



# Foundation *Insider*



Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks describes in his new book, "Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times" about a shift in emphasis in society from "I" to "we". He says, " One of the greatest challenges in free societies is to maintain a balance between the 'I' of self-interest and the 'we' of the common good. We must be able to compete but also to cooperate. There is within each of us an 'I' that asks: 'What's in it for me?' But there's also a 'we' that knows that 'we are all in this together'."

We are now in the fifth month of physical distancing and we have all witnessed both "I" and "we" behavior. The "I" behaviors include stockpiling food, cleaning supplies, and "looking out for ourselves". While there has certainly been significant "I" behavior in our city, state and country, there has also been an abundance of "we" behavior that should be recognized and encouraged.

The Jewish Foundation of Greensboro has been a vehicle for "we" behavior to take front and center. The core philosophy of the Foundation is to promote philanthropy. Through donor advised funds and personal and institutional endowments we support organizations that we value. This support is usually in the form of ongoing yearly gifts and income from endowments. Since the COVID-19 pandemic we have witnessed significant distributions to aid organizations including Jewish Family Services, United Way, Greensboro Urban Ministry, and multiple other local, state and national institutions. Our affiliate organizations have known that endowments are available for emergency funding to avoid potentially catastrophic harm to their core infrastructure.

This is the time to make additional much needed distributions from your Donor Advised Fund. One of the reasons to establish these funds is to be able to make generous contributions in a time of great need.

Through the very diligent guidance of Tom Sloan and Masood Vojdani with MV Financial we have had a very respectable performance in this turbulent and unpredictable market. We have taken a more conservative position within our longterm investment guidelines to protect against the downside while allowing participation in growth.

I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving as Chair of the Foundation. The first six weeks of "issues" already feels like a two year term and I look forward to the remaining 98 weeks of challenges and successes.

Please stay healthy and involved in both the "I" and "we" aspects of your lives.

*Howard C Mezer*

Howard C Mezer  
Foundation Chair

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