

**2016 AJFCA Annual Conference
KOVOD Award Submission**

Category: Holocaust Survivor Services

Agency: Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service

Community Served: Palm Beach County residents north of Boynton Beach

Agency Budget: \$12,000,000

Contact Person: Leigh Routman, 561-238-0240 lroutman@jfcsonline.com

Staff: Elyse Jacobson, Chief Program Officer
Leigh Routman, Director of Community Engagement
Eva Weiss, Holocaust Program Case manager
Sara Zenlea, Holocaust Program Case Manager
Maureen DeLorenzo, Holocaust Program Case Manager
Briana Howard, Holocaust Program Case Manager
Philip Gaitelband, Holocaust Program Case Manager
Ruth Sciré, Administrative Assistant

Program Summary: AJFCS Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program began in 1995. Survivors had long asked for the opportunity to gather and meet other survivors. **Eat & Schmooze** events began approximately 8 years ago with a monthly gathering. Survivors are given the opportunity to 'schmooze,' enjoy a scheduled program (such as music or an educational lecture) and eat lunch. We currently have 3-4 **Eat & Schmoozes** per month. Partnering with a local Independent Living Facility, Jewish Community Center and local synagogues have provided a variety of opportunities for Holocaust survivors to socialize. Programming is geared to the interests of those who choose to attend a particular location. Synagogue **Eat & Schmooze** programming most often includes an educational and interactive component with the Sunday school children. **Eat & Schmooze** has been hugely successful, in fact frequently maxes out the room capacity of the venue.

Program Cost and funding source: Claims Conference and donations.

The cost is approximately \$1000 per **Eat & Schmooze** event and a percentage of staff allocation: \$18,000 of Community Engagement Director's time to coordinate this program. In addition, the case managers attend the event, to be supportive of participants.

Evaluations and outcomes: 1. The primary goal is to reduce isolation and increase socialization for Holocaust survivors – outcome measures demonstrate the impact of this program. 2. The success of the **Eat & Schmooze** program is evident by the increased number of attendees. By increasing the number of events, we have been able to have a greater impact in reaching more Holocaust survivors in the community. 3. Surveys are distributed annually to ask the participants what they enjoy about **Eat & Schmooze** and what they would like in the future. This information is aggregated and used for future programming.