JEANETTE’S FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER CREATES A LASTING LEGACY

A homeschool teacher from Queens Village, New York, Jeanette Barrett moved to Orange County with her husband Marvin after a few winter visits to California. As an involved member of our community, she worked with the Foundation to create several Endowment Funds to support her passion for feeding the hungry. Establishing these funds during her lifetime, Jeanette supported the programs she loved knowing that they would continue to receive funding into perpetuity.

While Jeanette and Marvin sadly passed away, the Jeanette Barrett Special Endowment Funds ensure their legacy lives on. Through these funds annual gifts are made to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Age Well Senior Services in support of their Meals on Wheels program and Jewish Federation & Family Services. In addition, Jeanette dedicated a portion of her gift to the Jewish Community Foundation’s Grants Program, with a designation that funds be used for food or meal programs.

The Foundation’s Grants Program offers donors like Jeanette the opportunity to establish an endowment fund to support a particular area of interest. Each year our Grants Committee & Task Force, a team of committed and trusted lay leaders, evaluate the current needs in the community and grant money to programs that align with the donors’ charitable wishes. Through Jeanette’s generosity, checks in her name have been sent to the Ezra Center and to Ethel’s Chicken Soup (featured on back page) over the years. Our local nonprofits benefit each year from Jeanette’s foresight in providing funding to fight hunger in her adopted home of Orange County.

As part of our annual grants program, the Foundation’s Grants Committee & Task Force awarded a total of $74,554 to 21 deserving programs openly accessible to the Orange County Jewish community. These include programs partnering special needs children with teen volunteers, providing an engaging Klezmer music event for seniors, professional development on Israel themed curriculum for Jewish educators, bringing top Jewish scholars to Orange County and connecting children with Holocaust survivors.
LEGACY GIFT SERVES UP 32 OZ. OF WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP

Rabbi Shmuel Marcus, Chabad emissary to Los Alamitos, California is driving very, very carefully. In the back seat of his car is a box with over a dozen 32 ounce containers of fresh, hot chicken soup wrapped in hot pink bags, and he does not want them to spill as he navigates an unfamiliar part of town. The homemade soup was just cooked by Marcus’s wife, Bluma, at their Chabad House, and the rabbi is on his way to personally deliver the containers, one by one, to elderly community members, shut-ins and families in crisis.

The soup delivery is part of a Chabad program called Grandma Ethel’s Chicken Soup. The program is named after Ethel Howard, a local senior in the southern California community who passed away several years ago. In her last years, Ethel resided in a senior living home and one of the highlights of her day were surprise visits from the local rabbi.

After her passing, her son, Gary Howard, a prominent litigation CPA, established the program in her memory. Howard explained his mom Ethel loved the traditional Jewish dish. Appreciating how comforting a bowl of homemade kosher chicken soup can be, he established the program he hopes will spread that warmth and comfort to the elderly, the sick and families in need.

With support from Howard, as well as donors like Jeanette Barrett (z”l) who set up funds through the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County, what started as a sporadic soup or two has grown into a fully-developed program with over 200 soups prepared each month and 20 youth volunteers to help with the deliveries. Says Marcus, “It is my goal to reach as many people in need as possible with a visit, a kind word, and a piping hot bowl of chicken soup.”

The Foundation is honored to work with donors to establish legacy gifts to benefit impactful programs like Ethel’s Chicken Soup. Create your Jewish legacy today with a gift in your will, trust, life insurance policy or retirement plan. Contact Executive Director Wendy Arenson to learn more.

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