

The Miriam Fund

Creating opportunities for women and girls



FY23 Annual Report

July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023

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Dear Members,

It has been an exciting year for The Miriam Fund (TMF) members to embrace each other and take in an abundance of learning. We gathered in person and continued to utilize technology to keep members connected and engaged. Following TMF’s strategic planning process, we partnered with leaders from Social Innovation Forum to help us reflect on our work, learn about evolving best practices in grant-making, and continue to grow as grant-makers. TMF has emerged from the depths of the pandemic stronger and with the energy to propel us toward our 25th anniversary with commitment and vision.

TMF’s events (virtual and hybrid) allowed for connection and created an opportunity for those who were out of town to participate from afar. In addition to our annual programs, members participated in three educational events on different aspects of grant-making facilitated by Social Innovation Forum and featuring TMF grantees: Trends in Grant-making, Building Sustainable Relationships, and Equitable Evaluation and Measurement.

TMF took action to implement goals based on findings from our FY22 Strategic Plan. Our “Year in review” highlights this process and other significant work and experiences throughout the year. Our core work of grant-making is at the center of everything we do. TMF continues to provide grantee partners (and alumni) additional professional development support to help them achieve even more impact and efficacy. This has been a meaningful way for TMF to deepen relationships with our grantee partners.

We are thrilled with all we accomplished in FY23. We so appreciate the dedication and deep commitment of our members. As we approach our 25th anniversary (beginning in July 2024), we will continue to learn and grow, enhancing our skills as philanthropists and creating meaningful opportunities and social change for women and girls.

With respect and gratitude,

Cheryl Carner, Reva Fischman, Rachel Goldstein
Chairs, The Miriam Fund

The Miriam Fund

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2000, **THE MIRIAM FUND** HAS AWARDED OVER **\$6 MILLION** TO ORGANIZATIONS DOING CRUCIAL WORK IN PURSUIT OF **GENDER EQUITY**.

Mission

The Miriam Fund is a philanthropic community committed to creating an equitable world that expands opportunities for women and girls.* Through strategic grant-making, TMF aims to inspire and strengthen women and girls within and beyond our Jewish community and, in the process, encourage its members to be advocates, leaders, and agents of change.



Moving Traditions



Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters, Community Mikveh, and Paula Brody & Family Education Center



Yachad New England

Priority areas

The Miriam Fund awards grants to organizations that serve women and girls in both the Jewish and secular sectors within Massachusetts and in Israel.

Priority issues



Health



Legal rights



Economic empowerment



Education



Personal safety

The Miriam Fund is a unique, collaborative venture with Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). We appreciate our mutual efforts to support the Jewish community and improve the world for women and girls.

**Includes all for whom “woman or girl” is a meaningful identifier or experience, including (but not limited to) cisgender women and girls, transgender women and girls, and nonbinary individuals.*



TMF Closing Event

AWARDED \$432,497 IN GRANTS

- \$407,497 to 16 organizations in Massachusetts and Israel
- \$25,000 off-cycle grants in support of issues related to women's health and reproductive rights education, split evenly between the National Council of Jewish Women's Jewish Fund for Abortion Access and Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA)

THREE-PART LEARNING SERIES ON GRANT-MAKING

- Partnered with Social Innovation Forum to lead sessions
- Heard from TMF grantees about the impact of these issues on their work

These sessions included:

- 1 Trends in Grant-making.** Featuring Social Innovation Forum's Executive Director, Susan Musinsky, and Funder Education Manager, Aditi Dholakia, and TMF grantees Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters, Community Mikveh, and Paula Brody & Family Education Center, and Roca, Inc., we shared insights about the importance of grantor/grantee relationships.
- 2 Building Sustainable Relationships.** This conversation included tips on conducting meaningful site visits with grantees, why relationships are so important to our work, and how to build collaborative partnerships between a funder and a nonprofit leader.
- 3 Equitable Evaluation and Measurement.** We discussed data collection — why and how funders collect it, what exactly to collect/prioritize, and the difference between quantitative and qualitative data as measurement for impact and sustainability. We were joined by TMF grantees Nancy Kriegel, Executive Director, Yad Chessed, and Stacy Malone, Executive Director, Victim Rights Law Center; and by Shani Wilkes, Associate Vice President, Research and Evaluation, CJP.

IMPLEMENTED FY22 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- Reviewed and updated our applications and evaluation materials
- Streamlined application process for second- and third-year grantee applicants commencing in FY24
- Updated processes and guidelines for site visits
- Created additional visibility opportunities for TMF
- Directed outreach to Jewish communal organizations resulting in applications from this sector more than doubling those from the prior year
- Continued outreach to new members with a focus on individuals under 50

CREATED NEW MEMBER ONBOARDING PROCESS

- Implemented a new, first-year membership fee of \$1,250
- Welcomed 10 new members in FY23
- Continued to develop TMF new member mentor program and formed eight mentor/mentee pairings

ENGAGED MEMBERS THROUGH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Held opening event with Social Innovation Forum and TMF grantees
- Gave presentation on Jewish Community Endowment Pool
- Provided financial training for grant readers
- Hosted presentation by third-year grantees
- Participated in three-part series of spiritual learning sessions with Layah Lipsker
- Sent monthly member newsletters
- Held closing event with Harleen Singh of Women's Center Research Studies at Brandeis University

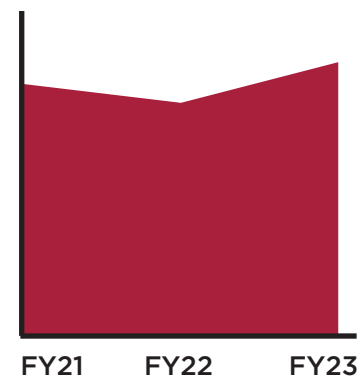
PROVIDED GRANTEE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

- Held quarterly convenings with educational topics, including tips for social media marketing, development, and relationship-building best practices
- Sent monthly grantee newsletters
- Reviewed and updated our applications and evaluation materials

GAINED VISIBILITY

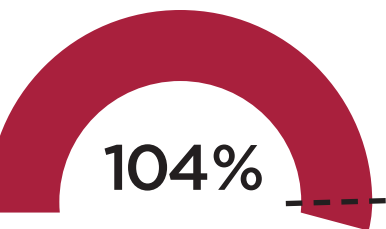
- Published article about TMF in the *Jewish Journal*
- Held info sessions on TMF for potential applicants
- Increased Facebook posts
- Presented to CJP leadership groups, including the Women's Philanthropy leadership program and Jewish Women's International Boston young leaders' cohort

Financial overview



Membership

The Miriam Fund welcomed 10 new members into our community during FY23, bringing our membership total to 138. In FY23, we implemented a new first-year membership level of \$1,250. We will continue to explore new ways to recruit and retain members in FY24 to provide a continuously enriching and fulfilling experience for all members.



Fundraising

In FY23, we raised a total of \$342,794.92 from gifts, reaching 104% of our \$330,000 goal for the year. We are deeply grateful to each of our members for their generous gifts and support.

Assets



Each year, The Miriam Fund raises money through membership dues and gifts. These donations are invested in a quasi-endowment fund, which is managed through the Jewish Community Endowment Pool. In addition to exceeding our gift goal, FY23 market performance was strong. Our opening fund balance was \$2,501,158.26. The closing balance, after grant distributions and expenses, was \$2,630,456.89.

Grant-making process

The grant-making process is the heart of The Miriam Fund’s work. Over the years, our mission has remained consistent, but our methods have evolved as we gain new insights and react to the needs and capabilities of our grantees and the world at large. This hands-on, strategic process is led by TMF members.





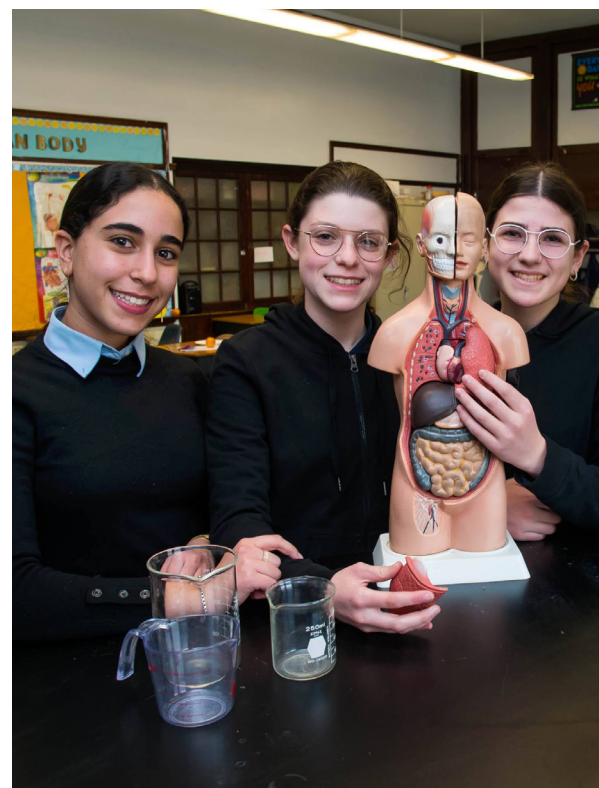
Jookender Community Initiatives, Inc.

JEWISH SUBCOMMITTEE: \$122,497

- **Gateways: Access to Jewish Education (3rd year) | \$25,000 Our Daughters, Our Future: An Educational Series Exploring Girls' Mental Health and Wellness**
Educational series to raise awareness and promote dialogue around mental health
- **Jookender Community Initiatives, Inc. (2nd year) | \$7,500 Go, Girls for STEAM!**
Preteen girls' STEAM club
- **Mayyim Hayyim Living Waters, Community Mikveh, and Paula Brody & Family Education Center (2nd year) | \$25,000 Let Justice Well Up**
Educational series building bridges among the diverse women in our community by creating new immersion ceremonies
- **Torah Academy (2nd year) | \$25,000 Makerspace Lab**
Create a makerspace lab to foster interest in STEM for girls in fifth through eighth grade
- **Yachad New England/National Jewish Council for Disabilities (1st year) | \$24,997 Y.E.S. Your Expressive Self**
Art education and art therapy project for Jewish teens and young adult women with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism
- **Moving Traditions (1st year) | \$15,000 Kol Koleinu Teen Feminist Fellowship**
Program for young Jewish feminists to explore and deepen their feminist knowledge, channel their voices, and use their skills to create tangible change

SECULAR SUBCOMMITTEE: \$115,000

- **Health Care Without Walls (3rd year) | \$15,000 Bridges to Elders**
Immediate medical care and intensive case management for homeless elderly women in Boston
- **Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A. Academy (2nd year) | \$25,000 Enhanced Girls' STEM Lab**
Create a dedicated girls' STEM lab to provide a girls' STEM program
- **Science Club for Girls (2nd year) | \$25,000**
To expand and enhance its virtual and in-person STEM programming for girls in grades K-12
- **Roca, Inc. (1st Year) | \$25,000 Young Mothers' Program**
Support for the highest-risk young mothers while supporting and promoting the school readiness of their young children
- **RESPOND, Inc. (1st Year) | \$25,000 Survivors of Abuse Feeling Empowered for Re-entry (SAFER)**
The first domestic violence program for women in a Massachusetts jail or prison



Torah Academy



Health Care Without Walls



RESPOND, Inc.

EMERGENCY GRANTS: \$25,000 WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

- **Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Inc. | \$12,500 Protecting Abortion Access**
Defending access to abortion and reproductive care
- **National Council of Jewish Women | \$12,500 Jewish Fund for Abortion Access**
The Jewish communal response to the ever-complicating reproductive healthcare landscape



Mahapach-Taghir



Kaima Nahalal

ISRAEL SUBCOMMITTEE: \$120,000

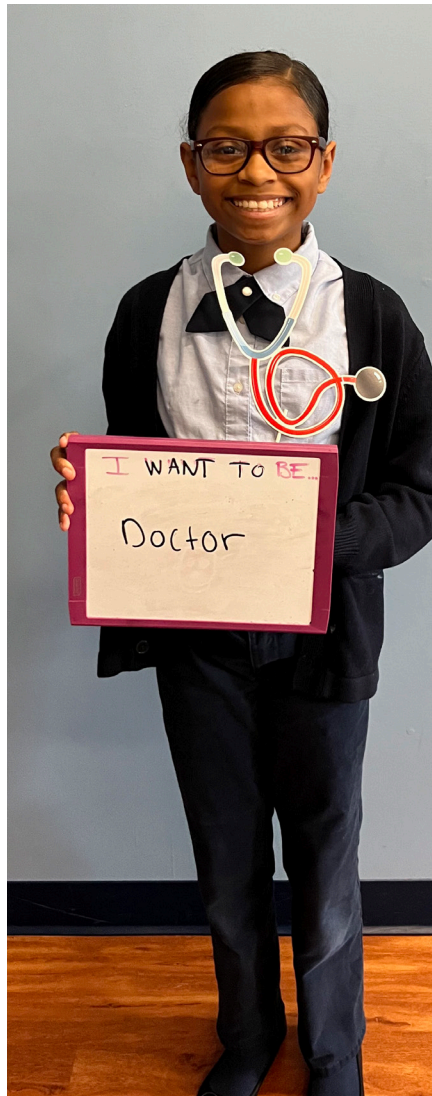
- **Itach Ma'aki (3rd year) | \$25,000 City for All**
Multi-level collaborative process to craft and execute a citywide Gender Equality Action Plan in governmental institutions
- **Kaima Nahalal (3rd year) | \$20,000 Kaima Earth Sisters**
Economic empowerment through farming
- **Mahapach-Taghir (1st year) | \$25,000 "Second Opportunity" Program**
Empowering disadvantaged women through higher education
- **Economic Empowerment for Women (1st year) | \$25,000 Keep on Growing**
Business forums for businesswomen in crisis
- **The Eden Center (1st year) | \$25,000 General Operating Support**
Making the mikvah welcoming and accessible and using it as a platform to increase women's health and safety



The Eden Center



Economic Empowerment for Women



Blessed Stephen Bellesini, O.S.A. Academy

"I am in the fifth grade and this is my first year at Bellesini Academy. Bellesini is like a second family to me. I have made many new friends here and I love my teachers. One of my favorite things about our school is the science program. During the Summer Program last year, we had STEM classes every day. One of our themes was 'extreme science,' and we learned about volcanoes and how they formed the state of Hawaii. We studied geysers and created our own in our parking lot. When classes started in September, we began learning many new things about our Earth. We do a lot of labs, and one of my favorites was when we got to take iron out of sand with a magnet. We also have STEM in the after-school program. Last week, we had a Career Day with OPENPediatrics from Boston Children's Hospital and learned about how they help sick children all over the world. They showed us how they do medical animation, create video content using a TV camera and teleprompter, and use technology to help children. A career I'm interested in is being a doctor, so this was a great experience!"

— Lovelie, student at Bellisini Academy

Gateways: Access to Jewish Education

"My daughter went through a very hard time during her eighth grade year, during which time she started self-harming. I knew Gateways had a lot of programming regarding mental health and was able to attend an amazing webinar educating parents on self-injury and its risks and signs. This webinar really helped me understand what my daughter was going through and ways I could support her on her journey to get better. I was so grateful!"

— Anonymous



Itach Ma'aki City for All program

"I worked with Itach Ma'aki via the City for All program, which aims to promote gender equality at the local level, in collaboration with local municipalities and local partners. I worked with the program focusing on ending gender-based violence. Itach Ma'aki gave us ideas and helped run events. I was featured in a culturally sensitive short film, produced in collaboration with Itach Ma'aki and the municipality, which combats the idea that it's shameful to ask for help and attempts to normalize the idea of seeking professional advice. Itach Ma'aki organized two events in collaboration with the local authorities and communities, attended by village leaders, the head of the local school, and prominent businesspeople. We encouraged families to get help early on to prevent an escalation. The long-term aim is to prevent domestic abuse and gender-based violence with the aid of social services. I would definitely recommend this program, and I wish it could be replicated all over the country. People generally don't want to talk about what happens at home, but this program can bring about a change and move things forward."

— Rula Akawi, Social Worker in Matteh Asher, Israel

2022-2023 Leadership

TMF Chairs

Cheryl Hoffman Carner
Reva Gold Fischman
Rachel M. Goldstein

TMF Grant Chairs

Janet Nahirny
Nancy Levitan Poorvu

Grant Subcommittee

Israel Chairs

Louise Citron
Harriet Schnitman

Jewish Chairs

Ruth Ann Feinberg
Deborah Posin

Secular Chairs

Janet F. Aserkoff
Glenda Fishman

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Janet F. Aserkoff
Cheryl Hoffman Carner
Lynne Schiffman Delise
Mady Donoff
Betsy Banks Epstein
Esta G. Epstein
Reva Gold Fischman
Leslie B. Gaffin
Jodi Galin
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Rachel M. Goldstein
Rosalind E. Gorin*

Beth S. Klarman*
Melanie Marcus
Janet Nahirny
Nancy Levitan Poorvu
Deborah Posin
Gayle Rubin
Barbara Schultz
Joyce Schultz
Sharon Shapiro
Ellie Svenson
Barbara Targum
Carol Targum
Karen Tucker
Tana Weissman

Staff

Beth Tauro, Director
Nora Stolzman, Manager

**Denotes a TMF Founder*

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Mary Akerson
Nancy Allen
Paula Apsell
Janet F. Aserkoff
Enid Beal
JoAnn Gantz Bendetson
Leah Berk
Ellen Berk
Sara Bernstein
Amy Bloomstone
Joyce Bohnen
Lorraine Bressler
Julie Callum
Cheryl Hoffman Carner
Robertta Chafetz
Louise Citron
Alison L. Clew
Dayl Cohen
Jennifer Cohen
Michele Cohen
Molly Cohen
Lisa Popik Coll
Debra Marcus Corrado
Nancy Cott
Estelle G. Cushner
Alice Cutler
Lynne Schiffman Delise
Mady Donoff
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Betsy Banks Epstein
Esta Gordon Epstein
Sherri Ades Falchuk
Ruth Ann Feinberg
Loren Feingold
Fran Feldman
Gail Fields
Abbyl Fierman
Andie S. Finard
Peggy Goldsmith Fineman
Reva Gold Fischman
Glenda Fishman
Brenda Freishtat
Alexandra Fuchs
Leslie B. Gaffin
Jodi Galin
Linda Gelb
Carol R. Goldberg

Deborah B. Goldberg
Leah Goldstein
Rachel M. Goldstein
Molly Goodman
Doris Gordon
Rosalind E. Gorin
Teri Gorsky
Susan E. Gotz
Winnie Sandler Grinspoon
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Robin S. Gross
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Nancy Hodin
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Beth S. Klarman
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Lisa Krakoff
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Marni Levitt
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Melanie Marcus
Lauren Mazzella
Lisa Michel
Sonia Michelson
Annette Miller
Beth Moskowitz
Janet Nahirny
Linda M. Noonan
Rabbi Suzanne Offit
Sylvia Perlman
Janet Polansky
Lorre Polinger
Robin M. Polishook

Lia G. Poorvu
Nancy Levitan Poorvu
Deborah Posin
Suzanne Priebatsch
Rosemary Putnam
Nancy Raphael
Patricia F. Ribakoff
Susan Riley
Elizabeth Rosen
Gail Rothenberg
Lisa Rourke
Gayle Rubin
Lauren E. Rubin
Aviva Saper
Susan Schechter
Cindy Schlessinger
Harriet Schnitman
Barbara Schultz
Joyce Schultz
Pamela G. Schwartz
Sharon Shapiro
Jennifer K. Silver
Toby M. Sloane
Susan Snider
Noni Stearns
Gretchen Fox Stein
Ellie Svenson
Gerri Sweder, Psy.D.
Barbara Targum
Carol Targum
Wendy Traynor
Karen Tucker
Jeane Ungerleider
Phyllis Viscidi
Barbara Freedman Wand
Jennifer Weinstock
Tana Weissman
Susan Whitehead
in Honor of Kate Sayare
Arnee R. Winshall
Robin Wolk
Dana Yaphe
Anonymous



Goals for FY24

LAUNCH PLANNING FOR TMF'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY TO BE CELEBRATED IN FY25

- Create and convene the Campaign Committee to support silver anniversary fundraising
- Initiate "25 for 25" fundraising (quiet phase)
- Build out Program and Advocacy Committees with volunteers to support programmatic initiatives
- Develop a year-long programming plan culminating in a spring 2025 celebration

IMPLEMENT TWO-YEAR PILOT FOR APPLICATIONS TO ISRAEL COMMITTEE

- For applications due August 2023, a primary focus will be Education or Economic empowerment
- For applications due August 2024, a primary focus will be Health, Legal rights, and/or Personal safety

PRIORITIZE COLLABORATION

- Continue to enhance partnership with CJP and with other women's funds

CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC PLAN ACTION ITEMS

- Membership: continue to expand/diversify to attract younger members and deepen engagement for all members
- Grant-making practices:
 - Commence streamlined application process for second- and third-year applicants and monitor and assess outcome
 - Evaluate impact of newly adopted grant procedures and policies
- Defining and measuring impact: define measurement goals and utilize evaluation materials collected to highlight impact of grants
- Enhancing TMF's visibility: continue to enhance visibility of TMF
- Member support: offer funder education programming opportunities on relevant topics
- Grantee support: continue to offer professional development and educational support opportunities for grantees

Thank you



Dear Members,

It has been a year of renewed connections, learning, and accomplishments. We inched our way out of the pandemic and have been able to connect more frequently. To me, it was especially exciting to attend my first grant and site visit meetings in person. Attending the site visits on location with grantees brought the depth and importance of our work fully into focus. Sitting with and listening to the staff of organizations describe the highlights and challenges of the work they do was so impactful. It was an affirmation of the importance of treating our grantee partners with respect and admiration for their missions and helping to support their efforts to succeed.

I am proud of the learning TMF did this year in partnership with Social Innovation Forum. Through our three sessions we grew as grant-makers and embraced evolving best practices in grant-making and relationship building. We were able to include TMF grantees as part of this journey and hear their perspectives on these topics. I am thrilled so many members attended these meetings and listened to the recordings. The educational sessions have created a meaningful shift in how we approach our work.

We have remained nimble from our experiences during COVID-19 and continue to balance in-person experiences with strategic uses of Zoom to reach and include all members in our activities. A foundational value of TMF is providing a sense of connection and community engagement for our membership.

The relevance and importance of TMF's focus on supporting organizations that serve self-identifying women and girls increases daily. We continue to confront new challenges for women and girls. As grant-makers, we continue to grow and listen, learn best practices, and partner with our grantees in ways that support the incredible efforts they achieve for their communities.

We have started to plan for our 25th anniversary year: July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025. We will have much to celebrate. It will also be a moment to reflect on the future and continue our determined efforts to support our grantee partners while honoring the community and values of The Miriam Fund. I am so grateful for your continued support and look forward to working side by side to accomplish meaningful impact together.

With gratitude and respect,
Beth Tauro
Director, The Miriam Fund

The Miriam Fund

Creating opportunities for women and girls

To learn more about The Miriam Fund:

Visit our website

cjp.org/miriamfund

Contact us

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Nora Stoltzman, Manager: norastoltzman@cjp.org

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The Miriam Fund is a unique collaborative venture with
Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston (CJP)