



Jewish Family Services of Delaware Selected as One Of Ten Sites for Funding from Jewish Federations of North America Due to Its Critical Role in Supporting Displaced Ukrainians

For Immediate Release:

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Jewish Family Services of Delaware (JFS), which is playing a critical role in supporting Ukrainian refugees bound for Delaware, is proud to have been selected by Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and The Shapiro Foundation to receive funding to support its efforts. JFNA will match funding raised locally by Jewish Federation of Delaware to provide JFS with the staffing to carry out this important mission.

On the heels of continuing efforts to resettle Afghan evacuees earlier this year, JFS monitored Russia's invasion of its sovereign neighbor, the Republic of Ukraine. Along with the casualties of the invasion and the destruction of many cities and villages, more than ten million Ukrainians have been displaced by the war. Many were forced to the eastern part of the country while many others have left the country entirely to take refuge in neighboring countries like Poland, which has taken in more than five million of their neighbors.

In April, the Biden Administration announced that 100,000 Ukrainians would be permitted to enter or remain in the United States through a program called Uniting for Ukraine. Unlike refugee programs or the Afghan evacuee program, this program does not offer traditional resettlement services to arriving Ukrainians. It instead allows those with a fiscal sponsor to enter the country on a two-year humanitarian parole status. Fiscal sponsors take on the responsibility of housing and financial needs of those entering the country.

Jewish Federations of North America is partnering with local Jewish Federations, like Jewish Federation of Delaware, to launch the **Ukrainian Resettlement Grant Initiative**, a program to support local Jewish community organizations like Jewish Family Services of Delaware in resettling Ukrainian refugees. Thanks in part to the generosity of The Shapiro Foundation, Jewish Federations of North America is partnering with local Federations to build staff capacity within partner social service organizations in their communities that are providing direct services to displaced Ukrainians. Supporting Jewish refugees is a foremost responsibility of this program, due to our commitment to ensure that no Jew anywhere is in need or without access to services; however, this program will enable communities to serve all refugees, regardless of faith, based on our Jewish values and historical experience.

Jewish Federation of Delaware is one of only ten Federations across the U.S. to receive the first round of grants, totaling half-a-million dollars, from Jewish Federations of North America, with matching funds provided by a group of philanthropists led by the Shapiro Foundation and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston's Jewish Federation. The program provides that the grant from Jewish Federation of North America will match funds raised locally by Jewish Federation of Delaware for Jewish Family Services' benefit.

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“We are able to leverage our expertise and long history of supporting refugees from the former Soviet Union and more recently those evacuated from Afghanistan to help Jewish communities support Ukrainian refugees seeking safety,” said Darcy Hirsh, Managing Director of Public Affairs at Jewish Federations of North America. “We are especially grateful to the Shapiro Foundation for their partnership in this initiative, to provide our communities with the proper resources, tools and support to be able to open their doors to those in need.”

Russ Silberglied, Board Chair of the Jewish Federation of Delaware stated, "Jewish Federation of Delaware is proud to play a role in this critically important mission. We are so grateful that Jewish Family Services of Delaware is at the forefront of these efforts, and we thank Jewish Federations of North America for providing funding to enable these efforts."

Peter Hurd, JFS Delaware Board President, stated, “JFS is grateful for national and local partners who are coming together to meet the needs of so many Ukrainian newcomers who are coming to Delaware. It’s wonderful to have the community so engaged and reflects the deep caring we all have for each other in the First State.”

Renna Van Oot, JFS Delaware CEO, stated “It’s very special to have the opportunity to work with both the National and Delaware Jewish Federations to support people who have been through so much trauma. JFS has begun to support Ukrainian newcomers and appreciates everyone who is helping us welcome them to safety and security.”

Jewish Federations of North America are at the forefront of the Jewish community’s response to the refugee crisis. In addition to resettlement efforts and advocacy, Jewish Federations have collectively raised \$72 million for humanitarian aid since the fighting broke out in Ukraine.

About Jewish Family Services of Delaware

Jewish Family Services supports people of all backgrounds by assisting families through life transitions, helping youth and children grow stronger, and ensuring the safety and dignity of older adults. For more information, please visit JFSDelaware.org.

About Jewish Federation of Delaware

Jewish Federation of Delaware protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning). For more information, please visit ShalomDelaware.org.

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