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# TOUR TO THE WONDERFUL IN THE NEWS

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Kaylee Rush Snyder Texas March 15, 2021

## The Snyder New

Connecticut couple donating to United Way around the country — including here

*A Connecticut couple has started a program to donate to every United Way branch in the United States, including the Scurry County United Way.*

*Rabbi Jeff Glickman and his wife, Hebrew instructor Mindy Glickman, spent the month of January touring the United States trying to better*

*understand and support the distinct needs of local communities, while meeting heroes of everyday life. After returning home, they began Phase II of their Tour to the Wonderful, Give Locally Everywhere (GLeE).*

*“Sometimes you don’t know that something is Phase I until Phase II happens. They might not be one after the other — they’re simultaneously happening,” Mindy Glickman said. “Phase I was the physical road trip, which was really not about the wheels on the bus going ‘round and ‘round, but the people that we met. Phase II is the giving part, that we actually are giving money now, making things happen and sharing that we’re doing that in the hopes of inspiring people to reassess how they give and how to expand their own circles of awareness.”*

*Jeff Glickman said that he and his wife felt called to help people through their loneliness in a time when they may not be able to meet others due to COVID-19.*

*“The pandemic taught us that things that happen very far away affect us in whatever town we live in and the barriers between states is really mostly an illusion because we’re all in this together. What unites us is so much more than what divides us, but that’s not what people feel. So we thought, ‘what can we do about this?’” he said. “There’s an epidemic of isolation and loneliness affecting all of us. When God says, ‘help the stranger,’ He doesn’t say where that stranger lives. So what would happen if instead of helping just the stranger in my community, we went to different places? What if instead of giving a big donation to the United Way of Hartford, Conn., we gave to every single United Way in the United States? One thing led to another, and we thought, ‘why not visit everybody and find a way to do it where we don’t have to go into any buildings at all?’”*

*As the couple traveled the country in a van for a month, they did not go into any buildings.*

*“There’s a Yiddish expression that says that when there’s love in a house, you can sleep on the edge of a sword, but when there’s no love, no bed is big enough. So we put that to the test,” Jeff laughed.*

*The Glickmans still wanted to meet people and learn about the communities they visited, so they simply met people outside.*

*“Just by calling someone and saying, ‘Hey can we park in your driveway?’ it made them feel less lonely. They came out at night and met us or we might have had a cup of coffee in the morning. It wasn’t a big visit, but it was a thank-you for their hospitality,” Mindy said.*

*Although they are now back in their home in South Windsor, Conn., the Glickmans continue to meet new people through their donations of \$100 to every United Way across the country. Jeff said that he and his wife firmly believe that giving is good for the recipient and for them as donors as well. When they give remotely, there is the added benefit that the recipient knows that their cries resonate far and that they matter on a grand scale.*

*Jeff said that with each donation came an invitation to reach out and contact them, and Scurry County United Way Executive Director Sheila Hale did. After visiting with Hale and learning more about United Way’s*



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*work in the county, the Glickmans were inspired to donate another \$5,000 here.*

*The Glickmans were inspired to begin donating by the Jewish pillar of tsedaka.*

*“Tsedaka translates as charity, but I think charity misses the mark. Charity has to do with feelings. You give because you’re moved to give. Tsedaka isn’t that. Tsedaka is doing it because it’s your responsibility. It’s what it means to be a citizen. You do it because it’s the just thing to do to reach out to the needy. One of our teachings say that the beggar that comes to your door does more for you than you do for the beggar,” Jeff said. “You’re not giving just because you’re going to feed somebody, you’re giving because if you don’t, you become less of the person that you’re intended to be. I want people to be the best that they can be.*

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