

WE ARE HERE **FOR YOU**

The JCFOC staff is working remotely at full capacity. We are available by email, phone or video call to answer any questions and to assist with your charitable giving.



JCFOC TAKES ACTION

YOU CAN, TOO!

LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER

The Jewish Community Foundation Orange County has established the **COVID-19 Emergency Fund**.

This fund is intended to rapidly provide emergency assistance to local congregations and Jewish nonprofits experiencing financial hardships during this crisis.

Grants from this fund will be selected by the Jewish Community Foundation Orange County Grants Committee, with a special focus on two areas:

- ▶ Emergency support for local Jewish congregations and nonprofits who are experiencing financial hardships directly as a result of program closures, membership loss, and event cancellations.
- ▶ Emergency support for local Jewish individuals and families who have been impacted by COVID-19, in the form of assistance to congregations and nonprofits who are dedicating a significant portion of grant funds to direct relief for vulnerable community members.

In this time of crisis, we are encouraged and heartened by the increased generosity of our donors in making grants to nonprofit organizations whose missions they value. By creating the JCFOC COVID-19 Emergency Fund, the Foundation hopes to contribute meaningfully to providing relief for those who have been hit hardest by the pandemic.

Foundation fund holders who would like to contribute to the **COVID-19 Emergency Fund** may fill out a grant request via DonorCentral or a donor request form. If you do not have a donor advised fund, but are interested in supporting the **COVID-19 Emergency Fund**, you may mail a contribution by check (please note the fund name on the memo line), or pay via credit card through PayPal.

It is through community members like you that we will make it through this crisis, **together**.

CARES ACT

What it means for Philanthropy

You can make a positive difference at this time by giving generously to the charitable nonprofits and causes that are important to you.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides increased charitable giving incentives for both individuals and corporations.

Charitable giving incentives include:

■ A one-time, above-the-line deduction for cash charitable contributions of up to \$300

- ▶ All taxpayers are eligible to take the deduction, even people who use the standard deduction.
- ▶ The incentive applies to contributions made in 2020 and can be claimed on tax forms next year.
- ▶ The new deduction does not apply to gifts contributed to donor advised philanthropic funds. You can use this deduction to make your gift to the community JCFOC's **COVID-19 Emergency Fund** or other charitable nonprofits.

■ A temporary increase of income limits for cash contributions by individual and corporate donors

- ▶ Individual taxpayers who itemize their deductions can deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in cash contributions (raised from 60%). Contributions in excess of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income may be carried forward for five years.
- ▶ Corporations can deduct up to 25% of taxable income (from 10%).
- ▶ The higher deduction does not apply to gifts contributed to donor advised philanthropic funds. You can use this deduction to make your gift to the community JCFOC's **COVID-19 Emergency Fund**, a new or existing endowment fund or other charitable nonprofits.

■ Waivers for 2020 required minimum distributions (RMDs)

- ▶ Under the new rule, in 2020 you don't have to take a RMD which could reduce your 2020 tax bill. This includes various retirement plans such as IRAs, 403(a) and (b) plans and 457(b) plans.
- ▶ Even though RMDs are waived, you can still use your retirement fund to benefit charities. Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your plan. The funds are directly transferred from your retirement fund to a charity and excluded from income. While these gifts cannot be contributed to donor advised philanthropic funds, you can use this deduction to make your gift to the community JCFOC's **COVID-19 Emergency Fund**, a new or existing endowment fund or other charitable nonprofits. Only retirement fund owners and beneficiaries who are age 70 1/2 or older qualify for this.
- ▶ Also consider combining distributions eligible to be repaid over 3 years or included in income over 3 years with an immediate charitable deduction.

Please note that this newsletter is informational only and does not constitute legal or tax advice. Please consult with your legal, financial and/or tax professional to understand the implications for your particular circumstances and goals.

