



The Sephardic
Foundation on Aging

ADVANCING A LEGACY, RESPONDING TO CRISIS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

2020 was a year unlike any other. Grantmaking took on a new urgency as the Coronavirus pandemic swept New York City, the United States and the world. Aging populations that relied on direct services became largely homebound. Vulnerable populations lost access to food and other daily essentials. Dementia care patients lost the in-person, community connections their health and well-being depends upon.

The global pandemic propagated immeasurable loss. Loss, however, is not the full story. Over the past year, the Sephardic Foundation on Aging (SFOA) moved **over \$3 million** in grants across the globe:

- **Aging seniors in Ethiopia were able to receive emergency medical assistance**
- **Holocaust survivors in Russia were ensured daily deliveries of home cooked meals and medicine**
- **Homebound seniors across the U.S. received food deliveries, social work assistance and access to technology to combat social isolation**

SFOA has supported older people and their communities for over 60 years as the Sephardic Home for the Aged. Through emergency COVID-19 grants, multi-year initiatives and non-emergency funding mechanisms, SFOA empowered frontline work and life-saving initiatives this year.

This report examines the emergency grants that provided essential personal protective equipment (PPE) to nursing homes and meals to older adults aging at home across the country. It highlights projects completed and begun. Most importantly, it crystallizes SFOA's grantmaking impact in these unprecedented times.

THE SEPHARDIC FOUNDATION ON AGING: 2020 RESULTS

TOTAL
FUNDING

\$3,408,102

TOTAL GRANTS
MADE

78

AVERAGE GRANT
AWARDED

\$44,515

NATIONAL GRANTEE LOCATIONS



UNITED STATES

Colorado | Connecticut | Delaware | Florida | Maine
Massachusetts | Michigan | New York | New Jersey
Pennsylvania | Tennessee | Washington | Washington, D.C.

INTERNATIONAL GRANTEE LOCATIONS



RUSSIA

TURKEY

ISRAEL

ETHIOPIA

A HOLISTIC, COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO GRANTMAKING

Each year, SFOA makes grants to support Jewish elderly around the world across five issue areas. The combined effect of grantmaking across these areas is holistic and compassionate care that increases the capacity of Jewish seniors to live their lives with dignity.

\$1,485,452

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community connections took on new meaning in 2020. Though most direct services were sidelined, SFOA increased grantmaking through **35** community connections grants focused on food banks and food delivery, personal protective equipment and general support of seniors. This was transformative for seniors struggling to adjust to isolation at home.

\$895,000

DEMENTIA CARE

These grants funded social workers who specialized in working with Jewish seniors and their families. The urgency of this work was underscored by the challenges homebound seniors face in quarantine. The change of routine, and sometimes environment, can be extremely difficult for seniors with dementia. Grants were designed not only to support, but to build empathy for those with dementia by advancing programs that fostered wellbeing and connectivity.

\$485,000

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Capital improvement grants provided life-saving paramedical equipment and PPE to nursing homes during the Coronavirus pandemic, ensuring high-quality care could be maintained and expanded. These grants enabled renovations, purchase of supplies and equipment, and more.

\$460,000

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Supporting Holocaust Survivors has been a fundamental tenet of SFOA's mission since its inception as the Sephardic Home for the Aged. From Memphis, Tennessee, to Netanya, Israel, this years' grants ensured survivors received social, financial and mental health support during the pandemic.

\$82,650

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Art, theater and music programming keeps seniors active and helps them build meaningful relationships with younger generations. Grants for intergenerational programming provided opportunities for older and younger people to build meaningful relationships and learn from each other. Intergenerational relationships, especially grandparent-grandchild relationships, are instrumental to promoting Sephardic culture and heritage. Funding in this area gives these relationships the opportunity to grow and thrive.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

2020 grants were classified into three categories: *non-emergency grants*, *emergency grants*, and *scheduled grants*. Though the majority of 2020 grantmaking focused on COVID-19, scheduled and non-emergency grants also played a vital role in maintaining quality care for seniors.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANTS

The COVID-19 pandemic turned 2020 on its head. Many organizations providing essential, frontline services rose to the challenge. SFOA was there to help.

The Foundation made **\$1,585,300** worth of food bank, food delivery or PPE-related grants, protecting society's most vulnerable populations. SFOA focused on high-impact grantmaking to directly address the most pressing problems posed by the coronavirus.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT Jewish Funders Network (New York, NY) \$250,000 Grant

The Pledge to Protect coalition sources PPE for Jewish Nursing Homes and Jewish Human Service Agencies. During the pandemic, this grant reimbursed nursing homes that bought PPE as a part of the Pledge to Protect consortium.

- **19,249** SURGICAL MASKS
- **17,997** N95 RESPIRATOR MASKS
- **14,750** ISOLATION GOWNS
- **7,500** NITRILE GLOVES

*"As a 60-year-old association committed to honoring and caring for the lives of our Fathers and Mothers, the Foundation's generosity represents a reflection of our shared values and shared commitment to our parents. Your compassion and goodwill in the Pledge to Protect initiative actually **saved lives**. This is not theoretical, rather this was an actual quote from CEO, Jeff Cohen, of our Seattle community, The Kline Galland Home, when I informed my members of your contribution. The Sephardic Foundation On Aging, under your inspired leadership, epitomizes the philosophy that as Jews, our soul is based upon what we are willing to share and invest in others."*

— Don Shulman, President and CEO, Association of Jewish Aging Services



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Chamah International (Moscow, Russia)

\$20,000 Grant

This grant expanded the Meals-on-Wheels Program to deliver nutritious food to those who depend on the Chamah Community Center. Since the hundreds of elderly and needy could no longer come to the soup kitchen for their only hot, nutritious meal, the grant filled a critical void. It also allowed for home visits for homebound seniors and delivery of medical equipment when needed. They have **delivered food and medicine to more than 400 people** during the pandemic with this grant.



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Concerts in Motion (New York, NY)

\$20,000 Grant

Concerts in Motion provides in-person concerts for seniors in assisted living centers. The Coronavirus made visiting the centers impossible. SFOA's grant allowed for the purchase of equipment and supplies to transition the concerts to a Zoom format. This provided an invaluable form of connection and stability for seniors undergoing immense change.

"I usually eat alone, but now I have company! How wonderful is that?"

— Audience member, enjoying lunch over a 1pm concert

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry (Gondar, Ethiopia)

\$50,000 Grant

Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry (SSEJ) is the main source of humanitarian assistance for the 14,000 members of the Jewish Community in Gondar and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This grant provided critical emergency assistance for Ethiopian seniors in the form of food, hygiene products, and transportation to medical clinics. It also allowed for the elderly unable to travel to be screened by medical facilitators in their homes.



"As a direct result of the grant from SFOA we started a comprehensive medical program for the approximately 700 elderly Jews in Ethiopia. Because of this impoverished community's inability to pay, we also provide medication recommended by the clinic. SSEJ, together with our partnership with SFOA, is undoubtedly extending the length and quality of life of hundreds of elderly Ethiopian Jews."

— Jeremy Feit, President, Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry

HONORING OUR HERITAGE



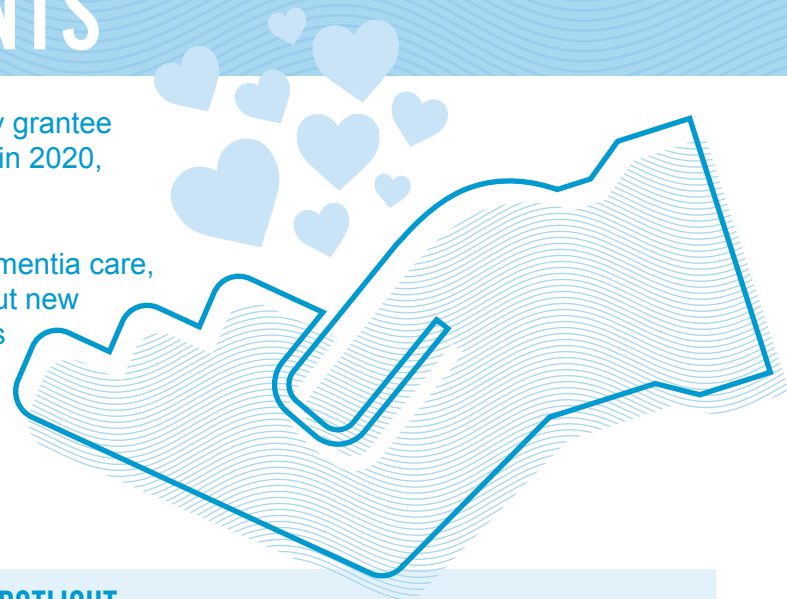
In 1939, Leah Marco Cohen and other members of the local Sephardic community opened a dedicated nursing home for their older Sephardic neighbors, having seen their growing isolation. After years of intense fundraising, their dream was realized when the Sephardic Home for the Aged opened its doors on Cropsey Avenue in Brooklyn in 1951. Almost 60 years later, the Home became the Sephardic Foundation on Aging, which carries on this legacy today.

Care for older generations is a central value of Sephardic Jewry. SFOA commits to this value each and every year by carrying out the mission of the Sephardic Home for the Aged. Since its inception, over \$11.5 million has been granted to organizations across the world in support of SFOA's key focus areas.

NON-EMERGENCY GRANTS

Non-emergency grants make success possible for many grantee organizations. SFOA made nine non-emergency grants in 2020, totalling **\$396,350**.

They provided funding for social workers overseeing dementia care, allowed for the Jewish Teen Funders Network to build out new curricula, supported older adults coping with Parkinson's disease, and more.



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT CaringKind (New York, NY) \$75,000 Grant

This grant allowed for the development of a dementia care, education and support program for the Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn with a focus on cultural competency. CaringKind, an Alzheimer's and dementia caregiving organization based in New York City, hired a social worker focused on Jewish community outreach to work specifically with Orthodox Jewish families.

Isolation is dangerous for those experiencing dementia. Someone who can work one-on-one and provide holistic, culturally-sensitive care helps improve patients' emotional and psychological wellbeing. Adina Segal, the social worker whose hiring was made possible by SFOA's grant, continues to work with the Orthodox community in Brooklyn to ensure the health, happiness and safety not only of seniors with dementia, but their families as well.



"This is a disease that robs you of a sense of time and place. In Jewish tradition, everything is about time and place. There's always something to do at a certain time, so our whole way of being is no longer relevant to this person's life. Having a place to talk about it, with someone who understands, makes a huge difference. Having someone who understands where you're coming from from a cultural standpoint is an additional comfort we can offer that really makes a difference."

— Adina Segal, Jewish Community Outreach Social Worker, CaringKind

SCHEDULED, MULTI-YEAR GRANTS

Scheduled grants empower bold missions, big goals and pivotal projects. SFOA granted **\$806,952** for multi-year projects in 2020. Grantees included the Jewish Home of North Jersey, the Menorah Home and Hospital in New York, and the Kline Galland Senior Center in Seattle, Washington.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

Kline Galland Senior Center (Seattle, Washington)
\$106,952 Grant

This grant, the last of three for the Kline Galland Palliative Care Support Initiative, ensured all seniors at Kline Galland had access to palliative care planning prior to a crisis. The grant enabled Kline Galland to hire and train a full-time palliative care specialist to immediately meet with residents, patients and their families, alleviating the fear from end-of-life planning. The organization's mission is to embody "a living commitment, inspired by Jewish values, to provide exceptional care, by exceptional people, every day, in every way, for everyone." Thanks to SFOA's grants, more seniors will benefit from Kline Galland's commitment to putting this mission in action.



"The Sephardic Foundation on Aging has allowed Kline Galland's Palliative Care program to expand our services to improve quality of life, comfort and independence for so many patients and their families. We are forever grateful for the support the Foundation has given us as we continue our work to improve the lives of those under our care."

— Stephanie King, Director of Social Services

REFLECTING ON THE PAST,

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

A black and white photograph of two elderly people sitting on a wooden bench, viewed from behind. They are looking out over a landscape with hills under a clear sky. The person on the left is wearing a light-colored cap, and the person on the right is wearing a plaid cap and a jacket.

**The Sephardic
Foundation on Aging**

The Sephardic Foundation on Aging has empowered Jewish seniors to live their happiest, healthiest lives for over six decades. In 2020, SFOA not only renewed that commitment but rose to the challenge of our unprecedented times with funding to meet the unique needs of the crisis. As the calendar page turns and 2021 draws near, SFOA remains committed to supporting the most vulnerable communities with the essential services and funding they need.



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