



## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WHO IS CARING FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL — June 4, 2020** — COVID-19 has impacted many thousands throughout Palm Beach County. Holocaust Survivors in the region are no exception.

Alpert Jewish Family Service of Palm Beach County (Alpert JFS) in West Palm Beach, in partnership with Norman & Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services (Rales JFS) in Boca Raton and Delray Beach, have been ardently serving Holocaust Survivors for the past 25 years with a wide array of services, from meal delivery and companionship to counseling and support groups, transportation, respite care, psychiatry, in-home care and more. Combined, the two agencies provide over 600,000 hours of in-home care and, today, have been helping nearly 900 Survivors in the county.

Holocaust Survivor Max Markovitz said, “As my wife and I continue to recuperate from the COVID-19 virus we are grateful for the emotional and practical support we have received. The JFS Holocaust program is doing more than its duty to meet the needs of Survivors in our community. Some people talk about the Holocaust and helping Survivors, but the team at JFS is really doing it. JFS is doing a great job not just in meeting Survivors' physical needs, but also offering emotional support.”



Max Markovitz, Holocaust Survivor

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President & CEO of Rales JFS Danielle N. Hartman, MNM, and Alpert JFS CEO Marc Hopin said, "We want the public to know that our organizations are here to support the Holocaust Survivors living throughout Palm Beach County, so if anyone knows of Survivors who could benefit from the services we are providing, please contact us. The fact that the Claims Conference, the one organization tasked with distributing hundreds of millions of dollars annually from Germany to Holocaust victims around the world, has entrusted our two organizations to provide support for the Holocaust Survivors in our region speaks volumes to our outreach efforts and the quality of services we are providing to the greatest number of Survivors here."

Eva Weiss, Eds., Alpert JFS Holocaust Care Manager, said, "At all times, the team at JFS tries to meet the needs of our local Survivors to aid them in maintaining independence and staying well. During the troubled time of the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission of being there to help during challenging times in people's lives becomes even more essential. It may be in different ways — like delivering gloves or making sure that an elderly survivor hears a friendly voice and gets a hot meal — but we are here for our clients."

Though private donations have been a tremendous boost to their efforts, the largest funding organization has been the Claims Conference (The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany), which has provided more than \$14 million towards this work by the Alpert and Rales JFS organizations. The Claims Conference funding is used to help subsidize comprehensive services, which include care coordination and management, meals, socialization programs, medical and dental care, home repairs, and emergency financial assistance. This is, by far, the largest coordinated assistance effort for Holocaust Survivors in South Florida.

"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 Hopin. "I am proud to say that we were instrumental in finding the Holocaust Survivors in our midst 25 years ago, to provide them with care and support for their daily living needs. We have always been there for Holocaust Survivors, and always will be."

The Alpert JFS Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program has seven full-time employees working to preserve the dignity of Holocaust Survivors, 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 monthly, quarterly and annual socialization events. The HonoringLife™ program provides cultural competency training for healthcare and legal professionals, as well as others in the community who may encounter Holocaust Survivors.

Hartman said, "Our Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program helps provide for the needs of Holocaust Survivors through personalized case management and care coordination. Our staff assists with facilitating socialization programs, transportation services and other vital services necessary to maintain a safe home environment. Rales JFS has assisted hundreds of elderly Survivors in our community with Holocaust reparations and obtaining subsidized home health care, cleaning services and emergency grants through Claims Conference Funds."

For more information on The Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program call Alpert JFS at (561) 684-1991 or Rales JFS at (561) 852-3333.

To learn how you can donate to support The Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program and be a lifeline to friends, family members, colleagues, and others in the community of the Greater Palm Beaches, visit <https://www.alpertjfs.org> or <https://www.ralesjfs.org>.

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Marc Hopin, CEO, Alpert Jewish Family Service



Danielle N. Hartman, MNM, President & CEO, Rales Jewish Family Services

### **About Alpert Jewish Family Service of Palm Beach County**

Established in 1974, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service 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 200 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](http://www.AlpertJFS.org) or phone 561-684-1991.

### **About Rales Jewish Family Services of Boca Raton and Delray Beach**

Since 1979, Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (JFS) has offered help, hope and humanity through our comprehensive range of programs and services which support people of all ages and beliefs. With locations in Boca Raton and Delray Beach, JFS programs and services include food & financial assistance, senior services, counseling & mental health services, career & employment services, family & children's services and many volunteer opportunities. Funding is provided by individuals, corporations, grants, special events and donors who support our mission and bring hope to thousands in need. For more information, visit [www.RalesJFS.org](http://www.RalesJFS.org) or phone 561-852-3333.

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