

FEDERATION FOCUS YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CONNECTION

FEDERATION FOCUS

YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CONNECTION

VOL. 28 /

FALL 2020

Welcome to Federation Focus, the quarterly supplement about your Jewish Federation, its partner agencies and their impact on Jewish life. Federation Focus keeps you informed about and connected with important issues in our community, ensuring that everyone knows where to find a helping hand and where to extend one.

RESPONDING TO CRISIS, PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

For many community members, September signals the start of a new school year, the upcoming High Holydays, and the launch of the Federation Annual Campaign. While the Annual Campaign started on September 1, as it traditionally does, it is by no means business as usual.

This year, supporting the community through the Annual Campaign has never been more urgent. The extraordinary impact of COVID-19 has been like nothing any one of us could have imagined, causing a disruptive shift of seismic proportion that threatens the very vitality of our community.

The pandemic has affected community members and families from all walks of life and life stage, from loss of income and worries about putting food on the table, to access to Jewish education and the increased isolation of our most vulnerable.

Through Jewish Federation's close work with our more than 35 partner agencies, we know that community needs and demands for services have skyrocketed, and that our frontline agencies are stretched. Here are some of the difficult realities facing our community:

- The demand for food assistance has soared, from community organizations serving 600 meals every second week to 1,300 meals weekly;
- The percentage of local Jews who are living in poverty is projected to increase to more than 18% by 2021;

- More community members are seeking support in order to participate in Jewish life;
- Many seniors are more isolated: their only visitor all week may be a food delivery volunteer;
- Those hit hardest face a real risk of losing their homes; and
- Agencies that contribute to our community's diversity are having challenges maintaining their services.

The resilience of our partner agencies to adapt to continually changing circumstances has been nothing short of remarkable. But as the aftershock of COVID-19 continues to reverberate, our efforts to counter the magnitude of its effects depend on all of us.

At Jewish Federation, we are leading a multi-phased approach to recovery. We have convened our partners to better understand their challenges; released emergency funding to address the most urgent community needs;



JEWISH LIFE x COVID-19

CONT'D ON PAGE 2

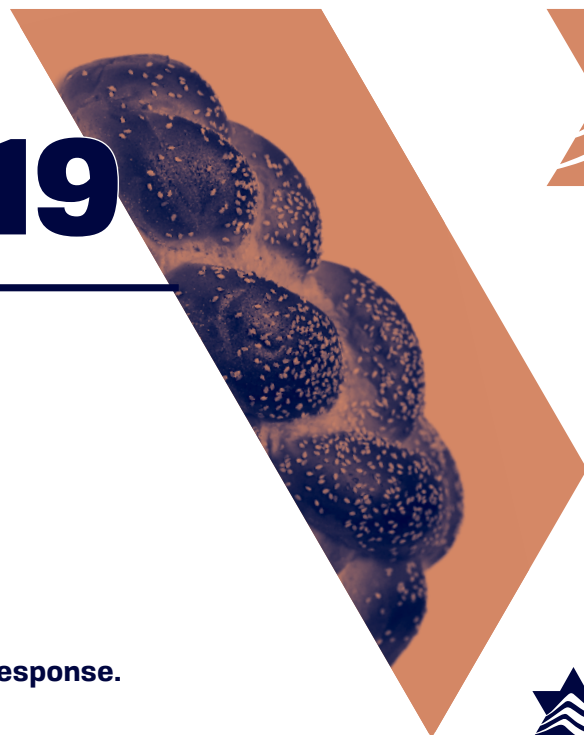


HUNGER x COVID-19

Our partners went from serving 600 meals every other week to 1,300 meals every single week.

A seismic shift calls for an unprecedented response.

GIVE NOW AT [JEWISHVANCOUVER.COM](https://www.jewishvancouver.com)



worked closely with our major donors; and established the Community Recovery Task Force.

Everyone has a part to play, and that is why contributing to the Annual Campaign this year is more important than ever. Our community has the same needs it has every year, but now they are multiplied by the impact of COVID-19.

During this time of crisis, we are asking those who are able to consider increasing their gift to the Annual Campaign and to make a one-time contribution of 19% to the Community Recovery Fund, which will be used specifically to address services and programs impacted by COVID-19.

When you give through the Annual Campaign, every gift will go where it is needed most.

We're all in this together, and we'll get through this together.

You can make a secure online gift at [jewishvancouver.com/donate](https://www.jewishvancouver.com/donate) or call us at 604.257.5100.

CARVING A PATH TO RECOVERY

*In July, Jewish Federation established the Community Recovery Task Force to help address the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 across our community. We recently spoke with **Risa Levine**, chair of the task force, about their important work.*

Tell us about your initial impressions of working with the task force.

We've now had several meetings, and I'm struck by the great engagement of the task force members and the urgency we all have for the work. There's a huge depth of knowledge and experience around the table, and people are raising good questions about a variety of issues. There's a real sense of commitment to the community as a whole—that we are all in this together.

From your perspective, what does recovery mean?

To me, recovery is having a path forward to maintain the programs and services that are crucial to a vibrant Jewish community, and ensuring we have strong, resilient organizations and agencies to deliver them.

Recovery is not just about the long-term—it's also about meeting immediate and emergent needs. Financial stability is obviously a key component, but it's not the only element. A healthy community means having capacity to respond to challenges, including such issues as food security, affordable housing, and access to education.

Why is the task force's work important for the community?

The task force was established to build on Jewish Federation's work around recovery. The members' diverse perspectives will inform new, innovative approaches to tackling challenges facing our community. We know there will be changes. This is an opportunity to look at our community architecture to see if there are possible variations that might enrich the community in ways we haven't thought about.

What do you see as some of the challenges facing the task force?

The uncertainty and daily changing circumstances as COVID-19 evolves are unsettling. Organizations are trying to plan when we really don't know what lies ahead.

We're also grappling with the scope of the pandemic's impact: how we can help organizations adapt to changes that have happened, and prepare them for changes that may emerge from the task force's recommendations.

Can you share some initial insights?

It's still early, but I continue to be impressed with the resilience, creativity, and commitment of our organizations and agencies to meet the needs of the people they serve. It's remarkable, and it's very reassuring.



RISA LEVINE

Meet the Community Recovery Task Force

The Community Recovery Task Force is comprised of well-respected, experienced leaders who collectively represent the diversity of the community with respect to geography, life stage, and professional background.

MEMBERS

Andrew Altow
Jill Diamond
Michelle Gerber
Hodie Kahn
Candace Kwinter
Risa Levine, chair
Shawn Lewis
David Porte
Justin Segal
Isaac Thau

EX-OFFICIO

Alex Cristall
Diane Switzer

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: A PARTNER IN PHILANTHROPY AND RECOVERY



THERE IS NEVER A GOOD TIME FOR A CRISIS, BUT THERE IS A GOOD TIME TO PLAN FOR ONE.

The funds that donors establish at the Jewish Community Foundation provide a stable source of funding that is crucial for charitable organizations in our community, enabling them to maintain a wide range of important programs and services for the long term. This financial stability plays an especially important role in times of crisis, such as the current pandemic.

During times of crisis, fund holders can draw on their endowments at the Foundation to address urgent community needs. The Foundation is a valued, trusted partner in the process, using its community expertise to advise fund holders on where support is needed most, particularly around causes and organizations that are important to them.

Additionally, distributions from fund holders' unrestricted funds provide the Foundation with flexibility to respond nimbly and channel resources to emerging and sometimes critical situations, such as those we are presently witnessing across our community.

The ability to match fund holders' philanthropic interests with community needs is a hallmark of the Foundation. As the central address for philanthropy and legacy giving in the Jewish community, the Foundation has engaged in meaningful conversations with fund holders for more than 30 years. Staff work with fund holders to develop a flexible custom-tailored plan that crystalizes their goals and how they wish to make an impact during their lifetime and/or in perpetuity.

When COVID-19 hit, affecting our community at every imaginable and unimaginable level, Foundation fund holders wanted to help. They turned to the Foundation for counsel about how they could most effectively support community recovery.

The important role of endowments in weathering uncertainty has never been more evident. Since the onset of COVID-19, Foundation fund holders have distributed more than \$500,000 through their endowment funds to meet increased community demands, from supporting

organizations forced to cancel fundraising events, to boosting funding for food security and seniors services.

The Foundation is also actively engaged in recovery efforts through its involvement with Jewish Federation's Community Recovery Task Force (see page 2). Marcie Flom, the Foundation's executive director, along with Shelley Rivkin, Jewish Federation's vice president of global and local engagement, is working closely with this well-respected group of community leaders to address the impact of COVID-19 on our community and its future sustainability.

"By taking part in the task force's consultations with community partners, we're gaining a clearer sense of organizations' changing needs in the face of ongoing uncertainty," explains Marcie Flom. "As we move towards recovery, these insights will inform our work with our fund holders and the impact they want to make, now and for the future."

For more information about establishing a fund, contact the Jewish Community Foundation at info@jewishcommunityfoundation.com.