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Volume 55, Issue 3

JEWISH GREATER
PORTLAND TOGETHER

COVID-19 RELIEF

CRISIS CAMPAIGN

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund has raised \$683,000 as of March 24.

Last week, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and generous community leaders launched the emergency fund to address emerging needs within the Jewish community that are related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Friday, March 20, JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner asked community members to join the effort: “We are all facing a crisis of unprecedented proportions. Our Jewish community is asking for your support, so together we will meet the needs of this time.”

The emergency fund will provide urgently needed assistance to vulnerable people throughout Greater Portland and Southwest Washington with a focus on older adults, isolated community members, and those impacted financially due to office closures and work stoppages.

The Federation and its communal partners have dramatically changed the way they work to respond to the current situation and to address these critical priorities:

- Care for our most vulnerable with emergency financial assistance.
- Strengthen community in a time of social distancing with friendly reassurance and volunteer support.
- Protect the long-term financial health of our Jewish institutions.
- Create meaningful Jewish experiences (virtually, utilizing technology) while our Jewish institutions and synagogues are unable to open their doors.

To donate to the Emergency Fund:
jewishportland.org/covid19relief

JEWISH COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO

COVID-19

VOLUNTEER MATCH

VOLUNTEER MATCH

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has created a communitywide resource to match volunteers with those in need of assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are facing a crisis of unprecedented proportions in our time, and the Jewish community is here for you,” wrote JFGP President and CEO Marc Blattner to introduce the new program.

The Volunteer Task Force will triage requests and help connect those in need with the proper resources. The task force is working with the leadership, agencies and synagogues of the Greater Portland Jewish community to identify and fill needs of individuals in the community.

NEED HELP:

- Do you need a phone call for an ongoing social connection?
- Do you need someone to pick up groceries, prescriptions and other basic necessities?
- Do you know of a senior who should be checked on by phone regularly?
- Other needs?

VOLUNTEERS:

- Healthy adults with low risk factors for getting COVID-19 can sign up to be paired with an elder or immunocompromised member of our community who could use assistance.
- Any adult can help from home by making phone calls to seniors and others needing a social connection or reassurance.

To ask for assistance or to volunteer, visit:

jewishportland.org/
jewish-portland-together

“Since this is a constantly developing situation, everything is subject to change,” wrote Blattner. “We understand that people’s daily lives will be evolving, so please be flexible as we work to help you.”

If you have questions, call 503-245-6219 or email volunteer@jewishportland.org.



NOW WHAT HAPPENS?

BY DEBORAH MOON

To address the COVID-19 health crisis, Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued a statewide “stay at home order” Monday in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. The local Jewish community has mobilized – virtually – to mitigate the economic, social and spiritual hardships of individuals and communal organizations.

Under the “stay home, save lives order,” state residents can leave home only for essentials (groceries, medical care) or outdoor, solitary exercises such as hiking and biking, or to deliver food to those who cannot go out. Stay 6 feet away from others outside your home and connect via video and phone chats.

“We recognize this will have tremendous impact on our community’s organizations and individuals,” said Jewish Federation of Greater Portland President and CEO Marc Blattner. “We are here for you. Call if you need assistance.”

To address community needs, the Federation has initiated virtual calls with all the community organization executives and rabbis and has scheduled weekly calls with all agency presidents and executives. The weekly calls will give leaders the chance to inform each other about their challenges and to hear what others are doing.

“We are listening to the community about what is happening around us,” said Blattner.

The community’s COVID-19 Crisis Steering Committee has developed a process to allocate funds from the emergency campaign. By the end of this week, the first grant request forms will be sent to Jewish agencies and synagogues. Grant requests will be reviewed by one of six task forces (see next page), which will prioritize requests and refer them to the steering committee. The steering committee will prioritize community needs and make final

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Free loan streamlines COVID-19 emergency loans

Jewish Free Loan of Greater Portland has created a streamlined loan process for those who encounter financial difficulties for reasons directly or indirectly attributable to COVID-19.

COVID-19 crisis loans will be limited to \$1,000, and like all free loans are interest free.

JFLGP will budget up to \$20,000 for these COVID-19 crisis loans. The Free Loan Committee will request additional resources from the local COVID-19 emergency campaign.

These crisis loans require no cosigner (except spouse if married). Documents can be submitted digitally, with originals mailed within 14 days of funding. Interviews will be expedited; a volunteer will do a phone interview within one day with a decision by the volunteer, loan chair and one executive member being made quickly.

The applicant will be required to establish need resulting from COVID-19, but the reasons for the need may be diverse, including lost wages, childcare costs due

to school closures, small business losses, medical costs, etc. The office personnel and the interviewer will exercise their judgment as to what supporting documentation, if any, should be provided by the loan applicant.

Repayments will begin after 120 days with payments of \$28/month for 36 months (for \$1,000 loan).

To apply for a loan, visit jewishportland.org/freeloan. For more information, email FreeLoan@jewishportland.org or call Ben Winkleblack at 503-892-7417.

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NOW WHAT? (continued from page 1)

decisions on grants on a rolling basis.

Task forces each include leaders with expertise in the following areas:

- Emergency Financial Assistance/Mental Health Support
- Social Isolation/Friendly Reassurance (volunteer management)
- Jewish Organization Capacity/Support for Employees
- Religious/Spiritual Services and Needs
- Youth Programming/Jewish Educators
- Communications.

With synagogues and agencies closed to onsite activities, many are offering virtual services and programming. You can find an updated list of virtual offerings at

[jewishportland.org/
community-calendar/online-events](http://jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events)

Here is one example of how funding is helping: Jewish Family & Child Service has hired a manager to oversee emergency fund assistance for emergency aid for individuals. "These times are a test for all of us, to re-

member our Jewish commitment to Kehillah (community), to help with the needs of others who are less fortunate and to do the important job of taking care of ourselves, as well," wrote JFCS Board President Larry Holzman and Executive Director David Block in an email to the community, which also urged individuals to support the community's emergency fund.

Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, which joined Federation in creating the emergency fund, also encouraged its constituents to donate to the fund.

"The needs will only grow in the weeks and months ahead," said OJCF President and CEO Julie Diamond. "Please join me in contributing to this new emergency response fund. You can give directly to Jewish Federation or request a grant from your donor-advised fund."

OJCF donor-advised fund holders can recommend grants through OJCF's [donor portal](http://donorportal) or donate directly to the Federation.

Virtual Events: A sample from March 25-27

See more events: jewishportland.org/community-calendar/online-events

MARCH 25

Socialize and Engage with Your Kehilla: 8-9 pm with Rabbi Eve Posen, Congregation Neveh Shalom, <https://zoom.us/j/800190768>

Wednesday Mincha Online: 5:30-6 pm & Rituals for Creating Sacred Space at home 7:30-8:30 pm, with Rabbi Ruhi Sophia of Temple Beth Israel-Eugene on teams.microsoft.com/j/teams-join-jody@tbieugene.org

MARCH 26

Open House with Eden Village West, 6:30-7:30 pm, edenvillagewest.org/event/virtual-open-house/

MARCH 27

Virtual Camp-BB Camp Online Events: 11 am-3 pm, <https://bbcamp.org/virtual-camp/>
Shabbat Yad b'Yad: 11-11:30 am, with Kim Schneiderman, <https://zoom.us/j/582393922>

Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:15 pm with Neveh Shalom, nevehshalom.org/virtual-services/

Kabbalat Shabbat: 6 pm with Beth Israel, bethisrael-pdx.org/worship/watch-services-live/

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