective impact even greater.



Photo by Debbi Cooper

### OUR NEW LOOK

A short note about our new “look” – In keeping with our pledge to use your dollars efficiently and effectively, we are taking advantage of current printing technology that allows us to use more color while still maintaining our promise to keep overhead to a minimum. We hope you enjoy *seeing* as well as *reading* about some of the great work your donations make possible.

So please read on and meet Fraidy and Avshalom, Rick, Irene and Adam, Yitz and all of our other Good People – we know they will inspire you, as they do us.

It is a privilege and honor to act on your behalf in this holy work,

Naomi Eisenberger,  
Executive Director



# SPECIAL PROJECTS



## LEVINSKY PARK: Doing The Right Thing

*The human suffering and the hopelessness in Levinsky Park is palpable. Without this morning's meal, hundreds of people would have gone hungry until later tonight. I honestly don't know how they are surviving in the cold and rain...The forecast is for temperatures in the 40's tonight and 50's during the day tomorrow.*

Our annual winter visit to programs in Israel this past year included several days in Tel Aviv where we saw firsthand the growing number of African refugees who congregated in Levinsky

Park each day. For many, the park was their only home; it was where they slept with little protection from the elements and unsure of where their next meal might come from.

There is no easy solution to the very real political and social ramifications of the current refugee situation and we are sensitive to that. But, we also believe that while the refugees are there, as employment options quickly dwindle and government sanctions take hold, they must be fed. For that reason we have provided a modest breakfast to sustain these individuals until their evening meal (served by another volunteer group) is served.

None of this would be possible without the expertise and oversight of **Gideon Ben Ami**, surely one of our Good People. We met Gideon this past winter when he volunteered in the park. His compassion is limitless. Once a successful restaurateur in both the US and Israel, Gideon has mastered the art of negotiating the best prices for whatever he purchases. Better yet, when possible, he collects donations of leftover food reducing the cost to less than 40 cents a meal.

Breakfast in the park was just the *right thing to do*.

I once again am at a loss for words on how to thank you for everything that you have done for our small community. I am always overwhelmed at the love and generosity that is shown by all of you...

## KENTUCKY: Reaching Out to an Impoverished Community in Appalachia

Our relationship with McRoberts, Kentucky, a small town in Appalachia, began about three years ago when we made our first trip to the region. The visit impacted us deeply and left indelible memories. This past year a group of 38 volunteers representing **Congregation Shaarei Shomayim** in Lancaster, PA, **Congregation B'nai Israel** in Millburn, NJ and others from New York, Ohio and California, completed a 3-day humanitarian trip to continue this effort.

For the Good People Fund this 4th interaction with McRoberts was definitely the largest, most complicated endeavor yet. For two and a half days in the heat and humidity (and an occasional torrential downpour) our group accomplished much: painting and rehabbing five homes, sorting numerous items we brought for donation and running a two day after-school camp. It was both exhausting and exhilarating.

Despite the community's poverty, isolation, and continuing drug problems the residents of McRoberts are proud and warm people. Their hospitality knew no bounds and even included personal packages of peanut butter fudge for our journey home.

More trips are planned – we'd love to bring you along.





SPECIAL PROJECTS

*Levinsky Park	Opening Spread
Kentucky	Opening Spread

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The printing of this report was underwritten by donor-recommended funds.

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HUMAN NEEDS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A Place to Turn When All Else Fails

ISR & USA

Dear Unknown Friend,  
Our sages tell us that words that come from the heart enter the heart. So with this in mind I send you all the thanks I can muster. You cannot imagine how much the money for the motorized chair that I use means to my independence. Every time I use it I will think of you with all of my heart's blessings.  
Thank you, thank you, Rena H.

Sitting atop my desk is a collection of cards and personal notes, expressing sentiments much like those in the note to the left. They have been routed to me through some of our programs or other sources. The writer does not know my identity but her words underscore the importance of our actions on behalf of individuals and emergency needs.

While the vast majority of our funds are directed to the organizations described in this report, perhaps the most profound aspect of our work involves responding to individual needs, and resolving crises, often on a moment’s notice. We generally learn of these needs or emergency situations from one of our Good People whose organization we support, or even from social workers

or medical personnel with whom we often interact. In all cases a professional has vetted the request to assure its validity.

The gaps we fill can be as simple as paying a utility bill or providing supermarket certificates so a family can eat properly, or even granting a small monthly rent supplement for a Holocaust survivor struggling to pay the rent and to buy food. Our intervention extends to the most poignant of situations such as underwriting the repairs on a motorized wheelchair lift for an elder barely making ends meet with her social security payments. Without the repairs all semblance of independence would be lost... Who could say no? More often than not, the stories are so compelling, we find ourselves saying “yes”.

HUNGER

**\*Amir Project** **USA**  
*Inspiring Young Adults to Social Justice Through Gardening*

[www.amirproject.org](http://www.amirproject.org)

Growing up, **David Fox** loved summer camp. He also felt compelled to try to make the world a better place. In college, he combined these passions to create Amir, an organization which trains young adults through the medium of gardening, to teach and inspire campers on how to build a more just world by relieving hunger and poverty.

Primarily based in 11 summer camps, Amir also thrives in faith communities and inner-city community centers. Guided by Amir-trained Lead Farmers, campers or community volunteers plan, plant and harvest their gardens, while learning about environmentalism, sustainable gardening and social justice. Amir’s Garden to Pantry Initiative connects the camps to local food pantries; harvested crops, even after camp season ends, are donated to the pantries.

The Good People Fund’s challenge grant was just what David needed to build a strong foundation for his work.

**AmpleHarvest.org** **USA**  
*Gardeners Helping Hungry Neighbors*

[www.ampleharvest.org](http://www.ampleharvest.org)

*We are having an incredibly bountiful harvest this year, so much more than we can eat or give away... We have donated about 40 pounds of cucumbers, zucchini, squash in the past four days, plus cuttings from our mint, oregano, and basil plants... [and] hope that the people who receive it enjoy them.*

These words from a home gardener who donated excess crops to a local food pantry capture the vision that **Gary Oppenheimer** dreamed of when he launched AmpleHarvest.org back in 2009. A master gardener responsible for his local community garden, Gary realized that the mounds of produce left to rot each season were both a waste and an opportunity. How many more community and home gardeners also left perfectly good and healthy produce behind when their bounty was so successful? How could that excess get into the hands of those who were hungry?

Gary focused on identifying all US food pantries and creating a database that could be accessed by home gardeners via the Internet. In but three years, operating in a virtual environment, AmpleHarvest.org has enrolled more than 5,400 food pantries (or 1 out of 7) in this country and enabled delivery of more than 20 million pounds of fresh produce which would otherwise go to waste, to those who need it most. Hunger statistics show that 1 out of every 6 Americans needs food assistance – Gary’s efforts have provided a substantial response to this crisis.

Our donations have helped Gary grow his minimal infrastructure. Each of you can do your part by spreading the word to others who garden and by directing local food pantries to register on Gary’s web site.

**\*Backpack Buddies** **USA**  
*Filling Backpacks with Food to Feed Hungry Children*

[www.templeshalomnj.org](http://www.templeshalomnj.org)

When congregants **Lou Schoen, Lenore Robinson** and **Helene Monat** of Temple Sholom in Aberdeen, NJ, learned of families in a nearby elementary school who had difficulty providing their children with sufficient healthy meals, they decided to take action.

Working with Temple Shalom’s Backpack Buddies, the school selects ten children to receive a pack each Friday filled with healthy snacks and easy meals to supplement their weekend nutrition. With Lou, Lenore and Helene at the helm and other congregants sharing responsibility for the effort, what could be a time-consuming project works beautifully and efficiently.

The Good People Fund offered a matching grant to jump-start the program. All funds have been raised, and the group plans to re-evaluate their efforts mid-year and possibly add even more kids to the list.

Here’s one small community making a difference. How many more could do the same?

**Darchei Tzion -** **ISR**  
**The Beit Shean Food Pantry**  
*Feeding Hungry People in Beit Shean*

[yitz@merav.net](mailto:yitz@merav.net)

Perhaps best known for its amazing archeological excavations, the city of Beit Shean in northern Israel is also a working class community with many struggling to make ends meet. We were introduced to the good work of Darchei Tzion by our friend **Yitz Feigenbaum** from Bet Hayered. The all-volunteer group is

committed to helping neighbors who are struggling, and we enjoy supporting their work around holidays when food needs are even greater than usual.

While most of the food that Darchei Tzion distributes is donated by local sources, there is always a need for some prepared foods and food containers for distribution. With our help, about 150 families and individuals receive food for *chaggim* (holidays) as well as Shabbat meals each week.

**Dinner Garden** **USA**  
*Ending Hunger Through Home Gardening*

[www.dinnergarden.org](http://www.dinnergarden.org)

When **Holly Hirshberg** sat down to do the math, the results were astounding: 9 dollars for 250 Beefsteak tomato seeds, plus 18 dollars for 216,000 carrot seeds, plus 16 dollars for 372,000 lettuce seeds, plus another 18 dollars for 7,350 squash seeds equaled a 61 dollar outlay to produce, quite literally, thousands of pounds of fresh produce with a value exceeding 1 million dollars. Talk about a multiplier effect. This was a worthy investment.

In 2008, when our economy went into free-fall and her family felt the pinch, Holly recalled growing up in a home where gardening was a way of life. Why couldn’t more people grow their own food to help reduce living costs? Even people living in apartments could grow gardens in containers. And so, Dinner Garden was born.

In the past four years, Dinner Garden has distributed seeds and gardening information to thousands of individuals and distribution sites across the country. Holly’s program has also facilitated the creation of hundreds of community gardens, including gardens for elders and disabled people living in San Antonio Housing Authority buildings in her Texas home community.

With San Antonio ARC volunteers helping Holly with packing and our grant underwriting shipping costs as well as a new e-newsletter, connections among Dinner Garden’s growing community of fans have strengthened.

*To make an online donation go to*  
**[www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate](http://www.goodpeoplefund.org/donate)**

**Family to Family** **USA**  
*Providing Hunger Relief and More to Profoundly Poor American Families*

[www.family-to-family.org](http://www.family-to-family.org)

What we read in the newspaper can often be sad and depressing. For most of us, we may pause for a moment to think; perhaps even cry or share the story with a loved one or friend, and then we continue on with our lives. It takes a special person – someone like **Pam Koner** – to act. In fact, it was a 2002 *New York Times* series on rural poverty and hunger that gave Pam the inspiration for Family to Family, an organization that links families with more to those with profoundly less. Participants either fund (through Family to Family) or directly purchase a week’s worth of food that they mail to their partner family – not only feeding hungry people, but also fostering a personal connection.

Pam’s newest project, GivingWorks!, helps children with less, and typically on the receiving end, become givers too, through a book donation project that sends books and book bags to children living in poverty, so they in turn can read these new books to younger children in need and then leave them as gifts. The findings so far are quite encouraging: “giving” kids leave a GivingWorks! event experiencing pride, empathy, empowerment and a feeling of community.

Our funds this year were used to purchase food for families that lost their sponsors, emergency food provisions, a large freezer for the Navajo community food pantry and gasoline needed for the delivery of monthly food packages to Navajo families. We also helped to cover some administrative costs and to make a summer internship possible.

**\*Food Forward** **USA**  
*Harvesting Fresh Fruit from Private Property to Feed Hungry People*

[www.foodforward.org](http://www.foodforward.org)

While walking his “senior” Labrador Retriever through his Los Angeles neighborhood, **Rick Nahmias** slowed down and began to notice things – like the fact that his neighbors’ abundant fruit trees were dropping tons of ripe oranges, grapefruit, lemons and tangerines on their lawns, only to rot. Wouldn’t that fresh fruit be a welcome addition to the other items distributed by local pantries and food banks? Wouldn’t hungry people enjoy and benefit from the healthy produce?

Rick’s epiphany led him to start Food Forward, a young organization that matches volunteers with private property owners who invite the group to come and harvest their fruit. Food Forward’s website provides a list of upcoming pickings and complete instructions on how to sign up to help.

Since 2009, Food Forward has gleaned more than 1,000,000 pounds of juicy fruit (as well as tomatoes, lettuce and other healthy food), which they’ve distributed to more than 25 local agencies. In the process, volunteers provide sustenance while “coming together as a community to learn about urban hunger, food waste and food justice.”

The Good People Fund provided a grant for new Macs that will allow Food Forward to carry on its important mission. Armed with these new computers, Food Forward’s reach will be felt by many more hungry people.

**Hunger in Israel** **ISR**  
*Targeting Direct Relief to Those Most in Need*

One of the most effective ways we know to reach hungry people in Israel is through the purchase of thousands of dollars’ worth of supermarket scrip, known as *tlushim*. We distribute scrip to several of the Good People who run programs we support in Israel. They all work on the “frontlines” in social service settings and can identify individuals and families who will benefit from this extra support. We reach hundreds of people this way, mostly during major holidays, and know from those who act on our behalf just how important this program is to all of them.

**\*Moadon Re’ut** **ISR**  
*Serving Hot Meals In Jerusalem*

[www.reut-jerusalem.org.il](http://www.reut-jerusalem.org.il)

On a chilly winter evening in Jerusalem last February, we were warmed by a group of Re’ut School students who had been in class since early morning. We met them as they prepared and served a delicious hot meal to several tables of neighborhood “guests”. Many were elderly, and all were clearly enjoying not only nourishment, but also camaraderie and love from their servers.

The soup kitchen was inspired by the school’s founder, **Dr. Aryeh Geiger**, z’l, who believed that *tikkun olam* and volunteerism should be at the core of a student’s education. Moadon Re’ut (The Friendship Club) serves eighty hot meals, three times weekly to (mostly) elders from the city’s welfare rolls. These hardworking, caring teen volunteers also prepare sandwiches for local elementary school students and distribute food baskets several times a year.



This program is not just about feeding hungry people – it is about teaching kids to grow into compassionate adults who have learned to be kind and caring.

Our \$5,000 matching grant challenge was recently completed. Money well invested.

The Bagel Brigade

USA

Distributing Leftover Baked Goods in Los Angeles

[www.bagelbrigade.org](http://www.bagelbrigade.org)

Picture a desolate suburban Los Angeles Costco parking lot at 7 o'clock every morning. Three cars pull up and pop trunks packed with bags of bagels, croissants, pastries, artisan breads – even a sheet cake decorated with roses, ready for a birthday message. A group of volunteers rapidly unloads the goods into a row of shopping carts, just as three more vehicles drive up to retrieve the food and drive it to distribution points for hundreds of hungry people.

This is the work of the all-volunteer Bagel Brigade, started by the late **Herman Berman**, who remembered all too well the hunger he and his siblings experienced as children. Herman’s vision was that no one, especially children, should go hungry, and the 135 Brigade volunteers are committed to his goal. Scouring local supermarkets and bakeries to collect day-old breads and pastries, they work with dozens of area social service agencies and schools to distribute food to those in need throughout the community.

Each month the group collects an average of 110,000 pounds of bread products and 40,000 pounds of pastries donated by more than 65 markets, delis and bakeries. This bounty is then distributed to more than 25 food pantries and other feeding programs, as well as to 40 low-income schools serving families.

With more than 1.7 million hungry people in Los Angeles and an additional 6.5 million being “food insecure,” this small and efficient program is critically important. Our matching grant helped the group meet their minimal overhead costs as well as purchase cereal and milk for school breakfasts.

Youngstown Community Food Bank

USA

Feeding Hungry Families in the Rust Belt

[lordij@msn.com](mailto:lordij@msn.com)

If you ask the hundreds of people who pick up a bag and “shop” at **Joe Lordi’s** Youngstown Community Food Bank each week what they best like about the experience, almost all would agree that

the respect and warmth that prevails overcomes the shame and sadness they may feel about having to rely on a food pantry. This special atmosphere no doubt derives from Joe’s own personal experience being on the receiving end when, years ago, his own business failed.

There’s little bureaucracy and few questions asked. Joe helps area churches, veterans’ centers, senior living residences and other organizations in need. He never refuses to share when we ask for a truckload to be shipped to other communities where hunger is a serious issue.

Our funds help underwrite some of the auto and insurance expenses Joe incurs while running the program.

Zehava and Karyn - Feeding the Neighbors

ISR

Food Packages for Neighborhood Families in Jerusalem

Neighbor helping neighbor – nothing can better describe this small program started by **Zehava** and **Karyn**, two friends living in Jerusalem’s Baka neighborhood, a place known for its wealth and expensive housing. But, tucked away along some side streets are apartments with families who struggle for the basics.

Founded on the premise that those with more should help those with less, the group provides monthly food packages to about 12 families and individuals who have been identified by local social agencies. All work, from purchases to packing to delivery, is carried out by volunteers.

From time to time the women learn of cases where food needs exceed their capacity. That’s when we step in to ensure a steady source of food each month. This year’s grant provided for those families’ needs.

No nonprofit organization is as fortunate as one that becomes the recipient of the Good People Fund’s overwhelming generosity. It provides much more than financial support by offering networking, marketing ideas, board development and even connections to supplies at reduced prices. The people at the Good People Fund have become benefactors, mentors and friends, and without their support Unchained would not have been able to flourish as it has during its first year in existence.

**Fraidy Reiss**, Founder and Executive Director  
Unchained At Last  
The only nonprofit in the US dedicated to helping women leave arranged marriages.

KIDS

USA

Art Creation Foundation for Children

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

[www.artforhaitianchildren.org](http://www.artforhaitianchildren.org)

Kids growing up in Haiti have very little opportunity to improve their lives. 50% or more do not even go to school; half of children under five are malnourished; fewer than 20% of schools have electricity; one-third of girls over six never go to school... the statistics only get bleaker.

**Judy Hoffman** and others who began the Art Creation Foundation for Children knew that they could not change this stark reality for every child, but for the nearly 100 children who the organization reaches, life is so much better. The ACFFC children share meals, study together and feel part of a loving family. They also take art lessons which give them the skills to create beautiful artwork. ACFFC funds tuition, pays for mandatory uniforms and when possible helps each child’s extended family. It is no wonder that there are hundreds of children in the town of Jacmel who remain on a waiting list, hoping that one day a spot, and all the opportunities that accompany it, will open up for them as well.

We love not only what Judy and ACFFC do for these kids, but also the *very* way in which they do it. This is not an institution; it is a loving home where kids are placed in the best possible environment to grow, to love and to learn how to give back. Our funds underwrote new shoes, food and school scholarships.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Israel

ISR

Mentoring Youth in Israel

[www.bigbrothers.org.il](http://www.bigbrothers.org.il)

Isaac\* is an Israeli-born Ethiopian teenager whose mother traveled through the deserts of Sudan to eventually reach Israel. After she arrived in Israel Isaac was born and his parents divorced. Isaac’s mom is loving and supportive but the family has few resources, and Isaac has no father figure in his life to guide him. In addition, a serious reading problem has impeded his advancement in school.

Isaac’s story exemplifies that of so many of the children who Big Brothers, Big Sisters Israel serves. Founded in 2003 by **Libby Reichman** (who has since retired from this work), Big Brothers provides volunteer mentors for children like Isaac, from single-

parent homes. Caring and committed older men and women, these mentors interact with their mentees on a weekly basis, encouraging them in their school work and just “being there” as a role model and friend. We particularly enjoy funding the extra costs associated with some of the kids’ specific needs (such as Isaac’s tutoring arranged by his Big Brother) as well as scholarships for summer camp, an experience so many of them would otherwise not enjoy.

A portion of our grant was donor-designated.

\*a pseudonym

Bet Hayerled

ISR

Caring for Kids-at-Risk

[www.bethayerled.org](http://www.bethayerled.org)

Dear Naomi,  
*Attached is an invitation to an upcoming Bat Mitzvah for G., one of our girls at Bet Hayerled. She has been with us since kindergarten and she’s really a great kid. If I am not mistaken this will be our 18th individual Bat/Bar Mitzvah celebration.*  
*Wish you could be there!!*  
*Take care,*  
*Yitz*

*PS FYI – This is the girl you also have helped with her speech therapy. In fact we are going on Thursday so the therapist will help prepare her for her reading of the Bat Mitzvah speech. Something she could never have dreamed of pulling off without the therapy – thanks to all of you at the Good People Fund!*

The kids who live at the Bet Hayerled group home in Israel have not had an easy life. Removed from their families by the courts, each has endured abuse and dysfunction from an early age. It is only when they experience the love and firm compassion of **Yitz Feigenbaum** and **Irit Zucker**, the home’s founders, that they have a chance to blossom.

Alongside these two incredible “parents,” residents of Kibbutz Merav, where the home is located, also embrace these kids. Over the years, Yitz and Irit have enjoyed countless *b’nai mitzvah*, weddings and now new “grandchildren” as the older Bet Hayerled graduates marry and start families of their own. Today, many graduates are studying in college or have finished their degrees and found work in professional positions around the country.

We are always happy to step in when we can, knowing that under the guidance of Yitz, Irit and Bet Hayerled these kids will flourish and become so much more than anyone thought possible.

Our funds have been used for sending the kids on a Hanukkah outing, improvements to the house itself, summer activities and, perhaps most important of all, ongoing therapy to help each child overcome a difficult past.

## Birthday Angels ISR

*Birthday Parties for Needy Children in Israel*

[www.birthday-angels.org](http://www.birthday-angels.org)

One person, one idea can change so many lives. No one knows this better than **Ruthie Sobel Luttenberg**, founder of Birthday Angels. A mom and owner of a successful party business, Ruthie’s chance encounter with a youngster from a poor Tel Aviv neighborhood changed her life when she learned that many disadvantaged children never celebrated birthdays because their parents did not have the resources to throw a party. In fact, the child she met did not even know her actual birth date. This was an awakening for Ruthie and the inspiration behind Birthday Angels. She aspired to make the magic of a birthday party accessible to all Israeli children, including those from underprivileged homes. Until Ruthie founded Birthday Angels in 2003, one out of three Israeli children did not celebrate their birthdays.

Birthday Angels has been a catalyst for positive change in many different ways. In addition to the magic of a special birthday celebration, Ruthie’s Teens for Tots program teaches teens-at-risk to run Birthday Angels parties, benefiting both the birthday celebrant and volunteer.

To date, volunteers utilizing a colorful birthday kit – full of games, decorations, music and stickers – have allowed more than 10,000 children to celebrate their special day. We were glad to provide funds to make many of those parties possible.

## Change the Truth USA

*Providing Opportunities for Children in Uganda*

[www.changethetruth.org](http://www.changethetruth.org)

**Gloria Baker Feinstein’s** 2006 journey to Uganda as part of a photography workshop proved to be life-changing for both her and the 190 children who live at St. Mary Kevin Orphanage Motherhood. Amidst a climate of civil war and an AIDS epidemic that left over 2 million children orphaned, life for the children at the orphanage was challenging at best, and the photographic images Gloria captured there were haunting, leaving a lasting impression on her. These children who desperately needed assistance, not only captivated Gloria’s heart but inspired her to start Change the Truth in 2007. As a result, their lives have certainly changed in profound ways.

In addition to supporting medical, nutritional and other basic needs, Change the Truth funds the children’s education and has proven that it is indeed possible to “change the truth” for these kids – to change their reality from one of despair to one of security, hope and opportunity.

Our funds this year helped support a holiday enrichment program for students studying at the secondary school. The program offers tutoring and life skills preparation and has great potential to enhance academic performance as well as personal development of the most promising secondary students. This is yet another example of the innovation and hope that Change the Truth embodies and an additional reason for our belief in Gloria and the model she has developed.

## Jack the Bike Man USA

*Creative Support Of At-Risk Children*

[www.jackthebikeman.org](http://www.jackthebikeman.org)

*...Yesterday we gave out just under 800 bicycles, it was so wonderful. We will give out the balance during this week and then start all over again...*

The year 1999 was a challenging one for **Jack Hairston**. Beset by numerous health problems and accompanying pain, he struggled each morning to get up and start his day. His life changed the moment he witnessed a neighborhood youngster ride his bike into a curb in order to stop. When Jack approached the fallen child to offer assistance, he noticed faulty breaks. Fortunately for this child, Jack cared enough to go home for his tools and return to make repairs. Before long, more neighborhood kids knocked on Jack’s door, hoping he would repair their bikes as well. As word spread, neighbors began to drop off old bikes to the guy now known as Jack the Bike Man. He’d repair the bikes and then give them to kids who did not have one of their own. Out of these kind acts, grew Jack the Bike Man, a Florida-based non-profit, small in size, but significant in impact.

Today, Jack enlists many of the neighborhood kids, most from migrant families, to do these repairs. Along with the mechanics lessons they receive, Jack offers mentoring, guidance and counseling all directed towards helping these children adjust to life in this country.

Our donation was used to purchase bicycle parts which Jack and his helpers use to repair so many bikes. We’ve never questioned this neighborhood legend’s commitment to his community and the kids he supports.

## Lev Leytzan - Heart of A Clown USA

*Clowning as a Therapeutic Tool*

[www.levleytzan.org](http://www.levleytzan.org)

Painted faces... Bright red noses... Colorful hair... Silly antics... Whimsical tricks. We all love clowns for their inherently fun and joyful nature, but **Dr. Neal Goldberg’s** vision has taken clowning to whole new level. A psychologist who understood the therapeutic and healing power of laughter, Dr. Goldberg founded Lev Leytzan in 2004, training a (mostly) teen group to become a corps of compassionate clowns to heal and lift the spirits of sick people, both locally and abroad. The clowns themselves derive tremendous benefit from their work. In addition to local programs, Lev Leytzan clowns have traveled the world and provided therapeutic healing to thousands of people, primarily in Israel and Eastern Europe. All participants train with professional medical clowns (think Dr. Patch Adams) who teach them not only the art of clowning but the underlying medical background as well.

Our funds were directed once again to the newest of Lev Leytzan’s programs, Elderhearts™, which engages Alzheimer’s and dementia patients in a playful but purposeful way. Through the use of period costumes and props that are reminiscent of an earlier time the clowns are able to awaken memories and feelings long forgotten in the miasma of dementia.

## Reading Village USA

*Promoting Literacy Among Children in Rural Guatemala*

[www.readingvillage.org](http://www.readingvillage.org)

We recently sat with a young grandchild learning to read and watched the wonder and excitement in her eyes as the words she read took meaning. Reading is fundamental and vital to achieving any kind of success in life. It is the window to a world of exciting possibilities. In rural Guatemala (and in many other parts of the world) 50% of the children cannot read and will face a lifetime of struggle. **Linda Smith** founded Reading Village to promote literacy and to encourage a culture of reading and leadership in a region where illiteracy is so pervasive. In just a few short years she has many success stories to report.

Reading Village operates in small villages, developing an environment where reading is of paramount importance. To effect this culture change, leadership groups of middle and high school students act as mentors to younger children, reading with them and encouraging them to succeed. The program also provides scholarships for these leadership groups as well as free books for local institutions and groups.

Our funds were directed to an enhanced *Light Up Literacy* program which introduces Jewish youth (particularly B’nai Mitzvah students) to Reading Village, offering activities for them to learn more about literacy and opportunities to raise funds for the organization’s work.

## Shutaf ISR

*Redefining Inclusion and Community for Kids in Jerusalem*

[www.campshutaf.org](http://www.campshutaf.org)

Only parents know first-hand what it means to raise a special needs child. They live in constant fear of how and whether their child will get through life. Sometimes, even seemingly insignificant day-to-day activities like learning how to ride the bus or going to the grocery store become huge victories. **Miriam Avraham** and **Beth Steinberg** have raised two special needs kids and Camp Shutaf was a natural extension of their own experiences. Shutaf is an inclusive community where children and teens, with and without disabilities, come together for shared social, educational and vocational programs.

The Shutaf experience includes summer camp, trips and after-school activities. Beth and Miriam have created a joyful place, and we like nothing more than to provide them with the means to fulfill as many needs as possible. Over the past year we introduced them to Anita Shkedi at the Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association and underwrote a glorious day of sun, sand and horseback riding when Shutaf teens visited the center along the beach near Netanya. The teens loved riding and grooming the horses, playing with the dogs nearby and participating in a chocolate making workshop to wrap up the day. We also facilitated another donation which provided the girls in Shutaf’s program with several months of self-defense training. Such training is critically important for this group, as studies show that women with disabilities report twice the number of incidents of abuse as non-disabled women. Now, Shutaf kids have more self-confidence and greater awareness of the dangers around them.

We hope that one day Shutaf programs will be initiated in other Israeli communities – the need is there.

## St. Joseph’s Baby Corner USA

*Serving Impoverished Infants and Children*

[www.seattlebabycorner.org](http://www.seattlebabycorner.org)

We like nothing better than getting away from our desk and meeting one of our Good People on their home “turf”. A quick trip to Seattle afforded us a chance to finally meet **Jeannie Jaybush**, one of Baby Corner’s dedicated founders. Despite



working with Jeannie for years we had never actually met her in person. Our expectations were exceeded. Jeannie and her associate, Liz, could not have been more welcoming, and seeing the endless rows of baby supplies, clothing, diapers, toys, baby equipment and more, confirmed for us what an amazing resource this tiny organization is for needy families in Seattle. During our visit, not only did Jeannie share story after story about the people they serve, but one of the local public health nurses, coming to pick up some diapers and other baby equipment, reminded us of Baby Corner’s valuable role in the community.

Several years ago a chance conversation with Jeannie called our attention to the fact that so many of these low-income moms do not breastfeed because they lack the funds for proper nursing bras. Since that time we have underwritten an annual supply of quality garments. No matter what we do for Baby Corner we know how important our investment will be to improving the lives of thousands of babies.

The Quincy Kids

USA

Students Helping Kids Around the World

[www.mirrorimage.com/iqbal/index.html](http://www.mirrorimage.com/iqbal/index.html)

A 1994 visit to the Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, MA by Iqbal Masih, a young Pakistani child who had been released from a life of weaving intricate carpets while chained to a loom, has changed many more lives than anyone could have possibly imagined. In a school assembly Iqbal spoke passionately about the evils of child labor, and when the students learned, several months later, that Iqbal had been gunned down upon his return to Pakistan, they felt compelled to keep his memory alive. So began the campaign. Iqbal conveyed to his young audience that education held the key to ending child slavery. It was that message that inspired the kids’ fundraising efforts to build a schoolhouse in Iqbal’s memory in the remote village where Iqbal was born. From that single action has evolved one of the most successful youth-managed activism projects in the country, Operation Day’s Work.

Students from six schools (including Broad Meadows) primarily in the Northeast, request applications from international organizations dedicated to child welfare, evaluate those proposals and ultimately vote on which organization they will fund. Children from countries like Ethiopia, Rwanda, Haiti, Nepal, Bangladesh to name but a few, have all benefited from the kids’ efforts. Quincy students are an inspiration to all of us and we love nothing more than to give them the tools they need for their success... technology, office supplies... whatever it takes to improve the lives of kids around the world.

POVERTY

African Refugee Development Center

ISR

Providing for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel

[www.ardc-israel.org](http://www.ardc-israel.org)

We first met **Yohannes Bayu**, the founder of the African Refugee Development Center (ARDC), about three years ago. Despite his soft-spoken nature, Yohannes is a compassionate leader whose own experiences seeking asylum in Israel from Ethiopia eventually led him to establish ARDC.

With the change in government, Yohannes and his family, once respected Ethiopian citizens, were in danger and one by one left the country for safer lands. The decision to emigrate to Israel was a natural one for Yohannes, as the country was the only democracy in the region and he grew up hearing his mother, a Christian Ethiopian, pray for the welfare of Israel each day. Despite meeting legitimate political refugee standards, it took Yohannes over five years to attain legal status in Israel. This struggle for citizenship no doubt guides him today as ARDC provides the current influx of refugees with humanitarian aid, counseling, education, community development skills and advocacy.

A significant portion of our grant was donor-designated.

\*Anshe Emeth Community Development Corporation

USA

Responding to Neighbors’ Needs

[www.aecdc.org](http://www.aecdc.org)

For the members of Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple in New Brunswick, NJ the biblical imperative of *tikkun olam*, repairing our world, is more than just a part of the liturgy they invoke each week in prayer. Back in 1999, **Deborah Cherniss** and others recognized their responsibility as a thriving institution situated in a mid-sized city to help people in their midst who might be less fortunate, and so established the Anshe Emeth Community Development Corporation (AECDC). All programs serve everyone in the community, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or creed.

With a small paid staff and many volunteers, AECDC offers services ranging from lending medical equipment, consultation on healthcare insurance options, food collection for local pantries and soup kitchens, to several infant-related programs. An advisory committee comprised of local community representatives meets regularly to quickly recognize and address any new needs that might develop.

As we learned about AECDC’s outreach, particularly to infants and moms, we suggested establishing a nursing bra program to encourage nursing, with all its benefits, similar to the one we fund at Baby Corner in Seattle. When clients and public health nurses were polled about interest, they responded with a resounding “yes!” to the question. We are thrilled to direct our first AECDC grant to this new program.

AECDC’s focus is very similar to some of our other small programs which have taken the lead in addressing critical needs locally – neighbor helping neighbor.

Down the Block

USA

Helping Neighbors Overcome Sudden Financial Problems

[www.downtheblock.org](http://www.downtheblock.org)

Driving down the block of one idyllic suburban New Jersey community it is hard to imagine that some of its residents are in need of financial help. Lawns and homes are well maintained and a general feeling of economic prosperity seems to prevail. About four years ago, **Wendi Weill**, a long-time resident of this community, heard stories of neighbors who might not be doing as well as it appeared. Some were having difficulty paying utility bills or meeting medical needs. Others were on the verge of losing homes or couldn’t make their monthly rent payments. In today’s economy there are countless reasons why formerly self-sufficient families or individuals might find themselves in a bind.

Wendi knew that there were people in town who could step up and help, and she began Down the Block for that very purpose – to provide short-term assistance to people facing unexpected financial set-backs.

A recent recipient wrote Wendi sharing, “I don’t know of any other town that has demonstrated this level of caring.” We suspect that this person is correct. Down the Block is an outstanding model that could be replicated elsewhere. Our funds were presented as a matching grant to encourage a broader base of support for their work.

Female Hebrew Benevolent Society

USA

Reaching Out to Jewish Women in Crisis

[www.fhbs.org](http://www.fhbs.org)

Of all the organizations that we support, only Female Hebrew Benevolent Society can boast about doing good work for more than 193 years! Started by a group of women from Congregation Mikve Israel in 1819, Female Hebrew Benevolent Society is

currently run by a dedicated group of thirteen volunteers who address the needs of poor Jewish women in Philadelphia. **Bileen Sklaroff** has led the group for more than two decades, and we rely on her expertise to direct us to those situations where our funds can have maximum impact. This year our grants sent kids to summer camp, paid emergency rent for a woman and her children who were facing homelessness and, by joining with other donors, prevented foreclosure of a working single mother’s home. We are proud to be affiliated with such important and life-changing efforts.

House to House

ISR

Providing Basic Needs for Jerusalem’s Poor

[www.housetohouseisrael.org](http://www.housetohouseisrael.org)

*A 62 year old woman who has recently been very ill has had very limited income. Her stove quit working. She has no money to replace it. When I met her at her home, she couldn’t contain the pain of not having enough money herself to buy a stove. I immediately told her we would purchase one for her. She again began to cry, but now they were tears of joy.*

This is just one of the many stories of hope that **Darla Oz**, co-founder of House to House, reports this year. The list is long: providing poor families with warm clothing and blankets in anticipation of an unusual winter storm, outfitting the feet of nearly 200 indigent seniors with warm slippers, donating school supplies to poor elementary school students, lending space heaters to indigent seniors, allocating rent and food certificates for a family struggling to get back on their feet following unexpected job loss, and much more. Put quite simply, Darla saves lives *one by one*.

Darla’s reach is far and wide, and we marvel at her generosity, love and hands-on approach, all offered with dignity and compassion. It is because of Darla’s efforts that tears of despair have turned to tears of joy for so many, and we are proud to be an ally in her mission.

Our funds this year helped underwrite Darla’s important work.

Keren Segulat Naomi

ISR

The Rabbanit Kapach: A One-Woman Social Service Agency

Imagine reaching that stage in life when you can finally be called a nonagenarian. Imagine further that for more than eighty of those years your days have been filled with mitzvah work... handing out food to hungry people, making weddings for poor brides, providing thousands of packages of Pesach food to those otherwise unable to celebrate the holiday, running a summer camp for children who



never experience that type of joy... the list is endless, but provides a window into the life’s work of Jerusalem’s **Rabbanit Bracha Kapach**. It all began at the age of 6 while growing up in Yemen. The Rabbanit’s mother told her to deliver a package of food to a neighbor. The instructions were clear – leave the package and do not let anyone see you.

The number of people who the Rabbanit has served over the years is astounding. Her commitment to helping those who cannot provide for themselves and their families is unparalleled and we love nothing more than to help make her mitzvah work possible. This year’s grant provided thousands of kilos of matzah for the Pesach food drive as well as children’s clothing for those families who come to her door seeking assistance.

We wish the Rabbanit the strength to continue this work for many more years to come.

**\*New Orleans Womens Shelter**

**USA**

***A Warm Home for Homeless Women and Families***

**[www.nolawomensshelter.org](http://www.nolawomensshelter.org)**

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, life changed irrevocably for most residents of that region. Amongst those residents was **Jackie Silverman**, whose life took a turn in ways she never thought possible.

We met Jackie on a recent trip to New Orleans and learned firsthand just how other people’s tragedy can impact one’s own life. Sitting on a couch in the cozy and attractive New Orleans Women’s Shelter (NOWS), we heard Jackie’s story. Bedridden and depressed prior to the hurricane due to several back surgeries, nothing seemed to help her shake the hopelessness and sadness that often accompanies pain and illness. Nothing, that is, until the hurricane struck. When Jackie saw the terrible devastation surrounding her she suddenly realized what she had endured medically could not compare with the damage Katrina had caused. That realization became her call to action. As a volunteer at the New Orleans Women’s Shelter, Jackie encountered so many women and children sleeping on floors, homeless and with little hope for a better life. When the shelter faced the risk of closure, Jackie and her husband Dan stepped up to save it. They teamed together with others to move NOWS to a new location and started to build an organization.

Seven years later the center resembles a warm, comfortable home, rather than a shelter. Residents take responsibility for chores and receive case management, job coaching and a plan for independent living. We will never forget the woman we met on our visit as she paced the backyard with excitement before

leaving for her first day of work as the manager of a supermarket bakery. It was almost inconceivable that this same woman and her children were living in their car before coming to the shelter. We recently learned that they have all left the shelter and are now situated in their own home. A success story indeed!

Our grant will provide for increased client services enabling even more successes like this one.

**Restoration Haven**

**USA**

***Restoring At-Risk Communities***

**[www.restorationhaven.org](http://www.restorationhaven.org)**

Lisa\* is a victim of generational poverty... Her mother is poor as were her grandparents and those who came before. Today, Lisa and her young daughter live in a public housing project in Waco, TX, not far from her mother and brother. What gives Lisa some hope, though, is her connection to **Shirley Langston** and Restoration Haven, the small organization Shirley founded in 2004 when she returned home to the very neighborhood where she herself grew up, an at-risk urban setting where people stand little chance to escape the cycle of poverty. With many years’ experience working with at-risk youth in Dallas, Shirley began Restoration Haven so that Waco’s poor families could perhaps finally get ahead.

Lisa benefited from Restoration Haven’s life skill classes and counseling, slowly building her confidence. When she enrolled in their GED classes, Shirley worked with her as she successfully applied for a job as a school bus aide. Lisa faces many more obstacles as she tries to turn her life around, but Restoration Haven’s efforts have guided her, and many others, as they move forward on this journey.

Our funds this year included a challenge grant that allowed Shirley to purchase much-needed personal care and laundry items as well as offer a full range of summer activities for the children and families living in the projects. When we saw the pictures Shirley sent of the kids enjoying a water park outing we knew it was a worthwhile investment.

\*a pseudonym

***For new GOOD PEOPLE stories, go to:***

**[www.goodpeoplefund.org/  
tzedakah-diaries](http://www.goodpeoplefund.org/tzedakah-diaries)**

**Sunday Friends**

**USA**

***The Working Alternative to Charity***

**[www.sundayfriends.org](http://www.sundayfriends.org)**

*My family is in great need of this financial support especially now after my husband’s surgery. We have fallen behind one month in our rent and my husband is the only financial provider in our family. My husband and I have 3 children. I’m currently unemployed since I’m fully dedicated in supporting my children’s education. I hope to be one of the families chosen to earn this rent money so that my family can catch up on our rent.*

For a group of low-income families in the San Jose area, Sundays will never be the same.

What began as a way for **Janis Baron** to introduce her own children to families who struggled to make ends meet, grew into Sunday Friends, a San Jose, CA organization that focuses on helping the poorest families gain financial stability and break the cycle of poverty. Sunday Friends pairs parents and kids with volunteers twice a month to learn life skills, including parenting and financial management, English language proficiency, and more. In exchange, participants who are mostly first or second generation immigrants, earn credits they can redeem for necessities such as diapers, school supplies and cleaning products at the “Treasure Chest”, Sunday Friends’ “store” where they can “shop” for what is needed.

The writer above is expressing her wish to be part of Sunday Friends’ Rent Relief Project which we fund. Janis tells us this is their most successful program. Using a parallel credit system, the Rent Relief program rewards participants with either a \$100 or \$200 grant paid directly to their landlord. This financial assistance not only makes housing more affordable – perhaps the difference necessary for a family to remain in their home – but frees up funds for other important expenses, bringing them stability and hope. We love Sunday Friends and are excited to learn that they have now expanded to two more locations... a sure sign of success.

**The Forgotten People Fund**

**ISR**

***Helping Ethiopian Families One by One***

**[www.fpf.org.il](http://www.fpf.org.il)**

The city of Netanya in Israel is widely known for its beautiful seaside location and sandy white beaches. Less known is the fact that the city is home to the largest group of Ethiopian immigrants in the country. Ethiopians are typically amongst the poorest people in the country – a population nearly forgotten were it not for the efforts of The Forgotten People Fund.

Founded by **Anne** and **David Silverman**, **Aida** and **Rabbi Yosef, z’l Miller**, the committed volunteers of The Forgotten People Fund provide one-on-one help for hundreds of Ethiopian families living below the poverty line in Netanya. Throughout various neighborhoods these volunteers connect with city social workers and are called upon to help in many ways. The cases we hear about require a range of responses including repairs to an aging apartment, help paying utility bills, or recently, the provision of an aide to assist a terminally ill single mother care for her children during her final months of life.

Also, with the support of one of our donors whose interest lies in helping kids with high potential achieve academic success, The Forgotten People Fund supplied Yafit, a bright and motivated pre-teen, with a computer, internet access, tutoring and furniture that conserved space in her tiny family apartment, allowing for a more private study atmosphere. Now Yafit may be able to escape the cycle of poverty that has so paralyzed many others in her community.

With increased resources, the group’s reach could extend much further. We view our investment in their work as one of the greatest returns on our tzedakah money. With an overhead of about 1.5% to cover accounting and legal fees, and a dedicated corps of volunteers comprised of retired social workers, business executives and others, the quality of so many lives has been vastly improved.

**The Redistribution Center**

**USA**

***Rescuing New Merchandise to Help Families in Need***

**[www.redistributioncenter.org](http://www.redistributioncenter.org)**

There is no doubt that all of our Good People are extraordinary people – selfless and committed to their work with a passion that is hard to match. In the two decades that we have been connected with this particular *tzedakah* model we continue to be amazed at the work of **Ranya Kelly** and her Redistribution Center. Long before we recognized the need for “green” living, Ranya was gathering tons (quite literally) of merchandise from our nation’s retailers and manufacturers – goods that would otherwise go into a landfill. Through Ranya’s efforts those very same items end up in the hands of people who need them but would otherwise go without.

A visit to the warehouse where Ranya stores so much of what she and her volunteers collect is enough to leave anyone speechless. Furniture, clothing, office and school supplies, plants, food, housewares, linens...the list is endless and all from widely recognized sources. The value represented by these items is astounding. Without Ranya’s dedication we can only wonder how much more destruction and waste there would be.



Over the past few years as the economy has faltered and our nation’s soldiers return home from war broken in so many ways, Ranya has expanded her focus to an on-site food bank (where much of our funding is directed) and to supplying veterans with critically needed items for a more comfortable life.

What started over 20 years ago with the discovery of 500 pairs of brand new shoes tossed into a dumpster outside a local shoe store, has blossomed into an effort that has rescued more than \$52,000,000 worth of new merchandise. It’s all done on a budget of less than \$50,000 annually (none of it for salaries; most for gasoline and vehicle expenses as well as accounting services). Where else can you get that kind of return on your investment?

Yad Chessed

USA

**Boston’s Jewish Safety Net**

[www.yadchedded.org](http://www.yadchedded.org)

*Thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts for your assistance. It will not only help us out financially in a really horrible situation, but [it] will allow me to sleep again and help ease [the] great stress I am under right now trying to make ends meet... [You] have helped us literally survive...*

For many Boston-area Jews Yad Chessed has halted a downward cycle of despair. Founded in 1989 by **Bob Housman**, Yad Chessed provides short-term assistance including food, medical, clothing, utility and other basic needs. They also offer interest-free loans to those who have no access to other sources of support.

We like nothing better than to partner with Yad Chessed. It operates with no frills and serves as a safety-net for so many, doing so with the greatest respect for the dignity of the individual and with attention to traditional Jewish practice.

As Bob retires this year from day to day involvement in Yad Chessed’s work, we wish him *yasher koach* for his dedication to others.

ELDERS

ISR

**Alice Jonah and The Diplomat Hotel**  
**Building a Community of Elders Helping Elders**

[aleph1@bezeqint.net](mailto:aleph1@bezeqint.net)

Walking through its lobbies and grand ballroom, enjoying stunning hilltop views of Jerusalem through every window,

you can imagine how the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem once served foreign dignitaries. Since the late 1980’s, however, the Diplomat has served a new clientele as an absorption center for predominantly Russian *olim* (immigrants).

For many years **Alice Jonah** was the force who transformed the Diplomat into a community, organizing an *ulpan* (Hebrew language classes), an accomplished choir, day trips and more to engage residents. First working as a volunteer and then as the Activities Director, Alice soon became known as the resident “angel.”

Her greatest accomplishment, and the focus of our support, has been the *metaplim* (caregiver) program. As the hotel’s residents aged, Alice realized that many of them could use a little extra help to get through the day. Alice’s solution was to enlist the services of the more able-bodied residents who were eager to contribute and to earn some extra money. Today, about 20 residents receive help each month through this creative program that benefits both the caregiver and the elders they care for.

In Their Shoes

ISR

**Creating Awareness and Understanding of Dementia and Aging**

[www.intheirshoes.org.il](http://www.intheirshoes.org.il)

*I felt choked up and ready to cry from the emotional impact [The Virtual Dementia Tour™] had on me. With all my years of experience, I found that I really had no concept of what they actually go through.*

How many of us care for elderly relatives? As medical advances extend lives, more and more people face the prospect of caring for loved ones with dementia, Alzheimer’s or other age-related conditions. Doctor’s visits, tests, running to the pharmacy, arranging for home care – the list is endless and caregivers are often exhausted and overwhelmed by their responsibilities.

**Zissie Gitel** and her husband understood this scenario firsthand, caring for their parents as they aged. Looking for a better way to manage the stress of caregiving, Zissie started In Their Shoes to provide support for caregivers in Israel. The program incorporates the work of Dr. PK Beville and The Virtual Dementia Tour™ which simulates actual experiences dementia patients face. The Tour is designed to give caregivers, both professional and family, a better understanding of what patients experience as they attempt basic daily tasks.

Today, In Their Shoes is breaking new ground in eldercare in Israel. Volunteers, led by the Gitels, are partnering with national organizations, nursing homes, medical professionals, individual

caregivers and others to raise awareness and understanding of dementia using The Tour and other educational efforts. Our grant underwrote the group’s very minimal expenses.

LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years

USA

**Aging-In-Place Manhattan Style**

[www.L-i-L-Y.org](http://www.L-i-L-Y.org)

*The Good People Fund... once again has intervened in order to turn around the life of an 85-year old whose challenges, including serious health issues, were insurmountable... on her own! You... joined hands with (LiLY) Morningside Village volunteers as we turned the tide through revitalizing her apartment. Your help paid for the services of someone who was hired to do a thorough cleaning of Lydia’s\* large apartment, and for some basic cleaning supplies...*

When **Irene Zola’s** mother fell and lost her ability to walk, Irene was shocked by the poor treatment her mother received in the nursing home where she was recuperating. Determined to come up with a better alternative and find a way to foster independence in elders, especially those without means for private care at home, Irene wondered why neighbors couldn’t step in to lend a hand, to visit, to carry out simple errands and to reduce isolation? From this seed of an idea, she created LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years.

Morningside Village on New York’s Upper West Side is the site for LiLY’s model. This neighborhood around Columbia University is densely populated with elders, many of them isolated and without any family nearby. Irene’s group has attracted numerous volunteers who are first trained and then paired with one of these elders. The results are life-transforming. In addition to personal one-on-one meetings, individual assistance and companionship, LiLY volunteers organize “tea parties,” small concerts and other social events that draw elders out of their isolation and create a sense of community.

We love Irene’s efforts and her dogged determination to change the way our society views aging. Our funds were directed to individual needs of some elders as well as to Irene’s plans to further develop her model.

\*a pseudonym

Meet some of our Good People here:

[www.youtube.com/goodpeoplefund](http://www.youtube.com/goodpeoplefund)

Project Ezra

USA

**Serving the Frail Elderly on New York’s Lower East Side**

[www.projectezra.org](http://www.projectezra.org)

Amidst the trendy clubs and fancy restaurants that now populate the newly gentrified Lower East Side of Manhattan sit “the projects”, apartment buildings where many elderly Jews continue to live. The one constant in their lives is Project Ezra, a small organization that offers food, clubs, classes, home health care, companionship and general support to hundreds of these often-fragile elders.

Now in its 40th year, Project Ezra was built by a small group of idealists including **Misha Avramoff**, who continues to be an active member of the staff. All of the funds that we allocate for Project Ezra are used for individual client needs. Whether assuming the cost of a medical aide not covered by insurance or covering an outstanding hospital bill which the elder is conscientiously attempting to pay (at \$5.00 per month) from their limited income, our impact is direct and immediate. Perhaps the most meaningful project that we underwrite is a monthly stipend that the neediest elders can use at the local market. As their regular fixed income dwindles, these elders welcome an additional \$30 per month to supplement their food budget and carry them through to yet another month. \$360 annually... a small price to pay to insure that an elder has proper nourishment.

Second Wind Dreams

USA

**Changing the Perception of Aging**

[www.secondwind.org](http://www.secondwind.org)

Mary\* is well into her 90s, bedridden, in a nursing home. Her daughter, Lisa\*, in her 70s, also resides in a nursing home some distance away. The problem? It has been more than nine years since mother and daughter have seen each other. The dream? That an ambulance could be hired to bring Lisa to her Mom so that they could meet face-to-face and perhaps even share their favorite meal of veal parmesan. The cost? Less than \$500 covered the meals, the ambulance and even a bouquet of flowers for Mom.

This is but one scenario that Dr. PK Beville had in mind when she started Second Wind Dreams. A geriatric specialist with many years’ experience developing mental health services for hundreds of nursing homes, PK saw firsthand the isolation and loneliness that comes with institutionalization and aging. Her goal was to change the perception of aging in our culture and encourage recognition and respect for all of our elders, so many of whom have been left behind and forgotten.



Our funds made Mary’s dream come true as well as several others PK shared with us.

\*pseudonyms

Survivor Mitzvah Project

Providing For the Needs of Holocaust Survivors in Eastern Europe

www.survivormitzvah.org

USA

Grodno, Pinsk, Marijampole, Kaunas - all deep in Eastern Europe, all home to some of the last Jewish survivors of the Second World War. None of these survivors are healthy; all are destitute, living in profound poverty. For each and every one, time is running out. This is the force that drives **Zane Buzby**.

Survivor Mitzvah Project has roots in Zane’s own journey to find the tiny *shtetls* where her family once lived. What she discovered shocked her to the core: hovels with little protection from the long cold winter, food and medicine shortages, and insufficient medical care or money to buy even a pair of glasses for failing vision. The more she learned, the more she committed not only to help but also to share these stories with as many people as possible, so that they, too, could lend a hand.

On her trips to the region, she carries not only precious cash but also over-the-counter medicines like aspirin and topical pain relievers, as well as Shabbat candlesticks or a simple Star of David on a chain – anything to remind these individuals of their heritage. In-between trips she corresponds with the survivors with the help of volunteers to translate letters.

We share with Zane the fear that time is running out and that very soon these survivors will be gone. For that reason all of our funds have been targeted to direct relief. Many of these elders refer to Zane as an angel. We agree.

*The Good People Fund is the perfect funder for small, hard working, grassroots non-profits such as Shutaf. Naomi and her team of dedicated board members understand our needs and what it means to grow - cautiously and carefully, with GPF offering helpful advice and ideas along the way. The GPF really listens to our needs, even the administrative ones, related to growth and long-term success, often returning with just the help we’ve needed at just the right time. That’s building with mentorship, what most new organizations need.*

Beth Steinberg and Miriam Avraham

Founders, Camp Shutaf

## VETERANS IN THE U.S.A. AND ISRAEL

A Package From Home

Providing Creature Comforts to IDF Soldiers

www.apackagefromhome.org

ISR

A new toothbrush... warm long underwear for cold nights... candy and chips. Seemingly basic items that the average person takes for granted assume a whole new meaning for Israeli combat soldiers. For the past 12 years, **Barbara Silverman**, founder of A Package from Home (APFH), has improved the quality of life of more than 160,000 Israeli soldiers serving on the front lines with these special packages.

Barbara’s efforts began in her living room as a response to terrorist attacks in 2000 and have grown ever since thanks to the support of loyal volunteers. Not only do these care packages contain items that the soldiers need, but they also offer a warm reminder of love and admiration, as well as a small token of appreciation for the sacrifices they make each and every day. For many, with no family in the country, the package is particularly signifcant. All funds donated to APFH were donor-designated.

Home Front Hearts

Serving Military Families

www.homefronthearts.org

USA

Imagine this scene... A sleep-deprived mom, 8 months pregnant, leg in a cast and 3 young children in tow, trying to make it through the aisles of a busy grocery store. Always in the back of her mind are thoughts of her deployed husband serving the US military in Afghanistan. For **Randi Cairns**, founder of Home Front Hearts, this scene was her reality a few years back when her husband, a member of the National Guard, left the family for his third deployment. Unlike the regular Army, National Guard members do not live on military bases with the inherent support network that comes with that environment. Rather, they are dispersed throughout a community where neighbors are unaware of the family’s situation and may not step forward to help. Military deployment is not only difficult on the soldier called to duty but the loved ones left behind. Randi and thousands of others in her position know all too well the isolation and loneliness that military spouses feel and the strength they need to keep everything together for their families on the “home front”.

Thanks to the efforts of Randi and her volunteers, Home Front Hearts serves as an important resource and support network for

the families that serve our country. Through advocacy on behalf of military families, financial and legal assistance to address immediate needs, an extensive resource directory for locating help and education of community members in the ways to best support military families, Home Front Hearts has successfully given a voice to these families and has built communities sensitive and responsive to these families and the unique challenges they face.

Our funds helped cover some of Home Front Hearts’ administrative expenses and strengthened this worthy organization’s infrastructure and mission focus.

Tzvika Levi and the Lone Soldier Program

Extended Family for Soldiers Without Families in the Country

www.lonesoldieridf.com

ISR

Many people are not aware that Israel’s army includes more than 5,000 young men and women who volunteer for service despite coming from foreign countries. Adjusting to a new country is never easy; adjusting as a soldier is an entirely different and immensely challenging experience. For many *chayalim bodedim* (lone soldiers) **Lt. Colonel Tzvika Levi** (Ret.) is their friend, their parent, their touchstone. Tzvika’s warmth radiates wherever he goes. He would do just about anything for the soldiers in his charge. His official position is liaison to soldiers living on *kibbutzim*, but in truth Tzvika’s wise counsel extends far beyond those specific soldiers. In his quest to help lone soldiers adjust to their new lives he is often called upon to provide them with whatever they might need... a fan, a hot plate, a refrigerator and sometimes even an air ticket home to visit loved ones who cannot afford the trip themselves.

All of the funds for Tzvika’s work were donor-designated.

Veterans Farm

Horticulture Therapy and Disabled Combat Veterans

www.veteransfarm.com

USA

Who would imagine that there would be a market for datil peppers, one of the hottest varieties ever grown? During a visit to Veterans Farm in Jacksonville, FL this past spring we saw thousands of pepper plants flourishing in the greenhouse we purchased for their work.

In addition to seeing the peppers, we finally got to meet **Adam Burke**, Veterans Farm founder, and he was everything we imagined, a leader who radiates warmth and compassion. Adam returned from Iraq with severe post-traumatic stress disorder,

traumatic brain injury and a Purple Heart. Despite those very serious injuries he vowed, if he made it home alive, to give back. His recovery was slow and difficult but when he returned to farming, reminiscent of his childhood days on his family’s blueberry farm, a new calm and sense of well-being came over him. If working the land was therapeutic for him, why not for others?

Today, Veterans Farm grows not only those hot chili peppers, but also blueberries and other fruits and veggies. A six-month fellowship program attracts veterans to the farm, where they work side by side with Adam planting, tending and harvesting the land and reaping the therapeutic benefits associated with this work. We met a few of these vets and came away understanding just how effective farming can be.

With the ever-increasing number of soldiers returning stateside with severe emotional and physical disabilities, Adam’s model offers an excellent opportunity for these veterans to heal. Our own few hours on the farm confirmed this program’s success.

## ILLNESS, DISABILITIES AND WELL-BEING

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

Grief Counseling and Care

www.girlfriendsidf.org.il

ISR

*It is just unbelievable, Naomi, but the strangest thing happened in the past 2 months. We got 8 brand new girlfriends. This is most unusual. We are not at war now, but for some reason this happened. The reasons are deaths in combat, a terrible car accident where two officers from the Navy were killed on the way to their base, sickness, suicide, a jeep turning over. So, we are opening up Support Group # 22 in about 2 weeks...*

What grew from a personal tragedy that occurred back in 1997 when her daughter’s fiancé was killed while serving in Lebanon, **Phyllis Heimowitz’s** Organization for the Support of Girlfriends and Fiancées of Fallen IDF Soldiers remains relevant today and continues to save many broken lives. Support Group #22 and its 21 predecessors are proof. While extensive state-supported services exist for blood relatives and spouses, there is no official recognition or support for girlfriends, boyfriends and fiancées. Phyllis and her older daughter, Tamar, struggled unsuccessfully to find resources for their daughter/sister in coping with her



profound loss. No one understood that she wouldn’t simply “get over” her loss when she found a new love. Her grief was deep and lasting.

Since the organization’s inception, nearly 400 men and women (some who lost loved ones even decades ago) have not only found strength in these support groups but many have gone on to find love again, marry and build a family. In addition, through the efforts of Phyllis and those of Rina Kahan, herself a fiancée of a fallen soldier many years ago, public and government awareness of this often-overlooked group has been raised.

Our funds are used for ongoing therapy costs as well as personal needs of girlfriends as Phyllis learns of them.

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

[www.atzum.org](http://www.atzum.org)

Some were victims of bombings while riding the bus or enjoying a meal in a restaurant. Others were injured in drive-by shootings or by roadside bombs. There were also those that lost mothers, fathers and other close relatives. These were the startling and all too frequent headlines beginning in the year 2000 when Israel endured an extended period of terror attacks.

Twelve years later, somehow the scars, though faded, have never really disappeared. Founded by **Rabbi Levi Lauer** only a decade ago, Atzum originally provided hands-on care and support for so many of these survivors of terror during those darkest days. Today, Atzum’s focus has shifted to providing the survivors and/or their family members with educational support, giving them the tools to get ahead and advance themselves professionally.

While our funding targets survivors of terror, Atzum’s mission extends more broadly to the elimination of human trafficking, support for the diminishing number of “Righteous Gentiles” who reside in Israel and empowerment of Ethiopian youth by collecting oral histories of Ethiopian Prisoners of Zion.

It has been a long struggle but Rabbi Lauer’s vision of a more just and civil society has infused many areas of Israeli life and one day will hopefully prevail everywhere.

**Hosts For Hospitals**  
*Free Home Hospitality for Patients and Families*

[www.hostsforhospitals.org](http://www.hostsforhospitals.org)

A medical diagnosis of a loved one requiring hospital care is bad enough. When that hospital is out of town, the costs of lodging can be prohibitive, making matters even worse. Years ago, **Michael Aichenbaum** and **Nancy Wimmer**, founders of Hosts for Hospitals, knew this scenario all too well, as both sought treatment for life-threatening illnesses at out-of-state hospitals. The expense of their family’s lodging for the duration of their stay was overwhelming and probably beyond the reach of most patients. Out of their own experiences, and their hope to make the situation better for others, grew the idea for Hosts for Hospitals.

Serving the greater Philadelphia area since 2000, this unique non-profit, with the help of host families who open their homes to patients and their families, has provided more than 66,000 nights of lodging to more than 1900 patient-families. The dollars saved in hotel costs? Over \$4,350,000... a very significant number. Mike often shares his belief that the benefits to the host families are nearly as great as those of the patient and their family.

As this country’s healthcare costs continue to skyrocket we hope this model will be adopted elsewhere. Our funds covered rising expenses as demand for services increased, as well as new efforts to share the model with other prospective locations.

**Jeremy’s Circle**  
*Supporting Children Living With Cancer in the Family*

[www.jeremyscircle.org](http://www.jeremyscircle.org)

What child would not enjoy a camping trip, a visit to a national news studio or perhaps a day at the zoo? For kids living with a family member fighting cancer, these outings with others in similar situations can make all of the difference. That difference is exactly what the late **Jeremy Coleman, z”l**, and his wife **Pamela Becker** hoped to make when they and other family members created Jeremy’s Circle. In the midst of all of the turmoil surrounding the devastating news of Jeremy’s advanced-stage cancer, Zoe, the couple’s oldest child, planted the seed for Jeremy’s Circle when she asked if she could play with another child who might have a parent in a similar situation, for only that child could really know what she and her siblings were experiencing. In the final months of his life, Jeremy, joined by Pamela and his sisters, created Jeremy’s Circle, an organization dedicated to connecting children living in families affected by cancer.

An idea so simple and yet so important in a small country like Israel, it is difficult to believe that nothing similar existed. Today, only four years since Jeremy’s death, the group maintains a national play-date database which connects kids wherever they are, organizes exciting trips and camping experiences throughout the year, and also conducts a mentoring program which utilizes college students who have themselves grown up with cancer in their families.

Our funding was directed to helping the group spread the word of their work to even more people who will benefit. A portion of this grant was donor-designated.

**NY Center for Law and Justice**  
*Justice for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community*

[www.lawjusticecenter.org](http://www.lawjusticecenter.org)

Tania\*, a deaf Mom of four children, resourceful and dedicated to their well-being, had also been a victim of domestic violence for more than 16 years. With the help of a domestic violence agency she secured a safe place to live in public housing and resumed an independent life. All went smoothly for Tania until she could no longer pay her rent and faced eviction. It was during this critical juncture that **Liz** and **Bruce Gitlin**, founders of the New York Center for Law and Justice, met her. The Center provides legal assistance to the New York indigent (and modest income) deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and with their help Tania was able to remain in her apartment.

Liz and Bruce are both attorneys by training, with Liz adding licensed social worker to her credentials. Their combined compassion and expertise attract people like Tania who would never be able to navigate the traditional legal system.

Tania’s story did not end after Liz and Bruce intervened. Sadly, her former batterer discovered her location, forcing Tania and her children to relocate to a relative’s apartment and forego their independence. Determined to return to independent, safe living, Tania worked hard to find a new home unknown to her batterer. Last December, as she and her family moved into this new apartment in a safe city neighborhood, Tania’s dream was fulfilled, but not without a cost. Tania’s family enjoyed none of the comforts that most of us take for granted, including a bed to sleep in or basic household items. With our support, Tania was able to purchase furniture and other things her family required to live modestly but comfortably.

Our grants were directed to the needs of clients like Tania as well as to the Law Center’s modest operations.

\*a pseudonym

**PanAfrican**  
**Acupuncture Project**  
*Creating Alternative Medicine Opportunities in Africa*

[www.panafricanacupuncture.org](http://www.panafricanacupuncture.org)

With the healthcare firestorm consuming us domestically, we sometimes forget how difficult access to effective treatment is in other parts of the world. Almost ten years ago **Richard Mandell**, a licensed Boston-based acupuncturist, joined with a few other practitioners and traveled to Uganda to conduct their first acupuncture training of local medical workers in the region. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics were widespread and acupuncture was known to be an effective alternative therapy for these diseases.

Perhaps what stands out most about Richard’s approach is his commitment to *helping people help themselves*. Each of his trainers teaches local practitioners who then treat hundreds of patients in *their* local communities. Under this model we can only assume that tens of thousands of people have received the therapeutic benefit of acupuncture.

Our matching grant helped bring even greater support to Richard’s efforts, and we are excited to work with him as he explores the possibilities of expanding his work to other parts of the world.

**\*Unchained at Last**  
*Support for Women Leaving Arranged Marriages*

[www.unchainedatlast.org](http://www.unchainedatlast.org)

**Fraidy Reiss**’s family arranged her marriage when she was 19, and she became a mother at 20. Soon it became obvious that her husband was abusive, but there was little Fraidy could do to help herself. She had no education, no exposure to the modern world. If she thought of leaving it was likely that she could lose custody of her two children and become a pariah in her own community.

Life became a nightmare, but by struggling for more than ten years, Fraidy graduated from college, established a career, divorced her husband and, as a result, was abandoned by her family.

Today, Fraidy is a single mom. Joined by other women from different cultural backgrounds but with similar experiences, she recently began Unchained at Last, the only US organization dedicated to supporting women leaving arranged marriages. Fraidy is a serious and passionate advocate on behalf of these women. In addition to advocacy, the group provides essential pro bono legal and social services to their clientele.

The Good People Fund has committed not only funding to this fledgling effort but also has made numerous contacts to garner additional support for their work.

**Volunteers in Psychotherapy** **USA**  
*Providing Affordable, Private Psychotherapy*  
  
**www.CTVIP.org**

*That’s what kept me from seeking psychotherapy. I once had medical insurance, but your therapy gets reported to them or to Human Resources where you work. It becomes part of your permanent record.*

Privacy and affordability. These are the cornerstones of Volunteers in Psychotherapy (VIP), **Dr. Richard Shulman’s** innovative answer to a managed care system gone awry due to the prohibitive cost of therapy and the erosion of privacy. For 13 years, under Richard’s leadership, Connecticut-based Volunteers In Psychotherapy has dedicated itself to providing affordable and truly private psychotherapy for the community in exchange for volunteer work clients donate to the charity of their choice. At a “rate” of four hours of volunteer work for one psychotherapy hour, in this past year alone more than 500 clients (families, individuals or couples) have not only improved their own mental health but in so doing have provided hundreds of hours of documented volunteer service.

Free from the pressures insurance companies impose, the VIP model preserves the client’s autonomy as well as the privacy of the patient-therapist relationship. Perhaps most significant, it affords the patient the opportunity to help others, which we know has its own therapeutic benefits. In an age where the high cost of medical care continues to impact our economy it is creative models like VIP that should be replicated throughout our country.

Our funds were directed to the group’s minimal expenses.

*The New York Center for Law and Justice is a small organization with a big ambition...to provide basic legal services to deaf citizens. Realizing these great dreams requires community and it is the Good People Fund (GPF) which provides just that perfect community...(they) support our efforts in the most profound and significant of ways, providing not only meaningful encouragement but also mentoring; technical assistance and support; and sometimes, most critically, by extending a life-affirming safety net to our clients at a most critical moment.*

**Bruce J. Gitlin, Esq.,** Founder and Executive Director  
The New York Center for Law and Justice  
Legal Services for the Deaf Community

## OUTREACH AND INREACH

**Kulanu** **USA**  
*Helping Little-Known Jewish Communities Around the World*  
  
**www.kulanu.org**

Jews in El Salvador? It may sound strange but indeed they exist, and for this small Jewish community, the occasional visits of Rabbi Aaron Rehberg have helped them learn and practice more of their Jewish tradition. About 250 strong, the El Salvador Jews are descendants of *Anousim* (Spanish and Portuguese Jews who fled the Inquisition and retained a remnant of their religious customs). Rabbi Rehberg, who travels there from Israel, is himself a descendant of the *Anousim*.

Kulanu sponsors the Rabbi’s work as part of its efforts to identify and support isolated Jewish communities. The extensive list of regions where Kulanu reaches shows just how far and wide the Jewish Diaspora has traveled over the millennia. It is quite astounding. Managed almost entirely by volunteers and headed by the very capable **Harriet Bograd**, we know that our funds to help underwrite Rabbi Rehberg’s work are invested wisely and with a meaningful return.

**\*Yaakov Maimon Volunteers** **ISR**  
*Welcoming New Immigrants to Israel*  
  
**dorkam@tzuba.org.il**

Israel is a melting pot of cultures. Since 1948 many of its citizens found their way to the country with little knowledge of its customs or language. For some immigrants, a colorful character named Yaakov Maimon and his volunteers were critical to their adjustment, helping them learn the language, navigate the bureaucracy and find jobs.

While Maimon is long gone, the group continues its work, albeit on a much smaller scale. Our original contact, **Yoel Dorkam**, has himself retired as the organization’s leader but his legacy continues through social and educational programs, many of them focusing on the needs of the large Ethiopian population where our funds were directed.

## PEOPLE AND ANIMALS HEALING TOGETHER

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

**www.HAMA-Humansandanimals.org**

Diego’s\* Mom left him in his native Philippines as a young boy when she sought work in Israel in order to make a better life for him. Eventually she brought him to Israel to be with her and her new husband but the trauma of his earliest years had taken its toll – so much so that Diego become almost entirely non-communicative, unable to express emotion or simple communication. All of that changed when Diego was introduced to **Avshalom Beni**, founder of HAMA. Avshalom’s unique skills as a therapist, combined with the help of a large Great Dane, one of his therapy dogs, slowly enabled Diego to experience laughter, to smile and to touch. In time Diego became the dog’s “trainer” and in so doing became the dog’s voice. Eventually animal and child attained a mutual trust, learning to believe in themselves and in those closest to them.

Avshalom’s methods have been taught to an entire cadre of therapists who work with kids-at-risk, hospitalized Shoah survivors, children with ADHD and more. It is no coincidence that many of his therapy dogs are themselves abused, elderly, and abandoned making them uniquely qualified for this work.

Through the continuation of a special grant made possible by one of our donors, Avshalom oversees a very successful spay-rescue program in some of Israel’s larger cities. Our funds underwrote veterinary care, food and general needs. A portion of these funds were donor-designated.

\*a pseudonym

**Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association** **ISR**  
*Therapeutic Horseback Riding for People with Physical and Emotional Disabilities*  
  
**www.intra.org.il**

*Since the Yom Kippur War until I started riding, I have seen many doctors, psychiatrists, and have been given many pills. Nothing changed my situation. Every day at home I drifted further from my*

*family. I had a family, but had not taken care of them, or been able to love them. They grew up without a father. I didn’t realise it then, but I now do. It’s like I am starting from the beginning. The horse has changed me – opened me up, shown me what I have missed, helped me to deal with my emotions.*

These thoughts come from a former IDF soldier, Slomi\*, who spent two years in a Syrian prison, tortured, beaten and nearly starved to death. Upon his release he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, becoming catatonic for some time. But then, Slomi’s life changed when he met **Anita Shkedi** at the Israeli National Therapeutic Riding Association (INTRA), a place where therapeutic riding lessons are provided to veterans scarred by their trauma. The lessons not only taught Slomi the mechanics of riding a horse but on a much deeper level how to re-connect with loved ones and to cope with his emotions. His quality of life, including relationships with his family and job satisfaction, improved dramatically.

With so many people like Slomi reaping the therapeutic benefits of riding, nothing quite compares to an actual visit to the center located alongside the Mediterranean near the city of Netanya. We have made the trip innumerable times and to say that it is a place where miracles are performed would be an understatement. Founded by Anita and her husband Giora in 2000, INTRA provides therapeutic riding not just for veterans but for those with brain injuries, blindness, neurological impairments, emotional disorders and other debilitating conditions. This method of therapy works because a horse’s gait closely approximates a human being’s stride and its movements stimulate muscles and nerves normally unaffected by traditional therapies. The rider’s connection to the horse and sense of competence also contribute to emotional healing.

This year our funds underwrote veterans’ therapy, a joint program between INTRA and Camp Shutaf and 6 months of riding for two blind children. Part of this donation was donor-designated.

\*a pseudonym



Photo by Debbi Cooper



# ALLOCATION STATEMENT

## ORGANIZATION

## ALLOCATION

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Levinsky Breakfast	10507.00
Kentucky	17310.41

### HUMAN NEEDS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Special Individual Needs	98983.85
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### HUNGER

Amir Project	5000.00
AmpleHarvest.org	6260.00
Backpack Buddies	750.00
Darchei Tzion – The Beit Shean Food Pantry	3890.00
Dinner Garden	1500.00
Family to Family	14720.00
Food Forward	5000.00
Hunger in Israel	29680.00
Moadon Re’ut	5000.00
The Bagel Brigade	4456.00
Youngstown Community Food Bank	771.00
Zehava and Karyn-Feeding the Neighbors	2074.49

### KIDS

Art Creation Foundation for Children	8700.00
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Israel*	22686.00
Beit Hayeled*	53337.00
Birthday Angels	2136.00
Change the Truth	2150.00
Jack the Bike Man	2750.00
Lev Leytzan~Heart of A Clown	2500.00
Reading Village	2654.00
Shutaf	9980.00
St. Joseph’s Baby Corner	2028.94
The Quincy Kids	474.33

### POVERTY

African Refugee Development Center*	16863.00
Anshe Emeth Community Development Corporation	2682.60
Down the Block	1000.00
Female Hebrew Benevolent Society	9750.00
House to House	13450.00
Keren Segulat Naomi	8700.00
New Orleans Women’s Shelter	5256.13
Restoration Haven	9323.73
Sunday Friends	14500.00
The Forgotten People Fund*	49574.00

## ORGANIZATION

## ALLOCATION

The Redistribution Center	19000.00
Yad Chessed	750.00

### ELDERS

Alice Jonah and The Diplomat Hotel	11000.00
In Their Shoes	250.00
LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years	11535.00
Project Ezra	3510.00
Second Wind Dreams	3200.00
Survivor Mitzvah Project	6100.00

### VETERANS IN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL

A Package From Home**	49174.00
Home Front Hearts	6900.00
Tzvika Levi and the Lone Soldier Program**	43260.73
Veterans Farm	11316.70

### ILLNESS, DISABILITIES AND WELL-BEING

Amuta (Non-Profit) for the Emotional Support of Girlfiends and Fiancées of Fallen IDF Soldiers	2650.00
Atzum	10320.00
Hosts for Hospitals	3500.00
Jeremy’s Circle*	16314.00
NY Center for Law and Justice	11593.62
PanAfrican Acupuncture Project	750.00
Unchained at Last	3000.00
Volunteers in Psychotherapy	2000.00

### OUTREACH AND INREACH

Kulanu	4250.00
Yaakov Maimon Volunteers	3500.00

### PEOPLE AND ANIMALS HEALING TOGETHER

HAMA (Israel)	
Humans and Animals in Mutual Assistance*	55056.83
Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association*	20954.00

*\*A portion of this grant was donor-recommended*

*\*\*All of this grant was donor-recommended*

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012

Support and Revenue:				Total
Contributions				\$902,543
Investment Income				709
				903,252
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Grants:	743,509	-0	-0	743,509
Expenses:				
Salaries*	42,000	12,000	6,000	60,000
Payroll taxes	3,693	1,055	528	5,276
Web-related Expenses*	6,564	1,875	938	9,377
Administrative Support*	4,628	1,322	661	6,611
Bank and credit card fees	2,722	778	389	3,889
Insurance	1,203	344	171	1,718
Marketing*	8,619	- 0	5,746	14,365
Office	821	346	117	1,284
Payroll service	409	117	58	584
Postage and shipping	1088	311	156	1,555
Professional Fees	-0	8,905	-0	8,905
Telephone	313	89	45	447
Travel and entertainment	4,782	1,366	683	6,831
Total expenses	76,842	28,509	15,492	120,842
Total grants and expenses	820,351	28,509	15,492	864,351
Change in Net Assets				38,901
Net Assets at July 1, 2011				327,231
Net Assets at June 30, 2012				366,132

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

# FROM OUR **TZEDAKAH DIARIES**

03/16/12

**THE MOMENTS I FOUND GOD**



Marc Suvall is a regular guy... raised a family, worked hard at a job for many years. Life was good. When the opportunity to retire presented itself, Marc realized that this was his chance to do what he really enjoyed... helping people.

When we were introduced to Marc we learned about how he spends a good part of his week sans suit and tie – teaching at

a women's prison, an inner-city school, helping where he can; places where he can have an impact and hopefully, change lives for the better. One statement in particular resonated with us as we exchanged mitzvah ideas and stories...when the occasion presents itself and Marc hands over a \$5 bill to a hungry person or impacts the life of a poor kid in school he feels those are the “moments I found God”.

An apt description we think, and when we heard about IS98 Herman Ridder Middle School in a very poor Bronx neighborhood our interest was peaked. Kids at IS98 come from the nearby housing projects and local shelters. As a volunteer math teacher, Marc knows the conditions these students live in. He also knows that the school's basketball team currently playing in old t-shirts with numbers painted on with marker, would benefit immensely from more professional uniforms. Having real uniforms would provide a huge lift to the kids and a real sense of dignity and pride.

Could the Good People Fund help? It was our pleasure and pictured above is the team, beaming in their new attire. We suspect this added boost may help them win in many different ways.

05/05/12

**STIGMA**



Sometimes a request comes to us that is at once so simple and yet profound, with numerous implications.

A morning email from one of our Israeli contacts requested some help for two young Ethiopian women from the Falash Mura community. The young women are part of a program that fosters volunteer work, education and leadership

training, particularly for young people having difficulty navigating Israeli society.

The request? While still in Ethiopia custom dictated that the Falash Mura were tattooed with the mark of a cross on the forehead and hand. Whether this was to avoid persecution by Christians is up for debate, but several years ago the Chief Rabbi in Israel did accept the *aliyah* of this group. These two young women have these markings and as a result are ostracized not only by their peers but also by the children in the schools where they volunteer.

Ethiopian absorption in Israel has been a difficult process. Despite the passing of years the group, for the most part, remains economically challenged and often hold the most menial of jobs.

How much more difficult successful absorption is for these two young women, marked with the sign of the cross? How modest a cost it would be to perhaps change their lives forever by undergoing a relatively simple, though painful process that removes the tattoos?

How could we not?