One good deed leads to another

The Good People Fund Annual Report 2019
UPLIFTING LIVES, ONE AT A TIME ........................................ 2
PROVIDING FOR ESSENTIAL NEEDS .............................. 4
Family-to-Family
Gabriel Project Mumbai
Hope and Comfort
Mitzvah Circle Foundation
One Can Help
*Puerto Rico Lit
Ten Gav
The Forgotten People Fund
CULTIVATING FOOD FOR GOOD ................................ 8
Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges
Necha Malka
Pesi’s Kitchen
Project Kruvit
*Robin Food
Second Helpings Atlanta
Swipe Out Hunger
*The Food Project
Village Harvest
Zehava and Karyn
GIVING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY TO DISADVANTAGED YOUTH ........12
Ani Shlishi
*Boston Youth Wrestling
Breaking the Chain Through Education
Caravan to Class
Connections
Creating Connected Communities
Helping Kids on Israel’s Southern Border
Just Imagine
Kaima Be’erotayim
Kaima Hukuk
Leveling the Playing Field
*Magen
Make Music NOLA
MAINTAINING DIGNITY FOR OUR ELDERS ........................17
Lily’s-Lifeforce in Later Years
Music & Memory Israel
Music Mends Minds
Survivor Mitzvah Project
WELCOMING REFUGEES ............................................. 20
ATZUM
Emmanuel Torch
Firestarter Group
*Hello Neighbor
International Neighbors
*Kuchinate
Plant It Forward
FOSTERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES .......................... 23
ACHLA
Inbar
Shai Asher
Shutaf
SPIRIT Club Foundation
EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS ............................ 26
Ba’asher Telchi
I Support the Girls
Girls Magazine
*Kaima Nahalat
*Moys International
Nivcharot
Unchained At Last
Witness to Mass Incarceration
Yotrot—Turning the Tables
IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING .......................... 30
Envision Kindness
FEAST (formerly Groceryships)
INTRA-Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association
Jeremy’s Circle
*Refanah Healing Holidays
*Road to Recovery
*Rucham Dromit — (The Center for Alternative Treatment for Cancer)
*SAHAR
Shelter Music Boston
Yesh Tikva
*New program
ALLOCATIONS ................................................................. 34
FINANCIAL STATEMENT ...................................................... 36
THE GOOD PEOPLE FUND
CHESHVAN 5780 / NOVEMBER 2019
A Growing Spirit of Goodness
On a beautiful, sunny day last spring, our tiny staff gathered in a park to brainstorm toward a meaningful and unique theme for our annual report. How do we reflect the ways lives are changed by the work our Good People selflessly carry out each day? It is not an easy task.

Suddenly, someone shouted “mitzvah goreret mitzvah,” the Jewish concept that “one good deed leads to another.” That was it! For as one good deed leads to another, what is the cumulative effect? Impact. And that means not only visible and measurable change, but also a growing spirit of goodness.

For the beginnings of GPF now almost 12 years ago, I’ve struggled to best define the waves of impact generated by your support. It’s easy to default to numbers as a measure, but that’s impersonal and doesn’t capture the interconnectedness, the emotions and the multiplying effect of our work together.

Yet every day, I see and hear vivid representations of mitzvot advancing this continuum of positive impact. The faces and voices of those giving and receiving help are unmistakable symbols of what is right in this world, and how GPF, with your support, is a catalyst for it all.

It’s in that call from the founder of our grantee Unchained at Last, asking if we can fund the airfare of a young woman escaping a forced and abusive marriage in Pakistan. It’s in the optimism of a young woman in Israel, embraced by our grantee Yotrot, leaving Tel Aviv’s sex trade with newfound self-respect and plans to become a teacher. And it’s there in the gratitude of a refugee at our southern border, lost between two worlds, handed new clothing by a compassionate and welcoming stranger.

Now in our second decade, we’ve defined a niche within the Jewish community, and we’re proud of our voice in communal conversations. For example, this year, our partnership with the Jewish Women’s Foundation of New York to address and eradicate gender harassment in Jewish spaces has grown into a vibrant joint initiative, Ta’amod—“Stand Up,” which has made this issue, hidden for far too long, visible and addressable, and positively affecting lives as a result. And, we continue to nimbly respond to emergencies, such as providing post-hurricane humanitarian aid to people rebuilding lives in Puerto Rico.

I hope you’re as inspired as I am by this 2019 Annual Report. Together, we’ve accomplished much, but there is so much more to do, as our neighbors, communities and world face down seemingly intractable challenges. Please join us on this journey expanding the impact of mitzvot, and share our work with others.

B’Shalom,
Naomi K. Eisenberger
Co-Founder and Executive Director

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The Good People Fund
Uplifting Lives, One at a Time

Helping Quietly and with Compassion, When There’s Nowhere to Turn

The requests come privately from our trusted friends — donors, grantees, social workers, and health care workers among them. An individual or family is in need but has no place to turn. Could we possibly help and make a difference?

And so if we can, we will, paying a utility bill for a senior struggling to make ends meet, buying school supplies for a child going without in the inner city, covering an unexpected medical bill for a single mother looking for work, or helping with college tuition for a young Israeli woman with the drive to lift herself out of despair and give back to the world.

We recently helped that young woman after an Israeli grantee described her grit, determination and promise ... and need. She wrote a letter expressing her deep gratitude to her anonymous benefactor ... all of us.

DEAR FRIEND,

I’m a survivor of an anguished and painful background. For most of my childhood I had no supportive or livable home. The streets of Israel and the worst of their degradations, deprivations and manipulators were my daily fare.

Though raised to believe otherwise, I’d forsaken the possibility of angelic intervention. Yet one social worker found me and led me to the smallest hope that a better future was within reach. I left the streets, tried to compensate for no formal education, took the entrance exams at a fine Israeli university, and beyond my most fervent hope, was accepted.

I received a fellowship to pay most of the tuition in exchange for human rights volunteer work. It was facilitated by an NGO knowing of The Good People Fund and its particularly generous neshamah and sensitivity to my plight.

I used my volunteer time to raise funds for winter heating for Shoah survivors and to work with an organization that seeks out those who were once my street “family.”

The angels of Shalom Aleichem that come when we sing at our Shabbat table are those of truth and loving-kindness, peace and justice. They come to see how we’ve lived the past week. I’ll ask him to add one more, even though only you know her/his name.

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

Pam Koner was reading the Sunday New York Times in the comfort of her home and was struck by an article and photo essay about families living in extreme poverty in rural Pembroke, IL. “I didn’t know what, but I needed to do something,” she says. Her organization, Family-to-Family, was Pam’s response. This personal mission has grown into a grassroots project, housed in a storefront in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, that connects families and individuals with “more,” to those with “less,” creating channels of support based on compassion and care.

Family-to-Family’s network is now active in about 40 communities in 18 states, providing over 2,400 individuals — including refugees, veterans, seniors and Holocaust survivors — with groceries and other staples, and also responding to needs caused by natural disasters and crises wherever they occur. “Empathy exists in all of us, we just have to access it,” Pam says.

GPF Impact: Our funds cover administrative costs as well as food for Holocaust survivors.

USA
Hope and Comfort
Dignity Through Personal Care

It’s really all about dignity. What began nearly ten years ago with a selfless act of sharing their toddler’s birthday gifts with kids-in-need, has evolved into Boston-based Hope and Comfort, started by Jeff and Loren Feingold. Party guests were asked to bring an item to be donated to a social service agency in lieu of gifts for their child. Upon delivery, Jeff learned of the critical need for personal hygiene products. Thus began his project based on his recognition that no one should ever lose dignity for want of such items.

Initially, the soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other hygiene products Jeff collected were stored in his garage. Today, Hope and Comfort operates out of a warehouse where volunteers pack kits that are donated to many nearby pantries as well as to large partner organizations.

Next steps? Jeff is now using his strong business background to change how society views this issue. Why should these products not be available with SNAP benefits (food stamps)? Why don’t schools routinely place personal hygiene products in girls’ bathrooms? Why, indeed, are such items even taxed when purchased?

GPF Impact: Our funds are used to further develop the organization’s volunteer program.

TEN GAV
The Stuff of Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah

THE WEB we weave, one of grateful Israelis in need, of all stripes and colors, helped by committed professionals, empowered by thoughtful, conscientious and discerning donors, is the stuff of mitzvah goreret mitzvah.

When a social worker can give something tangible to a client — a computer so that s/he can actually put to use the skills that were learned in an agency-funded career retraining program, or a gel manicure kit for an at-risk young woman who, after taking a nail technician’s course, now wants to earn income to help out at home — that is empowering!

When a family receives a fridge or a washing machine and can stay afloat and out of debt, because someone “has their back” — that is empowering!

When a donor can choose whom to help and is assured that s/he is making a real difference in the life of a real person, meeting a real challenge — that is empowering!

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Today, GPM is so much more than hot meals. Medical and dental care is provided, young adults from around the world volunteer, and most noteworthy, women in the community have begun food-related micro-enterprises that have helped them and their families. The most famous — the Masala Mamas — have even created an award-winning kosher Indian vegetarian cookbook.

GPF Impact: Our funds help cover the cost of increased staffing needs.

USA
Gabriel Project Mumbai
Hunger Education and Medical Care in the Mumbai Slums and Beyond

A routine business trip to Mumbai exposed tech executive Jacob Sztokman to the overwhelming poverty of that city’s slums. Believing that change was possible, Jacob was inspired to do something.

He started Gabriel Project Mumbai to draw children to school with the promise of a hot meal, and an education that could ultimately break the cycle of poverty for many.
USA
Mitzvah Circle Foundation
Providing for People Walking Along Life's Edge

Walk through Mitzvah Circle Foundation’s warehouse and you’ll notice the floor-to-ceiling stock of new and donated items — everything from winter coats and baby diapers, to personal hygiene products and children’s books — plus an atmosphere of compassion and dedication created by 935 people who volunteer there each month.

“We’re here for the same reason, helping people who need it,” said one as she prepared a package with clothing and other essentials for a family in crisis, “and I can’t think of a better way to spend my time.” Volunteers and staff, led by Founder and Executive Director Fran Held, realize that illness, job loss and other serious events can happen to anyone at any time — leading to unexpected and often worsening situations.

In 2018, the organization touched the lives of about 47,000 people in eastern Pennsylvania and beyond. “To ‘repair the world’ means helping the person standing before you, who needs your support and help and love,” said Fran, who founded Mitzvah Circle in 2009 after helping just one family. “And if you can’t do everything, find others who can help. Because a situation is difficult doesn’t mean there can’t be kindness and generosity in it.”

GPF Impact: We underwrite salaries for some of the organization’s part-time staff.

USA
One Can Help
Supporting Court-Involved Families in Massachusetts

As Bethany* reached the middle of her senior year of high school, the taunts and bullying didn’t stop — but with only six months to graduation, it didn’t make sense to give up. The school agreed to allow Bethany to complete her courses online, and it seemed a solution had been found. But, with internet access possible only on her phone, Bethany’s dream of graduation once again seemed unattainable, until One Can Help purchased a computer for her.

As an attorney in family court, Anne Bader-Martin saw cases like Bethany’s regularly — cases where a modest investment of funds could keep a family’s situation from spiraling out of control. In 2007 she established One Can Help for Bethany and others in similar situations. In fact, more than 5,000 children and families have been helped, and according to a 2016 study conducted by Boston University, in the prior year, One Can Help’s interventions actually saved Massachusetts between $9-$11 million. Imagine if a program like this existed in every state!

* a pseudonym


USA
Puerto Rico Lit
Lighting the Way After Hurricane Maria

Growing up on the island of Puerto Rico, Erika Velez never imagined the type of devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria that nearly destroyed the island in September of 2017. While she and her friends and family recovered fairly quickly, she learned from a Facebook post there were people nearby who had lost everything and were sitting in darkness. Some had even gone for days without food.

She quickly messaged her friends and soon had a dedicated corps who gathered food, clothes and other essentials for a family in crisis, “and I can’t think of a better way to spend my time.” Volunteers and staff, led by Founder and Executive Director Fran Held, realize that illness, job loss and other serious events can happen to anyone at any time, leading to unexpected and often worsening situations.

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GPF Impact: Our funds are used to underwrite the cost of appliances and building materials.

ISR
The Forgotten People Fund
Helping Ethiopian Students and Families

Spending a day with Wendy and Jeff Starrfield, retired social workers from the U.S. now based in Netanya, is inspiring. They are part of a team of ambassadors of care to the city’s sizable and impoverished Ethiopian population, and their deep connections in the community let them uncover needs and help those facing economic challenges.

Wendy and Jeff now assist The Forgotten People Fund (an all-volunteer effort) founders Anne and David Silverman and Aida and Yosef (z”l) Miller in this compassionate work. On any given day, they may be handing out a gift card for groceries to a mother short on money, or taking the utility bill from a woman distressed over how to pay it, or catching up with a student who received a computer from the organization to help her excel in school and break her family’s dependence on welfare. “It has made a big difference,” the student said, “helping me be a success in class and hopefully in life.”

GPF Impact: Our grant underwrites emergency needs, computers, monthly stipends and other educational support for students.

USA
Ten Gav
Internet for Good

In 2014, Vivi Mann and Naomi Bronstein decided to combine their management and legal careers with their longstanding dedication to helping others. They focused their work on the use of the internet, with its infinite possibilities for “doing good.”

Ten Gav, a Hebrew idiom that loosely translates as “having your back,” is an online platform where prospective donors can read stories about Israelis with modest needs (cared for by municipal social services) that can be met with the help of others. In addition to general needs, Ten Gav focuses on helping three specific groups that are particularly vulnerable — elderly Ethiopians, single mothers and kids at risk.

The donors, joining with other like-minded people, can provide relatively small amounts of money that make an enormous difference. Be it a refrigerator or a stove for a family living without such a necessity, or the cost of a class that will allow someone to be self-sufficient, each met need proves the power of coming together to help.

GPF Impact: Our funds support elderly Ethiopian-Israelis.

USA
Erika’s organization, Puerto Rico Lit, started by serving those 50 families and still continues its work two years later. People in the central part of the island have had roofs repaired, rusted and useless appliances replaced and perhaps, most importantly, are assured they have not been forgotten despite the passage of time.

GPF Impact: Our programs and services)

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

DONATIONS DESIGNATED SPECIFICALLY FOR ADMINISTRATION BRING GPF OVERHEAD TO 0% (source: Charity Navigator)

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0%
I REMEMBER being asked if my work with Swipe Out Hunger was driven by my Jewish values. I was 19, and wasn’t aware how much our Jewish traditions and values guided not only my beliefs, but also my actions.

The value of mitzvah goreret mitzvah has been a central theme. Swipe Out Hunger started with a couple of friends at UCLA frustrated that they were ending the semester with leftover meals on their campus meal plan, while also knowing that there were many in their community without access to food. UCLA allowed us to donate those meal swipes to peers, and I had an inviolable inkling that what we had started was meant to grow.

Since that start in 2010, we’ve grown our movement to more than 80 campuses, reaching two million meals served by Spring 2020. That inkling led me to find my life’s work. The ripple effect of mitzvah goreret mitzvah, is what inspires me to come in each and every day.

To see the immense power of volunteers banding together to help their neighbors, just look at the people who run and staff Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges.

About 500 volunteers give this organization its heart, soul and muscle, ensuring that thousands of food-insecure individuals and families get the essentials they need with dignity (as well as medical screening and nutritional counseling). Last year, this collaboration of three synagogues and a church helped about 18,000 adults, 2,200 seniors and 15,500 children in Orange and East Orange, NJ.

The best elements of marketplace, community center and farmer’s market are linked to proven practices of customer service to create a welcoming venue for giving and receiving good. “Shoppers” walk from table to table, each piled high with various items, so they can actively choose products while engaging with volunteers.

“We are focused and committed to helping our neighbors in need with as much grace as we can possibly provide,” said Jodi Cooperman, a volunteer pantry manager and IFPO Treasurer.

GPF Impact: Our grant pays for toiletry and personal hygiene products available to pantry customers.

This is the lesson Shira Gilor learned many years ago from a chance meeting with a neighbor in her upscale community. The woman did not have enough food to feed her family. Karyn Gellman and Zehava Taub learned the same lesson in their affluent Jerusalem neighborhood, Baka. While working at the local school, Zehava learned that nearby residents were also going without food and other necessities.

These struggling families did not ask for help, but now know that there are people who care. Shira’s many dedicated volunteers distribute donated and purchased food, quietly and respectfully, to families that have been referred by social services. Karyn and Zehava have also enlisted the help of Baka neighbors to make sure their neighbors do not go hungry. These three women know that kindness and respect are the greatest gifts one can give another.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrite the cost of supermarket scrip for the food-centered holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Pesach, as well as all year.

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One weekday morning, Gideon Ben Ami was in an alley next to a Tel Aviv senior housing complex, unloading pallets of fruit and vegetables. Soon, residents were milling around and making their choices of everything from sweet strawberries to fresh heads of lettuce. That afternoon, he stopped at Google headquarters across the city where he collected a cart piled with food left over from that day’s lunch. It is an endless cycle for Gideon, the founder of Pesia’s Kitchen. He rescues food from corporate kitchens, caterers, bakeries, and markets, and distributes it where it is needed, from elder care centers and homeless shared living spaces, to battered women’s shelters and schools for refugee children. About 1,000 people benefit every day; last year Pesia’s Kitchen rescued an astounding 250 tons of food that would have been wasted. Gideon believes that “food security is a basic human right” and he and his staff have created a mechanism that lessens the effects of food insecurity for those in Tel Aviv.

GPF Impact: Our grant covers some of the minimal operating costs of Pesia’s Kitchen.

Many years ago, when as a teen she was asked to donate money for a family in need of food for Shavuot, Dr. Ravit Hillel offered to cook instead. She and her sister delivered food to six families, then twelve. Word spread and with each holiday the numbers grew.

Today, thousands are involved in this all-volunteer effort across the country. Healthy meals are prepared and delivered for Pesach, Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah, reaching more than 5,000 people. Shopping, cooking and delivery all take place during a 48-hour period before each holiday begins.

Recipients are elderly, Shoah survivors, families with children in the hospital and others who cannot make their own holiday meal. “I’m not looking for the ones who could be helped by giving them NIS 500,” Ravit explains. “The idea is to help people who aren’t able to make the holiday themselves.”

We know what happens in our own refrigerators when slightly bruised or blanched fruit and vegetables might accumulate — they often go to waste. But what happens at supermarkets or large wholesalers where less-than-perfect tomatoes, cucumbers or pears might be found? For Shai Rilov and chef Koby Carolla, the answer was Robin Food, a program that raises awareness of food waste through its vegan restaurant in the Haifa market.

In a country where produce is grown in great abundance and an estimated 35% of food goes to waste, Robin Food is the perfect response. Community-driven and staffed by a large cadre of international volunteers, this popular restaurant attracts not only locals, but tour groups from around the world. Prominent on the counter is a pushkie (zredakah box) where diners pay what they can afford for a meal that rivals those at more traditional, upscale restaurants. Robin Food’s motto, “Save food, eat well, change the world,” is a most appropriate description.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds are used for capacity-building.

When Guenther Hecht and two fellow congregants at Temple Sinai Atlanta began a simple food rescue program fifteen years ago, they never imagined that it would grow into an organization, Second Helpings Atlanta, which focuses on “driving out hunger, one mile at a time.”

The growth of this simple synagogue project is impressive. In 2018, SHA’s lean staff (assisted by 500 volunteers) rescued 1.67 million pounds of fresh, prepared food, the equivalent of 1.37 million meals. 3,800 people are reached daily through over 50 agencies in and around Atlanta. Rather than spend limited funds on food, these agencies can provide additional core services, benefitting their clients and the community.

SHA’s “90-minute model” for volunteers is ingenious: invest 90 minutes to go from home to pick-up locations, drop-off at agencies and return home. One volunteer says, “The 90 minutes it will take ... will make a lifetime impact not only on yourself but on the people you’re helping.” Another adds, “It feeds my soul. I help feed other people, but this really feeds my soul.”

GPF Impact: Our funds support program expansion.

If we think of a college campus as a microcosm of society at large, should we be surprised to find that hunger and housing insecurity, as well as homelessness, are significant problems on campuses across the country? How many of us have even thought about hunger on college campuses? And yet, numerous recent studies have shown the problem is real.

Almost ten years ago, Rachel Simek and her friends at UCLA encouraged fellow students to donate the unused “swipes” on their meal cards to help their fellow students who struggle with food insecurity. That led to a nationwide movement that today shines a light on campus hunger.

Today, nearly 90 campuses across 31 states use the “swipes” program and other creative ways (like setting up campus food pantries) to help feed hungry students.

GPF Impact: Our funds help implement campus programs.

They are a force for good — about 1,000 community volunteers in Northern California dedicated to minimizing food waste and ensuring that excess fruit growing in orchards and backyards gets to those going without.

Volunteers harvest a variety of fruit — including apricots, pears, apples, oranges and lemons — at more than 600 homes and orchards throughout the year in four counties south of San Francisco. All this work and dedication has a big impact on hunger, poverty and healthy eating for vulnerable populations. In 2018 alone, volunteers picked 245,000 pounds of fresh fruit, which translated to 650,000 servings of healthy food for tens of thousands of people in the community.

GPF Impact: Our grant supports the group’s harvesting at “heritage” orchards in the region.
It looks like any other second-hand clothing store along bustling Allenby Street in Tel Aviv, but enter and talk to any staffer and you'll realize this is a place where hope is displayed as prominently as merchandise. “Here I am allowed to get excited, to accomplish, to go crazy, and to dream,” says one.

Ani Shlishi (“I Am Third”) was founded by David Baskin and Ilan Kedar, friends in the IDF who later joined together to create the organization in 2016. It now has two used-clothing stores where at-risk Israeli youth learn marketable business skills and gain confidence. Profits go towards scholarships for vocational training.

The name is derived from words David heard from his late high school baseball coach: “First comes the greater good, the welfare of others is second, and I am Third.” As the driving force behind Ani Shlishi, his coach's words are having impact the coach could not have imagined. So far, 22 at-risk Israeli youth have embraced hope and the future through their affiliation with David, Ilan, and the Ani Shlishi family.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrite stipends for worker-trainees.

José Valenzuela, the founder of Boston Youth Wrestling, remembers struggling through his middle school years — angry, often in trouble and challenged by his studies. What saved him was learning how to wrestle in a competitive team setting. Wrestling teaches self-reliance, discipline and commitment — skills that help no matter where you are in life.

José's teaching career began in the Boston public schools where he quickly saw that the skills and focus he learned through wrestling could be used to help other kids succeed in school and beyond. Since 2009, Boston Youth Wrestling has helped thousands of kids, including a growing group of female wrestlers. This ancient sport improves lives in important and long-lasting ways both on and off the mat. As José says, “it's not about winning, it's about growing as a person.”

GPF Impact: Our matching grant is directed to expanding the program to even more Boston city schools.

ROSS FREELAND, the “Freezeman,” was the assistant baseball coach and math teacher at Evanston Township High School. He was very shy, he had trouble making eye contact, and he changed my life forever. He lived his life by a principle: “First comes the greater good, others are second, and I am Third.”

He taught me that superpowers exist. Because the thing is, like Freezeman shooting ice out of his hands, you have superpowers. You are all powerful. I don’t mean in the way we tend to think about it. Not, you can lift this weight, you can ace this test, you can win this game. I mean a different kind of power, an overwhelming kind, a world-creating kind.

The Freezeman died in 2016. In a country he never visited, an organization he never saw opens every day inspired by his words. Every single day, people walk into Ani Shlishi, donate clothing, are served by kids-at-risk learning skills and building a scholarship fund to tap their talents, and see the sign on the wall with his words: “I am Third.” Maybe one day when we’re long gone, our words will be on their walls.

(as told by David Baskin)
Breaking the Chain Through Education
Rescuing Enslaved Children in Ghana

As a high school teacher, Evan Robbins has untold opportunities to impact the lives of the young students fortunate enough to take his government classes. Rewarding as this is for him, nothing quite compares to his efforts in Ghana, where poverty is so endemic that it is not unusual for children to be sold into slavery.

What began years ago as a high school club studying child trafficking and raising enough money to rescue five children, has evolved into a successful organization that has rescued nearly 100 children around Ghana’s Lake Volta region. BTCTE (Be The Change Through Education) provides educational opportunities, vocational training and ongoing support to ensure their success. Evan (affectionately referred to as “Dad” by these grateful children) makes yearly trips to the region and visits with every rescued student and monitors the development of a long-term plan to ensure their continued success.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite the organization’s minimal overhead.

Caravan to Class
Education in Timbuktu

When Barry Hoffner, founder of Caravan to Class, lost his wife Jackie in a tragic accident, he searched for a meaningful way to memorialize her life and passion for helping others. He created the Bourse Jackie Scholarship, which is awarded to five women, all graduates of Timbuktu high schools.

He programs a business associate whose career is further along than yours, or a teacher who inspires you and connects in a special way. Paul Muratore spent 30 years as a mentor to troubled youth at a local residential agency and saw the powerful ways lives could be changed with the help of a caring adult.

Blessed with the opportunity to pursue a second career, Paul knew he would focus on mentorship. Connections has facilitated 68 matches since inception; currently, there are 32 active matches, including several young women who were victims of trafficking/sexual exploitation. Ninety-four percent of these youth are in stable housing and 93% are either in school or have already graduated. Astoundingly, 93% have had no further contact with the criminal justice system. Paul was on the right track when he began Connections — and so many fortunate young men and women have benefited.

GPF Impact: Our funds are directed to a new staff position for this lean organization.

Creating Connected Communities
Developing Young Leaders Through Service

As a 12-year-old, Amy Sacks (now Amy Sacks Zeide), learned of the theft of holiday gifts from a local shelter. Struck by this thoughtless act, Amy used her own money to replace the toys and throw a holiday party as well.

More than 25 years later, in a city where many children are homeless and live in poverty, Amy’s Holiday Party has evolved into an impressive teen leadership program. Creating Connected Communities, in Amy’s words, “would teach other Jewish teens what I had learned over the years. And specifically, that you don’t have to be a certain age or have a certain level of experience to make an impact. You don’t even need that much money to get started. All you have to do is be passionate, hardworking, and care.”

More than 150 teens take part in CCC’s four-year Leader-Ship Development Program, where they learn what it means to be a leader while interacting with kids served by more than 60 local agencies. And Amy’s Holiday Party? It is the centerpiece of their year-long work.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds help to expand the leader-ship program.

Connections
Mentoring Teens to Help Them Succeed

Human connections are the glue that holds us all together, and mentorships are often the most meaningful of all such connections. It might be a business associate whose career is further along than yours, or a teacher who inspires you and connects in a special way.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite the organization’s minimal overhead.

Connecting Teens to Success
Giving Hope to Inner City Youth

Just Imagine began eight years ago through the vision of Dr. Steven Berkowitz. Using Animals and Music to Soothe the Soul
Shemesh, Shuki, Koko and Condor are parrots engaged in an extraordinary program that heals children who live in fear as a result of torture (and humans) live in Shavei Darom, a tiny religious community on the border with Gaza in the Negev region of Israel. The families, originally from Kfar Darom in Gaza, were relocated to this area in 2005.

This groundbreaking animal-assisted therapy program is run by Shary Agnon, a musician, composer and gentle soul who has adapted traditional therapy techniques to include birds and bunnies that are culturally acceptable to local families. roster attacks continue and yet we still hear amazing stories of children with PTSD who succeed in school, no longer wet their beds or act out with aggression. A new Father-Son program has broken down barriers between parent and child whose relationships were strained by the trauma of living in such a tense and unsettled region.

As Shay says, the cumulative effect on school and community three years later is “nothing short of a revolution.”

GPF Impact: Our funds, supplemented by those the community raise, underwrite the program’s modest costs.

Helping Kids on Israel’s Southern Border
Using Animals and Music to Soothe the Soul

Kaima
Experience and Agriculture

Kaima (meaning sustainability in Aramaic) was founded by Yoni Yefet Reich to engage and empower at-risk youth through a diverse program of hands-on organic farming. His successful model of youth-run CSA farms (community-spon-sored agriculture) continues to spread across Israel.

Kaima Be’erotayim
When 17-year-old Orli* arrived at Kaima Be’erotayim she felt she could not trust adults. Becoming a team member on the farm instilled in her respect for herself and those around her. After one year she can boast of so many changes in her life — completing tasks, saving money, arriving to work on time and mentoring younger team members.

This is the success that Iris Shevach and her family envi- sioned when they established this Kaima farm in the Emek Hefer region. Iris’s years of experience in the corporate world coupled with her love of cooking turned this Kaima model into a sustainable organic farm and an exciting catering business with an onsite kitchen that trains youth in other important skills.

GPF Impact: Our funds cover the cost of equipment.

Kaima Hukuk
When you visit Kaima Hukuk on the shores of the Kinneret you quickly understand the isolation of this part of the country. That isolation means scarce resources for young people who have struggled to fit into more traditional classrooms. It was for this population that Efrat Noy, along with several educators and social workers, created Kaima Hukuk. Their alternative education approach, designed to meet the needs of youth from similar backgrounds as the young Kaima farmers. Working with a program that facilitates national service activities, Hukuk’s empowering environment lets them fulfill this requirement as they flourish and set an example for younger participants.

Devorah* has evolved from a self-destructive girl into a functioning, trustworthy young woman in charge of all pack- ing procedures for the CSA. Nati*, an immigrant without family support, sees Hukuk as her first real home. Boasts Efrat, “We are very proud of these workers, and trust they are leav- ing the farm equipped with new skills and confidence which will allow them to continue growing and fulfill their dreams.”

GPF Impact: Our funds support an afterschool center.

Kaima Nahalal is found in the Empowering Women and Girls section.
USA
Leveling the Playing Field
Sports for Every Kid

Who doesn’t have unused sports equipment lying around the house, whether or not there are still kids at home? Outgrown soccer cleats, tennis rackets, baseball gloves and bats ... the list is endless and the goal of keeping it out of landfills daunting. Max Levitt, at the time a sports manager at Syracuse University, had this problem when he was asked to clear out the football team's used equipment to make way for new gear.

Max thought there must be youth teams around the country that could use this perfectly good equipment. He began Leveling the Playing Field in 2011 after graduating from college, and today there are three locations in the Maryland/DC area where people can drop off their used equipment to be donated to nearby teams that struggle to fund their small sports programs.

LPF keeps this usable equipment out of landfills while helping thousands of kids reap the many benefits of participating in team sports. Seems like a win-win to us.

GPF Impact: Our funds are used for general operating expenses.

ISR
Magen
Helping At-Risk Teens

The trips that Ethiopian students now living in Israel take to the homeland many left as infants have been life-changing, as confirmed by one participant in Dr. Stu Chesner’s new program, Magen. “Only if I feel grounded in my past, will I have the strength to deal with the present and the future ... Seeing where my family lived and where some of them still live feels like an important missing piece in understanding what my own role is here in Israel.”

Dr. Chesner, an American clinical psychologist who made aliyah many years ago, has spent a lifetime working with kids with a wide range of learning disabilities and other neuropsychological disorders. His groundbreaking work has had significant impact on how Israeli schools treat students who learn differently.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrote travel costs for several Ethiopian students.

USA
Make Music NOLA
Inspiring, Engaging and Empowering Students Through Music

With each note played in the strings programs of Make Music NOLA, kids age 7-17 are realizing their potential. In New Orleans, where music is so ingrained in the culture, MMN, a self-described “music-for-social-change program,” was started to fill the gap left by a lack of funding for school music programs. These in-school and after-school programs — tuition-free for students eligible for the free or reduced-cost federal lunch program — now run at more than nine sites, focusing on music development and character development.

Executive Director Laura Patterson points out that interacting with kids from other schools and other parts of town “creates a network for [the kids] and gives them an opportunity to be themselves outside the regular school day.” A teacher who welcomes the chance to “give back” through MMN adds, “A lot of these kids don’t have successes every day at school, or they don’t have the best lives, and we give them … a new way to be successful. We teach them that there are many paths for them. We open doors for them.”

GPF Impact: Our matching grant helps underwrite the cost of expansion.

Acting Students Through Music

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SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT
Acts of Kindness and Compassion Multiply

KINDNESS and compassion are the most important things in life. Hundreds of Holocaust survivors have told me so. From their unique perspective, having endured the darkest days of human history, they implore us to “do good deeds, because the world rests on them.” This imperative is rooted in the values of our ancestors and has lasted through generations, and will endure far into the future.

Acts of kindness and compassion multiply and have their own life force. Every day brings new opportunities. “If you can’t help someone monetarily, put a kind hand on a shoulder, say a kind word,” said 86-year-old survivor Fira in Ukraine. Fira was destitute and alone, but her first thought wasn’t for herself. She asked if she could share the funds we gave her (donated through acts of kindness) with a woman down the road in “worse shape.” We told Fira to keep the money, and take us to this woman, so we could help her as well.

Because kindness and compassion beget more kindness, through Fira’s noble deed, a new survivor was brought into our program to begin the journey of healing and compassion.
MAMAIYING DIGNITY FOR OUR ELDERS

USA

LiLy — Lifeforce in Later Years

Enabling Seniors to Age in Place with Dignity

Bella*, over 100 years old, is at a point in life when frailties, illnesses, and limited support can lead to isolation and loneliness so great as to threaten her well-being and survival. So, it’s no surprise that she welcomes visitors from LiLY — her connection to community and life — with joy and anticipation.

LiLY creates that connection for elderly persons in the Morningside Heights and West Harlem neighborhoods of Manhattan, where seniors living in relative isolation — some at or near the poverty line — can easily disappear. The organization was created in 2009 by Irene Zola as a response to her own experiences with her elderly mother.

Today, LiLY has more than 125 volunteers serving about 175 seniors and doing everything from friendly home visits and walks together, to help with paperwork, escorts to doctor appointments, connections to professionals and services, and errands.

“Just like anyone, these individuals need validation and support and purpose and to feel valued,” said Irene. “They are too often not getting that.”

* a pseudonym

GPF Impact: Our matching funds are directed to a social worker’s salary.

USA

LiL Y — Lifeforce in Later Years

Creating Awareness and Understanding of Dementia and Aging in Israel

80-year-old Aliza* had stopped talking and would only mumble unclearly, making communication difficult. Knowing that when she was younger she loved Israeli songs, her daughter helped Aliza’s caregiver create a playlist of her favorite tunes and that’s when the magic happened “Aliza loves listening to her songs and joins in and sings along,” says a therapist at her nursing home. “Her husband listens together with her … He is happy that she is happy and he tells us that she is more communicative after listening to her songs. … The listening together also makes his visits more enjoyable and meaningful for them both.”

Aliza is one of many Alzheimer’s and dementia patients in Israeli nursing homes benefiting from the ground-breaking Music & Memory program founded by Dan Cohen in the United States and facilitated by Tziona Achishena Cohen in Israel.

Personalized playlists tap into memories not lost to dementia. Listening on MP3 players, patients feel like themselves again and “stay present.” M&M gives patients and their families hope for a better life.

* a pseudonym

GPF Impact: Our funds support the introduction of Music & Memory programs in Israeli nursing facilities.

USA

Music Mends Minds

Music as Alternative Therapy

Years ago, when a joyful Carol Rosenstein met her husband Irwin through a newspaper ad, the couple envisioned a long and happy life together. But, as often happens, “life” got in the way, as it did when Irwin started to show signs of memory loss. Small signs of confusion eventually evolved into full blown neuro-degenerative disease. And yet, Irwin could sit at his piano and play familiar tunes.

It was against this backdrop that Music Mends Minds was born. The couple acted to help not only Irwin, but so many others who in this despair (which includes dementia, Alzheimer’s and many other illnesses.) There are nearly twenty musical support groups around the country (and around the world) through an exciting collaboration with Rotary International) proving through research-based observation that brain chemistry can be changed as the patient engages in musical activity.

Further proof of this incredible connection can be seen in a recent short video (Irwin (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u1SwQ4EfVA), now more than thirteen years post-diagnosis, playing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” It is a miracle.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite the costs of a music therapist to enhance MMM’s ground-breaking work.

USA

Survivor Mitzvah Project

Helping Holocaust Survivors in Eastern Europe

His name is Isaak and today he is 90 years old. Born in Berdichev, Ukraine, Isaak still recalls very clearly the summer of 1941 when the Fascists appeared and ordered all of the Jews to a nearby town and a certain death. Isaak’s father approached a neighbor who kindly sheltered the family underneath their barn. Food was scarce and danger ever-present. And yet, somehow, the family survived. But, as Isaak says, “Humiliation, hunger and cold. This is what our family endured.”

It is for Isaak and Fanya and Luba and Tsilya and thousands more who reside in remote areas of Eastern Europe that Zane Buzby founded The Survivor Mitzvah Project.

After traveling to the region years ago in search of her own family’s roots, Zane was stunned by the poverty, poor health and isolation she witnessed. She returned home inspired to make sure that these elders who have already suffered so much, live their last days in some comfort. Today, more than 2500 people benefit from financial assistance and regular contact, ensuring them that they are not forgotten.

GPF Impact: Our funds underwrite survivors’ needs.
I love embracing our city’s most marginalized and vulnerable neighbors. It is a joy to provide assistance that is truly a hand-up, not a handout, particularly because of the way that each recipient then becomes empowered to aid others in need.

The desire to feel worthy as individuals in order to be able to provide worth to others is innate. In this time of social divisiveness and turmoil, we must remember the power of being great neighbors to all.

**International Neighbors**

**Doing Good Leads to More Good**

The desire to enhance the lives of those around you seems to be human instinct. I have found this to be true across cultures, religions and races. People yearn to be valued members of their communities, and it’s easy to recognize that doing good leads to more good.

**ISR**

**ATZUM**

**Bringing Justice to All**

It was more than eleven years in the making but on December 31, 2018 one of Rabbi Levi Lauer’s most meaningful dreams became reality.

As a champion for all that is good and right, Rabbi Lauer has dedicated his life to social justice. In his adopted country, Israel, he formalized this quest by forming ATZUM-Justice Works in 2002. One of ATZUM’s chief programs was to end human trafficking and prostitution in Israel. After innumerable attempts, the Knesset finally passed legislation making Israel only the tenth country in the world to do so.

Over the past seventeen years, ATZUM has addressed other critical issues such as support for survivors of terror attacks and for non-Jews residing in Israel who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust (Righteous Among the Nations). Most recently, ATZUM has worked to improve the lives of refugees and asylum seekers (many from African nations) who struggle to survive.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are directed to the refugee and asylum seeker program as well as individual needs.

**USA**

**Emma’s Torch**

**Building a Future for Refugees through Culinary Arts**

Terricka (from Jamaica and a survivor of human trafficking) cooks up a mean coconut-curry shrimp dish and says she wants to open her own restaurant someday. It’s an attainable dream because she now has newfound confidence and optimism, and new culinary and creative skills, as a recent graduate of the apprenticeship program at Emma’s Torch.

The program provides culinary arts education, ESL, and interview training to refugees, asylum seekers and survivors of trafficking so they can build futures in New York’s strong restaurant industry. Emma’s Torch — named after poet Emma Lazarus — was founded by Kerry Brodie, who combined her own culinary and human rights backgrounds to give hope to those who’ve escaped terrible circumstances to come to the U.S.

Apprentices practice and develop their skills at the popular Brooklyn restaurant that shares the Emma’s Torch name, and also at a café at the Brooklyn Public Library. “Impact means more than statistics,” Kerry said. “Impact means the survivor understanding for the first time that she is worthy of a better life and making plans to pursue bigger dreams.”

**GPF Impact:** Our grant supports “soft skill” training, such as interview skills building, for Emma’s Torch apprentices.

**USA**

**Firestarter Group**

**Training and Job Placement for Refugees**

How many of us recall the great exodus of Jews from the former Soviet Union? If you are of a certain generation you may have volunteered to welcome these strangers to your community. Housing, furniture, English lessons, medical care and more were all needed to ensure a successful integration into American life.

Yan Digilov arrived here as a child with his family during this period. That experience drives him today as he works to help acclimate other refugees from such diverse places as Bhutan, Egypt, Afghanistan and beyond as they settle in Houston, home to this country’s largest refugee community.

Firestarter assists refugees across Houston in creative, less traditional ways. Its community digital portal gives native Houstonians an easy way to help with mentorship, social contacts or personal relationships. In addition, The Opportunity Fund underwrites refugees’ educational opportunities.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite several scholarships for dental assistants, ESL courses and more.

**Kari Miller**

**Welcoming Refugees**

**INTERATIONAL NEIGHBORS**

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**USA**

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**Kari Miller**
Sloane Davidson founded Hello Neighbor to improve the lives of an influx of refugees recently resettled in Pittsburgh, a city with a long history of welcoming newcomers to its community. With a strong background rooted in activism, philanthropy and digital media, Sloane directs her energies to the refugee crisis to support this underserved community.

During what can be a difficult transition period, Hello Neighbor matches refugee families with local mentors/neighbors who guide and support them in their new lives. Their recent Advocate Program takes this a step further by pinpointing specific areas where help is needed such as pairing pregnant refugee women with new moms. The 72 families from 11 countries (98% with a child under 18 in the home) learn everything from how to write a check and improve their English, to attending a baseball game. Volunteer mentors commit about 10 hours a month and form lifelong friendships.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds will help underwrite an upcoming Hello Neighbor conference where similar national organizations can share best practices.

Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn, a clinical psychologist and trauma specialist, and Sister Aziza, an experienced counselor and authority on sexual exploitation and trafficking, are two visionaries who joined forces to provide support and hope to many African women who have sought asylum in Israel.

For too many of these asylum seekers, the journey involved trafficking, rape and torture. Once in Israel, they faced further trauma in a (mostly) hostile environment living in poverty and with few meaningful work options. Many of these women have found a home in Tel Aviv’s Kuchinate (“crochet” in Tigrinya, a Semitic language), a safe space where they crochet beautiful baskets and rugs. Crocheting in a group fosters healing conversation and at the same time produces items that are sold in the studio, giving the women much-needed income and a sense of worth.

GPF Impact: Our funds, many which were donor-designated, provide continuing support for the artisans.

When we think of refugees in the US, we often picture border towns along our country’s southern border. And yet, 6% of the population of the idyllic college town of Charlottesville, VA are refugees who come from Gambia, Bhutan, Congo, Tanzania and beyond. They are among the millions of refugees forced to leave their homes because their governments can no longer protect them. Some in Charlottesville are here because they have SIV (Special Immigration Visa) status earned by helping US soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kari Miller, a farmer teacher and Peace Corps volunteer, quickly recognized the enormous challenges these people face every day. Dealing with a new language, new customs, lack of mobility and transportation, finding healthcare, and facing economic instability can be daunting. With a corps of more than 300 residents, IN volunteers provide household items, clothing, and computers, and help people navigate the healthcare system, find adult education courses and legal assistance, get driving lessons, employment guidance and so much more.

GPF Impact: Our matching grant funds a part-time program director to help these new residents acclimate.

As you read the biographies of Plant It Forward’s urban farmers, you notice that each has fled violence and persecution in their native countries to settle in Houston, home to the country’s largest refugee population. It is here, thanks to Teresa O’Donnell’s vision, that they have created Houston’s largest network of urban farms where refugees set up small businesses and provide fresh, healthy produce that benefits the entire community. Tomatoes, okra, eggplant, and lesser known Egyptian spinach or Korean melon—all of these and more are grown by Plant It Forward’s urban farmers and sold at farm stands, through CSA (community-supported agriculture) shares, and to local restaurants.

GPF Impact: Many businesses and projects for people with disabilities in Israel.

Menachem Stolpner

SHAI ASHER

My Hope is to Spur Others into Action

THE BUTTERFLY effect describes how a small change in one state of being can result in a large change in another. Reality as an interconnected net or web allows for each person’s actions to affect the world in ways that could be very significant.

This modern day explanation of the Jewish concept of mitzvah goreret mitzvah guides me to pursue my goal to create and maintain Shai Asher. When we send out positive energy into the world, we cannot predict who it affects or if and when it will come back to us.

My hope is that something I deem righteous—a project to meet the needs of a specific population—will spur others into positive action. And it has. Over time, fellow kibbutz members, children’s groups, neighboring communities and businesses have volunteered to help us and have even developed new services and projects for people with disabilities in Israel.
Any family that includes a child with developmental difficulties faces unique challenges. For some, governmental red tape and scarce resources lead parents to despair and frustration. Rather than accept the status quo, Dr. Johanan Flusser, with an impressive career working in the field of special education, established ACHLA and the Heyanut Center to offer creative and compassionate solutions.

The staff, comprised mainly of committed, trained volunteers, helps prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, helps with employment and housing, and also guides families as they navigate a complex government support system. In a world where it is easy to give up hope, these individuals can now live a better life and function in the community.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds are directed to the position of the Community Rehabilitation Assistant who works directly with families guiding them on their journey.

ISR
ACHLA: Association for the Quality of Life for People with Developmental Difficulties

Making Families Whole

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ISR
Shai Asher
Providing Apprenticeships to People with Special Needs

Drive into Kibbutz Shluchot in northern Israel and you’ll find the most welcoming and friendly group of young adults you’d ever want to meet. They are full of deep dedication, determination and joy while maintaining the garden, tending to animals, and preparing meals, and they will insist on showing you around.

They’re all participants of Shai Asher (Milton’s Gift), an apprenticeship program for youth with special needs where they learn trades and develop life skills within the supportive and inclusive environment of the greater kibbutz community. Menachem Stolpner, a former New York social worker, founded the program dedicated to his firm belief that individuals with special needs deserve as much purpose, dignity and opportunity in life as anyone else.

On one visit, we met Udi, a young man whose self-assurance and giving personality is magnetic. “I am a person with Down syndrome, but I am worthy and capable like any other person,” he said. We are thrilled that he is part of the Good People Fund family.

GPF Impact: Our funds support a mentoring program that gives Inbar participants ongoing personalized support.

 ISR
Shutaf
Fostering Inclusion Across the Spectrum of Abilities

Shutaf began as a response to Miriam Avraham’s and Beth Steinberg’s personal struggles with a dearth of resources for their own disabled children. Ten years ago, there were few meaningful summer camp programs in Jerusalem. Not content to enroll their kids in activities that were more like glorified babysitting, they set out to create their own. Shutaf is the result: a year-round program for kids, teens and young adults with and without disabilities.

Over the years Beth and Miriam have used their own experiences to guide Shutaf’s growth. As the kids have grown, so has the program. Today, their kids Akiva and Vinny are in their early 20’s. While camp may no longer be an essential part of their lives, there are so many other issues that affect their well-being and growth, such as drugs and alcohol, sexuality, and learning self-defense. Shutaf programs address these topics and more.

After years of wandering from location to location, this past year Shutaf found a beautiful new home with bright and learning environment. Participants and their families attest to the significant physical and emotional changes—weight loss, mood stability, better eating habits and regular socialization.

Hundreds of people have enjoyed SPIRIT Club’s regular group and private classes held in Baltimore and suburban Maryland. Trainers are licensed by the NCAA, and many assistants are former students who continue to enjoy the exercise and the socialization.

It’s not surprising that Jared’s wish to spread SPIRIT Club’s methods to other cities is finally taking hold. He and his supporters hope that eventually the SPIRIT Club curriculum is adopted throughout the country.

GPF Impact: Our funds provide scholarships for eligible participants.

ISR
Spirit Club
Fitness Programs for Everyone

Observing one of Jared Ciner’s exercise classes for people with disabilities is inspiring. As the parent of one of the participants commented, “Jared is the Fitness Whisperer.” Indeed, he is.

Using his background as a personal trainer and his work as a support counselor for adults with developmental disabilities, Jared began SPIRIT Club so people with disabilities could benefit as others do from regular exercise. Participants and their parents attest to the significant physical and emotional changes—weight loss, mood stability, better eating habits and regular socialization.

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Families going through a divorce experience extraordinary stress that often devastates everyone involved. For Israeli women who are part of the haredi, or ultra-Orthodox community, the experience is even harder because social mores dictate that divorce is shameful, and women are often shunned by the community. They find themselves adrift with no support, financial insecurity, isolated from their friends, and often experience extortion and bullying.

This was the situation Fainy Sukenik faced years ago after leaving her own marriage. An activist by nature, Fainy recognized she was not alone and that her experiences were the norm for any haredi woman choosing to divorce. Her response was Ba’asher Telchi (“Where You Go” from the Book of Ruth). Her group provides nearly 3,000 women with legal aid, emotional support, socialization and frequent discussion groups that focus on living one’s life without a partner (or how to approach finding a new partner). In broader terms, Ba’asher Telchi focuses on changing the way the community responds to divorce.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite the organization’s administrative expenses.

USA
I Support the Girls
Personal Health Items and Bras for Homeless and Low-Income Women

A fortuitous conversation in a lingerie store informed Dana Marlowe of the dire need for bras and feminine hygiene products for homeless and low-income women. Her single Facebook post requesting donations from family and friends opened the floodgates to a steady stream of items, filled her basement, earned her the nickname “The Bra Fairy,” and sparked the founding of I Support the Girls.

These most basic items seem insignificant until they are lacking. ISTG and its sixty affiliates and hundreds of volunteers have collected and distributed millions of items, restoring dignity and confidence and empowering women and teenage girls. In addition, their advocacy raises awareness and seeks to eliminate a problem that shouldn’t exist.

“We give out the bras,” says one of 750 thankful social service agencies that receive distributions from ISTG, “to our women in the shelter and women in the community living below poverty level, who may have temporary housing, but not much left for food or clothing.”

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite the organization’s administrative expenses.

USA
jGirls Magazine
Giving Voice and Expression to Jewish Teenage Girls

Talk to any of the Jewish teenage girls who are involved with jGirls Magazine — whether as contributing writers, editors, or readers — and you’ll hear some powerful words: voice, respect, safety, empowerment, expression.

jGirls offers self-identifying Jewish girls age 13-19 a dynamic online magazine designed specifically for them — generating conversation and giving Jewish community a richer and more inclusive tone. From travel to art, and from gender identity to activism, perspectives and experiences are shared through stories, poetry, music, images and other media.

jGirls was established in 2016 by Elizabeth Mandel, who sought to use her background in social justice campaigns and the media industry to correct the marginalization of this generation and foster a new corps of Jewish women leaders. “I felt like my voice was worthless, but now I know I have a space,” said one of jGirls’ contributors. “I have a place where I can be heard, powerful and loud, and I want all girls to know what that feels like.”

GPF Impact: Our grant helps jGirls Magazine expand its readership.

SEVEN years ago, someone showed me kindness. At the time, my ultra-Orthodox Jewish family members had recently shunned me and threatened to sit shiva for me for daring to escape the abusive marriage they had arranged for me as a teenager.

One thing I knew. I was going to help other women and girls in the US escaping forced marriages. Enter Naomi Eisenberger and The Good People Fund. She showed me kindness, took a chance on me, and gave Unchained its first grant.

Unchained has grown into a national organization that, to date, has provided crucial, often life-saving services to more than 555 women, girls and others so they could escape forced marriages. Each of them not only escaped forced marriage, but also stopped the cycle of forced marriage from continuing to the next generation. And many of them have, in turn, used their newfound freedom to help others.

All this goodness rippled out into the world because someone took a chance on me and showed me some kindness.
community banks to fund women's microloans. GPF Impact: Our funds are used to set up two village banks in Tanzania. It is a holistic way to uplift these women—enhancing economic stability and gender equality. Moyo Unterweger never forgot the time she spent living in rural Tanzania. The culture, the poverty, and most of all, the low status and daily struggles of the local women stayed with her long after returning to the US. Using her strong background in finance and nonprofit work, she began Moyo with her long after returning to the US. Using her strong background in finance and nonprofit work, she began Moyo with her long after returning to the US. Using her strong background in finance and nonprofit work, she began Moyo

Estee Shushan is one of thousands of haredi women with voices that need to be heard. Before the 2012 elections, she started a Facebook campaign asking the public not to vote for parties that exclude women. Thirteen years of raising awareness, lobbying and advocacy efforts led to the creation of the Knesset Caucus for Haredi Women, and regular participation in various Knesset committees.

Nicvarot provides training, leadership, and skill building opportunities for haredi women no longer happy with the status quo. Through exposure to more modern feminist thought, public speaking workshops, and more, these women are finding their voices. Two “graduates” of their courses have even run in municipal elections while still others are involved in various political initiatives.

GPF Impact: Our funds help with administrative expenses.

Yotsrot — Turning the Tables
Empowering Women to Exit the Destructive Cycle of Prostitution

“I’m learning that I’m a person, not an object, and I can define myself on my own,” said Lia, a transgender woman in her early 30’s who is finding confidence, support and a future at Yotsrot as she exits life in the sex trade. “I have choices now.”

Lisa can likely speak for any of the more than 300 women who have become part of the Yotsrot community since it was founded by former fashion editor Lilach Tzur Ben Moshe just eight years ago, after she observed the sex trade at Tel Aviv’s Central Bus Station and determined that such exploitation could no longer stand.

Yotsrot provides vocational training in design, sewing and pattern-making in studios in Tel Aviv and Haifa. Training in digital marketing, a necessary skill, is also offered, along with a network of counselors ensuring that everyone meets their own definition of success. “Here, we find that we can become, and that we can create, and not just break things, including ourselves,” said Lia. “And that’s everything.”

GPF Impact: Our funds help with administrative expenses.

Witness to Mass Incarceration
After Prison, Lending a Hand to Others

Evie Litwok arrived in NYC penniless, homeless and jobless after time in federal prison. She knows well that establishing a life after incarceration is challenging and frequently defeating, especially for women, LGBTQ+ individuals and others facing systemic and cultural disadvantages and the stigma of having been in prison.

She used her experience as a social activist to establish Witness to Mass Incarceration to advocate for prison reform, and to help those just released from the penal system move more smoothly back into society.

Witness to Mass Incarceration’s Suitcase Project equips returnees with valuable essentials to start a new life: a laptop computer helps them look for a job, a cellphone with pre-paid minutes keeps them in contact with the community, and gift cards allow them to eat and dress with dignity. Perhaps most important, Evie and her growing network of supporters create a circle of care so no one feels isolated. “The driving Jewish values that we talk about don’t mean anything unless we make them mean something,” said Evie. “I hope I’m doing that.”

GPF Impact: Our matching grant allows WMI to increase its capacity building.

Giving Voice, Equality and Representation to Ultra-Orthodox Women

Nivcharot (Lo Nivcharot — No Voice, No Vote)
Giving Voice, Equality and Representation to Ultra-Orthodox Women

The statistics are astounding: nearly 250,000 children, as young as 12, were legally married in this country between 2000 and 2010. Most of us are unaware of these numbers.

Arranged or Forced Marriages

Fraidy Reiss, founder of Unchained at Last, did not know this either when she was subjected to an arranged marriage years ago. Arranged and forced marriages, though distinctly different, affect thousands of people. Once she escaped her abusive, arranged marriage, Fraidy began her crusade to end this widespread practice.

Imbued with boundless passion and energy, Fraidy and her small staff have helped nearly 800 women with legal services, emotional support and, in some cases, provided the means for women to return to America after they have been forced into arranged marriages overseas.

As Unchained’s advocacy work advances, more and more people are becoming aware of the dangers of forced and arranged marriages. Delaware and New Jersey have enacted legislation to end the practice, with several other states considering implementation.

GPF Impact: Our funds help with administrative expenses.

Supporting Women and Girls Leaving Arranged or Forced Marriages

Unchained at Last

The Cycle of Prostitution

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GPF Impact: Our funds help with administrative expenses.
Improving Health and Well-Being

USA

Envision Kindness
Inspiring Kindness in Pursuit of a Happier World

Research suggests that helping others has a direct positive benefit on one’s health. The 25% of people in the US who volunteer experience this “helper’s high” — and scientist/physician Dr. David Fryburg and his son Jesse founded Envision Kindness to help spread these positive feelings through photography.

“We are wired to respond to kindness,” says David, “including images of it. Images of compassion and connection increase optimism, love, trust, gratitude, and sympathy.” EK’s photo competitions do much to counteract negative news. “Enspire,” a video streaming program, seeks to help healthcare providers who have high rates of burnout and depression; “The Science of Kindness 101” is a monthly blog illustrating “it is better to give than to receive.”

In today’s world with its extraordinary challenges and where kindness seems to have fallen by the wayside, David reminds us, “We are all born kind. It’s in our biology.”

GPF Impact: Our matching grant is directed to photo contests and general administration.

USA

FEAST
Empowering Through Nutrition Education and Food Scholarships

“WE are on the right path now,” says a mother of three, a resident of East Harlem, NY; she and eleven others were part of the first East Coast graduating class of FEAST. This is a 12-week program that gives participants the knowledge, motivation and support to make better food choices with limited resources, and gives them greater insights by sharing personal food stories.

FEAST (Food, Education, Access, Support, Together) is the creation of Sam Polk, who struggled with his own weight for years. He and his wife, a physician, realized that for people with limited incomes, healthy food choices can be expensive and hard to find. Many live in “food deserts” or urban areas where such food is scarce (and where fast food options are not). Today, FEAST programs can be found in several New York and California communities, and in Nebraska, Vermont and beyond.

GPF Impact: Our funding continues to underwrite program expansion in New York.

ISR

INTRA — Israeli National Therapeutic Riding Association
Healing through Horseback Riding

When Dan* returned home from serving in the IDF during the Second Intifada, friends and family noticed significant changes in his personality. He became depressed and argumentative, experienced intense flashbacks of his time on the battlefield and was unable to sleep. The PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) that afflicted him drove him to isolate himself from those around him. He remained that way until his psychologist recommended equine therapy.

It was for soldiers like Dan, as well as children and adults with disabilities, that Dr. Anita Shkedi and her husband Giora began their equine therapy program in central Israel. Riding and caring for horses builds trust and promotes kindness and positive thoughts in people with PTSD. For those with physical disabilities, riding a horse stimulates muscles untouched by more traditional physical therapy.

For Dan, “… Horseback riding gave him a strong sense of achievement and empowerment … reconnecting his mind to his body and soul…enabling him to reestablish his life.”

* a pseudonym

GPF Impact: Our grant supports therapeutic equine riding for soldiers with PTSD

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ROAD TO RECOVERY
We See One Good Deed Leading to Another

An Israeli army officer lost his way during the days of the intifada and found himself in the center of Jenin. An angry mob gathered around him in an atmosphere of a lynching. A Palestinian police officer took charge and rescued him. The following day the officer called me. “I did it for your sake. You helped my brother when he needed to reach a hospital in Israel.”

While motivated to render a humanitarian service, we see one good deed leading to another. Our activity creates common ground and a safe space for interaction between Israelis and Palestinians, and this facilitates dialogue and builds trust and empathy.

Large scale, positive, and sustainable person-to-person relationships are formed. Social and economic interactions are created around common interests, increasing positive engagement, building crosscutting networks across the divide, and decreasing hostility and violence.

Yuval Roth
An outing to an amusement park, a trip to the Jerusalem Zoo, a bike ride through Tel Aviv — typical activities for kids and teens in general, but for those who are part of Jeremy’s Circle these outings are not only fun but also a needed escape. Each lives with cancer in the family or has lost a family member to the disease. Jeremy’s Circle organizes the events, offering relief from the stresses at home, as well as a community of friends who share similar experiences.

Pamela Becker’s husband, Jeremy, succumbed to cancer over ten years ago, and she knows well the challenges of raising children in such circumstances. Inspired by their oldest child’s wish to play with kids who might also have a sick parent, Pamela, Jeremy and his sisters created the organization so that other families can benefit. Their goal demonstrates that disease does not define. “We need to show these kids that even if they are the only one in their class without a mom … that is not what makes them unique,” says Pam.

GPF Impact: Our funds help pay for the organization’s administrative costs.

For some, it is the last vacation they take … for others, it is time? The response to her initial outreach to owners was overwhelming positive and Refanah was born. “The reason?” she asked. “Perhaps because it is so easy and low cost to volunteer.”

Buried in the stream of depressing headlines about unrest in the Middle East is a little-known Israeli organization that works quietly and efficiently to “change the narrative.” Road to Recovery (Ba’derech L’Hachlama) is an all-volunteer humanitarian effort that brings Palestinian children and adults from the West Bank and Gaza to Israeli hospitals for treatment. Since its founding, almost 2,000 Israelis have volunteered to provide these roundtrip rides from checkpoints to Israeli hospitals and back. Last year alone, 10,000 trips were completed. What makes this even more compelling is that the leadership is entirely volunteer and the bulk of the expenses incurred are small reimbursements for fuel costs to those volunteers who request it.

All of this stems from one man’s response to the horror and deep loss he felt when his brother was murdered in a terrorist attack in 1993. Yuval Roth is the visionary who learned that compassion and generosity are powerful antidotes to hatred. He began Road to Recovery to offer life-saving assistance to people who would otherwise have extraordinary difficulty reaching medical services.

GPF Impact: Our funds help underwrite fuel costs.

In 2000, as a young student at Hebrew University, Liora Arnon searched the internet desperate to find some resources that might help a friend suffering from anorexia and appearing to be suicidal. That search led her to an article by Professor Azai Bark of Haifa University, who described two distinct connections between online behavior and suicide. In one way, clearly the most dangerous, online behavior can actually encourage suicide, providing knowledge and encouragement. More positively, though, online connections can allow for positive dialogue and emotional support, thus keeping the individual safe from harm. Intrigued by this information, Liora contacted the professor, and with the help of others similarly interested in the possibilities, formed SAHAR (a Hebrew acronym for “Support and Listening on the Web”). SAHAR is a professionally trained, volunteer-driven organization that provides free online support to people in emotional distress, and a website with extensive articles and other support materials. Today, utilizing new technology, volunteers can actually scan social media identifying messages of distress and offer help.

GPF Impact: Our funds continue to support children’s programming, including an innovative, new interactive curriculum.

An idea for Refanah when a similar effort in Canada sent a relative suffering from breast cancer on holiday. With many hotel rooms and guest houses in Israel going unused at times, why not use them for “healing holidays” so patients and their families can enjoy restorative time? The response to her initial outreach to owners was overwhelmingly positive and Refanah was born. Patients pay a nominal fee and can choose from a variety of donated locations. More than 2,000 families struggling with a cancer diagnosis have enjoyed a break since the work began five years ago.

GPF Impact: Our funds provide general support.

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Keren Tovu-Gemel searched for a way “to do something meaningful to expand the circle of giving for those of limited means.” She began to fulfill her mission when she founded Ruach Dromit (“Southern Wind” in Hebrew). Now, thousands of cancer patients living in the remote Negev have access to alternative therapies that, research shows, can reduce the physical, emotional, and even economic stress that come with a cancer diagnosis.

The only center of its kind in the Negev, Ruach Dromit, in conjunction with conventional hospitals, offers patients, including the homebound, personalized treatment and support. Services include massage, reflexology, acupuncture, holistic psychotherapy, nutrition counseling, work-shops, and more — for free, or a nominal fee. A thankful client says it best: “For the first time in my life, I feel a sense of support and understanding … You came twice a week and compassionately gave me healing, energetic massages which helped to calm and physically strengthen me in overcoming my illness.”

GPF Impact: Since most therapists are volunteers, our funds help underwrite minimal administrative expenses.

For Jewish couples facing infertility, Yesh Tikva — Hebrew for “There is Hope” — is synonymous with “you are not alone.” Having both faced their own infertility issues, Gila Block and Eile Salomon created more than an organization. It is a caring community that provides resources and support when hope is all but lost. As one grateful Yesh Tikva participant noted, “My infertility was painfully isolating; Yesh Tikva provided me with a community of peers experiencing infertility.”

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Yesh Tikva provides support groups, webinars, and a book store available through their website, in addition to events such as their nationwide Infertility Awareness Shabbat. It also offers the unique opportunity to book an “InfertiTEA.” All these resources help to end the silence and loneliness that often accompany infertility and give clients the tools and strength to carry on.

GPF Impact: Our funds have made possible new workshops on the East Coast.

Kids listening to Mozart? This might seem like an unlikely scenario, but through Shelter Music Boston’s programs in homeless shelters this is not an unusual sight. The music of Mozart and other classical (and even some more contemporary composers) lies at the heart of Julie Leven’s program that presents almost 100 concerts each year in homeless shelters and recovery centers throughout Boston and its immediate suburbs.

The music is performed by classical musicians who might also play in Boston Symphony Hall. It brings hope and inspiration to people who have lost both through addiction, poor health, economic reversals and more. It is not unusual for shelter guests to proclaim, “When you play, I know it ain’t over; the music gives me hope. Your playing makes me feel alive.” What better outcome could we wish for?

GPF Impact: Our funds support an after-school arts program that offers music education for youth in危地马 State.

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GPF Impact: Our funds have made possible new workshops on the East Coast.
UPLIFTING LIVES, ONE AT A TIME

Special Individual Needs 199,386

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Safe and Respectful Workplace Training 60,626

PROVIDING FOR ESSENTIAL NEEDS

Family-to-Family 10,000
Gabriel Project Mumbai 5,000
Hope and Comfort 8,000
Keren Segulat Naomi 2,800
Sundara 5,500
Sunday Friends 7,500
**Ten Gav 44,820
**The Forgotten People Fund 57,326

CULTIVATING FOOD FOR GOOD

Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges 5,838
**Necha Malka 52,672
**Pesia’s Kitchen 151,012
**Project Kruvit 45,360
Robin Food 7,000
Second Helpings Atlanta 22,000
Swipe Out Hunger 5,000
The Bagel Brigade 5,000
The Food Project 2,400
Village Harvest 6,000
Youngstown Community Food Center 4,996
Zehava and Karyn-Feeding the Neighbors 4,300

GIVING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY TO DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

**Ani Shlishi 132,172
*Beit Berl 36,000
*Big Brothers, Big Sisters Israel 56,000
Boston Youth Wrestling 10,000
Breaking the Chain Through Education 3,500
Caravan to Class 5,000
Connections 10,000
Creating Connected Communities 14,000
*Haparvarim 18,000
Helping Kids on Israel’s Southern Border 9,500
Just Imagine 10,000
*Kaima 223,049
Kaima Be’erotayim 5,300
**Kaima Huluk 25,000
Leveling the Playing Field 7,000
Magen 5,400
Make Music NOLA 10,000
*S.A.H.I 15,400

MAINTAINING DIGNITY FOR OUR ELDERS

In Their Shoes 3,385
LilY-Lifeforce in Later Years 9,000
Music & Memory Israel 19,566
Music Mends Minds 10,000
Survivor Mitzvah Project 10,000

WELCOMING REFUGEES

ATZUM 8,300
Emma’s Torch 15,000
Firestarter Group 7,450
Hello Neighbor 10,000
International Neighbors 10,000
**Kuchinate 23,400
Plant it Forward 7,500
**Tzimaon 25,000

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Achla 6,500
**Inbar 24,000
**Shai Asher 15,571
*Shalheveth 12,300
Shutaf 7,000
SPIRIT Club Foundation 5,000

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

**Ba’asher Telchi 16,500
I Support the Girls 5,000
JGirls Magazine 6,500
*Kaima Nahalal 18,000
Moyo International 3,000
**Nivcharot 18,400
Unchained At Last 7,500
Witness to Mass Incarceration 4,000
Yotsrot-Turning the Tables 14,500

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Envision Kindness 10,000
FEAST (formerly Groceryships) 9,000
**INTRA-Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association 101,646
**Jeremy’s Circle 20,864
Refanah Healing Holidays 4,350
Road to Recovery 9,000
Ruach Dromit – (Center for Alternative Treatment for Cancer) 4,500
SAHAR 4,500
Shelter Music Boston 7,500
Yesh Tikva 5,000

LENDING COMFORT TO MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

* A Package From Home 9,682
*Tzvika Levy and the Lone Soldiers Program 7,536

*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, 2018 to June 30, 2019

## Support and Revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>2,100,285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>673</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,100,958</td>
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</table>

## Grants:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Management and General</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
<td>1,866,488</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,866,488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenses:

**Total expenses**: 136,025 | 44,537 | 43,797 | 224,359

**Total grants and expenses**: 2,002,513 | 44,537 | 43,797 | 2,090,847

### Change in Net Assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets at July 1, 2018</td>
<td>251,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets at June 30, 2019</strong></td>
<td>261,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* * these costs are underwritten by specific donations made available for that purpose *
One good deed leads to another