

IMPACT

APPRECIATION REPORT
FEBRUARY 2021



Hebrew School Impact Grows During Covid

How your helping students continue Hebrew School during Covid, also helped their parents!

Remote Minyan-goer?

You bet! How one man starts his morning by attending Chabad's Zoom "minyan" and why it inspires him.

Love Fights Pandemic

Your generosity has fueled many projects that continue to serve our local communities. Thank you!

NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR CHABAD



Bonnie Berman

As Jews, we are commanded to visit the sick, Bikur Cholim, and feed the hungry.

Since the presence of Covid, I can not do most of the mitzvahs I was trained to do. I was trained

to be a doula for Orthodox women who give birth, to sit

with the sick and dying, a guardian ad Litem (advocate for abused children), and a Shomer who sits with a body before burial. I also drove for Road to Recovery taking cancer patients to and from chemo and radiation. All this is on hold until Covid is gone.

On Fridays, I deliver meals from Chabad to community members for Shabbos. The

meals come in beautiful Shabbos bags with Challah and special treats that Chanie and her family put together. I drive from Longboat Key which takes about 45 minutes each way. I deliver a few meals which takes almost 2 hours.

The packages bring the recipients such joy and comfort knowing that

Delivering these Shabbos packages brings me joy as well.

someone is thinking about them. I wish I could do more. I wish

we could be back in the kitchen cooking and helping Chanie out.



Bill and Rosanne Strauss

Shortly after I retired, my wife

and I moved from Chicago to Lakewood Ranch, Florida in July 2020. A contact suggested we try out Chabad of Bradenton for the High Holidays and we attended services.

The congregation was very welcoming, reflecting the warmth and spirit of Rabbi Mendy and his wife Chanie, who are both filled with an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm. We soon became members and began to take advantage of all the wonderful and joyous events that Chabad of Bradenton offers.

During this time of COVID-19, it is nice to see Chabad of Bradenton operating in a very safe way. We attend Shabbos services (outside) on a more frequent basis than we ever did in Chicago. In just the few short months that we have been down here, we have participated in a Sukkoth Party, Chanukah Parade,

We had hoped to become more engaged with a synagogue in Florida. Chabad of Bradenton has fulfilled this dream and exceeded our expectations.

Comedy Night and Challah Bake organized by Chabad of Bradenton.

Finally, we have taken advantage of

many wonderful educational opportunities that Chabad of Bradenton offers from the safety of our home via Zoom. We enjoyed a 6-lesson class that was being offered on "Secrets of the Bible" and other programs and classes offered by the Rabbi and Chanie.

UNEXPECTED GAINS OF REMOTE HEBREW SCHOOL



Allison Setefano

With making the decision to pull the kids out of public school, we also pulled them out of Hebrew school. Making this decision was not easy. But Rabbi Mendy and Morah Chanie made the transition nice and smooth. They provided us with pre-made boxes with everything that we might need to have the kids succeed with

their Hebrew studies. Each week that there was school Rabbi and Morah Chanie would prepare that week's study guide and supplies for pick up.

At first, it was challenging to have the kids learn virtually. My daughter Samantha participated more than my son Peyton. For Peyton it was more distracting, as the virtual schooling was not a one-on-one setting like in-person Hebrew school would provide.

While I was in the background making sure that the kids had the correct supplies when needed, I also learned a lot about our history. And while reviewing the prayers with my kids, I remembered the words and brought back fond memo-

ries from when I was in Hebrew school.

Now that we made the decision to have them back in-person -- it is bitter sweet. I love knowing that my kids are in good hands. Learning and being more social. But, it's bittersweet, because I am unable to learn too! I remembered all the reasons to be proud of being born a Jew. All the beautiful traditions and the culture that being Jewish brings.

Having married out of the Jewish religion and celebrating both Catholic and Jewish holidays -- it is sometimes hard to properly teach about Judaism. But with them attending and learning more about being Jewish they will learn to love and cherish being Jewish more and more.

Over the past year, most of us have had too few enjoyable moments. For

me the Mega Challah bake was truly a highlight and joy for many reasons. Not only did I bake delicious challah which I will be doing on a regular basis, I also enjoyed the stories, song and warmth which radiated through Zoom and into my heart.

- Audrey Thompson



Chabad's activities during Covid greatly enhanced my mental and

spiritual well-being. The in-person Shabbos and Holiday services and meals showed me that there is life worth celebrating above and beyond the fears of the virus.

Chabad's response to this crisis showed that we could have a sense of normalcy in our lives and allowed us to be positive about all that Hashem has given us.

- Steve Weinshel



You have been an extraordinary dedicated Rabbi during these very difficult times making each of us stronger and helping us embody our Jewish values that we each cherish.

- S.B.

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

In the past year, lots has happened here, thanks to your generosity.



Many have enjoyed classes, Shabbat packages, online events, services, youth and teen activities and more.

These are challenging times. And I pray with you that this pandemic will end soon. Until then, we take the lessons that are to be learned.

Thanks to your kindness, we have been finding ways to celebrate traditions in smaller groups, to cherish the little moments, to see the value of community.

Thanks to you, we have seen that while life is fleeting and much less predictable than we like to think, there is so much good that can be done!

I hope you enjoy reading of some of your impact!

Stay safe and healthy,

Rabbi Mendy Bukiet



Since the early days of the Covid-19 crisis, I have been pretty much a regular attendee of the Chabad LWR morning minyan on Zoom. Note that I did not classify myself as a participant. Because candidly, the whole Tefillin thing doesn't do it for me. So I don't participate in the morning prayers. I jump in around 8:50AM to catch the Tanya discourse, the HaYom Yom, and the mitzvah of the day. And then the floor opens up for discussion.

Now, why would someone like me, who mixes wool with linen, join in the morning discussion? For me, the intellectual conversation with Rabbi Mendy challenges me to think about Judaism is a different light than AIPAC, AJC, the Federation, or even synagogue. I might not subscribe to the Chasidic philosophy, nor do I agree with Rabbi Mendy on many points, but my questions and concerns are always treated with respect. The group discussion is thoughtful and thought provoking. Am I about to about to scrutinize my wardrobe for shatnez? That's not in the script. But Rabbi Mendy has exposed me to aspects of Judaism that otherwise I would not have seen. It's a nice way to start my day.

- Marshall Horowitz

60 Seder to go
kits 45Shavuot
gift boxes 350Shmurah
matzah16 Attended
Camp-in-
a-Box


YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

When the world shut down, you made
sure Chabad remained open! 1083Taste of Shabbat
and Holiday kits7 

Teen events

 25Virtual Hebrew
School classes

623

Families
reached 480Volunteer
Hours

286

Virtual
Gatherings &
Classes

BE ESSENTIAL WITH CHABAD

TUES, **Mar 2** AT 1PM –
WED, **Mar 3** AT 7PM**RAISING \$120,000**
FOR JEWISH LIFE IN MANATEE COUNTY!**Donate to the campaign on
Tuesday, March 2.**chabadofbradenton.com/beessential**Share our "BE ESSENTIAL"
Facebook event.**[chabadofbradenton.com/ChabadFB](https://www.facebook.com/chabadofbradenton)**Encourage your family &
friends to donate.****Forward
"BE ESSENTIAL"
Campaign emails.****"BE ESSENTIAL" with Chabad today!**
Every donation counts! **Adding
a picture will
attract more
attention to
your post!****NO DONATION
IS TOO BIG
OR TOO SMALL!**With your help we can
BE ESSENTIAL to the
Manatee County
Jewish community![chabadofbradenton.com
/beessential](http://chabadofbradenton.com/beessential)
[#beessentialwithchabad](https://www.facebook.com/chabadofbradenton)