



Press Release - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELIZABETH SMART HEADLINED FERD & GLADYS ALPERT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE'S 17th ANNUAL "NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE" VIRTUAL EVENT

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – February 18, 2021 – The Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS) "No Excuse for Abuse" event, an eagerly anticipated annual signature program of the agency, was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, with abduction survivor Elizabeth Smart the keynote speaker. In light of the pandemic, this year's 17th consecutive program was virtual. Ilene Goldstein, Diann Mann and Judith Rosenberg were event co-chairs for the third consecutive year. Barbara and Peter Sidel emceed the event, during which Susan Shulman Pertnoy interviewed Smart. There were a record-number of registrations for the event, and, from the livestream to the following day, Vimeo showed 1.8K page views for <https://vimeo.com/513449343>, available for watching.

The virtual evening was free to the community at-large, with Alpert JFS asking friends and neighbors to donate to its \$360,000 Campaign to fund the 2020-2021 Annual Campaign in connection with two online events: "No Excuse for Abuse" and the "Never Again" Holocaust Survivors Benefit, held in December. This fundraising goal was exceeded, and will be used to assist the most vulnerable members in the community, from Boynton Beach to Vero Beach.

"The 17th Annual No Excuse for abuse virtual evening presented us with the unprecedented opportunity of raising awareness of the uncomfortable topic of domestic abuse with people who may not have been able to attend our event in the past," said CEO Marc Hopin. "We adapted our signature event this year much like we have with all of the vital programs and services we provide, laser-focused on continuing to improve the lives of individuals and families facing challenges. In these dark times, Alpert JFS is a beacon of help and hope for those seeking human services."

Zelda Mason was the **Title Sponsor** of the event. **Platinum Sponsors** were Nancy and Joel Hart, Diann and Thomas Mann, Minto Foundation, Inc., and Judith and Jack Rosenberg. The **Silver Sponsors** were ComForCare Home Care, Jane and Arnold Lampert, Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith PLLC, and Barbara and Peter Sidel. **Bronze Sponsors** included Amicable Home Health Care, The Honorable Ann W. Brown, Sheila Engelstein, Steve and Marsha Funk, Linda and Raymond L. Golden, Mitchell I. Kitroser, PA, Marsh & McLennan Agency, Mutual of America Financial Group, Susan Shulman Pertnoy and Ron Pertnoy, and Plastridge Insurance. **Virtual Hosts** included Jim Baldinger, Linda Cortell Benjamin; Socki and Bruce Berg; Judy Bergman and Dr. Richard Budson, Karen and Ilan Berkner, Traci Pincourt Braun and Keith B. Braun, Jan and Dr. Robert Burke, Reed Catlett and John Stern, Jan Speer Fox and David Fox, Alan I. Goldberg, Ilene Goldstein and Greg Thorpe, Hope and Gary Hoffman, Vivienne Felberman Ivry (of blessed memory), Jane Karp, Jimmy Katz, Judith and Martin Knopf, Marjie and Dr. Sheldon Konigsberg, Karen Levy-Lutner and Dr. Lawrence Lutner, Vivian F. Lieberman, Jennifer and Michael Lourie, Robyn and Dale Rands, Linda and Harold Rosenson, Carolyn Gleimer Silbey and Franklin Silbey, Hope and Gene Silverman, Wendy and Justin Tulman, and Carolyn and Michael Yasuna. **Program Ambassadors** were Dena and Don Abrams, Susan Jackowitz Adelman and Dr. James Adelman, Meryl and Freddy Avni, John Bauman and Sherry Norris, Donna M. Baumzweig and David M. Ginsberg, Dara and Dr. Alan Berger, Alice K. Berglas, Karen and Ilan Berkner, Carole and Jerome Blumberg, Sandy Bobb, Edie and Ed Broida, Leslie and Ralph Brotter, Shelley and Joe Chartoff, Chaykin Law Group, Wendi and Barry Cohn, Sheryl and Dr. Tommy Davidoff, Barbara Deane, Nancy and Stephen Dephoure, Sharon and Neil Efron, Joyce and Charles Ezrine, Dr. Amy Feder and Dr. David Harris, Bonnie and Bruce Feinberg Family Foundation, Mickey and Charles Feldberg, Mindi and Adam Fetterman,

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Estelle Filhaber, Mindy and Ronnie Fishkind, Ellen and Ken Forrest, Ronnie Galina, Emily and Dr. Gerald Gardner, Joan Gelch and Morris Weintraub, Irene and Elliot Glanz, Esther and Dr. Stuart Glasser, Maxine Goldblum, Renee and Dr. Robert C. Gordon, Connie and Robert Greene, Bonnie and Martin Gregge, Sandra and Leonard Haiken, Mindy Hanken, Rhea Harris, Ellie Hart, Diane and Bob Herzog, Paula and Joseph J. Israel, Hedy and Arnold Kanarick, Rabbi Yaron Kapitulnik, Matthew and Ethan Kernkraut, Diane Kershenbaum, Michelle Kohn and Leslie R. Berghash, Jackie Kornfeld and Bill Blumberg, Iris and Tevie Kozak, Marie Adler Kravecas and Saul Kravecas, Susan Krell and Rob Wax, Barbara and Harvey Kroiz, Joyce Lampert, LCSW/All About You Counseling, Patti and Tony Lampert, Arlene Lazarus, Heather and Jason Lazarus, Sheri and Kenneth Levine, Ellen G. and Ben^z1 Levy, Marcia and Dr. Bruce Levy, Lauren and Gregory Liebman, Liggio Law, Karen and Marty List, Debbie and Cary Luskin, Maxine Marks, Elaine and Dr. Beno Michel, Marilyn and Jacob Mitzner, Sandra and Dr. Ralph Myrow, Ruth and David Naftaly, Tracy Nemerofsky, Shelley and Jeffrey Parker, Jody and Howard Passov, Joanne Warshaver Pinciss, Nedda and Larry Pollack, Lois and Phillip Proger, Patti Raber and Kenneth A. Max, Elaine Ravich, Lisa Rawe, Pam and Jeff Rembaum, Felice Cantor Rosen and Neal Rosen, Sandra and Marvin Rosen, Sharon Rosen and Dr. Al Komins, Neil Rosenblum, Susan Rothman, Stephanie Rozansky, REALTOR®/New Wave Realty, Karen and Bernie Rubenstein, Gale and Sandy Salz, Harriet I. Samuels, Ellyn L. Schaum, Cindy and Dr. Allan Schlossberg, Debbie and David Shapiro, Susie Sheftel and Howard Lapides, Phoebe and Sam Shochat, Carol Shubs, Judy and Dr. Alan Shuster, Marianne and Damon Sidel, Betty and Alan J. Siegel, Caron Siegel, Joan Siegel/Leonard M. & Esther D. Siegel Fund, Toni Sigalow, Denise Silverman, Julie Simons, Sydelle and Herb Sonkin, Ruth and Norman H. Stavisky, Estelle and Samuel Sylvetsky, Margie and Dr. Philip Torgan, Renee and Dan Tucker, Lorraine and Dennis Udwin, Marcia and Scott Weber, Linda Weiss, Diana and Howard Wendy, Kelley Whiter and Jonathan Beasley, Barbara and Michael Wildstein, David and Nancy Wolf, and Lois Zinman.

The abduction of Elizabeth Smart was one of the most followed child abduction cases of our time. During her nine months in captivity, she was controlled by her captors with threats against her and her family's lives if she tried to escape. Her powerful testimony, presented before her captors and the world, shared detail of the very private nightmare she endured, leading to their conviction. Since her traumatic experience, Smart has become an advocate for change, published author of the *New York Times* best-selling book, "My Story," and promoted The National AMBER Alert, and The Adam Walsh Child Protection & Safety Act, and other safety legislation to help prevent abductions.

At the event, Carol Shubs, co-chair of The KOLOT (Hebrew for "voices") Committee with Karen Berkner, announced the winners of the "No Excuse for Abuse Poster & Poetry Contest," with entries submitted by Jewish student artists and poets entered single submissions in any medium on the topics of bullying; teen dating abuse; healthy relationships; and emotional, verbal, or physical abuse. In the Kindergarten through Second Grade category, winners, who are all students at the Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Preparatory School (Meyer Prep) were Eva Fauci (first place), Joseph Strauss (second place), and Logan Wannos (third place), with honorable mentions awarded to Madison Witten and Eva Royer. In the Third through Fifth grade category, Sammie Charney and Sara Cumerma from Meyer Prep took first and second place, respectively, with Alec Sonne from Temple Beit HaYam in third place. Laura Friedman, who attends Meyer Prep, won the Middle School category for her poster, Aili DeLisi from Temple B'nai Jacob who attends the Alexander W. Dryfoos School of the Arts won for her poster in the High School category. The Poetry winner in the Elementary School category is Naomi Carmel, from Meyer Prep.

The Alpert JFS Domestic Abuse Program exists to help victims identify abuse, create a personalized safety plan, and provide direction to local and out-of-state domestic abuse resources. To learn more about the domestic abuse support services of Alpert JFS, visit alpertjfs.org/for-adults/domestic-abuse-support/. The agency has virtual support groups for "Women in High Conflict Relationships, held via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Participants in the group learn about abuse, power/control, how to identify red flags and unhealthy relationships, as well as the characteristics of an abuser, as well as how to set boundaries, increase self-esteem and practice self-care. A 10-week commitment is required of participants. Phone 561-684-1991 for more information.

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KOLOT (Hebrew for “voices”) is a coalition of representatives from Jewish and other community organizations, professionals, and volunteers. The group is on a mission to end abuse and encourage help seeking, through awareness and education, including accessible informational materials for victims, community education, and events.

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 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.

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