The Good People Fund

CHESHVAN 5779 / NOVEMBER 2018

A Decade of Doing Good

I remember the January night ten years ago when we began The Good People Fund. It was so bitterly cold and snowy that many board members couldn’t travel to New York for our first meeting. Months later, the Great Recession began, and there we were, an upstart non-profit organization run from my home office, trying to gain traction.

Now, at our decade mark, GPF is still a lean, non-profit organization run out of my home office. But most importantly, we’ve defined a course of values-driven tzedakah, created momentum and made impact in ways more far ranging than any of us hoped for or imagined. I’m humbled and proud.

GPF wouldn’t be at its ten-year anniversary, or made any difference, if not for individuals like you — those who support us and those who are visionaries and change makers — who realize that the Jewish values we embrace are powerful motivators as we look at the world and realize it needs our help.

The enormity of needs can be overwhelming. But guiding and inspiring us is the knowledge that tikkun olam (repair of the world) and chesed (loving kindness) begin person-to-person and inside waves of positive change.

Each year presents challenges to Good People seeking to alleviate hardships and injustices. This year is no different. We’ve welcomed nine new grantee organizations into our family, each seeking to alleviate hardships and injustices. Each addresses significant issues, instilling hope and a sense of future to individuals, families and communities, and shining light on the power of simple but impactful ways. To actually see that goodness, compassion and inspiration radiate from the images and words of some of our featured grantees. Their words tell us so much about who they are and serve as inspiration to us all.

As a Jewish-values-based organization and one with an emergent profile, this year we became a leader in the #GamAni movement, partnering with others to create dialogue and action to wipe out gender harassment in Jewish spaces. This is a logical outgrowth of our commitment to fair, just and equitable communities and I’m proud of our voice in this realm.

Composing this Annual Report, we’ve tried to paint the most descriptive picture of our accomplishments. Goodness, compassion and inspiration radiate from the images and words of some of our grantees, each representing a specific program area. I urge you to read the answers offered by our featured grantees. Their words tell us so much about who they are and serve as inspiration to us all. And graphics tell our ten-year story in a simple but impactful way. To actually see that you have contributed more than $13 million to GPF dramatically captures our joined commitment.

As a mentor to our grantees, I often share the importance of strong and engaged board members. Each GPF board member — past and present — has given their counsel and devotion to make us as impactful and focused as we are. They deserve deep thanks — as does our staff, Andrea Good and Glenn Rosenkrantz, and our graphic designer, Moski Saltzman.

It’s been a long road from that snowy evening in 2008, one that continues to lead us all in a more just and compassionate world. I hope this report leaves you inspired and committed to our tzedakah model and to our collective power, proving that small actions lead to big impacts.

Thank you for the past 10 years, and for all that follows.

Naomi K. Eisenberger
Co-Founder and Executive Director

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N m

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Program Expenses (percent of GPF’s total expenses spent on programs and services) 94.3%
Administrative Expenses 3%
Fundraising Expenses 2.7%

*Donations designated specifically for administrative expenses bring GPF overhead to 0 percent.

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What makes our work both unique and highly effective can best be described by the Four S’s

**SCOPE**
The programs we work with address a broad spectrum of needs—from poverty and hunger to elder care and disabilities.

**SCREENING**
We take the screening process very seriously, carefully vetting each organization we fund.

**SUPERVISION**
Once we commit to an organization, we don’t just hand them a check. We mentor them 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 ensure that needs are met as swiftly as possible.

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Five years ago, we became acquainted with Guy, a young Darfuri who lost his family to genocide and against odds made his way to Israel. There, he studied and volunteered in refugee organizations while dreaming about attending an American college. Miraculously, he got a student visa and began studies in Illinois with just enough money to cover one month’s expenses.

Many Good People helped Guy, and over the years GPF contributed to his tuition, living expenses, a laptop, and more. Challenges, including trauma from past experiences, interrupted his path at times. But he is now studying international affairs at Harvard and is dreaming big of giving back and improving the world.

We could not be prouder of our role in helping to bring Guy to this point. It is but one example, albeit an unusual one, of how our ability to step in and help with compelling needs can change a life. It could be paying a utility bill so the lights stay on for a single mother and her family, or buying a computer for a struggling student who would otherwise have to visit the library daily in order to complete an assignment.

People we know and trust — grantees, social workers, and health care professionals, for example — are our eyes and ears and know that if we can help, we will.

When there is no other place for a person in need to turn, we are there with a compassionate and understanding heart to quietly help, and change lives, one at a time.
Respecting Human Dignity

Fran Held: The gift of hope is the greatest of all

Who or what has inspired you to do good in this world?
The hundreds of people who write me each week are the ones who inspire me. They share their darkest moments in search of compassion and support. They’ve taught me that the gift of hope is the greatest of all gifts.

I see the needs of families that were once stable and now comprises disrupted due to serious illness, poverty or other crisis, along with families unable to meet basic needs and lacking resources. I want to be a ‘yes’ in a lifetime of ‘no’s’ for people in need.

Why is being a good person so important?
Life is filled with good people. Even in our darkest moments, they are working to make things happen. People want to do good, but they just don’t always know how. I am grateful to be able to provide meaningful opportunities for people to do so.

What would you say to others who want to repair the world?
We create a better world with our words and deeds. Your words must match your actions. When you live by your beliefs, then your hands, feet and heart and the rest will follow.

USA
Mitvah Circle Foundation
Providing for People Walking Along Life’s Edge

Many years have passed since Fran Held watched a store clerk toss a perfectly edible cake in the garbage because the icing was imperfect. Disheartened by that waste, Fran gathered volunteers to collect food from local stores and deliver it to shelters and pantries. In 2008, with very little money but a deep and abiding passion “to walk people from darkness to light,” Fran began Mitzvah Circle, an organization “to bring people from darkness to light.” Fran began Mitzvah Circle Foundation to help those failed by local agencies or find Fran direct.

- Food pantries, housewares, baby equipment
- Diaper bank, children’s books, toilet papers
- Donated and purchased clothing, a diaper bank, children’s books, toiletries, housewares, baby equipment, and more.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrite salaries for Fran’s part-time staff.

USA
Family-to-Family
Relieving Hunger and Poverty, and Building Compassionate Communities

So deeply troubled by a New York Times feature examining poverty and hunger in rural areas of the U.S., she knew she could no longer be a bystander. So with the creative flair she brought to other areas of her life and work, Pam Koren founded Family-to-Family, matching families with “more” to ones with “less.”

What started as a small grassroots movement to alleviate hunger “one family at a time” 16 years ago, reaches 29 communities across 18 states today. Sponsoring families undergo monthly grocery supplement for 2,200 struggling men, dads, seniors, refugees, veterans and Holocaust survivors, among others.

As natural disasters and crises on our nation’s borders erupt, Pam is quick to respond, enlisting the help of others grateful to just do something. “Thank you for giving us this chance to be able to help,” wrote one. “We all feel so impotent, so powerless.”

GPF Impact: Our funds support the organization’s modest administrative costs.

USA
Gabriel Project Mumbai
Hunger Education and Medical Care in the Mumbai Shums

Poverty, disease, illiteracy, hunger — scourges so prevalent throughout the world. Jacob Satokiman, a frequent business traveler to India where the shums of Mumbai present these overwhelming challenges, felt he could make a difference.

In the six years since Jacob began Gabriel Project Mumbai, its original Eat2Learn program (which provides a healthy hot lunch to school children) has been supplemented by a children’s and maternal health clinic, nutrition programs for babies who fail to thrive, oral and general hygiene initiatives, paper recycling and much more.

Our favorite is the women’s empowerment project that revolves around the non-famous “Masala Mammas.” GPF’s first effort that hired women in the shums to prepare kids’ healthy lunches. Good People Fund provided the funds to equip that original kitchen and since then those dedicated women have expanded their work. Their recently-published Masala Mammas kosher vegetarian cookbook has become an instant hit.

GPF Impact: Our donation underwrites the cost of paydays from which the Masala Mammas sell their food and raise funds at the railway stations.

Family-to-Family
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GPF Impact: Our donation underwrites the cost of paydays from which the Masala Mammas sell their food and raise funds at the railway stations.
USA Hope and Comfort  
Dignity Through Personal Care

Over 73,000 hygiene items — that’s a lot of toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, and similar products — have been distributed in the last eight years in the Boston area to those who otherwise go without. After learning that many in the community needed these items, Jeff Feingold (with his wife Loren) found hope and Comfort and have been bringing these essentials to thousands of people. The business acumen enabled him to address a tough and mostly invisible problem — lack of personal hygiene products for people with low income — and create an effective and far-reaching program.

As a society we are sensitive to the need for food, shelter, and even clothing, but somehow the need for basic hygiene products is often overlooked. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are not excluded from the ability to maintain basic hygiene. Children are often so isolated and no one believes they can afford the costs of these family concerts. Visitors to the site are encouraged to select a case and donate whatever they can afford. Once the posted cost is fully raised, Ten Gav facilitates the purchase and sees that it reaches the family.

This past year, Vivi and Naomi refined a passion for helping others, have harnessed the internet’s power for doing good by establishing Ten Gav (loosely translated as “we’ve got your back”). With the addition of two Project BOOST and Project RESPECT, the Forgotten People Fund, and the online presence of its founders, has performed at some of the world’s most prestigious concert halls. But her performances throughout Boston’s shelter system are the ones that satisfy her intense love for music and her commitment to social justice. “For people,” Jeff’s organization, Netanya’ssignificant Ethiopian population, a community facing many economic challenges. Although economic gaps are slowly closing, Ethiopian immigrants are still three times as likely than the general population to apply for welfare. In addition to working closely with social services to provide emergency relief, FPF understands the role of education in achieving economic stability and independence. Computers, scholarships and monthly stipends provided to students can make all the difference, giving them motivation and tools to succeed and thrive.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite emergency needs, in addition to new computers, monthly stipends, and other educational support for students.

GPF Impact: Our funds are directed to help, Project BOOST and Project RESPECT needs.

USA One Can Help  
Supporting Court Involved Families in Massachusetts

As a juvenile court-appointed attorney in the Massachusetts juvenile court system and child welfare office, Anne-Rae Martin has a close-up view of the difficult circumstances in which at-risk and foster children find them- selves. An estimated 80% of families in the system struggle with poverty-related issues, making resolution of their other problems even more daunting.

Anne realized that for many, a modest level of assistance could keep a bad situation from becoming worse. Paying an overdue utility bill, buying a bus pass or a mattress, or underwrit- ing a summer camp experience can make a big difference. Court-appoint- ed guardianship in cases vetted by social workers from Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) guarantees that “it takes a village.” With the addi- tional help and expertise of retired social workers Wendy and Jeff Starrfield, FPF provides much-needed assistance to young people from around the country. Each presents a modest need, e.g., a washing machine, summer camp for a young student, medical needs and more. Visitors to the site are encouraged to select a case and donate whatever they can afford.

This was chiselled into stone by artisans, honoring the Jewish value of repairing the world — a driving prin- ciple behind GPF. This trip marked the ninth year that GPF brought a volun- teer corps to McRoberts, KY, an im- periled and isolated community of about 800 people benefitting from these good works as much as we do. Hope, compassion and friendship that have flourished over the years.

“We will continue to make a difference one bar of soap at a time.”  
JEFF FEINGOLD  
Founder, Hope and Comfort

USA McRoberts, Kentucky  
Bringing a Helping Hand and Friendship to Appalachia

When about 20 GPF volunteers, including some from Congregation R’Ilan in Millburn, NJ, arrived in Appalachia this past June, they unloaded a truck packed with donated food and other items, finished a wind- ing ramp for a man with disabilities, and fixed, painted and spruced up multiple structures — among other projects.

It is harder for people to maintain basic hygiene needs. Residents often struggle with substance abuse or mental illness; most agree that the music gives them a sense of calm and instills a measure of dignity. SMB’s latest venture involves a homeless family shelter outside Boston. Artists will perform in eleven concerts filled with a variety of “child-friendly” compositions, with the intent of cre- ating a spirit of safety and hope in a population sorely lacking both.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant underwrites the organization’s modest administrative expenses.

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

Julie Leven, one of Shelter Music Bos- ton’s founders, has performed at some of the world’s most prestigious concert halls. But her performances throughout Boston’s shelter system are the ones that satisfy her intense love for music and her commitment to social justice. “For people,” Jeff’s organization, Netanya’s significant Ethiopian population, a community facing many economic challenges. Although economic gaps are slowly closing, Ethiopian immigrants are still three times as likely than the general population to apply for welfare. In addition to working closely with social services to provide emergency relief, FPF understands the role of education in achieving economic stability and independence. Computers, scholar- ships and monthly stipends provided to students can make all the difference, giving them motivation and tools to succeed and thrive.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite emergency needs, in addition to new computers, monthly stipends, and other educational support for students.

GPF Impact: Our funds are directed to help, Project BOOST and Project RESPECT needs.

USA Ten Gav  
Internet for Good

Much has been written about the sup- posed negative effects of the internet. Viv Munn and Naomi Brunstein, with a passion for helping others, have harnessed the internet’s power for doing good by establishing Ten Gav (loosely translated as “we’ve got your back”). The Ten Gav website gives visibility to cases where social workers are reaching out to projects in ninetynine countries. Each presents a modest need, e.g., a washing machine, summer camp for a young student, medical needs and more. Visitors to the site are encouraged to select a case and donate whatever they can afford. Once the posted cost is fully raised, Ten Gav facilitates the purchase and sees that it reaches the family.

Now celebrating its eighth year, SMB brings professional musicians to nine different venues focused on homeless- ness. Residents often struggle with substance abuse or mental illness; most agree that the music gives them a sense of calm and instills a measure of dignity. SMB’s latest venture involves a homeless family shelter outside Boston. Artists will perform in eleven concerts filled with a variety of “child-friendly” compositions, with the intent of cre- ating a spirit of safety and hope in a population sorely lacking both.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite the costs of these family concerts.

USA Dignity Through Personal Care

FEINGOLD

the community needed these items, “We will continue to make a difference one bar of soap at a time.”

Jeff Feingold

Founder,

Hope and Comfort

POVERTY  •  FUNDAMENTAL NEEDS

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Wasting No Food, so No One Goes Without

Gideon Ben Ami: The joy of privilege and doing good

What motivates you to do food rescue and recovery work?

Our family's legendary grandmother Pesia used to feed the very poor in her village, named Vologyn, in Poland. She was a widow with seven children. Miraculously, she was always able to reach out and help to feed the hungry in the village. Her story was cherished and honored in our family.

What information gives you pleasure?

One of the most famous quotes in human history is my favorite: “I have a dream…” As a result of an unusual set of circumstances, I stood four shoulders above an “I have a dream” speech in 1963. It spoke to me then and still does. I am also honored in our family.

Why is being a good person so important?

It’s crucial to be there and help others. Life is pretty meaningless and completely boring when you’re the only one for yourself. Reaching out and trying to make others happy, in any way you can, is a joy and a privilege not to be missed.

This year, what was your most memorable moment as a person doing good in the world?

Every day there is that memorable moment, when one jumps to hug and bless you for what you’re doing and you notice a real smile, a moment of happiness and some joy.

What advice do you have for others who want to make an impact?

Go out there and do something good for someone else. Try it. Warning: It’s addictive, but a very healthy and joyful addiction. You will surely feel better about yourself and life itself. Do not stop trying to find ways to do good, whatever it might be. Someone, somewhere, really needs you now.

Our first stop was Google headquarters in Tel Aviv. Gideon Ben Ami parked, ran up to the cafeteria, and emerged with a dolly piled with trays of food left over from that day’s lunch. Then he was off to a utility company for more. His little car was stuffed with fresh prepared food now destined not for the garbage, but for people who need it.

Gideon has combined a social justice spirit with experience as an entrepreneur and restaurateur to create Pesia’s Kitchen. This grass-roots organization which operates with a large contingent of volunteers will rescue an estimated 250 tons of food in 2018 (including thousands of meals for seniors) for distribution to hungry people.

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Food security must be considered a basic human right,” Gideon said. “So I do have a dream — that humanity as a whole will join in efforts to rescue all food waste, which will be enough to alleviate world hunger altogether.”

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Food security must be considered a basic human right,” Gideon said. “So I do have a dream — that humanity as a whole will join in efforts to rescue all food waste, which will be enough to alleviate world hunger altogether.”

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It’s crucial to be there and help others. Life is pretty meaningless and completely boring when you’re the only one for yourself. Reaching out and trying to make others happy, in any way you can, is a joy and a privilege not to be missed.

This year, what was your most memorable moment as a person doing good in the world?

Every day there is that memorable moment, when one jumps to hug and bless you for what you’re doing and you notice a real smile, a moment of happiness and some joy.

What advice do you have for others who want to make an impact?

Go out there and do something good for someone else. Try it. Warning: It’s addictive, but a very healthy and joyful addiction. You will surely feel better about yourself and life itself. Do not stop trying to find ways to do good, whatever it might be. Someone, somewhere, really needs you now.
For Karyn and Zehava, both residents of Jerusalem’s toni Baka neighborhood, it was Zehava’s work in the local neighborhood for several years that alerted the two to hidden pockets of hunger and despair for some nearby residents. Enlisting the help of neighbors, their quiet work goes on month after month in an efficient and respectful way. Thirty-two volunteers harvests fruit of all sorts at 600 orchards in Northern California. “If it has some color, pick it,” one volunteer told another as they harvested apricots in a heritage orchard in a small California town. “Student hunger.” Surely if someone can afford to feed themselves, right? Not necessarily. Swipe Out Hunger, founded by Rachel Sumekh and stunning in its simplicity, partners with colleges to end student hunger.

It began at UCLA in 2010, when a few students used the extra points remaining on their meal plans to pay for food for others struggling with food insecurity. Now it’s a national movement with chapters in all 50 states, employee cafeterias and stadiums, big box stores, farmers’ markets, schools, and healthy eating for vulnerable populations. A corps of about 1,200 volunteers harvests fruit of all sorts at 600 orchards in Northern California. Food from 70 donors (including big box stores, farmers’ markets, schools, employees, and farmers) feeds 3,800 people daily.

“Every community should have a Village Harvest’s impact on pressing societal challenges like hunger, poverty and healthy eating for vulnerable populations. A corps of about 1,200 volunteers harvests fruit of all sorts at 600 orchards in Northern California. Food from 70 donors (including big box stores, farmers’ markets, schools, employees, and farmers) feeds 3,800 people daily.

“Foraging is often perceived as a social-justice issue,” Labriola, “Not a job, but a calling.” says Executive Director Joe Lordi. “What if we weren’t here.”

The resulting bounty was part of Village Harvest’s impact on pressing societal challenges like hunger, poverty and healthy eating for vulnerable populations. A corps of about 1,200 volunteers harvests fruit of all sorts at 600 orchards in Northern California. Food from 70 donors (including big box stores, farmers’ markets, schools, employees, and farmers) feeds 3,800 people daily.

“Every community should have a Village Harvest of its own,” said Craig DiBernardo, the executive director. “What students do to raise awareness about federal food programs like SNAP, conduct. working with the school’s dining services, they tap into may vary, but also raise awareness about. federal food programs like SNAP, conduct. working with the school’s dining services, they tap into may vary, but also raise awareness about. federal food programs like SNAP, conduct. working with the school’s dining services, they tap into may vary, but also raise awareness about. federal food programs like SNAP, conduct. working with the school’s dining services, they tap into may vary, but also raise awareness about. federal food programs like SNAP, conduct.
Ensuring Success for Our Youngest Generations

Kaima

Alpine Learning through Social Experience and Agriculture

Located in the fertile Einok Hefer region, Kaima Be’erotayim is run by teens who developed an organic farm that serves as the classroom for kids who struggle in more traditional settings. The CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) model yields social interaction and business training. The CSA, referred to by local social service agencies — giving him a sense of accomplishment. The founder’s passion for activism, farming and making a difference in the life of a young person is not unusual for children to be sold into slavery. David personally experienced how peoples’ lives can be changed by small acts.

What motivates you to do the work that you do?

What is the value to Kaima of being part of the

GPF Impact: Our funds were used to purchase banana netting that provides shade for young bananas and other crops, and to connect him or her to nature. This was the only thing that truly spoke to me during my adolescence when I was unable to relate to conventional classroom learning.

Efrat Noy and several educators and social workers from a remote area in Israel’s North adopted the Kaima model to become the second franchise farm. The founders’ passion for activism, farming and helping others turned it into a successful alternative classroom where nearly 60 kids have experienced the fulfillment and success that result from combining education and farming.

Yoni Yefet-Reich:

Make our own lives and those of others better

What is your favorite book?

Victor Frankl’s Search for Meaning, describing his psychosocial methodology, which suggests the necessity — and even urgency — to identify meaning, even within horrific circumstances, and thus a reason to continue living. He wrote “For the world is in a bad state, but everything will become all right unless each of us does his best.” The statement urges us all to make our own lives and those of others better.

What is the value to Kaima of being part of the GPF family?

The CSAs (Community Sponsored Agriculture) model yields social interaction and business training as well as income to help sustain the program. Through the CSA, the teens — all from remote areas in Israel’s North adopted the Kaima model to become the second franchise farm. The founders’ passion for activism, farming and helping others turned it into a successful alternative classroom where nearly 60 kids have experienced the fulfillment and success that result from combining education and farming.

*KAIMA HUKUK / By the time 17-year-old Ido* reached the Kaima Hukuk farm, his parents and the youth authorities had given up on him. His violent tendencies led to criminal charges but his social worker would not give up. As Ido began his work toiling in the hot sun, it was as if something within himself switched on — and fueled his will to change and belong. Ido quickly accepted the challenge of taking on a project to plan and build a vegetable washing station now in use on the farm — giving him a sense of accomplishment.

Kaima Be’erotayim

It was for kids like Ido that Ilan Kedar, once his commanding officer and a successful entrepreneur, the acts as a “laboratory” where at-risk Israeli youth learn marketable skills and gain confidence in their abilities. Perusing files provide the youth with scholarships for vocational training.
Caravan to Class
Bringing Literacy to Timbuktu
What began as a unique way to celebrate a milestone birthday changed Rachel Belflower’s life in unimaginable ways. In 2010, Barry traveled to Timbuktu, Mali to attend the famous Festival au Desert, a celebration of African music. He learned that literacy was one of the region’s greatest challenges, and with the cost of educating a child only one percent of what it is in the U.S., Barry vowed to invest and build a school. Eight years later, Caravan to Class is starting construction of its third school in the region.

This past year, Barry’s wife Jackie was killed in a tragic accident. The loss inspired Barry to inaugurate Bourse Jackie, a scholarship program that will underwrite a full year’s tuition, books, and housing (totaling under $2500) for young women who have academic excellence and perhaps most of all, a passion for helping other girls. The joy and enrichment that COC brings to children and families is made possible by more than 800 volunteers. Abby Sacks is a 12-year-old Amy Sacks (now Abby Sacks Zeide) who visited Timbuktu and learned that will eventually involve an additional 75 teens.

Jackie, a scholarship program that
inspired Barry to inaugurate Bourse Jackie, a scholarship program that will underwrite a full year’s tuition, books, and housing (totaling under $2500) for young women who have academic excellence and perhaps most of all, a passion for helping other girls.
Meeting Carol Rosenstein in a joyful experience. Her welcoming embrace, colorful scarves and passion for her newfound work are magnetic.

She and her beloved Irwin, a lawyer, met after Carol placed an ad in a Los Angeles newspaper seeking a new mate. Several years ago, Irwin developed Parkinson’s disease and then dementia, and the course of their lives together took an unexpected turn. When Carol noticed Irwin’s spirits and energy rising as he played familiar tunes on his piano, she knew she was on to something significant. In her own words, “music mends minds.”

So together, Carol and Irwin began MMM to promote music as an alternative therapy for neurodegenerative diseases. In addition to his own words, “music mends minds.”

What is one of your favorite books?

It would be The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran. I love the philosophical message about the story of life, especially about the children.

“Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life’s longing for itself. They come through you but not from you. And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.”

What advice do you have for others who want to change our world?

We are all seeking happiness along life’s way. This is accomplished not when we are open, but when we are also open to happiness in spite of our lot in life. It is a blessing to be able to share happiness on some level with them. Today, music is my gift to the world as it is the magic that can provide solace and comfort to those suffering from diseases.

GPF Impact: Our funds are used to underwrite the organization’s minimal administrative expenses.

Carol Rosenstein: Music is the spring that keeps us all flowering

Who do you look to for inspiration?

I have the Dalai Lama’s picture beside my bed. He reminds me to be happy. Life is about equanimity and impermanence. That means remembering to feel happiness in the face of suffering and finding peace in moments of chaos.

Is there a famous quote that fuels your passions?

“Music as Alternative Therapy

Music Mends Minds

Music is the spring that keeps us all flowering, including seniors suffering from diseases.” from Pablo Neruda. I believe that music is the spring that keeps us all flowering, including seniors suffering from diseases.

Why do you want to change our world?

I dream of a world where everyone will have personal control over their environment and will be able to be happy. I believe we need to focus on happiness, not on what we don’t have. I believe happiness is the key to a better life. I enjoy giving to others and sharing my love and joy.

GPF Impact: Our funds are part of a larger grant allocated for the Music and Memory program.

USA:

LILY — Lifeforce in Later Years

Elvan and Zissie Gitel, with the help of their son, Sandy Cohen, founded the Music and Memory program. The program is accomplished through the use of personalized playlists. Listening to familiar music can help dementia patients feel more familiar and comfortable, reducing stress and anxiety. The program also helps patients to remember their past, which can lead to increased happiness and a sense of belonging.

GPF Impact: Our grant underwrites a social worker’s salary.

USA:

Enabling Seniors to Age in Place with Dignity

Sandy Cohen, who is an advocate for seniors, founded the program with the help of his parents, Elvan and Zissie Gitel. The program is designed to help seniors to age in place with dignity, and it includes a variety of services such as music therapy, companionship, and care coordination.

GPF Impact: Our funds are part of a larger grant allocated for the Music and Memory program.
Yan Digilov: There isn’t a corner of this world that doesn’t need you

Who has inspired you the most?

My mom came here without knowing English. She had lost so much and was forced to reinvent her identity as a mother and respected member of her community back home. It took her years to pass exams. She could have quit, but she promised her dad, who passed away before we left Russia, that she would continue being a physician in this country. She is without question the most inspiring person I know.

Why is being a good person so important?

I think we are, as human beings, generally wired to be good people. I think being a good person is about recognizing the innate equality of all people, and I think an equal society is a flourishing one.

What do you say to others who want to make change in our world?

There isn’t a corner of this world that doesn’t need you. Keep getting better. Every day remember that you are naive to the state of the world. There isn’t a corner of this world that doesn’t need you. Keep getting better. Every day remember that you are naive to the state of the world.

As government resources directed to resettlement are cut, Firestarter helps fill the gap by facilitating job training and placement, mentorship opportunities, and financial assistance for emergency and educational needs. “Community Navigators,” earlier referred to as having the fourth largest refugee population in the world. Yan has devoted himself to making sure that today’s refugees are given the best chance to acclimate to their new surroundings and achieve independence.

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Ensuring Participation in Life

USA

Emma’s Torch
Ensuring a Future for Refugees Through Culinary Arts

You can’t miss it: this new restaurant on a quiet Brooklyn corner has a huge window facing the street, emblazoned with the words “Empowering Refugees Through Culinary Education.” This is Emma’s Torch — named after poet and activist Emma Lazarus, whose words grace the Statue of Liberty. Refugees practice newly-acquired culinary skills to popular acclaim, and interviews skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry. Cooking and interviewing skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry. Cooking and interviewing skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry. Cooking and interviewing skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry. Cooking and interviewing skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry.

Her organization, which shares the name of the restaurant, provides culinary education — and also ESL and interviewing skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry. Cooking and interviewing skills — to refugees, asylum seekers and human trafficking survivors to propel them into NYC’s vibrant food industry.

Kari began International Neighbors in 2013 to raise community awareness of the unique challenges facing these new residents — many worked at U.S. Armed Forces facilities in their native countries — and how they could be assisted. IN’s enthusiastic cadre of over 300 volunteers have committed more than 21,000 hours to helping their new neighbors as they assimilate. Said one grateful recipient: “International Neighbors has helped us curate our lives on the windows one day. But they give us friendship every day.”

GPF Impact: Our grant supports a new urban garden at Emma’s Torch restaurant, where the crop will be utilized in the kitchen.

USA

“International Neighbors”
Neighbors Helping Newcomers

Over the past 20 years, thousands of refugees have resettled in Charlotteville, VA — representing 31 nationalities, they saw 12 percent of the local population. As a teacher, Kari Miller saw first-hand the many struggles of refugees students in her ESL classes — some as basic as choosing proper clothing and other more complicated challenges faced by people trying to adjust to a new culture, such as health care, skills building, and forming friendships and networks.

Teresa’s vision has restored dignity and independence to the refugees and created a community where none existed. As one of the recent graduates said, “Before my heart was empty. This course made it filled.”

GPF Impact: Our matching grant is used to fund a new eight-month training course for urban farmers.

USA

Plant It Forward
Urban Farms for Houston, Small Rainmakers for Refugees

June is typically filled with high school and college graduations. This year, there was one class of graduates in Houston unlike any other. Eighteen refugees from six countries successfully completed Plant It Forward’s eight-month course in urban farm management and earned the title of Apprentice Farmer.

For Teresa O’Donnell, PIF’s founder, this latest graduating class further demonstrated the success of her entrepreneurial vision to help the city’s significant refugee population, as well as provide healthy, fresh produce to a city that must bring in most of its food. The farmers’ produce is sold through local farmers markets, to local chefs or to residents who sign up for CSA shares.

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GPF Impact: Our matching grant is used to underwrite the eight-month training course for urban farmers.

ISR

Inbar
Removing Social Isolation for People with Disabilities

What powerful words of self-worth and esteem these are, coming from a 39-year-old woman with physical challenges. She’s one of hundreds affiliated with Inbar, a nonprofit that works throughout Israel to equip those with physical or developmental challenges with tools and capacities for self-confidence in all aspects of life — including finding and nurturing significant personal relationships.

Shoshi Margolin, Inbar’s executive director, is energetic, passionate and creative. Because of her own challenges, she understands the personal, familial, and community impact of the group’s work, now reaching about 250 individuals and their families.

GPF Impact: Our grant supports a new mentoring program giving participants ongoing, personalized support complementing formalized programming and workshops.

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Ensuring Participation in Life
What’s your favorite book? 
Shoshi Margolin: Do good in our own sphere leads to the greater good.

What does doing good mean to you?
Shoshi Margolin: What does doing good mean to you?

What would you choose to do for a living?
Shoshi Margolin: Shoshi Margolin:

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What’s next? Can they gain employment?
Empowering Women to Exit the Destructive Cycle of Prostitution

“Swing with my own eyes, every day, women being used, sold, and exploited in prostitution hit me in my strongest point of power as a woman. I knew I had to do something to change it.”

Those words, from Lilach Tzur Ben Moshe — a former online fashion editor who committed each day past Tel Aviv’s Central Bus Station and saw such injustices — capture why she founded Yotsrot Hofachot (Turning the Tables) as a catalyst for women’s empowerment.

The organization promotes economic advancement for women who want to leave the world of prostitution by offering vocational training in sewing, pattern-making and digital marketing. It creates a business hub for their creations, and provides a safe space where they find respect, friendship, and encouragement. In 2018, in a first, the women of Yotsrot were featured during Tel Aviv Fashion Week, a major event that infused them with self-worth and community support.

AndGirls

Voices of Women

Dream your wildest dream of how the world can be better. It is one of the most powerful, smart, deep, spiritual and life-changing books I know. — Clarissa Pinkola Estes about her book "Women Who Run With The Wolves"

As Fainy Sukenik, a young mother with three children, contemplated her upcoming divorce, she never imagined how difficult and insulting the experience would be. For any woman, this is life changing; for a divorced woman and her children, the implications are far greater.

Fainy quickly learned her community would not stand with her. Shabbat dinner invitations, offers to help with childcare and more, all disappeared. What perhaps hurt the most was the possibility she would lose her teaching in a religious men’s school. Parents and school administrators did not think a soon-to-be-divorced woman could be a role model for students. These experiences were Fainy’s motivation — she fought successfully to keep her job and eventually began Ba’asher Telchi to help other women in similar circumstances.

Today, Ba’asher Telchi offers legal and financial support, assistance navigating administrative costs. Parents and school administrators eventually began Ba’asher Telchi to help other women in similar circumstances.

Today, I Support the Girls and its affiliates have collected and distributed tens of thousands of these items and given visibility to a problem that should have disappeared long ago.

As the founder of I Support the Girls, nothing could be more important. A casual comment by a salesperson in a lingerie store prompted Dana to start and grow a campaign that has spread throughout this country and abroad. Dana learned that her castoffs could be donated to shelters where women frequently have just a single old-fitting or threadbare garment to wear. Coincidentally, she saw a magazine article noting that feminine hygiene products were equally lacking. Using social media, Dana asked friends and family to clear their own drawers, make an extra purchase of menstrual products and send it all to her. The result? A deluge of items that seemingly has no end.

Today, I Support the Girls and its affiliates have collected and distributed tens of thousands of these items and given visibility to a problem that should have disappeared long ago.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds are used to provide bras and feminine hygiene products to women and girls, the largest growing population in our shelter system, is long overdue. It’s all about dignity, and for Dana Marlowe, Founder of I Support the Girls, nothing could be more important.

Encouraging and Valuing the Voices of Jewish Teenage Girls

At Girls Magazine, young Jewish girls are saying a lot lately. From travel to art, from racism to sexuality to Jewish identity, they are sharing perspectives and experiences as never before.

USA

I Support the Girls

Personal Health Items and Bras for Homeless and Low-Income Women

Awareness of the need to provide bras and feminine hygiene products to women and girls, the largest growing population in our shelter system, is long overdue. It’s all about dignity, and for Dana Marlowe, Founder of I Support the Girls, nothing could be more important.

Lilach Tzur Ben Moshe: Dream how the world can be better

What quote fuels your passions?

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” — Mahatma Gandhi. It’s as simple and smart as that.

What is one of your favorite books?

I was a 25-year-old psychology student when Women Who Run With The Wolf was published. I read the words of Clarissa Pinkola Estes about letting go of the survivor archetype to allow us to thrive and grow as women. I envied those who felt they deserved to be happy and free and that I was not feeling then. But many, many years later, after my first triangle for women’s rights, these words echoed in my mind when prostitution was revealed in front of me in full.

I recognized the moment as my journey to thrive. It is one of the most powerful, smart, deep, spiritual and life-changing books I know.

What advice do you have for others who want change our world?

Dream your wildest dream of how the world can be better and tell as many people to do the same as possible. We all share the “no’s” and embrace every “yes” as a miracle.
estee rieder

It's been an unlikely journey from young 19-year-old bride in an abusive arranged marriage to head of a growing national movement to end forced and arranged marriages. Through it all, Fraidy Reiss never forgot the pain she endured as she left that marriage and lost her family and her community.

Unchained at Last is Fraidy’s response to that loss. It has provided legal and social support to nearly 500 clients (from Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Mormon and other religious groups) in similar situations, assisting Fraidy in this important work.

A decade later, with the help of friends and family, Pamela Becker is leading the organization’s critical national movement to end forced and arranged marriage. The statistics are astounding. Child marriage occurs in each of our 50 states, something that seems impossible in a progressive, developed country. To date, Unchained at Last has helped more than 100 women in over a dozen states escape their arranged marriages.

Pamela Becker, “to put kids back in the center, even just for the day.” It is a time for families with day trips to zoos and amusement parks, picnics, holiday gatherings, and other creative outings. The free events offer an opportunity, says Pamela, “to put kids back in the center, just for the day.” It is a time for families to take a break from the stress of treatments or financial worries, build friendships and just have fun.

Creating Communities of Wellness
Jeremy’s Circle

It has been ten years since Jeremy Coleman, a 7-year-old boy with cancer, was diagnosed with cancer. He is also the son of three young children — father of three young children — battled stomach cancer. Seeing the positive, he told his wife, Pamela Becker: “We are lucky, the way our friends and family have supported us through this experience, we need to give back.”

Inspired by Jeremy's kindness and with the help of friends and family, Pamela and Jeremy’s sisters created Jeremy’s Circle to “give back” by providing support and activities to children and young teens living with cancer in the family, or to those who have experienced a loss from the disease. Three were 25 families at their first event. Today, Jeremy’s Circle supports 500 families with day trips to zoos and amusement parks, picnics, holiday gatherings, and other creative outings. The free events offer an opportunity, says Pamela, “to put kids back in the center, just for the day.” It is a time for families to take a break from the stress of treatments or financial worries, build friendships and just have fun.

GPF Impact: Our grant helps to pay for minimal administrative expenses.

USA

Unchained at Last
Supporting Women and Girls Leaving Arranged or Forced Marriages

It’s been an unlikely journey from young 19-year-old bride in an abusive arranged marriage to head of a growing national movement to end forced and arranged marriages. Through it all, Fraidy Reiss never forgot the pain she endured as she left that marriage and lost her family and her community.

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GPF Impact: Our grant helps to pay for minimal administrative expenses.
Pamela Becker: If you are on the road to making change, just keep on going! Sometimes the road is longer than expected.

What was your most proud or most memorable moment this year doing in your corner of the world?

A little girl at one of our events asked me her name. She told me she knew mine. My son was with me, and I told her that my name was Pamela, but that she had died. My son and I both blushed, for she was the only one in her class without a mom, or with a brother in a wheelchair, that is not what they need.

Her guardian told me later that when that little girl saw a picture of me a few weeks later, she said, "That’s Pamela and me!"

What is your best advice to people who tell you they need support or more resources?

It began with scholarships to purchase affordable healthy food.

What was your most surprising or most meaningful experience last year?

“We saw a picture of you a few weeks later, she said, “That’s Pamela and me!”"

What is the most important aspect of being a good person?

In a world where every day brings an avalanche of negative news, Envision Kindness hopes to inspire change, compassion, engagement, and yes, kindness.

Why is being a good person so important?

It’s contagious. Whether you call it “giving back” or “paying it forward.” I believe that people touched by kindness — for both doctors and patients — encourage and facilitate physical, cognitive and behavioral improvements. They leverage the unique relationship between humans and horses to leverage kindness, physical, cognitive and behavioral improvements.

That’s what it’s all about. Showing those kids that even if you are the only one in a class without a mom, or with a brother in a wheelchair, that is not what makes them unique.

What is your advice to people who say they need more resources?

In a world where every day brings an avalanche of negative news, Envision Kindness hopes to inspire change, compassion, engagement, and yes, kindness.

What is your piece of advice for people who are feeling down or have doubts about their health and health choices?

“Vets communicate with horses through movement and interaction and you see their depression lift. Huge changes take place.”

Gila Block, founder, INTRA

GPF Impact: Our initial grant is directed to program development and virtual support groups.

Why do you call it “giving back” or “paying it forward”? Unless that message from kindness is more likely to be kind.

That’s the beauty of being a good person.

What is the greatest lesson you have learned from your patients?

Go for it.

What is your most surprising or meaningful experience last year?

Motivated by his own weight loss and concern over the obesity epidemic, he created a "broken food system," former Wall Street trader Sam Polk founded Groceries Unlimited, now FEAST (Food, Education, Access, Support, Together), to give inner-city residents in Los Angeles access to affordable healthy food.

What is your most surprising or meaningful experience last year?

It began with scholarships to purchase affordable healthy food.

What is the most important aspect of being a good person?

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Why is being a good person so important?
### Statement of Activities and Functional Expenses for the Period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

**INCOME AND REVENUE: TOTAL**

**Program Services**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Expenditures:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries *</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Taxes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Support *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank and Credit Card Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation &amp; Amortization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office</td>
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<td>Postage and Shipping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Fees</td>
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<td>Telephone and Internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel and Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
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**Total grants and expenses**

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<td>Travel and Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
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**Net change in net assets**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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**EXCLUDED FROM REVENUE: TOTAL**

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<tr>
<td>Net Assets at July 1, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets at June 30, 2018</td>
<td>251,689</td>
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**TOTAL**

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