

September 9, 2009

Humpy the Camel
1234 Humpalot Lane, Apt. 4
Seattle, WA 98122

Dear Mr. Camel,

As we approach the High Holidays and begin a new year, both spiritual and fiscal, I want to thank you.

Your support of the Jewish Federation's annual Community Campaign has made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of people in Seattle and worldwide – especially last year.

The grants we allocate to our community help dozens of partner agencies and provide much of their fundraising needs – unrestricted dollars that are often the hardest to raise but pay for the most basic things like salaries and electricity, keeping the doors open and programs running.

The Jewish Federation plays a unique role in our community. We bring people together, as with our upcoming community celebration and campaign kick-off on September 16, and address urgent needs like the recent rescue of Jews in Yemen... our efforts in Olympia to maintain a critical safety net for those in need... and the successful fight against the anti-Israel Initiative 97 here in Seattle.

The Jewish Federation ensures that your support goes where most needed, having an impact that would be hard for you to do as one individual alone. Part of our strength, and one of the hallmarks of the Jewish people, is our ability to come together, to look out for each other and to meet key challenges facing our community and the Jewish people.

As we launch this year's Community Campaign, I want to share with you some stories of people whose lives we have touched, to show you the kind of impact we can have if we join together in support of our Community Campaign – and I ask you for your help again by making your pledge early on.

CABRA KASAI CAME TO ISRAEL from Ethiopia, via Sudan refugee camps through Operation Moses, when she was just one year old. She settled with her family in Seattle's sister city Kiryat Malachi, Israel – home to numerous immigrant families and many social and integration challenges.

Thanks to your support of the Community Campaign, we not only rescue Jews at risk around the world, we also enable children in Kiryat Malachi to benefit from sports leagues, arts programs and youth centers, helping them find their way to meaningful lives and careers. Like Cabra. Today she sings with world-famous Israeli musician Idan Raichel and recently performed here in Seattle.

Your gift made a difference to Cabra.

EVEN THOUGH CHELSEA had her *bat mitzvah*, inside she was still scared and confused. Not yet ready to be the woman everyone expected her to be. She was uncomfortable in her own skin...that is, until her family's Passover seder in 2003. "I drank four full cups—and for the first time, there was silence in my head. I wanted that feeling of peace all the time." Chelsea also found peace in her art, drawing and music, but by the time she entered high school, she was binge drinking and going to class high on a regular basis.

When she was 18 and weighed just 90 pounds, Chelsea found her way to Jewish Family Service and an alternative addiction expert who would save her life. Thanks to this program, **made possible through a Jewish Federation Special Initiatives Grant**, Chelsea has celebrated 18 months of sobriety. She reconnected with her Jewish community and began drawing again with renewed passion. As she now says: “I take it one day at a time. Most of all, I just try to really love and enjoy being 19.”

With your support, you've made a difference to Chelsea.

IN A CRUMBLING BUILDING in downtown Tbilisi, Georgia, lives an old Jewish woman who was once married to the most gifted piano player in Eastern Europe. “Everything changed when war erupted on the streets right outside of our house,” explained Miranda. “Suddenly soldiers burst through our front door and ordered us out. But my husband wouldn't leave his sick mother, so the Abkhazis shot her in her bed and took my husband hostage.”

Miranda and one of her sons escaped through the mountains, eventually making it to safety. Unfortunately, her husband didn't. Penniless and alone, Miranda and her son **would be lost without the food and aid she gets from the local Jewish community Hessed program, supported by our annual Community Campaign**. Without this help, literally tens of thousands of sick or elderly Jews, like Miranda, would go hungry and have trouble staying warm in the winter.

Your gift to the Community Campaign can be the difference between life and death.

These are just three stories. But there are countless challenges facing our community every day, where our extended Jewish family is at risk and needs our help. **Together, we provide a safety net for those in need and ensure a vibrant Jewish future.**

And we need your help!

As we start this new year, I am asking you to help make a difference for people like Cabra, Chelsea and Miranda... and countless others.

There will be more challenges ahead in the coming year: lives at stake and Jews at risk in countries like Venezuela and Iran; people who need a hot meal, medical care or a helping hand locally and in Eastern Europe; young kids whose connection to Jewish life depends on whether their parents can afford a Jewish education or if we can offer a compelling reason to be connected Jewishly.

The Jewish Federation is uniquely positioned to meet these needs...but we can only succeed in facing these challenges if we stand together.

Who can make a difference? You!

With your pledge today, together we can help save lives and build a vibrant Jewish future.

The Talmud says that: *One who saves a single life saves the entire world.* I hope you will join me in making your gift today, and ensuring a strong start to the year.

Wishing you a year full of health, happiness, success and making a difference every day.

Sincerely,

Shelley Bensussen
Community Campaign Chair

P.S. The sooner you make your gift or pledge, the more we can focus on helping those most in need.
Please return your gift or pledge today!