



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FERD & GLADYS ALPERT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE MARKS 25 YEARS PROVIDING SERVICES TO HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – February 24, 2020 – A quarter-century ago, with a grant of approximately \$1 million awarded in Palm Beach County, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS), as lead agency, and Jewish Family Service organizations in Boca Raton, Broward, and Dade counties began to seek out Holocaust survivors to address their distinctive social welfare, health care, and emotional needs. To this end, a small article in a Sunday edition of *The Miami Herald* announced the grant award and, by Wednesday more than 300 phone calls had been received, with Eva Weiss, Alpert JFS Holocaust Care Manager starting to develop relationships that would last for lifetimes.

Today, the Alpert JFS Holocaust Survivors Assistance program grant has been extended to \$6.1 million from The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and the program has a team of seven committed members, diligently working to assist survivors to help them live independently at home for as long as possible, affording them much-deserved dignity. Approximately 300 clients are served annually, provided with assistance navigating the reparations benefit process, case management and care coordination, counseling and support groups, companionship and transportation, and respite care.

“Eat & Schmooze,” an engaging and entertaining socialization program held twice a month draws an average of 50 attendees to each event, while Alpert JFS’ annual Café Europa, modeled on the informal get-togethers that arose in Europe during the post-World War II era, typically has more than 200 attendees, including survivors, staff and volunteers. The Agency has added a quarterly Russian-centric event to its calendar, as well, as an increasing number of Russians living under Stalin have been identified.

At a recent gathering of Russian survivors at Alpert JFS, more than 35 people enjoyed the harmonization of caregivers from Amicable Home Health Care, a member of the group spoke with the support of his peers, and attendees enjoyed snacks and soft drinks. The event honored Lucy Gorbatova, the owner and president of Amicable Home Health Care, and her staff with a Certificate of Recognition for their volunteerism. The social programs are met with high praise from those it serves.

As a client wrote Weiss, “All the people were delighted to meet together and salute you and your colleagues who work so hard to please us and are there for us whenever we need to open up to you. Thank you very much from my heart; I do appreciate your kindness, your smiles, your friendship and assistance. The meetings are such a good idea for all of us!”

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Additionally, an educational component of the program allows survivors to share their story to schoolchildren at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and the HonoringLife™ program facilitated by Alpert JFS provides cultural competency training for those whose professions touch the lives of survivors: health care and legal professionals, for example.

Established in 1974, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS) is a nationally accredited service provider for children, adults, seniors, and Holocaust survivors. The non-profit, non-sectarian organization is a trusted leader, with a team of more than 175 highly skilled professionals delivering high-quality care to community members. Alpert JFS works to ensure the well-being of children and families, independence of older adults, and quality of life for individuals with disabilities. For more information, visit www.AlpertJFS.org or phone 561-684-1991.

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