

September 24, 2004

Honorable Jose L. Linares
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Federal Building & Courthouse
50 Walnut Street
Newark, NJ 07101

RE: UNITED STATES v. CHARLES KUSHNER
CR 04-580 (JLL)

Dear Your Honor:

This letter is both easy and difficult for me to write. Easy, because Mr. Charles Kushner is such a noteworthy and special person who constantly does so much good. Difficult, because I have been witness to so many of his charitable acts that it is challenging to summarize them in a letter.

I would like to ask the court to take into account Mr. Kushner's countless contributions to the general community when considering his sentence. He has been more than benevolent with his time, effort and money in helping many, many individuals and organizations. Mr. Kushner's presence in the community is a blessing as he is always thinking of how he can help other people and how he can make the world a better place.

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum, Executive Director of the Living Legacy and Friendship Circle. The Living Legacy is a series of educational programs that are presented at schools throughout northern New Jersey, with more than 24,000 children participating annually in our programs. The Friendship Circle assists 190 families who have children with special needs and with the help of over 500 teen volunteers; we provide respite and social programming for the children and their families.

Mr. Kushner has always been very supportive of our efforts and always eager to assist in any way possible. He has always made himself accessible to us no matter how pressing his personal or business matters might be. The best way to sum up his kindness is as he once told me, that when he is approached by a person or an organization in need he spells "no" - "y-e-s" and he would help them in any way possible.

On numerous occasions I have called upon him with requests either for our organization or to help individuals in a time of need and not once was I denied or given a reason why he could not help. Each and every time not only did he have the courtesy of telling me that he would try to help, but each time he actually came through.

Living
Legacy 
Celebrating our Heritage

Holiday Series

Shofar Factory
Sukkot Seminar
Olive Press
Multimedia Megillah
Matzah Bakery
Torah Factory

Judaica Series

Havdallah
Tefillin Maker
Tallit Seminar
The Mezuzah
Mikvah Tour
Kosher: G-d's Diet

Family Dynamics

Chanukah Wonderland
Passover Experience
Jewish Birthday Club
Judaism@Home

Friendship Circle

Friends at Home
Children's Circle
Holiday Programs
Winter Camp
Volunteer Club

Rabbinical College
of America
67 N. Ashby Avenue
Livingston
New Jersey
07039

Telephone
(973) 597-0618
Facsimile
(973) 597-0675

Website
www.NJewish.com
E-Mail
Legacy@NJJewish.com

Rabbi
Zalman Grossbaum
Director

What is especially unique about Mr. Kushner is the fact that his involvement in helping other people does not end by his writing a check. He will always get personally involved, even in the small details, to make sure that the problem is fully solved or to see the project through to its conclusion.

I would like to point out just a few of the many stories that I am familiar with. When one of our teen volunteers was in a debilitating accident and according to her insurance carrier, was not showing sufficient progress from intense therapy. The insurance company wanted to transfer her to a senior convalescent home. Mr. Kushner made numerous calls until a (previously unavailable) bed was opened for her in the children's hospital long-term care facility.

When a family that we service through the Friendship Circle was looking to get their child with special needs into an area overnight camp that specializes in this field (but has a waiting list of two years), Mr. Kushner helped make their summer plans possible. This happened with a number of families.

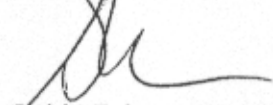
When a man in our community tragically lost his wife to a long battle with cancer, Mr. Kushner quietly helped him pay his mortgage and other bills while he struggled in and out of jobs. When a woman in our community got divorced and needed a job to sustain her family, Mr. Kushner gave her a dignified position with a generous salary (although she had been out of work for a number of years while raising her children).

When our organization was looking at a property for use as offices and programming, I contacted Mr. Kushner for his advice on a particular location. In a classical Mr. Kushner way, his response was that we should not spend the money on the property, but rather, he would give us as much office space as we need – free of charge – and that the money would be better spent on the people that we help. We have since moved into the Kushner Companies building and have been given "red carpet" treatment with full access to all the facilities and support staff. This has been a very significant savings for our organization and has allowed us to add more programs and services for the children and families.

I could go on and on, but suffice it to say, that everyone knows that when they find themselves in a difficult situation Mr. Kushner is the person to call on to get the help they need. Any leniency would not only take into account all of his kind deeds, but will also allow him to continue helping many more people and community organizations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,



Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum
Executive Director