Jewish Community Foundation
by THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Dear Friends,

Just one week after sharing ways we as a Jewish community can support those impacted by Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton has left many on the Florida coastline in urgent need of support. These events are increasing our awareness of the intensity and impacts of climate change. Today, we are sharing updated information about how you can continue to support Hurricane victims, and also consider investment opportunities that aim to reverse the impacts of climate change. These recommendations are closely aligned with our dual role as Jewish community: helping those in need now *and* the long-term, systemic work of building a better world.

Background on Communities Impacted by Hurricane Helene & Milton

Individuals and families experiencing the greatest hardship from climate events are often the most impoverished, vulnerable and marginalized populations. Impacted communities are still in the early days of emergency response and recovery. *We can help by supporting search-and-rescue efforts, safe water and food distributions, direct recovery aid, and recovery and rebuilding efforts that will follow.*

In response, you can give to **the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Hurricane Relief Fund**, which now supports both victims of Helene and Milton. Fund beneficiaries include members of Jewish *and* non-Jewish communities in the most affected geographies.

Local Relief Efforts Supporting Victims

We updated our original recommendations to include vetted organizations working in Florida on the response to Hurricane Milton.

First-Responders

- **Aerial Recovery, EIN: 82-4664854:** A Tennessee-based, Veteran & first responder-led special operator, conducts reconnaissance, welfare checks, aid distribution, and debris clearance in highly impacted neighborhoods across several states.

- **Operation Airdrop EIN# 82-2886264:** Coordinating with volunteer pilots and a diverse fleet of aircraft, Operation Airdrop fills the gaps in emergency response efforts, delivering life-saving supplies—such as food, water, medical necessities, and personal hygiene items—to areas which cannot be reached by ground operations and where full communities are cut off from aid. Donations cover fuel costs for planes and purchase of critical basic supplies.

Recovery and Rebuilding

- **NECHAMA, EIN#: 41-1998750**: NECHAMA, the Jewish Response to Disaster, is launching a major deployment in Western North Carolina, mobilizing 1,000+ volunteers from Jewish communities across the country to restore homes. Expecting to work for at least the next six months, the project deploys Jewish people into non-Jewish communities in meaningful exchange with the potential additional benefit off adding new supporters to fight antisemitism. In Florida, NECHAMA volunteers are providing virtual case management intake services and support.

- **World Central Kitchen, EIN#: 27-3521132**: Led by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen is preparing meals and supporting local hunger relief programs across the impacted Florida and North Carolina counties.

Local Florida Relief Organizations

- **Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, EIN#: 59-3001853**: This fund supports area nonprofits working on the front lines of Hurricanes Helene and Milton relief efforts in the area. Money will be deployed to local nonprofits to address needs related to hurricane recovery such as: emergency food, shelter, clothing, medical treatment, storm-related damage, vehicle repairs & programming to support long-term recovery efforts such as services. An acute critical needs list is also available for specific emergency projects in Pinellas, Pasco & Hillsborough Counties.

- **Farm Share, EIN#: 65-0342192**: Founded by Floridians for Floridians, Farm Share has been combating food insecurity since 1991 with the innovative concept of recovering surplus crops from Florida farmers to distribute fresh and nutritious food to those in need. Relief efforts focus on the critical days and weeks immediately following a storm, frequently serving communities within 24 hours. After Hurricanes Ian and Idalia, Farm Share delivered over 70 semi-trucks of food, water, and supplies within 14 days of the storms making landfall.

- **Volunteer Florida Foundation's Florida Disaster Fund, EIN# 01-0973168**: If you prefer to give to a general, local fund, the State of Florida's official private fund is set up to distribute money to service organizations working with community and residents to respond, recover, and rebuild.

Climate Change Solutions

For individuals interested in support long-term solutions, here are two vetted organizations working on the Jewish response to climate change.

- **The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, EIN#13-6996770:** COEJL mobilizes the Jewish community to advocate for policies that support environmental protection while building core Jewish environmental knowledge. COEJL has been an initiative at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs since 1993 and serves as the Jewish partner in the National Religious Partnership on the Environment.

- **Dayenu, EIN# 46-1323531:** Dayenu is building a movement of American Jews confronting the climate crisis. They mobilize Jewish support for climate solutions and build collective power with national and global movements, convening advocates in discussions with political representatives locally, nationally and globally. Their core initiative promotes with fossil fuel divestment and incentivizing investment in new oil and gas fields solutions. **Gifts are made to the fiscal sponsor, Social Good Fund with "Dayenu" in the memo line.*

Use your DAF Donor Web Portal to Make a Gift Today

- Step #1: Log onto shalomdc.org/donorweb
- Step #2: Select "Recommend Grants" from the left-hand menu options
- Step #3: Select from an agency already placed on your personal list of charities or "search" for one we've recommended here.

Our goal is to make your giving as effective and meaningful as possible. Please let us know how we can support your philanthropic vision. Reach out to us at foundation@shalomdc.org to share feedback and for individual support.

During this week on the Jewish calendar, we pay particular attention to our relationships with people and the world around us. We are blessed to live in a caring and generous community. Thank you for giving hope and bring comfort to our world.

Shana tova,
Sara Brenner

Sara Brenner
Executive Director
Jewish Community Foundation

Jewish Community Foundation
by THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON