

**Yad Chessed Charity Fund**  
**46 Columbia Street**  
**Brookline, MA 02446**

ANNUAL REPORT  
September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003

## INTRODUCTION

Once again, it is a pleasure to present you with the fourteenth annual report of the Yad Chessed Charity Fund. A report on the various activities of the Fund follows.

## DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Together with our "Gemach", or interest free loans, direct assistance is the central activity of Yad Chessed. Yad Chessed pays for necessities. While the majority of our help is for food assistance, we have also helped pay for housing, heat, medical treatment and other items. We assist a number of people on a regular basis, usually in the form of distributing monthly food certificates. This generally averaged over 65 families per month. In addition, we provided clothing certificates to a number of families. These are almost all families with children. Only rarely does Yad Chessed give cash assistance and the amount is very small. During the past fiscal year, \$154,979.38 was given for direct assistance which compares with \$134,329.62 which was given the previous year. This included \$93,052.88 for food, \$32,641.44 for housing, \$5,349.40 for clothing, \$4,881.27 for medical and dental needs, \$5,357.38 for heat, \$3,903.47 for other utilities and \$9,793.54 for other necessities.

## INTEREST FREE LOANS

Some people do not require or will not accept direct assistance. They may be temporarily out of work, arranging their child's wedding, starting a new business or have unexpected bills. Yad Chessed is glad to help these people with an interest free loan which is paid back generally over the ensuing year. This past year \$42,689.36 was given out in loans and \$48,161 was paid back.

## PURIM PROGRAM

One of the important commandments of Purim is "matanot l'evyonim" or "gifts to the poor". In his famous Mishna Torah, Moses Maimonides described this commandment as follows: "One is duty bound ON THE DAY OF PURIM to distribute to the poor." However, for many people in the Boston area, it is very difficult to fulfill this commandment when they do not personally know any poor people. Each year Yad Chessed makes arrangements to allow both individuals and synagogues to carry out this commandment.

In the 2003 Purim Program twenty-four congregations and educational institutions and various individuals donated \$34,451.98 for "matanot l'evyonim" (compared to \$40,601 the previous year). \$4068 went for food assistance for 29 refugee families (52 individuals) from the former Soviet Union. \$31,083.78 went to help 184 other needy families (497 individuals) in the

community. Store discounts enabled us to provide \$38,127.78 in assistance. \$2083.50 went to help needy people in Israel. (More funds were allocated than were collected on Purim day to make allowance for late arriving donations, for discounts on the cost of the food and for undelivered and unused food certificates. The difference was made up by regular tzedakah funds.)

## HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Yad Chessed has a program for Mo'ot Chitim for Pesach. Yad Chessed provides assistance for needy people so that they may purchase food to celebrate Passover. In addition, we provided additional food assistance for people for the High Holidays and Sukkot. While most of the assistance was used to help people locally, we also disbursed \$2000 to help needy people in Israel for Pesach.

## ISRAEL

Yad Chessed is set up primarily to help people in the Boston area. However, some of our donors requested that we help people in Israel. Therefore, for Purim we gave \$2083.50 to Yad Eliezer to help people in Israel from our special Purim program of "matanot l'evyonim" and before Pesach we gave \$1000 to Yad Ezra and \$1000 to congregation Both Pinchas for Mo'ot Chitim for people in Israel. For more information on these programs, please contact Yad Chessed.

## FAMILY TABLE

Family Table: Greater Boston's Jewish Food Pantry, provides non-perishable food and other items to a number of Jewish families with children. Congregations, day schools and Jewish Community Centers donate these items and they are distributed once a month, eleven months during the year. Generally, in August, there is no distribution and Yad Chessed provides food certificates for Family Table recipients. In 2002 the Holidays all fell on weekends in September, so there was no Family Table distribution in September, 2002. Since the fiscal year of Yad Chessed ends August 31, Yad Chessed provided food certificates for Family Table recipients twice this past fiscal year, once in September, 2002 and once in August, 2003.

## SOME WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Without the help of a number of people, Yad Chessed would not be able to carry out its work. Jewish Family and Children's Service refers many applicants, investigating their situations and advising what help would be most appropriate as well as mailing the monthly food certificates. One person records and deposits the continuous flow of contributions and loan repayments to Yad Chessed using a computerized management system that he has developed specifically for this task as well as producing the required financial reports, calculated summaries, and printed mailing labels. Another person has his office handle prepare all our mailings and in addition, he paid all the printing costs. An accountant provided a review of our statement of assets and fund balance which is required by the State of Massachusetts. To all these people who have given of their time, a very special thank you.

## A FINAL WORD

This past year, our unrestricted contributions went down a little over 3 (from \$183,562.21 the previous year to \$177,717.39 this past year). Our unrestricted grants went up over 10 (from \$176,349.12 the previous year to \$194,214.66 this past year). (The reason we were able to increase our grants despite reduced contributions was that last year we had a large surplus while this year we had a large deficit.) Our interest-free loans stayed about the same (from \$42,285 the previous year to \$42,689.36 this past year). Thank you to all our donors for making it possible to help the many needy people who requested assistance.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES  
for the year September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2003

RECEIPTS:

Unrestricted contributions	176,807.54
Donor advised contributions (Note 2)	521.45
Contributions for fundraising & overhead (Note 1)	909.85
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$178,238.84
Interest free loan repayments	48,161.00
Interest and dividends	112.88
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$226,512.72

EXPENDITURES:

Grants	194,214.66
Donor advised grants (Note 2)	521.45
Interest free loans	42,689.36
TOTAL GRANTS AND LOANS	\$237,425.47
Fundraising and overhead (Note 1)	909.85
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$238,335.32

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES (\$11,822.60)

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BALANCE SHEET

August 31, 2003

ASSETS:

Cash	5,546.46
Food Certificates	540.00
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$6,086.46
Interest free loans receivable	61,064.53
TOTAL ASSETS	\$67,150.99

LIABILITIES:

\$0.00

BALANCE (ASSETS MINUS LIABILITIES) \$67,150.99

Notes:

1. The cost of fundraising and overhead was paid for by donations specifically designated for that purpose.
2. Donor advised contributions and donor advised grants refer to contributions that are donated for specific situations.