



# NEW JERSEY PANDEMIC RELIEF FUND

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Dear Friend,

Welcome to my first report to you as CEO of the New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund.

This fund began as the almost immediate response of a handful of caring people to the crisis of COVID-19. That initial group has now grown into an incredible Board and support staff. None of us, of course, were in the same place at the same time, but we quickly formed a web — with points of contact across the state — dedicated to supporting our state's most vulnerable people. The NJPRF came into being only 29 days ago, yet today it is hard at work with a joint focus on tracking the impact of the pandemic on our residents and finding creative and effective methods to address both urgent and longer term needs.

Our funding is a result of generosity by donors large and small, the tireless effort of our fundraising team, and the creativity and generosity of our **Jersey 4 Jersey** broadcast participants and creators. From the first moment the extent of this disaster was known, dedicated friends of New Jersey raised their hands and opened their pockets. Personally, experiencing this immediate impulse of caring amid so much sadness was an incredibly uplifting thing. So, I urge you to share this letter — give others in your circle the opportunity to experience the power of hope and love in this enormously challenging time. If you haven't seen the **Jersey 4 Jersey** broadcast, watch it [here](#).

We consciously structure our work in two ways. First, given the rapidly evolving nature of this crisis, we have specific time-sensitive goals for each project we fund or initiate. Second, we organize our priorities by area of impact (food, health, shelter, education, economic). These goals and priorities are informed by information from relief organizations, state officials and research initiatives across the state. To implement our priorities, we are extremely fortunate to have an expert grant-making committee, a diverse and deeply experienced team, drawn from some of America's finest philanthropic organizations.

To give you a sense of this, two projects stand out. To combat hunger, we quickly polled virtually every food pantry in the state, identifying the specific needs of each. We then provided targeted aid to more than 125 of them, money they used to solve a specific problem, whether it was need for more food, storage and refrigeration, or food distribution methods that were consistent with social distancing needs. In the area of healthcare, we have provided funds to each of the four State Regional Health Hubs created by the state legislature. These funds provide specific aid for referral to services and home health-care kits and tele-medicine for our most vulnerable residents, including the homeless, pregnant women and new mothers, and those struggling with substance abuse.

Knowing that this is a fluid situation we will continue to have a nimble approach, adjusting our funding priorities as need evolves. I hope this letter has helped you understand the good that you have done by participating in this desperately-needed effort. I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and look forward to reporting further good news in the weeks to come.

Visit us at [www.NJPRF.org](http://www.NJPRF.org), and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

Warmest wishes for good health,

Josh Weinreich