



**kindness**  
INITIATIVE



CARING FOR OUR OWN

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**MEASURING WHAT  
MATTERS**

IMPACT REPORT 2025



## MISSION

Our mission is to alleviate poverty in San Diego's Jewish community by mitigating individual crises and fostering self-sustainability, rooted in kindness, empathy, and Jewish values. Fully dedicated to our Jewish community, we go far beyond crisis response. We walk alongside families, building lives through dignity, education, and personalized one-on-one concierge case management that meets each person exactly where they are.

## VISION

A San Diego Jewish community where no individual or family faces poverty alone, where dignity is preserved, hope is restored, and every Jewish individual receives the personalized resources, education, and hands-on support they need to build a stable, independent future. We envision becoming the recognized leader in comprehensive poverty alleviation through our member-centric, customized concierge case management model, supported by our **kindnessG'MACH** distribution center and, ultimately, a permanent **kindnessCENTER** that serves as the operational center for compassionate care.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# More Than Numbers: A Year of Jewish Lives Changed

There's a question we ask ourselves every morning at Kindness Initiative: "How can we show more kindness?" This year, because of you, we answered that question in living rooms, financial coaching sessions, housing applications, and moments of crisis, showing up beside our Members in ways that changed everything.

Let me tell you what that means.

The single mother who walked in unable to make rent. Today, she provides for her children with confidence and volunteers to help other families. The husband fighting cancer while his wife left work to care for him. We kept the lights on and a roof over their heads and helped them apply for benefits. Today, they are standing tall and forever part of our KI family.

We're Jews supporting Jews in San Diego, through donated goods, financial support, volunteering, case management, job training, and community connection, all flowing through one ecosystem built on Jewish values and kindness. When you give to Kindness Initiative, you're not just making a donation. You're joining this ecosystem where every act of kindness creates another. You're making sure that when a Jewish family faces their darkest hour, they don't face it alone. You're the reason we can say yes.

Behind every number is a name I know, a face I remember, a story that matters. These are our Jewish neighbors, our community members - and the truth is, any of us could be one call away from needing help. Life doesn't ask

permission before it changes everything. That's why Kindness Initiative exists: to respond in these hardest times with love, dignity, and belonging.

Your support meant case managers making home visits, financial literacy sessions creating ripple effects that extend far beyond today and **kindnessG'MACH** flourishing. The pages that follow show the full scope of what we built together. But what they can't capture is the feeling when a family realizes they're going to be okay. That's the gift you gave.

Thank you for being the kind of person who doesn't just see the need - you answer it. Thank you for proving that when we look after our own with love and dignity, transformation isn't just possible - it's inevitable.

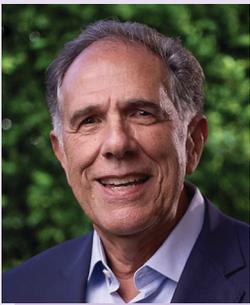
Kindness isn't just what we do. It's who we become together.

With love and gratitude,

Keren-Dee Hamui  
Executive Director

*P.S. The next time you see a Jewish family in our community walking a little taller, smiling a little brighter - that's your kindness at work.*

“Kindness isn't just what we do. It's who we become together.”



FROM OUR FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

# Kindness Restores the Receiver and Transforms the Giver

As we reflect on the work of the past year, I am reminded that Kindness Cures is not a slogan; it is a lived truth, one we have witnessed again and again through the lives of individuals and families served by Kindness Initiative.

Your partnership enabled us to not only cure material hardship, but tend to the deeper wounds that so often accompany it: isolation, shame, and the quiet belief that one's life no longer matters. Through kindness offered with dignity and without judgment, we saw confidence restored and hope renewed. Kindness does not necessarily eliminate hardship, but it changes how it is faced.

Our work is guided by Jewish moral tradition and sustained by enduring human values. Hardship can shrink a person's world; kindness opens it again. Our tradition teaches that the world is built on kindness, and lived experience affirms its power to heal and restore. When support is offered with respect, possibility returns.

Throughout the year, kindness took practical and meaningful forms. It was present when a family could once again gather around a table. When a moment of

crisis was met with calm support rather than stigma. When compassion and steady partnership helped someone move from instability toward self-reliance. These moments, taken together, create pathways forward.

Because of you, Kindness Initiative continues to meet people where they are, listening patiently, responding thoughtfully, and walking alongside individuals and families who generally have nowhere else to turn. Together, we are doing more than responding to need. Kindness dispensed cures disconnection, restores dignity, and helps those we serve move toward wholeness.

Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your shared commitment to this sacred work. You are helping to build a community shaped by kindness, one that is more connected, more responsible, and more just.

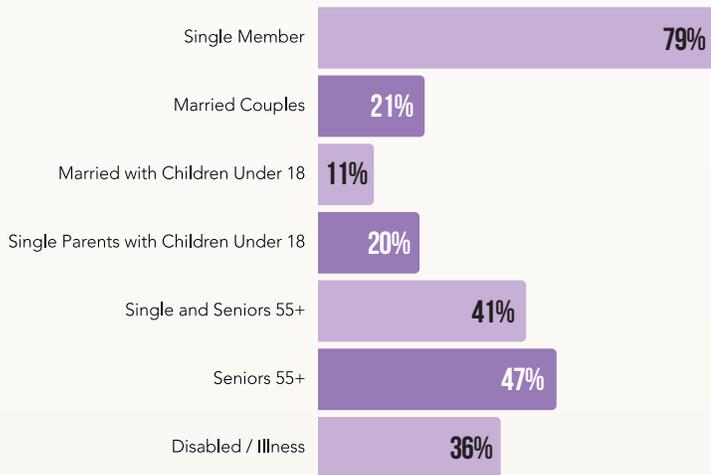
Selwyn Isakow  
Founder & Chairman of the Board

“Hardship can shrink a person's world; kindness opens it again.”

# Measuring What Matters



## Who We Served in 2025



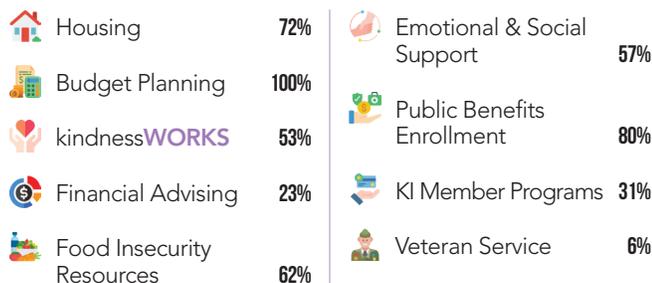
## MEMBER SERVICES

### Lives Changed

We know that crisis does not discriminate; it touches every corner of Jewish life. Behind our mission are families and individuals facing life-altering shifts: a spouse whose world was upended by a partner's cancer diagnosis and can no longer afford the rent, a parent who suddenly lost their job and is struggling to keep the lights on and food on the table, or an elderly couple on a fixed income who desperately need a financial bridge to stay safely in their home.

We are here for those individuals currently living in their cars, providing the immediate support and dignity they need to lift them out of crisis. Whoever they are, and whatever their story, we ensure that no Jewish members in our community have to face their hardest moment alone.

## Types of Member Services Engaged





# Funding with Purpose

## From Action to Transformation: The FEAC Impact

The **Funding Evaluation & Allocation Committee (FEAC)** is a KI committee that transforms donor generosity and grant funding into direct action. By meeting weekly to review the alignment of member goals and financial requests, this committee ensures that assistance is both timely and impactful. Whether providing short-term monthly aid or year-long support, FEAC's mission is to be a kindness partner for those in need, helping them bridge the gap from crisis to long-term self-sustainability.



**260+**  
**TOTAL STIPENDS**  
approved by FEAC

## Building a Path to Self-Sufficiency

Through concierge case management and comprehensive evaluations of each member's needs, we reduce financial vulnerability and guide families toward independence. Our work is rooted in the power of education and individualized support. As the saying goes, "teach a person to fish." This is how we improve lives:

- ▶ **Decrease and offset costs** - connecting members with discount resources, more affordable housing, and community programs that narrow their monthly budget gap.
- ▶ **Educate and empower** - teaching financial planning and management skills that change how families approach money for years to come, helping them access available resources and understand the budgeting process.
- ▶ **Provide hands-on support** - building resumes together, practicing mock interviews, searching for jobs side-by-side, and walking members through applications and processes that once felt overwhelming.
- ▶ **Ensure follow-through** - our case managers accompany members to appointments, provide accountability, celebrate wins, and offer the encouragement needed to build confidence and succeed.

The result? Members build sustainable futures with decreased costs, increased confidence, and the tools to maintain independence long after graduation.

Category of Stipends	Percentage per Year
Housing	28.6%
Miscellaneous	21.2%
Transportation	17.8%
Utilities	11.2%
Adopt a Family	8.5%
Food Insecurities	5.0%
Child / Family	4.2%
Medical Bills	3.5%

**MEMBER SITUATION**

### Because Kindness Kept The Lights On...

When 82-year-old Martha\* received an overdue notice from SDGE this winter, the debt felt insurmountable. On her fixed income, the bill was an impossible hurdle that left her feeling isolated and overwhelmed. When she reached out to us, we were able to provide an immediate financial stipend to cover her balance. While the practical result was "keeping the lights on," the true impact was the emotional relief Martha felt knowing she wasn't alone. For her, this support was more than just a payment; it was a message of love and dignity from a community that refused to let her sit in the dark.

\* Certain names have been changed for confidentiality.



# Case Management: Why Kindness Stands Out

**CONCIERGE**  
is not a word often  
used in our line of work,  
but it is what sets  
our approach apart.

## What is Customized Concierge Case Management?

At the heart of **Kindness Initiative** is our concierge-style case management program, providing personalized support to Jewish families in San Diego facing financial hardship. By prioritizing a “teach a person to fish” philosophy, we empower members to build lasting self-sufficiency and stability.

While conventional programs often rely on temporary aid, our case managers partner with families for the long term. We conduct thorough assessments to address the root causes of instability, crafting tailored action plans that include budgeting, affordable housing assistance, and career services such as resume development and interview preparation.

### MEMBER'S GRATITUDE

*“I’m truly pleased to share how life-changing and overwhelmingly helpful Kindness Initiative has been for me. The best way I can express my deep appreciation is to share the feelings that come up whenever I meet the Case Management team: empowering, supportive, creative, resourceful, and deeply compassionate.”*



*Kindness Initiative has lifted the heavy feeling of being alone while trying to navigate life’s challenges. They’ve guided me through resources, helped me prioritize ongoing issues, and consistently boosted my self-esteem in ways I never expected.”*

- Maya\*

## Generic Case Management VS KI Case Management

Features	Generic Case Management	Kindness Initiative Concierge Case Management
Assessment	Basic evaluation.	<b>Deep-dive budget &amp; root-cause analysis.</b>
Resources	Transactional referral lists.	<b>Curated sourcing &amp; negotiated discounts.</b>
Finances	Crisis-only relief.	<b>Hands-on education &amp; debt reduction.</b>
Philosophy	Giving a Fish: Temporary aid.	<b>Teaching to Fish: Lasting self-sufficiency.</b>
Housing	General waiting list referrals.	<b>Active cost reduction &amp; targeted search.</b>
Employment	General workforce referrals.	<b>1-on-1 coaching &amp; interview prep.</b>
Support	Independent follow-up (Passive).	<b>Guided execution &amp; accountability (Active).</b>
Value	Short-term stability.	<b>Transformational independence.</b>



*“For the first time in what feels like forever, I feel genuinely optimistic about the future. Kindness Initiative feels like home. You’re my family.”*

- Sarah\*



### THE CORE DIFFERENCE

## Building Self-Sufficiency

By prioritizing a comprehensive needs evaluation, securing cost-saving discounts, and educating members on budgeting and financial management, Kindness Initiative’s services inherently decrease the relative financial need for each member.

We are not just bridging the gap this month; we are empowering our members to successfully narrow that gap themselves in the future, increasing their confidence and achieving long-term independence.



# Member Services: Care in Practice

## Jewish Single Mother's Program: Esha Chazakah

Funded by the Jewish Women's Foundation, **Esha Chazakah** (*Strong Woman*) at Kindness Initiative is more than a program - it's a lifeline. We empower Jewish single mothers through financial assistance and deep community connection, transforming isolation into belonging. This support allows them to focus on what matters most: building thriving futures for their families. Through workshops and events rooted in Social Connection, Education, and Wellness, we nurture the strength and resilience these women already possess.



### A MOTHER'S STORY

*"I didn't realize how much I needed this until I experienced it. When stress builds and you're overwhelmed, you forget about yourself. Kindness Initiative reminded me how important it is to take care of myself. I found belonging among Jewish women who understand. Thank you for helping me reconnect with myself and showing me I don't have to do this alone."*

- Elana\*

*"Watching our moms experience a sound bath meditation was a powerful reminder of why we do this. The weeping I saw wasn't sadness; it was a profound release of the survival mode they carry every day. Seeing them emerge calm and relaxed, telling me it was the most peace they've felt in a long time, is exactly why **Esha Chazakah** focuses on wellness as much as financial aid."*

**Brigitte Ogne, MSW**  
Director of Member Services

## kindnessWORKS

Through **kindnessWORKS**, we help people move from unemployment to financial independence by pairing career tools with personal support. We are there for every milestone, helping members polish resumes, practice interviews, and providing professional attire from **kindnessG'MACH** so they can start their new job with confidence. Our goal is to give our members the skills and self-belief to stay self-sufficient for the long haul.



Resume Building



Job Searching



Mock Interviews



Business / Professional Attire

## Resources: A Network of Support

We connect members to the right resources at the right time, reducing financial stress, and supporting long-term independence.

- ▶ **Concierge Case Management:** Personalized guidance and action plans.
- ▶ **Employment Coaching:** Resume building, mock interviews, and job search support.
- ▶ **Financial Coaching:** Budgeting tools and long-term strategies for financial stability.
- ▶ **Housing Navigation:** Hands-on help with housing searches, applications, and on-site appointments.
- ▶ **Benefits Advocacy:** Assistance with enrollment and advocacy for public programs.
- ▶ **Pro Bono Services:** Direct access to volunteer professionals (ie therapists and legal counsel).
- ▶ **Member Discounts:** Reduced costs for essentials like car maintenance, eyeglasses, and other services.
- ▶ **Community Access:** Discount admission to local San Diego events and attractions.

### MEMBER'S APPRECIATION

*"When I first connected with the Kindness team, I was at a breaking point. Having lost my primary income while stuck in a dangerous living situation, I was desperate for both immediate relief and a glimmer of hope.*

**"I've secured a new job and am working toward taking over my rent full-time."**

**For the first time in years, I have a clear path forward."**

*Kindness case management didn't just offer sympathy; they stepped in to cover my moving costs and a portion of my rent, providing the safety I needed to focus on rebuilding. But their support went far beyond the financial. Whether it was finding a volunteer to sit with me during surgery or covering car repairs so I could reach job interviews, they were there for every hurdle. By offering a rent stipend conditioned on my career growth, they provided the perfect balance of a safety net and a push forward. They believed in my potential when I struggled to see it myself, insisting that their support was an investment in my ability to build a self-sustaining foundation.*

*Today, I've secured a new job and am working toward taking over my rent full-time. For the first time in years, I have a clear path forward."*

- Sima\*

\* Certain names have been changed for confidentiality.



# Volunteers: The Heart of Our Mission

## Kindness Starts With You: Our Volunteers

In 2025, Kindness Initiative took a powerful step forward in how we connect with the Jewish community by launching our new Volunteer Program. What followed exceeded every expectation. In just one year, **volunteer involvement grew by 200%**, a clear reflection of a community eager to show up for one another.

Today, **89 dedicated volunteers** form the heartbeat of our work. They give their time, talent, and care in countless ways, from offering specialized pro bono services and lending hands at **kindnessG'MACH**, to leading local drives in schools and synagogues and delivering High Holiday baskets to families in need. Because of them, Jewish San Diego is stronger, more connected, and more compassionate.

Throughout the year, volunteers came together for meaningful moments that left a lasting impact. From a Pickleball Tournament that brought together more than 100 players, to our annual Hanukkah Party for families in need, to a full calendar of year-round programming, each event was an opportunity to serve with purpose. Together, these efforts reached **thousands across our community**, spreading joy, dignity, and connection where it was needed most.

### A MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

*“Volunteering as the Women’s Committee Chair for Kindness Initiative is deeply meaningful to me because it brings compassionate women together to create real, lasting impact. Kindness Initiative has the power to uplift individuals, strengthen families and transform our community-and it’s an honor to help lead that work. Serving in this role reminds me that when women unite with purpose and heart, meaningful change follows.”*

**- Sari Rudy**  
Chair of KI Women’s Committee



## Giving Through Expertise

Pro bono professional volunteers are vital to the Kindness Initiative model of service, bringing specialized expertise and dedicated care directly to members in need. These volunteers are highly qualified practitioners who hold active licenses, offering the same level of ethics and professionalism to our members as they do to other paying clients. By donating their time and skills at no cost, these individuals ensure that essential, high-quality services remain accessible to our community while maintaining the highest standards of confidentiality and integrity.

**If you are a licensed professional looking to make a profound impact, we invite you to join our network; your unique expertise can change a life, and we would be honored to have you partner with us in our mission.**

### GIVING BACK, VOLUNTEER IMPACT

*“As a licensed therapist, giving back to my Jewish community is more than a professional service; it is a mitzvah that touches my heart. I am deeply passionate about supporting our people, especially those navigating the depths of emotional pain. Recently, I worked with a member struggling with grief, and seeing her find the strength to heal reminded me why this work is so necessary. Being part of her journey is a gift to me as both a therapist and a Jew.”*



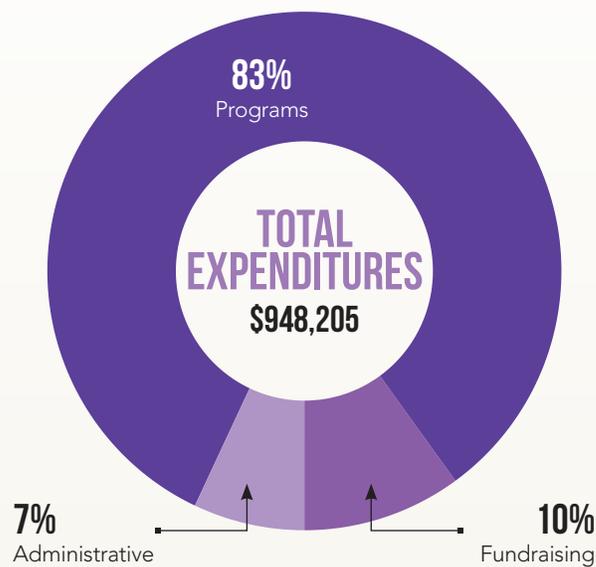
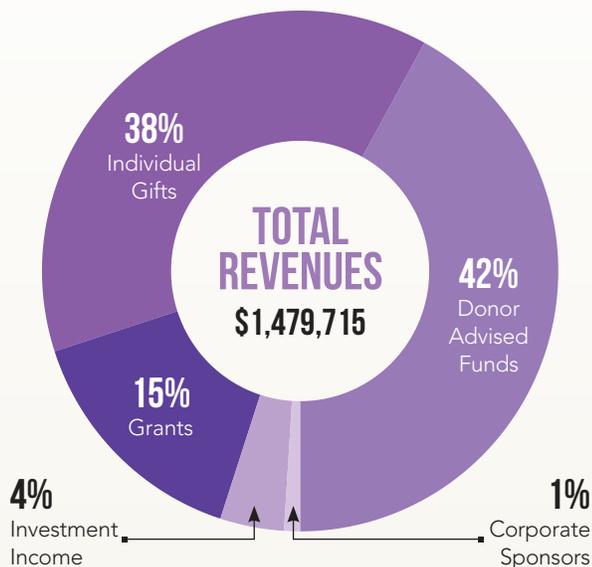
**- Ava\***

## KI Volunteer Professionals

- ▶ Lawyers
- ▶ Teachers / Tutors
- ▶ Doctors / Dentists / Optometrists
- ▶ Therapists
- ▶ Financial Advisor
- ▶ Real Estate Agents
- ▶ Hairdressers
- ▶ Financial Advisors
- ▶ Auto Repairs
- ▶ Handymen



# Financials: 2025 at a Glance



The positive variance between Revenues and Expenditures in 2025 represents multi-year donations where cash will be received in the future and disciplined stewardship and our commitment to building operational reserves as KI continues to scale its services.



**8,000+**  
VISITS



**150+**  
FURNISHED  
HOMES



**30+**  
kindnessG'MACH  
VOLUNTEERS



## Naming Opportunities at kindnessG'MACH

These opportunities aren't just about having your name on a plaque or legacy, they're about making a public statement that our entire Jewish community stands behind families who need us most. When you sponsor a section of our distribution center, you're sending a powerful message to every Member who walks through our doors: **"You are not alone. Your community sees you, values you, and is here for you."** Every named space transforms philanthropy into presence, and presence into hope, showing struggling Jewish families that caring for our own isn't one person's responsibility, it's our collective commitment. Continue your legacy and name a section today.

### 2025 Naming Donors

- ▶ CalPrivate Bank
- ▶ Wendy Burk & Harold Frysh
- ▶ Miriam Norton & Alex Stolarski
- ▶ Caspi Family Fund
- ▶ Hilary & Selwyn Isakov
- ▶ Sharon & David Wax
- ▶ Julie Abrams & Bruce Abrams
- ▶ Suzanne & Brian Marcus
- ▶ Anonymous
- ▶ Claire & David Ellman
- ▶ Patti & Steve Mizel
- ▶ Marjorie Mopper
- ▶ Aaron Feldman
- ▶ Lisa & Brad Slavin



We may not be making a difference to the world,  
but we are making a world of difference to those we serve.



## KINDNESS IN ACTION

### Supporting A Community

When serious illness changes everything, **kindnessG'MACH** remains constant. For community members navigating cancer and chronic illness, we're here as needs shift - providing clothing, personal care items, and essentials with love, compassion and support. Just a welcoming space where families can focus on healing while we support them with tangible goods, case management, and compassionate care.

### UCSD Transplant Families

Through our partnership with UCSD's Transplant Program, the **kindnessG'MACH** supports Israeli families who spend up to two years in San Diego for critical transplant care. We furnish their homes with everything from mattresses and household essentials to specialized sterile & hygiene items, then remain their community connection throughout their stay. For families far from home during an anxious time, we offer more than items: we offer belonging.

### Rabbi Support

When new rabbis and their families move to San Diego, **kindnessG'MACH** is often their first stop, helping them settle into their new homes with furniture and essential items so they can focus on what they came here to do: serve the community. It's the beautiful cycle of chesed in action: those who come to care for us are cared for first.

## Who We Are

**kindnessG'MACH** is San Diego's Jewish community distribution center, located off Miramar Road and open five days a week. We're the place where Jewish families find clothing, household essentials, toiletries, and so much more - all completely free of cost. Our volunteer family shows up day after day, giving their time and hearts to help in any way they can. Whether you're bringing donations, shopping for your family, or volunteering with us, you'll discover a place where everyone finds belonging and support, where you're treated like family, and where our Jewish values lead the way.

## What We Do

**kindnessG'MACH** operates on a beautiful cycle of generosity from one Jewish family to another. Donors drop off gently used items daily, keeping our shelves stocked with everything from kitchen appliances to professional clothing, linens to children's toys. We also have an online furniture program that connects families who need furniture with donors who have it to give. Rooted in the Jewish tradition of gemilut chasadim (acts of loving-kindness), we create a welcoming space where donated items become fresh starts, where one family's extra becomes another family's essential, and where kindness flows in every direction.

## How We Change Lives

**kindnessG'MACH** helps families direct their limited resources toward what matters most by providing essential items at no cost. We aim to ensure that dignity doesn't have to be compromised.

## Kindness Gives Back

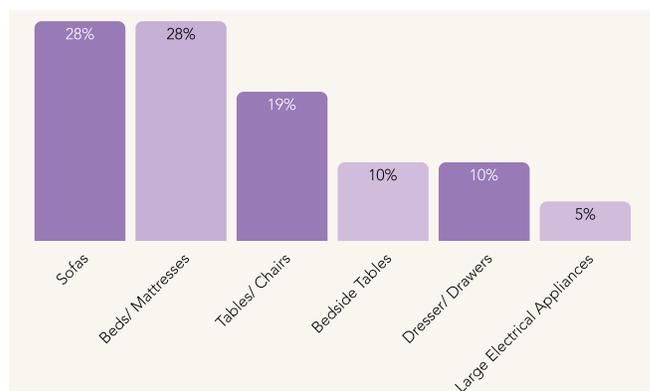
Unused or items not in need are then generously donated to homeless and other charities with our love, kindness & Jewish heart.

- ▶ Sharia's Closet
- ▶ Gently Hugged
- ▶ Bridges of Hope
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Synagogues in Tijuana
- ▶ Jewish Family Services
- ▶ Choices Drug & Rehab

## Online Furniture Program

We helped move furniture for **150+ families** that included:

- ▶ UCSD Israeli Organ Transplant Families
- ▶ Families from Israel & former IDF soldiers
- ▶ KI Members & **kindnessG'MACH** clients
- ▶ Students/Young Professionals:
  - Moishe House
  - Hillel
  - College Campus Housing
- ▶ Categories of Support:
  - Chronically ill
  - Elderly
  - Experiencing homelessness
  - Living with disabilities
  - New parents
  - Single parents



**Statistics:** Furnished on Average Three Homes a Week

## Members' Shoppers' Most Requested Items

As more Jewish families and individuals have turned to **kindnessG'MACH** in 2025, we've been able to meet this demand by keeping our shelves stocked with the most requested items. We are honored to have an exceptional community of donors who help us serve everyone who walks through our doors with love and dignity.



## Volunteering at **kindnessG'MACH**

- ▶ **Helps** us spread acts of loving kindness every day.
- ▶ **Supports** meaningful giving that has exponential impact.
- ▶ **Expands** our outreach in the community.
- ▶ **Builds** a warm and welcoming environment for new and returning families.



**SOLIDARITY IN ACTION**

*"I used to think volunteering was about 'helping,' but **kindnessG'MACH** showed me it's about solidarity. After helping a member find an interview outfit and offering some quiet encouragement, she returned months later with the news: 'I got the job, your belief in me was the confidence I needed.'"*

*That moment stayed with me. It's a powerful reminder that while we provide essential goods, it's the kindness that truly transforms lives. I've grown more through these connections than I ever imagined."*

**- Hannah\***

## B'nai Mitzvah Projects

We offer young Jewish people something rare: the chance to see exactly how your efforts transform Jewish lives. Organize drives, sponsor families or programs, then volunteer in the spaces you helped create and meet the people you've supported. Watch your contributions serve our community week after week. Here, kindness isn't just something you celebrate - it's something you become, when you do *Tikkun Olam* with us.

## Community Partners in Action

A huge thank you to the Jewish community who chose to hold their meetings at **kindnessG'MACH** this year. You came to learn about the hidden poverty in our community, and you showed up in the most beautiful way, arriving with carloads of essential items and hearts full of compassion for families who need us most. Your partnership means everything, turning awareness into the kind of tangible help that changes lives.

- |                               |                       |                  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ▶ Jewish Women International  | ▶ Chai Society        | ▶ Ken            |
| ▶ JEDA - Jewish Women In STEM | ▶ Philanthropy Groups | ▶ Schools        |
| ▶ Hadassah                    | ▶ Synagogues          | ▶ Private Groups |



# Grants & Partnerships: Strengthening Impact Together

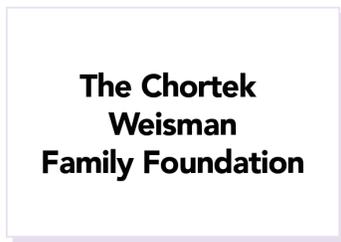
## Our Partners in Kindness

At the heart of every life we've touched and transformed this year is a grantor who believed in the possibility of change before it even happened. We want to say a sincere thank you for choosing to invest in our Jewish community through Kindness Initiative.

Your support is so much more than a financial contribution. You are the reason we can say "yes" when a member reaches out in their darkest moment, and we are deeply moved by the trust you place in our team to carry out this work on your behalf.

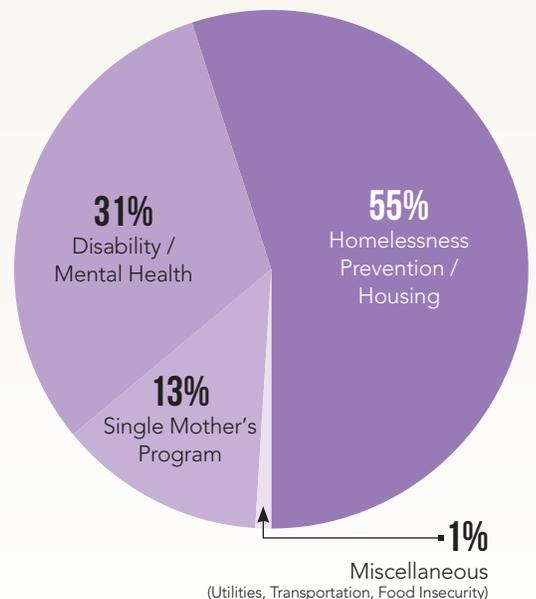
## Thank You to Our Grantors

To our future partners, we invite you to look at the stories in this report not just as data, but as lives transformed. We approach our work with a deep sense of responsibility, knowing that every dollar we receive represents a shared hope for a stronger, more resilient community. When you support Kindness Initiative, you aren't just funding a program, you are joining a dedicated family of advocates committed to walking alongside our members until they are back on their feet. Kindness isn't just what we do, it's who we become together.



# 210% GRANTS INCREASE IN 2025

Grants Breakdown



# \$ The Power of Giving in 2025

We are extremely grateful to our 2025 supporters!

## \$100,000+

- ▶ Lee Goldberg
- ▶ Elaine Galinson & Herb Solomon
- ▶ Hilary & Selwyn Isakow ●
- ▶ Isakow Foundation ●
- ▶ Phil Fest Cushman Foundation
- ▶ Evelyn & Ernest Rady

## \$50,000 - \$99,999

- ▶ Anonymous
- ▶ Aaron Feldman \*
- ▶ Hope Village San Diego

## \$25,000 - \$49,999

- ▶ Anonymous
- ▶ CalPrivate Bank
- ▶ Lou Dunst Foundation \*
- ▶ Tanya & Ian Freedman
- ▶ Jewish Women's Foundation
- ▶ Hersch Klaff
- ▶ Jean & Gary Shekhter \*
- ▶ Chortek Weisman Family Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$24,999

- ▶ Anonymous ●
- ▶ Caspi Family Fund ●
- ▶ French Fund
- ▶ Wendy Burk & Harold Frysh ●
- ▶ Sophia & Leon Kassel
- ▶ Brian & Suzanne Marcus Fund \*
- ▶ Patty & Steve Mizel
- ▶ Louis & Arlene Navias
- ▶ Miriam Norten & Alex Stolarski \*
- ▶ Sari & Kenneth Rudy
- ▶ Monique & Jack Shevel
- ▶ Sharon & David Wax ●\*

## \$3,600 - \$9,999

- ▶ Ben & Shlomit Barth
- ▶ Elias Cababie
- ▶ Kim & Rick Chesbrough
- ▶ Gidon Cohen
- ▶ Sharon Davidson \*
- ▶ Claire & David Ellman
- ▶ Dan & Phyllis Epstein
- ▶ Ellen Fabrikant
- ▶ Steven Goldberg
- ▶ KaramMD
- ▶ Loretta & Sean Levi ♥
- ▶ Esther & Carlos Michan \*
- ▶ Marjorie Mopper ●
- ▶ Julie Saffir & Kenneth Saffir
- ▶ Nicole & Brett Saloner ♥
- ▶ Lisa & Brad Slavin \*
- ▶ Jillian & Norman Smith \*
- ▶ Russell Steingold
- ▶ Neil Senturia & Barbara Bry \*
- ▶ Jerome & Carole Turk
- ▶ Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek

## \$1,000 - \$3,599

- ▶ Brenda & Stephen Abelkop
- ▶ Elena Bar-Adon
- ▶ Julie & Edgar Berner
- ▶ Diane & Norm Blumenthal
- ▶ Phillip Chebotarev
- ▶ Michael Cobb
- ▶ Hilda & Jeremy Cohen \*
- ▶ Avrielle Copans
- ▶ The Coconut Cult
- ▶ Dupuis Fund
- ▶ Leo Eisenberg
- ▶ Deboura & Nattan Elghanian
- ▶ Barry Entous
- ▶ Jeff Esko

- ▶ Suzi & Bernie Feldman \*
  - ▶ Pauline & John Freedman
  - ▶ Simone & Graeme Gabriel \*
  - ▶ Ilana & Yosi Gold
  - ▶ Helene Bortz's G'Mach Life Fund ♥
  - ▶ Alexandra & Ari Hirschhorn
  - ▶ Cheryl & Gavin Horn
  - ▶ Jenny & Julian Josephson (z'l)
  - ▶ Sarah Price & Brian Keating \*
  - ▶ Sandy & Mervyn Kodesh
  - ▶ Theresa & Gary Kornfeld \*
  - ▶ Susan & Jordan Levin
  - ▶ Laura & Richard Schragger Family Foundation Fund
  - ▶ Rafael Mizrachi ♥
  - ▶ Janice & David Mullin
  - ▶ Andrea Oster
  - ▶ PQ Swim
  - ▶ Laurayne Ratner \*
  - ▶ Amy & Kirk Rudy
  - ▶ Lynette & Jeffrey Schwartz
  - ▶ Selati Family Fund \*
  - ▶ Smiedt Family Fund
  - ▶ Melanie Spiegelman \*
  - ▶ Spielman Family Foundation
  - ▶ Jacqueline & Steven Stein
  - ▶ Deena & Michael Swindler
  - ▶ Stuart Weinshtanker ♥
  - ▶ W Jewerly
  - ▶ Z Goldberg
- \$500 - \$999**
- ▶ Bruce Abrams \*
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- ▶ The Gunter Goldschmidt Fund
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- ▶ Ann & Gerry Lipschitz \*
- ▶ Libe & Andre Marek
- ▶ Raphael Menko
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- ▶ Pelican Cove Inn
- ▶ Kathy Rose
- ▶ Anuja & Neel Shah
- ▶ Larry Sherman
- ▶ Sharon Silverstein
- ▶ Mona & Jay Sonnenshein
- ▶ Scott Sugarman
- ▶ Amy & Robin Weiner
- ▶ Ivor Weiner
- ▶ Helene & Allan Ziman \*

## In-Kind Donations

- ▶ David Mandelbaum
- ▶ Esther & Carlos Michan \*

- *Multiyear Giving*
- \* *Jewish Community Foundation Fund*
- ♥ *kindnessFAMILIES*

## The Change You're Making

Much of our work can be measured in numbers. But its true impact is felt in moments of stability, dignity, and renewed hope.

For one senior member in our community, Lori\*, rising rent and serious health challenges placed housing stability at risk after nearly two decades in the same home. Living on a fixed income and without family to rely on, the future felt increasingly uncertain.

As she shared:

*"Struggling to make rent payments since my rent recently rose above my fixed income, I've been left uncertain of the future after calling this small home my sanctuary for 17 years."*

With your support, Kindness Initiative was able to step in with short-term housing assistance and personalized case support, providing something essential: time.

*"Then, like some beautiful kind of miracle, I was approved by Kindness Initiative for a monthly stipend to help cover my rent while I continue my housing search."*

Because of your generosity, this is what became possible:

- ▶ Continued housing during a critical transition.
- ▶ Relief from the immediate threat of homelessness.
- ▶ Time to focus on medical treatment and recovery.
- ▶ Ongoing guidance toward long-term, affordable housing.
- ▶ Restoration of dignity, confidence, and hope.

In her own words: *"You have restored my sense of hope and dignity."*

This is the real impact of your support.





# 2025 Highlights: A Year of Impact



APRIL

## Grand Opening of **kindnessG'MACH**

April 6th marked the grand opening of the kindnessG'MACH, an incredible day celebrating our new distribution center in a bigger, better space dedicated to supporting Jewish families throughout San Diego with dignity and compassion. Over 200 community members gathered for the celebration, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, mezuzah door blessings, and a Passover food drive. The day unfolded with joy and a meaningful purpose as families stepped into a space where gemilut chasadim comes alive and every visit honors dignity.

Since opening our doors, the community has joined us in this circle of kindness donating gently used items, volunteering regularly to sort and organize, and spreading the word about this beautiful resource. Together, we've created a space where no one faces hardship alone, and where every person is met with respect, warmth, and the support they deserve.



OCTOBER

## Pickleball Tournament

Bringing our community together through friendly competition and connection, the Pickleball Tournament took place on October 12th with over 100 players and more than forty spectators cheering them on. We were overwhelmed by the incredible turnout and the spirit of camaraderie that filled the day. We are deeply grateful to our over 50 corporate sponsors whose generous support made this event possible and demonstrated their commitment to strengthening our community. Every serve, every rally, and every smile reminded us of the power of coming together - not just to play, but to raise funds ensuring more Jewish families receive the support they need toward building a more sustainable future. This is kindness in action.



DECEMBER

## Hanukkah Member Celebration

On the evening of December 17th, the Ken Jewish Community Center transformed into a true home for over 60 families and volunteers. In the glowing spirit of the Festival of Lights, we gathered not just to celebrate Hanukkah, but to celebrate one another. Between the gasps of wonder at the magician's tricks and the lively cheers during bingo, the room was alive with the kind of laughter that only happens when Members feel they truly belong. Thanks to the Ken's open doors and Aluma's fun activities, every child felt the magic of the season with their own wrapped gift and a night of play. As families shared a warm meal and heartfelt conversations, our volunteers saw firsthand what happens when we lead with love. To ensure the light stayed bright long after the evening ended, every family took home a Hanukkah basket, a \$200 gift of care made possible by 65 incredible donor families. This wasn't just an event; it was kindness in its purest form.

## What Stood Out in 2025

### ▶ Women's Committee Launched

KI formally established the Women's Committee in 2025, creating a dedicated space for leadership, connection, and community-driven programming.

### ▶ Men's Committee Launched

The Men's Committee was launched to expand engagement and offer tailored opportunities for men to connect, contribute, and grow within the KI community.

### ▶ Esha Chazakah Cohort (Strong Woman)

KI introduced the Esha Chazakah Cohort to provide targeted support, resources, and community for Jewish single mothers.

### ▶ Volunteer Onboarding & Professional Network

A structured volunteer onboarding program and professional network were implemented to mobilize lawyers, therapists, financial advisors, and other professionals in meaningful service.

### ▶ Compassion in Action Initiative

Members were given hands-on opportunities to volunteer at **kindnessG'MACH** and participate in gift-card giving, turning kindness into direct action.

### ▶ Gift Card Incentive Program

A new incentive program was launched to encourage participation, reward progress, and motivate continued member engagement.

### ▶ AI & Technology Integration

KI began leveraging AI-driven tools to improve operational efficiency and member resources.

### ▶ New CRM for 2026 Growth

In December, KI signed with a new CRM system to strengthen tracking, reporting, and scalability heading into 2026.



# Future Focus: Looking Ahead with Purpose

## kindnessHOME

### THE ULTIMATE MITZVAH:

## A Legacy of Shelter, Support & Community

Imagine the profound impact of providing a Jewish family with more than just a roof over their heads - imagine giving them hope, dignity, and a safe future.

**kindnessHOME is our transformational vision:** donated or sponsored homes and apartment buildings dedicated solely to Jewish families in San Diego who need assistance and support more than ever. This is an opportunity to perform one of the greatest, most enduring mitzvahs, providing safe housing where families, elderly couples, and those in crisis can rebuild their lives surrounded by the Jewish community and compassion.

More than shelter, **kindnessHOME** offers security. With reduced-cost housing and on-site concierge-level case management, our Members can focus on sustainable employment, permanent housing, and building a stable future. all while the fear of homelessness is lifted. It creates a special space where Jewish families connect, support one another, and find strength during life's most challenging moments.

**This is a major gift that would change everything.** Daily, tangible support. Generational impact. A living legacy of chesed that transforms our San Diego community.

**Partner with us to turn this vision into reality.** Donate an apartment building or home to Kindness Initiative and give Jewish families a place to call home when they need it most. Your donation is 501(c)(3) tax-deductible and will remain forever dedicated to serving our community, one home, one family, one transformed life at a time.

## PROGRAM EXPANSION



### kindnessFAMILIES

Through **kindnessFAMILIES**, your \$360 monthly sponsorship transforms a Jewish family's story, preventing homelessness, meeting basic needs, and providing tools for lasting independence. This is *Tikkun Olam* in action: two Jewish families connected in shared hope. You'll receive bi-yearly updates that show their progress, their victories, and the difference your support makes in ensuring no Jewish family struggles alone.



### Work Experience Program (Member)

This program offers job-seeking members real employment at **kindnessG'MACH**, where they build practical skills in customer service, donation management, and retail operations. Participants gain hands-on experience in a supportive environment while developing confidence and strengthening their resumes. This isn't just job training, it's paid work with personalized mentorship that bridges the gap between preparation and long-term workforce success, empowering members toward true self-sufficiency.



### Boutique and Thrift Store

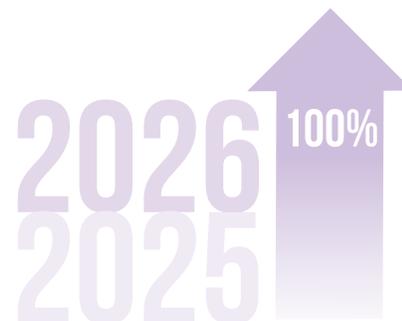
Our new Boutique and Thrift concept turns shopping into impact - with proceeds supporting Kindness Initiative's programs for Jewish families in need. Quality items that aren't needed at **kindnessG'MACH** move to our boutique and thrift spaces, where community members can shop with purpose. It's a simple idea with powerful results: your purchase directly funds the dignified support that keeps families stable, employed, and hopeful.

### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS IMPACT MULTIPLIED

Double Our  
**VOLUNTEER**  
Power



Double Our  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
Impact





## A MEMBER'S LETTER

“Hello, my name is Jacob. I am 41 years old, married, and the proud father of an amazing 5-year-old son. As a man, a father, and especially as an Israeli, asking for help is the most difficult and humiliating thing.

Your organization quite literally saved my life. There is no other way to describe it.

About three years ago, I went through an extremely deep

and painful crisis and fell into a severe depression, caused by several factors - first and foremost, serious financial hardship. From the very first conversation, I understood that I was in a truly professional place. There are other large organizations with impressive buildings and larger budgets, but they did not come close to the level of service, care, and genuine help I received here.

The team at Kindness Case Management and **kindnessG'MACH** stood by me during my lowest moments. It began with warmth and respect, then moved into practical financial assistance that helped my family stabilize. This included covering my son's school costs so he could remain in a comfortable, familiar environment, and providing essentials like clothes and diapers that eased our monthly burdens.

The team also recognized that for our family to truly recover, we needed a path to long-term independence. They

provided me with intensive employment coaching - helping me create a resume, practice for interviews, and navigate the job search. At the same time, they helped my wife by covering her tuition costs. Because of that support, she was able to complete her schooling and has recently secured a new job. They also ensured I was connected to the right professional support and wellness resources to help me navigate the heavy emotional toll of this crisis.

Between my wife's new career and my own path back to employment, we are finally building the foundation for a self-sufficient life. Our family's trajectory has completely changed because you invested in our future, not just our immediate needs.

There are no words to fully describe what it feels like to receive help from people who want to help you from the heart, without judgment. This organization gave me a powerful light and the hope to keep going, even during moments when I wanted to give up.

Thank you to everyone in this organization. God sees everything, and He will return your kindness many times over. I wish everyone a happy 2026 filled with health, joy, faith, and, most importantly, financial stability.

Thank you very much. I wish for our community that you will be with us forever!”

- Jacob\*

\* Certain names have been changed for confidentiality.



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▶ (858) 216-1666  
▶ kindnessSD.org

**kindnessG'MACH**

9372 Cabot Drive, San Diego CA 92126

Monday - Thursday: 9:30AM - 3:30PM  
Friday: 9:30AM - 2:00PM

@kindnesssandiego

@kindnessinitiativesd

@kindness-initiative

## 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Selwyn Isakow (Founder & Chairman)	Alan Binder	Sari Rudy
Simone Abelsohn	Dr. Paul Hyde	Sarah Shekhter
Bruce Abrams	Suzanne Marcus	Dr. Jack Shevel
	Susan Monk	Brad Slavin

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Hilton Sher	Rabbi Simcha Weiser