

# A Note from Graham Hoffman,

President and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and President and CEO-Elect of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona



Jewish Community Foundation  
of Southern Arizona



Jewish Federation  
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA  
STRONGER  
TOGETHER



Southern Arizona Jewish community,

As our community grapples with the impacts of COVID-19, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona are committed to the health and well-being of the donors, staff, agencies, and volunteers who we work with.

In pursuit of this goal, we have made the determination that **we will be operating with a liberal telework policy for both Federation and Foundation offices** in an effort to further reduce the opportunity for the virus to spread. Our policy will encourage anyone who can telework effectively to do so – and thereby dramatically reduce the number of professionals in our offices. This is in keeping with advice put forth by national, state, and local governmental leadership and the guidance of bodies such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). As a result of this policy, we will discontinue all activities in the Federation and Foundation building effective Tuesday, March 17th.

Again, this decision applies to the Federation and Foundation – all of our community organizations and synagogues will continue to make their own determinations based on the developing circumstances.

First and foremost, it is our hope that our community members will take care of themselves during this time. Your health and safety are our top priority during the days ahead. We should all practice simple measures to protect ourselves and others, such as thoroughly washing our hands, maintaining social distance, and staying home as much as possible and certainly when sick. It is particularly important to avoid large gatherings where asymptomatic individuals may spread the virus without knowing it.

This is an unprecedented circumstance that we are meeting with calm preparation and determination. In all that we do, we have the goals of preventing and combatting this virus in our community so that we may protect those most vulnerable among us.

COVID-19 has put many of us in a difficult position. Now, more than ever, help is needed to sustain our community. It is a time for solidarity and hope, kindness and caring for one another. We are working with our partner agencies and organizations to understand the scope of the needs of our community and assess the best way to move forward with a meaningful response. We hope that you will join us as we strive to uplift our world during this challenging time of uncertainty and turmoil. Please know that during the most trying times such as these, we must always keep in mind those in greatest need – both in our local community, and in communities around the world. Our partners at the Jewish Federations of North America are assessing global needs and we are continuing to identify local ones. Together, with your continued involvement, we will rise to meet the growing needs in our communities.

We will continue to keep you informed as we monitor this situation closely and adjust our approach as necessary.

Wishing you all strength, health, and good spirits during this time. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact us,

## **Deborah Oseran**

Chair of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

## **Jeff Katz**

Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona



**Stuart Mellan**  
President & CEO



**Graham Hoffman**  
President & CEO Elect

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