



# Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation

2021 Impact Report



# 2021

By the numners

# 50+

Donations made in  
2021

# 15

Total charitable  
partners

# 6

New organizations  
added to our giving  
roster

# \$1m+

Amount donated

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, 2021 was a banner year in the nonprofit giving space.

According to a report from the Blackbaud Institute, charitable giving in Q3 of 2021 was up 6.3% from Q3 2020 and up 8.1% over the last 12 months.

While many in-person charity events continued to be postponed, online giving was up 17.1%, as those interested in maintaining their philanthropic donations became more comfortable with online gifting.

In line with these trends, in 2021, the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation has made 50+ total donations across more than 15 charitable partners.

In addition to long-established partner relationships, the Foundation added 6 new organizations to its giving roster in 2021, donating more than \$1 million to a broad range of charities around the world in the Child Welfare, Education, Law Enforcement & Military, Medical Research, Religious Development and Sustainable Energy spaces.

# Our Mission

## WHO WE ARE

A central part of the Jewish faith is the idea of righteous giving. Indeed, "tzedakah," the Hebrew word for charity, is derived from the root word "tzadei-dalet-qof," which represents the concept of justice and fairness. In Jewish tradition, giving to charity is not seen as a generous act, but as a necessary part of life, an obligation that is imperative for members of a righteous society to fulfill.

The Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation has embodied this ideal since its inception. We are deeply committed to bettering the world around us through giving and helping to connect those who share this passion with those in dire need.

At our core, we believe that every good deed, no matter how small, has the potential to create a ripple effect of positive opportunity for the next generation. By focusing primarily on funding medical, educational and child wellness initiatives, the Foundation is investing directly in the future of our communities

Whether we are giving low-income deaf populations access to free hearing aids, helping to improve the lives of children battling critical illnesses or funding scholarships that enable more people to pursue higher education, our focus is always on the long-term implications of our charitable work..

## WHAT WE DO

The Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation works to fund charitable organizations, initiatives and projects that align with our goals and values. We operate with the understanding that lasting societal change cannot happen overnight. Our hope is to create an inter-generational heritage of giving that becomes stronger with each passing year.

In keeping with our mission of creating a legacy of charity, the Foundation takes a special interest in causes that have the potential to foster long-term social change in the areas of education, child welfare, medical research, religious development, environmental sustainability and support for first responders and law enforcement.

Impact is our primary focus. To that end, we look for causes that may often be overlooked or marginalized, where we feel there is a critical need for increased attention or financial support.

**"The Foundation is a legacy that will bring future generations together to change the world."**

**Dr. Lazar Finker, Founder of  
the Finker-Frenkel Family  
Foundation**

# 2021 Impact

Highlights from an incredible year of partnership and collaboration in pursuit of a better tomorrow

On behalf of Mr. Jerry Rinehart, a retired DEA Special Agent and a close friend of Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation founder and director Dr. Lazar Finker (and who recently passed away after a battle with brain cancer), the Foundation made a contribution to the **Association of Federal Narcotics Agents (AFNA)** in early 2021.

The donation was used to establish the **Jerry Rinehart College Scholarship**, which will help relieve the financial burden of college for the next generation students and their families.

In February, the Foundation was proud to support the **Perlman Music Program's** 2021 Virtual Wine Gala & Auction. Founded in 1994 by Toby Perlman, the Perlman Music Program offers unparalleled musical training to young string players of rare and special talent.

With a world-class faculty led by renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Perlman Music Program is developing the future leaders of classical music within a nurturing and supportive community. Proceeds from the gala went to fund the program's slate of offerings, including its "Works in Progress" performance series and its travel residencies, which enable young students from around the world to connect with and learn from one another.

In March, we were lucky enough to speak with **Dr. Marc Agronin**, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health at Foundation partner **Miami Jewish Health's MIND Institute**, an organization devoted to treating people living with Alzheimer's disease and other neurocognitive disorders, and their caregivers.

The Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation has been a proud sponsor of the MIND Institute at Miami Jewish Health since 2015, and Dr. Agronin underlined the impact of the Foundation's support during our conversation:

"Partnering with the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation is so important to the MIND Institute at Miami Jewish Health. Not only do their values and interests align with our mission, but their continued support and investment allow us to continue to innovate. With their help, our team has been able to be at the forefront of everything that we do. Our partnership with the Foundation has enabled us to develop a model of care that's open to the entire community and provide concierge-level service to everyone who needs it."



# 2021 Impact

The Foundation partnered with the **Greater Jacksonville Area USO** in April, donating \$10,000 to further the organization's mission to provide the men and women of the U.S. military with support as they defend our country and freedoms.

"The support from the Finker-Frenkel Foundation and others is crucial to the future of our organization," said Mike O'Brien, Executive Director of the Greater Jacksonville Area USO. "A lot of people assume the USO is funded by the government, but we're not! We are an independent nonprofit organization that's totally dependent on the generosity of donors like the Finker-Frenkels. We are so thankful to them and everyone else who helps us carry out this great, honorable mission every day."

In May, the Foundation made a contribution to the **Lancet Commission on Gender-based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People**, an initiative from the **University of Miami's Institute for the Advanced Study of the Americas**, which brings together an assortment of experts across many fields to undertake groundbreaking research on the global pandemic of violence against women and children.

The Commission takes an intersectional, interdisciplinary approach toward identifying and implementing solutions to reduce the global impact of this critical under-researched scourge.

As a sponsor of the Commission's mission, the Foundation is helping to support essential research that will contribute to positive change, with the goal of creating a safer and more peaceful, equitable, and prosperous world.

In July, after the devastating collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium building, the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation hosted a luncheon for the many **Bal Harbour police officers** who volunteered to help their colleagues in Surfside in the wake of the tragedy.

To thank the Bal Harbour officers for their hard work during this difficult time, the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation provided a hot lunch for on-duty Bal Harbour officers, who were working to help mitigate this heartbreaking situation on behalf of their community.

In October, Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation Director Eugene Frenkel spoke at a groundbreaking ceremony for **the Finker-Frenkel Wish House**, a new five-story, 30,000-square-foot building in Miami's Overtown neighborhood that will act as a permanent home for **Make-A-Wish Southern Florida** and the critically ill children and families it serves.

The Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation is the lead donor for the Finker-Frenkel Wish House, which will provide children in need with an inspirational, fun, and safe destination where they can experience their life-changing wishes with their families.

# 2021 Impact

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation has extended to us over the years," said Norm Wedderburn, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish Southern Florida. "This would not have been possible without their support, and we are so excited about the many new ways in which the Finker-Frenkel Wish House will serve the Overtown community in the years to come."

Since 2019, the Foundation has been a proud supporter of the **Chabad Russian Center of South Florida**, which provides Miami's Russian-Jewish community with everything from Hebrew classes to women's groups.

The Center is currently in the process of building a new Sunny Isles Beach Jewish Community Center, which is set to be a state-of-the-art facility for the vibrant and growing group of young professionals, families, children, residents, and new transplants who rely on the Chabad Russian Center for community and cultural alliance.

"We are growing quickly with the continuous and generous help of partners like the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation," said Rabbi Alexander Kaller. "We are incredibly grateful for the Foundation's ongoing support, and excited to see what the future holds for our whole community."

We rounded off the year with an exciting new partnership with: **The Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital (JDCH)**. One of the nation's leading pediatric facilities, JDCH features innovative facilities designed to meet the specific medical and emotional needs of children and their families.

In late 2021, the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation was proud to make a substantial donation to the hospital to help fund its 8th floor expansion, which will include the nation's newest **Garth Brooks Teammates for Kids** Child Life Zone. The Child Life Zone will provide patients at the hospital with interactive areas for therapeutic play and relaxation.

"We are so grateful to the Finker-Frenkel Family Foundation for their generosity in making this possible," said Shannon Bajwa, who has served as a JDCH Child Life Specialist for the past 14 years. "Their donation has enabled us to enhance the full potential and programming of the new space, which will impact so many lives in the future. Children always remember the happiest moments and the people who uplift them, and when they're in the hospital, the people who make those moments possible are the Child Life Specialists. Words cannot describe how thankful we are to the Foundation for this gift."



While it's been a difficult two years, we are incredibly grateful to be supporting so many incredible organizations here and abroad. The work our partners do every day is essential to the future of our world. 2022 will be brighter thanks to their passion, strength, and drive.



*Future home of the  
Finker-Frenkel Wish House*

We thank you for your continued support in 2022.

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