



An Update from Yad Chessed

May 2020

COVID-19 Update | Purim & Pesach | Tele-counseling | Extending our Reach



For more than 30 years, Yad Chessed has responded to Jews in need with swift emergency financial assistance and by offering advice with dignity and compassion. We are now in unprecedented times and it is more important than ever that Yad Chessed respond to needs quickly and nimbly.

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, Yad Chessed has sent out grocery gift cards to more than 1,300 people and paid more than \$40,000 for essentials such as glasses, heating oil, medicine, and hearing aids.

Our clients are single moms, seniors, and people with mental health issues. They are individuals with disabilities, families struggling with poverty and people whose recent job loss and minimal savings have put them in a precarious financial position.

Many thanks to the generous donors, foundations, and partners like CJP, who have enabled our dedicated social workers to offer financial assistance, sound advice, and hope during these challenging times.

Nancy Kriegel, Executive Director

Your support paid **\$40,000** in bills for client essentials

COVID-19

First-Time Inquiries Double



The pandemic has certainly affected us all differently. **Yad Chessed social workers are seeking to respond to each client's unique situation.** From providing gas cards for immunosuppressed clients for private transportation to appointments, to sending gift cards to stores that are in walking distance of elderly clients, we are tailoring our support as needed.

First-time inquiries for help doubled during March and April, leading us to implement a more streamlined application. For people who have never needed support before, Yad Chessed has been able to swiftly address their urgent needs while they consider their next steps and pursue additional resources and benefits suggested by our team.

1,300+ grocery gift cards provided

Purim & Pesach

Annual Traditions in an Exceptional Year



Your support this spring ensured that during Purim and Passover, Yad Chessed clients received Matanot L'evyonim (gifts for the poor) and Maot Chitim (funds for Passover food). The notes of thanks and voicemails exclaiming appreciation for our caring community, especially as the COVID-19 crisis was unfolding, were particularly poignant.

300+ in-depth conversations to assess needs and discuss next steps

Tele-counseling

For effective support



Before the days of social distancing, Yad Chessed's four social workers perfected the art of "tele-counseling." We have always understood the value and impact of offering our services primarily by phone, and **our clients find this easy access, low-barrier method comforting and helpful.** Therefore, we are uniquely positioned to help clients understand and access resources and benefits quickly and effectively.

One client recently shared her appreciation, "I did not know what to do or where to turn. Yad Chessed was there for me. You offered reassurance and good advice. You immediately helped me apply for government benefits and, within days I received your supermarket gift card. **I can't thank you enough!**"

Help us extend our reach

This is only the beginning

Yad Chessed is able to carry out its mission because of donors who give gifts that are meaningful to them. **Whether \$18 or \$1,800**, our donors know that these funds will ease the burden of those in need.

We are likely experiencing just the beginning of what will be long-term economic struggles for many. With your continued support, Yad Chessed will be there for our community. We will provide immediate financial assistance, and sound, compassionate advice to help **guide each client toward a more hopeful future.**

Do you or someone you know want to help people struggling in our community?

Visit yadchessed.org or call (781) 487-2695.

Do you or someone you know need help?

Contact intake@yadchessed.org or (781) 487-2693.

