

# Our Kehillah, Our Children, Our Future



More Than a Fund:

We Are a Kehillah



Dear Kehillah:

Everything starts with Jewish education. It's the foundation upon which we put down roots and grow as a kehillah. A Jewish day school education gives our children everything they need to develop their Jewish identity and become knowledgeable Jews. It shapes them to be a light unto the nations and to thrive as citizens of the world.

On the following pages, you will see the fruits of this past year. Our melava malka celebration drew over 500 Kehillah members to celebrate Founding Executive Director Nesanel Siegal while the COVID-19 Relief Fund awarded by the Walder Foundation helped our beneficiary schools during the onset of the pandemic. We also break down where your monthly contributions are going and how we are growing. Lastly, we introduce you to the people working behind the scenes at The Kehillah Fund. It's all here for you to see.

When the Walders founded The Kehillah Fund, they drew inspiration from the way Jewish communities in the old country funded essential communal institutions from mikvas to yeshivas. We've continued that tradition with our Kehillah Fund. Since its inception, more than \$13 million has been distributed to support over 7,000 students from 11 schools across the Orthodox community in the Chicagoland area.

But that's the power of achdus. More than just a fund, we are a kehillah. And it is your continued support that enables us to keep our schools strong and our children learning, growing and thriving.

It is an honor to partner with you.

Wishing you well,



MAX DAYAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A Message from Our Founders

Dear Kehillah:

Even amidst the upheaval of this past year, The Kehillah Fund has remained a force for unity and good in our community. This is exactly why we started The Kehillah Fund back in 2004: We believe that educating our children is a shared responsibility. By equitably distributing our tzedakah dollars across the full spectrum of Orthodox day schools, our fund has become a powerful platform whose support has been nothing short of a lifeline for our schools.

It's a powerful thing to know that each one of us, no matter how much we can contribute, has a role to play in ensuring that every child in our community receives a quality day school education. Together, we support us all.

Our Kehillah Fund is comprised of individuals from throughout our community. There is truly strength in numbers and you are an integral part of this strength.

Supporting The Kehillah Fund is a simple, elegant way for us to actualize our commitment to our community. We thank you for joining with us in this commitment.



*Joseph A. Walder Elizabeth Walder*

JOSEPH AND ELIZABETH WALDER  
FOUNDERS AND BOARD DIRECTORS

## 2019 Year at a Glance

## Our Kehillah Fund at Work

### BREAKDOWN BY FUND

1/1/19 – 12/31/19

GENERAL FUND:

**\$669,976**

ACHDUS FUND:

**\$98,002**

RESOURCE FUND:

**\$55,116**



**11**



**2,966**

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

### TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

1/1/19 – 12/31/19

**\$823,093**



### CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

1/1/19 – 12/31/19

**1,460**





## The Power of Community:

## Celebrating 15 Years

### Melava Malka Honors Nesanel Siegal

Over 500 Kehillah Jewish Education Fund members came together on a motzei shabbos in February for a melava malka celebrating past Executive Director Nesanel Siegal's years of dedication—and to mark the distribution of over \$12 million to date for our day schools.

Hosted by Joseph and Elizabeth Walder, the February 22, 2020, event was held at the Zeigler Auto Group of Lincolnwood and featured music, dinner and a roster of speakers. Remarks were delivered by Mrs. Walder, Co-Founder and Board Director of The Kehillah Fund; Rabbi Yaakov Robinson, Rabbinic Advisor for The Kehillah Fund; Mr. Siegal; and Max Dayan, newly installed Executive Director of The Kehillah Fund.

"Dr. Walder and I are so grateful for Nesanel's many years of service," said Mrs. Walder. "Under his leadership, and with his grace and humility, persistence and passion, he has been able to reach a broad cross section of the community to build excitement about this fund that supports all of our children."

Thanks to The Kehillah Fund, eleven local day schools receive monthly streams of support, giving them the peace of mind that they can operate based on a steady foundation of support.

In paying tribute to Mr. Siegal, the common refrain was gratitude for his passion, dedication, purity of purpose, and single-minded devotion to bringing the kehillah together to support our children's education.

"He is really loved by everyone in the community because he is so sincere and so dedicated. He was the perfect person to be our representative to show what The Kehillah Fund can, and thank G-d has, accomplished," said Avrohom Menashe Siegal, Nesanel's brother and founding Board Member of The Kehillah Fund.

Nesanel Siegal's commitment to The Kehillah Fund has remained steadfast. "Just like we set aside money so that we can eat, we have to support Jewish education. That is what sustains us spiritually. Without that education we have nothing," he said.

For Mr. Dayan, leading The Kehillah Fund is the ultimate gift.

"I am so excited for the opportunity to build on the strong foundation that Nesanel has created," he said. "It is my goal through The Kehillah Fund to remind our members that their contributions matter and make a world of difference for our children."

View the tribute video for Nesanel Siegal at [www.kehillahfund.org/events/](http://www.kehillahfund.org/events/).

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**The Kehillah Fund is the very definition of the community working together for a better future.**

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—Moshe Davis  
Board Member, JDBYTT

## A Message from Our Rabbinic Advisor

Dear Kehillah Fund Community:

Jewish Education is security for our Jewish future.

As parents, we have limitless expectations for our children. Each child is a fine diamond waiting to be polished.

Yet, we face a serious challenge: Day school tuition is so burdensome and resources are so scarce. How can we ensure that parents can afford to provide their children with the highest caliber Jewish education? How can we ensure that schools are as strong as needed to meet our expectations?

The answer is that it takes a community.

**It takes a kehillah.**

Receiving the Torah, building the Mishkan, and entering Eretz Yisroel; all of the greatest pursuits of sanctity and spirituality in our history were accomplished through the

efforts of the klal. The chinuch of each Jewish child ranks on the same level, and it, too, can be accomplished through a unified kehillah.

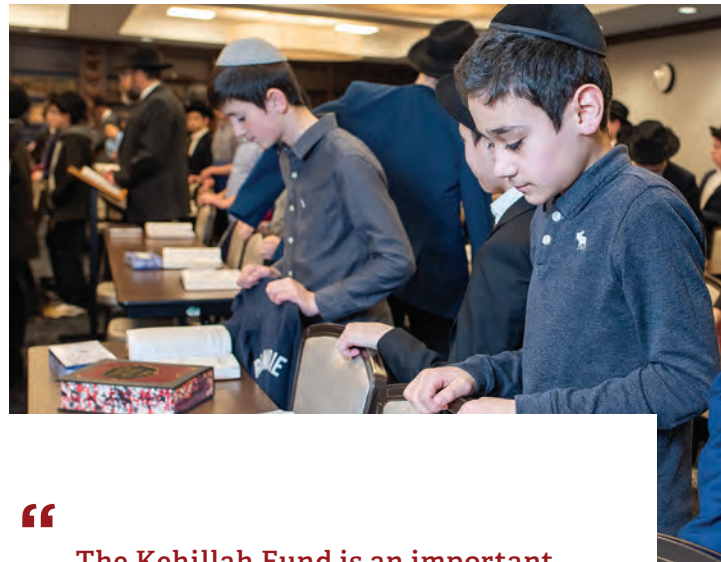
Thanks to the heart and vision of leaders like Dr. and Mrs. Walder, The Kehillah Fund was founded to address these concerns and build a stronger Jewish Chicago.

Participation in The Kehillah Fund is truly a unique opportunity to make a wise investment that will have dividends for years to come. It will also enable each of us to think every time we pass a child on the street, "I had a small part in the chinuch of this precious child."



*Yaakov Robinson*

RABBI YAAKOV ROBINSON  
RABBINIC ADVISOR



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**The Kehillah Fund is an important part of the solution because it takes the task of our financial education crisis and breaks it down into manageable monthly increments that we can all participate in.**

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—Devorah Greenfield  
Social Worker, JCFS Chicago

## COVID-19 Relief Funding For Our Schools

In April, during the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Walder Foundation awarded The Kehillah Fund \$500,000 in relief funding for our beneficiary schools.

Joseph and Elizabeth Walder established the Walder Foundation to address critical issues impacting our world. The Foundation's five areas of focus areas are science innovation, environmental sustainability, the performing arts, migration and immigrant communities, and Jewish life.

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**The funding helped us make it through the end of the year... it was a tremendous gift!**

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—Dov Shandalov  
Business Administrator, Hillel Torah Day School

“This generous gift by the Walder Foundation has enabled our beneficiary schools to breathe a little easier during the shelter-at-home phase of the pandemic. It was an honor for The Kehillah Fund to be able to present each school with an April check that was 10 times greater than the usual amount,” said Max Dayan, Executive Director of The Kehillah Fund.



### Providing Strong Support During the Crisis

Schools used the relief fund to cover everything from purchasing laptops to accommodate remote learning, to providing additional tuition support for families experiencing financial setbacks. The additional funds also covered staff training, salaries, and even rent.

For her part, Elizabeth Walder, President and Executive Director of the Walder Foundation and Co-Founder and Board Director of The Kehillah Fund, sees the relief fund as an opportunity to support our kehillah.

“During this time of crisis, we felt it was important to offer extra support to keep our schools strong. We want our schools to know we value them and to remind them that they are not alone. We will get through this together as a kehillah,” said Mrs. Walder.



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**Do you have a monthly subscription to a newspaper? Subscribing to the Kehillah Fund means helping many Jewish day schools monthly. The budget of every Jewish home should include an ongoing commitment to Torah education.**

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—Rabbi Zvi Engel, Congregation Or Torah

## Our People

### Max Dayan Executive Director

With over a decade of experience in nonprofit management and fundraising, Max Dayan oversees the entire fund and acts as a liaison with the community at large. Previously, Max managed homes for Libenu and served on development teams for JCFS Chicago and NCSY. He received a B.A. in Communications with a focus on Nonprofit Management from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and an M.A. in Jewish Professional Studies from Spertus Institute. Raised in Skokie, Max lives in Chicago with his wife and three children.

### Robin Loeb Community Development Manager

In her role, Robin Loeb cultivates strategic relationships with partner organizations and supports The Kehillah Fund in its organizational growth. Robin brings a strong background in both professional and lay leadership, having worked with the Chicago Torah Network and the American Bar Association. She received a B.A. in English from the University of Florida, a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law and an M.A. in Jewish Professional Studies from Spertus Institute. Robin lives in Chicago with her husband, Harlan, and their three children.

### Esther Krystal Operations Manager

Esther Krystal has been an administrator at The Kehillah Fund for 13 years. Recently named Operations Manager, Esther is charged with overseeing and streamlining processes and procedures to support the community. She received a B.A. with a major in Psychology and minor in Women's Studies from Northeastern Illinois University, and an M.A. in Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. A born and bred Chicagoan, Esther lives in the West Rogers Park neighborhood.

## Ways to Give

Together, We Support Us All

### Become a Monthly Member

A monthly gift is easy to schedule via your credit card or automatic bank withdrawal at [www.kehillahfund.org/new-donor-contact-info](http://www.kehillahfund.org/new-donor-contact-info). Checks can be sent to: Kehillah Jewish Education Fund, 5215 Old Orchard Rd., Suite 450, Skokie, IL 60077. Gifts of cash, credit and check are fully deductible from your federal income taxes.

### Increase Your Monthly Gift

Consider increasing your monthly donation! Update your gift via your credit card or automatic bank withdrawal at [www.kehillahfund.org/increase-your-donation/](http://www.kehillahfund.org/increase-your-donation/). Checks can be sent to: Kehillah Jewish Education Fund, 5215 Old Orchard Rd., Suite 450, Skokie, IL 60077.

### Make a One-Time Gift

Gifts by credit card or automatic withdrawal can be made at <https://ssl.charityweb.net/kehillahfund/>. Send checks or cash to: Kehillah Jewish Education Fund, 5215 Old Orchard Rd., Suite 450, Skokie, IL 60077. For gifts over \$60, consider becoming a monthly member at \$5+/month.

### Other Gift Opportunities

Life insurance, real estate, stock gifts, will gifting and other tax strategies are available at [www.kehillahfund.org/make-a-difference/other-gifting-opportunities/](http://www.kehillahfund.org/make-a-difference/other-gifting-opportunities/).

### Sponsor a Day of Learning

Commemorate a yahrzeit, honor a parent, teacher or leader, add significance to a simcha or create a zechus for a loved one's refuah. Learn more at [www.kehillahfund.org/make-a-difference/day-of-learning/](http://www.kehillahfund.org/make-a-difference/day-of-learning/).

### Employer Match Program

Many employers match their employees' charitable contributions. Gifts from employees' spouses and retirees may also qualify for a match. Please visit [www.kehillahfund.org/employer-match-program/](http://www.kehillahfund.org/employer-match-program/).

For more information, please contact Max Dayan at [mdayan@kehillahfund.org](mailto:mdayan@kehillahfund.org) or (224) 470-2927.





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