



REFLECTIONS from Marvin Schotland

Finding Gratitude Now

It's been a rather unusual experience working remotely these past few months, but like so many others, I've grown accustomed to it as we navigate through the pandemic. Because of the severity of COVID-19, I've become more sensitive to the fragility of life and have developed a much deeper sense of gratitude than ever before.

I'm grateful to lead a foundation that was able to completely pivot and redirect all of its institutional grantmaking this year — \$8.5 million in total — to our [COVID-19 Response Grants](#), as you'll read about



Marvin Schotland

President & CEO
Jewish Community Foundation
of Los Angeles

The Foundation's business involves constantly meeting with many people — staff members, donors, grantees, community leaders, and professional advisors, among others. Before the pandemic, we regularly hosted a variety of events and meetings. While we've attempted to replicate this experience via Zoom and our well-received [Online Donor Salon Series](#), I miss interacting with everyone in person.

in this issue of *Legacy Online*. It was only possible through the diligent work and innovative thinking of our staff, as well as the unanimous support of our dedicated Board of Trustees. This amount is in addition to the nearly \$4.5 million in grants our donors have directed to pandemic relief to date.

I miss the camaraderie with every member of The Foundation's staff, but I'm deeply grateful for their enormous dedication to our business and their nimbleness since the pandemic began.

I miss meeting with our donors and discussing their passions, hopes, and concerns, but I am so thankful for how generously they have responded to vital needs caused by the pandemic and am grateful that so many have reached out to us to help them with all of their charitable planning needs. I miss connecting with our innovative grantees and feeling their palpable energy and enthusiasm as they endeavor to change the world for the better. Yet I feel so fortunate to watch them re-imagine their services in these most difficult circumstances.

Lastly, I'm enormously grateful for the good health and encouragement of those around me personally and professionally. For me, the silver lining of this pandemic is how family, friends, and colleagues — and our community and city — have banded together to confront this crisis.

With no end to the pandemic in sight, we all face a period of prolonged uncertainty. Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, a renowned Jewish scholar and professor at Yeshiva University in New York — and a recent speaker at our Online Donor Salon Series — observes that, when helping others during a crisis, *The act of giving is an expression of gratitude*. At The Foundation, we wholeheartedly agree. We know that the vital work we and our grantees are involved in, and our donors' generous support, will help us move toward better days ahead. ✧



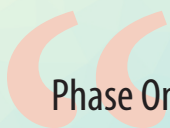
\$8.5M in COVID-19 Response Grants Helps Ease the Pain

These are challenging times for gratitude. As the coronavirus pandemic upends lives across the globe, it feels natural to focus on what communities like ours in Los Angeles have lost: loved ones, financial security for so many, and, in some cases, the ability to meet basic daily needs.

Yet, if there is a silver lining to all the suffering, it is the power of people to come together to uplift their neighbors and offer mutual support. At the Jewish Community Foundation, we are grateful to be in a position to lend a helping hand and proud to announce we are directing the entirety of our 2020 grantmaking — \$8.5 million — toward vital COVID-19 relief. Including the nearly \$4.5 million in pandemic aid generously distributed by our donors so far, a total of \$13 million is flowing through The Foundation to aid nonprofit agencies who are there to ease the suffering.



Project Angel Food cooks and delivers nutritious meals, free of charge, to people affected by life-threatening illnesses.



Phase One funding distributed \$2.5 million to 22 nonprofits for immediate needs in shoring up financial and housing instability, combating food insecurity, and ensuring access to adequate healthcare.

Phase One: Addressing Immediate Needs

Formally known as COVID-19 Response Grants, our plan to assist LA-based nonprofits in both the Jewish and general communities is unfolding in two phases. The first encompasses grants to organizations providing direct services to those affected by the pandemic. In July, Phase One funding distributed \$2.5 million to [22 nonprofits](#) for immediate needs in shoring up financial and housing instability, combating food insecurity, and ensuring access to adequate healthcare.





LA Family Housing helps families transition out of homelessness and poverty.

Identifying these Phase One nonprofits was a lengthy process dedicated mostly to researching and listening, notes Lori Klein, vice president of The Foundation's [Center for Designed Philanthropy](#). "We reached out to more than 100 of our grantees and other nonprofits to see how they were doing, learn more about their needs, and determine how we could be helpful," she says.

The resulting grants will give a crucial boost to 22 area nonprofits, including Jewish Family Service, the Los Angeles Jewish Home, Bet Tzedek, Project Angel Food, Venice Family Clinic, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, among many others. Their response, notes Klein, has been very uplifting. "After we announced the grants, we received so much



Los Angeles Regional Food Bank distributes food and other essentials to children, seniors, families, and other individuals in need.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital is dedicated to improving health in South Los Angeles.

gratitude from our grantees and appreciation for the vital role The Foundation is playing to address critical needs caused by the pandemic," she recalls. "We are deeply moved to see the difference we will make."

\$1 Million for The Federation's Pandemic Relief Campaign

Phase One of The Foundation's plan also includes a \$1 million grant to [The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles](#) for its efforts to support wellness and resiliency, access to food assistance through synagogues, financial aid and scholarships for early-childhood and day-school education to families affected by COVID-19, and loan guarantees. Jay Sanderson, The Federation's president and CEO, points out that The Federation and The Foundation have long collaborated to advance the common good.

"Our two organizations' deep partnership affects our community each and every day," he says. "We are deeply appreciative that The Foundation has again stepped forward with generous financial support to help us come to the aid of our growing vulnerable population directly affected by COVID-19."





Phase Two: Sustainability of Jewish Nonprofits

The second phase of The Foundation’s pandemic related grantmaking amounts to \$6 million. Grants will be awarded on an invitation-only basis to Jewish nonprofits locally and in Israel to mitigate economic hardship resulting from COVID-19 and to ensure their continued viability.

With no end to the pandemic in sight, vulnerable individuals and families across Los Angeles face a period of prolonged uncertainty. But at The Foundation, one thing is certain. We are laser-focused on COVID-19 relief locally and in Israel.

We are deeply grateful for our cherished donors, dedicated members of our Board of Trustees, and, especially, our exceptional grantees, whose life-changing work will sustain our community and help us move toward better days ahead. ✘



Tomchei Shabbos serves families in the observant and Orthodox Jewish community in Greater Los Angeles.

Vital funding for our COVID response provided by two longtime supporters:

Mickey and Irene Ross Endowment

Mickey Ross, z”l, was an Emmy Award-winning television comedy writer and producer (*All in the Family, The Jeffersons, Three’s Company*) who created an endowment at The Foundation to support LA’s most vulnerable citizens. Mads Bjerre — Mickey’s former business manager who helped him establish the Ross Endowment at The Foundation — is enthusiastic about the endowment’s participation in The Foundation’s COVID-19 Response Grants program. “Because this initiative is helping the neediest in Los Angeles, I know that Mickey, of blessed memory, would have been so proud and grateful to contribute to its success through his endowment fund,” he explains.

Erwin Rautenberg Foundation

We partner closely with this private family foundation to manage its grantmaking locally, in Israel, and throughout the world. A Holocaust survivor who built a thriving international shipping business, Erwin Rautenberg, z”l, created his foundation to benefit Jewish educational initiatives and human services programs. For the Erwin Rautenberg Foundation, partnering in The Foundation’s COVID-19 response was a moral imperative, and the most effective way to maximize impact. “We’re able to rely on The Foundation’s deep expertise in researching and vetting nonprofits that are best suited to meet critical needs — and we know our foundation’s resources will help relieve some of the pain and unprecedented suffering,” commented Tom Corby, the organization’s president and co-founder of the Corby & Corby accounting firm.

DONOR PROFILE: MARCIA AND DICK VOLPERT

For the Common Good



The Volpert family celebrates Dick's 85th birthday.

When it comes to giving back, few Angelenos are as involved or invested as Marcia and Richard (Dick) Volpert. For over 60 years, these New York transplants have worked tirelessly to advance the common good across Los Angeles, donating both time and resources in pursuit of a more cohesive and compassionate community.

Marcia and Dick are Jewish Community Foundation veterans. Through their charitable and volunteer endeavors, they pursue a vision of a society that uplifts all its members, and we proudly partner with them to help make that vision a reality. We reached out to the couple to discuss their far-reaching philanthropy.

Local Impact. Global Reach.

From the moment they arrived in Los Angeles in 1959, Dick and Marcia threw themselves into community work. "We've always strongly believed in the importance of building bridges between the Jewish and secular communities, so that's where we focused a lot of our energy," recalls Dick, whose position as an attorney (and later a partner) at prestigious law firm O'Melveny & Myers gave him access to some of the most influential civic leaders of the day. He partnered with mayors and other city officials on a variety of civil rights issues. For her part, Marcia became active in the League of Women Voters and Jewish Family Service. The pair were also vocal advocates for Soviet refuseniks, assisting Russian Jews in the face of government oppression.



From Generation to Generation

As they raised their four children — Barry, Sandy, Linda, and Nancy — Dick and Marcia modeled the values of *tikkun olam*. Dick balanced a high-powered career in real estate law (moving from O'Melveny to prestigious firms Skadden, Arps; Munger, Tolles & Olson; and, today, Glaser, Weil) with volunteer service spanning diverse areas of interest. His resume includes stints on the boards of The Foundation, the L.A. County Natural History Museum, the American Jewish Committee, the L.A. Chamber Orchestra, the L.A. County Bar Association, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, and countless others. He was also the founding publisher of the *Jewish Journal*. Marcia

was appointed to the L.A. Civil Service Commission, the Department of Water and Power Board, and the L.A. County Board of Education. Dick and Marcia each chaired the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council. "We strove to inculcate in our children an understanding that, as human beings in the world, it's our duty to strive for justice," Marcia says.

Safe. Experienced. Reliable.

Marcia and Dick have relied on The Foundation to help administer their charitable donations. "It's a safe, reliable way to explore your giving options — plus, they train you by sharing their own expertise," Marcia says. "We've learned from their success and benefitted from their experience." There is, Dick notes, another upside: being exposed to a broad range of dynamic nonprofit groups that might otherwise be difficult to find. "The Foundation is able to broker introductions to organizations that are doing incredible work but are flying under the radar," he says. As Marcia sees it, the more The Foundation can support them, the more enduring their charitable legacy will be. "L.A. has been good to us," she says. "The Foundation facilitates our being good in return." ✕



“We’ve always strongly believed in the importance of building bridges between the Jewish and secular communities.”

Dick Volpert



ONLINE SALON SERIES

Inspiring, Informing, Entertaining Our Donors

Our [Online Donor Salon Series](#) continued in June with an eclectic mix of spiritual guidance, charitable estate planning, and healing artistic experiences that sparked meaningful conversations among Foundation donors and staff. The three salons were *Charitable Planning* with Leah Bishop of Loeb & Loeb LLP, and Steve Gamer and Natella Royzman of The Foundation, *Healing Through Artistic Expression* with Jewish Women’s Theatre Co-Founder and Artistic Director Ronda Spinak and theatre dybbuk Artistic Director Aaron Henne, and *Helping Others During Times of Crisis* with Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter of Yeshiva University.

“It was wonderful to attend these engaging Foundation events online, from the comfort and safety of my home, during this uncertain time. I look forward to attending more of these online salons in the future,” said Debra Frank, Foundation donor.

Helping Others During Times of Crisis

Rabbi Schacter provided spiritual guidance on how to navigate crisis as a community. He focused on resilience and gratitude, citing Jewish and secular texts. He told moving stories of Holocaust survivors to illustrate his meaningful insights.

“Gratitude can be incredibly motivating, especially now. When we appreciate what we have, we can more easily focus our energies on helping others.” Giving enables us to move beyond the challenges we face, empower those less fortunate, and share our values with future generations. This cycle of gratitude and giving will strengthen our community for years to come.

“Resilience is being able every single day to express gratitude for what we have and what we’re able to give and to live meaningful lives despite the current challenges and the uncertainty in the future.”

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Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter



Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter

gratitude

resilience

giving...



...support



Leah Bishop

Charitable Planning

Leah Bishop, Steve Gamer, and Natella Royzman shared valuable tools and

strategies for developing a charitable estate plan that maximizes tax benefits and ensures that your chosen causes receive support in perpetuity. Here are the top takeaways:

1. Interest rates are at record lows, making it an excellent time to invest.
2. Asset values are depressed, making higher than average yields more likely in the future, assuming that values rebound once the economy returns to normal.
3. **Donor Advised Funds** have many benefits, including Foundation experts to help you navigate the charitable landscape and ease of giving with our online portal, **Donor Services Online**.
4. **Endowment Funds** have many benefits, including the security of knowing The Foundation will be a solid financial steward for your gift and ensuring sustained support for your favorite charities and causes in perpetuity.
5. The Foundation's experts will help you identify your passions, explore your areas of interest, and connect you with outstanding nonprofits that are repairing the world every day. Schedule a meeting with us and start creating your legacy.



theatre dybbuk

Healing Through Artistic Expression

Foundation grantees Jewish Women's Theatre and theatre dybbuk shared moving performances and a storytelling workshop that promoted healing and understanding during this uncertain time.

Jewish Women's Theater Co-Founder and Artistic Director Ronda Spinak



Lisa Cirincione, Jewish Women's Theatre

introduced heartening and humorous stories from its new digital series **INSIDE OUR TIME: Stories From The Sheltering**. theatre dybbuk creates theatrical events based on Jewish folklore, rituals, and history. Artistic Director Aaron

Henne took attendees through a storytelling reflection to help all participants to find their own personal narratives of change and healing while sheltering at home. ✨

reflection