



CHABAD
VENICE

Impact Report

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Dear Friend & Partner,

This year has been an incredibly challenging one. The pandemic changed everyone's day-to-day routines, as children, parents, and seniors, struggled with the new reality.

While the world went crazy and we all learned to readjust in so many areas of life, there was one thing that stayed the same:

You were there for our Hebrew School children, making a huge difference in their education, reinvented with both an online and in-person learning experience.

You gave their parents hope in a difficult time, together with the thousand others that were able to enjoy Judaism made available at their doorstep. You partnered with us in incorporating many creative and out-of-box approaches to keep the Jewish traditions available to our community. Along with Seder-To-Go Boxes and weekly Shabbat Meals To-Go for isolated community members, we also made our regular classes and holiday events available online or in a safe, in-person approach.



You kept Judaism alive and vibrant, as it continued to connect our community beyond physical distancing. Your community still felt engaged and connected to their Jewish roots in a relevant and accessible manner throughout these frightening times.

So please enjoy reading some of the stories, narrating your impact in effect. All the lives we are changing, all the Mitzvot we are doing - it's all really **YOUR** doing.

With sincere gratitude for your enduring friendship, and with blessings for health and success to your entire family.

Rabbi Sholom & Chaya Rivka Schmerling



You Told Isadore He Is Not Alone

Isadore is a patient who suffered a stroke, where he can only move his eyes and right arm. His kids and grandchildren all live in Israel. Although he was confined in rehab here in Venice, FL, he wasn't alone!

The Rabbi made sure to visit Isadore in Rehab to light the menorah with him while on FaceTime with his family in Israel. It was incredible to see him move his eyes as a way of saying amen to the brachot, and it was moving to see him tear up during "Maoz Tzur." It gave him the courage to keep fighting with the message of Chanukah and its miracles.

"It meant so much for my family that the community was able to be a big help at this difficult time. My father and the family are very grateful for all the chesed, prayers and good thoughts the community has given us." -David Barrocas
Jerusalem, Israel

You Made a “World of Difference” to Isaiah & Emily

We adapted our Hebrew School program to fit current Covid limitations by ensuring that kids still have access to their regular Jewish education without risking safety. It was unimaginable to cut off and stop some of these kids’ only exposure to Jewish learning. Our adjustments now include an option for students to attend at our socially-distanced outdoor tent. They can also join the class online through Zoom, with ready-made learning supply packages available to pick up the evening before.

One of our Hebrew school’s biggest highlight was having a family Chanukah celebration that brought families from the Hebrew School together for the first time in eight months. It was an unforgettable event that continued to spread light and joy to overcome these times’ darkness.



“We have been attending both public school and Hebrew School online since Covid, and this is the first time we felt comfortable to come out in-person knowing it will be a safe experience. The celebration was a memorable one and added the much-needed light of Chanukah into the gloom of this past year.” -Liz (mother), and Isaiah & Emily

You Saved Lucy from a Lonely Chanukah

This Chanukah, we launched an Ambassadors of Light campaign ignited by the goal to reach every Jew in our community with the Menorah’s warmth, light, and beauty. What could have been more illuminating nowadays than the Menorah’s message of hope and faith? 500 Menorah Kits were personally delivered to people in our community.

The Menorah Kits were user-friendly packages that contained the essentials to fulfill the mitzvah of lighting the Menorah. Included were clear and insightful instructions with commentary, as well as a relevant and contemporary study companion. Since many people already have their cherished Menorahs, we encouraged them as community members to go beyond the mitzvah of lighting in their own home and to be Ambassadors of Light by spreading the Menorah’s spiritual and physical light with their fellow Jews!



“Thank you very, very much for my Chanukah Menorah. It meant so much, being I don’t get out that much and more so this year. For me, it was opening up a gift (my one and only), what some may think is small, to me is big and always reminds me of our past, and proudly I even explained to a neighbor the story of Chanukah. This year I received a memorial candle and food package for the High Holidays from Chabad of Venice and a setup for Passover with shmurah matzoh, and books. I can’t thank you enough for remembering me. Thank you!” -Lucy Forshner

YOUR IMPACT **in numbers**

220

Passover meals



2100

Meals delivered under covid



500

Chanukah home kits delivered



487

People joined via Zoom for services and classes



3241

Hours of Zoom services and classes



35

Children in Hebrew School and Summer Camp

330

High Holiday home kits delivered