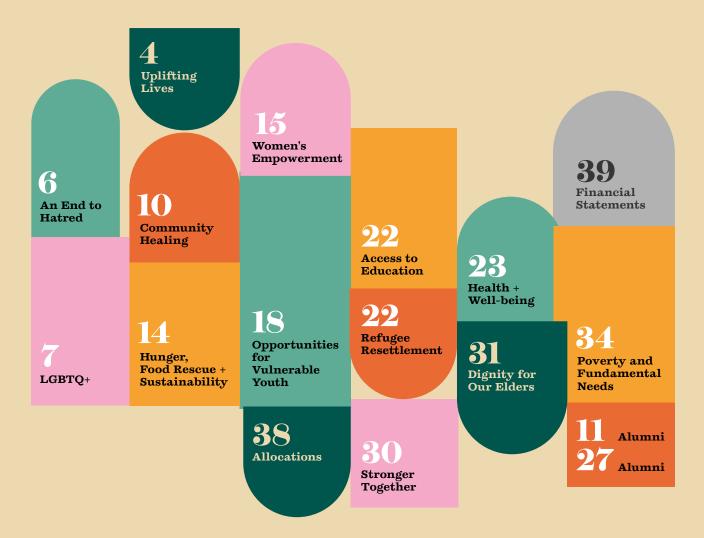




Contents





As our Journal goes to print, Israel was brutally attacked and war erupted. We are only a few days in and already I can see that this conflict is like no other I can recall in my lifetime. Our grantees who lived through the Yom Kippur War agree. The sheer barbarity, the total failure of what was believed to be superior intelligence, the numbers of people murdered, kidnapped, wounded and maimed — it is all too much to comprehend or bear. There is so much we do not yet know, but certain truisms cannot be denied — Israel is suffering national trauma and the effects of this war will go on for decades. As we have in the past, we will find our unique path to help and will keep you informed. Naomi

Cheshvan 5784/November, 1, 2023

As climate change causes environmental and humanitarian disasters on a regular basis, as political processes charge into dysfunction and extremists threaten basic rights, as

intolerance and incivility pervade society, and as Israel plunges into war after atrocious attack, many of us struggle to maintain optimism.

I recently received a note from Dr. Stu Chesner, a psychologist and GPF grantee who runs a program for vulnerable Ethiopian youth in Israel. He wrote in part: "Let's all remember that ... our future and that of our children lies in our singularly human ability to overcome egoism and fear. Our future lies within the courage of our hearts that transforms whimsical feelings into ethical deeds. Actions of good people throughout the world create light out of darkness and order out of chaos. Good people will determine our collective fate, and this knowledge instills hope and optimism for a wonderful new year."

Stu's eloquence gripped me. We can override what we are seeing and work to right the world one act or gesture at a time. The proof is in your hands. This Journal of Good features grantees refusing to give up, no matter how incredibly bleak things may seem, and plod on regardless of hurdles and challenges. I see this every day from my desk, but that truth is amplified when I'm with any of our grantees in their environment. My last such exposure was in September, in Ohio meeting with Dr. Beth Weinstock, co-founder of BirdieLight.

In 2021, Beth's 20-year-old son Eli died suddenly from a fentanyl overdose. The source of the drug was a legal herbal supplement that had been laced with the potent drug.

Beth and her daughter Olivia channeled their grief into preventing such deaths. They didn't wait for the government or other entities to address this societal scourge. They did it themselves. Beth now travels around the country speaking on high school and college campuses, and distributes fentanyl test strips and Narcan, as well as a BirdieBox containing an educational curriculum that can be taught anywhere.

Sharing space with Beth — or with any of our Good People — is an antidote to negative thoughts that can all too easily take over. We must surround ourselves with those who are addressing existing or emerging imperatives, and we must encourage and support them. It is the only way to maintain and grow hope and positive impact.

As with the fentanyl crisis, we are always sensitive to new issues arising, quickly focusing on nascent programs that have come into being as our society evolves. Ending hatred, serving LGBTQ+ needs, facilitating refugee resettlement and ending sexual harassment are a few areas where we've quickly discovered visionaries, like Beth and Olivia, and have helped them grow.

Going to press, we're looking forward to GPF's firstever (un)conference. With the generosity of many donors, November 11-13 will see more than 60 of our US and Israeli grantees gathering in New York City to inspire and be inspired. We can't wait to see what will come from all of this.

As I have said many times, there's no greater honor than heading this extraordinary organization that reminds us daily of all that is good in our world. I cannot imagine any better way to spend my days than to be around compassionate, ordinary people working quietly to change lives.

B'shalom,

Naomi asmi

Naomi K. Eisenberger GPF Co-Founder and Executive Director naomi@goodpeoplefund.org (973) 761-0580



THIS YEAR MARKS THE GOOD People Fund's 15th anniversary. I'm honored to have helped to create the organization and serve as its first chair. I don't believe that any of us who served on the inaugural board imagined where it would

stand today. While not entirely unique, our model is one that is needed now, perhaps more than ever.

In a world that faces difficult and complex problems, and where conflict, alienation, impatience and intolerance are finding more voices, The Good People Fund provides a path for individuals to make meaningful and selfless improvements in the lives of others. Our grantees regularly prove with deeds rather than words that individuals and small groups, often with limited resources and no political or social power, can effectively address seemingly intractable problems, often for the most vulnerable or invisible in society.

With your funding and encouragement, each of you empower them to do so. On behalf of the organization's Board leadership, I want to thank you for making it possible for the Good People Fund to leverage the power of individuals to help repair the world.

Erik Lindaver

Erik Lindauer GPF Founding Board Member

UPLIFTING LIVES, ONE AT A TIME "The Beautiful Stranger"

At 19, Afina was studying civil engineering at a prominent university in the Northwest, aspiring to pursue a graduate degree and later teach.

Her tradition-focused parents had other ideas, though. They decided that Afina would enter into an arranged marriage with a tribal leader in her native West Africa.

When she refused, they set in motion a terrifying sequence of events — her abduction and captivity in her home country, and a vow to commit an honor killing against her to maintain the family's dignity in the wake of her intransigence.

Becoming aware of Afina's plight through its own intelligence network, an organization aiding trafficked women began working to rescue her and bring her to safety ... with what can only be described as an elite operation coordinated with federal and local law enforcement officials, and involving everything from



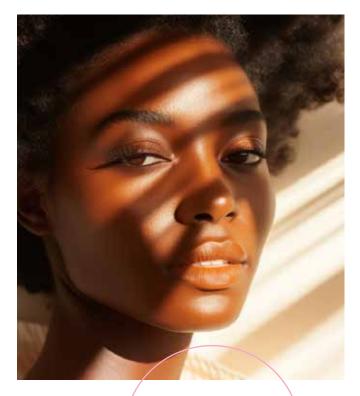
clandestine flights and safe houses, to new clothing and immense bravery.

When the organization, with which The Good People Fund has worked long and closely, reached out to us to absorb the costs of flights during this odyssey to freedom, we provided the funding that was not easily or quickly secured elsewhere.

As of this writing, Afina is still in a safe house for trafficked women in the United States, undergoing therapy for her trauma. She will remain there until it is determined secure for her to rejoin society and resume her studies at a new university.

Afina "refers to GPF as the 'beautiful stranger' who sustained her through generosity and a genuineness, and who helped her with no expectation to receive anything in return," her caseworker says.

This is all to say that GPF's impact is not only measured in grants to grassroots organizations. When a compelling case of severe individual or family need and hardship — like Afina's — comes to our attention through our trusted network of grantees, social workers, health care professionals, donors and other organizations, we launch a careful and informed review to determine if we can make a difference ... and if we can, we will.



Good Deeds by the Numbers

Over 15 years, we've given over \$23.2 million to support 242 dynamic programs ranging over 17 distinct program areas.

PROGRAM AREA	AMOUNT		# OF PROGAMS	
Animal-Assisted Therapies	\$	154,507	3	
Eldercare	\$	513,238	14	
Ending Workplace Harassment	\$	130,901		
Fighting Hatred	\$	269,166	8	
Fundamental Needs	\$	4,745,264	36	
Health & Well-Being	\$	2,592,410	40	
Hunger & Food Rescue	\$	939,498	27	
Inclusion & Disabilities	\$	1,703,704	12	
LGBTQ+	\$	12,500	2	
Literacy & Education	\$	185,050	11	
Natural Disasters	\$	97,947	5	
Refugees	\$	789,988	12	
Shoah Survivors	\$	187,963	4	
Uplifting Lives, One at a Time	\$	2,262,302		
Veterans & Military	\$	1,339,585	6	
Vulnerable Youth	\$	6,371,761	47	
Women's Empowerment	\$	933,114	15	

Total Dollars Raised 2008-2023: \$27,000,863

Expenses vs Overhead*

Donations designated specifically for administration bring GPF overhead to 0%

95.1% Program expenses

2.2% Administrative Expenses



Fundraising Expenses





Planned Giving

In addition to outright cash gifts, there are many additional ways you can help us continue to do this important work well into the future. Please consider: · Current Outright Gifts of Stock or Securities · Gifts Under a Will or a Charitable Bequest · Gifts of Life Insurance, Trusts and Retirement Plans If you, your attorney, or financial advisor has any questions about planned giving to The Good People Fund, please contact Naomi Eisenberger at naomi@ goodpeoplefund.org.

An End to Hatred

CIVIC SPIRIT USA Civic Learning for the Next Generation

For many of us, civics was a required course during school, where we learned about voting, government, and civic responsibility. As the political climate in America took a sharp turn in 2016, **Rabbi Robert Hirt, Virginia Bayar** and **Dr. Tamara Tweel** brought together a group of concerned citizens to address this alarming shift. The result was Civic Spirit: an organization dedicated to teaching civic knowledge and responsibility in faith-based schools across the country. They accomplish this by providing resources and leadership training to educators. In turn, educators impart these lessons to their students through a multi-year curriculum that touches on the origins of our democracy and the documents that first established it, civil rights, inclusivity and more.

"While dialogue across differences is an important first step," says **Rabbi Charlie Savenor**, who now leads Civic Spirit, "real change transpires when we collaborate in an ongoing manner."

FIGHTING ONLINE ANTISEMITISM (FOA) ISR Combating Hateful Content on the Web

When Tamir made Aliyah to Israel five years ago, he enrolled in university and learned about Fighting Online Antisemitism's work combatting cyberhate. He became one of the volunteers who comb online sites for such vitriol. "During my volunteering experience I've realized that the hate for my Jewish identity is stronger than I thought. In order to create a better world, I've started reporting online antisemitic content."

FOA's founder, **Tomer Aldubi**, began this work in 2020 and has already trained more than 300 international volunteers to recognize and report cyberhate, which is particularly prolific on social media. As Tomer warns, "In order for the networks to remove more antisemitic content, they need to see that we are here, the ones who fight against this hateful content." Next up for FOA? Using AI to help unearth it.



ROAD TO RECOVERY ISR ♥ Lessons in Coexistence and Friendship

Turning the loss of a loved one at the hands of a murderer into a vehicle for positive change requires extraordinary humanity and compassion. And yet, that is exactly what **Yuval Roth** did after the death of his brother in a terror attack.

In 2010, he started Road to Recovery. Today, with the help of more than 1,200 volunteers, Road to Recovery transports sick Palestinians — mostly children — from Israeli checkpoints to Israeli hospitals to undergo treatment for serious illnesses. "There, in the car," says Yuval, "wonderful things happen ... All the hate, suspicion, preconceptions — all evaporate in the human meeting that undercuts ... national and religious identity."

In addition to the life-saving trips, volunteers organize adventures to the zoo and Fun Days at the beach. They also provide life-saving medical equipment when needed for treatment.

TAG MEIR ISR Creating a Just and Compassionate Society

In October 2018, Yaqoub A-Rabi was driving with his wife and young daughter. Suddenly, a large rock smashed through the windshield, instantly killing his wife, Aisha. The attacker, a local Jewish resident, was eventually apprehended.

It was because of violence like this that **Dr. Gadi Gvaryahu** founded Tag Meir, where people from a range of backgrounds work to end hatred and build a more compassionate society. A week after Aisha's death, volunteers, both Arab and Jews, visited the family. There, they planted an olive tree to memorialize Aisha's life. "Tag Meir members were the first Israelis who visited us at home after what happened to us," says Yaqoub. Deeply moved by this, Yaqoub became an active participant in Tag Meir's work, where he still volunteers to this day.

TRIBETALK USA ⊕ Shifting Realities for Jewish Students

TribeTalk did not exist when Carly was doing her college research. Now, as a TribeTalk fellow, she helps Jewish teens learn what's really happening across campuses — through student stories, a database that compares different schools and compilations of vetted information. "There is no other resource," says Carly, "that offers a well-rounded Jewish perspective."

Founders **Jude Sydney**, **Robin Friedman** and **Michelle Black** prepare Jewish students for the alarming levels of antisemitism and anti-Zionism found on college campuses. In three years, TribeTalk has become a critical and important resource. And Jude says, "We continue to develop and curate relevant content to help students find a meaningful Jewish life on campus in the evergrowing toxic climate."

LGBTQ+

BRIT HA'LEVIOT ISR Support for Trans and Gender Diverse Youth and Families

When Leora's daughter Nili was 15, she shared that she felt uncomfortable in her body. For two years, Nili's mental health deteriorated, until she met with a therapist who helped her through her gender transition.

What do parents do in that kind of situation? Seeking support, Leora came upon the work of Brit Ha'Leviot. "At first it was rough. I cried about ... how bad things are But "the alliance of lionesses encouraged me ... I found people who understood what I was going through," Leora says.

In 2016, **Merav Livni Keish** joined with three other mothers of trans kids to address these new challenges. Their mutual support evolved into Brit Ha'Leviot, an organization now dedicated to promoting the rights and well-being of trans and gender diverse children, supporting their families, transforming institutions and educating Israeli society.

TRANSISRAEL ISR Support for Transgender People

Guided by her own difficult journey as a trans woman leaving sex work, **Linor Abergel** established a Tel Aviv community center to offer women in similar circumstances a safe space. TransIsrael provides nourishing food, clothing, cultural activities and educational opportunities. Linor has also become an advisor to Knesset members on issues vital to her community.

For those who have taken this journey, the road is treacherous; many do not survive. "It is very important to have such an association that provides help to women like me - I lost my family five years ago and since then I have been immersed in loneliness," says one of Linor's clients.

"The trans house is a place that managed to lift me up and get me out of the circle of prostitution," she added. "Today I am a veterinarian's assistant, and still receive mental and financial support from them."



There she was, one of seven like her occupying the space between violation and validation.

"We were survivors of sexual abuse representing thousands of others in the *Haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) community," says Leah, age 30, recounting a meeting with the head of an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva in Jerusalem.

"The pain in the room could be sliced, the tears just a mild representation of the storms raging inside of each victim," she continues. "The intensity intensified as each one shared their gut wrenching experience. Most of them happened many years ago, all of them wreaking havoc up until this day.

"The theme was desperate cries for help but no response — family, community, askanim (community workers) and Rabbonim (spiritual leaders) nonchalantly turning their backs and closing their eyes while blood is being spilled, time and time again."

The fact that this 2022 encounter even happened is remarkable. But as Magen for Jewish Communities — a GPF grantee organization — would have it, such forums for dialogue and exposure are pushing into the light what is generally considered a forbidden topic in the Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox communities.

"At first, it was a drip and then more of a snowball," says **Shana Aaronson**, CEO of Magen, meaning "shield" in Hebrew. "All the credit for that goes to the survivors. To speak up is not a decision that anyone gets to lightly, even now when there is more awareness and support. With every survivor who speaks up, the effect is profound."

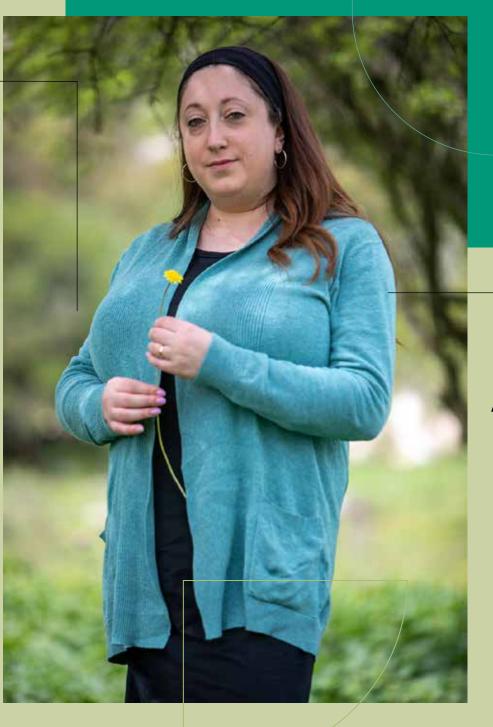
Under Shana's leadership, Magen is addressing sexual abuse and exploitation in the Orthodox and ultra-Orthodox communities in Israel by helping and supporting survivors, raising awareness and educating in the community and beyond, and advocating for survivors in investigatory and legal channels.

In any given month, the organization is actively dealing with 350 cases of sexual abuse or exploitation, says Shana, who served as a social services coordinator and as a case manager at Magen before become its CEO.

Looking back at the meeting at the yeshiva, which was organized by Magen, Leah says every such opportunity is hopefully a small move toward change.

"The Rosh Yeshiva took a big step by listening to us. But this step needs to be followed by hundreds and thousands of steps toward a safer community," she says.

"The purity of our community members and children is everyone's responsibility. By not taking a stand you are taking a stand. By not taking a stand you are remaining indifferent to the murdering of souls."



"To speak up is not a decision that anyone gets to lightly, even now when there is more awareness and support. With every survivor who speaks up, the effect is profound."

Community Healing

COMPASSION PRISON PROJECT (CPP) USA Creating Trauma-Informed Prisons and Communities

As founder **Fritzi Horstman** began exploring her own childhood trauma and how it affected her beliefs and behaviors, she understood that her experiences could help people living and working in prisons. "When you tell a father he matters, that father is going to turn around and tell his child that he matters," Fritzi explains. "Then you've got a child who suddenly wants to learn in school ... who sees a future. That father, because he's been seen, can see his child."

Kyle, who is incarcerated in a California facility, participates in a "Trauma to Transformation" workshop. "My ACE [Adverse Childhood Experiences] score is 10 out of 10. My first thought was, 'I had a messed-up childhood,'" he shares. "I now have CPP in my toolbox ... I now have guys in here who I can talk to who had similar experiences ... Thank you for caring."

EVERYDAY BOSTON USA ♥ Sharing Stories to Build Community

While incarcerated, Dan completed Everyday Boston's Curiosity and Connection workshop, developing communication skills and a sense of belonging needed to succeed in a community. Upon his release, he continued his involvement and played a significant role in a project on medical mistrust in Black and brown communities. "It was an honor to use my ears as a gift to truly listen to someone else's truth," Dan says. It's the first time in 15 years he has been out of prison for longer than a year, and he credits Everyday Boston with helping him stay free.

Cara Solomon founded Everyday Boston to counter stereotypes and connect people through sharing stories. Every day, Dan texts "Good morning" to the people in his life he considers mentors or positive influences. "I feel grateful to be on that list," Cara says.

FOR GOOD PGH USA ⊕ Reviving a Former Steel Town

Sherry, a single mother of three, works multiple jobs but still struggles to provide for her family. "I recently moved back to Braddock due to the nice people I met," she says of For Good PGH. "They helped me find an affordable home." The Fairy Fund, a program of For Good PGH designed to support local residents' immediate needs, also provided Sherry with grocery gift cards.

Gisele Fetterman and Kristen Maser began their work to help residents in the once bustling city of Braddock, PA. What started with the Free Store 15104, where residents shop, free of charge, for donated clothes and housewares - now includes several new initiatives based on mutual care and resourcefulness. "Providing relief during difficult moments can help families avoid much larger potential crises," says Kristen. "We hope that by demonstrating the power of small acts, we can inspire others to consider opportunities to do good for others too."

HEART 2 HART DETROIT (H2HD) USA Spreading Kindness on the Streets of Detroit

Founder Larry Oleinick describes Heart 2 Hart Detroit as a "modernday cavalry that goes out in the streets ... and literally hands out life-sustaining items to hundreds of homeless and needy Detroiters."

Lee, a teacher, is one of them. When H2HD first helped years ago, Lee was working as a teacher — and homeless. Now, Lee still teaches and rents a room in a house. When he took a recent medical leave, H2HD helped with rent and bills, and even delivered healthy food to his home. "H2HD jumped in and relieved so much stress ... I am eternally grateful as well as ready to help when I am able or asked to do so."

And the impact goes way beyond food. Distributing thousands of pairs of socks and underwear, t-shirts, hygiene items and bus passes provide specific, critical assistance and helps build meaningful relationships.

PUERTO RICO LIT USA & Responding to Essential Needs After Disaster Strikes

When his own boat fell into disrepair, Carlos, a fisherman, relied on his neighbor's boat to help support his wife and two children. It was only with the help of **Erika Vélez** and Puerto Rico Lit that he could repair his home, which had been partially destroyed by Hurricane Fiona.

When Hurricane Maria hit in 2017, Erika enlisted family and friends to help bring food to remote areas of the island. Six years later, the destruction from multiple hurricanes and earthquakes is still evident in many areas, and Puerto Rico Lit continues to supply building materials, appliances and other necessities. "I feel a genuine sense of wanting to reach out and help when I see someone in need," says Erika. "It just comes naturally to me. I feel like I was put on this earth to help."

THE FOOD PROJECT USA ♥ Using Food (and More) to Heal a Neighborhood

"I have a family that's moving this week and we just got the electricity issue taken care of, but they don't have mattresses," says **Michelle Suazo**, founder of The Food Project. What's more, she says, "The kids are harassed and bullied because their clothes are not clean."

Can one woman really change an entire neighborhood? Witnessing the homelessness, gun violence and deeply entrenched poverty that pervades Southwest Baltimore, Michelle felt compelled to do something — anything — to stop the needless death and despair and to respond to situations like this. At The Food Project, neighborhood kids get involved in food production, learn about social enterprise and food service and participate in weekly mentoring. Perhaps most important of all, the kids get the opportunity to feel a sense of hope — to believe that there are people who care about them, and ways to break out of the poverty and violence around them.

WITNESS TO MASS INCARCERATION (WMI) USA Beyond Prison, Finding Safety and Dignity

While incarcerated, Hughie made a commitment to himself: to find a job that would keep his family stabilized. He attended trade classes at the correctional facility and learned to make eyeglasses. The program was rigorous, but he left prison with a new skill and grant money — and within weeks of his release he opened a mobile optics lab. Hughie still experiences lasting harm from his time in prison. But of the trade program, he says, "It was a blessing I didn't see coming."

Evie Litwok had no support when she was released from prison. She founded WMI to advocate for alternatives to incarceration, to restore safety and dignity within prison and to reduce barriers to successful reentry. WMI's Suitcase Project provides a laptop, a cellphone and gift cards to those newly released, while The MAP offers a directory of businesses like Hughie's — owned by formerly incarcerated people.

The early GPF funding was a vote of confidence that helped us continue to believe in what we were doing, even though there was no real professionalized

Food Forward

that helped us continue to believe in what we were doing, even though there was no real professionalized gleaning organization out there at the time. As we continued our work, more funders became attracted to us and our profile and impact continued to grow and it snowballed from there.

I/we hold a great deal of pride being part of the early GPF cohort. We know the care and evaluation that goes into the selection process of each grantee, and how we are interconnected as a cohort of organizations simply doing good.

Food Forward speaks of our work as "sharing abundance," but also as a "virtuous circle." GPF's ongoing mission of nurturing small but mighty nonprofits is a perfect example of both of those vital and important things coming together.

> — Rick Nahmias Founder/CEO of Food Forward

Alumni Spotlight



Welcoming Newcomers in New Ways

They met in a park in Brooklyn, two families who in all likelihood would never have crossed paths, let alone deeply connect.

But here they were, one a third-generation family in the borough's Park Slope neighborhood, and the other a newly arrived Guatemalan family making its way after fleeing persecution and oppression against indigenous Mayans in their homeland.

It was a World Refugee Day community picnic organized by New Neighbors Partnership, a GPF grantee that has taken the traditional model of blind clothing donation and reimagined it to create uncommon connections.

The New York-based organization matches refugee, asylee, and asylum-seeking families with donor families who can contribute on an ongoing basis hand-me-down kids clothes — creating not only efficiencies, but also community and friendships of lifelong potential.

"Clothing drives are anonymous and are just a temporary fix for growing kids who will need new clothes in a matter of months. Instead, we're connecting recently arrived refugee families with local families who have older kids and can pass along clothes from season to season," says **Shoshana Akabas Barzel**, Founder and Executive Director of New Neighbors Partnership. "We're turning what is normally a one-time charity donation into a longstanding relationship between families who may have otherwise never met. And that friendly connection can sometimes make all the difference."

Since the clothing partnership began in 2018, New Neighbors Partnership has benefited 350 kids from more than 34 countries.

"Not having to worry about buying kids clothes or diapers or other baby supplies can be a huge financial and emotional relief that has amazing long-term effects," Shoshana says. "In my experience, families with these kinds of social connections and material support have much better outcomes two or three years after resettlement, in terms of feeling stable, happy and welcome in their new home."

Back at the picnic, the two families met for the first time after about six months of donations and email exchanges.

"Their first meeting was magical," Shoshana says. "Though they'd never met in person, they felt deeply connected to each other. They traded stories of how their families came to America and bonded over their shared passion of embroidery.

"At the end of the event, the eldest daughter in the Guatemalan family said to me, "We don't have anyone here except our parents and you guys. It means everything to have you behind us."

"We're turning what is normally a onetime charity donation into a longstanding relationship between families who may have otherwise never met.

Hunger, Food Rescue + Sustainability

JLM FOOD RESCUERS ISR Salvaging Food for People in Need

"I feel that through food, we can look at the world in a different way, and this is the way that we can also look at society," says **Daniella Seltzer**. "The way we relate to food is also the way we relate to people."

Guided by this thought, Daniella, along with Itay Peled and a group of committed Jerusalemites, started JLM Food Rescuers to create a more sustainable, equitable and just food system. The program is located in the Givat Shaul wholesale produce market, where an estimated 5 to 10 tons of fresh produce is tossed out monthly. Representatives from all parts of the city arrive at the market to pick up boxes of this discarded, but still edible, produce. Then, they bring it back to their neighborhoods, where it gets distributed. The group also uses rescued food in its catering business, which raises funds to help with operations.

GOODPEOPLEFUND.ORG

PESIA'S KITCHEN ISR & Food Rescue and the Environment

When he started this work 12 years ago, **Gideon Ben Ami** could be found driving through the streets of Tel Aviv picking up donated leftovers. He'd then deliver this bounty to agencies that serve the more than 20 percent of the population facing chronic hunger and food insecurity. Gideon was inspired by his grandmother Pesia's similar work in Poland years before. Now, Gideon and his son **Yoni** run an organization that today projects to rescue and deliver over 1,000 tons of food per year, costing just 10 cents per meal.

And, the organization has evolved. Through a new program called EAT, they continue to feed hungry people but have also added a school program that teaches about food waste, rescue and insecurity; social responsibility; and the environment.

"I was blessed," Gideon says, "for having discovered how much one can help others and inspire others to join in the challenge."

FEEDING THE NEIGHBORS

NECHA MALKA ISR Quietly Feeding Hungry Families

ZEHAVA AND KARYN ISR Delivering Food Packages to Families in Need

The "hidden poor" — they are all around us. Within a seemingly well-to-do or middle-class neighborhood are people who can barely get by. It might be a single mother with three disabled children and a job that pays minimum wage. Or, it could be a new immigrant family that arrives only to have the father suddenly fall ill with serious cardiac issues and a daughter diagnosed with a brain tumor. The cases are endless, but Shira Gilor, Karyn Gellman and Zehava Taub are dedicated to supporting community members through overwhelming situations. Each has rallied neighbors - Shira in Hashmonaim, and Zehava and Karyn in Jerusalem — to help them help others. As Shira puts it, "My goal is to help families get through rough times and get back on their feet by helping them find jobs, providing food and more."



ZUMWALT ACRES USA A Regenerative Agriculture Community



Twins Remi and Gavi Welbel

may not be typical college graduates planning a gap year, graduate school or a job in finance. After four years of school, they returned to the family farm: Zumwalt Acres, in Sheldon, IL. The farm has been in the family for over 150 years — but Remi and Gavi represent a new generation of farmers intent on building a better food system and tackling climate change. What's more, they do it all within a Jewish framework. Having studied advanced conservation methods, they use environmental practices such as agroforestry, mushroom cultivation and sustainable soil management.

"Farming can, and must, be at the forefront of creating a more resilient, healthy and just environment," says Gavi. With visions of a hopeful future, Zumwalt's apprenticeship program brings together inspiring young people ages 18 to 27 to farm the land, conduct research and establish best practices.

I SUPPORT THE GIRLS USA Essential Items for People in Need

After caring for her mother and paying for her funeral, Rachel, a survivor of sex trafficking, fell behind on rent — then lost her home and belongings. Now she lives out of her truck and uses her limited funds for gas and the occasional motel room when the weather is bad. "I almost always fall short when caring for myself," Rachel says. A package from I Support the Girls, including underwear and personal care items, freed up funds and restored her dignity.

Dana Marlowe founded ISTG to help anyone in economic distress — including homeless women,

Women's Empowerment

survivors of natural disasters and transgender adults and teens. She's helped donate 19 million products to 3,600 social service agencies. "The magic," says Dana, "is whether folx want to donate one training bra or a handful of pads, we'll take them and get them out to folx in need."

JGIRLS+ MAGAZINE USA ♥ A Place to Be Heard

Maya's experience as an editor at jGirls+, a feminist online magazine, prepared her for life at Princeton University. There, she addresses the same issues: how to build a Jewish community, how to fit into the political spectrum of Jewish life, how to use art to creatively make change and more. As co-editorin-chief of *Jubilee*, a magazine for Jewish art and expression, and the only woman on its board, Maya says, "I make my voice heard and take a leadership role. I respectfully and authoritatively run this magazine."

Elizabeth Mandel founded jGirls+ as a space where media and social action intersect — and where Jewish girls, young women and nonbinary teens can feel seen and heard. "This is a place where young people's voices are valued. Their act of creating art, poetry, essays ... is a form of activism."

KAIMA NAHALAL ISR ⊕ A Refuge for Teenage Girls

Sixteen-year-old Michal arrived at Kaima Nahalal's farm with a history of deep depression and OCD. Prior programs and schools had failed her, but in this allfemale environment she formed meaningful connections and began to heal. However, after getting sent back to her regular school, she relapsed — and a drug overdose led her to in-patient treatment. In time, Michal was allowed to return to the farm once a week, giving her the support she needed. "The farm saved me at a moment I had nowhere to go and no one in the entire world to turn to," she says.

Merav Carmi created Kaima Nahalal to give young women tools to not only work the soil, but heal themselves. "Just knowing the farm exists and that I can come back when I need to is a big comfort," Michal says.

NIVCHAROT ISR Amplifying the Voices of Haredi Women in Politics and Beyond

Esty Shushan is the Israeli version of Susan B. Anthony, one of several inspirational women who led the suffrage movement in America. In 2012, she headed a protest movement started on social media. The focus was on the reality that women in her community were barred from taking part in Haredi political parties. In response, the group declared, "No Voice, No Vote." Nivcharot is the organization born from that protest. Change is slow, but with leadership training, education and advocacy to change perceptions, it can and does happen.

Tova Boriah is one of the dozens of religious women who have taken part in Nivcharot's leadership course. "The Nivcharot program taught me the importance of ensuring that women have a seat at the decision-making table," Tova says. She adds, "I am working hard to become a player in the local political arena."

Promoting Literacy for Underserved Bedouins

Shirin is illiterate and can't read to her 18-month-old son, Muhamed. So Hala, the facilitator in a small, oneroom library in Israel's Negev, gently approached her.

"I know why you are embarrassed, because I was once just like you. But come with me and I will prove that you can read and then I will give you a book and you will go home with it and read to your son."

What followed was a self-described awakening by Shirin. She learned that she could share a book with Muhamed by focusing on the illustrations, not the words, and experience not only the bonding that comes through storytelling, but also the joy of watching her son expand his world.

This was but one moment among many creating small but accumulating impact for the sizable Bedouin population in the region. It is a community at Israel's geographic and socio-economic periphery and mired in a generational cycle of financial, educational and aspirational stagnation.

The library, in Rahat, is attached to a well-baby clinic serving the Bedouin community and is one of 13 now operating throughout the Negev and established by Al-Baqour — a Good People Fund grantee changing the narrative for this marginalized population by elevating early childhood education and innovative ways to create and advance it. "Literacy and vocabulary are the most important criteria for social and economic mobilization in the future," says **Shlomit Somech Lehmann**, CEO of Al-Baqour. "From birth to age 3, during a critical time of growth and development, Bedouin children have little if any access to early childhood education programs — a reality that leads to achievement gaps and long term disadvantages."

"We must nurture imagination and thinking and ideas, and if literacy is not planted in the first years of life, it is very difficult and sometimes impossible to fix in the future," says **Dr. Foad El Sana**, a Bedouin pediatrician and Al-Baqour board member.

So it is that Al-Baquor, which is Arabic for "the first fruit," is using every creative means possible to bolster awareness of this developmentally critical period, and to get books into the hands of Bedouin families.

For example, for those who don't have easy access to one of its libraries, the organization operates a door-to-door service and distributes educational material through WhatsApp and other digital means. The "Hazerot-Yards" program provides a range of traveling activities such as read-alouds, music and movement in Bedouin towns and villages.

"Every project we do in the Bedouin community is colored with literacy and reading at the center," Shlomit says. "If we lose that, we have nothing."



"We must nurture imagination and thinking and ideas, and if literacy is not planted in the first years of life, it is very difficult and sometimes impossible to fix in the future."

Opportunities for Vulnerable Youth

ANI SHLISHI ISR ⊕ Building Skills and Self-Confidence in Vulnerable Youth

Seventeen-year-old Ahmed was short on selfconfidence and maturity. Social services in Abu Ghosh, an Arab community outside of Jerusalem, referred Ahmed to Ani Shlishi to work in its thrift shop in nearby Mevasseret. Founded by **David Baskin** and **Ilan Kedar**, this creative organization uses a secondhand clothing store as a laboratory to teach kids the skills they'll need to succeed in life. Ahmed struggled — but after about two months things changed.

Each positive change led to another, and Ahmed took on higher management positions, eventually working alongside the store's team leader. He trained, supported and encouraged other employees and helped grow the store's sales. After six months in this paid internship, Ahmed impressed staff and social services, and actively sought a new job.

With great satisfaction, David says, "Work here will give kids a foundation of marketable skills necessary for success and self-advancement."

connections mentor USA ⊕ Mentoring New York's Teens

Since meeting his mentor, Kayla, 16-year-old Jay has been to the mall, had his first "s'more" and overcome his fear of kayaking. He knows for sure he has the better dance moves, and describes Kayla as fun and kind. Kayla says, "I like how Jay will try anything. Whatever we think of, he always says yes."

"I believe every child needs a caring adult in their lives," says founder **Paul Muratore**. Adult volunteers are matched with young people who have had some contact with the child welfare or juvenile legal system. Together, they form long-lasting supportive and meaningful relationships. Since the program's inception in 2016, 172 mentors and mentees have been paired.

DETROIT HORSE POWER (DHP) USA Horses as Agents of Healing

Anthony's teachers had trouble connecting with him. They couldn't get him to talk and his smiles were few. Now, after attending camp, he won't stop talking about Detroit Horse Power. "They are creating new worlds for Detroit students," says his mother.

David Silver, a former teacher, knew the many benefits of working with horses and horsemen. He founded DHP as a safe place for urban youth to build the skills necessary to be successful in school and in life. In addition to camp and after-school programs, DHP provides wrap-around services including internships, mentoring, resume writing, interview prep ... as well as laptops and meals. And, soon they will have the largest urban equestrian center in the country, built on vacant land. "I see a future where all Detroit children get to experience the personal growth that horses can teach us," David says.

DETROIT PHOENIX CENTER (DPC) USA ⊕ Hope and Housing for Homeless Youth

Indera left her abusive home with only the clothes on her back, relying on family and friends for a couch to sleep on. Eventually, she secured a job — and, with the support of Detroit Phoenix Center, was able to pay rent on an apartment. "I literally didn't have anywhere else to turn. I was at my absolute lowest," says Indera. "Now I'm so happy and finally at peace."

Courtney Smith weathered her own struggles with homelessness and founded DPC as a drop-in center where street-connected youth have autonomy over their lives. "We are a lifeline," says Courtney. "Young people should not have to worry about where they are going to sleep at night." Providing showers, meals and even a computer lab, Courtney continues, "We help ensure that the young people who turn to us in their darkest hour can see the light."



JUST IMAGINE (JI) USA & Sleep-Away Camp and Beyond — for Inner-City Kids

Abby Sondak first met David as a fourth grader, newly arrived in the US from Africa. Though held back at the time because of the language barrier, he went on to become valedictorian of his high school and is currently finishing his engineering degree at Georgia Tech — a school he visited on a Just Imagine college tour. "[Just Imagine] became my support and footing that has led me towards my aspirations," David says.

A strong proponent of the sleepaway camp experience, Abby knows it is just one piece of the college prep puzzle. JI supports students through high school with skills workshops, campus tours and more. "Sending [David] to summer camp and a summer program at Cornell University, and taking him on college tours, gave him the knowledge, experience and confidence to choose Georgia Tech for college," Abby says.

KAIMA HUKUK ISR Educating through Social Experience and Agriculture

When 16-year-old Liat arrived at Hukuk, an organic farm in Israel, she felt depressed and disconnected from her community, and was using drugs. As she connected with staff members and her peers, she responded well to working the land and to the structure of the day. "The 'click' for her," says **Rebecca Schunkert**, Hukuk's CEO, "was the realization that getting up in the morning can take on new meaning when connected to an endeavor of meaning and consequence."

Hukuk uses the principles of organic farming to mentor and teach youth who've struggled in other settings. After spending eight months on the farm, Liat returned to high school and graduated. Now, she's doing her national service at an informal therapeutic youth center in Safed. "All of this is beyond what she could have imagined for herself," Rebecca says.

MAGEN ISR Guidance and Support for Ethiopian Teens

Sigalit arrived in Israel from Ethiopia when she was eight years old. Today, she is a teenager who is part of **Dr. Stuart Chesner**'s impactful program that focuses on helping Ethiopian teens who reside in the city of Ma'ale Adumim. One of Magen's counselors noticed bruises on Sigalit's arms and consulted with mental health professionals who suggested that she speak with Sigalit's mom. That conversation uncovered the physical abuse that everyone in the family was experiencing at the hands of the father. The mother and children were sent to a safe house and the father, with Magen's help, attended classes in parenting and anger management.

Today the family has reunited and Sigalit is an excellent student who takes part in many of Magen's activities. As Dr. Chesner states, "When parents become the change they wish to see in their children, life transforms in a magical manner."

PURE HEART FOUNDATION USA & Breaking Cycles of Generational Incarceration

Henry is one of the 2.7 million children in the US with an incarcerated parent. When his father was sentenced to 12 to 20 years in prison, Henry's mother worried about the impact it would have on him. "It was hard, and I didn't really have a community that understood," she says. She learned about Pure Heart on Instagram — and, after meeting founder **Sherelle Hogan**, enrolled Henry in a program. Looking back, she believes it was a blessing not just for Henry, but for their entire family.

When Sherelle herself was seven, her life was much like Henry's. "There's a huge stigma associated with having a parent incarcerated," she says. "People automatically see you as the next person that'll be behind bars instead of being a child." She founded Pure Heart to provide critical wrap-around services, including mental health, academic enrichment and more, to thousands of metro-Detroit kids.

WAVES OF HOPE ISR A New Kind of Water Therapy

In his youth, **Eliyou Ben Zion** was drawn to the power of the sea and became an Israeli surfing champion. At 19, he adopted a more religious lifestyle and eventually was encouraged to use his surfing talents for something new.

Throughout Israel's religious communities there are disaffected youth who have left school and community. With no support system they often fall prey to anti-social behavior. It is for these youth, both young men and women, that Eliyou created a unique therapeutic program. "It is amazing to see how with just one small push on the surfboard you can see a child succeed," Eliyou says. As he puts it, "The obstacles of the sea teach them to cope with the barriers and difficulties in their lives."

"When I enter the water, I empty all of my thoughts," says Dovid, one of the program's graduates.

Refugee Assistance Alliance USA 🔮

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"My friends at Refugee Assistance Alliance helped me reach this point. I am away from my parents. I am in a new culture. It's not easy. But I am doing the best I can to make them and everyone proud."

A Helping Hand

She was on one of the last military transports out of Afghanistan, three summers ago when escape or not from Taliban rule defined a life to come — especially so for a teenage girl.

Huddled with her aunt, and leaving her brothers and parents behind, Taara arrived in South Florida to begin a yet undefined journey, but one at least with potential.

A resettlement agency helped the two at first seeing Taara into an Islamic school and guiding her aunt into English language classes and a minimum wage retail job.

But that support ended after an initial limited time, as it usually does. They were referred to Refugee Assistance Alliance (RAA), a GPF grantee organization founded in 2017 to help South Florida's most vulnerable newcomers.

"I know what it's like to start over, but I don't know the trauma," says **Kristen Bloom**, RAA's founder, whose husband serves in the Air Force and is often reassigned.

"They have been through so much more than any of us can even imagine. They are in need of a support network that just didn't exist."

The organization and its corps of about 100 volunteers have helped close to 400 individuals

— adults and children — as they strive to gain footing in a new landscape of language, bureaucracy, and custom.

Embraced by RAA, Taara excelled well enough in English language study to be enrolled in a public high school for senior year. Continuing RAA support, encouragement and advocacy led her to greater socialization and integration among her peers, and increasingly impressive scores on college entrance exams.

While RAA places a high priority on teaching English to new refugees, it has established what Kristen calls a "holistic" approach to resettlement, recognizing that it is not just basic skills that lead to success, but also relationships, friendships and community.

Fast forward to last June, when Taara walked across an auditorium stage, her aunt taking pictures, and became the first Afghan refugee who arrived from that 2021 exodus to graduate from a South Florida high school.

She is spending the next year working in a store to help support her aunt and save money to pay for community college. An RAA career mentor is helping her through the myriad choices ahead.

Access to Education

BREAKING THE CHAIN THROUGH EDUCATION (BTCTE) USA ⊕ Ending Child Slavery in Ghana

When he was a child, Amari's grandmother handed him over to work on his uncle's fishing boat. He was often beaten, and an accident left him with an untreated spinal injury. Amari was rescued by BTCTE and brought back to his hometown for surgeries and rehabilitation. He also was able to enroll in school. Now studying to become a tailor, Amari says, "If not for BTCTE I would have been a lost soul ... because of the love and care shown to me, my dreams are coming true."

Founded by teacher **Evan Robbins**, BTCTE has helped save more than 100 children and young adults who have suffered the devastating effects of trafficking and forced labor. "Every child, regardless of social and economic conditions," Evan says, "has the right to freedom and an education."

ENGLISH BYACHAD (SKILLED VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL) USA ⊕ Online Tutoring for Young Israelis

Fana left Ethiopia for Israel when she was five. She eventually served as an IDF officer, completed law school and started a business promoting Ethiopian culture and food. Through English B'Yachad she was matched with Laura, a Midwesterner retired from a career in corporate communications. To practice her improved English, Fana gave Laura's friends a presentation on her company. "The feeling of talking in English, getting over the fears ... is priceless," says Fana.

Skilled Volunteers for Israel was meant to provide retirees with meaningful volunteer opportunities in Israel. As COVID raged, founder **Marla Gamoran** created English B'Yachad to virtually connect US volunteers with underserved young adults. The impact of improving confidence in English goes beyond strengthening language skills. "Our mentors are empowering the leadership talents and dreams of our Israeli students. And together we learn so much about each other," says Marla.

Refugee Resettlement

INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBORS (IN) USA ⊕ Neighbors Helping Newcomers

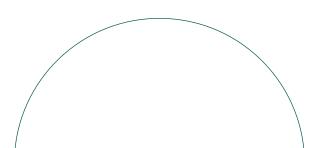
After his brother was killed, Salah fled Iran and arrived in Virginia with no family and no support. When he connected with International Neighbors, he was deeply depressed, rarely leaving his apartment. IN helped him secure employment, apply for rental assistance and avoid eviction. He now has a volunteer who checks on him weekly, and he is actively saving money for a moped to transport him to and from work. "One day, I want to help International Neighbors because they deserve it," says Salah.

Kari Miller founded International Neighbors to welcome and integrate refugees into their new lives in Charlottesville. "Community is built over time and is something that every single person relies on," says Kari. "[Refugees] had to leave their communities and networks behind, so it's crucial that organizations like ours are building community with them."

NEGEV REFUGEES CENTER (NRC) ISR **Creating a Better Life for Asylum Seekers**

Ibrahim Adam Orev Mussa arrived in Israel from Darfur in 2012. Though college educated there, in Israel he gets only manual jobs. Through Negev Refugees Center, he's become a local leader. Ibrahim goes into the greater Beersheva community to share the challenges faced by asylum seekers: the stories of their escape from their native countries, and the barriers they're now up against in Israel. Putting this "human face" on asylum seekers' experiences benefits everyone.

"Taking part in this program has given me a sense of agency and self-respect," Ibrahim says. "I see myself as being able to process the trauma of my flight from Darfur and to become a leader for my community in Israel. NRC has developed this program both to spread information to Israelis and, most importantly, to give a voice to us asylum seekers!"



A COURAGEOUS VOICE USA Keeping Kids Safe From Abuse

Veronica, now a teenager, endured years of sexual abuse committed by her uncle. For a long time she suffered in silence. Then she participated in a program called Kids Voices Matter, offered by A Courageous Voice, where she learned that it was okay to speak out about her experiences and seek help.

Amy Ever began ACV to provide education and awareness of child sexual abuse both on- and offline. The program works with schools and youth groups in the Detroit metro area, where child trafficking and sexual abuse of children is particularly acute. As a survivor herself, Amy says, "I never want to see another child affected the way I was." As ACV grows, she hopes to protect the lives of many more kids.

BIRDIELIGHT USA & Educating Youth About Fentanyl Poisoning

As a college freshman, Eunseo had already lost five friends to accidental opioid poisoning. At a BirdieLight presentation, he found many other students with similar stories. "What I appreciated most," he says, "was the use of appropriate language (i.e., poisoning vs. overdose) ... I believe that the resources they distribute will save lives."

Fentanyl is a leading cause of death among adults between the ages of 18 and 45. Dr. Beth Weinstock's 21-year-old son Eli died after ingesting an herbal supplement laced with fentanyl which inspired her and her daughter Olivia to found BirdieLight. The organization has reached thousands of high school and college students across the US, using presentations and written materials to educate, and distributing lifesaving fentanyl test strips. Their approach, Beth says, "is to just have conversations with young people, nonjudgmental and honest conversations."

JEREMY'S CIRCLE ISR & Supporting Families Living with Cancer

Lili smiles when she shares how a friend who also had breast cancer introduced her to Jeremy's Circle. "We talked among ourselves and how I personally have no way of keeping my daughter busy during this painful period ... and no one who will take her on a trip and take her mind off all of this."

It was for people like Lili and so many others that **Pamela Becker**, her late husband, **Jeremy Coleman** (*z''l*) and other family members created this unique organization during their own cancer journey.

As Pamela says, "by offering the children fun days with other families in similar situations, we help put the cancer-related tension, fear and anger to the side for a while. The kids see that they are not the only ones with cancer in their family, so they feel less alone."

Out of the Darkness

The baby's condition was severe, her own health was in danger and terminating the pregnancy was advised.

"I was broken and bleeding, mentally and physically," Sarah says, citing guilt, selfhatred and depression, as well as difficulties returning to routines and interacting with family and friends unequipped to recognize or converse about the loss.

Sarah, who lives in Tel Aviv, tells a story that is all too common and that underscores a personal, institutional and societal reality of silence in Israel that meets women and families enduring pregnancy and infant loss — and their immediate and long term consequences, including PTSD.

It was in 2016 that **Elysa Rapoport** gave birth to a stillborn daughter at 31 weeks gestation and hi<mark>t the same immense void of</mark> emotional and practical support systems.

"We found ourselves alone and unsupported by the whole health care system when we were in the fog of what had just happened. Services that I expected were just not available." So she set out to upend the status quo. Twelve months after her daughter's stillborn birth, Elysa joined her mother, Rebecca, to launch an online fundraising campaign to start an Israeli stillbirth support organization.

That upstart organization is now Candles of Hope — a Good People Fund grantee the definitive address in Israel for women and families facing infant and pregnancy loss, building and providing resources and channels of support, and making visible a topic and a trauma with which many are still uncomfortable.

Among its myriad activities, Candles of Hope maintains a database of mental and healthcare professionals, offers support groups and workshops, and advocates for public awareness and institutional change. In May, the organization hosted a conference, its third, featuring speakers addressing such topics as stillbirth across the religious spectrum and maternity leave following loss.

"The Candles of Hope workshop was a weekly anchor of sharing, an opportunity to remember the pain in the company of other





"We found ourselves alone and unsupported by the whole health care system when we were in the fog of what had just happened." women who know the most painful point in it, a place to really confront and acknowledge our pain, and a place of growing compassion," says Noa, a Jerusalem resident who lost a child in birth.

To Elysa, taking the impact of Candles of Hope more deeply into Israel's peripheral communities and to a full cross section of a diverse society remain priorities.

"No other woman or family in Israel that experiences a pregnancy or infant loss should feel as alone and unsupported as I did," she says.

KAVOD V'NICHUM USA End-of-Life Education and Training

Discussions around death and dying can be deeply meaningful, but they can also be difficult to approach. Twenty-three years ago, **David Zinner** founded Kavod v'Nichum (honor and comfort) to provide support. "Kavod v'Nichum is on a mission to reignite how we show up for one another during end-of-life transitions," says **Sarit Wishnevski**, the organization's current director. "By helping communities form *sacred* communities rooted in tradition and care, we teach how Jewish end-of-life rituals strengthen and nourish our connections to our Jewish identities and each other."

The organization's multi-pronged approach, presented with compassion and meaning, includes training and education, as well as resources on all aspects of the end-of-life experience — serious illness, dying, death, bereavement and mourning. Under its guidance, dozens of communities have established a *chevra kadisha* (holy society), which trains community members in end-of-life practices.

MARVA ISR & Preserving Dignity and Autonomy Through Life Challenges

Max, a married father of three, lives with bipolar disorder. During a recent episode, life spiraled out of control in complex ways. It took a toll on the finances and safety of his family, resulting in his wife's demand for divorce. A local social worker saw their underlying solid and caring relationship and referred the couple to MARVA. Headed by **Dr. Michal Wosner** and **Dr. Mickey Schindler**, attorneys who strongly believe that law and welfare should be combined when helping at-risk populations, the organization provides support to people throughout Israel.

Together, MARVA social workers and attorneys unraveled the complexities of Max's situation and put into place certain safeguards that would prevent future crises.

"Life can be complicated, and people need help and assistance, and that's simply what we try to do," says Mickey.

MEDICAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE USA Protecting Incarcerated People's Rights

While incarcerated, Sam developed a rare neurological condition. He was in and out of consciousness, no longer able to communicate, and his family desperately wanted him home during his last months. So, a neurologist volunteering with MJA gave expert testimony, compelling the court to approve Sam's compassionate release. "[The doctor's] expertise played a major part in the decision," says Sam's sister. "This journey has been very challenging ... but we made it through the storm."

Founded by doctors **Mark Fenig** and **William Weber**, MJA gathers physicians and attorneys whose testimony protects the healthcare rights of people who are incarcerated. "The pandemic highlighted a pre-existing and long-standing crisis," explains Mark. "For every year served, people in prison lose two years of life. MJA continues to grow rapidly to address a much larger medical apartheid that exists invisibly in the country."

MYCHILD'SCANCER USA⊕ Guiding Families Through a Difficult Journey

When Talia, an infant of five months, was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor, her parents were frozen with fear. A glimmer of hope appeared when they connected with **Oded Grinstein** — whose similar experiences with his infant daughter years earlier led him to found MyChild'sCancer. In a conference call with one of MCC's medical experts, an alternative course of action was proposed. Within three months the new treatment brought astounding results.

"The tumor is significantly shrunk, and her oncologist was able to stop its growth," says Talia's father. "We waited with Talia's first birthday celebrations ... and now we have many more reasons to celebrate!"

"When our child gets sick with a rare cancer, we become experts on that specific type," says Oded. "It is just a waste keeping this information to ourselves. That is why this project is so significant."

RUCA'S FARM ISR Social Rehabilitative Farming for IDF Veterans

Nir Lahav grew up on a kibbutz in Israel where farming and working the land always had great relevance — "a place where there is an encounter between body and mind, one that I believe can do 'wonders,'" he says. He knew that there were certain populations that could benefit from such an experience. After speaking with a friend doing research on PTSD, he realized that many IDF soldiers who have returned from service with this diagnosis — an estimated 58,000 — could be helped by a therapeutic farm. He maintains "... the combination of agricultural work, group support and appropriate group therapy can help those coping with PTSD."

And so, with the help of four friends, Ruca's Farm has become a reality. Numerous fruit trees have been planted on the donated land, staff has been hired — and soon, the first cohort of veterans will arrive to take part in social rehabilitative farming.

SAHAR ISR ⊕ Online Crisis Support for Emotional Distress

"My whole world is falling apart," Tamar said. "I'm being bullied at school and even my best friend stopped being my friend. I feel so alone, and it hurts so much that I don't know what else to do. I'm thinking about ending it all, just to make the pain go away."

Tamar's plea for help was exactly why Sahar, led by **Yael Levy**, established an online crisis hotline years ago. In addition, a website provides resources and a forum where safe conversations can be held, while newer technology monitors social media to identify situations of distress and offer help.

"I came back just to tell the volunteer I talked to how much they meant to me," Tamar wrote just a few weeks after she was in crisis. "They made me feel good when everything seemed so hopeless ... I can't thank them enough!"

ZA'AKAH USA Helping Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in the Orthodox Community and Beyond

Outwardly, **Asher Lovy**'s *Haredi* family seemed typical in every way. In reality, Asher was being sexually, physically and mentally abused by his mother — and it remained unacknowledged by the adults around him. He left home and joined a support group that would later become ZA'AKAH. There, he learned he wasn't alone. "As saddened as I was by the prevalence," Asher says, "it was a relief to know ... there were other people who understood what I was going through."

ZA'AKAH provides referrals to support services, and runs a mental health hotline on Shabbat and Jewish holidays — times that can feel especially painful for survivors. ZA'AKAH has also sponsored the passage of significant laws addressing sexual abuse and its prevention. "The only way this is going to change," Asher says, "is if misconceptions are fought at a grassroots level."



Alumni Spotlight

Birthday Angels

"The first word that comes to mind when I think of GPF is integrity."

Being part of the GPF family was like a shield for me, giving me the confidence of knowing I was doing the right thing and was on the right track.

With the help of GPF, I was able to overcome the struggles and challenges that come with running a small operation, and successfully pulled off 60,000 birthday parties for needy children over 10-plus years! This is a truly awe-inspiring accomplishment and a testament to the transformative impact of GPF's professional and emotional support, presence and partnership.

What an honor it is to always be part of GPF's special family of good people, all driven by their dreams and powered by their talents and the belief that they can make the world a little better with a little help from their (good people) friends.

> — Ruthie Sobel Luttenberg Founder of Birthday Angels

Caravan to Class USA 🖞

Opening Access Educatio

"I admire them and their enthusiasm, perseverance, and optimism about their future and their desire to make a change in their country."

Ask **Barry Hoffner** who comes to mind as a Caravan to Class success story, and the organization's founder immediately mentions Binto Mehamane Dicko, among others.

Binto — in her early 20s and from a modest family in Timbuktu, Mali — was recently one in an exclusive group of sub-Saharan participants in a U.S. State Department Women's Empowerment program based at the University of Delaware. And now she's thinking even bigger.

"My stay in the US allowed me to gain many leadership skills and changed my way of perceiving things as a citizen, particularly about civic engagement and issues in economic development," Binto says.

"It has motivated me to serve and improve my community by making it a better place to live."

Her aspirational journey is rooted in Caravan to Class's Bourse Jackie (French for "Jackie Scholarship"), named for Barry's late wife.

Since 2018, Caravan to Class has awarded five university scholarships each year through a highly selective process to female high school graduates from Timbuktu. The scholarships cover tuition, books and supplies, transportation stipends, a specialized women's leadership program, and a three-month intensive English-learning course in Ghana. "I admire them and their enthusiasm, perseverance, and optimism about their future and their desire to make a change in their country," Barry says about Bourse Jackie recipients. "The most common comment, by far, when I ask about their dreams is that they want to achieve independence so they can control their futures, something rare for a woman in Africa."

Bourse Jackie is one of the pillar initiatives of Caravan to Class, which was born when Barry was on a personal trip to Mali in 2010 and was struck by the lack of educational opportunities for young people in rural villages around Timbuktu.

He decided to make a difference and build a school, and now 13 years and 17 schools later, Caravan to Class — a Good People Fund grantee — has grown from building schools to supporting women's literacy and sponsoring Bourse Jackie.

"My participation in this program made me realize the place of educated and emancipated women in a nation and the asset they naturally have to successfully impact their community," Binto said of her American program.

"For that I thank Caravan to Class and its donors for this amazing opportunity, which would not have come to me had I not been selected as a Bourse Jackie scholarship recipient."

Stronger Together

ACHLAH — THE HEVANUT CENTER ISR Making Families Whole

An accident left Dorian, who has an autism spectrum disorder, injured, traumatized and unable to return to school. For ten years, Achlah worked with Dorian and his family to develop alternative education solutions, and to provide support during other significant life events.

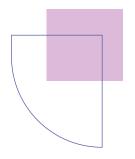
Eventually, Dorian was able to succeed in National Service programs, continually building his confidence. He's held numerous jobs in protected work environments, and now works full time. He's even moved out of his family home and lives in sheltered housing.

"A society can learn how to assist people such as Dorian to realize their dreams," says founder **Johanan Flusser**. "Achlah was formed to escort those who have family members with special needs through complex and unique situations."

shai asher ISR Transitional Employment in a Pastoral Setting

With an undiagnosed physical condition in his youth, Tzvika developed behavioral issues that led to social isolation. Eventually, school, army service and employment created so much pressure that he began to self-medicate to relieve his pain. But adding more and more medication only made things worse. By the time he was in his thirties, Tzvika was sent to Shai Asher, a kibbutz-based apprentice program, with the hope that it would help him socialize and return to work.

"When people have a safe and loving place to 'be,' the possibilities are endless," says founder **Menachem Stolpner**. As Tzvika puts it, "I see Shai Asher as my second home. They cherish me as a human being, see me — what I do, my potential — recognize me and give me purpose each day."



shutaf ISR ⊕ Creating Inclusive Spaces for Youth of All Abilities

Because there were no quality summer programs for their own disabled children, **Beth Steinberg** and **Miriam Avraham** created Camp Shutaf. In 2007, Morane Soffer joined the second camp as a young girl, full of exuberance and humor.

Through the years, Shutaf programs have been an integral part of Morane's life — including now, at age 26. Last summer she joined the Kitchen Vocational Training program, which introduced her to an entirely new dynamic. The two-week training required teamwork, listening skills and more. Morane did not give up. She loved her work, as well as the paycheck that came with it.

Morane says it was *kef*, or fun, to work in the camp kitchen. "[It] felt normal to go from camper to staffer," she says — and hopes to work at camp again this summer.

spirit club foundation USA⊕ Helping People with Disabilities Build Strength and Confidence

A year ago, Denise, who has autism, received a SPIRIT Club scholarship and began her fitness journey. She attends personal training sessions twice a week and has made much progress toward achieving her goals. "The sessions have been invaluable to her," her grandmother says. "She has gotten stronger physically, and [SPIRIT Club has] helped to build her self-esteem."

Mainstream gyms are not inclusive or welcoming to people with disabilities. So **Jared Ciner**, who believes exercise is essential to a happy, healthy life, founded SPIRIT Club — which stands for Social-Physical-Interactive-Respectful-Integrated-Teamwork. The organization makes fitness more accessible.

"People are incredibly empowered and grateful to be able to say, 'Yes! I can work out ... just like everyone else can,'" Jared says.

Dignity for our Elders

HEART TO PLATE ISR Meals and More for Isolated Elders

Bella made aliyah from Russia in 1991. Now elderly and with no immediate family, she was living an isolated life. Through Heart to Plate, Bella has formed a special bond with the volunteers: community members who cook a little extra and provide her with a meal each Shabbat and who also invite her to their homes and accompany her to concerts. "I feel like I have a new family," says Bella. "I am no longer alone."

More than 2,000 meals served by over 400 volunteers provide food and friendship, explain cofounders **Ronnie Lee** and **Matan Asulin**. "We are bringing [our elderly and isolated neighbors] back into the community," says Matan. "The elderly population needs more than just food," adds Ronnie. "They need love, warmth and to know that there are people in the world who care for them."

LILY — LIFEFORCE IN LATER YEARS USA ♥ Building Community for Isolated Seniors

Dr. Raji Murty, an immigrant from India, was living alone in her New York apartment when she found a LiLY flyer that changed her life. "If it wasn't for LiLY," she says, "I would have had to leave my home and travel across the world, forced to live with a distant family member." Raji recovered from a fall and a case of COVID just in time for her 101st birthday, all the while cared for by her volunteer family who live on the same block and call her "Auntie."

"Our culture doesn't have a place for very old people, except a nursing home," says founder **Irene Zola** (*z"l*). "I decided I wanted to do something about that." And she has. LiLY's compassionate volunteers help with day-to-day needs — and provide isolated elders with a vital link to their neighborhood.

N.B. As this Journal of Good was going to press, we learned of Irene's unexpected death. Typical of so many of our Good People, Irene was inspired by her personal experiences with an aging, infirm mother. The harsh realities of life in a nursing home led her to create a program that addressed loneliness by enlisting community support in caring for our elders. Because of her passion, many elders living on Manhattan's Upper West Side and Harlem are able to age in place and know that they are not alone.

MUSIC MENDS MINDS (MMM) USA ⊕ Music as Therapy

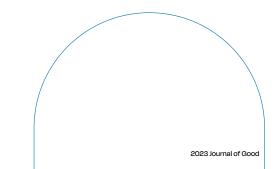
Fred, who is living with dementia, attends his musical support group three times a week. "It's the only time I see the real Fred now — the glint in his eye and him enjoying something. He feels good and remembers words," says his wife, Marilyn. "Singing with MMM makes a cognitive difference ... he has a better attitude about life."

Carol Rosenstein and husband **Irwin**, (*z"l*), founded Music Mends Minds to improve the lives of those who, like themselves, were dealing with the challenges of neurodegenerative disease. "The power of musicmaking brought pure joy back into my life," Carol says, "in spite of the daily uphill climb." Science has proven that music is about more than playing and social interaction. It's about brain chemistry. "Using music as a tool," says Carol, "is so healing, so successful, so powerful."

THE SURVIVOR MITZVAH PROJECT (TSMP) USA ⊕ Helping Holocaust Survivors in Eastern Europe

Eva Pavlovna fled the Nazis to avoid certain death, but all of her relatives were murdered. She now lives in Odessa, Ukraine, and cares for her disabled daughter. But when recent surgery incapacitated Eva, the ongoing war left her without a caregiver, medicine or supplies. "As a result of Russia's barbaric war, I do not know how I will live further," she wrote to TSMP and its founder, **Zane Buzby**. "I beg you to help!" TSMP saw the urgency of her pleas and quickly sent Eva funds for prescriptions and care, saving both her life and her daughter's.

"The Survivor Mitzvah Project," Zane says, "is the only lifeline for the last survivors of the Holocaust." Thousands of survivors have received both material support as well as kindness and compassion reminding them that they are not forgotten.



Building Coexistence, One Video at a Time

Some impressive numbers pop from People of the Book's Facebook page and YouTube channel — tens of thousands of views here, hundreds of thousands there, and a subscriber base in the enviable six-digit range.

In today's scroll-through culture, stats like those mean something's going right.

Rabbi Elhanan Miller — Israeli-born and a fluent Arabic speaker — launched People of the Book just six years ago, marrying visual and social media to spark alternative dialogues and plant new understandings in the Arab world about Jewish faith and culture.

"I've dedicated my life to bringing Jews and Arabs closer together and getting them to understand each other," says Rabbi Miller, who has long generated and led grassroots, face-to-face conversations between the two populations.

"I was dabbling with interreligious meetings and interactions even as a student," he says. "I was tasked in 2016 with teaching Palestinians about Judaism and I realized there is very little knowledge there in terms of faith and peoplehood and culture."

But he recognized the potential of social media to

expand and deepen reach beyond those more analog living room and classroom encounters.

People of the Book uses video formats ranging from straight-up interviews to animated shorts, and covers all manner of topics, from a comparison of kosher and halal diets, to interviews with Jews from Arab lands now living in Israel. A talk with a Syrian Jew living in Israel and representing universal themes of displacement and resettlement is one of the most viewed.

In fact, Rabbi Miller is one of a select number of creators whose content is used on the Arabic language social media sites of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hind Hazim, who lives in northern Iraq, is an avid follower of posts from People of the Book, she told The Washington Post recently.

"For me, it's an authentic source. People who live in the Arab world do not get clear information on social media, mainstream media or in books about Jews or Israel. At the beginning of the 20th century, it was normal to have Jewish friends and neighbors, but now we are separated from them. I don't have the chance to talk to them face to face."



"I've dedicated my life to bringing Jews and Arabs closer together and getting them to understand each other."

> Rabbi Miller — who also teaches at the Shalom Hartman Institute and the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem — says some of his now 300,000 followers are in regular contact with him, posing followup questions about posted content.

"If this project makes a small contribution drawing people together and promoting understanding in a way that didn't exist before, then it is doing its job," he says.

Poverty and Fundamental Needs

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY (F-TO-F) USA Combating Poverty, One Family at a Time

After Carmen's husband and son were murdered for their activism around indigenous rights, she fled Mexico with her teenage daughter and two grandchildren. While they were living in a garage in Los Angeles, Family-to-Family connected them with a sponsor and monthly groceries. Donors also provided household items to help the family return to a sense of normalcy. Carmen's granddaughter says, "I was afraid at the beginning when we fled ... now I am able to feel comfortable and safe. I discovered that people can be really kind."

For **Pam Koner**, this story encapsulates the impact F-to-F makes. "We reach out to our donors with very specific needs for individuals struggling with poverty ... and provide them with a concrete, targeted way to answer those needs," says Pam. F-to-F works in 38 communities across 16 states, helping refugees, seniors, veterans and more.

GABRIEL PROJECT MUMBAI (GPM) ISR **P Fostering Hope in India's Slums**

Bhagwan works as a laborer in a tiny village in India. With four family members, he struggles to feed everyone and to ensure that his children are educated. His daughter, Rakhi, is part of GPM's STEM education classes, which have inspired her to pursue a college education. But while scholarships are available for school itself, the family could not pay application fees, produce an income statement or get to the office where they needed to file it.

GPM's Social Protection team made sure the family could get the income certificate and pay the application fees. They also helped Rakhi apply for a scholarship — and she is now awaiting acceptance into college. Stories like Bhagwan's are what **Jacob Sztokman** envisioned when he created GPM to address India's poorest citizens.

"I am grateful to GPM for their help," Bhagwan says. "Her education will mean a good job and life for her in the future."

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

Alyssa and Dan have two children, including four-yearold Nate. Nate is terminally ill and has a feeding tube that assists him with nutrition. Concerned about the family's financial situation, the children's pediatrician called Mitzvah Circle and asked if they could pay the family's electric bill to prevent their service from being turned off. In typical fashion, Mitzvah Circle paid the bill and solved one of the family's many challenges.

The organization, founded by **Fran Held**, provides personal attention to clients referred to them by social workers and other agencies. "Every week Mitzvah Circle is faced with families who are walking along life's edge," says Fran. From a warehouse in Pennsylvania filled with new and donated items, volunteers create care packages to fill the void left when other resources are depleted.

one can help USA ⊕ Supporting Court-Involved Families in Massachusetts

In order to regain legal custody of her teenage son, Cheryl needed to pass the "test" set forth by The Department of Children and Families. Each day she had to drive 45 minutes to pick him up from his program and bring him to school. The gas money provided by One Can Help was more than a welcome relief. "Without a bit of assistance," says Cheryl's attorney, "reunification would have been delayed for reasons of poverty alone!"

Juvenile court attorneys turn to One Can Help for resources — not available elsewhere — to support the underserved children and families they work with. "You go into this field because you believe you can make a difference," says founder and attorney **Anne Bader-Martin**. Since 2006, the organization has helped more than 15,000 children and families, keeping an already bad situation from getting worse.

TEN GAV ISR ⊕ Crowdfunding For Good

Dina grew up in a deeply religious home, attending religious schools where no secular subjects were taught. Her childhood was also filled with tension, as her parents fought constantly — and when they divorced, her father disappeared from her life. Dina completed school, served in the army and then studied in a college accounting program, but it wasn't easy. Her lack of English proficiency presented obstacles to her progress. But without tuition money, English lessons were out of reach.

When **Vivi Mann** and **Naomi Brounstein** created Ten Gav, a creative crowdfunding platform that raises funds to help people like Dina, they never envisioned how many lives could be changed. Working closely with social services throughout the country, the organization steps in when no other resources are available — allowing Dina to declare, "I am feeling on top of the world!"

THE WAREHOUSE NJ USA ⊕ Helping to Create New Beginnings

"I still can't believe this. You just don't understand — it is a life-changing experience." For Joan, a victim of domestic violence, long months of living in a shelter along with her young son, has left her with far too many doubts about a better life.

She convinced a landlord to take a chance on her and began to hope. When she met **Kim Sleeman**, founder of The Warehouse NJ, she realized that her luck really had changed. Visiting Kim's warehouse filled with beautiful furniture donated by generous homeowners, Joan was able to get everything she needed to begin life anew.

With the help of an army of volunteers and a tiny staff, The Warehouse NJ has furnished more than 850 homes for victims of domestic violence, newly settled refugees, victims of fires and homeless people finally getting a home of their own.



Support at a Vulnerable Time

Each was navigating the aftermath of losing a child in a stillborn birth, and searching for the kind of understanding that comes from others who know that place intimately.

They found each other in a NechamaComfort virtual support group for parents who had suffered similar loss — their connection deepened by the fact that their losses were close in time, putting them in the same general spot on grief's uncertain map.

Eventually, the five couples learned that each expected a new child within weeks of each other, and so NechamaComfort started a new twice-monthly support group focused on pregnancy after loss.

"After losing Ella, I connected to this amazing organization and I met some incredible women," says Marcy. "Throughout our journeys, we all knew that we wanted to have another baby, and then we all found out we were pregnant and due within six weeks of one another.

"Throughout our pregnancies, we leaned on each other through the intense anxiety and unknowns of pregnancy after loss."

Reva Judas, who founded NechamaComfort in 2010, faced a culture that avoided the subject of pregnancy and infant loss after her own son Pesach died hours after birth. "People would cross the street when they saw me," she says. "They didn't know how to react. No one talked about anything in those days. There was no vocabulary. If we didn't talk about it, then it didn't exist."

What began as a phone call here, a quiet conversation there, grew into what is NechamaComfort, a New Jersey-based GPF grantee organization. Fueled by compassion and shared experience, it is a presence and resource for individuals, couples and families facing the trauma of pregnancy or infant loss and its short and extended emotional challenges.

Besides offering support groups, counseling, logistical guidance and more, NechamaComfort also works with the medical community, clergy, funeral homes and others to ensure that families receive the support, care and sensitivity that they need.

Relationships formed under the NechamaComfort umbrella often prove to be enduring. Last Mother's Day, the mothers who formed the pregnancy-afterloss support group met — with their infant children in their arms.

"Through the immense grief comes incredible joy within these friendships that will last a lifetime," Marcy says. "We and our babies will always have this connection that no one can take away."

As Reva says, "This is the real work, helping families to never feel alone."



"People would cross the street when they saw me. They didn't know how to react. No one talked about anything in those days. There was no vocabulary. If we didn't talk about it, then it didn't exist."

Allocations and Index

GRANTEE	AMOUNT	PG	GRANTEE
A Courageous Voice	13,000	23	LiLY-Lifefo
Achlah	7,485	30	Magen
Al-Baqour	15,000	16	Magen for
Ani Shlishi	111,560	18	MARVA
ATZUM	5,990		Medical Ju
BirdieLight	5,000	23	Mitzvah C
Big Brothers, Big Sisters Israel♦	990		Music Mer
Breaking the Chain Through Education	on 7,500	22	MyChild's
Brit Ha'Leviot	7,500	7	Necha Ma
Candles of Hope	25,000	24	Nechama
Caravan to Class	8,000	28	Negev Ref
Civic Spirit	10,000	6	New Neigh
Compassion Prison Project	5,000	10	Nivcharot
Connections Mentor	9,000	18	One Can H
Creating Connected Communities	6,500		People of
Detroit Horse Power	10,000	18	Pesia's Kit
Detroit Phoenix Center	16,000	18	Puerto Ric
English B'Yachad 🔳	70,000	22	Pure Hear
Envision Kindness	3,400		Refugee A
Everyday Boston	10,000	10	Road to Re
Family-to-Family	13,200	34	Ruca's Far
Feet Forward	10,000		S.A.H.I.令
Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA)	10,000	6	Sahar
The Food Project	14,450	11	Shai Ashei
For Good PGH	15,000	10	Shalhevet
The Forgotten People Fund	41,157		Shutaf∎
Gabriel Project Mumbai	15,000	34	SPIRIT Clu
Heart 2 Hart Detroit	10,000	10	Starting O
Heart to Plate	54,636	31	The Surviv
Hello Neighbor	5,250		Tag Meir
Homes Not Borders	5,000		Ten Gav 🔳
I Support the Girls	10,000	15	Transisrae
International Neighbors	5,250	22	TribeTalk■
Israeli Friends of Ukraine	9,029		The (un)co
Jeremy's Circle∎	67,599	23	Uplifting L
jGirls+ Magazine	6,822	15	The Wareh
JLM Food Rescuers	10,000	14	Waves of I
Just Imagine	10,000	19	Witness to
Kaima令	283,514		Yotsrot∻
Kaima Hukuk	25,000	19	ZA'AKAH
Kaima Nahalal	45,498	15	Zehava an
Kavod v'Nichum	10,000	26	Zumwalt /
Kuchinate令	8,867		
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GRANTEL	AWOONT	Fu
LiLY-Lifeforce in Later Years	12,500	31
Magen	22,000	19
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MARVA	28,000	26
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Mitzvah Circle Foundation	10,000	34
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Pesia's Kitchen	278,098	14
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ZA'AKAH	19,800 13,500	27
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	16,456	тэ

AMOUNT PG

A portion of this grant was donor-recommended
All of this grant was donor-recommended
New program

Financials

For the Period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Contributions Investment Income

3,002,057
2,181
3,004,238

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Grants	2,551,988			2,551,988
Salaries *	71,162	15,247	15,247	101,656
Payroll Taxes	5,752	1,232	1,232	8,216
Administrative Support *	-	40,068	-	40,068
Bank and Credit Card Fees	-	-	6,799	6,799
Consulting	19,440	-	12,960	32,400
Depreciation and Amortization	364	45	45	454
Insurance	1,072	1,609	230	2,911
Marketing	32,656	-	21,770	54,426
Office	-	2,198	-	2,198
Payroll Service	152	33	33	218
Postage and Shipping	879	188	188	1,255
Professional Fees	-	14,950	-	14,950
Telephone and Internet	270	58	58	386
Travel and Lodging	9,097	1,950	1,950	12,997
Technology Expense	8,574	1,838	1,838	12,250
Total Expenses	149,418	79,416	62,350	291,184
Total grants and expenses	2,701,406	79,416	62,350	2,843,172
Change in Net Assets				161,066

Net Assets at July 1, 2022

Net Assets at June 30, 2023

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

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