



Jewish Federation & Family Services Launches Meal Partner Program for Holocaust Survivors

Matches Volunteers with Most Vulnerable and Isolated Survivors in our Community

IRVINE, CA (April 26, 2017)—Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County is proud to announce it was selected to receive a grant from the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) through the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care, enabling the launch of a new program to serve area Holocaust survivors. The Jewish Federation & Family Services *Meal Partners Program* brings isolated Holocaust survivors together with community volunteers who engage with them through the sharing of weekly meals. Through building supportive relationships that revolve around shared meals, the goal is to build a broader social support system, reduce isolation and loneliness, and increase the survivors' ability to live safely and independently at home.

"A life with dignity and community is the greatest gift we can give our aging Holocaust survivors," said Arlene Miller, President & CEO of Jewish Federation & Family Services. "The sharing of meals serves our basic human need for connection and sustenance. It's also a treasured part of our Jewish culture and community. It is our hope that we can continue to uplift our survivors' spirits and health."

Of the more than 100,000 Holocaust survivors in the United States, nearly one quarter are aged eighty-five or older, and one in four lives in poverty. Many live alone and are at risk for social isolation, depression, and other physical and mental health conditions stemming from periods of starvation, disease, and torture.

There are over 300 survivors in the Orange County area. The *Meal Partners Program* will match individual volunteers, volunteer "care circles" and family groups with 30 to 50 of the most isolated and needy of our survivors to provide and share meals with them. Before engaging with survivors, volunteers and community leaders will be trained in Person-Centered Trauma Informed Care so that they are aware and sensitized to the needs of Holocaust survivors whom they will be helping.

The Jewish Federations of North America launched the Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care in the fall of 2015, following an award from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for up to \$12 million over 5 years to advance innovations in Person-Centered Trauma-Informed (PCTI) services for Holocaust survivors in the United States. PCTI care is a holistic approach to service provision that promotes the dignity, strength, and empowerment of trauma victims by incorporating knowledge about the role of trauma in victims' lives into agency programs, policies, and procedures. The Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care promotes these innovative service delivery models together with the expertise of partner organizations including the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies and the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The grant money is a combination of federal dollars and philanthropic dollars raised by local communities as part of JFNA's National Holocaust Survivor Initiative.

For more information on the Jewish Federation & Family Services Meal Partners Program, please contact Symone Sass at Symone@JFFS.org or 949.435.3460 ext. 297 or visit JewishOC.org/MealPartners. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible charitable donation to Jewish Federation & Family Services' Holocaust Survivor Program, please email Doris Jacobson at Doris@JFFS.org or visit JewishOC.org/Donate.