



**Press Release
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FERD & GLADYS ALPERT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OBSERVES *YOM HASHOAH* (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY)

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – April 27, 2020 – A pandemic could not prevent Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS) from participating in *Yom Hashoah*, the day of commemoration paying homage to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and the heroism of the Jewish resistance of that period. This year’s ceremony took place online.

Alpert JFS Holocaust Care Manager Eva Weiss, who was born in Eastern Europe to parents who survived the Holocaust, led the organization’s tribute. “I have probably been doing *Yom Hashoah* presentations for the past 20 years, and this one was decidedly different, with COVID-19 affecting how we teach, feel, talk, and learn,” said Weiss. “It has never been more important for tradition, continuity, connection and familiarity with things that are meaningful. While we are apart, we can remember together-- for the survivors, for ourselves, and for future generations. Perhaps the universe is telling us to share and care for others, and presenting us with a renewed potential to make history relevant. We need only to look to our survivors for inspiration and hope, remembering what we have, and what we have endured as a people.”

Today, nearly 900 Holocaust survivors in Palm Beach County are receiving assistance through a myriad of services provided by Alpert JFS and Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services, thanks to a combined total of \$14 million in funding from The Conference on Jewish Material Claim Against Germany (Claims Conference). The funding is used to provide comprehensive services, including care coordination and management, in-home care, companionship and transportation, socialization programs, medical and dental care, food, home repairs, and emergency financial assistance.

The Alpert JFS Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program has seven full-time employees working to preserve the dignity of Holocaust survivors, identifying and addressing their distinct social welfare, health care, and emotional needs with the utmost sensitivity. The team helps them navigate the Reparations Benefit Process, and provides “Eat & Schmooze”, “Café Europa”, and Russian-centric events for local residents who lived under Stalin. The HonoringLife™ program facilitated by Alpert JFS provides cultural competency training for healthcare and legal professionals, as well as others who may encounter Holocaust survivors on a business level.

“We are honored to be one of the local Jewish Family Service agencies that the Claims Conference entrusts with easing the lives of Holocaust survivors,” said Alpert JFS CEO Marc Hopin. “I am proud to say that we were instrumental in finding the Holocaust survivors in our midst 25 years ago, to provide complete coverage for all of their needs. We have always been there for Holocaust survivors, and always will be.”

For more information about Alpert JFS’ Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program, visit www.AlpertJFS.org/for-seniors-holocaust-survivors-assistance/.

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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