

## Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THANKSGIVING MEALS FROM ALPERT JFS' KOSHER FOOD PANTRY AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KIND KITCHEN OF PALM BEACH BRING HOLIDAY WARMTH TO LOCAL RESIDENTS

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL – December 1, 2020** – The Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS) Kosher Food Pantry provided Thanksgiving holiday baskets, assembled and decorated by residents of the agency's Melvin J. & Claire Levine Jewish Residential & Family Service (Levine JRFS) group homes and apartments, for clients on November 18, 2020. Alpert JFS and The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach teamed up for another round of traditional holiday meal delivery for seniors and Holocaust survivors on November 25, 2020, delivered by 25 volunteers from both 501(c)(3) organizations. Pick-ups and deliveries were contact-free.

The baskets from the Kosher Food Pantry were provided to 64 households, consisting of 129 individuals. They featured ingredients for recipients to cook their meals, including turkey, carrots, green beans, yams, cranberry sauce, applesauce, and apple pie. Ninety individuals enjoyed the traditional meal, courtesy of proceeds from the Turkey Trot road race organized by the Palm Beach United Way.

The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach prepared 340 home-cooked meals of turkey with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, apple-sweet potato casserole, cornbread, and pumpkin muffins for 140 households. The meals that reached the agency's Holocaust survivors were made possible through funding provided by KAVOD SHEF, an organization that partners with Jewish family services and other organizations that work with survivors, providing assistance with whatever emergency or day-to-day needs that they have.

"Last Wednesday was a busy and meaningful day, as Alpert JFS worked with The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach to deliver Thanksgiving meals to clients of both nonprofits," said Alpert JFS Director of Volunteer Leadership Belinda Lasky. "I delivered some meals and it was a meaningful experience that made my holiday extra-special."

"We often say in the Holocaust program that it takes a village to care for our Survivors," said Alpert JFS Long Term Care Director Jennifer Escobar. "We at JFS are grateful to have worked with KAVOD and The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach to help put hot Thanksgiving meals on the tables of our Survivors this year."

"It takes a combined effort to make holiday meals happen, particularly when the needs of community members are so great," said Chana Ezagui of The Kind Kitchen. "Volunteers making deliveries covered the entire county, and we received messages from grateful clients who had not had much contact with others for several months. It was a thankful Thanksgiving, indeed."

Thanksgiving Deliveries Page Two

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.

The Kind Kitchen of Palm Beach, located at 844 Prosperity Farms Road in North Palm Beach, provides weekly kosher meals to those in need, from the elderly to single mothers, and people with a terminal illness. Menus rotate each week so established clients have variety.

The mission of KAVOD is to provide emergency relief to Holocaust survivors in need, helping them live the remainder of their lives in comfort and with dignity. One hundred percent of all donations by KAVOD go to Survivors.

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 monthly, bi-monthly, and annual socialization activities for survivors. The HonoringLife<sup>™</sup> program facilitated by Alpert JFS provides cultural competency training for healthcare and legal professionals, as well as others who may encounter Holocaust survivors.

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 nearly 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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