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Jewish Federation Raises Nearly \$60,000 for Central American Migrants Transiting Tucson

Thanks to community generosity between May 3-20, \$35,000 has been donated to the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona's Migrant Relief Services Emergency Fund for Central American asylum seekers transiting Tucson. Combined with an initial anonymous \$25,000 matching grant donation, that's \$60,000 to assist with emergency expenses.

Expenditures are managed by a committee comprised of JFSA, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the office of Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, and Catholic Community Services. To date, \$10,000 of the fund were spent on new shoes, backpacks, and undergarments for the migrants housed by the Casa Alitas program, says Jill Rich, JCRC's social action chair. The fund balance is held at JFSA to meet needs that arise as migrant arrivals continue.

Cash donations can still be made online at www.jfsa.org/makeadonation. (Please indicate Migrant Relief on your donation.)

Physical donations of pre-packaged snacks, toiletries, and clothing for men and women in smaller sizes and children from toddlers to teens can be dropped at the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E. River Road.

For more details about JFSA's Migrant Relief Services Emergency Fund, please go to <https://azjewishpost.com/2019/grant-boosts-local-efforts-to-aid-migrants/>

About the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona: *For more than 70 years, the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona has served as its community's coordinating body for fundraising, planning and communal services. The Federation helps sustain and improve the lives of Jews and non-Jews in Southern Arizona, Israel, and around the world.*

Today nearly 30,000 people are part of the Southern Arizona Jewish community, one of the fastest growing in the country. The Jewish community has several synagogues and a family of caring, local agencies, and organizations that enrich the lives of residents.

Through a network of affiliated agencies, the Federation helps individuals and families, the old and the young, the unemployed, the homeless, the sick, the poor, and those who are persecuted or oppressed. In this way, the Federation fulfills a sacred Jewish promise that has shaped Jewish culture for generations: the promise to build and care for our community here and around the world. The Federation strives to meet the community's needs today while planning and building a dynamic and vibrant Jewish future.

Jim and Jill Rich display some of 1,000 backpacks sourced locally and purchased in May with community donations to the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona's Migrant Relief Services Emergency Fund. (JFSA Photo)

