

Rales JFS and Alpert JFS Join National Effort to Raise Funds to Support 25,000 Holocaust Survivors Living in Poverty

Initiative by Seed the Dream Foundation, partners with local community organizations have provided \$20 million to support Holocaust survivors since 2019

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[/EINPresswire.com/](#) -- To mark Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, [Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services](#) and [Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Services](#) have

joined 40 community organizations across the country, partnering with national funders, organizations and stakeholders to raise money to support the 25,000 Holocaust survivors living in poverty in the United States.

“We are proud to participate in this meaningful initiative raising awareness and support for Holocaust Survivors,” said Danielle Hartman, CEO & President of Rales JFS. “Now more than ever, it is important that we continue to gather around this obligation to ensure their safety, security and survival in an increasingly difficult time.”

“Alpert JFS is honored to join community organizations across the country that are working to raise funds for this important cause,” said Marc Hopin, CEO of Alpert JFS. “Through the foundation, we are committing to ensure Holocaust survivors get the services they need and have the comforts they deserve.”

The Kavod Survivors of the Holocaust Emergency Fund (Kavod SHEF), which is a collaborative initiative spearheaded by Seed the Dream Foundation and KAVOD - Ensuring Dignity for Survivors, funds basic emergency needs, including rent, utilities, food, home care, transportation, and medical, dental and vision services. Since its launch in 2019, KAVOD SHEF has provided more than \$20 million to survivors across the United States.



Rales JFS



Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service



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Danielle Hartman, CEO & President of Rales JFS

“More than a third of the Holocaust survivors in this country are living in poverty, a situation only made worse by skyrocketing healthcare costs and the reality of an aging population,” said Marcy Gringlas, president of Seed the Dream Foundation, who is the daughter of Holocaust survivors. “Yom HaShoah is an annual reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust, the resilience of the Jewish people and our enduring obligation to support survivors in our communities today. But it can’t be our only reminder. As survivors age, we need to act quickly to ensure they are able to live their lives with the dignity they deserve.”

Participating community organizations, including Rales JFS

and Alpert JFS, raise money locally, which is then matched dollar for dollar by a national fundraising coalition that includes more than 20 philanthropists and foundations, including Sephardic Foundation on Aging, Jeffrey H. and Shari L. Aronson Family Foundation, Marcus Foundation, Shapira Foundation, Neubauer Family Foundation, and Paul E. Singer Foundation. All of the funds raised through Kavod SHEF go directly to survivors. In 2023, more than \$6 million will be allocated across the participating communities, including Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. A full list of the 2023 communities can be found online: <https://kavodensuringdignity.com/kavod-shef-initiative/>

“While we remember the atrocities faced by Holocaust survivors and shout ‘Never Again,’ too many survivors living here in the United States and in the world are living in poverty,” said Joel Greenberg, co-founder and board member of Seed the Dream Foundation. “Each day, dozens of survivors die, but the requests for support continue to climb as living survivors face the increasing healthcare challenges that come with aging. The costs they face are insurmountable, compounded by the failure of those countries responsible for the Holocaust to provide adequate funding. We must act quickly to respond to this silent crisis.”

In the first three months of 2023 alone, Kavod SHEF fielded approximately 3,200 requests for help, as compared to the first six months of the program when they received approximately 900 requests for emergency aid. With skyrocketing costs for healthcare in the United States and the financial reality of the aging population, emergency medical services have started making up a growing proportion of the aid granted through Kavod SHEF. The emergency homecare services funded through this initiative have increased by 300% over the past three years.

“The issue is not going away and is not dwindling! Our Survivors are getting older and are having bigger financial stresses,” says Amy Israel Pregulman, executive director and co-founder of KAVOD.

“We have a shared responsibility to ensure survivors are able to live the last years of their life

with dignity,” said Talia Kaplan, executive director, Seed the Dream Foundation. “By fostering partnerships between local communities and national organizations, funders and stakeholders, we are able to have a strong collective impact and work toward meeting these critical needs of Holocaust survivors.”

The Seed the Dream Foundation is a private grantmaking foundation focused on improving educational access, engagement, awareness and empowerment, including a special focus on Holocaust survivors. The foundation works to honor the lives and stories of those who were killed in the Holocaust and to ensure survivors are able to maintain their dignity in their later years.

About Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services

Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (JFS) provides help, hope and humanity through a 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 and financial assistance, senior services, career and employment services, counseling and mental health services, the family and children’s services, and many volunteer opportunities. Funding is provided by private and corporate support, grants, special events and individuals who help us reach thousands in need each year. For more information about JFS volunteer opportunities and services for seniors, contact 561-852-3333. Learn more at www.RalesJFS.org.

About Ferd & Gladys Alpert JFS

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 110 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 call via phone at 561-684-1991.

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