

Jewish Family Service Clinical Director Participates in COVID-19 Clinical Trial

By BARBARA DAB

Tucked away in a nondescript building on the Vanderbilt University campus, a team of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and research assistants are working on what they hope will be a successful vaccine for COVID-19. This vaccine, being developed by pharmaceutical research company Moderna, is currently in the clinical trial phase 3, with over 30,000 people participating nationally and 500 at Vanderbilt under the direction of Dr. Buddy Creech.

One participant in the Vanderbilt study is Jewish Family Service Clinical Director, Toni Jacobsen, who recently completed her two vaccine trial. During her final visit to the clinic, Toni spent about 90 minutes and interacted with over a half dozen people. The visit began with a check-in with the Nurse Practitioner Anna Gallion, who took



Vanderbilt Nurse Practitioner Anna Gallion conducts a pre-trial exam on COVID-19 trial participant Toni Jacobsen



Jewish Family Service Clinical Director, Toni Jacobsen, receives the second of two vaccines in the Vanderbilt/Moderna COVID-19 phase 3 clinical trial

Toni's vital signs, took a COVID-19 swab, and interviewed her about her recent health status. After a waiting period of about 20 minutes, Gallion left the room and another nurse entered to administer the vaccine. According to Anna Gallion, the study is what is called, "observer-blind," meaning the process aims to minimize or eliminate bias or preferential treatment about which participant receives the vaccine and which receives a placebo. She says, "We follow each study subject's symptoms and it is important that we, as researchers and study staff, take each symptom as if it were covid-19 so we can track the efficacy of this vaccine. For example, if I knew that a patient received the vaccine, I might feel that his/her symptoms are related to a different disease or virus. It helps eliminate the bias." This means that neither the nurse administering Toni's trial nor

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New Report Showcases Positive Impact of Federation on the Jewish Community of Nashville and Beyond

By BARBARA DAB and ELLIE FLIER

Effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect Nashville's Jewish community and to create challenges for most segments of the population. The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee reports in a typical year, it provides services to more than 11,000 people and provides over \$2 million in funding through direct grants. Although this year started out as most, the devastation from the tornado in early March, followed closely by the pandemic, has resulted in additional needs for assistance. According to Pam Kelner, Executive Director of Jewish Family Service, 24 people received aid from the Tornado Relief Fund in the amount of over \$17,000, and over \$6,000 in COVID-19 relief was distributed to

help families with basic needs such as rent and utilities. Additionally, school supplies that are typically donated by volunteers and distributed by JFS, were provided using COVID-19 Emergency Response Funds.

While the numbers highlight the ongoing need in the Jewish community, leaders at the Jewish Federation wanted to also illustrate the impact of the services provided in a personal way. As the 2021 campaign gears up, a new Impact Report is being rolled out. It combines elements from this year's Annual Report and a case for giving for the year ahead to give donors a clear understanding of the positive results of Federation-funded programming.

The report is completely digital and Federation CEO Eric Stillman explained, "The Impact Report is an online experi-

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A Sense of Belonging - The "Why"

By ARON KARABEL

My father, Jacob Karabel, was born in Atlanta, raised in Philadelphia, and lived part of his childhood with my grandfather in Philly and part of his childhood with my grandmother in Atlantic City. His humor was crude with a Philly flare and his laugh was contagious. He could talk to just about anyone about anything. Literally, even perfect strangers who needed to be lifted up and waiters and waitresses who were down on their luck. He also was the type of person who would engage in random acts of kindness by giving someone walking in the rain a lift, giving strangers the clothing off his own back, and assisting those involved in car accidents.

Though he died with shekels in his bank account, those conversations, acts of Mitzvot and general interest in others was his way of giving back. He

had this uncanny ability to make a connection and to make others feel like they belong. He always said that everyone - no matter background, ethnicity, physical impairment - should feel as though they belong to something.

The feeling of belonging is extremely powerful - it is literally what drives people and strengthens communities. I believe this year we, as a community, need to fight for that feeling. We need to find a way to make everyone feel as though they belong - to expand the tent however and wherever we can.

So how do we do that in this year's annual campaign? In a word, "Impact." We need to make an impact on people who have been ravaged by the Pandemic, people who want to feel safe and secure when entering schools, synagogues and community centers, people who rely on, and are supported

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