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## EMERGENCY: All funds will help people harmed by economic crisis

By PAUL HAIST

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Owing to the urgent and growing local demand for vital human services provided by the Jewish Family and Child Service and the United Way Community Relief Fund in the ongoing world economic crisis, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has announced an additional fund-raising effort to run alongside its current ongoing Annual Campaign.

Dubbed "Heart to Heart—A Jewish Response to Community Needs," Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has agreed to serve as honorary chair of the campaign, which will benefit only JFCS and the UWCRF, two agencies on the very front line of the economic crisis where its devastating impact on the lives of individuals is testing the community's ability to respond adequately.

Sen. Wyden said, "I am proud to lend my support to this campaign that embraces the most positive aspects of the non-profit sector, responding to urgent human needs in a timely and compassionate manner. The Jewish Federation has been tirelessly proactive in raising funds to improve the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors and to help strengthen and secure the greater Portland community."

In an announcement unveiling the new campaign, JFGP Annual Campaign Co-chairs Rabbi Alan Berg, Sharon Weil and Michael Weiner said, "The emergency needs facing families today, both in the Jewish and general communities, demand more of us."

Of the plan to share donations with United Way they said, "Tikkun Olam reminds us that we are our brother's keeper. We are integral parts of the larger Portland community."

Marc Levy is President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Columbia Willamette in Portland.

Levy said, "Families and individuals are facing very difficult times across the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. It is by our ability together to help our neighbors, friends and family that we will get through these challenging economic times."

He added, "We can do more together than we can alone and so as individuals, families and organizations it is by our willingness to unite on behalf of those in need that will make a real difference."

The JFGP has a history of responding to crises simultaneous with its campaign.

They did so in the early 1990s during the immigration of Soviet Jewry to the United States. Then the federation called upon the community to help fund flights of Jews from the Soviet Union to Portland.

The community responded in large numbers.

It happened again during Israel's first and second Lebanon wars and during the Hurricane Katrina disaster in the U.S. South.

Federation leaders said 100 percent of donations to the emergency campaign will fund families



who have been hardest hit in the economic crisis with basic food, rent and utility needs.

“No overhead costs will be deducted by any agency,” they said.

While the federation funds nearly one-third of the JFCS budget annually, the economic crisis has boosted demand for the agency’s services “far beyond their budget,” according to the JFGP Annual Campaign chairs.

The campaign co-chairs stressed that it also remains important to continue to fund the Annual Campaign, where pledges have been coming a little slower in this unusual year.

One may make a tax-deductable gift to the Heart to Heart emergency campaign with a check, credit card or by going on line to [www.jewishportland.org](http://www.jewishportland.org).

Make checks payable to the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland and write “Heart to Heart” in the memo area. Mail the check to Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, 6680 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, OR 97219. To make a gift with a credit card without going on line, call the federation at 503-245-6219.

Simultaneous with the emergency campaign, the federation has partnered with the Community Warehouse to help build inventory for families in need.

The Community Warehouse collects furniture and household items and provides them for free to local families in need. In the current crisis, demand for their service has spiked.

The JFGP has formed a partnership with the Community Warehouse to help them build inventory. Donors may now drop off household items at the federation office (6680 SW Capitol Hwy.) Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All sorts of household items are needed including pots and pans, silverware, cooking utensils, casserole dishes, baking pans, mixers and manual can openers, sheets, towels, blankets and alarm clocks.

Larger items should be taken to the Community Warehouse, 2267 N. Interstate every day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A truck is available for pickup of large items. They especially need mattresses, box springs, dressers, kitchen tables, chairs, bunk beds, coffee and end tables. To schedule a pickup, call Sharon, 503-235-8786 or e-mail [sharon@communitywarehouse.org](mailto:sharon@communitywarehouse.org).

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