



# An Update from Yad Chessed

## December 2020

Hanukkah Meal Delivery

| Zoom Event Recap

| Calling all Minyans!



During Hanukkah this year I am taking strength from the perennial message that we are a strong, resilient community. Hanukkah reminds us that in the face of struggle we can still find hope, and that with the power of partnerships and community we can tackle big problems.

Yad Chessed's mission is more vital now than at any point in our 30-year history. Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen a 50% increase in requests for support.

**Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have provided almost \$1M in direct financial assistance and guidance to people in our community.** Yet, as we begin 2021, many of our neighbors are still facing long-term economic struggles.

Yad Chessed will continue to provide grocery store gift cards, emergency financial assistance, and compassionate guidance to respond to the overwhelming challenges so many face. Jewish tradition teaches that we each have the capacity to bring light and compassion into the world. As we celebrate Hanukkah, and as candles bring light into our homes, my hope is that you will share that light and continue helping lift the burden of those less fortunate.

With warm wishes for 2021,

Nancy Kriegel, Executive Director

More than 1 million people in MA are struggling to buy enough food for their families

## CJP's Sarah Abramson and Yad Chessed Client share insights at Virtual Update & Discussion



On "Giving Tuesday," December 1st, Yad Chessed hosted almost 50 supporters and community members for a Virtual Update and Discussion featuring Sarah Abramson, CJP's Senior Vice President, Strategy and Impact. The conversation focused on the challenges facing our community and how vulnerable groups are uniquely affected by the pandemic. Attendees heard from Barbara, a Yad Chessed client, who shared how her social worker and the agency served as an invaluable lifeline – both financial and emotional – when she lost her job due to the pandemic.

Yad Chessed met the needs of 2x as many new clients this year

## Virtual Update & Discussion, continued

As Sarah noted “these stories of people struggling are not anomalies, and they are increasing.” Sarah, went on to say “Boston is unique in that we already had the infrastructure to respond to the pandemic, our social services agencies, including Yad Chessed, were already working together to address financial distress and food insecurity [in our community].” Sarah also discussed the importance of addressing social isolation and mental health, sharing a note from a client who received a food package, “thanks for the delivery and more importantly, thank you for remembering.”

To hear Barbara tell her story, visit [YadChessed.org/Stories](https://YadChessed.org/Stories).



## Hanukkah Meal Delivery

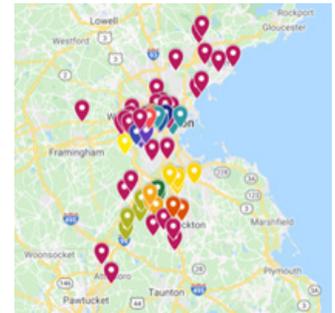
400 meals for families and isolated elders delivered to 46 towns



At the start of Hanukkah 150 households received a gift - the comfort of a kosher catered shabbat meal, the light of a menorah and candles, and the warmth of feeling supported by their community. This was made possible by a Yad Chessed donor who wanted to deliver a Hanukkah-in-a-box to Yad Chessed clients facing financial challenges and social isolation.

Over the course of calling each family to confirm meals and delivery, Yad Chessed social workers were able to check-in on their wellbeing and share the message: **You are not alone. You are not forgotten. You deserve to celebrate Shabbat and Hanukkah with your community.**

Many thanks to JewBer, Dushez Kosher Catering, Boston's Jewish Community Day School (JCDS), Epstein Hillel School, and over 50 volunteer delivery drivers for their partnership and generosity.



Visit [YadChessed.org/donate](https://YadChessed.org/donate) to spread the warmth this winter.

Are you part of a minyan or chavurah? We are looking for a minyan (or a few!) to pilot a new Matanot L'evyonim program for Purim 2021. Email [nancy@yadchessed.org](mailto:nancy@yadchessed.org) to get started.



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