



The Holocaust Survivor Community Fund

A joint effort of The Jewish Social Service Agency & The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

The Jewish Social Service Agency's (JSSA) 20 year old Holocaust Survivor Program has been **facing critical funding shortfalls which will likely continue for the next 10 or more years.** Several hundred frail, poor and ill Holocaust survivors reside in the greater DC area. Due to unprecedented increases in survivor applications for services as this population nears the last few years of their life, their growing need for basic safety net services including **personal care, homemaker, health, social services, and financial assistance** is currently outpacing available funding. Changing demographics, increasing frailty, the downturn in the economy, and changes in eligibility criteria from the program's primary institutional funder have contributed to this dire situation.



They Need Our Help Now

How Does JSSA Help:

- JSSA serves more than 280 survivor clients annually.
- Two thirds of these clients have annual incomes that fall below 200% of the Federal Poverty level (\$22,340 for individuals and \$29,140 for couples annually).
- The average age of JSSA's Holocaust survivor client is 86. Nearly half of all clients are over 85 years of age and 15% are over 90.
- Nearly 70% of JSSA's Holocaust survivor clients either require moderate or full assistance with activities of daily living (i.e. many are bedridden or use a wheelchair and need bathing, dressing, and housekeeping assistance).

Why Your Help is Needed: Up until now, these and other critical social services have been funded by a set of grants from one international donor, matching JSSA funds and individual donations. But a decrease in many of these traditional revenue sources combined with a substantial increase in aging survivors applying for more intensive services has placed the Holocaust Survivor Program on shaky financial ground.

Without additional support from our generous community—from you—we will not be able to remain true to our mission of never turning a needy Holocaust survivor away.

The Holocaust Survivor Community Fund: In partnership with **The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington**, JSSA has created a joint community fund *solely dedicated* to supporting safety net services for this unique and deserving population. Funds from the UJEF Holocaust Survivors' Community Fund will ensure that appropriate service levels are maintained for as long as needed. These include essential safety net services like bathing assistance, light housekeeping, delivery of kosher Meals-on-Wheels and escorted transportation to medical appointments as well as other basic services including: emergency financial assistance, food cards, and medication assistance. With a robust response, The Federation and JSSA hope to continue to grow the program by enrolling new clients from the wait list every month and to sustain needed services.

Please turn over

Connect with JSSA



The Holocaust Survivor Community Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there still that many Holocaust survivors living in the Washington area? While there is no approved statistical data available, we know that there are hundreds of Holocaust survivors currently residing in the greater Washington DC area.

How can the need for a Holocaust Survivors Program be growing when the survivor population is dying off? Survivors who were children during the war are now much older, and often ill or infirm while the primary international donor's (known as the Claims Conference) definition of "verified Nazi victim" has expanded to include those who were not previously officially recognized as Nazi victims (i.e., hidden children; work camp laborers; refugees fleeing on the Eastern (Russian) front).

Don't most survivors receive German government reparations payments or have money of their own? German reparations payments are available to some, but not all survivors, and are not sufficient to cover many ongoing critical care expenses. In addition, nearly two thirds of JSSA's Holocaust survivors have annual incomes that fall below 200 percent of the Federal poverty threshold.

Where are the families and, in particular, the children of these survivors? Many families are struggling with their own budget challenges at a time of general economic decline, and are unable to assume financial responsibility for increasingly costly health and welfare services for their parents.

Why can't the U.S. Holocaust Museum or other Holocaust-related organizations help? The mission of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is Holocaust education, remembrance, research, and action to address ongoing discrimination and does not include financial support for individual survivors. Other Holocaust-related organizations – primarily the Claims Conference – do help, but the needs of physically and financially vulnerable Holocaust survivors worldwide far exceed existing funding sources.

Who are these survivors and where did they come from? A "Holocaust survivor" is a person who was displaced, persecuted, and/or discriminated against by the racial, religious, ethnic, social, and political policies of the Nazis and their allies – in Europe and the former Soviet Union – between 1933 and 1945. In addition to former inmates of concentration camps and ghettos this includes, among others, refugees and people in hiding.


Why is it so expensive to care for these survivors? Health care costs are rapidly and steeply escalating and personal savings are declining. Survivors – all of whom immigrated to the U.S. (whether decades ago or more recently) – had to rebuild lives without the base financial security that would have ensured sufficient funds for self-care in their senior years.

Why should I care? We are commanded by our Jewish traditions to care for others, especially the needy. As a community, we have an obligation to remember those who perished at the hands of the Nazi regime, and to honor and support those who survived those horrors. Your support will help the Holocaust survivors in our community live the rest of their lives with dignity and in peace.

To learn more visit www.jssa.org/survivorprogram



They Need Our Help Now

 Send completed form to 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville, MD 20850 or give online today at www.jssa.org/donatenow

Please consider supporting the Holocaust Survivor Community Fund
They Need Our Help Now

Give Online: www.jssa.org

Give via Mail: Charge my Credit Card: \$ _____
Gift Amount Expiration Date CVV/CVC

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ MC VISA AMEX
(AMEX one less digit) (Circle One)

Phone Number Email Address - Help us go green!

Name (On Credit Card)

Address, Unit or Apt. (Required for Credit Card Gift)

City, State, ZIP (Required for Credit Card Gift)

Complete this form and return it to JSSA: 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville, MD 20850

Send a Check: Payable to JSSA. Mail to address above.

By Phone: 301.610.8370

- \$36** funds five home delivered meals
- \$100** provides two assisted weekly baths for one client
- \$250** subsidizes three hours of social work care coordination
- \$500** funds food assistance gift cards for two clients for one month
- \$1,000** underwrites two escorted transportation trips per month for five clients
- \$ _____ Other Amount

Contributions at all levels will make a difference.