

Direct Service in the Age of Coronavirus

Examples of Direct Service from NCJW Sections

- **Chicago North Shore Section**

INITIATIVE: Mother's Day Baskets for local domestic violence shelter

- The Mother's Day Project supports two area domestic violence shelters by providing Mother's Day baskets for the women at the shelters. Women often arrive at the shelter with little more than the clothes they are wearing. Chicago North Shore Section will fill Mother's Day baskets with items such as shampoo/conditioner, soap, lotions, gift certificates, chocolates, and more.

- **New York City Section**

INITIATIVE: Community Kitchen and Food Pantry

- New York City Section is providing bagged meals and pre-packaged bags of food at their Community Kitchen and Food Pantry. The Food Pantry provides a three-day emergency supply of both fresh produce and shelf-stable groceries to families in need once a week. The Community Kitchen provides bagged meals twice a week.
- The section partnered with the Food Bank for New York City, provided Kosher for Passover food packages to seniors in their community. Packed and delivered food packages for seniors who were unable to get out to the grocery store.

- **Long Beach Section**

INITIATIVE: Significant Community Donations

- Long Beach Section donated \$7,500 split amongst five local community organizations with urgent needs for funding, including Jewish Family and Children's Service, Jewish Long Beach COVID-19 Relief Fund, Long Beach Homeless Coalition, Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition, and WomenShelter of Long Beach. In these times of critical need and of dire consequences, NCJW Long Beach reached out to coalition partners who are fulfilling essential needs and providing emergency services to low-income

seniors, individuals, and families, undocumented workers and other immigrants unable to receive unemployment, the homeless population, and those affected by domestic violence and abuse.

- **St. Louis Section**

INITIATIVE: Providing micro-loans to support underserved women and families' financial independence

- They are continuing their Healing Hearts Bank which is a micro-lending program that provides underserved women and families with micro-loans of up to \$500 to help further their financial independence. The need right now is stronger than ever.

- **Greater Rochester Section**

INITIATIVE: Continuing the PAD Project remotely and supporting nursing homes

- The PAD Project continues to provide low-income and homeless women with pad and tampon kits to provide dignity to women during their monthly menstrual cycle. Volunteers purchased tampons and pads through Amazon Wish List which were shipped directly to a leader's house for assembly.
- The section donated flowering plants to residents and staff at nursing homes as well as provide grab-and-go snacks for them.

- **Sacramento Section and Bergen County Section**

INITIATIVE: Sewing masks

- Sacramento Section organized #Sew2Save so they can help during this crisis by sewing masks. NCJW Sacramento dropped off 150 masks for the Dignity Health care system. More than 30 volunteers are participating in this project.
- Bergen County Section sewed masks for children and staff in group homes.

- **Cleveland Section**

INITIATIVE: Sewing masks & donating meals

- They are sewing masks for a local child service agency and prison system. The section is providing volunteers with the face mask kits, instructions, and patterns.
- They also donated meals to local hospitals for healthcare workers

- **Colorado Section**

INITIATIVE: Medical supply drive for vulnerable populations

- Ran a collection drive for needed items, including hand sanitizer, toilet paper, hand soap, cleansing wipes, laundry detergent, and non-perishable food items, for residents at Kavod Senior Life. The average age of individuals living at Kavod is 78 and nearly all are low-income, they represent the most vulnerable population to the threat of the virus.

- **Miami Section**

INITIATIVE: Miami Teens program feeds healthcare workers

- Miami Section's NCJW Teens Program used funds raised at fundraisers prior to the public health crisis to donate meals to local hospitals. They fed approximately 700 healthcare workers at six local hospitals to show their appreciation. They also donated \$2500 to the Kosher Food Bank which feeds 400 individuals and families.

- **Michigan Section**

INITIATIVE: Kosher Meals on Wheels

- Michigan Section has continued to provide their Kosher Meals on Wheels service program with extra precautions. They deliver two nutritious kosher meals for up to five days a week to homes of individuals who are older than 60 and are unable to prepare or provide meals for themselves. Need for this service has increased due to COVID-19.

Examples of Individual Service Efforts

- Sew face masks for local communities
- Make weekly welfare calls to vulnerable individuals in your community to check on them, ensure their needs are being met, and provide socialization during time of isolation
- Provide professional services to nonprofits in need through catchafire.org or werepair.org
- Tutor students virtually

- Send emails and gifts to people at nursing homes to brighten their day. Send them drawings from your children and grandchildren or donate flowering plants to residents and staff at nursing homes.
- Contact your neighbors to donate money to provide meals to healthcare workers at local hospitals
- Increase your philanthropy where possible. Donate to local food banks and other nonprofits serving communities in need.
- Complete your Census form. There's new guidance about how college students should be counted.
- Do advocacy work as a complement to direct service ([Get Out the Vote](#) and much more!)
- Improve child literacy by reading books to children via zoom or the phone.
- Write thank you notes to essential workers such as postal workers, grocery store employees, healthcare workers, etc.
- Support the early childhood center where children of essential workers attend.