

Annual Report 2020

**“Good people say little  
and do much.”**

PIRKEI AVOT 1.15

the **goodpeople** fund  
מעשים טובים





## Vision, Kindness and Obligation...

It's challenging enough in any year to convey the deep impact that The Good People Fund, with your friendship and support, makes in lives and communities around the world. In 2020, as a pandemic rages around us – with its human, economic and social costs – that challenge is immensely greater and more pressing.

As I was starting to compose this message, I came an email from one of our connections in New Orleans, a pediatric palliative care physician writing to see if we could help make possible the funeral for a young boy who had just died. His mother lost her modest income when COVID hit, and by June, her bright-eyed five-year-old son was suddenly diagnosed with a fast-developing lung disease that could be stopped only with an immediate lung transplant.

Little Jamie never received that transplant, and in the end all that his mother could offer was a hand to hold and the warmth of her body and words as he struggled to breathe. A generous and compassionate donor partnered with us to give Jamie and his family the menschlich funeral he deserved.

Within the pandemic and related news each day are enormous numbers – *over one million* people worldwide have lost their lives, *hundreds of thousands* of people hospitalized, *millions* of individuals and families who have suffered loss, hunger, economic ruin, isolation, and more. But lost in those numbers are real people – children like Jamie, and his mom – who have suffered, who have died, who have been left disabled and traumatized.

We are an organization that since its founding hasn't for one day looked away from the faces behind the numbers. That imperative to ease the burdens, struggles and challenges of our neighbors is hard wired into our mission, and into all of us who are part of The Good People Fund family – our visionaries making change on the ground with passion and selflessness, our supporters who make it possible with friendship and generosity, and our board members and staff who bring commitment and focus to the work.

The theme of our 2020 Annual Report is "Good People Say Little and Do Much," a truism taken directly from Pirkei Avot, the ethical teachings and maxims from Rabbinic Jewish

tradition. I believe it reflects our collective so accurately and deeply, and as you go through the pages that follow, you will see it expressed in the quiet words of our partners and in the powerful descriptions and images of their impact. They are all, in their own way – and as we call them here – **nourishers, providers, upstanders, empowerers, care givers, listeners, guides, and healers** in a world that especially now wants and needs more of them.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge that but for the trust you place in us, there would be no impact. In January of 2008, when The Good People Fund board first met, there was immediate consensus that we would hold ourselves out as the *dugma*, or "role model," for transparent nonprofit management. As a funder and coach to more than 70 other modest organizations that rely on us for financial support and also mentoring, holding ourselves to the highest standards is essential.

This year, we received our fifth consecutive 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator, a premier philanthropic watchdog group. The rating is one that only 16 percent of evaluated charities has received, and in their words indicates "that Good People Fund outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets The Good People Fund apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness ..." We could not be prouder of this distinction, and we forever remain committed to transparency and proper oversight.

My hope is that after reading our 2020 Annual Report, you will be uplifted by the vision, kindness and obligation conveyed and practiced by our partners throughout the United States, Israel and elsewhere, at a time when Good People are essential to the positive impact and change that the world so desperately needs and deserves.


B'Shalom,

*Naomi*

Naomi K. Eisenberger,  
Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Cheshvan 5781 / November 2020



Your support is what makes all of this possible – thank you!

 This symbol means we've done a podcast interview with one of our amazing Good People. To listen to the **Good People Talk podcast series**, go to [www.goodpeoplefund.org](http://www.goodpeoplefund.org) and click on the Media tab.

[naomi@goodpeoplefund.org](mailto:naomi@goodpeoplefund.org)  
(973) 761-0580

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## Together, Rising to the Challenges of COVID-19

At The Good People Fund, our structure enables us – and our values-driven mission fuels and compels us – to address human and societal needs emerging in the moment.

As the age of COVID-19 dawned – and as we as individuals, families and communities confronted recalibrations and challenges none of us could have imagined – GPF went into rapid-response mode to alleviate hardships and uplift those immeasurably and severely impacted by a sudden new reality.

From frontline workers to the newly unemployed, from the chronically hungry to families facing eviction, GPF lends its resources, expertise and network of Good People – and its soul – to fill voids with material and emotional sustenance as we navigate through the pandemic.

**We've accelerated our support and reduced burdens on our grantees.** Our 70-plus grantees are making immense strides in their communities and spheres in response to COVID-19. We've helped them by maintaining

our funding and in some cases making special grants so they can preserve and expand reach.

As one example, our grant to Spirit Club Foundation outfitted dozens of people with physical and developmental challenges with tablets so they can participate virtually in critically important exercise training programs and maintain community.

**We've partnered with our grantees to go further faster.** Building new synergies with some of our grantees has created pumped-up channels of help to those who need it.

Among many ways we've done so, we joined with our grantee For Good PGH to provide mental health services and food gift cards to people of low income in its service area near Pittsburgh. On the other side of the state, we injected a substantial supply of soap and diapers into Mitzvah Circle Foundation's distribution network to reach people with scarce means to ensure they can practice proper hygiene and protect their health. And in Israel, we enhanced the coronavirus relief fund of our grantee, Ten Gav, to help pay for food, housing and essentials for those facing pandemic-related hardship.

**We've expanded our networks to reveal needs that might go unaddressed.**

GPF often relies on our grantees and other partners to point us toward undetected needs that we're positioned to meet with little bureaucracy, and during the pandemic that network is activated and growing.

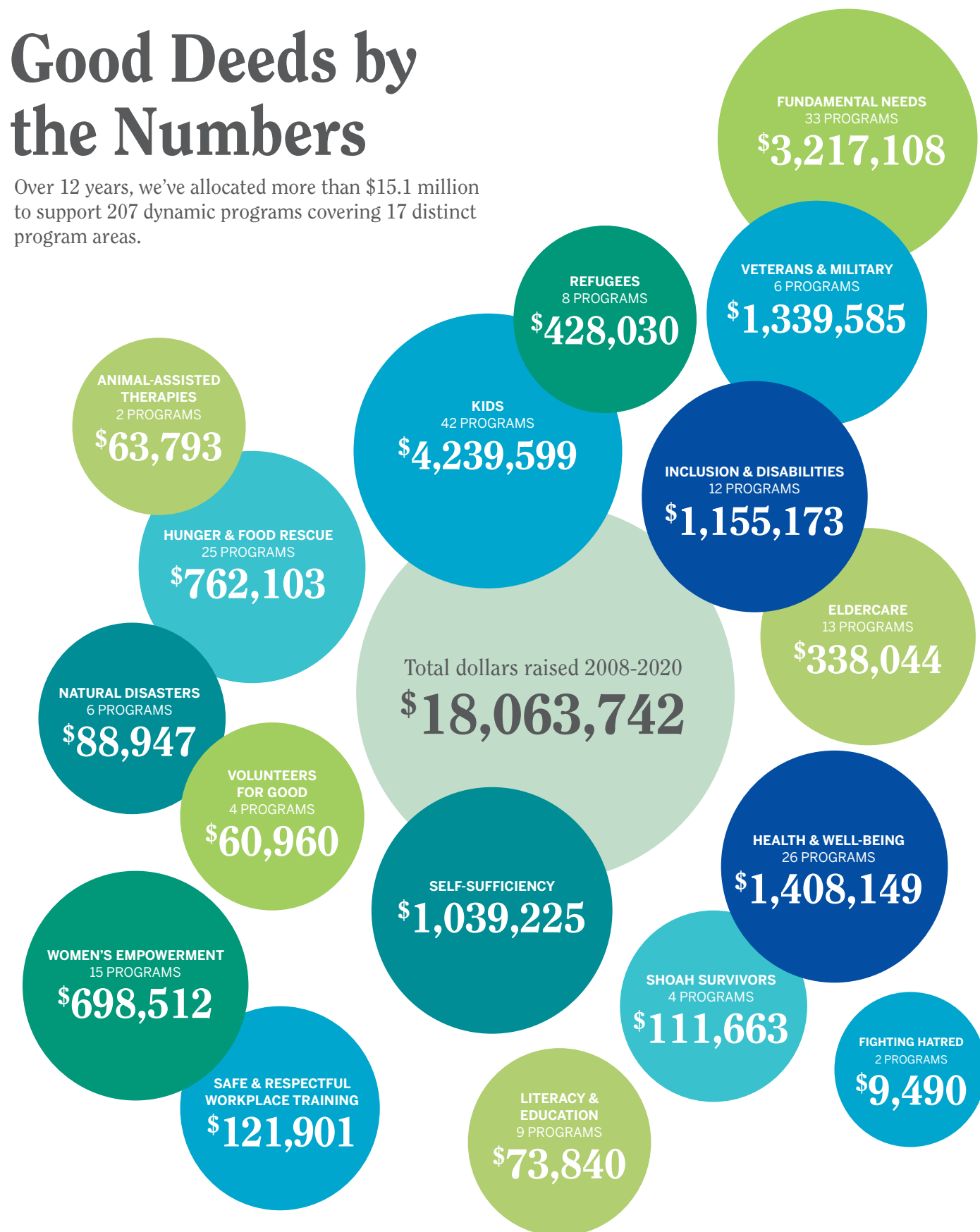
For instance, we've shipped food gift cards to families at a breaking point, affected by COVID-19 at the same time a child is in medically fragile condition at children's hospitals in New Orleans and Philadelphia. We also sent food to frontline workers at medical centers to provide them with sustenance and show our appreciation for them and their lifesaving work.

GPF occupies a singular space on the philanthropic spectrum. Our size, reach and nimbleness allow us to remain close to the ground and discover vulnerable and underserved populations and communities. That unique lens is critical now, as the pandemic and its economic and social fallout reveal more and more individuals and families at risk, suffering and without safety nets.

With your support, GPF is addressing existing and emerging needs during this unprecedented time. Visit [www.goodpeoplefund.org](http://www.goodpeoplefund.org) to see how we are helping, together.

# Good Deeds by the Numbers

Over 12 years, we've allocated more than \$15.1 million to support 207 dynamic programs covering 17 distinct program areas.



# Allocations/Index

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PG	GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PG
ACHLA	\$10,000	24	Magen	\$10,000	23
Ani Shlishi <span>△</span>	\$346,201	21	Make Music NOLA	\$7,500	23
ATZUM	\$5,000	31	*MARVA	\$9,500	18
Ba'asher Telchi <span>△</span>	\$25,350	16	Mitzvah Circle Foundation	\$24,318	14
The Bagel Brigade	\$5,000		Music & Memory Israel <span>▲</span>	\$1,000	
Beit Berl <span>▲</span>	\$20,000		Music Mends Minds	\$10,000	37
Big Brothers, Big Sisters Israel <span>▲</span>	\$62,350		Necha Malka <span>△</span>	\$15,372	10
Boston Youth Wrestling	\$10,165	22	Nivcharot <span>△</span>	\$22,500	18
Breaking the Chain Through Education	\$3,221	22	One Can Help	\$10,000	12
Caravan to Class	\$6,000	22	A Package from Home <span>▲</span>	\$10,405	
*City Strings	\$5,000	22	Pesia's Kitchen <span>△</span>	\$166,110	10
Connections	\$10,000	29	*Pittsburgh Interfaith Evolutions	\$3,500	18
*COVID-19	\$78,121	4	Plant it Forward	\$7,500	33
Creating Connected Communities	\$7,500	29	Project Kruvit <span>△</span>	\$31,700	11
*Detroit Horse Power	\$10,000	35	Puerto Rico Lit	\$4,935	14
Emma's Torch	\$10,000	32	Road to Recovery	\$22,000	37
Envision Kindness	\$7,500	36	S.A.H.I. <span>▲</span>	\$15,050	
Family-to-Family	\$10,000	13	SAHAR	\$9,507	34
FEAST	\$11,000	9	Second Helpings Atlanta	\$10,000	11
Firestarter Group	\$10,000	32	Shai Asher <span>△</span>	\$53,372	26
The Food Project	\$10,100	9	Shalhevet <span>▲</span>	\$18,450	
*For Good PGH	\$4,140	8	Shelter Music Boston	\$10,000	27
The Forgotten People Fund <span>△</span>	\$57,656	25	Shutaf <span>△</span>	\$32,075	27
Gabriel Project Mumbai	\$5,700	26	SPIRIT Club Foundation	\$7,500	37
*Heart 2 Hart Detroit	\$5,000	28	Survivor Mitzvah Project	\$12,000	27
Hello Neighbor	\$15,000	31	Swipe Out Hunger	\$5,000	19
Helping Kids on Israel's Southern Border	\$6,750		Ta'amod <span>△</span>	\$30,253	
Hope and Comfort	\$6,500	13	Ten Gav <span>△</span>	\$115,600	14
I Support the Girls	\$15,000	17	*Tribe Talk Connection	\$5,990	19
Inbar <span>△</span>	\$21,724	32	Tzimaon <span>▲</span>	\$25,000	
International Neighbors	\$10,294	33	Unchained At Last	\$10,000	19
INTRA-Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association <span>△</span>	\$75,030	36	Uplifting Lives One at a Time	\$106,834	7
Jeremy's Circle <span>△</span>	\$30,494	36	Village Harvest	\$5,000	15
jGirls Magazine	\$11,173	17	*The Warehouse NJ	\$5,000	15
Just Imagine	\$10,000	33	Witness to Mass Incarceration	\$13,125	19
Kaima <span>▲</span>	\$234,304		Yesh Tikva	\$10,000	37
Kaima Hukuk <span>△</span>	\$14,325	23	Yotsrot	\$22,100	23
Kaima Nahalal <span>△</span>	\$24,519	21	Youngstown Community Food Center	\$2,603	
Keren Segulat Naomi <span>▲</span>	\$2,000		Zehava and Karyn-Feeding the Neighbors	\$2,600	10
Kuchinate <span>△</span>	\$23,205	33			
Leveling the Playing Field	\$7,500	13			
LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years	\$15,000	29			

△ A portion of this grant was donor-recommended  
▲ All of this grant was donor-recommended  
\* New program



## UPLIFTING LIVES, ONE AT A TIME ISR & USA

### Helping Quietly and with Compassion When There's Nowhere to Turn

The gift cards you gave us help us a lot. We only ate out of a can before but now we can eat fresh vegetables and we even bought chicken. We don't eat this way without your help. Thank you so much."

Life for Janet and her husband has never been easy. The couple, both in their 60's, has endured job losses and Janet's cancer diagnosis more than 25 years ago. Now, her cancer has returned. Other serious health issues have required hospitalizations. While trying to cover the high co-pays for

medication, they find themselves unable to pay their bills. Uncomfortable with asking for help, Janet insisted that she could manage, but was grateful to have gift cards that she could use for food and medications.

There are so many people like Janet – far too many to count. Some may be single moms, victims of domestic violence, now raising children with few resources available. Others are students who have left their ultra-Orthodox community, trying to pursue an education with no family to support them. Sadly, there are also Holocaust survivors (and some in the Second Generation) who, despite the plethora of organizations dedicated to their welfare, need help paying rent, health insurance premiums or food for a simple holiday celebration.

Our family of Good People often makes us aware of people in severe hardship, and if we can help, we will.



# Nourisher.

Feeding body and soul.

FOR GOOD PGH USA

## Providing for Underserved People in Greater Pittsburgh

**B**raddock was once a thriving community in the heart of Pennsylvania's steel industry. Today, this Pittsburgh suburb has fewer than 3,000 residents, most living well under federal poverty guidelines. **Gisele Fetterman** and **Kristen Michaels** have made it their business to promote good throughout their community, proving daily the rewards that brings.

For Gisele, who arrived in the United States from Brazil as an undocumented immigrant with her mother and brother, life experiences are what guide her passion to help others. Kristen brings a background in public policy and management to all of For Good PGH's work. Both share a profound desire "to create a more inclusive and just community." Together, they have created an organization that does just that.

Free Store 15104 is an integral part of For Good's programming. Brightly painted shipping containers provide residents with clothing, food, housewares, diapers and formula, much of it donated directly by manufacturers and local businesses. The sign posted outside the structures indicate exactly what drives the program: (1) Be kind (2) Take only what you need (3) Pay it forward.

The Hollander Project, begun in 2018, is housed in what was once Hollander Pharmacy. Today, the building is a co-working space for local entrepreneurial women, and also the site of community events and wellness initiatives. Additional programs address gun violence and the needs of foster kids, and offer coding classes for girls and create green spaces.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite repairs to the Free Store 15104 trailers.



FEAST USA

## Better Food Outcomes for All

Walk through the inner city, and you'll see a vastly different food landscape than across town: fewer grocery stores, more fast food places, and unhealthy choices driven by habit and limited income.

**Sam Polk** began Groceryships in 2013 to change that reality and its short- and long-term implications for individuals, families, and communities. Today, under the passionate leadership of **Dana Rizer**, this dynamic and multi-faceted program – now called FEAST – combines nutrition education and access to healthy foods and ingredients with a support group structure building social and neighborhood cohesion.



In 2019 alone, FEAST's signature Wellness Programs touched the lives of nearly 1,000 family members in Los Angeles County and NYC, and nearly 19,000 pounds of fresh produce was distributed through the FEAST network. Since the Coronavirus pandemic has revealed and exacerbated even more economic disparities, FEAST is maintaining participation virtually, and in LA County has already delivered thousands of pounds of produce and healthy meals to hundreds of low-income families.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant underwrites FEAST's food education programs in underserved communities.



# Nourisher

Alleviating Hunger  
in the Neighborhood

**NECHA MALKA ISR**  
**Feeding Hungry Families**

**ZEHAVA AND KARYN ISR**  
**Delivering Food Packages  
to Families in Need**

Out of sight in many wealthy communities are those who struggle to get by. For several years, three women living in affluent neighborhoods in and around Jerusalem – **Shira Gilor, Zehava Taub** and **Karyn Gellman** – have been quietly helping.

A chance conversation in Shira's second-hand clothing store revealed a woman struggling to feed her children.

Through their local school, Karyn and Zehava also learned of families in similar circumstances. In each case, the women took it upon themselves to act. Enlisting the help of friends and neighbors, they distribute packages of food and other essentials, along with a healthy dose of kindness and respect. Each package declares: you are not alone, someone cares.

During the pandemic, as needs have increased, neighbors continue to help neighbors as dedicated volunteers deliver food, supermarket "scrip," and compassion.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite the cost of supermarket scrip.



**PESIA'S KITCHEN ISR**  
**Rescuing Excess Food for People Who Need It**

As if collecting 350 tons of surplus food each year – and distributing it to vulnerable populations in Tel Aviv – isn't challenge enough, consider a pandemic and it's immensely tougher. Yet more critical, as economic hardships create new waves of need.

Pesia's Kitchen Co-Founders and cousins, **Gideon Ben Ami** and **Pnina Raphael**, already ensured about 1,500 people without resources and access to food received it daily – seniors, refugee children, people in shelters, and others. Since spring, that number has grown while some sources of excess food, like corporate kitchens, closed.

They adapted, creating new partnerships with grocery chains, police departments, and IDF bases to save surplus from waste. And they even opened a field kitchen producing hundreds of portions of fresh soup daily. "Food's an act of love, and it's an act of love with very tangible results," said Gideon, who hopes to collect 500 tons of surplus food next year, providing a million meals annually for nearly 3,000 people.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite the organization's modest administrative expenses.



**PROJECT KRUVIT ISR**  
**Providing Holiday Meals for a Crowd**

As a teen, **Dr. Ravit Hilleli** was acutely aware of people who did not have enough to eat, especially around the holidays. So she and her sister began preparing and delivering meals to a few families. She just wanted to "help feed people who cannot feed themselves."

Each year they prepared for a few more people and now her organization, Project Kruvit, brings thousands of volunteers together – for Rosh Hashanah, Pesach and Shavuot – to prepare meals that will nourish more than 8,000 Israelis, including elders, Holocaust survivors, and families with children in the hospital.

The pandemic has impacted Project Kruvit's mission at a time when hunger insecurity is growing exponentially. With restrictions in place, the usual two-day marathon of meal preparation has been curtailed. While there is less cooking and different delivery metrics, they still reach two-thirds of those who have come to depend on their generosity.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help cover the cost of meal preparation.



**SECOND HELPINGS ATLANTA USA**  
**Working to End Hunger in the Atlanta Metro Area**

Several times a month, Anna fills her SUV with hundreds of pounds of surplus food in Smyrna, GA, and delivers it to a homeless shelter in downtown Atlanta. She is just one of more than 450 Second Helpings Atlanta volunteers helping to reduce both food waste and hunger in a state where one in six residents is food insecure.

SHA was started by **Guenther Hecht** as a synagogue project over 15 years ago. Today, this organization rescues 1.7 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 1.4 million meals. SHA provides the critical link between food donors, such as restaurants and grocery stores, and partner agencies feeding thousands daily.

When the pandemic caused an unprecedented demand for food, as well as the loss of volunteers who must shelter in place, SHA developed creative systems to ensure that families still have access to the nutritious food they need.

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



# Provider.

Ensuring and delivering dignity.

## ONE CAN HELP USA

### Supporting Court-Involved Families in Massachusetts

Listening to the attorneys and social workers who have reached out to One Can Help, you quickly realize how just a modest amount of money can help a family facing a crisis. **Anne Bader-Martin**, throughout her years as an attorney in the Massachusetts juvenile court system, always wished she had resources to stave off despair and even further deterioration of the family unit.

Anne recognized that it is often poverty that brings a family to the juvenile/family court system, and keeps that family from breaking out of it. In fact, more than 80% of the families in the system live below the federal poverty level.

In 2006, she founded One Can Help, which has now provided assistance to more than 5,000 families in three main areas: school-related needs, like a laptop, tuition or fees for activities that are beyond the family's reach; housing needs, such as a security deposit, cleaning supplies, beds or past due utility bills; and basics of daily living, like transportation costs, emergency food or clothing. Meeting these most basic of needs makes One Can Help a lifeline for families.

The positive outcomes derived from OCH's work cannot be overstated. When families have what they need, everyone benefits – the family, the courts, and everyone working in the system. A recent Boston University cost-benefit analysis determined that OCH's work has saved the state and taxpayers millions of dollars, a strong endorsement for programs like this in every community and visionaries like Anne.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching funds are used for administrative expenses and COVID-19-related needs.



## FAMILY-TO-FAMILY USA A Relational Approach to Helping Those in Need

For **Pam Koner**, the tipping point came when she read a 2002 article about families in rural Pembroke, IL living in poverty, dirt floors underfoot and spare tires on the roof to keep it from flying off. "I had no idea what, but I had to take a step to change things," she said.

Pam contacted an outreach worker who connected her with a family in need there, and she sent food and supply packages. And so a relationship-based model pairing families with "more" with families with "less" was born, growing into Family-to-Family.

The storefront operation now reaches into 36 communities across the country, helping 600+ families — about 3,000 moms, dads and kids — as well as struggling veterans and Holocaust survivors. That reach grows this year, as Family-to-Family and its community partners respond to the onslaught of pandemic-related needs. "I didn't choose it; it chose me," Pam says of her work.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant supports general operating expenses.

## HOPE AND COMFORT USA Providing Hygiene Products for Dignity and Good Health

**Jeff and Loren Feingold** could not have predicted that asking guests to bring children's items to donate, in lieu of gifts, to their daughter's birthday party would result in the distribution of over 800,000 personal hygiene products to people in need.

Hope and Comfort has done just that. Begun in 2010 in the Feingolds' garage — and now operating out of a warehouse — the soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo they distribute improve health and self-esteem, especially for children and

young adults. Partnering with pantries, schools and larger organizations in the Greater Boston area expands their reach even further.

Considered an essential business during the pandemic, Hope and Comfort continues to provide access to these items (not covered by SNAP benefits), when handwashing and hygiene are more important than ever. In addition, volunteering continues from home through virtual product drives, "cabinet cleanout" challenges and creating cheerful cards for school-age recipients.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used to purchase personal hygiene products.

## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD USA Ensuring Access to Sports

Scatter bins around town, ask people to bring used and unwanted sports equipment, watch what happens. It's what **Max Levitt** did to put baseball bats, footballs, hockey sticks, and more in the hands of underprivileged kids.

So grew Leveling the Playing Field, founded by Max in 2013 to close economically driven gaps in sports participation. Those bins are now two warehouses in the DC-Baltimore area and LPF has collected and distributed an estimated \$5 million worth of donated items to about 800 under-resourced schools and youth sports programs.

Since spring, as COVID-19 closed schools and halted youth sports programs, Max and his team began creating and distributing "sports kits" with new and used physical education equipment so kids who are disadvantaged can participate in virtual sports initiatives; about 5,000 kits will be distributed by the end of 2020. "Nothing will stop us," Max says.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant helps to cover the cost of pandemic "sports kits" and administrative expenses.



# Provider



## MITZVAH CIRCLE FOUNDATION USA Providing for People Walking Along Life's Edge 🕊

Twenty miles southeast of Philadelphia is a warehouse stacked floor to ceiling with diapers, clothing, books, hygiene products and other essentials most of us take for granted. More than a physical warehouse, Mitzvah Circle – founded in 2009 by **Fran Held** – is a community of care, providing for the basic needs of those in danger of falling through the social safety net.

Fran's empathy, echoed by hundreds of monthly volunteers, is palpable. Of their clients, she says, "I believe that we owe them that extra effort because they're doing the best they can do, and we want to do our best for them. We treat every person we serve as family."

Moving to a new location just as COVID-19 hit, and hampered by new restrictions, Mitzvah Circle continues to

help those most affected by the pandemic by, for example, distributing gift cards for groceries and arranging contactless delivery of care packages.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite salaries for some of the organization's part-time staff.

## PUERTO RICO LIT USA Responding to Essential Needs After Disaster Strikes 🕊

In the days after Hurricane Maria, which ravaged Puerto Rico in 2017, **Erika Vélez** couldn't ignore the pleas. Watching an interview with one distraught woman with no access to food and supplies, Erika realized – in her own words – "What am I doing? I'm supposed to be helping."

With the help of social media, she soon had a garage full of critical items that she and other volunteers delivered to residents in hard-hit areas of the island. And so Puerto Rico Lit was born, filling the voids of official assistance by

securing and distributing everything from mosquito netting and nebulizers, to building materials, food, and appliances – much made possible with GPF support.

The work of Puerto Rico Lit has grown even more essential as natural disasters – including the wave of earthquakes beginning in late 2019 and still continuing, and the coronavirus pandemic – create new and unforeseen human needs.

**GPF Impact:** Our support allows for the purchase of many of the essential items distributed to residents in need.

## TEN GAV ISR Crowdfunding for Good

It started during the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2014, when human needs in southern Israel were overwhelming. **Naomi Brounstein** and **Vivi Mann** – two North Americans who'd made aliyah in the '90s – raised money so kids could attend summer camps and take part in other safe activities.

Ten Gav (a Hebrew idiom suggesting "covering someone's back") grew into a vibrant crowd funding web platform matching donors with Israeli families and individuals facing hardship, with needs as varied as tuition aid for a promising student, to a bed for an elderly couple.

Cases come through a network of social workers throughout Israel, and special channels exist for donors wanting to lift at-risk youth, help struggling single mothers and young women, or support individuals and families greatly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"There are vast needs not being met, and this is our way of making a difference," Naomi says.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite some administrative expenses.

## VILLAGE HARVEST USA Sharing Abundant Produce and Building Community

"If there's color on it, pick it ... it would go to waste if we weren't here," one volunteer said. So it is that **Craig Diserens**, Executive Director of Village Harvest, and his corps of volunteers fan out annually to 500+ San Francisco Bay Area backyards and small orchards, harvesting fruit trees so local food agencies can feed people in need.

In 2019 alone, over a thousand volunteers rescued 227,230 pounds of fruit – apricots, pears, apples, oranges, lemons and more – provided to 75,000 people without what most of us take for granted: basic, nourishing produce.

Craig is reducing the number of

volunteers at harvesting sites in 2020 to ensure safety, but remains laser-focused on building community, providing healthy food, and educating. "Every community should have a Village Harvest," he said. "What abundance they tap into may vary, but the sense of community and doing good is the same."

**GPF Impact:** Our funds support Village Harvest's orchard gleaning project.

## THE WAREHOUSE NJ USA Helping Formerly Homeless People Settle into New Homes

**NEW** Dignity is hard to maintain when you're homeless and living in a shelter or your car. For **Kim Sleeman**, founder of The Warehouse NJ, it was that sense of dignity that inspired her

to begin collecting furniture, household goods, and decorative accessories for individuals and families receiving vouchers for Section 8 housing and the chance to begin a new life.

In today's "disposable" society, Kim can *quickly* amass a furniture store's worth of previously owned, yet perfectly good items, with which she decorates these new homes. Volunteers of all ages are indispensable to Kim's operation as they deliver and put in place an apartment's worth of furniture. "Witnessing the joy, amazement and wonder on each of our clients' faces the day they see their new furnished home has been life changing for me," Kim says.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching grant provides for modest operating expenses including storage and truck rentals.





# Upstander.

Facing down injustices.

BA'ASHER TELCHI ISR

## After Divorce or Separation, Support for Haredi Women

She was 28, the mother of three young children. Then her husband walked out, and the ostracism began. “In a split second, my status changed from being a well-appreciated member of my Haredi society. I became the invisible woman, the woman you don’t speak with, but speak about, the one who destroys families, says **Fainy Sukenik**.

“I was the sin itself, entering this horrifying world of separated and divorced Orthodox Jewish women,” she added, describing a structure of life collapsing around her, even threatening her job and her rights to her children.

Fainy founded Ba’asher Telchi (“wherever you go,” from the Book of Ruth), and from trauma was born hope and change. On one level, it’s a community of emotional support and mutual understanding for religious and ultra-Orthodox women separated, divorced, or otherwise experiencing family breakdown.

On another, it’s a destination for counseling on coping techniques, dealing with welfare agencies, receiving financial assistance for education or retraining, finding accepting work environments, and connecting to legal help.

And critically, it’s a platform for Fainy’s advocacy, and her drive to give voice to a community of women, their rights and dignity. “No woman should walk alone in this way,” Fainy says. “This is the way of Judaism. When you see someone in need, you step in and you do whatever you can to help.”

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used to underwrite some of the costs associated with the publication of the only book on divorce geared to children in the ultra-Orthodox community.



## I SUPPORT THE GIRLS USA Essentials for Homeless and Low-Income Women

Five years ago, a simple request on Facebook seeking donations of bras and feminine hygiene products flooded **Dana Marlowe**’s home with thousands of items and gave birth to I Support the Girls. Today, ISTG and its national and international affiliates have collected and distributed more than 700,000 bras and 7 million menstrual products – essential items – to women and girls who may be homeless, live below the poverty line or are fleeing domestic violence.

“Donating these items has such a positive impact on the lives of so many; the most inspiring moments happen when I’m meeting the recipients, and those are the moments that propel me to do more,” says Dana, now known as “The Bra Fairy.”

And as periods don’t stop for pandemics, ISTG has seen a 35% increase in demand for products, pushing this small organization into overdrive as they bring comfort and dignity to those who need it most.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite administrative expenses.

## jGIRLS MAGAZINE USA For Jewish Teenage Girls, a Place to Be Heard

Flip through the online pages of jGirls Magazine, and you’ll see forms of expression – fiction, nonfiction, poetry, music, art, photography, and more – magnifying a full spectrum of compelling themes, from self-identity to social pressures to protest. The common denominator? It’s all been created and curated by Jewish girls and young women, ages 13 to 19.

**Elizabeth Mandel**, a documentary filmmaker, writer and community activist working in the social justice, gender equity and Jewish communal spaces, founded jGirls just four years ago. Since then, it’s made deep impact doing exactly



# Upstander

as she intended: moving to end the marginalization of a generation of Jewish girls and young women by giving them voice and validation, and the confidence to become leaders wherever they choose.

"I envisioned a project that told girls, we want you, we value your voices, we believe in what you have to say, you matter," Elizabeth says.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant covers administrative expenses.

## MARVA ISR

### Providing for the Welfare and Rights of Vulnerable Israelis

NEW

As Leora aged, she tried to maintain her independence despite financial difficulties created by unscrupulous relatives taking advantage of her frailty. When the local social worker became involved, the more traditional solution would have been to appoint a guardian to oversee Leora's every move, depriving her of independence and respect. Instead, the social worker reached out to representatives from MARVA, who suggested a trained volunteer to help Leora make proper decisions and regain control over her life.

This is a scenario that the founders of MARVA, led by **Dr. Michal Wosner** – and now its director, **Dr. Mickey Schindler** – envisioned when they started the organization five years ago. For vulnerable people with physical or mental illness, or those facing the challenges of aging, MARVA's holistic approach combines legal solutions with welfare and therapeutic services to offer dignity and a better quality of life.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are directed to general operating expenses.

## NIVCHAROT ISR

### Giving Voice and Representation to Haredi Women

Everything about **Esty Shushan**, founder of Nivcharot, is a paradox. Her activism and drive for equity and fairness are clearly in conflict with her Haredi roots and current religious practice. Yet, she continues to be a driving force for change within Israeli society.

Her 2012 social media campaign addressed the lack of representation of women in religious parties, and by 2015 she had formed Nivcharot (loosely translated as No Voice-No Vote) to redress that inequity. Despite the personal price she often pays to create these changes, Esty continues her work, accompanied by other women seeking the same goals.

Nivcharot's leadership courses have inspired dozens of women to become involved in advocacy and achieving equal representation. This past year, as certain Israeli policies have changed, women are now being trained to sit on municipal religious councils – a major achievement in a society where such ideas have been verboten.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help underwrite a two-day women's leadership conference.

## PITTSBURGH INTERFAITH EVOLUTION/2 FOR SEDER USA

### Building Bridges to Fight Anti-Semitism

NEW

On Shabbat morning, October 27, 2018, an anti-Semitic extremist walked into a Pittsburgh synagogue and killed eleven people, including Joyce Fienberg, a beloved member of the congregation.

Joyce's daughter-in-law, **Marnie Fienberg**, vowed to combat the violence, hatred and anti-Semitism that inspired



this tragedy. She and her friend **Lauren Kline** began The Pittsburgh Interfaith Evolution Corporation to build bridges of understanding between people of different faiths. PIE's signature program, 2 for Seder, encourages Jews to invite two guests who have never attended a seder to join them, learn about Judaism, and thereby gain greater understanding and mutual respect. The 2019 pilot program included participants from across the US and Canada.

With the arrival of COVID-19, the original 2 for Seder format was no longer possible, but PIE lost no time developing podcasts and weekly newsletters that address other innovative ways to combat anti-Semitism.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used to underwrite website and technology costs.

## SWIPE OUT HUNGER USA

### Ending Hunger on College Campuses

It began as a project by compassionate UCLA students who realized that the unused points remaining on their meal plans could help fellow students struggling to provide themselves with sufficient food while also paying for tuition, books and more. In fact, one out of three college students on US campuses struggles with food insecurity.

**Rachel Sumekh**, one of that original group of creative thinkers, has taken this small project and turned it into a successful national organization now found on more than 120 college campuses. At the same time, the group has been at the forefront of raising awareness of hunger on campus.

During the pandemic, when hunger is an even greater issue, trained student "navigators" direct collegians in need to existing federal programs so they can access food – an approach that is creative, respectful and student led.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used towards the costs of new technology for operations.

## TRIBE TALK CONNECTION USA

### Preparing for Jewish Life on Campus

NEW

**Jude Sydney, Michelle Black** and **Robin Friedman** provided their kids with a rich Jewish education and a strong Jewish identity. As each teen explored college options, it became clear that despite this foundation, they were woefully unprepared for what it means to be Jewish on a college campus today. As anti-Semitism grows throughout the world, many campuses have become microcosms of the very same virulence and intolerance – an increase of 86% of anti-Semitic incidents over the past two years alone, according to the ADL.

This dynamic trio developed a comprehensive internet-based program that aggregates resources, partners with existing organizations, uses campus-specific ratings and student views, and includes a strong Israel education component developed by experts.

As the program grows, the founders hope that when deciding which college to attend, students will "Know Before They Go" and equip them to address anti-Semitism on campus.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite start-up expenses including podcast production and website design and management.

## UNCHAINED AT LAST USA

### Ending Arranged, Forced, and Child Marriages

Forced into marriage at age 19, a violent husband, an ultra-Orthodox community that looked the other way, and a family that declared her dead as she asserted independence by going to college, seeking a career, pursuing a restraining order and finally a civil divorce.

The organization that **Fraidy Reiss** founded, Unchained at Last, was born from both trauma and empowerment that left her dedicated to ending what she calls a form of "gender violence" –

forced, arranged, and child marriage.

Through access to social and legal services, Fraidy and her team help women, girls, LGBTQ+ individuals and others – from any community, culture or religion – fleeing from an arranged/forced marriage or resisting coercion into one. And as an activist nationally and globally, Fraidy is making eradication of these practices – more widespread than commonly known – a public policy priority, and has already been part of successful efforts to outlaw child marriage in four states.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant supports a client services director position.

## WITNESS TO MASS INCARCERATION USA

### Within and Beyond Prison, Finding Safety and Dignity

She spent two years in federal prison, including a stint in solitary confinement, and became intimate with human rights abuses raging within – from homophobia to misogyny to racism, and about everything in between. "I've no choice but to channel what I've seen and experienced into activism," says **Evie Litwok**.

The organization she founded in 2015, Witness to Mass Incarceration, uses the voices of formerly incarcerated women and LGBTQ+ individuals – and their allies – to advocate for mass incarceration alternatives, safety and dignity in correctional facilities, and successful reentry after prison.

This year, WMI began new initiatives to help those recently released from prison navigate safely through a world reframed by COVID-19, and also to ensure they're counted in the 2020 census. "The driving Jewish values we talk about don't mean anything unless we make them mean something," says Evie, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. "I hope I'm doing that."

**GPF Impact:** Our grant is used for WMI's Sexual Violence Project, and for administrative expenses.



# Empowerer.

Providing the tools to change lives.



**KAIMA NAHALAL ISR**

## Empowering Young Women through Social Experience and Agriculture 🌱

Exactly 100 years ago, Moshav Nahalal in Northern Israel was established as a working farm by a group of European settlers. At one time, the moshav maintained a women's agricultural training farm.

Kaima Nahalal uses a sustainable organic farm as a classroom to reach kids who cannot succeed in traditional classroom settings. For founder **Merav Carmi**, bringing the Kaima model to Nahalal was, in every sense, returning "home." Her grandmother met her grandfather when she was a student at that same women's agricultural school so many decades ago.

Growing up on Nahalal offered Merav a life immersed in nature and agriculture, creating for her a sense of peacefulness and calm. It was no surprise when, in 2016, Merav decided to create an all-girls program to help young women struggling in conventional educational settings – some of them victims of abuse.

The farm's CSA (community sponsored agriculture) model provides more than 100 local families with weekly deliveries of fresh produce and, at the same time, helps the girls build business skills and interpersonal relationships.

Merav's warmth and gentle demeanor, her expertise in permaculture, community building and environmental studies, combined with the camaraderie of other young women and the intense interaction with nature, have created a perfect setting for learning, self-growth and healing.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used to create a cooling room where freshly picked produce can be stored until distributed, eliminating a significant loss of crops.

**ANI SHLISHI ISR**

## Giving Purpose and Hope to At-Risk Youth 🌱

As a troubled teen outside Chicago, he spent more time entangled with the law than he now cares to admit. But under the influence of his high school baseball coach, he learned a life philosophy: "First comes the greater good, the welfare of others is second, and I am Third."



"It was the idea of being a selfless, generous, kind person, with responsibility to others. His words never left me," **David Baskin** says. And now he's applying them himself: uplifting and empowering at-risk Israeli youth.

Ani Shlishi (I am Third) – which he founded with his former IDF superior and best friend, **Ilan Kedar** – collects secondhand clothes for resale at two stores, employs at-risk Israeli youth to give them marketable skills, and uses sales proceeds to fund vocational scholarships for them as they pursue positive futures with newfound promise, confidence and self-respect.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help cover stipends for at-risk youth working in the Ani Shlishi stores.



# Empowerer

## BOSTON YOUTH WRESTLING USA

### From the Mat, Preparation for Life 🇺🇸

As a boy of color growing up in Boston, **José Valenzuela** struggled with low self-esteem, underachievement in school, and lack of direction. He discovered wrestling, and found confidence, discipline, trust, and purpose.

In 2012, as a public school teacher, he founded Boston Youth Wrestling to give underserved youth in the city and surrounding areas the same benefits that he derived, and the skills and mindset for a positive life trajectory despite socio-economic challenges. José comments, "Many of them taste success for the first time here. They're hungry for opportunity on and off the mat."

Since the organization's founding, José and his cadre of coaches and mentors have reached over 3,500 youth who otherwise wouldn't have access to the sport and its potential to change their lives. "Wrestling has given me so much and I want to give it back to my community," he says.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant supports summer programming, redesigned with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

## CARAVAN TO CLASS USA

### Advancing Education in Timbuktu

**Barry Hoffner** founded Caravan to Class in 2010 after witnessing the dearth of educational opportunities for kids in villages around Timbuktu, Mali. Over the years, programming has expanded from school construction and repairs, and providing food and uniforms, to female literacy classes and higher education for young women.

In 2017, tragedy struck Barry's family when his wife, Jackie, died in an accident. As often happens, personal loss brought about positive change. "Bourse Jackie" provides scholarships for up to four years of university to girls graduating from Timbuktu high schools. This competitive award is granted to young women who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential and financial need, as well as kindness and compassion, an integral part of Jackie's persona. This small investment in individuals is certain to bring an enormous return for families, communities and a country.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds continue to underwrite scholarships in the "Bourse Jackie" program.

## KAIMA HUKUK ISR

### Alternative Learning through Social Experience and Agriculture

Nature is healing for mind and body. The Kaima educational model brings youth who have struggled in traditional educational settings to work on an organic farm where they create community, solve problems and learn trust. Not far from the Sea of Galilee lies Kaima Hukuk, one of the five organic farms utilizing the Kaima model. Here **Efrat Noy**, an advocate for environmental and social change, leads teens who tend the land and run a successful CSA (community supported agriculture) business, providing delicious fresh vegetables to families subscribed to the program.

Though the pandemic has forced the cancellation of tourist groups planning to visit the farm and enjoy the farm-to-table cuisine, the youth, deemed essential workers, continue their work to meet the demands of increased CSA customers.

**GPF Grant:** Our grant underwrites the cost of support staff.

## MAKE MUSIC NOLA USA

### Inspiring, Engaging and Empowering Students Through Music

Though New Orleans is synonymous with great music, lack of funding has left schools without the very music that is so ingrained in the culture. Make Music NOLA, led by **Laura Patterson**, fills this gap with tuition-free in-school and afterschool programs for qualified students. Hundreds of students ages 7-17 develop strong relationships with their talented music instructors, as well as strong bonds with their peers. Each new success and performance provides the opportunity to grow to be their best selves.

With virus restrictions in place, the MMN team carries on virtually. Lessons, workshops, a recital, and even a new curriculum manual proves that even in the midst of a global pandemic, the show (and the learning) must go on. Says a parent, "I've seen tremendous growth in Timothy and I attribute most of it to the musicians that have helped him."

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help underwrite general operating expenses.

## BREAKING THE CHAIN THROUGH EDUCATION USA

### Eradicating Child Slavery in Ghana 🇺🇸

In 2006, **Evan Robbins** read about a young boy enslaved in the fishing industry in the Lake Volta region of Ghana. As a father and teacher, he couldn't shake it off, and brought the story to his social studies students at Metuchen High School in New Jersey.

Together, they began a journey to learn about modern day slavery and do something about it. Breaking the Chain Through Education (BTCTE) grew as successive classes built community and international partnerships to raise money, increase awareness, and rescue Ghanaian children – putting them on the path toward positive futures.

BTCTE helped build a school in the area and is currently supporting 100 formerly trafficked children with food and clothing, friendship and encouragement, and family subsidies to end cycles of poverty that lead to child trafficking. "We are realizing we can change the world," Evan says.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant helps to underwrite the salary of a BTCTE employee in Ghana, and also buys school backpacks for children there.

## CITY STRINGS UNITED USA

### Bringing Music Education to Inner City Kids

**NEW** Teaching lessons, arranging student concerts, managing details and paperwork, and connecting with parents are all part of **Bithyah Israel's** hectic days as the founder and executive director of this small but impactful music program in the Boston suburb of Roxbury. Bithyah's passion for playing the cello at a young age, combined with the generosity of a professional cellist who recognized her talent and knew the cost of lessons made it unlikely she would progress, has been her driving force since she began the organization in 2012. The power of music is unquestioned, and for kids in the inner city, it can be life changing, offering them opportunities to grow and develop a sense of self-worth.

Despite the coronavirus' impact, more than twenty students are enjoying virtual training this year, and more are sure to come as City Strings grows.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching grant is directed to City Strings' modest operating expenses.

## MAGEN ISR

### Guide and Support for At-Risk Teens

Twelve years ago, a five-year-old Ethiopian boy named Tezare arrived in Israel with his family, settling in Maale Adumim. Life for Tezare was not easy. His father had abandoned the family, his mother worked as a cleaner, and Tezare had a serious stutter. Despite being an exceptional athlete, Tezare retreated into himself.

Tezare was a perfect candidate for Magen, a unique program developed by **Dr. Stu Chesner**, a clinical psychologist. Magen focuses on building in each child the skills with which he or she can succeed by emphasizing the positive, significant strides that can be made in a child's development. For Tezare, those skills included his athleticism and with the help of a sympathetic counselor he slowly gained confidence, overcame his stutter and became a star soccer player. Today, as a high school graduate, Tezare hopes to attend a preparatory military academy and eventually serve as a combat soldier in an elite unit.

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

## YOTSROT ISR

### Helping Sex Workers Change Course

She saw the soulless looks of prostitutes around Tel Aviv's Central Bus Station every day on her way to work as an online fashion editor. To **Lilach Tzur Ben Moshe**, it was an unbearable reminder not only of their loss of dignity, but also of the exploitation of women at myriad levels of society.

"Seeing with my own eyes ... it hit me in my strongest point of power as a woman. I knew I had to do something to change it."

She switched the course of her own life to help women wanting to leave prostitution change theirs. Her organization, Yotsrot (Turning the Tables) offers them vocational training in sewing, pattern making and digital marketing, a business hub to launch them onto successful paths, and importantly, a community of support.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help underwrite a part-time case manager position.



# Care Giver.

Helping the vulnerable  
and underserved.

ACHLA ISR

## Making Families Whole

After emigrating to Israel from Morocco, Ari's interactions with the well-known bureaucracies of Israel's welfare and health ministries were a disaster that left him feeling isolated and hopeless.

As someone who had spent most of his adult life housebound and reliant upon antidepressants, meeting **Johanan Flusser**, founder of ACHLA, was, quite literally, lifesaving.

When you first interact with Johanan, you immediately sense his humanity and compassion as well as his dogged spirit. ACHLA is the result of that spirit and Johanan's dream to help overcome the inevitable problems that arise in any bureaucracy. His determination to break through rigid thinking and cookie-cutter solutions has made it possible for many people, considered "hopeless cases," to have courage and resume normal lives.

For Ari, Johanan's diagnosis of a mild cognitive disability — not a mental health issue — has allowed him to leave his home, find work in a supported environment and, most important, live a better life.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help underwrite ACHLA's modest administrative costs.



## THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLE FUND ISR Helping Ethiopian Students and Families

The first Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel in 1984, yet some, together with recent arrivals, still experience social and economic hardships. **Anne and David Silverman, Wendy and Jeff Starrfield, and Aida and Yosef (z"l) Miller**, have led a group of volunteers who are dedicated to making sure the Ethiopian community in Netanya is not forgotten.

This can mean providing for emergency needs by paying for an overdue electric bill or distributing gift cards for groceries. Longer-term solutions address education-related expenses to equip young people with the necessary skills to support themselves. The list is long, but FPF's vision and commitment through scholarships and computers helps this group to succeed and excel.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant underwrites educational support for students, including monthly stipends and computers, and other emergency needs within the community.



# Care Giver

## GABRIEL PROJECT MUMBAI USA

### Providing Care in the Mumbai Slums and Beyond

The incomprehensible poverty of Mumbai's slums did not stop **Jacob Sztokman** from believing he could make a difference. His first visit as part of a business trip almost ten years ago changed not only his life, but ultimately the lives of thousands of others for the better.

Gabriel Project Mumbai's work focuses on nutrition, education, clean water, women's empowerment through microenterprises, and healthcare for those living in the slums, as well as in nearby villages. The pandemic has created even worse conditions as hunger and disease spread throughout the country.

Tribal Threads is GPM's sewing microenterprise project that teaches women how to sew and create saleable items that when sold help the women care for themselves and their families. With the enormous need for face masks, even more women have become involved in this important program.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite sewing machines and other materials for the Tribal Threads project.



## SHAI ASHER ISR

### Providing Apprenticeships to People with Special Needs

Nothing makes us happier than watching one of our young programs blossom and grow. With Shai Asher (Milton's Gift) and its passionate founder, **Menachem Stolpner**, "blossoming" and "growing" plants are all part of the plan.

Located on Kibbutz Shluchot in the beautiful but remote Bet Shean Valley, Shai Asher began eight years ago when Menachem recognized the dearth of opportunities for young people with disabilities who had "aged out" of formal programs.

In addition to opportunities to work in the kibbutz kitchen or dairy, Menachem instituted a farming program, which offers the cultivation of vegetables and herbs, including turmeric and ginger – now income-producing crops. The number of participants has grown from seven to more than 50, all of them learning skills to help them become productive and independent citizens.

Despite the financial impact of COVID-19, Shai Asher's farming continues as health requirements for outdoor activities are less stringent.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are directed to general operating support.



## SHELTER MUSIC BOSTON USA

### Classical Music as a Social Service

Eleven years ago **Julie Leven** read about a violinist performing in New York City's homeless shelters. She knew immediately that she had to bring that same transformative experience to Boston-area shelters. Enlisting the help of local professional musicians, Shelter Music Boston presents close to 100 concerts each year (and during the COVID-19 pandemic, virtually), including children's concerts in family shelters.

Beyond the music, musicians engage with their audiences, many of whom have experienced trauma, drug abuse and addiction, but are trying valiantly to get their lives back on track. As is often quoted, "music is a balm for the soul," and concerts offer dignity and hope. As Julie says, "Music is the catalyst for opportunities to look an individual in the eye and say 'I want to know what you think about this, and I am going to listen to your story.'"

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help with general administrative expenses.

## SHUTAF ISR

### Advancing Inclusion Among Israeli Youth

Look at the Shutaf website. Every description of a program for children, teens, and young adults declares it's for those "with and without disabilities."

**Miriam Avraham** and **Beth Steinberg** – mothers of children with developmental challenges – founded Shutaf ("partner") to fill the void of afterschool and summer programs for their kids. But they went further, creating a community that signals and



practices inclusion from one end of the spectrum of ability to the other, nurturing socialization, integration, compassion and a better Israeli society along the way.

Shutaf began as a summer camp with ten participants, growing to engage hundreds of children in summer, Passover and Chanukah camps, and teens and young adults in year-round activities and gatherings. As the pandemic forces smaller and more distanced meet ups, Miriam and Beth aren't missing a beat, spearheading creative Zoom experiences and a "Camp-in-a-Box," initiative that delivers boxes filled with activities for young Shutaf campers.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching funds pay for camp scholarships.

## SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT USA

### Helping Holocaust Survivors in Eastern Europe

"We can't change the past, but we can change the now."

A trip to research her family history in Eastern Europe inspired **Zane Buzby** to affect the "now" for elderly Holocaust survivors living in that region. She founded Survivor Mitzvah Project to help this last generation of survivors who were living in shocking conditions — poor health, poverty and isolation.

Kindness and compassion come not only in the form of modest financial aid, food and medicine, but also written in personal notes and, sometimes, even in-person visits. With assurance that they have not been forgotten, their smiles and letters of thanks reflect a much better "now."

Because of Zane's commitment, thousands who suffered through the darkest of times will live the rest of their lives with some dignity and comfort.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used to underwrite survivors' needs.



# Listener.

Giving voice to the unheard.

HEART 2 HART DETROIT USA

## Offering a Compassionate Hand and Heart

Jeff was typical of the homeless and destitute people who call the area around Detroit’s Hart Plaza “home.” When **Larry Oleinick** and his volunteers from Heart 2 Hart spotted him panhandling, they immediately offered him a sandwich. Jeff, in turn, asked if they had any personal hygiene products. They did.

With every sandwich Larry offered came caring and friendly conversation, slowly building a relationship. One day, Jeff was on his usual street corner but something was not right. As Jeff’s body shook uncontrollably, Larry learned that the man he had befriended was an alcoholic.

Pulling his car to the side of the road, the two continued their exchange and eventually Larry asked Jeff if he would consider going to a detox center. Jeff agreed, and from that point on, Larry and his crew remained in touch, providing the support and compassion he needed to heal. Despite setbacks, Jeff now lives in a group home, holds a job and most importantly, is sober. He admits that it was the compassion he received from Heart 2 Hart that made this all possible.

While the sandwich is important, Larry adds, “The greatest gift we offer those we assist is reassurance that they are not alone. With the 3 C’s – Conversation, Compassion and Consistency – we build relationships.”

Jeff is one of many whose life has been transformed by a connection that comes from the heart.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds underwrite general operating expenses as well as a second refrigerator that allows Larry to store donated food.



### CONNECTIONS USA

#### Mentoring At-Risk Teens to Help Them Succeed

Throughout his professional career, **Paul Muratore** interacted with many prominent people, but those conversations did not compare to the exchanges he had as a mentor to at-risk youth who were part of New York’s welfare system.

“When Toby talked about his interest in maps, we spent hours in the map room of the New York Public Library. Then, with transit maps in hand, we rode the subways, discovering routes way off the beaten path ....”

These life-changing interactions inspired Paul to start Connections, an organization that pairs volunteer mentors with teens aging out of foster care. More than 70 young men and women have benefited. Mentors provide support and stability, giving these young people a reason to feel good about themselves and their future. Over 90% of these mentees are now living in a stable and healthy environment.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are directed to minimal expenses associated with the mentoring program.

### CREATING CONNECTED COMMUNITIES USA

#### Developing Young Leaders Through Service

“You don’t have to be a certain age or have a certain level of experience to make an impact. All you have to do is be passionate, hardworking ... and care,” explains **Amy Sacks Zeide**, founder of Creating Connected Communities.

In 1995, when 12-year-old Amy used her own money to throw a holiday party for children in a homeless shelter whose gifts had been stolen, she didn’t realize the truth of those words. In Atlanta, more children live in poverty than anywhere else in this country. CCC’s

impactful programming is implemented by area teens who learn about giving back to their community through a hands-on leadership curriculum.

“Amy’s Holiday Party” remains the centerpiece of CCC’s work, but with the pandemic and racial unrest, their work has pivoted. Teens created bags of at-home activities that were distributed to participants, and the curriculum is being refreshed to reflect the realities of current racial issues.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching funds are directed to the teen’s fundraising efforts.

### LILY – LIFEFORCE IN LATER YEARS USA

#### Building Community for Isolated Seniors

For about 200 seniors – many alone and isolated in NYC’s Morningside Heights and West Harlem neighborhoods – **Irene Zola** and her corps of volunteers are vital links to community and compassion.

Irene began LiLY in 2009, recognizing that seniors aging at home are often invisible and forgotten and need visits by friendly neighbors as a matter of emotional and physical survival. LiLY volunteers spend time with seniors, escort them to doctor visits, make connections to services, get needed items, and more.

The pandemic hasn’t stopped Irene or LiLY volunteers, especially as the new reality has only increased depths of isolation for many. Zoom and socially distanced outdoor visits are now the norm, along with a new newsletter for elders, contactless food deliveries, help with Tele-Med appointments, and community partnerships to equip and train seniors with technology. “There’s a million ways for us to reach them, and we will,” Irene says.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help cover administrative expenses.



# Guide.

Navigating the way forward.



## HELLO NEIGHBOR USA

### Welcoming the Stranger

I didn't realize until much, much later (in my life) that I am deeply empathetic. Now, I know that's one of my strong suits, but when I was younger, it just meant that I felt everything around me, and had an intense desire to give back."

These words have guided **Sloane Davidson** throughout her personal and professional lives. In 2017, as divisiveness and rancor enveloped our country, Sloane created Hello Neighbor to help Pittsburgh's growing refugee population acclimate to life in their adopted country.

Local volunteers receive an intensive orientation about the refugee experience and then act as mentors, helping families from thirteen different countries learn about education, healthcare, jobs, language and more. In the process, the mentor-mentee relationships evolve into strong friendships based upon mutual respect and caring. To date, 122 families have been successfully paired.

Additional areas of focus include Smart Start, pairing expectant young mothers with peers to help them navigate this tumultuous life change, and, prior to COVID-19 restrictions, The Food Social Enterprise Program gave women the opportunity to prepare and share their native foods while earning a modest income and a sense of achievement.

In 2019, responding to the global refugee crisis, changes in US policies, and the realization that there is strength in numbers, Sloane began The Hello Neighbor Network, a consortium of nine organizations, similar to HN, working to settle refugees in their own communities across the country. In November 2019, nine inspiring women came together for a two-day conference to discuss best practices and learn from each other.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching grant is directed to the costs of The Hello Neighbor Network conference.



## ATZUM ISR

### Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue

Sit with **Rabbi Levi Lauer** and you'll understand what tzedek – justice and righteousness – looks like. ATZUM, which he founded in 2002, remedies often-hidden injustices in Israeli society and empowers individuals as agents of change.

His influence as a moral and organizational leader flies across the Israeli landscape and ATZUM's impact is significant. Over the years it has offered The Righteous Among the Nations, living and aging in Israel, companionship and basic necessities not provided by the State; assisted Israelis touched by terror attacks with financial help and resources for rehabilitation; protected refugees and asylum seekers; and through its Task Force on Human Trafficking and Prostitution, mobilized public support to successfully ban the practices.

Rabbi Lauer says his wish is that people discovering injustice will be inspired to do something about it, no matter how small. "I want them to think, if Levi Lauer can pull this off, why can't I?" he says.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help supply diapers and formula for refugee families.



# Guide

## EMMA'S TORCH USA Giving Refugees a Future Through Culinary Arts 🍳

She's admittedly impatient, so her work as a public policy/communications professional was relatively too "slo-mo" to create the impact she craved. But as a graduate of the Institute of Culinary Education, **Kerry Brodie** had her "aha" moment, risking it all to combine her foodie background and entrepreneurial spirit to address a refugee crisis that's only grown in recent years.

Emma's Torch – named after Jewish poet Emma Lazarus, whose words of welcome grace the Statue of Liberty – was born in 2016 to support refugees, asylum seekers, and human trafficking survivors by training them in the culinary arts, ESL and interviewing skills. Pre-pandemic, the acclaimed Emma's Torch restaurant in Brooklyn and its offshoot café – both staffed by students – had been labs for future, hope, and community. Nearly 100 participants have completed the program.

"Each is a unique individual with dreams," Kerry says. "We're restoring their dignity and humanity. Their optimism is inspiring."

**GPF Impact:** Our grant supports general operating expenses.

## FIRESTARTER GROUP USA Training and Job Placement for Refugees

Manuel and Yousef are representative of refugees who have found their way to Houston, home to a significant number of people fleeing war and unrest in their native countries. Manuel is a DACA recipient juggling a full college course load and two jobs. Yousef is a former Afghani translator here on a special immigrant visa, and works the nightshift

to support his five children, while at the same time attending school to improve his language skills.

Both help other refugees adjust to their new lives as part of Firestarter's Opportunity Project, which works effectively and creatively to help acclimate and educate refugees. **Yan Digilov**, Firestarter's altruistic founder, was a child when he arrived in America as one of thousands of Soviet Jews. It was the warm welcome and the sense of community that he and his family received that inspired him to begin this work and help "pay it forward."

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are used to underwrite several scholarships, including for Computer Science and ESL studies.

## INBAR ISR Giving People with Disabilities the Power to Dream 🍳

She served in the IDF, earned an MBA, and worked in the banking industry, but **Shoshi Margolin** couldn't find what she saw all around her: a significant personal relationship. That's common for people with physical challenges like Shoshi, and for those with developmental challenges too, partly due to lessened self-confidence fortified by a world that often looks away.

That changed for Shoshi after she went through a period of self-growth with a mentor, met a partner and got married. Now she leads Inbar, which offers programming and support to equip hundreds of Israelis with physical or developmental challenges with skills to build trust, confidence, and worth within the frameworks of self, family, and potential mates.

Braha Cohen is part of the Inbar community. She won't let cerebral palsy and a wheelchair temper aspiration for



a full life. "I felt too small for the world. Now I can dream and become bigger."

**GPF Impact:** Our funds make possible a mentoring program giving Inbar participants ongoing, personalized support.

## INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBORS USA Neighbors Helping Newcomers

"They give to us what money cannot buy: hope." This sentiment, voiced by a newly settled refugee in Charlottesville, VA, is the very reason **Kari Miller** founded International Neighbors. A former Peace Corps volunteer and teacher, Kari knew the unique struggles of new immigrants escaping war and persecution in their homeland.

In a city where 6% of the population is comprised of refugees, including those with an SIV (Special Immigration Visa, earned by helping US soldiers overseas), IN spreads hope in numerous ways. Hundreds of volunteer "neighbors" provide everything, from household items, help with new language and customs, and navigating healthcare to, most importantly, friendship.

While the pandemic has only amplified existing resettlement difficulties, Kari and her volunteers quickly created a contactless volunteer model, ensuring that the community's needs were met. They have truly created a welcoming and supportive circle of hope.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are directed to increased staffing.

## JUST IMAGINE USA Helping Inner City Youth Dream Big 🍳

She believed that two of her students – their childhoods tried by challenges of inner-city life in Washington, DC – would benefit from summer camp.

Having attended herself for years, **Abby Sondak** knew camp's magic and effect, and raised funds to give the two girls a carefree summer.

That fall, she saw their improved self-confidence and academic performance, and Just Imagine was born the next year as Abby, now Dean of Students at EW Stokes Community Freedom PCS in DC, was determined to give that same gift to other inner-city youth. Since 2012, it's worked with 150+ students and incorporated college-prep and life skills coaching into its dream-building community of support and empowerment.

This year, Just Imagine pivoted to camps and academic enrichment programs online, hoping in-person experiences return in 2021. "Camping was an experience I wouldn't trade; I'm passionate about giving it to others," says Abby. "There's a domino effect."

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

## KUCHINATE ISR Healing Through Creative Community

For 350+ women – asylum seekers from Africa who fled persecution and oppression, many tortured and trafficked along the way – Kuchinate is a haven of hope in South Tel Aviv.

On its face, Kuchinate ("crochet" in Tigrinya, the language of Eritrea and Northern Ethiopia) is an art collective, where these brave women create and sell baskets, poufs and rugs – now, even face masks – rooted in their African culture. But under the leadership of **Dr. Diddy Mymin Kahn**, a clinical psychologist and trauma specialist, and **Sister Aziza**, a spiritual leader, it also delivers empowerment, social cohesion, and healing.

"To survive, you need work, so if you can do something good for your soul, even better, and if you can be with other women sharing your experience, even better, and if you can do it while raising awareness, even better, and if you can be in a safe community, even better," Diddy says.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help to upgrade the kitchen at Kuchinate and support a doll-making initiative.

## PLANT IT FORWARD USA Urban Farms for Houston, Small Businesses for Refugees

Since 2011, Plant it Forward has played a critical role in the lives of refugees resettled in the Houston area. The vision of **Teresa O'Donnell**, co-founder of a successful software company, PIF was her way of "giving back to her community". PIF's urban farms provide a livelihood for farmers while at the same time offering fresh organic produce to residents and local restaurants.

Many refugees have fled violence and unrest and arrive with a disrupted education, the trauma of years in camps or in transit, unfamiliarity with English and few marketable job skills Plant it Forward gives them the knowledge they need to plant and manage urban farms, becoming self-sufficient members of their new community.

One farmer's daughter notes, "I haven't seen my parents this driven in such a long time! I'm very grateful that the Plant It Forward community welcomed them with open arms. I've been so impressed with the organization's training and support."

**GPF Impact:** Our matching grant is used to underwrite general operations.



# Healer.

Restoring physical and emotional wellness.

SAHAR ISR

## Online Support for Emotional Distress

Despite the many negative aspects of our internet obsessed lives, online communication has benefited untold numbers of people, especially as we live through a pandemic and extraordinary economic upheaval. For people with mental illness, internet resources such as those offered by SAHAR (a Hebrew acronym for “Support and Listening on the Web”) are lifesaving.

Their email and emotional support forums, as well as chat services staffed by trained volunteers, helped more than 20,000 people last year. SAHAR’s most unique program, The Outreach Patrol, uses sophisticated artificial intelligence methods to identify people in severe emotional distress as they surf the internet.

It has been more than twenty years since **Liora Arnon**, troubled by a close friend’s emotional distress, learned of Professor Azi Barak’s groundbreaking research on both the positive and negative impact of the internet on people in pain. The two joined with others who had a similar interest and started SAHAR in 2000.

Today, **Yael Levy** leads the organization, and SAHAR’s work is more important than ever. The data they have amassed is invaluable as the medical community tries to discover effective ways to understand and address the significant increase of mental illness and suicide not only in Israel, but worldwide.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching funds are directed to a marketing plan to make SAHAR’s important work more visible.



## DETROIT HORSEPOWER USA Using the Power of Horses to Inspire Kids

**NEW** **David Silver** began his career with Teach for America in Detroit’s schools, where he saw firsthand the economic distress that left the city’s residents, both young and old, with little hope and insurmountable problems. Recalling riding and caring for horses in his youth, and how it benefited him, he realized these same experiences might help students struggling in this urban setting.

But where does one find horses in a big city? At locations outside the city. Detroit Horse Power provides summer and afterschool programs (pre-COVID-19) for more than 400 at-risk youth. Activities such as grooming, riding and interacting with other kids teach important life skills including compassion, responsibility and empathy.

David is now working with the city – where there is an abundance of vacant land – on a suitable site to build an equestrian center that will offer kids, and adults, untold opportunities to grow.

**GPF Impact:** Our matching grant provided the seed money needed to hire the organization’s first managing director to help David pursue his dream.



# Healer

## ENVISION KINDNESS USA Inspiring Kindness in Pursuit of a Happier World

The website welcomes you with a checklist to bring kindness and goodness into your life, and the photo gallery evokes feelings of compassion, joy, love and optimism. The goal of Envision Kindness, founded by **Dr. David Fryburg** and his son **Jesse**, a scientist, is to spread positivity and improve wellness. They say: “Kindness is ... something we are all capable of and worthy of receiving. Research suggests that exposure to our programs and content will make you feel happier and more connected to the world around you, with less stress and better health.”

The EnSpire photo streaming service counters anxiety, loneliness and other daily stressors, and is being tested in medical settings. #NiceWork celebrates businesses and workers making the world a better place. These programs, in addition to the Kindness Lab online resources, work to uplift souls and improve lives. With EK’s help, we can all live their motto and aspire to “picture a better world.”

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help with general administrative expenses.

## INTRA ISRAEL NATIONAL THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION ISR The Healing Power of Equine Therapy

“That day I saw from a distance an amazing horse, there was something very special about her, I fell in love on the spot.” An Israel Defense Forces veteran with PTSD gives voice to the value of equine therapy to ease emotional numbness and mental pain carried by soldiers like him.



**Dr. Anita Shkedi** and her husband, **Giora**, founded INTRA as a center for equine therapy, using riding and care of horses as a path of healing for soldiers and vets, and children and adults with physical and mental challenges, and even youth at risk.

Anita is a noted international expert on the unique relationship between humans and horses and how it can facilitate physical, cognitive and behavioral strides. “People believe they’re in a state they can’t change. But acts of kindness with the horse, communicating, and doing things together makes them realize that life isn’t stuck and there’s a future.”

**GPF Impact:** Our funds support equine therapy for Israeli military veterans with PTSD.

## JEREMY’S CIRCLE ISR Supporting Kids Living with Cancer in the Family 🕊

Her daughter Zoe, then age 6, wanted a play date with another little girl whose dad had cancer. “It’s very lonely feeling you’re the only kid in the world going

through that,” says **Pamela Becker**, whose husband, **Jeremy**, was battling the disease at the time and died in 2008.

What grew from Zoe’s request is Jeremy’s Circle, an organization that now, 12 years later, is a vital resource and outlet for Israeli children and teens with a parent or family member fighting cancer, or who have suffered a cancer loss. This community of mutual understanding and support offers fun group activities and excursions as a respite to their reality.

Jeremy’s Circle now actively serves 700 families throughout Israel and is growing. And with a pandemic aggravating what’s already a stressful situation for families, Pam and her team are creatively using technology so kids can own their childhood and teenage years through untold challenges.

**GPF Impact:** Our grant helps to cover administrative expenses.



## MUSIC MENDS MINDS USA Music as Alternative Therapy

For years, **Carol Rosenstein** has watched her beloved husband, **Irwin**, battle worsening symptoms of neuro-degenerative disease. Seeing the positive effects playing the piano had on him, this self-proclaimed “fix-it-girl” had to do something. Together they founded Music Mends Minds – ground-breaking, alternative therapy based on scientific research – to help others living with the despair of dementia, Alzheimers’ and other illnesses.

MMM musical support groups provide family members and patients community spirit unlike any other. The original Fifth Dementia band started in Los Angeles in 2015, and has been joined by nearly 20 additional performance groups in other locations.

With the arrival of COVID-19 and the required social distancing, MMM, like so many others, was forced to change its program radically. Not surprisingly, Zoom gatherings have drawn in even more participants with stunning outcomes.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help underwrite the costs of a music therapist.

## ROAD TO RECOVERY ISR Lessons in Coexistence and Friendship 🕊

The Israeli volunteer was driving 10-year-old Dana from treatment at a Tel Aviv hospital to a West Bank crossing so she and her mother could continue home. Aware Dana had never been to a beach, he detoured. “Words can’t describe their joy ... I imagined Dana the next day at school, proudly showing her friends the seashells we’d collected,” he says.

This small story isn’t so small. It reflects the entirety of Road to Recovery, and the very reason **Yuval Roth** envisioned and created it. Responding to the loss of his brother in a terrorist attack in 1993, Yuval believed that generosity and compassion could defeat hatred.

The all-volunteer organization regularly brings Palestinian children and adults from West Bank and Gaza checkpoints to Israeli hospitals for often life-saving treatment that would otherwise be unavailable to them. And as Dana’s story attests, trust and friendship formed along the way has immeasurable, positive, long-living impact.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds reimburse volunteers’ fuel costs, and also cover the cost of some medical equipment.

## SPIRIT CLUB FOUNDATION USA Fitness Programs for Everyone

“Because of SPIRIT Club and SPIRIT Club Foundation, we’re still all together. SPIRIT Club brings us together even for an hour and seeing all those faces makes us feel like we are still together even if we are not.”

All of us have despaired the need to break out of our isolation during this pandemic. For people with disabilities who already experience social isolation, it can be traumatic. **Jared Ciner** began SPIRIT Club in 2013, using his skills as

both a certified personal trainer and a support counselor for people with physical and mental disabilities.

Today, SPIRIT Club’s fitness program is more important than ever before as COVID-19 renders impossible in-person classes. Now held on Zoom, their integrated programs, led by certified trainers, are directed to participants of all abilities. The isolation and loss of community has been eased with the help of modern technology.

**GPF Impact:** Our funds are directed to scholarships for participants as well as tablets and other technology to allow virtual participation.

## YESH TIKVA USA Resources for the Jewish Infertility Community

**Gila Block** and **Elie Salomon**, who each faced infertility issues, founded Yesh Tikva (“There is Hope”) so that the one in eight couples who also struggle with infertility will know they are not alone. In addition to hope, they provide a roadmap to understanding and navigating the infertility journey. Working within the organized Jewish community where this issue has often been hidden, Yesh Tikva’s work gives voice to infertility issues and teaches sensitivity.

Yesh Tikva is a strong, caring, supportive community with a range of resources. The “Two Weeks Guide,” Fertility Friend mentors and Infertili-TEA (now virtual) support groups are just a few of the offerings that provide comfort and guidance. The inspiring stories from their blog illustrate, as one woman explains, “With Yesh Tikva, you never feel alone or misunderstood. There’s always someone to lean on.”

**GPF Impact:** Our funds help with expansion into other communities.



# Statement of Activities and Functional Expenses

FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020

SUPPORT AND REVENUE				TOTAL
Contributions				2,686,066
Investment Income				558
				2,686,624
	PROGRAM SERVICES	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL
Grants	2,136,767			2,136,767
Expenses:				
Salaries *	71,607	15,344	15,344	102,296
Payroll Taxes	5,744	1,231	1,231	8,205
Administrative Support *	-	27,524	-	27,524
Bank and Credit Card Fees	-	8,197	-	8,197
Consulting	-	33,299	-	33,299
Depreciation & Amortization	2,292	491	491	3,274
Insurance	-	3,318	-	3,318
Marketing	17,078	-	11,385	28,463
Office	-	1,882	-	1,882
Payroll Service	753	161	161	753
Postage and Shipping	644	138	138	920
Professional Fees	-	17,502	-	17,502
Telephone and Internet	229	49	49	327
Travel and Lodging	5,322	1,140	1,140	7,603
Technology Expense	4,018	861	861	5,740
Total Expenses	107,687	111,138	30,801	249,626
Total grants and expenses	2,244,454	111,138.15	30,801.35	2,386,393
Change in Net Assets				300,231
Net Assets at July 1, 2019				261,800
Net Assets at June 30, 2020				562,031

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



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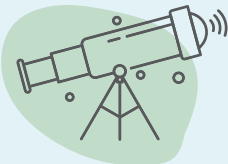
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We support and mentor our grantees to help them build robust and impactful grassroots nonprofits, ensuring that your donation makes a difference in a world that needs it.



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