

Thank you, Sue Ann, for joining us today and for your inspirational words. Good luck in your endeavors as President of the AMA Alliance.

These are crazy times, am I right? Seven months since I've sat at a table in a restaurant for lunch with my girlfriends. I finally saw my grandchildren last month, having not seen them in person since just after my grandson was born in March. My dad, locked down in his independent living apartment and unable to accept visitors, finally was allowed to come to my home for Rosh Hashanah lunch a few weeks ago. So much distance between us, anxiety, and loneliness.

And, yet, I consider myself one of the lucky ones. My husband didn't lose a job, nor did my children. We don't have to worry about putting food on the table, or keeping our health insurance, or paying our mortgage.

However, It is in times like this: natural disasters, pandemics included, that we, as the Florida Medical Association Alliance, Florida Medical Alliance Foundation, and our affiliate county alliances and foundations, have the opportunity to do the most good in our communities.

Case in point is the Ariel Goldman Memorial Fund Grant, made possible through the Florida Medical Alliance Foundation, to "Kids Helping Kids Pasco County, Inc." Our Grant, along with funding they received from other sources, allowed them to provide meals to children in their community during the Covid-19 school closure. I quote from the report received from Nancy Patel, Founder of Kids Helping Kids Pasco County, Inc.: " The receipt of the Ariel Goldman Memorial Fund Grant was necessary in our ability to continue our project for a total of 21 weeks. KHK was able to provide more than 27,800 healthy meals to children in need during the pandemic. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting our cause. The families we supported are incredibly grateful for your involvement in making our COVID-19 School Closure Food Drive an enormous success."(end quote) Additional information on Kids Helping Kids Pasco County, Inc, including photos from their project, may be found in the FMA Foundation Handbook beginning on page 9.

In addition to assistance provided to community projects, we also are able to help our members who may need financial support during, or in the aftermath of, natural disasters through the FMA Foundation supported Disaster Relief Fund. The purpose of the Disaster Relief Fund is to provide financial assistance to individuals or community health based non-profit organizations after a natural or man-made disaster. Just a few years ago a Disaster Relief Grant was given to a member who sustained significant damage to her home after a major hurricane. Without the grant she would have been displaced.

In addition to the designated funds supporting the grants offered through our Foundation I would like to bring to your attention additional ways we can help in our communities. I have made available, on our website, donation request forms utilizing the undesignated funds in our Foundation. The forms may also be found in eBinder 4 pages 6 and 7. Through your generous donations, when registering for this annual meeting, we have added \$2025 to our coffers. A list of donors as of October 14, 2020 may be found in eBinder 4. A primary goal over the next few months is to have members identify organizations and projects in their communities that could benefit from support by our Foundation. The mission statement of the Foundation reads: *The Florida Medical Alliance Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that works to advance medicine and public health by providing philanthropic support for health-related initiatives throughout the State of Florida.*

Let's do it. Please help me make this goal a reality. Think long and hard about projects or organizations in your community, perhaps ones you or your county alliance have supported in the past. Fill out and submit the donation request forms so the FMA Foundation Board can consider them for our support.

We may be stuck mostly at home, our activities, travel, and social functions curtailed, feeling a little helpless, but, by Focusing on our Foundation, and the good it can do in our communities, we can at least feel good about the good we can do.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. The newly installed Board of Directors is a mix of new faces and experienced members and I am excited to see what we can accomplish together. We look forward to receiving your donation request forms, and hearing about successful projects in your communities.