



We Were Made for This Moment

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19



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One Year Ago, Everything Changed

» Photo: An Action for Post-Soviet Jewry volunteer delivers food, medicine, and soap to at-risk Jews in Dnipro, Ukraine, with funding from CJP.

One year ago, we were all waking up to a new reality brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, people have lost jobs, kids have transitioned to hybrid and remote classrooms, and we’ve all seen our social lives constrict to the size of a computer screen. Worst of all, many of us have lost loved ones to this terrible virus.

In spite of these challenges, our resilient, innovative, and generous Jewish community is rising to the moment. At CJP, we saw firsthand how our community came together — people, partners, businesses — to give, share expertise, provide services, and innovate to solve problems we hadn’t experienced before. One thing has become crystal clear: We were made for this moment.

See how far we’ve come, and how much more we can do together.



Photos

- 1. A nursing assistant in training with JVS receives free textbooks.
- 2. Volunteers deliver Rosh Hashanah in a Box.
- 3. Maimonides School final day of senior year "drive-through" parade.
- 4. Preschoolers at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham get masked up for a safer return to the classroom.
- 5. Serve the Moment Corps Members working with the Beantown Jewish Gardens.
- 6. Nate Vaughan inspires with his *COVID Stories* podcast.

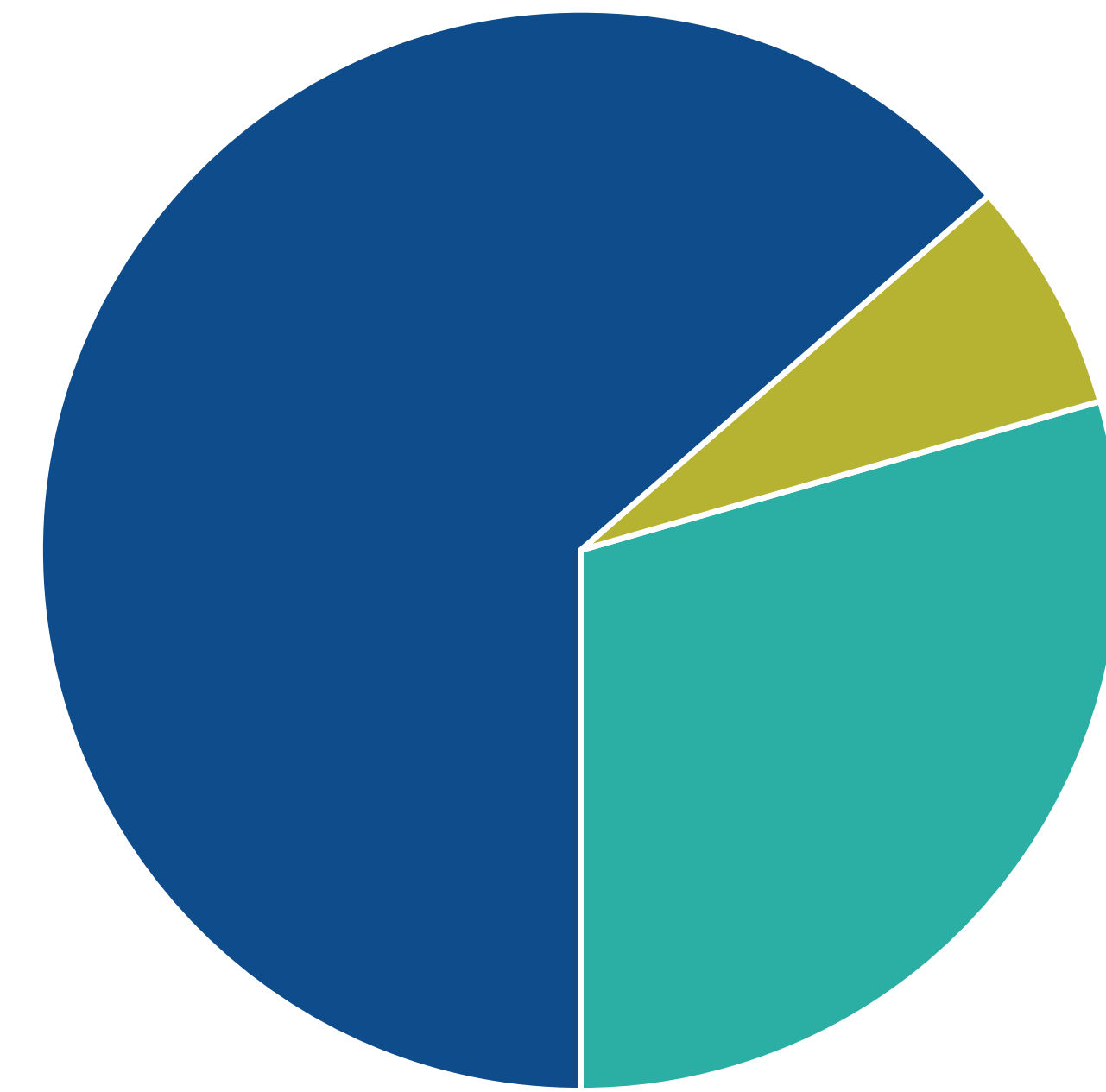
Thank you!

Generous donors and a strong network empower a fast response.

When the coronavirus hit, we did what CJP was designed to do: be there for our Jewish community. On March 15, 2020, we launched an emergency fund to help people and organizations weather the impact of COVID-19. The community response was stunning. Within days, people throughout Greater Boston — many of them giving for the first time — contributed millions of dollars for the sole purpose of caring for others.

At the same time, CJP staff jumped into action, speeding up our normal grant funding process and releasing \$3 million to our partners months ahead of time. These much-needed resources helped them adapt and continue to serve the community at a time when they were experiencing huge disruptions to their other income sources.

The selfless generosity of our donors has allowed CJP to distribute more than \$11 million in resources to COVID-19 relief.



\$7.4 million for Caring for the Vulnerable

\$850K+ for Supporting our Organizations and Institutions

\$3.4 million for Engaging in Jewish Life and Learning

Total: \$11M+

Thank you to all who contributed and helped us to quickly get funds to people with urgent needs.

The CJP Coronavirus Emergency Fund is one part of our overall \$11+ million COVID-19 response. So many people gave personally meaningful gifts to create a source of support for our community and by our community.



\$50
Median Gift

Nearly **50%** of
Coronavirus Emergency
Fund supporters were
first-time donors to CJP.



Caring for the Vulnerable

» Photo: Volunteers with Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFS) hand out CJP-funded Rosh Hashanah meals and “Seder in a Box” kits to members of our Greater Boston Jewish community. *Photo by Sheldon Golder.*

Thanks to our trusted partnerships with more than 264 local and overseas organizations, we have a broad reach across the community, making it possible for us to respond to urgent needs at each stage of this crisis. Together, we continue to move quickly to rush relief to people who have lost income or are struggling or isolated.

WORDS FROM THOSE WHO HELPED US TO MEET THIS MOMENT

“

During the most difficult year we have faced, CJP has wrapped its arms around this community like a warm blanket — providing sustenance and love, with dignity and respect.

”

— Kim and Gary Creem



400% more calls

CJP's Warmline for people who need financial help handled a 400% increase in calls during March and April 2020 compared to 2019. The top concern of our Warmline callers is housing, though they are also worried about paying for food and basic utilities. We continue to see a higher volume of calls to the Warmline, with 63% of callers reporting job loss or COVID-19 issues as the reason they need help. The average income of clients served by CJP's Anti-Poverty Initiative (API) is \$17,425, an amount that represents just 115% of the Federal Poverty Level. Seventy-five percent of API clients make progress towards stability within nine months of receiving services.



100 birthday cards

Sometimes, it's the small touches that mean the most. While many struggled with social isolation, CJP Women's Philanthropy volunteers teamed up with JF&CS *Schechter* Holocaust Services and made 100 handmade birthday cards for local Holocaust survivors. Thanks for delivering, JF&CS — Hallmark's got nothing on us!



\$7 million

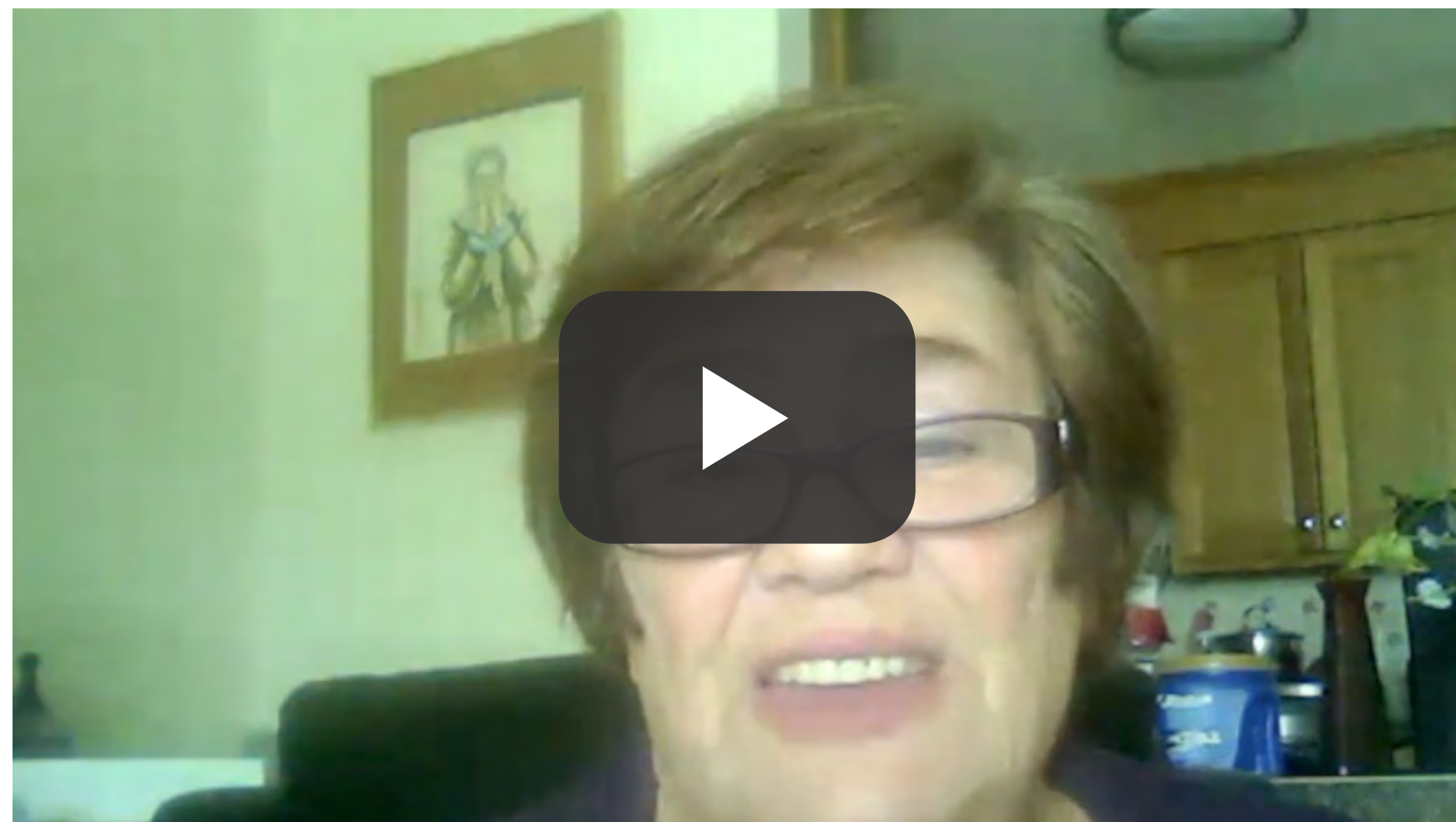
for local Caring efforts



\$349,000

for overseas Caring efforts

We rely on our partners to help us respond to the crucial needs of our community in real time. With CJP funding, they put food on the table, brought technology to students in need in Israel, and gave seniors the warmth of friendship during an isolating time.



One Call That Made a Difference

Times were tough for Barbara when she lost her job due to the pandemic. After learning about CJP's Warmline (1-800-CJP-9500) on Facebook, she made the call and began getting the support she needed from a trained case manager at Yad Chessed, which partners with CJP to help people in financial distress work toward stability.



Out of the Box Kindness

In April 2020, we distributed 2,400 Passover meals and more than 2,700 “Seder in a Box” kits. In March 2021, we distributed 3,310 Passover meals to those in financial need.

“Just received my overflowing box for a beautiful Pesach seder. This, combined with all the other help you have given me, makes me even more aware of the good in this world — even in these troubled times. *Todah rabah...chag sameach,*” wrote one recipient.

“I actually got teary when I opened this,” said another.



Education Equity

When Israel transitioned to remote learning with the spread of COVID-19, some students in Haifa's Ethiopian community didn't have personal computers. With the help of a Boston donor and in partnership with the Ahinoam Association, we secured 90 computers for these students.

“This computer-granting initiative creates a yearning to be equal — equal in achievement and excellence,” said Oshra Friedman, Co-chair of Haifa Boston's Ethiopian Jewry Committee. “Someone wants them to succeed.”



Warm Friendships at 2Life and Hebrew SeniorLife

As winter approached, socially distanced outdoor gatherings that were possible during the summer were much more difficult — especially for seniors. The result was that even seniors living in communities were isolated in their homes. Our response was twofold: First, we made outdoor spaces warmer by supplying funds for the purchase of heat lamps. Second, we supported extensive research by 2Life Communities and Hebrew SeniorLife to enhance testing, and gave a \$144,000 grant to help both organizations quickly implement COVID-19 “pooled” sample testing that increases the number of individuals who can be tested. This pilot program led to expanded pool testing across the state. These efforts made it safer for friends to share time together — an invaluable gift.



A Glittery, Delicious Solution

As the threat of COVID-19 grew last spring, leaders at Yachad, a local organization that provides social interaction and cool programs for people with disabilities, raced to replace in-person experiences with at-home activities. Thanks to their partnership and a \$20,000 grant from CJP’s Coronavirus Emergency Fund, the “Art in a Box” program was born.

With the funding, Yachad purchased and distributed 400 art kits containing coloring books, glue sticks, clay, watercolors, glitter, sketch pads, and even some snacks, just for fun.

Jacob, a 17-year-old Yachad participant, said, “It was fun to paint a picture in the sketchbook with the paints you sent me. I also ate the Hershey’s bar; it was delicious.”

Quiz Question:

How many people have benefited from API programs and services since its inception in 2015?

- A. 3,000
- B. 1,500
- C. 6,630

(See answer on the next page)

Quiz Answer:

C. 6,630

...and counting! If you know someone who could use assistance during these difficult days, one call to our Warmline (1-800-CJP-9500) can help them learn about all the services and benefits they may qualify for.

Looking Ahead

Collaborating to Get Everyone Vaccinated

While Massachusetts is considered a leader in vaccinating residents against COVID-19, people living on low incomes and People of Color do not have equal access to the vaccine. That’s why CJP recently contributed \$250,000 to the COVID-19 Vaccine and Recovery Fund for the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

Created in partnership with six other organizations in Greater Boston to address inequity and vaccine hesitation, the Fund totals \$4.35 million. These resources will support all 52 community health centers throughout Massachusetts.

“This pandemic has reminded us time and again that while we all might be in the same storm, we are definitely not in the same boat,” said Amanda Hadad, CJP’s Associate Vice President, Caring and Social Justice. “CJP cannot accept the funding inequities that created the health disparities so clearly exposed by this pandemic.”

Increasing Access to Mental Health Resources

The pandemic has sparked a growing need for access to quality mental health care. In February, we launched **Path to Well-being**, a joint initiative of McLean Hospital, CJP, and Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JF&CS).

The program seeks to help up to 300 participants this year, providing access to virtual, no-cost Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) that can be completed on a computer or smartphone. Participants work with a McLean coach at their own pace, and are supported throughout by a case manager who helps navigate resources and get people what they need — keeping the burden of accessing care on the system, where it belongs. This program is part of a research study that will collect confidential data on the effectiveness of this treatment to help advance advocacy for insurance coverage. All data will remain completely confidential.

Job Searching During the Pandemic?

So many in our community have lost their jobs due to the impact of COVID-19. Job searching is stressful, especially in this market. For anyone in the Greater Boston Jewish community who is looking for employment support during this crisis, we’re partnering with Jewish Vocational Service to provide the **Jewish Re-employment Program (JREP)**. Since the program launched in January, more than 30 people have registered for the service which provides employment counseling, networking, and even financial coaching, all at no cost.

We Still Need Your Help

Give to CJP Today



Supporting Our Organizations and Institutions

» Photo: The dedicated staff at Hebrew SeniorLife appreciated personal protective equipment and other supplies funded by CJP to keep them and HSL residents safe.

Your beloved synagogue. The JCC that's like a second home. The day school that nurtures your kids. The pandemic has shined a spotlight on just how central our partner organizations are, and how they help our Jewish community thrive. Now, more than ever, CJP is investing in our partners' organizational stability and health, while also supporting their programs that serve the community. Our Jewish community needs these organizations in order to thrive, so we're partnering with them to help build capacity, enhance organizational development, and support their leaders.

WORDS FROM THOSE WHO HELPED US TO MEET THIS MOMENT

“

I am grateful for all that CJP has done for the Hebrew SeniorLife community during this difficult time. We are committed to providing older adults with their very best life, and were so grateful for the personal protective equipment and funding for supplies to keep our staff and residents safe. This deepened partnership between Hebrew SeniorLife and CJP has truly been a silver lining of this crisis.

”

— Jeffrey Drucker, Board Chair, Hebrew SeniorLife

Survey Says: We Don't Have to Face These Challenges Alone

We regularly survey our partners to understand their biggest challenges — and how we can help — as the pandemic crisis evolves. In an October 2020 survey, 52 organizations responded and we found:

- + **79%** reported concerns about lost revenue due to membership cancellations or services provided to the community
- + **23%** reported concerns about furloughs/layoffs of hourly/part-time staff
- + **19%** reported concerns about furloughs/layoffs of salaried staff

In addition to releasing grants early and making additional emergency funding available, we also provided guidance and training to our partners, helping them access federal funds and other grant sources.

We helped **73** local partner organizations navigate the application process for federal PPP grants and loans.



We provided **76** synagogues with technology grants to help them create meaningful virtual High Holiday experiences



Leaders from more than **200** organizations attended 35 of our trainings and webinars

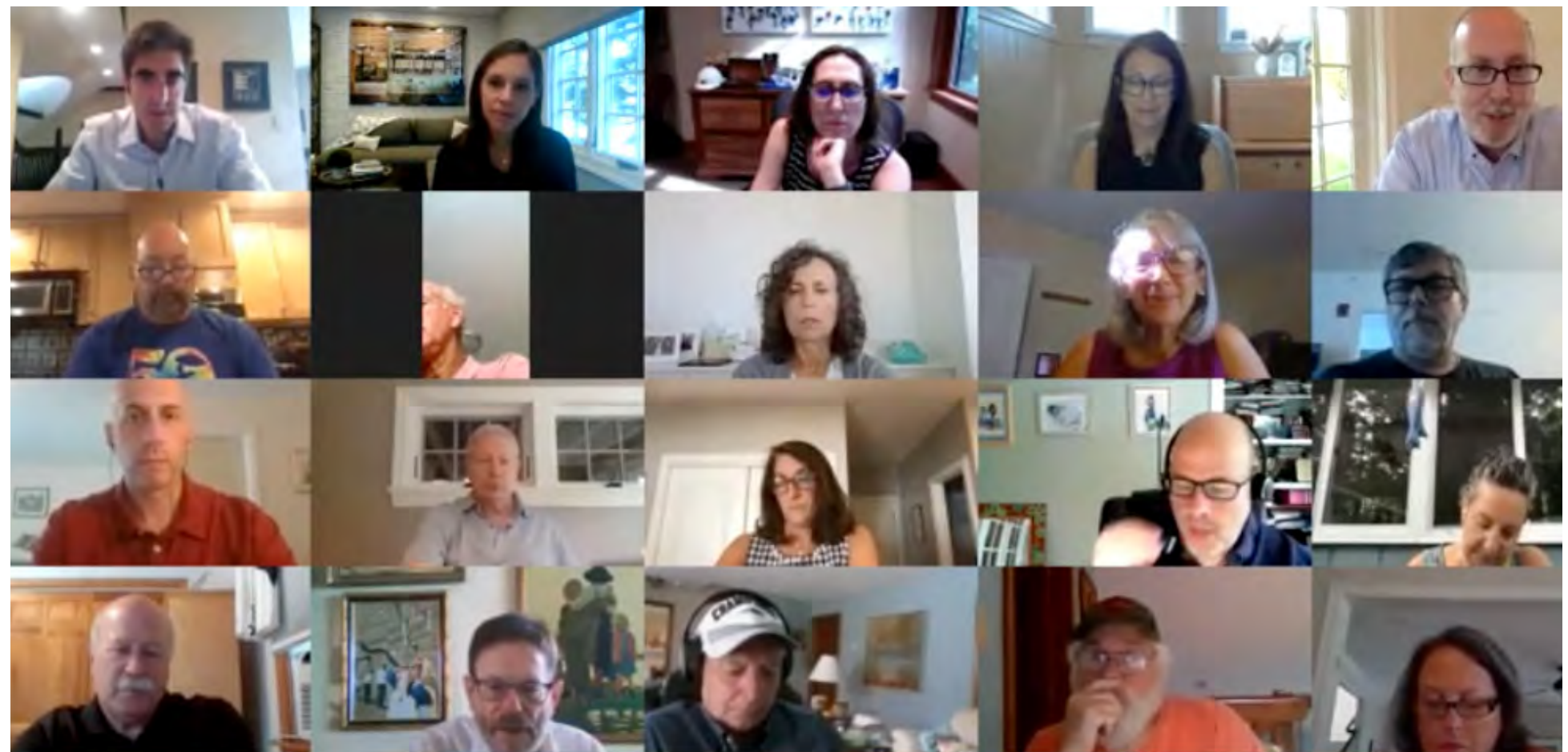
Filling Our Gratitude Jar

With a grant to the Lappin Foundation's Rekindle Shabbat program, we funded dinners for families and kits to celebrate at home. The 'thank you's' they received — along with adorable photos — are warming our hearts. One mom shared that her family started a gratitude jar filled with things they're thankful for during the pandemic, and her 6-year-old's answer was, "Shabbat dinner."

"Thanks for allowing us to have these great memories even in these crazy COVID times," she wrote.



Harnessing our collective talent to strengthen organizations



436 Minds Are Better Than One

Through our Leveraging Expertise to Advance Partners (LEAP) Initiative, we're bringing together CJP professionals, volunteer leaders, and partner organizations to collaborate and problem solve. So far, 436 leaders have participated in six mind-expanding sessions on leadership topics including governance, finance, and partnerships.

Quiz Question:
How many partner organizations received increased or early funding from CJP last year?

- A. 35
 - B. 175
 - C. 210
- (See answer on the next page)

Quiz Answer:

C. 210

CJP provided special grants and released previously planned contributions to partners earlier, to have a greater impact at the height of the COVID-19 crisis.



Photo courtesy of Temple Beth Shalom

Face Masks for Everybody

With an eye to keeping both teachers and families safe and healthy, we worked with our partners to distribute more than \$47,000 in personal protective equipment (PPE) funding, divided between 36 Jewish early childhood centers and 14 Jewish day schools.

The grant made it feel like “we were being thrown a lifeline,” said Janis Knight, Director of Education at Congregation Shirat Hayam. “We had the sense that we weren’t just doing this all by ourselves.”

Looking Ahead

Power in Numbers

This year, 11 organizations designed a group purchasing pilot project in partnership with CJP. Our first effort will focus on sourcing energy and office supplies collectively to earn bulk discounts for all the organizations in our Jewish community. This pilot will inform additional future group purchasing and shared service offerings.

New Webinars on the Way

Our partners tell us that group trainings and webinars are an effective way to address shared concerns and challenges. This year, we’ll cover topics including succession planning, diversity and equity, and finance.

Investing in Healthy Organizations

This spring, we [launched a new section of our website](#) to share resources and increase organizational health and impact. We’re focused on finance, leadership, governance, fundraising, marketing, and infrastructure.

We Still Need Your Help

Give to CJP Today



Supporting Communal Security

» Photo: In a time where simply spending time with others feels risky, we helped partners like the JCC Greater Boston take steps to keep people safer while participating in Jewish life.

In the last year, we have worked to address existing security challenges, as well as difficulties posed by COVID-19. According to a number of sources, antisemitism is on the rise in Massachusetts and the pandemic has added more complexity. We have security concerns about buildings — once bustling with activity — that are now underused or empty, as well as considerations about the safest ways to reopen in the future.

Led by experts with decades of experience, the CJP Communal Security Initiative (CSI) partners with more than 200 organizations to provide training, assessments, and grants, while working in concert with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Together, we're improving our collective safety.

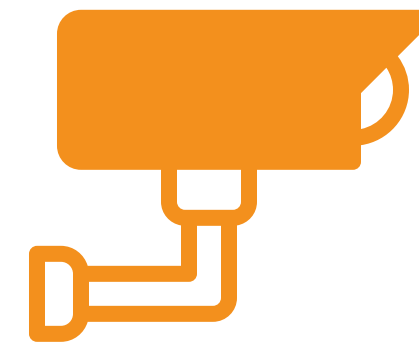
Nearly \$1 Million Directed to Supporting Communal Security

In addition to the \$11 million we directed to COVID-19 relief, we provided nearly \$1 million to create a safer community. While addressing the challenges that COVID-19 presents, we are also staying vigilant against rising antisemitism and the threats posed by violent extremists.



\$224,000

granted to day schools and early childhood programs for security and COVID-19 needs, including Reopening Care Kits



More than \$500K

in physical security grants for synagogues and Chabads

How We Help:

Our CSI team has conducted security awareness and safety trainings for nearly 1,800 community members at more than 100 institutions on topics including de-escalation, cyber concerns during COVID-19, and psychological support during times of crisis. As part of the CJP CSI physical security grant program, our staff has presented more than 75 volunteer leadership security briefings to synagogue boards since March of 2020.

- + In early 2021, we hired a cybersecurity engineer. With our new expert in place, CJP is able to assess risk and implement best practices within CJP, and also provide external outreach to assist our partners in developing and implementing cyber support, training, and best practices.
- + We provided 130 Reopening Care Kits to Jewish communal organizations, including a touchless hand sanitizer dispenser, four gallons of hand cleaner, and posters to support a thoughtful approach to reopening and High Holiday events.
- + Our Jewish Emergency Management System (JEMS) and CJP CSI communications are delivered to hundreds of community members and leaders to inform them of incidents and actions they can take, as well as offering training and other resources.

Quiz Question:

According to ADL New England, where are you most likely to be confronted with an antisemitic incident?

- A. On a public street
- B. At a private business or retail establishment
- C. At a school

(See answer on the next page)

Quiz Answer:

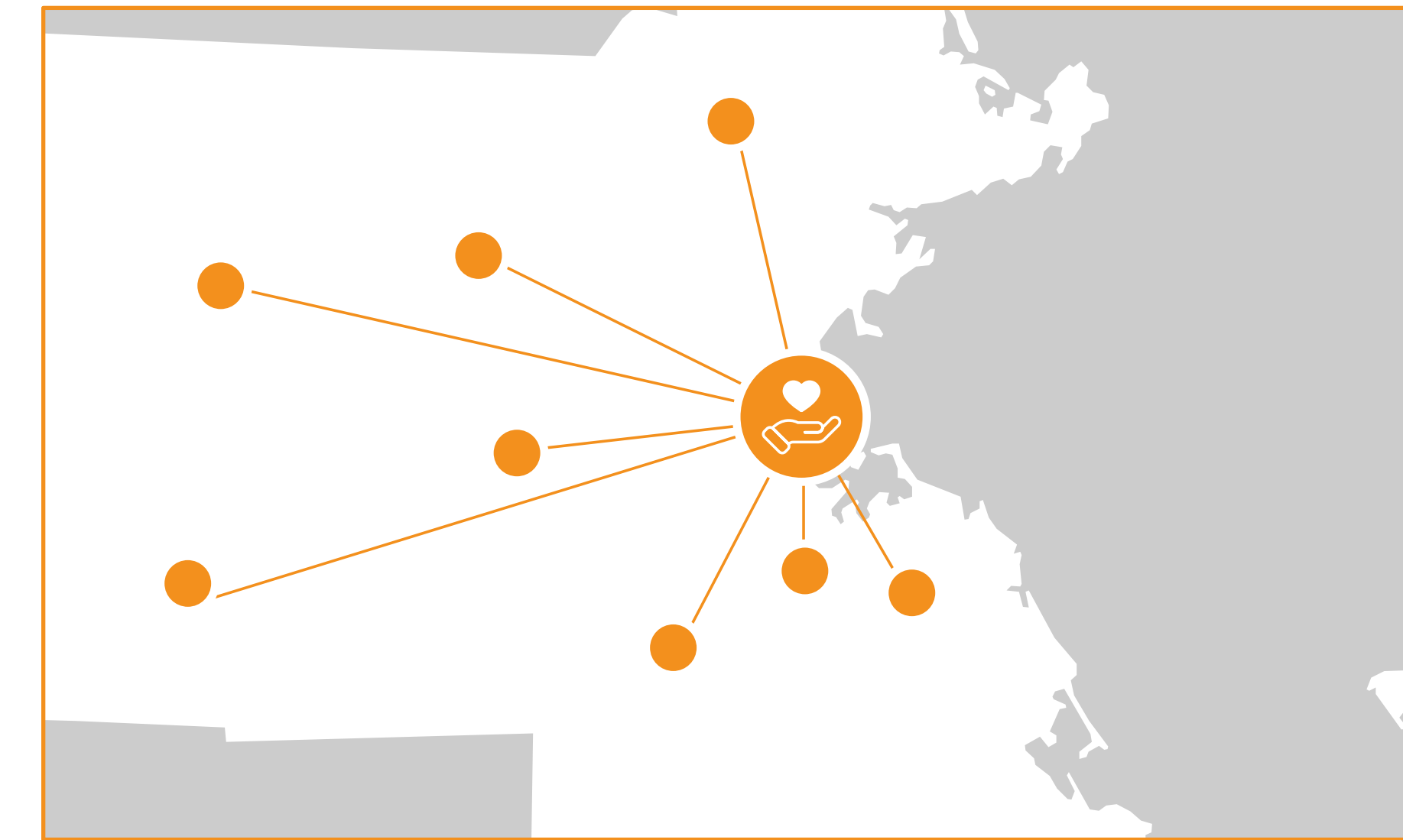
C. At a school

Antisemitic incidents continue to proliferate in K-12 schools. In Massachusetts, there were 40 reported incidents in schools across 30 cities and towns in 2019.



“The CSI team’s work is not just about locks, alarms, cameras, or the elements of physical security. We must balance our desire to be open and welcoming with the need to realistically and proactively address safety and security. Improving security is a means to building community — to help bring people together more safely, to enroll their children in our schools, to support morning minyans, and High Holiday celebrations.”

— Jeremy Yamin, CJP’s Associate Vice President, Director of Security and Operations



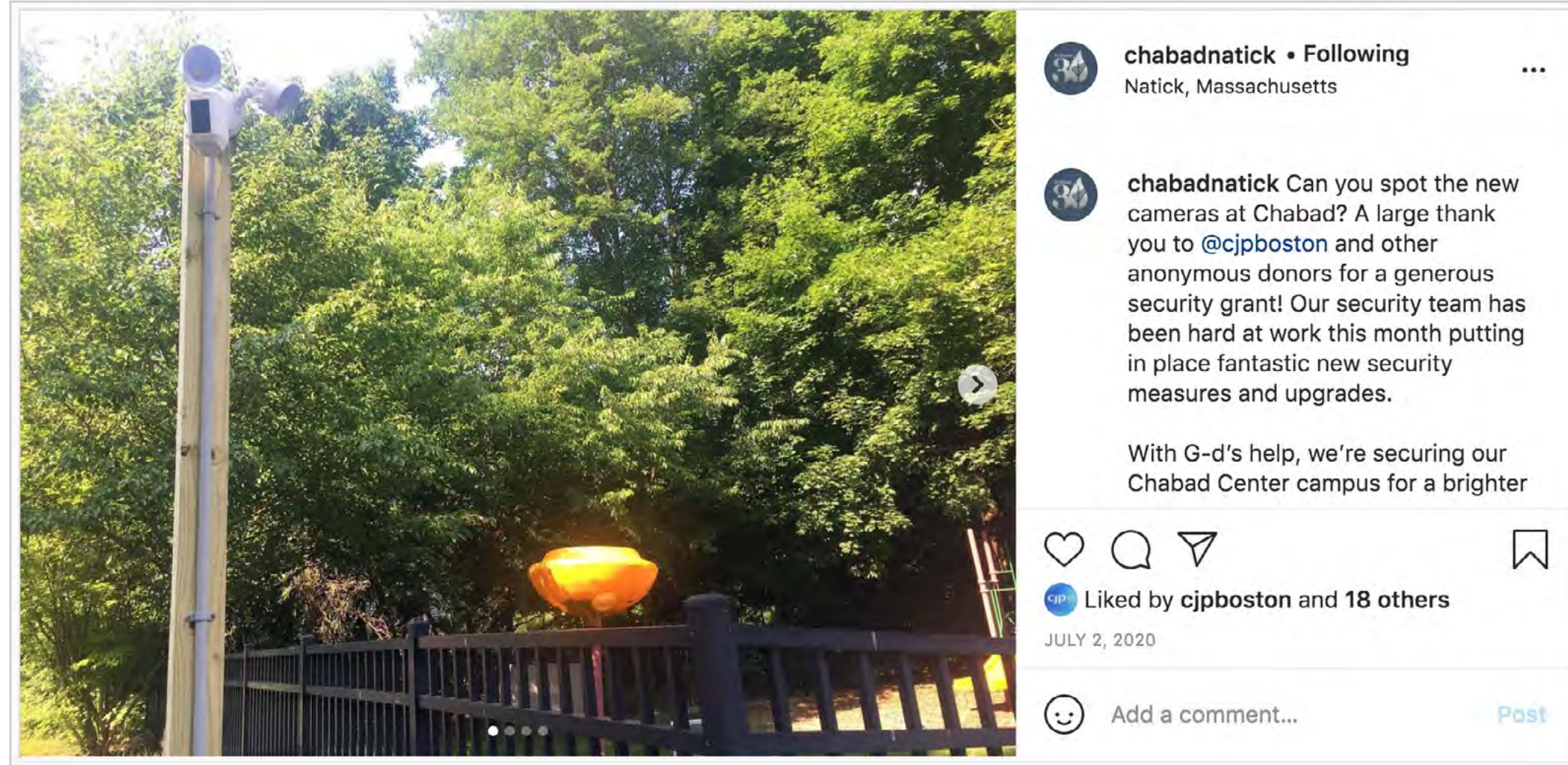
Offering Critical Support to Partners on Federal Grants

In 2020, CJP CSI partnered with 40 community organizations to help them secure nearly \$2.25 million in federal and Commonwealth security grants. In 2021, we continue this work, offering webinars, individual consultations, and online resources to assist partner organizations in their applications for both the state and federal grants.



Speaking Up About Antisemitism

Bringing hateful incidents out of the shadows is one of the best ways we can combat bias and bigotry in our communities. This winter, the Anti-Defamation League New England (ADL) and CJP collaborated to release an [informative resource guide](#) to help people report antisemitic or bias incidents. The proliferation of racist conspiracy theories exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic remind us that we must remain vigilant in the fight against antisemitism, extremism, and hate.



Bolstering Physical Security Across the Community

Because security is a common concern across our community, we offer free training, assessments, and consultations that suggest practical steps institutions can take to improve safety and security. Over the last year, we have been in the privileged position of being able to provide security grants to allow our partners to address some of their pressing needs in this area. Since March of 2020, we have made up to \$750,000 in grants available for synagogues and Jewish institutions to make security improvements to their buildings.

Such funding made a significant impact. For the Chabad Center of Natick, new security cameras added an additional level of security to their campus. Another synagogue needed to repair an outer door — an improvement made more urgent after the building was empty for much of the week due to COVID-19. With a \$5,000 grant from CJP CSI, the synagogue was able to afford this repair, improving the security of their building and the staff who were using it on a limited basis.

Looking Ahead

Cybersecurity Support

CSI will continue to expand support in the cyber arena through education, training, assessments, and consultations. We must reinforce a robust cybersecurity infrastructure while continuing to focus on physical safety and security.

Encouraging a Proactive Approach to Safety

While many incidents can occur with little to no warning, having a plan to follow during emergencies can play a vital role in protecting institutions and saving lives. In the coming year, CSI will continue to assist organizations as they develop emergency operating procedures.

Are you a volunteer or staff member with a local Jewish organization? Interested in how we can support your safety and security efforts? [Sign up](#) for JEMS alerts and [learn more](#) about CJP CSI.

We Still Need Your Help

Give to CJP Today



Engaging in Jewish Life and Learning

» Photo: A guiding hand helps to light the menorah at the Rashi School.

During COVID-19, we're ensuring that when one door closes, a browser window opens. Since March 13, 2020, nearly 11,000 people have registered for the 167 free, virtual events that CJP has hosted. One of the silver linings of the virtual world is that physical distance and winter weather are no longer obstacles to participating. 1,597 people joined us for the first time. We've learned that connection, joy, and participating in Jewish life are more important than ever.

WORDS FROM THOSE WHO HELPED US TO MEET THIS MOMENT

“

Thanks to CJP's Friday Night Lights initiative, we knew we had a warm way to welcome Shabbat each week. Thank you to CJP for keeping us all together as a community, even as we are physically apart.

”

— Ruth Ann and Ed Feinberg



JCC Cooks Up Online Programming

JCC Greater Boston flipped the switch and brought their programming online, including baking tutorials, Shabbat Storytime, and a wildly popular PJ Library Virtual Shabbat Concert Series. Last spring, each of their live Facebook concerts attracted between 30 to 50 happy families. We were glad to provide the funding to keep the tunes coming!



Photo by Sheldon Golder

Good Food, Good Friends for Rosh Hashanah

This Rosh Hashanah, we partnered with local organizations, caterers, and volunteers to provide nearly 2,000 meals to community members in need. We're especially grateful to JFS of Metrowest who led the complex effort to deliver meals. We also shipped another 2,000 celebration kits to help people observe the High Holidays. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a reality, and to those who shared and tagged photos with us along the way!



Summertime Blues Reimagined

In June, we teamed up with JCC Greater Boston and JewishBoston.com to make sure that summer was full of blue skies for our kids. Together, we created Bost(ON)Summer, a one-stop shop for all things summer fun. This special section of JewishBoston.com connected families with virtual programs, online camps, and lots of resources to keep kids busy and happy.



Arts and Culture Are Alive and Well

“With support from a CJP arts grant, the virtual 2020 ReelAbilities Boston Film Festival ‘attendance’ was more than double that of 2019 and the feedback we received was extraordinary. We developed new partnerships, offered more accessibility than ever before, and introduced a new, online model of presentation.”

— Susan Adler, Executive Director, Boston Jewish Film Festival



A Dance to Remember

Set to a haunting melody and filmed at the instantly recognizable New England Holocaust Memorial, Rachel Linsky’s evocative dance, *Selection*, will stay in your memory. A Boston-based dancer and teacher, Rachel used our Arts and Culture grant to choreograph and produce a work that honors the stories of Holocaust survivors.

Finding Light in the Darkness

In the early days of the pandemic, we launched “Friday Night Lights” via Zoom so our community could talk, learn, and light Shabbat candles together. For many, it became a weekly tradition where they could see familiar faces and hear words that gave them courage.

“The world seems so broken right now, but Friday Night Lights has been a meaningful way for our community to gather, connect, and share the brightness of Shabbat during challenging times,” said CJP President and CEO, Rabbi Marc Baker. “We’ve been grateful to everyone who has invited CJP into their homes to mark the end of the week and the transition to a time of rest.” More than 374 people logged on to share Shabbat in Boston together.



Quiz Question:
How many people are estimated to be part of Greater Boston’s Jewish community?

- A. More than 1 million
 - B. 565,000
 - C. 300,000
- (See answer on the next page)

Quiz Answer:

C. 300,000

According to CJP's 2015 Community Study, there are approximately 300,000 people in our Jewish community, and we want everyone to feel welcomed, included, and excited about participating in Jewish life.



Finding Community From Your Living Room

We know young adults are feeling the strain of the isolation and loneliness brought on by the pandemic. So, when our Together at Home virtual program gave them the chance to have meaningful conversations with local, like-minded folks, more than 130 people jumped at the chance.

We talked about everything — from how to skip the small talk and get closer, faster, to the power of ritual in daily life, to how the largest food rescue organization in Israel is innovating during COVID-19.

The chat boxes overflowed with comments like this one: "I forgot how much I needed to connect with other people right now, and Together at Home has been amazing." Everyone had such a good time, we're running a second series this spring.

Looking Ahead

Learning What We Don't Know

How do we best use community resources to attract and engage young adults and families with young children? This question is at the heart of Project Baseline, our initiative to learn more about the wants and needs of the next generation — both during times of crisis and as we return to a new normal.

We'll take a kaleidoscope of data from surveys, focus groups, and studies. Then we'll use this information to design innovative pilot programs and make strategic funding decisions to foster a warm, inviting, and exciting Jewish community for generations to come. We are fast becoming a data-driven organization, with people at the heart of our work.

We Still Need Your Help

Give to CJP Today



Moving Forward, Together

» Partner Spotlight Photo: Chabad at Harvard providing members of the community with Shabbat Boxes containing candles, a Kiddush cup with grape juice, freshly-baked challah, matzah ball soup, dessert, and a mini "Shabbat Guide" with blessings, prayers, and additional readings. #TogetherinCommunity #FeelGoodNews

Throughout this unimaginable year, one thing has remained clear: Our Jewish community is rising to the challenge. Whether you made a charitable gift, volunteered your time, or shared your energy and attention with us at a virtual event, you made a difference. This moment is exactly what we were made for.

Today, with vaccinations underway, hope is on the horizon. However, we know there is still much to be done in order to ensure that all are cared for and can participate in a thriving Jewish community. This is your moment, and we hope you'll choose to move forward with CJP.

We Still Need Your Help

Give to CJP Today



Photos

- 1. Students and teachers adapting to stay safer and keep learning at the JCC Greater Boston J All Day program.
- 2. Temple Israel families celebrating MLK weekend with curbside pickup of dinners ordered from Black-owned businesses.
- 3. Friendly notes and delivery instructions for Galit's Treats Cafe & Bakery, which donated dozens of challahs to seniors and others in needs.
- 4. Partner Spotlight: JewBer volunteer providing Shabbat meals. #TogetherinCommunity #FeelGoodNews

cjp



Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Kraft Family Building

126 High Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2700