



Program Menu for the Atlanta Jewish Foundation

Caring for the Neediest Jewish Elderly in the former Soviet Union (FSU)

Elderly Jews in the FSU are the poorest Jews in the world. Nearly half are Holocaust survivors, who then spent much of their adult lives living with relentless discrimination under a communist regime and watching that regime dismantle Jewish communal institutions. While many still enjoyed professional success, they were unable to accumulate assets.

Today, these elderly Jews live on meager government pensions, as low as \$2 per day. This, in addition to a lack of government or municipal safety nets, leaves these impoverished elderly Jews to make a daily choice between food, medicine, and winter heat, because they cannot afford all three. Moreover, many elderly Jews are alone, as their children, nieces, and nephews have left the FSU for a better future. Elderly who are homebound and alone are literally unable to survive without the life-saving support provided by JDC, which includes food, medical care, homecare, winter relief, home repairs, and financial assistance in emergencies. These over 80,000 impoverished Jews have nowhere else to turn. Providing for their care is JDC's top priority.

Donor support of \$25,000 will cover basic needs (food, medicine, homecare) for 12 clients, for one year.

Active Jewish Teens Youth Network (AJT) and Youth Clubs (FSU)

Active Jewish Teens Network (AJT) and Youth Clubs are platforms for Jewish teens and young adults across the Former Soviet Union (FSU) to strengthen their Jewish identity and become actively involved in Jewish life.

AJT is a grassroots effort established in 2014 for youth from the age of 13-17. Today, AJT is represented in 63 cities in 7 different countries - Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, and Georgia, and has a strong partnership with BBYO. The number of AJT members has reached over 3,200 teens.

Youth Clubs, established in 2010 for the 18 and over age group, currently have over 1,100 active members in 51 locations.

The AJT Network and Youth Clubs offer an inclusive peer network across the FSU. These two tracks host a range of social and cultural activities, Shabbat and holiday celebrations, and emphasize a culture of volunteerism, inspiring Jewish teens to become more involved in communal life, take on leadership roles, and enable them to feel comfortable embracing their own Jewish identities. Through the AJT Network and Youth Clubs, program participants come together with their peers from across the region to discuss ideas and initiate projects for their local community. Involvement with these activities is often the first step of one's personal journey of becoming a future lay or professional Jewish leader.

While AJT's "in person" activities were put on hold because of the COVID-19 crisis, the teens have moved on-line and have also further engaged in volunteering. Their online activities



include daily activities such as yoga and Torah learning as well as celebrating Shabbat online together. Their volunteering includes reaching out and keeping in touch with isolated elderly clients.

Active Jewish Teens Website: <http://www.ajteens.org/?lang=en>

Donor support of \$10,000 will help provide Jewish teens in the FSU with the tools, platforms, and freedom to explore their Judaism, strengthen their Jewish identity and give back to their own community.

Delivering Critical Aid during Crisis through Disaster Response

JDC leads the North American Jewish community's response to natural and manmade disasters outside of North America, providing humanitarian relief to marginalized populations and working with communities to recover.

Months after a disaster, needs persist but international relief funds often disappear. JDC continues to provide assistance by rebuilding schools, providing mental health support, building health facilities, and creating job opportunities for those most at risk: women, children, and people with disabilities. We maximize our impact by coordinating an effective collective response to crises that includes Israeli and international NGOs, local organizations on the ground, and overseas Jewish communities, including our leadership of the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief made up of 49 Jewish organizations.

In 2020, JDC's COVID-19 response helped minimize the spread of disease in the developing world. JDC provided a Jewish response to the pandemic by distributing emergency assistance that benefited some of the world's most vulnerable people, in countries such as India, Indonesia, and Ethiopia.

In recent years, JDC also provided relief in Mexico, Mozambique and in the Bahamas following mass destruction of land and livelihoods, and we responded to floods in Kerala, India, three earthquakes and a tsunami in Indonesia and a cyclone in the Philippines. In each case, JDC sought to provide immediate relief where it was most needed including shelter, water and sanitation and medical relief, as well as long term community-based programs that aim to increase resilience while adhering to its disaster response principles.

Donor support of \$5,000 will contribute to JDC's Disaster Response Fund, enabling JDC to respond quickly in the event of a disaster by providing immediate relief including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation.

Crisis Support for Families at High Risk (Israel)

Families in Israel that are already dealing with complex situations – poverty, child welfare, immigration difficulties, or a child with disability – have faced significant setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their needs have increased as stress levels have been high with many parents out of work, and repeated lockdowns with children at home for weeks on end – all together in small apartments and with few toys and children's books. Their emotional



struggles were intensified by the pandemic, and the financial strains are crippling. For example, one-third of Israeli families in poverty reported that their emotional health was negatively impacted and over 50% reported loss of disposable income.

A large proportion of children in high-risk families fell behind in their schooling; they are not participating in distance learning due to lack of home computers, as well as motivation and discipline. It is estimated that more families will struggle to make ends meet, existing family difficulties (such as domestic violence or abuse, parental dysfunction) will be exacerbated, and educational gaps will widen. JDC aims to ensure these children receive the necessary support for their healthy development.

During the beginning stages of the pandemic, JDC provided families at high risk with last resort funds for basic needs (including medications, repairs, equipment) and developmentally appropriate toys/games. Today, social workers are working remotely with families to assess changing needs due to COVID-19 and on strengthening their self-worth and abilities to improve their lives and the futures of their children.

Donor support of \$10,000 will contribute to JDC's crisis support for families at high risk, providing professional guidance for parents, assistance in accessing resources and opportunities that are available to them, and addressing financial and material needs, including needs created and aggravated by COVID-19.

Emergency Assistance for Families in Argentina

JDC, in partnership with the main care organizations of the Jewish Community in Argentina (Tzedaka Foundation, AMIA Buenos Aires Kehilah, Chabad Foundation) is addressing emerging needs of households in Buenos Aires (where 85% of the country's Jewish population lives) who were not in the community caseload and who have been affected in their income capacities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program provides temporary assistance for economically active Jewish population, self-employed, single-income or informal workers who are not able to work during the pandemic, or formal workers with reduced or suspended incomes. The program includes subsidies to cover food, medicine, utilities and rental payments. At the same time, JDC providing this emergency assistance to new beneficiaries in 14 Jewish communities outside the Greater Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area. We expect to reach with this new program more than 700 families.

Donor support of \$25,000 will support approximately 22 "new poor" families with assistance to purchase food, medicine, utilities, and other basic needs that have become impossible to afford due to the economic crisis exacerbated by the pandemic and the resulting shutdowns of commercial activities.