



**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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TRADITIONAL ROSH HASHANAH MEALS DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NEED

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – September 22, 2020 – Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service worked to distribute Rosh Hashanah meals to those in need throughout Palm Beach County, through a coordinated effort with the Jewish Volunteer Center of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, and The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach, as well as its annual Kosher Food Pantry’s distribution of Rosh Hashanah holiday food baskets.

The three non-profits teamed up with more than 150 volunteers packaging meals, greeting and welcoming drivers, loading meals into cars, and making contactless deliveries. A total 230 holiday meals from The Kind Kitchen were delivered to 173 households in Boynton Beach, Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens, Royal Palm Beach, Wellington, and West Palm Beach.

“What a mitzvah it was to usher in the new year by providing a bountiful, home-cooked meal for adults and families for Rosh Hashanah,” said Alpert JFS Director of Volunteer Leadership Belinda Lasky. “We are grateful to the large number of volunteers who offered their time to prepare the packages and deliver them to households in need throughout our community.”

“It is always fulfilling to know that the work we do in the community brings joy to the volunteers and the recipients we serve,” said Melissa Hudson, Director, Jewish Volunteer Center, Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. “The outpouring of volunteer support we received to deliver meals to homebound members of the community is a hopeful reminder that there is good and kindness the world.”

“It was really heartwarming to see everyone’s support for the community-wide Rosh Hashanah meal distribution. The overwhelming response, both physically and financially, was tremendous,” said Chana Ezagui, who runs The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach. “The desire to help others, especially during difficult times, is incredible, showing me that every person is filled with good deeds, like the seeds of a pomegranate, which is a traditional holiday food. G-d surely sees and will bless everyone for a sweet and healthy New Year.”

Alpert JFS’ Kosher Food Pantry provided Rosh Hashanah holiday baskets to 35 families under age 65, consisting of 85 individuals. A frozen kosher turkey for those able to cook their own meals, gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, carrots, potatoes, string beans, honey cake, honey and apples were in the baskets, that were picked up at the agency’s West Palm Beach and Lake Worth offices. Alpert JFS case managers and volunteers, following established safety protocols, made deliveries to recipients unable to drive. The

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Rosh Hashanah Meal Deliveries Page Two

baskets were assembled and decorated by residents of the agency's Melvin J. & Claire Levine Jewish Residential & Family Service (Levine JRFS) group homes and apartments.

Clients receiving Rosh Hashanah baskets from the Alpert JFS Kosher Food Pantry were very appreciative. As Olivia Tartakow, Alpert JFS Director of Community Directions, shared, "As a client received her basket, tears in her eyes, she said, 'You don't know how much this means to me and my family. Without this, we wouldn't have been able to have our family Rosh Hashanah meal. Thank you so much.'"

The Jewish Volunteer Center of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County works to identify, cultivate, and develop a network of people and opportunities that connects the Jewish community with meaningful volunteer experiences.

The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach is located at 844 Prosperity Farms Road in North Palm Beach. The 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to doing kindness, provides weekly kosher meals to those in need, from the elderly to single mothers, and people with terminal illness. Menus rotate each week so established clients have variety.

The Alpert JFS Kosher Food Pantry provides provisions for people in need throughout the year, and provides holiday food baskets three times a year: Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Thanksgiving.

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 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/ or phone 561-684-1991.

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