

## Sandra and Leon Levine Give \$1 Million to Relief Effort

### Major Fund Announced to Support Neighbors in Crisis

Sandra and Leon Levine have spearheaded a local philanthropic response to the economic crisis. After discussing the negative impact of the current economic downturn on individuals and families who find themselves in dire circumstances, the Board of The Leon Levine Foundation recognized that a greater demand for assistance would place additional hardships on our overburdened human service agencies. The Board felt it important to make a special grant award, separate from its annual grant-making program in June of each year, for immediate emergency relief efforts to assist individuals in need. After approval of the concept and the total grant size, the Levines contacted Foundation For The Carolinas in an attempt to expand the impact of the program through



Leon and Sandra Levine

to raise and distribute funds for the purpose of aiding residents of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County who face dire circumstances due to the global economic crisis. The gift by Sandra and Leon Levine is the first contribution to the Critical Need Response Fund. One hundred percent of the money contributed to the fund will be available for grants; no administrative fees will be paid to any of the participating agencies.

In order to alleviate human suffering in the most effective and efficient manner, grants will be awarded by the task force from the newly established Critical Need Response Fund held at Foundation For The Carolinas. Funding will be provided through the winter months to the local nonprofit service providers most capable of addressing well-documented increases in case work owing to the economic crisis. Specifically, the grants will be designated to shelter, feed, clothe and keep warm those in need.

Task force members have made a four-month commitment to guide the fund. The task force is co-chaired by Amy Woods Brinkley, Bank of America Global Risk Executive, and Harry Jones, Mecklenburg County Manager.

The Critical Need Response Fund is an emergency relief program designed to address immediate needs and is not intended to supplement our community's annual United Way campaign. We are asking citizens, corporations and foundations to support their neighbors in crisis with contributions to the fund by giving above and beyond traditional giving patterns. Sandra and Leon Levine have set the example by making this significant gift above and beyond their annual support of the United Way. Several agencies have already benefitted from the new fund, among them Jewish Family Services, which received \$50,000 to help those in need get through this winter with food from the pantry or help on paying utilities or mortgages, as well as other needs.

According to Sandra Levine, "This is a chance for every member of our community to give a little more in order to help out a lot more. How can you not reach out and help your neighbor in need?"

Gifts can be made to the Critical Need Response Fund in one of three easy ways:

\* Online – [www.fft.org](http://www.fft.org)

\* Mail – Foundation For The Carolinas, Critical Need Response Fund, 217 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 (make checks payable to Foundation For The Carolinas. Write Critical Need Response Fund in the memo line)

\* Phone – 704-973-4588 ✦

collaboration. Foundation For The Carolinas was in the process of creating a Critical Need Response Fund and the partnership was very timely. Through their foundation, Sandra and Leon Levine have supported the partnership with an extraordinary gift in the amount of \$1 million.

The Critical Need Response Fund is a partnership program of The Leon Levine Foundation, Mecklenburg Ministries, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Central Carolinas and Foundation For The Carolinas. The effort will be led by a task force of citizen volunteer leaders who have come together

**"The Levines embody Jewish values of tzedakah and tikkun olam -- of righteousness and healing our world. It is incumbent upon all of us in these difficult times to follow their lead and do what we can to make sure that everyone has the basics they require. The Critical Need Response Fund will ensure that our community is supported in its effort to find food, shelter and fundamental necessities."**

*- Rabbi Judy Schindler, Temple Beth El, Critical Need Response Fund Task Force*

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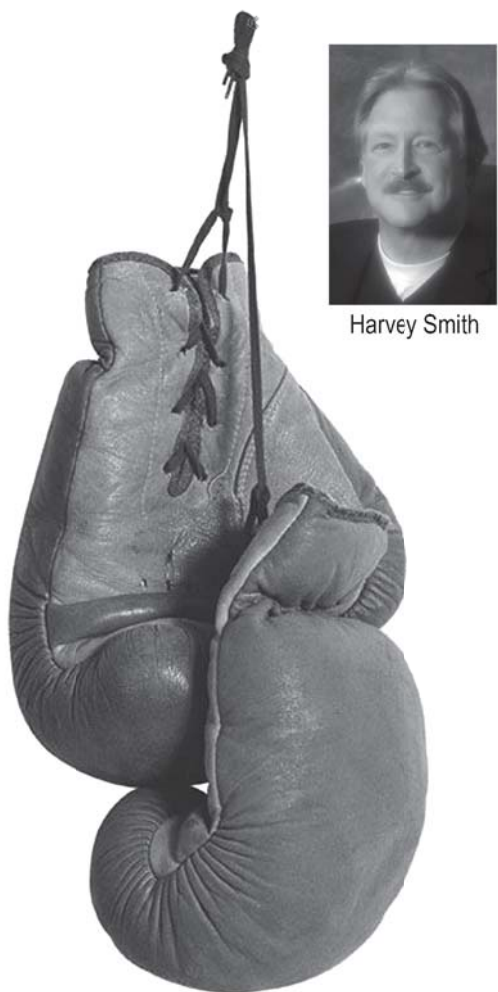
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