

Annual Report 2020

**“Good people say little
and do much.”**

PIRKEI AVOT 1.15

the **goodpeople** fund
מעשים טובים



Provider.

Ensuring and delivering dignity.

ONE CAN HELP USA

Supporting Court-Involved Families in Massachusetts

Listening to the attorneys and social workers who have reached out to One Can Help, you quickly realize how just a modest amount of money can help a family facing a crisis. **Anne Bader-Martin**, throughout her years as an attorney in the Massachusetts juvenile court system, always wished she had resources to stave off despair and even further deterioration of the family unit.

Anne recognized that it is often poverty that brings a family to the juvenile/family court system, and keeps that family from breaking out of it. In fact, more than 80% of the families in the system live below the federal poverty level.

In 2006, she founded One Can Help, which has now provided assistance to more than 5,000 families in three main areas: school-related needs, like a laptop, tuition or fees for activities that are beyond the family's reach; housing needs, such as a security deposit, cleaning supplies, beds or past due utility bills; and basics of daily living, like transportation costs, emergency food or clothing. Meeting these most basic of needs makes One Can Help a lifeline for families.

The positive outcomes derived from OCH's work cannot be overstated. When families have what they need, everyone benefits – the family, the courts, and everyone working in the system. A recent Boston University cost-benefit analysis determined that OCH's work has saved the state and taxpayers millions of dollars, a strong endorsement for programs like this in every community and visionaries like Anne.

GPF Impact: Our matching funds are used for administrative expenses and COVID-19-related needs.



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY USA A Relational Approach to Helping Those in Need

For **Pam Koner**, the tipping point came when she read a 2002 article about families in rural Pembroke, IL living in poverty, dirt floors underfoot and spare tires on the roof to keep it from flying off. "I had no idea what, but I had to take a step to change things," she said.

Pam contacted an outreach worker who connected her with a family in need there, and she sent food and supply packages. And so a relationship-based model pairing families with "more" with families with "less" was born, growing into Family-to-Family.

The storefront operation now reaches into 36 communities across the country, helping 600+ families — about 3,000 moms, dads and kids — as well as struggling veterans and Holocaust survivors. That reach grows this year, as Family-to-Family and its community partners respond to the onslaught of pandemic-related needs. "I didn't choose it; it chose me," Pam says of her work.

GPF Impact: Our grant supports general operating expenses.

HOPE AND COMFORT USA Providing Hygiene Products for Dignity and Good Health

Jeff and Loren Feingold could not have predicted that asking guests to bring children's items to donate, in lieu of gifts, to their daughter's birthday party would result in the distribution of over 800,000 personal hygiene products to people in need.

Hope and Comfort has done just that. Begun in 2010 in the Feingolds' garage — and now operating out of a warehouse — the soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo they distribute improve health and self-esteem, especially for children and

young adults. Partnering with pantries, schools and larger organizations in the Greater Boston area expands their reach even further.

Considered an essential business during the pandemic, Hope and Comfort continues to provide access to these items (not covered by SNAP benefits), when handwashing and hygiene are more important than ever. In addition, volunteering continues from home through virtual product drives, "cabinet cleanout" challenges and creating cheerful cards for school-age recipients.

GPF Impact: Our funds are used to purchase personal hygiene products.

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD USA Ensuring Access to Sports 🏆

Scatter bins around town, ask people to bring used and unwanted sports equipment, watch what happens. It's what **Max Levitt** did to put baseball bats, footballs, hockey sticks, and more in the hands of underprivileged kids.

So grew Leveling the Playing Field, founded by Max in 2013 to close economically driven gaps in sports participation. Those bins are now two warehouses in the DC-Baltimore area and LPF has collected and distributed an estimated \$5 million worth of donated items to about 800 under-resourced schools and youth sports programs.

Since spring, as COVID-19 closed schools and halted youth sports programs, Max and his team began creating and distributing "sports kits" with new and used phys ed equipment so kids who are disadvantaged can participate in virtual sports initiatives; about 5,000 kits will be distributed by the end of 2020. "Nothing will stop us," Max says.

GPF Impact: Our grant helps to cover the cost of pandemic "sports kits" and administrative expenses.