

Jewish Federation of Ocean County IMPACT

YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Koby Mandel Foundation



750 male and female campers participated in "Camp Koby and Yosef," for children who have lost a parent, brother or sister. The camp is much more than a summer camp – it is a lifeline, a place where pain is understood, lifelong friendships are built, and inner resilience is strengthened for the journey ahead.

During the past year, we enabled more than 2,500 bereaved families throughout the country, in a variety of activities: Regular home visits by 60 service girls and young women to widows with small children; Parental training workshop for widows;

Workshop for war widows in preparation for second marriage; Art classes and trips for bereaved mothers and widows; Vacations and fun days for bereaved mothers, widows and couples; Experiential therapeutic workshops for bereaved siblings and adult orphans; Experiential respite days across the country for Koby Foundation families, Electronics classes and dog training for orphans and young bereaved siblings; A personal mentoring project for the association's children throughout the year; and Chanukah camp and meetings of "Camp Koby and Yosef" groups throughout the year.



YOU Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Joint Distribution Committee in Ukraine

The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) does incredible work worldwide, thanks to you the JFOC has been supporting their efforts in Israel and Ukraine. They shared Alla's story with us after receiving a food insecurity grant from us for the High Holidays.

"How do I choose between paying bills or buying groceries?" asks 78-year-old Alla, from Kyiv, Ukraine. "My pension feels like a death sentence. Prices keep rising. In the winter, my utility bills alone are \$36 more than my monthly pension."

Alla (pictured) is one of over 66,100 desperately poor elderly Jews in the former Soviet Union (FSU) who struggle to survive. These are the poorest and most isolated Jews in the world. Many worked for years as doctors or teachers, but in retirement, they have been reduced to living on pensions as low as \$2 per day.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has disrupted life for Jews across the FSU and triggered an economic crisis, further endangering these vulnerable Jewish seniors.



At the same time, over 7,700 Jewish children – some of whom have special needs – live in families which struggle to make ends meet. High inflation and unemployment have heightened their risk, especially in light of inadequate public health care and social safety nets.

Moreover, over 40% of the most vulnerable Jewish seniors and children live in Ukraine, which is in its fourth year of a devastating conflict. The conflict has plunged the entire region into an economic crisis, with skyrocketing inflation drastically reducing purchasing power.

In these challenging times, JDC thanks you and the Jewish Federation for hel-

YOU Have Made an Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Leket Israel

Message from Carol Marcus
Associate Director of Development
American Friends of Leket Israel

Here are some of the recent programs Leket Israel has been working on to assist struggling Israelis:

- **Leket & Honey**, a large-scale Rosh Hashanah initiative providing traditional holiday produce baskets to 65,000 families across the country.
- Expanding our focus on Israel's youth – our future – with the new school year underway, serving daily hot meals and soups to over 1,000 at-risk students in last-chance high schools, and bringing fresh produce and nutrition know-how to over 2,000 families through our **Leket Briut** workshops.

Leket Briut workshops.

- Working around the clock to deliver an **unexpected bounty**: 2.3 million lbs. of fresh mangoes and 3.3 million lbs. of watermelon that became available for rescue due to this summer's intense heat and is now headed to tables across Israel.
- Celebrating our incredible volunteers – who put in 370,200 hours so far this year, assisting farmers affected by October 7 and supporting the operation of **Project Leket**.

From all of us at Leket Israel, we wish you a year of health, happiness, and peace. G'mar Chatima Tovah.

ping to provide the vital humanitarian assistance needed for survival and a life of dignity. The Jewish Federation grant ensures that they have food on their tables, medicines to treat their illnesses, and warmth in their homes. The most vulnerable seniors who can no longer take care of themselves – like Alla – benefit from homecare provided by JDC's dedicated homecare workers.



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