

The Gollob Family

Acts of loving kindness motivate the Gollob family. Rona and her adult children, Sandra and Marc, are inspired by the example set by their mother and grandmother, Edith Rosenberg. Although not able to provide much financial support, Edith valued helping those in need and often volunteered her time to drive neighbors in need of assistance to appointments or to the grocery store. She set the example of helping out in any way possible to those who were known to need assistance, but may not have asked. Helping others was what made a difference. Tikkun Olam – repairing the world one small act at a time.

This idea resonates with all three family members. Rona prefers to “touch and feel” an organization in order to better understand how it makes a difference in the world. Sandra and Marc agree, both

like to experience the impact of an organization first-hand which may later lead to financial support. Marc donates his time and treasure to local organizations where he feels his gifts can have impact. Sandra supports organizations advocating for women’s health issues.

When Rona created her donor advised fund, she also chose to create a fund for her children as a way to help them enhance their personal giving by enabling them to make larger, more impactful gifts. Rona’s strategy has proven true. Together, Sandra and Marc collaborate to discuss the value they wish to donate from the fund each year. The remaining balance is then equally available to both, allowing them to each designate grants to organizations or causes for which they are passionate.

Continuing in the spirit of family philanthropy, Rona chose to consult with Sandra and Marc when she considered making a large commitment – one larger than she had ever made in the past. Both supported their mother’s decision, confirming the gift would make a positive impact on an organization important to them all.

Regardless of where Rona, Sandra and Marc’s philanthropic journeys may take them, they are certain the act of giving will always remain a constant in their lives. Each will continue to explore and grow in their personal philanthropy and look forward to impacting the world around them. Both individually, and together as a family, they continue the legacy learned from Edith - to repair the world one small step at a time.



Mary-Jane Eisen and Bob Yass

Mary-Jane’s parents were Holocaust survivors who came here in the early 1950’s to make a new life for themselves and their one-year-old daughter. They thought the best way they could “give” to this country that they loved so dearly was not to take any handouts. All they wanted was the chance to become self-sufficient and that’s exactly what they did. However, it took a lot of hard work and, as a result, volunteerism and philanthropy were not a top priority for them. Her daughter’s path was much different.

When Mary-Jane and Bob moved to Connecticut in the late 1970s, Mary-Jane worked for Covenant Insurance, which cooperated with the United Way to match executives with volunteer opportunities in the Greater Hartford area. Through this initiative, she became involved with CWEALF (the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund) and realized how much people can enrich their lives through volunteerism. This was the start of her philanthropic journey.

Mary-Jane continued that journey with Bob’s support. “Bob has been my beacon,” she says. Mary-Jane is grateful to Bob for taking a leadership role in bringing a philanthropic consciousness not only to her, but to their two adult children.

Bob’s journey is tied to his understanding of what “home” means to him. He says, “Part of what makes the Greater Hartford area ‘homey’ for us is being part of our vibrant Jewish community.” That’s why the Greater Hartford Jewish community became the focus for his volunteerism and philanthropy 40 years ago.

A key component in Bob’s journey was participating in the Wexner Heritage Leadership Program in the early 1990s. He has been working to repay this transformational gift ever since.

Bob and Mary-Jane’s commitment to sustaining the Jewish community here and around the world has grown over time, along with their ability to give generously. They also feel strongly about fostering connections between the Jewish community and others across the Greater Hartford area.

Next steps for Bob and Mary-Jane on their philanthropic journey? They take their responsibility seriously and feel both exhilarated and challenged by the philanthropic opportunities facing them. In seeking to maximize their impact, they want to better understand community needs as well as the existing programs that attempt to address those needs. Their goals are to be more purposeful, define their short- and long-term objectives, find ways to measure impact, and include their children more actively. Their journey is as important to them as the destination.



Philanthropic Journeys

