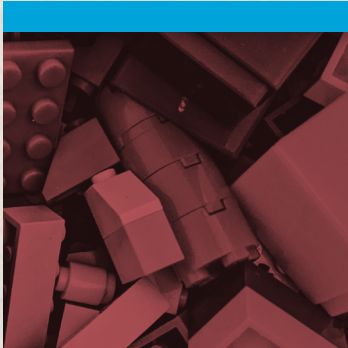
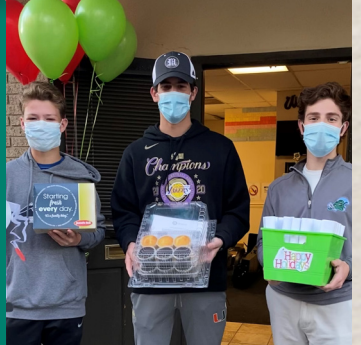


ANNUAL REPORT



2020



Dara Grant and Amy Zeide
Co-Executive Directors

SUPPORT



A MESSAGE from the Executive Directors

In a year when so much was different, we are proud that Creating Connected Communities (CCC) never missed a beat. Our team quickly adapted and found opportunities to support all our constituencies in meaningful ways. Though our work looked vastly different than we had anticipated, we ended up exceeding our service goals for the year and mobilizing the entire CCC community in new ways, big and small, to support the specific needs of our agency and school partners.

From the beginning of the pandemic, it was critically important that we maintained the quality and overall impact of our Leadership Development Program (LDP) on our Jewish teens. We wanted them to understand that they could continue to make a difference – learn, grow, interact – just differently. And we are so happy that what we were able to do resonated with them! In fact, we had more teens return and apply to be in LDP 2021 than in any year prior.

There is no way we would have been able to provide the impact we did this year and reach as many children and families as we did without the support of our community. Thank you to the small businesses and sponsors, many that have been with us for years, who offered countless, creative ways to get involved and support us.

We are so grateful to our community for the contributions we've received and the volunteer hours you've put in that have really shown us that with your support, we can do anything.

Amy and Dara



GRATITUDE

IMPACT



A MESSAGE from the Board Chair

As a member of Creating Connected Communities' Board of Directors since 2017, I am pleased to step into a new leadership role for 2021. Last year was unlike anything we could have imagined. CCC had developed incredible momentum in terms of programming for the community, and learning and volunteer opportunities for the teens. For it all to seemingly come to a screeching halt was heartbreaking.

But our CCC team is inspiring to me because they immediately started working on what could still be done under the new, challenging circumstances. They brainstormed together, came up with fresh ideas, took the best of them and figured out how to adapt and make things work, no matter how much extra time or effort was required.

When we bring on new board members, I ask them why they want to be more involved with CCC and multiple times I've heard a similar answer. CCC provides something that no one else does in the Atlanta community, a place for Jewish teens to learn about philanthropy and leadership, and the ability to do good things in the broader community, especially on an ongoing basis.

I'm proud that even during a pandemic CCC's outreach work was still able to impact 8,232 children and families in need. Additionally, interest in our Leadership Development Program continues to grow each year.

This growth, combined with the necessity to reframe all our programming to be "Covid-19 friendly," means that CCC needs the support of our community more than ever. CCC is not sitting still, we are marching forward and finding ways to grow. I feel so good about what CCC does, and I know the community will continue to see that too! I'm excited for you to see the results from CCC's work in 2020 in the pages of this report.

Jeremy Wohlberg 2021 Board Chair



Jeremy (center) volunteering at CCC's Fall Festival in 2018.

Jeremy volunteering with his wife Julie-Anne at AHP 2020: Delivered.

2020

By the Numbers



8,232

Children & families
in need served



190

Jewish teens participated
in our Leadership
Development Program



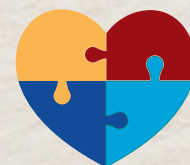
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Community
outreach programs
implemented



421

Teen volunteer
opportunities created



67

Community partnerships
strengthened



14

Teens chose to work
with CCC for their
mitzvah projects



984

Committed
individuals donated



88

Sacks Society
members contributed



7,792

Smile Bags
distributed

Early Pandemic Changes

During March and April, when the world was reeling from our new Covid-19 reality, **CCC donated more than \$13,000 in supplies to some of our community partners directly serving those most affected.** We rallied our generous network to collect books, food, games, toys, and gift items. We also coordinated donations to the Atlanta Police Athletic League, Corners Outreach, Community Assistance Center, JF&CS, and the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy.

ANNUAL POKER & RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Additionally, the onset of the pandemic affected our Annual Poker & Raffle Fundraiser. CCC was forced to cut the in-person poker portion of our fundraiser, but we were blown away by how many people still chose to show their support. **We were thrilled to be able to raise nearly \$14,000!**



31
prizes



92
participants



\$13,865
raised

Outreach Programs

TEEN BASH

Hosted in February 2020, Teen Bash was the only program of the year that happened pre-pandemic. Teen Bash is designed specifically for teenagers living in shelters and low-income neighborhoods who rarely receive services specific to their age group.

Teen Bash fills this need by providing teen-approved activities that include whirlyball, arcade games, karaoke, photo booths, a “book store,” and more.



“ Teen Bash was a smashing success! My son had a fantastic time. Thank you for the privilege of volunteering with CCC! He came home with the biggest smile. I really want to thank CCC for making it such a rewarding experience.”

— Parent of a Mitzvah Project Teen



“ Ever since 8th grade, I have participated in Amy’s Holiday Party and was bummed out that it was not going to happen this year. After participating in AHP Delivered, I was still able to make the same difference as I have in previous years. I also had the ability to end this year on a good note for the families we served.”

— LDP Teen



Amy's Holiday Party 2020: Delivered!

CCC’s signature program, Amy’s Holiday Party (AHP), was significantly changed to provide “Covid-19 friendly” teen volunteer opportunities while continuing to deliver the holiday experiences that our community has come to depend on. To keep everyone safe, CCC teens, volunteers, and sponsors planned, organized, and delivered a customized Amy’s Holiday Party to 19 individual organizations across Atlanta.

2020 was an extremely difficult year for the agencies we partner with, and many of our contacts reported that the services they rely on were unavailable. CCC was thrilled to still provide our holiday cheer, as well as some of our partners’ “wish list” items and basic necessities. AHP 2020 delivered: gifts, meals, Santa hats, arts & craft activities, games, books, Smile Bags, and other surprises. With tremendous help and generosity, AHP 2020 served 2,000 children and families. And in the process, we strengthened our agency partnerships, deepened our impacts, and developed new opportunities to engage our community.



Outreach Programs Continued



SMILE BAG INITIATIVE

After attending a CCC program, we want our participants to leave with more than a smile—so we make sure everyone leaves with a Smile Bag containing personal care and educational items. While the contents of our Smile Bags change based on the organizations' needs, our goal is for each bag to contain items like deodorant, hand sanitizer, lip balm, lotion, mouthwash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, markers, crayons, small notepads, pencils, and more.

Like so many other organizations during the pandemic, CCC needed to reimagine and restructure our community-building outreach programs in 2020. After consulting with our partner agencies to determine how to best meet the needs of the community within the realities of Covid-19, our expanded Smile Bag Initiative was launched.

Though vastly different from CCC's usual outreach programs, we remained committed to mobilizing our volunteers in new ways. As a result of this initiative, our teens were empowered to understand their ability to create change and build community connections in new ways. They understood that these projects were not just about packing supplies, but about assessing community needs and providing children with the resources to be more successful and cared for in very uncertain times.

During our pandemic Smile Bag initiative, CCC hosted two separate packing projects: Summer Smile Bags and Back-to-School Smile Bags. Teens, families, and others in our CCC network volunteered to pack bags filled with personal care products, engaging activities, books, and necessary school supplies. In 2020, these personalized bags supported almost 5,000 children from all over Atlanta.

Service Projects

We are proud to offer young teens the opportunity to work with CCC for their mitzvah projects. In a typical year, we also provide opportunities for organizations like scout troops, synagogues, and school clubs to partner with CCC for group service projects. This year, 14 b'nai mitzvah teens served the community through at-home service projects that enhanced our programs. These teens also supported our outreach work by collecting books, packing Smile Bags, and participating in Amy's Holiday Party 2020: Delivered.



Photo taken Feb. 2020



Leadership Development Program

THE NUMBERS



190
LDP teens
participated in 2020



24
LDP board
members



40
schools represented
by our LDP teens



3
locations
in Atlanta



10
LDP
sessions



2,341
combined hours
working with CCC
in 2020

Our 2020 Leadership Development Program (LDP) engaged 190 Jewish teens in leadership skill building, Jewish identity development, and community service through our outreach programs. In a year that brought many new challenges, we worked with our teens to adapt and continue to provide meaningful experiences that taught them valuable lessons about adaptability, fundraising, mobilizing volunteers, listening and responding.



Photo taken Feb. 2020



Photo taken Feb. 2020



Photo taken Feb. 2020

“ CCC and LDP have broadened my understanding of my surrounding community and the impact of my individual contribution on the families we serve. Philanthropy has grown and developed into a large part of my identity through CCC’s programming.”

— LDP Teen

Our LDP educational sessions for April-September 2020 moved online but continued to provide high-quality, impactful content. Our curriculum incorporated relevant and critical leadership skills such as awareness of and advocacy for the social justice issues facing our children and families in need, as we assessed current and changing community challenges.

Responding to overwhelming feedback from LDP teens and parents, CCC then worked to be able to provide several safe, in-person opportunities. In October and November, we held small Covid-19 friendly outdoor “pod” sessions to learn about community leadership and plan for Amy’s Holiday Party: Delivered. Teens were also given the opportunity to volunteer in person in a safe way, helping to organize most needed items, activities, and gifts, for each of our 19 deliverable and personalized “parties.”

Despite the disappointment of not being able to volunteer at our usual in-person community-building programs, our teens were determined to continue to make a difference in our community. We are so proud of how they rallied to support our Smile Bag Initiative as well as Amy’s Holiday Party: Delivered!

Annual Phonathon Fundraiser

CCC's Annual Phonathon Fundraiser is an amazing opportunity for the teens in our Leadership Development Program (LDP) to showcase many of the skills they've learned in the program and build confidence in their public speaking. Teens and their parents worked together to identify people in their personal networks to call as prospects. Then they developed an impactful and personalized "pitch," that included the opportunity to receive matching grant funds.

In 2020 Phonathon went virtual! LDP teens joined Zoom information sessions before making their individual phone calls from home. We are so proud of these teens for making the most out of this learning opportunity. We are always so impressed with their willingness to step out of their comfort zones to share their passion for CCC and accomplish a goal. Thank you to all the donors who contributed to our talented teens' efforts and thank you so much to our generous Matching Grant Donors who helped make this possible.



469
donations



\$39,585
raised



The first \$20,000
our teens raised was
matched for a grand
total of almost \$60,000!

2020 MATCHING GRANT DONORS

- Ellen & Howard Feinsand
- Henry & Etta Raye Hirsch Heritage Foundation
- Staci & Jason Levine
- Caren & Michael Merlin Family Foundation Fund
- The Luci and Stan Sunshine Family Foundation



The 2020 Sacks Society

Since 2015, our ability to fund and sustain our expansion has been directly supported by a generous group of donors we call "The Sacks Society." These supporters have made a monetary commitment for three consecutive years and we would not be where we are today without the continuity this group provides.

\$10,000+

Stacy & Scott Lewin
Jacquie & Harvey Sacks

\$5,000+

Donna & Michael Coles
Ann & Michael Kay
The Luci and Stan Sunshine Family Foundation: Luci & Stan Sunshine, Maya & Michael Sunshine, Blake & Adam Leiber

\$2,500+

Gayle & Ron Breakstone
Kathy & Mitch Lewis
Mimi's Fund on behalf of the Grosswald, Grant & Sacks Families
Ellen & Michael Plasker
The Rosenberg Family Fund

\$1,800+

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\$1,000+

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Julie-Anne & Jeremy Wohlberg
Elizabeth Zeide

As of 12/30/2020

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION SPONSORS

DIAMOND LEVEL: \$20,000+



PLATINUM LEVEL: \$10,000+



GOLD LEVEL: \$5,000+



SILVER LEVEL: \$2,500+

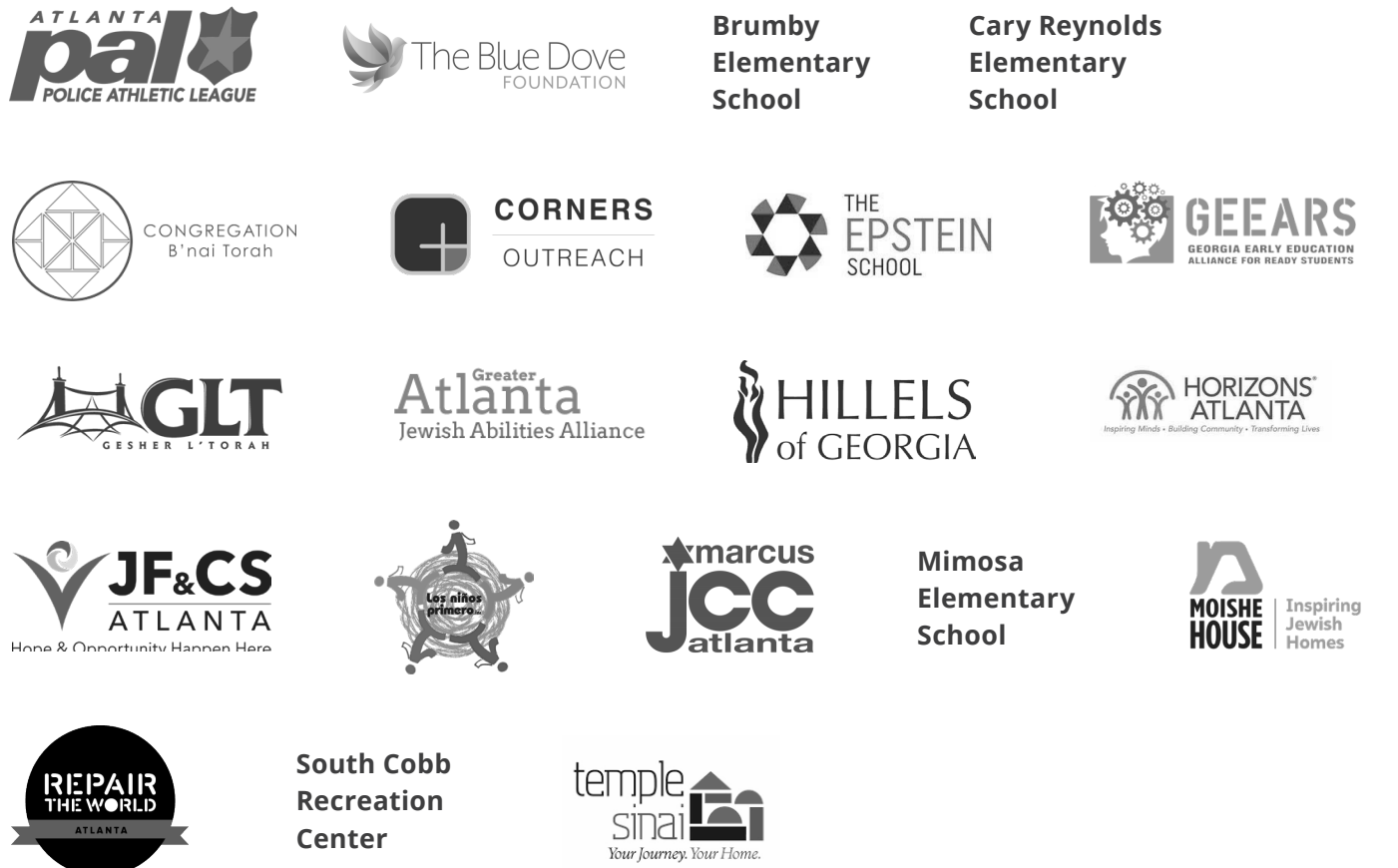
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 The Ardent Companies
 College Hunks Hauling Junk
 Jeckil Promotions
 Jewel Branding & Licensing
 The Mart Shop
 Pull-A-Part
 Vosamo Photography

BRONZE LEVEL: \$1,000+

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 GEEARS
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COMMUNITY & PROGRAM PARTNERS



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 A Mother's Touch
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 Next Home Ministries

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 Rainbow Housing (Trestletree)
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 The Drake House
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Co-Executive
Director & Founder

Dara Grant
Co-Executive
Director

Cindy Karol
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Lara Schewitz
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Event Planning

“ I have created so many new like-minded, Jewish friends through CCC, brought together through our common interest and passion for serving the community. LDP has provided me the tools necessary for leadership by challenging me to think deeply about big issues.”

— LDP Teen



Photo taken Feb. 2020

“ Not even a pandemic has stopped CCC from sharing their love with the community. We are thrilled to still be able to experience Amy’s Holiday Party, this time delivered directly to us to meet necessary safety requirements. The lower-income families we work with have been hit hard by the pandemic. The support of organizations like Creating Connected Communities has been vital to our ability to help bridge the gap for our families experiencing job loss, food shortage, and more. CCC is doing invaluable work and literally strengthening families in our community!”

— Agency Partner

“ Not only is CCC moving the needle in the right direction, it is empowering the teens in our community (our future leaders) to learn, take action and feel accomplished. I have no doubt that through the excellent work you do, you are not only providing needed services to kids today but also helping shape the compassionate leaders of tomorrow.”

— LDP Parent





OUR MISSION:

Creating Connected Communities brings life-enhancing programs to children in need by empowering teens to become engaged community leaders and volunteers.

Creating Connected Communities
P.O. Box 500247
Atlanta, GA 31150

  @cccprojects
www.cccprojects.org
404.532.9515