

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

ANNUAL REPORT  
September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004

## INTRODUCTION

Once again, it is a pleasure to present you with the fifteenth 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 about 60 families per month. Only rarely does Yad Chessed give cash assistance and the amount is very small. During the past fiscal year, \$136,186.87 was given for direct assistance which compares with \$154,979.38 which was given the previous year. This included \$79,972.50 for food, \$31,302 for housing, \$1,921.10 for clothing, \$5,191.45 for medical and dental needs, \$4,934.68 for heat, \$1,415.61 for other utilities and \$11,449.53 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 \$29,493 was given out in loans and \$28,919.36 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 2004 Purim Program twenty seven congregations and educational institutions and various individuals donated \$40,053.38 for "matanot l'evyonim" (compared to \$37,216.48 the previous year). \$4257 went for food assistance for 36 refugee families (52 individuals) from the former Soviet Union. \$37,089.50 went to help 166 other needy families (447 individuals) in the community. Store discounts enabled us to provide \$45,005 in assistance. \$2000 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 \$2000 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 Beth 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 for the last four years, Yad Chessed has provided food certificates for Family Table recipients for that month. However, this past year, Family Table had funds of their own to purchase food certificates. Therefore, there was no request made to Yad Chessed to provide food certificates to Family Table recipients this past year.

## 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 up almost 8% (from \$177,717.39 the previous year to \$191,734.67 this past year). Our unrestricted grants went down over 6% (from \$194,214.66 the previous year to \$181,533.37 this past year). (The reason grants decreased despite increased contributions was that last year we had a large deficit while this year we had a surplus.) Our interest-free loans went down almost 31% (from \$42,689.36 the previous year to \$29,493 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	191,734.67
Donor advised contributions (Note 2)	4,000.00
Contributions for fundraising & overhead (Note 1)	1,254.80
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$196,989.47
Interest free loan repayments	28,919.36
Interest and dividends	62.50
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$225,971.33

EXPENDITURES:

Grants	181,533.37
Donor advised grants (Note 2)	240.00
Interest free loans	29,493.00
TOTAL GRANTS AND LOANS	\$211,266.37
Fundraising and overhead (Note 1)	1,254.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$212,521.17

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES \$13,450.16

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BALANCE SHEET

August 31, 2003

ASSETS:

Cash	15,891.62
Food Certificates	3,645.00
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$19,536.62
Interest free loans receivable	60,838.17
TOTAL ASSETS	\$80,374.79

LIABILITIES:

\$0.00

BALANCE (ASSETS MINUS LIABILITIES) \$80,374.79

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.