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2016

SMALL ACTIONS, HUGE IMPACTS WWW.GOODPEOPLEFUND.ORG



OUR STORY

Friends of the Good People Fund, Shalom!



Photo by Mark Berkley

There are times in our day when we are reminded in the most exquisite and poignant ways of just how important our tzedakah work is – times when it is so clear that our work is unique and that people with passion and vision bravely bring hope and inspiration to those among us who live tenuously day to day.

A few months ago, within a 24-hour period, we received two emails from grantees, one from the United States and the other from Israel. Each described a recent event, complete with vivid pictures, portraying the impact of each program's work, and reinforcing our reasons for providing support.

The first was sent by Lilach Tsur Ben-Moshe from Yotsrot, a program that offers vocational training in fashion design to women leaving the cycle of prostitution. Lilach described a recent fashion show, *The Little Black Dress*, in which professional models and actresses wore the original design creations of women who have chosen to leave a life of bondage and cruelty to create beautiful clothes. Each photograph displayed a gorgeous black dress – an item any woman would be proud to own.

A few hours later, an email arrived from Blyth Lord, the founder of Courageous Parents Network (CPN), a program that provides online resources for parents caring for a child with a serious illness. Blyth's message showed a picture of a beautiful baby, not yet two years old, who had recently succumbed to the complications of a genetic disease. Blyth went on to explain how she and CPN empowered the parents to take their child's final journey with meaning and purpose.

These two emails are examples of how two people found exceptionally creative ways to relieve human suffering and improve lives. And what was even clearer was how important our financial and moral support are to these small programs.

Four Stars **** !



With more than 1.5 million registered nonprofits in our country, it is a challenge to stand out from the crowd. We are proud to share the good news that the Good People Fund was honored this past July with a Four Star status designation from Charity Navigator, one of the most respected organizations in the philanthropy world today.

"Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Good People Fund exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Good People Fund apart from its peers and

demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness. Approximately only a quarter of rated charities have achieved this distinction!"

This validation means a lot to us. We believe that our approach to *tikkun olam* is unique, as we focus our efforts on providing visibility and support to those working quietly and with little fanfare. We have also tried to distinguish ourselves with our willingness to be transparent in all of our operations. In the words of our tradition, "A good name is more desirable than great riches, a good reputation than silver and gold." [Proverbs 22:1] Since its earliest days, The Good People Fund has operated in ways that make this designation particularly meaningful.

Debunking the Overhead Myth or “How I Was Wrong”

More than two decades ago, when I began nonprofit work, the word “overhead” was verboten. It was something to hide, to strive to eliminate. Even today, when speaking with other funders, I am astounded to hear that some still frown upon funding overhead costs; others are actually proud of the fact that they can say they “don’t fund overhead.”

The importance of funding overhead became clear to me about four years ago. I was speaking with the founder of a small program with the potential to reform a specific social injustice found in the United States and worldwide. She was struggling to “keep all of the balls in the air,” while her organization grew. She was a single mother of two, working a full-time job, and at the same time, trying desperately to manage the growth of her organization. The weariness and despair in her voice alarmed me, and I quickly asked what the Good People Fund could do to help. Without hesitation she responded: a part-time social worker who would remove the burden of client management and allow this founder to address other needs of her growing organization.

Without additional administrative help – whether it’s a part-time social worker or someone to answer the phone and correspondence – these small organizations would fold as quickly as they started. I do believe that I am merely stating what everybody else is thinking, but doesn’t want to talk about. And the literature in the nonprofit world agrees. If we wouldn’t invest in a for-profit company that was not managed wisely or sufficiently staffed, why should it be any different for a not-for-profit? Contributing funds toward overhead is important, if not critical, to the survival and growth of a nonprofit. It is therefore logical to consider that small nonprofits need overhead support, perhaps even more so than well-established organizations. This concept is true for us as much as it is for our grantees. In fact, The Good People Fund has several generous donors who recognize this need and gladly direct their funds to cover most of our modest overhead budget.

Undoubtedly, moderation and common sense should prevail. As an organization grows, its staffing needs will naturally change. As long as the proper funding is found (and an organization’s board members are the perfect donors to help cover some of those administrative costs) to underwrite some or all of this expense, they should go for it. Trying to do it all just doesn’t work.

Some Final Thoughts

Thank you for reading this far, though the best is yet to come! But first, read the next two pages to learn what some of our grantees believe best defines our unique focus on *tzedakah*. “More Than Money” proves that mentoring, networking and partnerships are the value-added to your financial support.

We hope you continue to be inspired by all of our grantees’ stories. **Passing along your generosity to them really does change lives.**

I am honored by the trust you have all invested in our work. It continues to be an exciting and inspiring journey,



P.S. Many of you have asked, “In addition to donating, how can I help The Good People Fund?” Spread the word! When you’ve finished reading this report and have been inspired to support our work, please share it with a friend who might want to do the same.

WWW.GOODPEOPLEFUND.ORG

Small actions, huge impacts

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Generous people have a lot of options when it comes to allocating their charitable dollars. So what factors set one organization apart from another? More specifically, what differentiates the Good People Fund from other organizations?

More *than* **Money**



Project Kruvit (pg. 22)



Sundara (pg. 9)



Ample Harvest (pg. 24)

Fraidy Reiss, founder of Unchained at Last, (p.16) appreciates that GPF “never just handed over the check. Naomi became a trusted adviser and mentor, spending many hours answering my numerous questions about growing a nonprofit and advising me on the crises that seemed to keep arising. She helped me to figure out when and how to start hiring other staffers, how to rein in a board gone wild, and which items to prioritize on a tight budget.”

This critical guidance can be the difference between success and failure. Many of the programs we fund approach us in their very nascent stages and have never functioned in the world of non-profits. The founders have passion and they have ideas – sometimes even outside-the-box-sounding ideas, but, very often, they lack the management and administrative experience that is critical to long-term viability.

Yoni Yefet Reich, founder of Kaima (p.18) makes this case: “When my Kaima co-founders and I got serious about turning an unused Jerusalem hillside into an organic farm, to be brought to life with the help and insights of Israeli youth, hungry for meaningful engagement, it was natural to contact Naomi. Because of her broad perspective, she immediately understood our aim and ambition.”

Our grantees know that GPF is more than just a source of money. They value the strategic perspective we bring and our deep network and knowledge of existing programs. We take pride in facilitating partnerships, connecting people and

programs, and offering guidance and expertise. Yoni attests to the importance of this type of support, saying “GPF has also opened doors to other donors, thus leveraging the assets and investments of the Fund’s organizational resources with those of others.”

Time and again, we hear from our grantees that their experience with GPF is unique. Yoni describes it this way:

“The encounter with GPF immediately felt different. What stands out after all these years: the serious, respectful way GPF interacted with our student volunteers, treating them as independent young leaders, or equals, not as potential ‘recipients.’ When board members visited with Naomi their reciprocal sharing helped reinforce our students’ identity and accountability as social entrepreneurs.”

And this all took place a year before GPF provided any funds at all!



*Dana Marlowe,
For The Girls (pg. 16)*

Mentoring is another component of what GPF offers its grantees. We aim to nurture and inspire our grantees to become competent, independent leaders in their various quests to provide for the many unmet needs of people in the U.S., Israel and abroad. Fraidy concurs, adding

“I can say, without exaggeration, that the nonprofit I founded would not have grown into the national organization it is today without the support of The Good People Fund.”

Yoni describes a similar experience, explaining “GPF, or more specifically in this case, Naomi, has provided priceless encouragement and coaching. We are a young organization that, of course, still goes through growing pains. She has been there for us during some very difficult times, providing simple words of wisdom, reminding us that bumps in the road are both natural and surmountable. Naomi knows about our daily operations as we have a very open relationship, one, I believe, that is rare between donors and grantees.”

Success isn’t always linear, often zig-zagging. This is true across the seventy or so programs GPF currently supports. Open lines of communication with our grantees result in honest, and sometimes difficult, conversations about what has worked and what hasn’t. We add value as a trusted advisor with an extraordinary depth of knowledge pertaining to programs’ sustainability. Helping program leaders to adjust and adapt to the challenges they invariably face is an important component of what makes GPF unique.

The bottom line is that the extraordinary partnership bond we create is predicated on the goals we share with our grantees. Their inspiration is ours, and vice-versa. We take our stewardship responsibility very seriously, and believe deeply that the cycle of learning within our grantee organizations is a sustainable model that works.

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**New program*

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

On the cover: (left to right):

Amy Sacks Zeide-Creating Connected Communities, Kaima, Project Kruvit, Gideon Ben Ami-Pesia's Kitchen, Shutaf

HUMAN NEEDS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A Place to Turn When All Else Fails

As summer approached, it became clear that for Lisa, a non-verbal nine-year-old girl with autism and cerebral palsy, there would be few opportunities to have fun. Her hyperactivity prevented her from riding on a bus or van, and as a result, no camp would accept her in their program. For a young person like Lisa, something that *would* help—both to entertain her and to provide educational benefits—was an iPad. The apps would allow her to keep up with her schoolwork and to develop other important skills.

When a grantee shared Lisa's story with us, explaining that no local agency could help, we stepped in and purchased an iPad and case. At summer's end, we learned that for the very first time, Lisa, with the help of voice-assisted technology, said "Good night, Mommy." How do we measure the value of this investment in a child's life?

Jewish tradition emphasizes the importance of saving a life, *pikuach nefesh*. In fact, this very act often takes precedence

ISR and USA

over other commandments. While our main focus at GPF is usually on finding, supporting and mentoring small nonprofit organizations, over time, we have had the opportunity to fulfill this commandment. Often, it is simply intervening to improve the quality of life, as it was with Lisa, but sometimes, we really do save someone from grave danger.

Some of our proudest efforts over the past year include: providing monthly rent supplements so that elderly Survivors can remain in their modest apartments; covering the cost of wheelchair repairs for an elderly man in Israel who can barely afford food; underwriting educational costs and emergency needs for young people who have left their insular, ultra-religious community; and providing additional monthly food packages for hunger-insecure families in rural Appalachia.

It may well be the holiest part of our work.

FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS

Family-to-Family

USA

Providing Hunger Relief and More to Profoundly Poor American Families

You have no idea how much this pantry helps us each month. We are so grateful.

...You always have foods that my kids will actually eat.

We really like having the extra milk and the kids love getting yogurt!

The woman quoted here lives in an impoverished rural community in our nation's heartland. While she and her husband are both employed, they are considered the "working poor." They are caught in a bind because they earn too much to qualify for Federal SNAP benefits, but not enough to purchase *sufficient* food for their family. Family-to-Family's Gap Pantry program aims to provide a solution to this widespread problem. Participating families volunteer at the co-op food pantry and contribute a nominal monthly dollar amount. In return, they receive about \$80 worth of extra food every month.

The Gap Pantry is one facet of **Pam Koner's** multi-pronged approach to addressing hunger and poverty in rural America. Inspired by a 2002 *New York Times* cover story describing

hunger in rural America, Pam, an accomplished entrepreneur, established a program that matched families with "more" with families with "less"—alleviating hunger *one family at a time*. She soon realized that hunger is part of a broader constellation of issues affecting those caught in the cycle of poverty. Family-to-Family has since evolved into a program that addresses other matters, including literacy, teaching compassion and more.

GPF Impact: Our funds helped to establish The Gap Pantry.

Gabriel Project Mumbai

USA

Poverty, Hunger and Education in the Mumbai Slums

We met **Jacob Sztokman**, founder of Gabriel Project Mumbai (GPM), shortly after he began his program to address poverty and profound hunger in Mumbai's slums and surrounding rural villages. Founded in 2012 as a means to provide regular meals and educational opportunities to children who rarely experienced either, the program offered international volunteers the chance to spend three months working in the community. Now, four years later, Jacob's original goals have evolved into so much more. With the help of microloans, local women have been empowered to purchase and prepare meals for those in need, and that success has led them to create a small catering business, thus strengthening their economic stability.

The program further expanded two years ago when 11-year-old Shравan Sharma, a student in one of the schools, died suddenly due to lack of accessible health care in the slums. Jacob was so touched by the loss—after all, in the world we all know, *11-year-olds just don't die!* He was determined to find additional funds to provide these children with a standard of healthcare unknown in the region. This past year, the Shравan Health Clinic opened its doors as a joint venture with Doctors For You, serving children, pre- and post-natal moms and others, including a previously unidentified group of more than 300 babies diagnosed with severe and acute malnutrition.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds were used to support these at-risk babies, as we helped to underwrite the cost of a proven nutrition supplement, the Hyderabad mix, which is prepared by local women. This project has the dual impact of providing the women with some modest income, as well as ensuring improved nutrition for these children.

Hope and Comfort USA *Bringing Dignity through Personal Care Items*

"Humiliated" • "Embarrassed" • "Ashamed" • "Unclean" • "Picked On" • "Troubled" • "Teased"

The letters of thanks received by our Massachusetts-based grantee, Hope and Comfort, are filled with messages of appreciation, using these negative expressions to describe how they used to feel. Few of us can imagine the emotional and physical pain experienced by people who lack the means to purchase simple personal hygiene products like toothpaste, deodorant or shampoo. When **Jeff Feingold** and his wife decided to turn their toddler's birthday celebration into more of a "giving back" event, they never realized how much of an impact their act of generosity would have. In lieu of typical gifts, guests were asked to bring new items that would be donated to a local agency. When the Feingolds delivered the donations, they learned about the shortage of toiletries available to families in need.

In 2011, Jeff created Hope and Comfort and contacted GPF to discuss the idea of starting an organization to meet this need. He accurately recalls that we were less than encouraging; rightly pointing out that a man with a demanding job might not have the time to concentrate on raising funds and developing a nonprofit. We urged him to seek out existing groups filling this need rather than start anew. Clearly our admonitions did not dissuade him. Today, the organization not only collects and distributes vital personal hygiene products to local (and national) agencies, but has also enlisted other nearby groups to partner with them.

GPF Impact: With our help, Hope and Comfort has gone from a garage-based project to a full-fledged organization with a small support staff and warehouse space where volunteers gather to sort and pack products. Our funds made it possible for the small staff to grow..

Mitzvah Circle Foundation USA *Providing for People Walking Along Life's Edge*

Each day is a gift, and in that gift we are given the opportunity to create a better world. Today I told a woman who owns no shoes that she would not have to wear flip flops this winter because we are giving her shoes. I had the privilege to tell a single mom who is HIV positive that we would provide back to school clothing and supplies [for her children] so she had one less thing to worry about. I also talked to a second grader who called because her mom does not speak English and they need blankets and household items because they live in an empty apartment. This was the first hour of my day and I am grateful for every minute of it.

These comments from **Fran Held**, founder of Mitzvah Circle Foundation in suburban Philadelphia, actually describe what most of her days are like. Her organization provides a source of hope to many people who have suddenly found themselves in desperate situations and living without some of life's most basic needs.

Working with a very lean budget, Mitzvah Circle Foundation reached over 39,000 people last year. Even more astounding, nearly 1,000 people, many of them kids, volunteered more than 25,000 hours to ensure that people who needed emergency help got it. Far too often, there is a waiting period before social services can kick in, and closing that gap is where the group's impact is greatest.

Perhaps what best describes the overall "tone" of Fran's work is the classroom she created in her rented warehouse. In that space, kids of all ages hear Fran's lessons in compassion and empathy and eventually write notes that go into the boxes of clothes or food distributed to people in need.

GPF Impact: We have supported Fran's work for several years. We can see quite clearly how each investment in her minimal staff has propelled the organization to greater heights.

One Can Help USA Supporting Court-Involved Families in Massachusetts

Deborah* is a single Mom with three kids. The youngest is ten and because of his serious special needs, he is a client of the Division of Child Services. Deborah spends her days as a certified nurse's aide. As a survivor of domestic abuse, she has worked hard to rebuild her life and provide stability to her young family. Deborah was also recently diagnosed with breast cancer, adding another serious challenge to her already stressful life. After what was supposed to be routine surgery, Deborah learned that the treatment was far more complex than originally expected, and she will be unable to work for two months.

For most of us, this "blip" would be troublesome, but something we could resolve. For Deborah, the \$1,500 rent she pays now presents a hardship since she will have no income while recovering from her surgery. With only \$500 saved up and her 16-year-old son already contributing funds from his supermarket job, she must find an additional \$1,000.

It was Deborah, and people like her, who **Anne Bader-Martin** had in mind when she started One Can Help. As a juvenile court attorney in Middlesex County, MA, Anne saw many situations where families and children would spiral further downward because resources were not available to help with one-time emergency needs that other agencies could not meet. Those at-risk clients are provided with small grants, and what started in Middlesex County, has recently expanded throughout Massachusetts.

GPF Impact: As we have in the past, our matching grant, announced prior to the group's major fundraiser, was directed to its modest administrative costs and some emergency needs.

*pseudonym

Pesia's Kitchen - Gideon Ben Ami ISR One Man's Quest to Feed Hungry People

How does one man with only two part-time helpers manage to distribute over 100 tons of food, including large quantities of fresh fruit and vegetables, to eight Tel Aviv shelters/soup kitchens and more than 30 daycare centers? It seems nearly impossible. **Gideon Ben Ami**, who this past year, incorporated his efforts into Pesia's Kitchen, an *amuta* (non-profit), handles this amount of product every six months. In the language of food rescue, this translates to 400,000 meal units (500 grams of food), at a cost of less than one shekel each. Gideon's passion is inspired by his grandmother Pesia, who spent a

lifetime feeding hungry people back in her *shtetel* in Eastern Europe.

We have witnessed Gideon's impressive operation on many occasions. Through the generosity of Leket, Israel's food rescue program, Gideon accepts a twice-weekly delivery of pallets of fresh produce. In addition, the group makes daily pickups from local bakeries, restaurants and supermarkets. All of the food is then distributed with synchronicity comparable to the world's most accomplished ballet troupe, quickly and efficiently.

Gideon's compassion goes well beyond feeding the body. His days are often spent offering hope and solace to the city's poorest and most desperate residents. This past year, Gideon helped a young Eritrean man who had been a victim of a hate crime. Gideon personally helped to nurse him back to health and to secure a humanitarian visa to Switzerland, where he will connect with other family members and begin a new life.

GPF Impact: Our funds helped underwrite the program's modest expenses, making it possible for this selfless man to save so many lives and to feed so many hungry people.

Sundara Fund USA Soap Recycling in Impoverished Regions of the World

The new machines are up and running! We've got three now... and are excited to scale our impact and produce more soap. We've also added a few extra tables, a drying rack and some used furniture (chairs mostly) using your funds. And a fresh coat of paint! I wanted you to see these pictures before anyone else - so you can...know where your money is going and how grateful we feel to have your support. :)

Erin Zaikis has always loved to travel. It is something she has been doing with regularity since graduating from college. In fact, it was during a trip to Thailand where she worked with kids that she noticed that no one ever washed their hands. How was this possible? How much disease could be prevented by putting into place some simple, effective hygiene practices?

When Erin learned that more than two million children die each year from hygiene-related illnesses, and at the same time, hotels worldwide routinely discard billions of bars of soap, she saw an immediate connection *and* a solution. Today, Sundara operates in three countries and as of this past summer, has distributed 67,800 bars of soap and reaches about 6,000 children each month. At the same time, local women have been enlisted to learn the recycling process, as well as to become "hygiene ambassadors," teaching young students the importance of simple handwashing. These 26 full- and part-

time employees—widows, single mothers, disabled victims of domestic violence—all benefit from having a regular, dignified source of income.

GPF Impact: Our funds made it possible for Erin to expand her program to Myanmar, as well as underwrote the cost of the machines used to process the soap. The lives of many women now employed by Sundara have been radically changed as the money they earn allows their families to have a better life.

*Sunday Friends USA The Working Alternative to Charity

When Teresa, a single Mom to two teenagers, proudly states “Who I am today and what I do today was achieved through the help of Sunday Friends...” she speaks for thousands (about 44,000) of others in the San Jose, CA, area who have participated in Sunday Friends’ programs over the past 19 years. Teresa’s only income from a job at a local school ends with summer vacation, leaving her family with limited resources and close to homelessness. Teresa and her children attend Sunday Friends’ programs staffed by volunteers (more than 29,000 since the program’s inception), where she learns parenting skills and financial management, while her children engage in activities that teach compassion and the importance of helping others. In return for taking part in activities the family earns “tickets” that can be redeemed for items like cleaning supplies, toiletries, school supplies, and more at the “Treasure Chest.”

Janis Baron founded Sunday Friends in 1997. While volunteering with her own teenagers at a local shelter, she discovered that the greatest changes among the kids in the shelter came when she encouraged them to help clean up the grounds or engage in some other meaningful work and rewarded them with “tickets” to be redeemed for simple items like crayons or toys. It was through those experiences that Janis learned that “Self-respect and pride in one’s accomplishments are earned through work and helping others—not by accepting handouts.” Janis’ formula works: Evaluations carried out by local universities continue to prove that Sunday Friends’ activities produce better students, stronger families, and disrupt the cycle of poverty.

GPF Impact: Our grant allowed Teresa (and other participants) to redeem their tickets for something even more valuable, “Rent Relief” - a \$150 check written to their landlord, thus freeing up other income to cover additional expenses. Over the past eight years, about 600 families have benefited from our investment of nearly \$100,000 in this program.

Ten Gav ISR Helping “Modestly” in Israel

Liat*, a single mother of a five-year-old son, does temporary cleaning work, but relies on her disability payments for all of the family’s basic needs. The oven in her small rental apartment is broken, her landlord refuses to fix it, and she cannot afford to buy a new one. Dafna* has finally divorced her abusive husband and is moving on with her life and starting school in the fall. She receives assistance for her basic needs and those of her three children, but this money does not cover the cost of a refrigerator, so they have been living without one. A working oven and refrigerator? These are modest needs most of us take for granted.

Helping real people like Liat and Dafna is now as easy as shopping online. Well, almost. For the past two years, **Vivi Mann** and **Naomi Brounstein**, founders of Ten Gav (loosely translated as “I’ve got your back”), have been using an online crowd-funding platform to encourage Israelis and others to donate modest sums of money to specific, verified needs for people living in poverty in Israel. It’s easy, and it works.

Municipal social workers submit applications with case histories and specific needs. Donors access the website and then contribute to the costs of specific items. Requested items are purchased and delivered and, perhaps most importantly, all is done discreetly and with *kavod*, respect, for the individual.

GPF Impact: Our funding underwrote some needs that did not receive sufficient support, helped keep the website running smoothly and covered other administrative costs.

The Forgotten People Fund ISR Helping Ethiopian Families One by One

The stories of Adia* and Rachel* are not uncommon. Both are Ethiopian women living in the city of Netanya, home to the largest contingent of Ethiopian refugees in Israel. Both are single mothers with several children between them. They barely get by on welfare payments, some modest child support, and government child allowances for those children who are under the age of 18. These payments are reduced as each child turns 18, and supporting their families becomes even more challenging. Each woman was embarrassed by her inability to make ends meet and rather than seek help from the city’s social workers, they found themselves with no electricity after bills went unpaid. For more than a week, each family sat in the dark with no hot water, no refrigerator and no washing machine.

For Adia and Rachel and so many more, The Forgotten People Fund has been a lifesaver in every sense of the word. Established in 1998 by **Anne and David Silverman** and **Aida and Yosef (z'l) Miller**, and now assisted by **Wendy and Jeff Starrfield**, retired social workers, The Forgotten People Fund is an important safety net for this vulnerable population struggling to succeed in their adopted homeland.

GPF Impact: We committed funds to helping many people like Rachel and Adia, as well as to young Ethiopians who have successfully completed their high school courses and have received scholarships for advanced education opportunities. This investment has helped to break the cycle of poverty that continues to plague the community.

**pseudonym*

The Jewish Gift Closet **USA** *Meeting Basic Needs for Families in San Diego*

Imagine having to spend your days sitting in an uncomfortable wheelchair rather than a lift chair that would allow you to raise your legs and reduce swelling. Or, you can't pay your electric bill and worry that soon the lights will go out. Perhaps, you are a single parent and the looming school year reminds you once again of how your kids will not have new clothes or even sufficient school supplies.

Helene Bortz and **Myrice Goldberg** hear stories like this all day long, despite the prosperity we might expect in San Diego, one of California's most beautiful cities. In 2007, when the economy began its long tailspin, stories like these were becoming more prevalent, and both women decided something had to be done. Using donated warehouse space, they collected clothing, furniture and more. They opened G'mach-The Jewish Gift Closet to help the most vulnerable. Over time, and with increased funds, the group was able to offer supermarket gift cards to people struggling to put food on their table and to help make connections with job placements as they came up. The G'mach became a place where short-term emergency needs could be handled with minimal bureaucracy and delay.

G'mach functions with an all-volunteer staff (other than one minimal part-time administrator) and has recognition in the local community. Through our discussions and personal visits with Myrice and Helene, we concluded that in order to grow, they needed a strategic plan that would raise awareness and showcase the importance and effectiveness of their efforts.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant helped G'mach establish and execute a professional plan to gain greater visibility and increased funding.

The Redistribution Center **USA** *Rescuing New Merchandise to Help People in Need*

Chance. How often does one event, one encounter, permanently alter the trajectory of how we spend the rest of our life? For **Ranya Kelly**, a young mother and trained nurse from a middle-class family, that moment, 25 years ago, occurred as she searched for a cardboard box in a dumpster outside a local strip mall. For Ranya, the "dumpster-diving" turned into a life-altering event that opened up an entire new chapter in her life. Sitting in the dumpster alongside several empty cartons were 500 pairs of brand new shoes tossed out by a nearby shoe store. It was 1986, so the concepts of recycling, donating, or repurposing were hardly mainstream.

Gathering up the shoes, Ranya offered as many as she could to her friends and family but was still left with many more. A chance visit to a local shelter where she encountered a barefoot pregnant woman opened Ranya's eyes to the fact that many, many people go without basic items that most of us take for granted. For Ranya, that visit was her epiphany, and it spurred her to begin the process of rescuing millions and millions of dollars' worth of new merchandise that is routinely discarded by local and national retailers and manufacturers. Since 1991, \$82 million of new in-kind donations have been redistributed (\$3.2 million this past fiscal year alone). Plus, The Redistribution Center also operates two small food banks that help out when other larger pantries are bare.

Today, this all-volunteer effort picks up food, furniture, household goods, plants, office supplies—the list is endless—and gets the goods to people in need, including many disabled veterans.

GPF Impact: We see this program as the ultimate recycling effort, and our funds cover its very modest budget.

INCLUSION AND DISABILITIES

Inbar **ISR** *Finding Love For Everyone*

If you have ever been to Jerusalem and visited the Botanical Gardens, you know how beautiful and peaceful they are. This oasis of greenery is often frequented by young people out on a first date or others seeking a break from the bustling city. On one particular Friday morning you might have spotted a group touring the gardens in a wheelchair accessible train. These

young men and women were part of a social event sponsored by Inbar, an organization dedicated to helping profoundly disabled people find love, companionship and ultimately marriage. After this particular outing, a young woman commented, "I felt like I was in Europe. The whole morning was surreal." No doubt the surroundings were inspiring, but what was really important was that two young men in the group asked for her phone number!

Rabbi Shaul Inbari could only dream of such an encounter when he despaired of the loneliness he experienced as a disabled person confined to a wheelchair. A few years ago his friend **Shalomi Eldar** challenged Shaul to reverse his fortune, and together they used social media to advertise a gathering for people with disabilities who were seeking companionship and love. The response was overwhelming and the rest, as they say, is history. Today, Inbar provides social activities, matchmaking services, courses in socialization, and resources for parents of disabled young adults. Their success can be measured both in the number of marriages that have resulted and also in the continuing demand for their services.

GPF Impact: One of the keys to Inbar's success is the support and personal touch of its staff. Our funds helped underwrite the costs of a social worker, as well as a dating services coordinator, who meets with and prepares each participant before they take part in activities.

New York Center for Law and Justice USA

Justice for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community

Mary* is a single parent of two daughters, ages 20 and 22; she has no income and is a victim of domestic violence. For any of us, living in a single room in a shelter, navigating the red tape of government benefits, while trying to make a better life for our family would be difficult. For Mary, who is also deaf, the challenges are huge.

Bruce and Liz Gitlin, both attorneys, set out to help people like Mary when they founded The New York Center for Law and Justice in 2008. The Center supports the city's indigent deaf and hard-of-hearing population by helping them navigate the legal system, particularly on matters related to the shelter system. The Center has also recently won some important class action suits on behalf of deaf clients, including one that now requires the Department of Homeless Services to provide American Sign Language interpreters to deaf individuals living within the shelter system.

Thanks to the Gitlins' hard work and tenacity, Mary now receives her Social Security benefits and lives in permanent

housing. And many more impoverished deaf residents of New York City can now live their lives with a sense of confidence and well-being.

GPF Impact: In addition to helping underwrite any individual emergency client needs that may arise, our funds partially supported the salary of a part-time ADA (American with Disabilities Act) attorney who will help expand the Center's good work even further.

*pseudonym

Shai Asher ISR

Career Training for Adults with Special Needs

We want you to meet our friends Udi and Oded, participants in Shai Asher's program that provides meaningful work opportunities for people with special needs. Nothing we could write here would give you a better picture of the program's focus, its beauty and its importance than the short video that appears on their website www.shaiasher.com. Interns Udi and Oded will guide you through their days working in the small children's zoo and engaging in other activities on *Kibbutz Shluchot* in northern Israel.

While Udi and Oded are captivating, equally impressive is the organization's visionary, **Menachem Stolpner**, a social worker who left the United States many years ago to live an idealistic life in the pastoral surroundings of *Shluchot*. Menachem's dream—to provide purpose and meaning to the lives of people like Udi and Oded, who have aged out of Israel's formal programs for people with disabilities, has come to life through Shai Asher.

Perhaps one of the most significant outcomes from the program is its integration with the *kibbutz* community. Participants can be seen all around the *kibbutz*; they enjoy lunch in the communal dining room and have breathed a new spirit into one of Israel's first *kibbutzim*.

GPF Impact: Our grant helped underwrite internships like Udi's and Oded's.

Shalheveth ISR

Independent Living for Severely Disabled Adults

How would *you* manage if you suddenly found yourself severely disabled, no longer able to live independently? Or, perhaps, you were born with such disabilities that left your family unable to care for you at home and an institution was the only place that could provide appropriate care? As one of the profoundly physically disabled adults fortunate enough to be housed in one

of the 13 *Beit Shalheveth* apartments has commented, “There is no substitute for the right to privacy, complete autonomy, tools and support. *Shalheveth’s* apartment complex has made it possible for me. This model has placed in my physically limited hands, choices and options that I’ve never previously had.”

It was that right to privacy, freedom of choice and independence that guided **Miriam Freier**, the founder of *Shalheveth*, as she pursued her quest to build independent housing in Israel’s capital. Miriam is an octogenarian whose spirit and fierce drive on behalf of people with disabilities has not abated despite her advanced age. Residents of *Shalheveth* live in their own apartments large enough to allow for an aide who helps them with those tasks they cannot do on their own. Some individuals have jobs outside their homes, and *Shalheveth* provides a van and driver. Residents all take part in group activities in the building’s community room.

Miriam’s current dream? Even more housing for those people waiting for the chance to live independently.

GPF Impact: Our grant helped underwrite the transportation costs of getting individuals to and from their jobs.

Shutaf

ISR

Redefining Inclusion and Community for Kids in Jerusalem

I dream of a world that is not focused on competition or conformity. Let’s celebrate diversity, making room for everyone, creating a vibrant community where everyone has the right to dream — where dreams can come true.

While necessity may be “the mother of invention,” experience has a lot to do with it as well. For **Miriam Avraham** and **Beth Steinberg**, two former Americans who made *aliyah* many years ago, their experiences as mothers of kids with disabilities propelled them toward a life neither of them would ever have imagined. In 2007, quality programs with meaningful activities for disabled kids just didn’t exist. Beth and Miriam took matters into their own hands and changed that reality not only for their own children, Akiva and Vinnie, but also for hundreds of others

Camp Shutaf provides enrichment experiences for more than 200 children, teens, and young adults—with and without disabilities—in summer camp and during *chaggim* breaks from school. All activities celebrate diversity, bringing to life the sentiment expressed in the quote above. Programs welcome children from across the religious and socioeconomic spectrum, and provide opportunities for growth, friendship and learning through the classic line-up of camp activities. Inclusion, community, and fun—that is the magic of Shutaf!

GPF Impact: We provided funds to support both programming and administrative needs.

SPIRIT-Club Foundation

USA

Fitness Programs for Everyone

We love getting out from behind the desk from time to time and meeting some of our grantees on their “home turf.” What a great visit we had this year with **Jared Ciner**, who founded SPIRIT-Club (**S**ocial, **P**hysical, **I**nteractive, **R**espectful, **I**ntegrated and **T**eamwork). We learned that developmentally disabled adults exercise far less and were 58% more likely to be obese than the general population. SPIRIT-Club provides health and fitness programs for people with developmental disabilities, including those with autism and Down Syndrome. In addition to the benefits of regular exercise, participants gain social skills and learn healthy eating habits.

Hearing about Jared’s work was one thing, but actually *seeing* participants file in for the class was something entirely different. It would be hard to determine what was more outstanding—the trainer’s extraordinary patience and compassion for his students or the participants’ enthusiasm for the class. Equally impressive was the realization that this trainer, Sam Smith, is a marathon runner and a certified trainer, *and* he is autistic. As we observed the class, we also learned how Jared had modified the activities to best suit the students’ abilities. Before SPIRIT-Club, participants had gone to exercise classes that were too hard, or were not accessible to them.

GPF Impact: Our grant to the SPIRIT-Club Foundation provided scholarships for those people who might not have sufficient income to participate in the classes.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

ATZUM

ISR

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

Rabbi Levi Lauer’s long history of passionate social action and a career in Jewish education led him to establish ATZUM (a Hebrew acronym for “Justice Works”) in 2002. ATZUM not only identifies and addresses injustices in Israeli society, but also encourages and inspires citizens to act as agents of change.

ATZUM's work originally focused primarily on three groups within Israel: Survivors of Terror, the remaining Righteous Among the Nations (Gentiles who rescued Jews from certain death during the Shoah) and victims of sex trafficking and prostitution. The needs of those in the first two groups have diminished with the passage of time; however, trafficking and prostitution remain serious issues within Israeli society. ATZUM, in partnership with an Israeli law firm, has been in the forefront of advocacy to change laws and perspectives on this insidious problem, which has resulted from the more than 25,000 women who have been smuggled into the country over the past decade or so.

GPF Impact: Our grant was directed toward ATZUM's modest staffing needs.

Courageous Parents Network USA *Empowering Parents to Care for Children with Serious Illness*

What could be more terrifying to a parent than discovering that their child has a life-threatening illness? It is indeed a family's worst nightmare.

For **Blyth Lord** and her husband, the nightmare began when their toddler Cameron was diagnosed with Tay-Sachs disease. Compounding an already tragic situation was the fact that their nephew, only a few months difference in age, had received an identical diagnosis. Within six months, both children succumbed to their illness. The two couples survived this dreadful time because of the support they offered each other through their shared experiences. Many years later, those experiences motivated Blyth to start the Courageous Parents Network.

A skilled filmmaker, Blyth uses both written and filmed resources to help other families caring for children with serious illness. It is a virtual community that no one wants to be part of. However, more than half a million children are diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses each year, and about 10% of those children do not survive. For their families, Blyth's work is a welcome tool to help combat the fear and uncertainty that accompanies this ordeal.

GPF Impact: Our funding was directed to the production of some of these films that provide parents with the tools and support they need to cope and adapt throughout their child's illness.

Groceryships USA *Empowering Individuals Through Nutrition Education and Food Scholarships*

"My anemia is gone!" • "My diabetes is under control!" • "My family and I are healthier!"

All of these statements were proudly shared by women from some of LA's poorest neighborhoods. Each had struggled with serious weight issues and the debilitating health problems that accompany them. For many, whole families were affected. The women were able to achieve success through hard work and the opportunities offered by the L.A.-based Groceryships' program. Groceryships is the brainchild of **Sam Polk**, a former financial executive, who struggled with his own weight issues. Sam realized that for many people living in the inner-city, healthy food was not always available and fast food had become the norm. He created a new approach, providing participants with a comprehensive nutrition education course, weekly support groups, and access to healthy food at a reduced cost. Through the program, families are empowered to lead a healthier lifestyle, as they learn about nutrition, healthy cooking and effective shopping skills.

Participants also become part of a network that focuses on related issues, such as emotional eating and food addiction, in a safe space, where every person is respected and honored. Several members have even gone on to become group leaders for upcoming classes, reinforcing their success. Groceryships provides a fresh perspective on healthy eating habits and has achieved stunning outcomes.

GPF Impact: As in the past, we proudly sponsored one of these classes.

Hosts for Hospitals USA *Home Hospitality for Patients and Families*

Nothing quite drives home the importance of **Michael Aichenbaum's** work than to read the stories of the generous Philadelphians who open their homes to patients coming to that city for specialized medical care. It's easy to forget that this type of care often takes place in hospitals far from home and requires local long-term residence for the patient and family. Examples include a teenager from Puerto Rico born with a deformed leg who required surgery and three months of therapy, and a young child with a devastating brain tumor that required treatment found only in one of the city's premier medical centers. In each case, families burdened with the high cost of medical treatment, were forced to find long-term accommodations that fit into an already tight budget.

Fifteen years ago, when Michael endured months of cancer treatment in New York City, he faced a similar situation, leading him to start HfH. HfH provides no-cost (there is a \$10 nightly processing fee), in-home hospitality for out-of-town patients and families who travel to the greater Philadelphia area for treatment at more than 75 healthcare facilities. This past fiscal year alone, HfH provided 10,781 total nights of lodging which represents hundreds of thousands of dollars saved in equivalent hotel expenses.

GPF Impact: Michael takes no salary for his work and runs this program on a very modest budget. We covered some of his administrative costs.

Jeremy's Circle Supporting Children Living With Cancer in the Family

ISR

Imagine the impact, on pre-teen siblings, of having two parents with cancer. A flyer posted on a wall in the hospital where the mom was treated introduced this Israeli family to a program that would give their kids not only some time away from the stress of treatment and illness, but also an opportunity to interact with others their age experiencing similar trauma.

That flyer described Jeremy's Circle, an organization dedicated to providing support and fun activities to children living with cancer in their family. The organization was founded by the Coleman-Becker family when **Jeremy Coleman**, the father of three young children, aged 6 months to 6 years, was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2007. Throughout Jeremy's extensive treatment, **Pamela Becker**, his wife, and their kids received support from friends and family. While the children enjoyed numerous activities, it was Zoe, their oldest child, who one day asked if she could have a playdate with a child whose father also suffered from cancer. Zoe knew that only a child experiencing the same turmoil could really understand her feelings. That was the impetus for founding an organization that today provides fun days for children with a parent or sibling battling cancer or who have experienced a cancer loss in their immediate family.

GPF Impact: Over the years our grants have helped Jeremy's Circle evolve and grow to the point where it could no longer function as an all-volunteer group. Our matching grant this year allowed their work to expand under the guidance of an experienced part-time executive director.

Refa'enu Education and Support for Those with Mood Disorders in the Jewish Community

USA

Depression affects nearly one in ten adults each year. **Deena Croog Cohen** has bravely acknowledged her own long-standing battles with mood disorders, but it was a friend's suicide that moved her to found Refa'enu ("Heal Us").

Refa'enu serves not only those who struggle with mood disorders, but also their loved ones. The program runs peer-led support groups and education programs in day schools and *yeshivot* in Metro New York and New Jersey. By giving people the tools, support and education, Deena hopes to encourage more people to seek appropriate care.

A curriculum is being developed to raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues. Word-of-mouth recommendations and positive feedback continue to fuel this important effort.

GPF Impact: We supported the costs of curriculum development.

WOMENS' EMPOWERMENT

Ba'asher Telchi Navigating Haredi Women through Divorce

ISR

Divorce is a painful process for anyone. For women in Israel's religious or ultra-religious community, it can be especially difficult since many must face the challenge alone. Shunned by family and friends, and lacking self-confidence, many women find themselves totally isolated, just at a time when they desperately need support. Because of the community's inherent isolation, many are completely unprepared to address the financial, legal and social challenges they now face.

At one time, **Fainy Sukenik** was one of these women. Alone with young children and with no desire to abandon her community, Fainy confronted those challenges. Her personal experience inspired her to start *Ba'asher Telchi* (from the Biblical story of Ruth; "wherever you go...").

Far too many *Haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) women have no knowledge of the court system, of their own rights, how to handle finances or even how to express their wants and needs. *Ba'asher Telchi* offers them support in all of these areas, as well as counseling and a place to find compassion. Through

the process, women gain the knowledge, the means and the power to emerge from the crisis stronger and more capable of dealing with their surroundings. Hundreds of women have taken advantage of the organization's services and new groups are forming throughout the country.

Fainy was selected by the Committee on the Status of Women as one of the 20 women (from the entire Israeli population) who contribute to change in women's status. She is truly a star.

GPF Impact: Our funds allowed Fainy to hire administrative support, freeing her to use her talents for outreach and expansion of her excellent work.

***For the Girls** **USA** **Personal Health Items, Bras, and Self-Esteem for Homeless and Low-income Women**

A woman shouldn't have to choose between feeding herself and her personal health.

How many of us struggle to lose that extra five or ten pounds? It's the eternal quest. For **Dana Marlowe**, founder of For the Girls, it was her own weight loss that opened her eyes to a great unmet need: shopping for new bras she learned that many homeless women cannot afford to purchase a supply of bras or necessary personal hygiene products. Armed with her typical "let's fix it" approach and a drawer filled with bras that no longer fit, Dana put out a call to friends and family via social media. She asked for items they no longer used in addition to personal hygiene products. As that first appeal went viral, Dana was quickly inundated with boxes and boxes of goods. Clearly she had struck a chord with women across our country, as well as abroad.

When we met Dana, we knew immediately why this dynamo was so successful. Her passion, intelligence and can-do attitude made it possible for her to build the foundation for a national organization that is harnessing the energy of so many others who believe this is a need that should be resolved. Dana's actions have already inspired many people and gained the attention of national media, and her initiative is growing exponentially. Imagine how many more homeless women will gain dignity and comfort because of the "bra fairy."

GPF Impact: With the Good People Fund's matching grant, as well as ongoing mentoring, in one year, For the Girls has not only collected (as of late August) more than 20,000 bras and 50,000 personal hygiene products, but has also established local branches in nine cities across this country, in addition to Canada, Australia and Pakistan.

Unchained At Last **USA** **Support for Women Leaving Arranged/ Forced Marriages**

"Child Marriage." It sounds like a problem one might encounter somewhere far from our nation's shores. And yet each year, across the United States, thousands of children under the age of 18 marry with either parental or judicial permission—with the word "permission" often code for coercion or forced marriage. **Fraidy Reiss** founded Unchained at Last as a response to her own forced marriage years ago when she was part of an ultra-Orthodox community, where such marriages are the norm.

After successfully, but not easily, leaving an abusive marriage, Fraidy was determined to help others from across the cultural and religious spectrum who found themselves in similar circumstances. Fraidy, the single mother of two teens, never faltered despite this daunting goal. We are in awe of how this small organization has become the voice for so many women who find themselves in untenable situations, often facing violence, isolation and despair. Fraidy and her small staff offer support to these women and are involved in important research and advocacy initiatives to change our country's laws.

GPF Impact: Unchained's accomplishments would not be possible without staff to assist Fraidy. Using our grants, Fraidy has been able to bring on a part-time social worker and to respond to emergency client needs as they develop. (To learn more about our impact on Unchained, please see "More Than Money", pg. 4)

Yotsrot—Turning the Tables **ISR** **Training and Empowerment of Women Exiting the Cycle of Prostitution**

That "little black dress"—the one that is just right for so many different occasions—is the item every woman wants hanging in her closet. Designing and sewing that dress was a highlight of Yotsrot's program this year.

Prostitution and sex trafficking are two of Israel's most significant social issues. **Lilach Tsur Ben-Moshe** saw it first hand, as she walked to work every day, through one of Tel Aviv's rougher neighborhoods where many women congregated. Lilach, a feminist who formerly worked on the style section of one of Israel's leading newspapers, was saddened by this sight and vowed to develop a program that might empower these women to break the cycle of prostitution and gain self-confidence and independence. In 2011, she founded Yotsrot-Turning the Tables, an organization that provides women with the vocational training and support to make life changes. Approximately 50

women take part in the Tel Aviv workshop, and an additional location is now operating in Haifa.

GPF Impact: As Yotsrot's model flourishes, there has been interest in expanding the program to other parts of Israel. Our funds helped underwrite the cost of a program coordinator for the Haifa branch, where the program is part of a center where women are provided with housing and a daytime activity center.

KIDS

Amir Project

Inspiring Young Adults to Pursue Social Justice through Gardening

USA

We are an organization that is focused on growing gardens, and minds, through the medium of summer camp.

Houston's population includes the very wealthy and, at the other extreme, people who struggle daily to survive. Children in this latter group often have limited access to quality programs such as summer learning opportunities, which in turn, can lead to lost opportunities to learn and limited educational achievement. This past summer, Amir Project teamed up with Houston's Trail Blazers program to change that reality.

When **David Fox** co-founded Amir Project several years ago, he combined his love of summer camp and his passion for social justice. Amir provides a unique educational experience by bringing campers together with a group of carefully selected fellows (appropriately called "Farmers") charged with the responsibility of planting and overseeing a sustainable educational on-site garden. Amir's age-appropriate and interactive curriculum provides Farmers with the tools to run effective programming that teaches leadership, social justice and more.

The Farmer running the Trail Blazer program best describes the summer's impact: "In the garden, the Trail Blazers did more than just get in the dirt or transplant for the first time: Many questioned norms, some took leadership [roles], others worked alongside kids that they didn't necessarily share similar home-lives with. I saw so many opportunities to break down assumptions, and though it seemed I was smiling because of someone asking to hold the worms from our vermiculture bin, it was really this that was shining through."

GPF Impact: Our grant was directed to Amir camps that serve children from economically deprived families.

Art Creation Foundation for Children

Using the Arts to Help Haiti's Children

USA

All ACFFC children/youth know that they have a future. They are responsible citizens, prepared, trained, and ready to be part of the hope and the future of Haiti.

Judy Hoffman, one of ACFFC's founders, describes a future that is almost unknown to most of Haiti's youth who live in desperate poverty. Her "kids" are now empowered to attain better lives through education and art. ACFFC provides students, many of whom had never attended school, with scholarships, art instruction, daily food and water, tutoring, medical care, and leadership training. Families are also involved so that they can benefit and bring these values into their homes. Art education includes many different art forms, though the children are best known for their expertise in creating spectacular mosaic murals that beautify the city of Jacmel and other locations beyond Haiti.

GPF Impact: While our grants specifically underwrote food and scholarships, they also help foster the sense of community and security that no child should have to do without.

Baby Bank

Serving Seattle's Impoverished Infants and Children

USA

Losing the baby was bad enough, but the added stress of the unmarked grave is unacceptably brutal. There have been far too many unmarked graves in this world. It has to stop somewhere—and if it has to start someplace I guess it'll be here. We can't treat people this way.

Jeannie Jaybush, the founder of Seattle's Baby Bank has "seen it all" in the many decades she has devoted to caring for the city's most vulnerable new babies. Typically, she provides all of the immediate baby needs—diapers, bottles, onesies, a Teddy Bear, and a car seat—to infants and young children living in poverty.

When she learns of cases like the one described above, she is moved to action. This baby's parents did not have the means to provide a proper resting place, even when their other children offered to forego Christmas gifts. As Jeannie states, "we cannot treat people this way." For so many families in the Seattle area, she remains an invaluable resource.

GPF Impact: Hearing about the family's hardship, we sent the amount needed to provide a proper gravestone for this little girl who never had a chance to grow up. In addition, our funds underwrote the cost of other essential items, such as nursing bras and portable cribs.

Birthday Angels ISR

Empowering and Celebrating Kids in Israel

Kids are often more successful than adults in initiating positive changes in our world since their unbridled enthusiasm and perhaps, their naiveté helps them avoid the reasons something won't work. They just do it!

That was what **Ruthie Sobel Luttenberg**, founder of Birthday Angels, learned when she introduced the international program, Design for Change, to Israeli schools in 2011. Birthday Angels originally focused on providing birthday parties for kids whose families could not afford a celebration. Today, thousands of children continue to benefit. Soon after that, a new program was added: Teen Angels encourages teens to learn a new skill, facilitating birthday parties, they can use to give back to their community, while also enhancing their own sense of self.

Design for Change, based upon a model developed in India, encourages young people to discover what they care about in their world, and empowers them to get involved. Students in schools throughout the country have implemented the program and, as a result, have addressed a wide variety of issues like hunger, bullying, racism, animal welfare, and so much more.

GPF Impact: Our funds helped underwrite Ruthie's lean operation to turn young people into conscientious and compassionate citizens.

Creating Connected Communities USA

Developing Young Leaders Through Outreach

"[The] Creating Connected Communities' Leadership Training Program presented me the best opportunity at the best possible time. As a high schooler...the program taught me to be a leader among my peers...It gave me something to be passionate about and then gave me the resources to bring my passion to action. The skills and connections I built in LTP have, without a doubt, shaped me in terms of both my volunteerism and professionalism." —Stefanie, Program Graduate

Stefanie's comments accurately describe the transformative power of Creating Connected Communities, as it offers Atlanta

teens the opportunity to develop leadership skills by working directly with kids from disadvantaged backgrounds. In fact, the program is so successful that there is usually a waiting list of teens wanting to participate.

The seed for Creating Connected Communities (CCC) was planted 21 years ago, when 12-year-old Amy Sacks (now **Amy Sacks Zeide**) learned that holiday toys were stolen from a local shelter. She donated funds to help replace them, but realized she wanted to do more. The following year, she coordinated Amy's Holiday Party, a fun day of activities and gifts for kids referred by local social services agencies.

Today, Amy's Holiday Party continues each December, engaging more than 800 underprivileged kids and their families in a day of games and dancing and food. However, the experience is so much more than the smiling faces you see at the party. It is the culmination of a year of learning, volunteering, and planning for the Atlanta teens who participate in the CCC program. Beyond the games and the gifts are the meaningful relationships they have formed with each other and the new leadership skills they are putting to good use. Everyone wins.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant allowed Amy to expand her program to three additional communities, as well as to give more teens the opportunity to be part of the program.

Kaima ISR

Organic Farming as Alternative Education

At the age of 13, Carmela* abandoned her troubled family life, dropped out of school and began living on the streets, where drugs and alcohol became part of her daily routine. By 16, she had been through seven different residential treatment programs, running away from each. When welfare workers finally returned her to her father, he reached out to Kaima, where Carmela initially succeeded in reversing her trajectory. Unfortunately, ongoing tension with her father required her to return to her mentally ill mother who lived quite a distance from Kaima. Carmela left the program and eventually returned to her old ways.

Carmela ultimately returned to Kaima, admitting that "Kaima is the MOST important thing in my life...it is my family...it is where I belong." She leaves her home at 4:30 each morning in order to start work at 7:30. Since her return to Kaima, she is clean and sober, has completed a certification course in airbrushing, and will soon start her National Service obligation.

This is the impact of Kaima's innovative program that uses a sustainable organic farm to help young people who cannot

successfully learn in more traditional surroundings. Carmela is just the kind of kid **Yoni Yefet-Reich** was trying to help when he and others started Kaima on donated land outside Jerusalem. While a CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) component covers about 50% of the organization's budget, Kaima's true success is best exemplified by the fact that within approximately six months, 80% of participants return to a traditional classroom, boarding school or night school, and/or enter rehab for the first time.

GPF Impact: We have supported Kaima since its earliest days and each grant has helped the program attain greater success. This year's grant underwrote the cost of fencing, seeds and other items to develop a new plot of land. (To learn more about our impact on Kaima, see "More Than Money", pg. 4)

**pseudonym*

Leveling the Playing Field **USA** *Sports for Everyone*

The statistics are disheartening: 60% of underserved youth are less likely to participate in sports and children involved in sports are three times less likely to drop out of school. But, **Max Levitt's** numbers are inspiring. Six months into 2016, Leveling the Playing Field, has donated more than \$500,000 worth of equipment to over 150 programs, benefitting over 30,000 kids!

Max's life has always involved sports. He was tossing a ball even before he reached kindergarten and went on to become the equipment manager for the Syracuse University football team, where he majored in Sports Management. Through his experiences at Syracuse, he became aware of the vast waste found in college athletic programs (as well as in private homes). Max was determined to find a way to match that excess with places where it was needed. Upon his college graduation, Max started a nonprofit to do just that—surely not a simple challenge nor one for the faint of heart.

Leveling the Playing Field has helped programs in a variety of ways beyond just the athletic equipment it supplies. In some cases, programs would not exist without the donated equipment, because there is no available funding whatsoever. In other cases, it allows programs in low-income areas to redeploy money that had been allocated for equipment in even more beneficial ways which in turn allows more youth to participate. Put quite simply, Max's efforts have made it possible for more kids to experience the benefits of organized sports activities—better grades, better health, teambuilding and leadership skills, and so much more.

GPF Impact: LPF is run by a tiny staff. Our matching grant was directed to staffing needs, to help keep them running (pun intended).

SAHI **ISR** *Empowering Troubled Youth Through Compassion and Giving*

Just six years ago, 17-year-old Elroi, from one of Jerusalem's rougher neighborhoods, was deeply involved in a life of drinking and criminal activities. One night, two young strangers approached him and his friends, offering them a cup of coffee or tea.

In the course of conversation, the strangers asked Elroi and his friends if they knew of any needy families in the neighborhood who could use some extra food. Hungry people were not hard to find in this part of the city. Joining forces with these strangers, Elroi and his friends prepared boxes of food, which they delivered under cover of darkness to the doorsteps of those they knew needed help. As Elroi himself says, "I felt this evening that I'm doing for the first time something meaningful."

For a young person whose life was marked by failures, this "act of grace" was a stunning turning point. Elroi's chance meeting with **Avraham Hayon**, one of SAHI's dynamic founders, changed his life; this 23-year-old is now determined to become part of SAHI's staff. More than 650 other young men and women have also "met two strangers" and are now part of SAHI activities that take place in 22 groups around the country. SAHI's philosophy is simple: Empower youth by the very act of giving to others and you can foster self-esteem, a sense of belonging, and a positive ripple effect that actually changes the wider community.

GPF Impact: Our funds were directed toward the cost of expanding the organization's work into other communities.

The Quincy Kids **USA** *Students Helping Kids Around the World*

Many of us can remember one person whose story inspired us and moved us to act. For the students of Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, MA, that person was Iqbal Masih, a young Pakistani child, who was sold to a carpet manufacturer to pay off a family debt. Unfortunately, Iqbal's story is not unique. In 1994, after Iqbal was released from a life of weaving intricate carpets while chained to a loom, he came to the US to speak out against child labor. His impassioned plea during a school assembly inspired Broad Meadows students. When they learned several months later that he had been gunned down

upon his return to Pakistan, they felt compelled to keep his memory alive.

What started as a campaign to raise funds for a schoolhouse in Iqbal's remote village, has evolved into one of the most successful youth-managed activism projects in the country. Over the years, a diverse group of middle school students has addressed global and national bodies and received many awards for their work. The group has since become part of ODW-USA (Operation Day's Work) and each year selects one developing country (this year it was Haiti) where they partner with an existing organization to improve the lives of kids in that nation.

We would be remiss if we did not mention **Ron Adams**, the dedicated teacher and role model who has led this group. As inspiring as Iqbal was to that first group of students, it is Ron's dedication that has continued to drive this important initiative. We wish him only the very best as he retires from the classroom this year. His lessons have helped raise an impressive group of activists who are changing the world for the better.

GPF Impact: We continue to provide the kids with the tools they need to do their lifesaving work—pens, markers, poster board, postage stamps, an occasional computer, and more.

Tzimaon **ISR** **Creating a More Equal Society in Israel through Education**

The large numbers of displaced refugees continue to grab international headlines. In Tel Aviv, there are thousands of African refugees who have fled repressive governments and sought safety in the region's one democracy. While politicians continue to bicker over whether these refugees should be there, the reality is that they *are* there and within this community, there are thousands of young children. The youngest of these children attend the vast network of *ganim*, or daycare centers, in South Tel Aviv, most of which are substandard, lacking even the most basic amenities.

Fortunately, many compassionate groups have stepped up to improve the conditions of these *ganim* and to provide the children with meaningful educational experiences. Tzimaon, a volunteer organization founded in 2005 by **Shlomo Artzi** and his wife **Michal** to address economic disparity in Israel is among those committed to improving this situation. **Carmit Eldad**, a Tzimaon volunteer, recognized the serious deficiencies and sometimes dangerous conditions in the *ganim* and took action to change the reality for at least some of these children. Tzimaon-adopted *ganim* have been upgraded so that the physical surroundings are now clean, brightly painted, and

equipped with educational toys, books, and a steady flow of volunteers to interact with the kids. Perhaps most important, a hot meal, including chicken and fresh fruit and vegetables, is provided.

GPF Impact: We directed our funding to these nutritious, protein-based meals, in an effort to build strong bodies *and* strong minds.

***Undies4Everyone USA** **Dignity and Self-esteem in Houston Schools**

A national education organization last year confirmed that the majority of students attending school in this country live below the poverty line. This reality further highlights the disparity between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in our country and how that impacts our children.

Federal breakfast and lunch programs, as well as an endless variety of school supply drives, are important, but one additional item is critical to the welfare of children: underwear. **Rabbi Amy Weiss** learned this little known fact several years ago while writing a news article about holiday toy drives. A nurse at a local school expressed her frustration at the abundance of toys, while raising the point that a collection of new underwear could *really* help. Amy shared this with her readers and was soon deluged with huge quantities of donated new underwear to distribute.

While the name Amy chose for her organization may be cute, her mission is much more than that: New, clean underwear promotes self-esteem and provides basic dignity to everyone—especially kids. In 2015, her efforts resulted in the distribution of more than 120,000 pairs of underwear to local social service agencies and school nurses.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant made it possible for even more of Houston's kids to have new underwear.

ELDER CARE

Alice Jonah and the Diplomat Hotel

ISR

Building a Community of Elders Helping Elders

High atop one of Jerusalem's many hills sits what was once the famous five-star Diplomat Hotel. Today, a bit worse for wear and transformed almost single-handedly by Canadian **Alice Jonah**, the Diplomat is a caring community for more than 500 elderly Russian immigrants, including former doctors, engineers, teachers and even famous opera singers.

Though Alice is no longer employed at the Diplomat, some of the programs she developed remain. The concept behind her home health-aide program is simple: elders who are more able-bodied provide help to the residents who are less ambulatory and independent and who need a few hours of extra care each day. For a little more than \$1,000 monthly, several residents receive this assistance, and the "aides" earn a truly modest hourly wage in return. This provides a sense of purpose to the "aides" and invaluable attention and energy to the recipients.

GPF Impact: Our funds support the home health-aide program, which benefits everyone involved.

In Their Shoes

ISR

Creating Awareness and Understanding of Dementia and Aging

Years ago, **Sandy** and **Zissie Gitel** both struggled to care for elderly parents who were suffering from numerous physical infirmities, as well as cognitive decline. Throughout the experience, they found that they faced enormous insensitivity and ignorance from both professionals and lay people in the medical world. It seemed as if few knew, *really* knew, the challenges that come with caring for elderly people or the challenges the elders themselves were facing.

Determined to change that lack of understanding, the couple participated in two US-based groundbreaking programs in eldercare. One of them is a GPF grantee, Music & Memory. Music & Memory utilizes personalized music on iPods to help elders with memory disorders reconnect with their surroundings.

GPF Impact: We have provided guidance and funding, particularly for iPods and other technology that the Gitels use in their pioneering work to change the face of eldercare in Israel.

LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years *Aging-In-Place Manhattan Style*

USA

John's* greatest joy came from interacting with others, especially the choral group that met regularly as part of LiLY's organized activities for elders living in Manhattan's Morningside Heights. John is a perfect example of someone who benefits from LiLY's goal of helping elders remain in their own homes as long as possible. After a hospital stay related to a fall that resulted from his Parkinson's disease, John still chose to be part of the weekly gatherings. After one such meeting, several other elders recognized John's frailty and walked him back to his apartment to be sure that he was safe. They also contacted LiLY's social worker to report his condition and that he was home safe and sound. The social worker, in turn, contacted John's family and arranged for a part-time caretaker to help with his care and mobility. In a city filled with numerous high-rise buildings, where individuals may remain invisible, LiLY's special focus helps our elders remain independent.

Recent research points to the strong connection between loneliness and physical and mental decline. In fact, according to a late summer *New York Times* article, loneliness is a greater predictor of early death than obesity. Perhaps nothing brings on more feelings of isolation than having no one to speak to. **Irene Zola**, LiLY's founder, and her volunteers work tirelessly to fill that gap and provide a link to vitality and well-being.

GPF Impact: Our funds made it possible for Irene to employ a Spanish-speaking social worker who facilitates this good work on behalf of the significant number of Hispanic residents that LiLY supports.

*pseudonym

Survivor Mitzvah Project

USA

Providing For the Needs of Holocaust Survivors in Eastern Europe

I do not have a photo of my parents, either young or old, or any pictures of my plentiful relatives. They ran away or they were killed. Those who didn't want to part with their lives were destroyed – they were burned alive, having taken with them the most important things – documents and photos. They went to the world from which no-one returns.

Rita, born in 1936, was five years old when her family was taken to Pechora Concentration Camp. Mera was born in 1933 in a Jewish colony in the Rosdansky district and was a small child when she, her mother and younger sister ran from the

killing squads, ending up in Stalingrad. Isaak was born in 1929 in the Ukraine, hidden by kind neighbors when the Fascists arrived in 1941.

The atrocities of war are well documented, including the more than 1.5 million children who died in the Shoah. But what has become of the children who survived? Where are the youngest of the Holocaust victims, now elderly survivors of the Second World War? Many spend their remaining years struggling in remote corners of Eastern Europe, some totally alone existing on meager pensions. Many cannot afford necessary medicine, heat, food, and repairs on their modest homes.

These are the people that caught the attention of **Zane Buzby** when she visited Eastern Europe seeking to discover her family's roots. Overwhelmed by what she saw, Zane returned home committed to changing the lives of as many as possible by offering them modest financial help, as well as friendship and a respite from the loneliness they endure each day. This, more than anything else, is a time-sensitive program. Very soon most of these survivors will be gone.

GPF Impact: We provided Zane with funds to reach as many elderly Holocaust survivors as she can.

HUNGER

Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges USA

An Interfaith Approach to Feeding Hungry People

50 million Americans — 1 in 4 children — don't know where their next meal is coming from.

The Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges (IFPO) provides supplemental and emergency food to low-income residents in Orange and East Orange, NJ. What is unique about IFPO is that it is a collaboration of interfaith groups from neighboring communities that come together to solve problems of hunger and poverty in nearby communities—truly a “neighbor helping neighbor” arrangement. It's a model that could be applied to a wide range of social challenges. And, for people like Judy*, a veteran and single mom who works part-time while she studies to become an LPN, the IFPO is a lifesaver. Without their help she would never have enough food for herself and her young son.

We visited the operation several months ago and saw firsthand the efficiency, dedication, compassion and professionalism of the volunteers as they helped clients with their pickup.

This totally volunteer-driven effort serves close to 17,300 individuals, of which nearly 40% are children. The need for emergency food is only increasing. In 2010, IFPO assisted 40-50 client visits per week. By the summer of 2015, that number quadrupled to more than 180 per week.

GPF Impact: The pantry is in the process of moving to a “client choice” model, allowing people to “shop” as they would in a traditional grocery store. We directed our funds to the purchase of additional personal hygiene products—items that are often overlooked, but offer clients a greater sense of personal well-being.

**pseudonym*

*Project Kruvit ISR *Holiday Food Extravaganza*

Even as an idealistic teen, Ravit wanted to “help feed people who cannot feed themselves,” including elders, Shoah survivors, families with children in hospital, and others. She started by providing holiday food to six families. Today, **Dr. Ravit Hilleli**, a young mother and a resident completing her training in psychiatry, has seen her childhood dream turn into something much bigger. Her all-volunteer program, Project *Kruvit*, supplies prepared, high-quality holiday meals to 5,000 people across the country for *Pesach*, *Shavuot* and *Rosh Hashanah*. An army of volunteers—about 8,000 strong—cook, shop, and deliver meals during a 48-hour period immediately before the *chaggim* begin.

When we met Ravit in Israel this past winter, we quickly understood how her calm demeanor and strong organizational skills make this seemingly impossible task possible. And where did the name *Kruvit* come from? *Kruvit*, a nickname she received as a child, means cauliflower in Hebrew.

GPF Impact: We directed our funds to the purchase of some of the items on her very long shopping list.

Youngstown Community Food Bank USA *Feeding Hungry Families in the Rust Belt*

For years, **Joe and Linda Lordi** and their young daughters led a typical middle class life in the Youngstown, OH area. Joe worked hard every day at the supermarket he ran along with his brothers. Life was good. When the business failed, Joe and Linda lost everything—their livelihood, their home, their security, and their self-respect. Suddenly, public assistance was part of their lives and with it came bureaucracy and humiliation.

A gentle man by nature, Joe believed that there had to be a better way for people who had fallen on hard times to get help while retaining their dignity. The Youngstown Community Food Bank was Joe's solution. With hard work and some creative begging and borrowing, he gathered donated food from grocery stores, manufacturers, distributors, and individuals and set up a pantry in donated warehouse space. Today, over 400 people "shop" in Joe's warehouse each week. Passing through the aisles they get what they need, just as we fill our own baskets in the local market. In addition, Joe distributes food to roughly 40 agencies and church food pantries in a region that is ranked #6 in poverty in the United States. More than one million pounds of food are donated to Joe's effort each year, including nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables that so often are missing from food pantry shelves.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrote Joe's auto and building insurance costs that comprise part of his very modest overhead.

Solving Hunger in the Neighborhood

Necha Malka

ISR

Quietly Feeding Hungry Families in Israel

I used to run a clothing Gemach (a place where people could come and take clothing they might need). One day, one of the ladies who showed up with her kids to take clothes quietly asked me if perchance I had some food since she didn't have food to feed her kids. I quickly put together some food for her and sent her on her way. I got to thinking, so many people throw away so much...so I started to post and collect from people whatever they didn't want (I still do that besides the food we buy).

Shira Gilor, a resident of Hashmonaim (an Israeli *yishuv* or planned community), knew that this woman's situation was not unique, and so began her grassroots, neighborhood operation to secure food and discreetly feed her hungry neighbors. Necha Malka and its team of volunteers now serves 35 families that have been vetted by local social workers. Shira's quiet work is lifesaving for women like Celia* (75 years old, single, wheelchair-bound, fighting cancer and supported only by a modest pension) and Miriam* (divorced from an abusive husband, living in a basement apartment and cleaning houses to support her three young children, including one with special needs).

GPF Impact: Our funds helped underwrite supermarket scrip, which makes possible the purchase of any food that is not

donated. In addition, we were excited to connect Shira to our grantee, Gideon Ben Ami (Pesia's Kitchen), who now provides her with a weekly supply of fresh produce.

**pseudonym*

Zehava and Karyn

ISR

Feeding the Neighbors

Food Packages for Needy Families in Jerusalem

Though the term has surely been overused, it is true that "it takes a village" or, in this case, some neighbors. The quiet work of **Karyn Gellman** and **Zehava Taub** in their upscale Jerusalem neighborhood of Baka has had a profound impact on those who cannot find work, might be ill, living alone, or do not have sufficient funds to feed their families.

Years ago, when Karyn and Zehava learned that some neighbors struggled to put food on the table, they immediately set to work. The program was born when the two enlisted other families who generously agreed to volunteer and provide food and additional basic items on a monthly basis. All families receiving assistance are vetted by social workers, and volunteers do all food purchasing, packaging and delivery.

GPF Impact: The supermarket scrip we underwrote made it possible for recipients to enjoy holiday meals, which typically cost more to prepare, and to shop on their own for the items they most want and need.

FOOD RESCUE

AmpleHarvest.org

USA

Home Gardeners Helping Hungry Neighbors

When **Gary Oppenheimer**, founder of AmpleHarvest.org, declares, "America's problem is not that we don't have enough food. It is that we are not using the food we have," he knows exactly what he is talking about. The reasons behind this disconnect are no doubt complex, and yet Gary's mission is simple: to educate the public and enable home and community gardeners to reduce food waste and, at the same time, feed hungry people.

Gary's abundant summer vegetable garden, combined with his technical expertise, inspired him to create an online community connecting home gardeners to local food pantries. Through AmpleHarvest.org, home gardeners can donate their excess bounty—about 11 shopping bags of extra produce each season, on average—to local food pantries, where healthy produce is rarely offered. Today, more than 42 million home and community growers have connected with more than 7,700 pantries in every state across the country. Gary runs a lean and efficient organization, working from his home office and connecting virtually with additional staff located around the country. The result? Millions of pounds of fresh produce donated.

GPF Impact: We helped underwrite AmpleHarvest.org's small staffing needs.

Salem Harvest

USA

Harvesting Healthy Foods to Feed Hungry People

In many homes during the summer, big bowls of juicy red cherries are quickly scarfed up as the seasonal treat makes its all-too-brief appearance in supermarkets. For people living in and around Oregon's fertile Willamette Valley, though, there's no need to go to the market. The more than 3,000 volunteers who pick produce on behalf of Salem Harvest get to keep a portion of the pick. The remaining bounty is passed along to local social service agencies so that people with limited resources can partake of this luscious summer fruit.

As cited in a recent article in the Huffington Post, an enormous amount of fruits and vegetables are never harvested. Aware of this untapped food source, the founders of Salem Harvest began their program several years ago. How much better it is to have people, many of whom live on the economic edge, join together to harvest this bounty and benefit from its

nutrition. **Elise Bauman**, once a dedicated volunteer, is now the program's first Executive Director. She reports that the number of volunteers and donor farmers has increased and the group's output has grown exponentially.

GPF Impact: With more than 500,000 pounds of product rescued, we knew that so much more was possible if this all-volunteer organization could employ one paid staff person to further the work. We, therefore, underwrote part of Elise's salary, and enjoy seeing the "fruits" of her labor.

Second Helpings Atlanta

USA

Redistributing Food to Atlantans in Need

"It's a powerful feeling to recognize that food that would have otherwise and unnecessarily gone in the trash is instead repurposed to feed the hungry." —A Second Helpings Atlanta Volunteer

Imagine having to choose between buying food or medicine? These are tough choices that the almost 20% of Georgians living in poverty must face every day. Years ago, **Guenther Hecht**, the food rescue program's founder, started a similar program in South Carolina. This more recent effort—Second Helpings Atlanta (SHA)—began as a synagogue project but has evolved into an independent organization that aims to end food insecurity and hunger in the Metro Atlanta area by repurposing food that would otherwise go uneaten.

SHA's growth over just a few years reflects their large core of volunteers who pick up excess food (over 850,000 pounds last year) from local markets, bakeries, restaurants and farmers markets and deliver it to pantries and agencies that serve hungry people. The good news is that the lists of food donors and recipient agencies continue to increase dramatically. That growth has necessitated a transition from an all-volunteer team to a more formal structure, requiring dedicated employees to manage the operation's 110 pickups each week.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant funded a volunteer and agency donor coordinator who brings efficiency to an operation that helps more than 800,000 hungry people in Atlanta.

The Bagel Brigade

USA

Distributing Leftover Baked Goods in LA

Day after day, week after week, a group of dedicated volunteers in California's San Fernando Valley carry out the dream of the late **Herman Berman** (z'l), the founder and inspiration behind The Bagel Brigade. Each week, this band of dedicated volunteers gathers almost 500 bags of fresh bread, cake and

other baked goods and, in a highly coordinated operation, transfers them to local schools and social service agencies to feed hungry people. It's that simple.

Nearly 20 years ago, a chance visit to a local bagel chain at day's end peaked Herman's interest. As he eyed the many baskets of unsold product, he asked the salesperson what would happen to the unsold bagels. He was informed that they would be thrown out at closing. The manager offered the day's leftovers to Herman, and he readily agreed to take them, dropping them off at a local agency. Others made the same offer, and before long he had attracted numerous stores to his operation. With his enthusiastic volunteers, many of them members of the local B'nai Brith chapter, The Bagel Brigade was born.

GPF Impact: We provided operating funds to make this modest effort possible.

Village Harvest USA *Creating Community While Harvesting Fruit*

Got fruit? If you live in California, there is a strong chance you will have at least one or two fruit trees on your property, and that is where **Craig Diserens** and Village Harvest will step in to make sure none of it goes to waste. In this past year alone, this backyard (and small orchard) gleaning effort gathered nearly 195,000 pounds of fresh fruit that was efficiently distributed to local hunger programs. A backyard fruit tree usually produces far more fruit than any household can use and, rather than go to waste, it now provides nourishment to people in need.

Four part-time staff and more than 1,000 volunteers help Village Harvest achieve its important goal of feeding hungry people and rescuing perfectly good food. But nothing beats the feeling of community when diverse volunteer harvesting teams, comprised of individuals and groups of all ages, physical abilities, faiths and professions, come together for a common goal.

GPF Impact: We underwrote the Neighborhood Harvest Program, which partners with neighborhood associations and local residents to organize fruit tree harvests of entire blocks and neighborhoods.

ALTERNATIVE HEALING OF BODY AND MIND

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

When you and I look at a cat or a dog, or maybe even a parakeet, we might see cuteness and companionship. When **Avshalom Beni**, founder of HAMA, looks at those very same animals, he sees something entirely different. Avshalom sees a world where animals and humans rescue each other. These creatures become Avshalom's therapy partners as he works with a variety of troubled individuals who are struggling to gain a sense of equilibrium. The beneficiaries of this gentle man's unique approach include children with learning disabilities, victims of abuse, fathers and sons trying to establish a positive relationship, and kids living on the Gaza border who have never known a life without rockets falling around them.

Our emotional journey to Israel's southern perimeter this past winter introduced us to families and children who have benefited from Avshalom's work. Once there, Avshalom's student, the extraordinarily talented Shay Agmon and his masterful use of music in animal-assisted therapy, also impressed us. Shay helps kids with PTSD and other learning issues exacerbated by the 2014 war on Israel's southern border, as well as the ongoing rocket attacks that periodically shatter the calm. His bird and rabbit menagerie assist him in his work at the local school where parents and school officials all attest to the meaningful changes in the children's behavior.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrote two series of sessions at the local school. The accolades we heard confirmed the value of our investment.

INTRA-Israel National ISR Therapeutic Riding Association *Therapeutic Horseback Riding for People with Disabilities*

Bini*, like so many others who endured trauma while serving in the IDF, returned from active duty with PTSD. His PTSD manifested itself in risk-taking activities. He was left with severe depression and was emotionally and physically exhausted. By the time he reached the Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association (INTRA), Bini was unable to work, speak or interact with others and relied on drugs to control his anxiety and sleep issues. His first interactions with the horse were difficult but,

after 10 weeks of therapy, he was finally able to overcome many of these problems. As the program's co-founder, **Dr. Anita Shkedi**, stated, "He learned to cope...by mirroring the abilities of his horse whose natural powerful survival sense, capabilities and characteristics keeps it safe from most predators." Today, Bini still rides, is studying and has been able to maintain relationships.

Israel, like the United States, has an enormous number of veterans who suffer from PTSD, and each country is challenged by the shortage of programs like this that restore health and sanity to returning soldiers. Anita's groundbreaking work is a potent example of the power found in equine-assisted therapy.

GPF Impact: Our funds provided scholarships for soldiers like Bini, enabling them to escape the trauma of war and heal their emotional wounds.

*pseudonym

Lev Leytzan-Heart of A Clown USA Clowning as a Therapeutic Tool

We don't get to choose when we die but we certainly have a choice of how we live until our last. Therapeutic clowning inspires our natural instinct to live despite the impending reality of death ... it's hard to stay somber when therapeutic clowns are present whether to reminisce, distract, help prepare for death, or just to hold your hand. A visit from a therapeutic clown gives permission to live, to express, and to be present in your reality.

For Lily, an 80-something woman wandering in the darkness that is Alzheimer's disease, and Julie, a once-spirited teen now facing end-stage cancer, **Dr. Neal Goldberg's** clowns provide a respite to the nightmare that is now their reality. As the founder of Lev Leytzan (Heart of a Clown), Neal runs a team of professionally trained clowns, many of whom are teens, who focus on bringing comfort to those in need. A psychologist with an active practice, Neal understands that sometimes all it takes is a healthy dose of laughter and joy to lift spirits and even boost the healing process when possible.

Lev Leytzan clowns receive rigorous professional training with medical and mental health personnel, as well as with professional clowns. Over the past 12 years, they have reached more than 60,000 people in nursing homes, senior centers, hospitals, special needs camps, and private homes in the United States and overseas.

GPF Impact: When Neal first introduced the Elderhearts™ program, which engages Alzheimer's and dementia patients in a playful but purposeful way, we were intrigued. Elderhearts™ utilizes period costumes and props that are reminiscent of an earlier time so that the clowns are able to awaken memories and feelings long forgotten in the miasma of dementia. Our matching grant helped to expand this outstanding program.

Music & Memory USA Bringing Personalized Music to Elders through Digital Technology

Many of us make playlists for our different moods or for long car rides. But how many of us have considered making a playlist to be used in the event that we develop Alzheimer's or dementia? Making a playlist (while we are still healthy and robust) of the music that moves and inspires us could make all the difference. The benefits derived from music could help us remain in the present and connected to our surroundings.

While the idea may sound a bit strange, this is exactly what **Dan Cohen**, founder of Music & Memory, hopes for as his revolutionary idea takes hold here in the United States and around the world. M&M promotes and facilitates the use of personalized music on iPods for people with Alzheimer's and dementia. The impact has been considerable, with more than 3,000 facilities around the world offering the program. Several states have even mandated its use in state-run homes. A doctor who had been treating elderly patients over a long period of time declared, "For 25 years since the meds came out, I've been able to do little more than chit chat with my patients who have dementia and their families. Now I have something tangible to offer."

GPF Impact: M&M has grown beyond our normal focus, but we believe its impact is enormous and want to be sure that awareness continues to build. Over the past few years, we have worked with Dan to identify a need where our modest investment can be, as Dan states, "that little stick of dynamite." This year's grant underwrote a pilot project—the M&M club—at New York University, where interested students will be trained in the use of personalized playlists, and will then be qualified to put their know-how to good use and work face-to-face with Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

Shelter Music Boston USA Feeding the Souls of Boston's Homeless Shelter Residents

Last Christmas, while Shelter Music Boston musicians performed at a men's shelter, the group played a Lebanese piece. To their amazement, a man sitting quietly in the corner

of the room suddenly looked up with a broad smile on his face. After the concert, as the musicians engaged with the residents, Julie learned that the tune they played was one of this man's favorites—he heard it daily over the years he lived in Syria. Now, thousands of miles away, he took comfort that “he’s heard a piece of home.”

Surely every professional musician dreams of standing ovations and shouts of “bravo” (or perhaps, “brava!”). For **Julie Leven**, the talented co-founder of Shelter Music Boston, appearances in esteemed concert halls is the norm and yet, she and the other musicians who perform with her, agree that the concerts they perform in the city’s homeless shelters which often elicit comments like the one just described are enormously gratifying. Julie’s belief that classical music can restore a homeless person’s soul and remind them that they are not invisible has been proven over and over.

GPF Impact: Our latest grant allowed the group to plan several new initiatives, including the Women’s Composer project, which will offer works by women composers to all shelters currently served by SMB musicians.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Barbershop Books USA Enhancing Literacy for Young Boys

What better time to read (or be read to) than when waiting for a haircut? “Across New York City,” says **Alvin Irby**, founder of Barbershop Books, “there are thousands of boys of color who will never see a male who looks like them engaging in reading during their first few years of school...or encouraging them to read at all.” That is why this educator, who admittedly did not discover the magic in books until he was in high school, is on a mission to place children’s books in barbershops, often the neighborhood hub in African-American communities. Alvin is determined to inspire young African-American boys to love books and, thus, creatively close the literacy gap.

Founded in 2013, Barbershop Books is a community-based literacy program that creates child-friendly reading spaces in neighborhood barbershops for boys aged four to eight. Books are carefully selected to provide access to engaging, culturally relevant, age-appropriate books and to encourage boys to read for fun, outside of classroom walls. Placing books in this environment allows men to share these early reading experiences and encourages them to become role models—all with just 15 books and a colorful, portable bookshelf.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant allowed Alvin to expand the program to other states, as well as to additional boroughs in New York.

Breaking the Chain USA Through Education Rescuing Enslaved Children in Ghana

We have rescued 71 children, reunited them with their families, and currently these children are attending school, some for the first time... Our goal is to continue to rescue children that have been trafficked and restore them to a life of dignity and education.

The notion of children being sold into slavery is appalling to all of us. But one compassionate, selfless, and creative New Jersey teacher is committed to *rescuing* these enslaved kids.

What started as a lesson in human rights soon morphed into schoolwide fundraisers and finally a nonprofit organization focused on rescuing trafficked children in Ghana. That teacher, **Evan Robbins**, founder of Breaking the Chain through Education (BTCTE), has had a profound impact in two ways: not only has the program rescued dozens of Ghananian children, but it has also inspired a generation of students in his classroom to pursue social justice.

GPF Impact: Our funds helped underwrite the cost of rescues and the education of more children in Ghana.

Caravan to Class USA Bringing Literacy to Timbuktu

With your generous support I was once again privileged today to be at the opening of one of our schools in the village of Kakondji. It is hard to express just how meaningful the new school is to the village. The head of the village pulled me aside and said “Mr. Barry, you know that one can never be President of Mali without an education. With our new school, thanks to you and your donors, maybe one of our children will be President of Mali someday.”

For most of us education is a given. We strive to have the best schools that offer the widest range of educational opportunities to achieve any goal we set. Sadly, for children in remote communities across the world, education is often nothing more than a dream.

In Mali, this is particularly true, as civil war has ravaged the West African nation. When Californian **Barry Hoffner** visited the country and learned of the staggering illiteracy rates, in

some cases as high as 90%, he felt compelled to find a way to help change things. Caravan to Class was born when Barry invited family and friends to underwrite the cost of a new school in one village, and today more than seven other villages have benefited from this good work.

GPF Impact: It doesn't cost much—about \$120 annually—to educate a child in a government-approved school. Our funding was directed toward this instruction, with many children becoming the first in their family to achieve literacy.

Change the Truth USA Providing Opportunities for Children in Uganda

All the children I've met over these many years of travel to Uganda have tried, without really trying, to teach me: Be present, be kind, be simple and open your heart...

"Quadratic Expression & Equations," "Verb Tenses, Direct/Indirect Speech," and "Photosynthesis in Plants" are all subjects we might expect to be taught in high schools around the United States. They are also part of the course syllabus for senior students at Saint Mary Kevin Children's Home in Uganda and part of a report sent to us by **Gloria Baker Feinstein**, founder of Change the Truth (CTT).

During a photojournalism trip in 2006, Gloria met this group of children, many of whom were orphaned as a result of the AIDS epidemic in Africa. Vowing to "change the truth" for these young people, Gloria began CTT, an organization that provides funding for food, shelter, clothing, medical needs, education, and more.

GPF Impact: This year, our grant made it possible for senior students to receive intensive tutoring and enrichment classes during holiday periods. Gloria's reports describe the tremendous impact our funds have made, and we are thrilled that these young people, who had little chance of a bright future, may now go on to college and become self-sufficient, productive members of society.

Reading Village USA Promoting Literacy in Rural Guatemala

As Reading Village celebrates its tenth anniversary, founder **Linda Smith** takes pride that her quest to bring literacy and hope to rural Guatemalan villages where the literacy rate is among the lowest in the Western Hemisphere and poverty and despair prevail, changes lives. The story of Angel, a baby born to alumni of Reading Village's *Leaders and Readers Program* is a story of success. Angel is the first child in his village born

to parents with high school diplomas and university studies. In fact, his parents, Luis and Angelica, have been reading to him since he was in the womb. For rural villages in Guatemala, Angel represents a promising future—a future in which parents have the skills and means to provide for their children and give them the opportunity to fulfill their own potential.

Literacy opens up the world of possibilities, allowing children to hope and dream of a better life and, ultimately, success. To date, more than 125 teens have been empowered to help more than 5,000 children. As part of the *Leaders & Readers program* Mayan teenagers receive scholarships, mentoring and leadership training, enabling them to complete high school. In return, they volunteer as "reading promoters," facilitating weekly reading circles for young children in their villages.

GPF Impact: Our contribution funded these scholarships, keeping the teens engaged, the younger children learning from new role models, and the cycle of teaching and learning active.

MILITARY AND VETERANS

Internity USA A Resource for Victims of Military Sexual Trauma

As a teenager growing up in impoverished rural Maine, **Dr. Ruth Moore** decided that joining the Navy would be a good way to escape her environment and perhaps gain a sense of purpose. Never once did she think that as a service person she would be subjected to sexual assault, retribution in the form of an additional assault after reporting the first one, and finally a (military) diagnosis of mental illness, eventually leading to her medical discharge. How does one recover from this trauma? Shunned not only by the military but also by her own family who doubted her claims, Ruth led a difficult life for many years. Her requests to receive medical benefits for the PTSD she still experiences were repeatedly denied until a few years ago when the subject of military sexual assault began to enter the public forum.

In 2014, after eight attempts, Ruth finally received full benefits and also testified before Congress about the epidemic of sexual assault on both men and women in the military. With advanced degrees in hand, Ruth is dedicated "to empowering other survivors...to find their voices and rebuild their lives."

Nearly 8,000 veterans have been helped by Internity's unique "each-helping-the-other" approach. With a miniscule budget

and considerable in-kind services, Ruth often works in tandem with the Veteran’s Administration. Over the past year, she has started to broaden Internity’s focus to include soldiers with other disabilities, as well.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrote much-needed office equipment, as well as the costs associated with their Advocacy Program. Advocates receive training and personal coaching certification, and then two advocates are placed in each of 19 military regions for outreach to veterans in those areas.

Tzvika Levy and the Lone Soldiers Program ISR

Extended Family for Soldiers Without Families in Country

A soldier enlists and decides to rent an apartment in Tel Aviv, coming home to an apartment on the 3rd floor, where his neighbors across the hall don’t even know who he is. But when I find a family that cares for a soldier on a kibbutz, I know the soldier comes home on the weekends to a hot meal, and a freshly made bed. He comes home to a mother who worries about him, and looks him in the eye to ask him how he is. You can’t find that on Dizengoff.

Nothing better describes the purpose of **Lt. Col. (ret) Tzvika Levy’s** work than his words quoted here. There are more than 5,000 young men and women, *chayalim bodedim* or lone soldiers, from around the world who choose to serve in the Israel Defense Forces. For these brave men and women who have no local family, meeting Tzvika can be a life-changing experience. Tzvika’s official duties include finding housing for these soldiers in Israel’s extensive *kibbutz* network. In truth, he does so much more. While the material goods he provides are much appreciated, it is his gentle warmth, compassion and concern that sustains these “strangers in a foreign land” while they keep Israel safe. All of the funds committed to this program were donor-designated.

Veterans Farm USA

Horticulture Therapy and Disabled Combat Veterans

Combat veteran **Adam Burke** returned home to Florida after several tours of duty and turned his well-deserved PURPLE Heart into BLUEberries. His wounds, both physical and emotional, left him adrift and unsure of the future. Recalling his early life on a farm and the therapeutic benefits of working the land, Adam was inspired to found an organization dedicated to helping other returning veterans who also struggled with PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other injuries. In Veterans Farm, he has utilized the healing benefits of farming and established

a working farm (blueberries have actually become a signature crop), where horticultural therapy helps disabled veterans heal.

In the Fellowship Training Program, veterans work collaboratively to overcome war-related obstacles, learn valuable management skills and receive agricultural training, mentoring and counseling. What started as a 2.8-acre plot has grown to 19 acres. More than 160 veterans have received assistance in starting many types of businesses. Of those Adam has helped, several would-be at-risk veterans have gone on to become successful leaders in their own communities. In a country where fewer people are pursuing careers in agriculture, Adam’s efforts are also fulfilling the need for new farmers.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant supported the Farm Fellows program so that more veterans can successfully reintegrate into society.

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:



SCOPE:

The programs we work with cover a broad spectrum of needs – from poverty and hunger to elders and disabilities, and more.



SCREENING:

We take the screening process very seriously, carefully vetting each organization we fund to be sure their work is legitimate.



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.



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.

ALLOCATIONS

ORGANIZATION

ALLOCATION

HUMAN NEEDS AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Special Individual Needs	\$95,072
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FOOD RESCUE

AmpleHarvest.org	\$7,000
Salem Harvest	\$11,500
Second Helpings Atlanta	\$15,000
The Bagel Brigade	\$5,000
Village Harvest	\$6,500

HUNGER

Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges	\$7,500
**Necha Malka	\$28,852
**Project Kruvit	\$24,000
Youngstown Community Food Bank	\$4,277
Zehava and Karyn-Feeding the Neighbors	\$1,500

KIDS

Amir Project	\$8,200
Art Creation Foundation for Children	\$5,000
Baby Bank	\$11,330
*Beit Hayered	\$2,924
*Big Brothers, Big Sisters	\$55,290
Birthday Angels	\$2,746
Creating Connected Communities	\$13,500
**Kaima	\$256,119
Leveling the Playing Field	\$10,000
SAHI	\$30,580
The Quincy Kids	\$709
**Tzimaon	\$22,925
Undies for Everyone	\$7,500

WOMENS EMPOWERMENT

Ba'asher Telchi	\$17,500
For the Girls	\$5,000
Unchained At Last	\$19,000
**Yotsrot-Turning the Tables	\$27,125

ALTERNATIVE HEALING OF BODY AND MIND

**HAMA (Israel)	\$40,463
INTRA	\$24,180
Lev Leytzan~Heart of a Clown	\$6,000
Music & Memory	\$2,000
Shelter Music Boston	\$10,000

LITERACY

Barbershop Books	\$2,625
Breaking the Chain Through Education	\$3,500
Caravan to Class	\$3,500
Change the Truth	\$2,500
Reading Village	\$3,500
Sulam L'Atid	\$1,436

ORGANIZATION

ALLOCATION

BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Family-to-Family	\$15,200
Gabriel Project Mumbai	\$15,450
Hope and Comfort	\$10,000
Kentucky	\$6,715
Keren Segulat Naomi	\$1,500
Mitzvah Circle Foundation	\$14,350
One Can Help	\$10,000
**Pesia's Kitchen-Gideon Ben Ami	\$75,191
Sundara Fund	\$9,100
Sunday Friends	\$13,000
**Ten Gav	\$29,694
**The Forgotten People Fund	\$26,903
The Jewish Gift Closet	\$7,000
The Redistribution Center	\$12,000

ELDER CARE

Alice Jonah and The Diplomat Hotel	\$6,000
In Their Shoes	\$2,770
LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years	\$20,000
Survivor Mitzvah Project	\$4,000

MILITARY AND VETERANS

*A Package From Home	\$33,457
Internity	\$4,649
*Tzvika Levy and the Lone Soldiers Program	\$47,469
Veterans Farm	\$10,000

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Amuta	\$750
**ATZUM	\$7,200
Courageous Parents Network	\$12,000
Groceryships	\$10,600
Hosts for Hospitals	\$6,500
**Jeremy's Circle	\$48,065
*Kashouvot	\$86,323
Refa'enu	\$1,000
Volunteers in Psychotherapy	\$3,500

INCLUSION AND DISABILITIES

**Inbar	\$30,800
NY Center for Law and Justice	\$10,000
**Shai Asher	\$22,098
Shalheveth	\$10,250
**Shutaf	\$19,605
SPIRIT Club Foundation	\$5,000
Kulanu	\$1,000



*All of this grant was donor-recommended

**A portion of this grant was donor-recommended



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016

Support and Revenue:				Total
Contributions				1,710,276
Investment Income				284
				1,710,560
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Grants:	1,448,991			1,448,991
Expenses:				
Salaries *	51,912	15,721	15,721	83,354
Payroll Taxes	4,300	1,394	1,352	7,046
Web-related Expenses *	4,987	1,425	712	7,124
Administrative Support *	10,634	3,038	1,519	15,191
Bank and Credit Card Fees	3,771	1,077	539	5,387
Consulting	-0	14,335	-0	14,335
Depreciation & Amortization	3,314	1,411	473	5,198
Insurance	1,316	376	188	1,880
Marketing	24,211	-0	16,141	40,352
Office	-0	1,425	-0	1,425
Payroll Service	603	172	86	861
Postage and Shipping	791	226	113	1,130
Professional Fees	-0	10,475	-0	10,475
Telephone and Internet	447	128	63	638
Travel and Entertainment	5,957	1,702	851	8,510
Total expenses	112,243	52,905	37,758	202,906
Total grants and expenses	1,561,234	52,905	37,758	1,651,897
Change in Net Assets				58,663
Net Assets at July 1, 2015				196,858
Net Assets at June 30, 2015				255,521

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



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A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.



Thanks to the Good People Fund...

Developmentally disabled people can take part in regular exercise classes.
See p. 13

New mothers in Seattle have all the equipment they need to raise their newborns.
See p. 17

Kids in the slums of Mumbai have soap to help keep preventable diseases at bay.
See p. 9

Families with few resources can access healthy food and healthy eating habits.
See p. 22

*Small actions,
huge impacts*

Nutritious produce in Oregon can be rescued and distributed to those who would otherwise not enjoy the fruits of the earth.
See p. 24

These are just a few ways that our Good People do great work on a personal scale and heal the world.

YOU CAN HELP!

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE...