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CONTACT: Sharleen Wollach
Vice President, Operations
858-279-2740
sharleen@jcfsandiego.org

San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund Launched by Community Partners - Over \$1.6Million Raised

SAN DIEGO, CA – The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego (JCF), the Jewish Federation of San Diego County, and the Leichtag Foundation have established the **San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund** to address immediate needs of the Jewish community.

The San Diego Jewish Community COVID-19 Emergency Fund will address critical areas including, but not limited to: relief for those who are out of work and those struggling to meet their basic needs; support for isolated individuals, especially the most vulnerable, including the elderly, Holocaust survivors, those with disabilities, and others; food and nutrition programs for those of all ages; and relief for Jewish organizations substantially dependent on lost tuition, membership, programmatic or event income.

We are grateful to a consortium of initial funders who have already contributed more than \$1.6 Million to launch this Fund. The need is immense and will continue to increase.

The accelerating scale of COVID-19 calls for a coordinated, streamlined response to support those who are most vulnerable and impacted primarily in San Diego's Jewish community. This urgent effort will gather information about community needs and immediately allocate funds, employing effective processes that proved successful in prior crises.

The Fund is being administered by a task force chaired by longtime community leaders and philanthropists Emily Einhorn, Leo Spiegel, and Brian Tauber. Fund donors will regularly receive reports on emerging needs and how dollars are being committed. The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego holds the Fund and 100% of donations will be used to meet COVID-19 related needs.

Beth Sirull, President and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation, commented, *“COVID-19 presents unprecedented challenges to our Jewish community. Increasing numbers of people in our community are losing their jobs and are unable to cover their basic needs. Organizations at the center of our Jewish infrastructure are facing existential crises as memberships, events, tuition and other sources of revenue dry up. At the Jewish Community Foundation, we are honored to be collaborating with our important community partners, using this fund to address these community needs.”*

To support the grantmaking process, all grantees will be required to submit a grant proposal explaining how they are addressing the COVID-19 crisis and its financial impact. The Fund task force will be working hard in the coming weeks and months to assess needs, release grants criteria, offer capacity building and technical assistance to organizations, and get funds to where they are needed most. The need is immense and will continue to increase, and all are invited to contribute.

To support these JCF Funds or any other grantee of your choice, please visit www.jcfsandiego.org/COVID19. Thank you for supporting our community during this time of need.

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About The Jewish Community Foundation

The Jewish Community Foundation partners with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their philanthropic goals. During fiscal year 2018-19, the Foundation awarded and facilitated \$77 million in 6,900 grants to more than 1,800 Jewish and general organizations in San Diego, Israel and around the world. Since its inception over 50 years ago, the Foundation has granted over \$1.5 billion. Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at www.jcfsandiego.org or call 858-279-2740.