



"WHOEVER SAVES A SINGLE LIFE IS AS IF ONE SAVES THE ENTIRE WORLD."—TALMUD



Ondrej Sulaj

THE
JEWISH
FOUNDATION

*for
the
righteous*

January 30, 2004

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LEGAL SERVICES

Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
P.O. Box 8300
San Francisco, California 94128-8300

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed please find a grant proposal from The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR). The JFR is seeking a multi-year grant to provide a special award to aged and needy Righteous Gentiles. The cost of the grant for calendar year 2004 is \$387,400. This grant will supplement the monthly award given by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous since our monthly stipend does not fully meet the basic needs of the Righteous.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Stanlee J. Stahl
Executive Vice President

Enclosures

Background

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) was established by Rabbi Harold Schulweis in 1986 with a two-fold mission. The first was to create a vehicle to provide financial and medical support to those aged and needy non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The second was to develop educational programs centering on the Holocaust and the altruism and moral courage of Christian rescuers. The Foundation seeks to fulfill the traditional Jewish commitment to *hakarot hatov*, the searching out and recognition of goodness.

The Foundation began its work in the late 1980's by providing monthly awards to eight rescuers. As of January 1, 2004, the Foundation was providing monthly financial assistance to 1,630 rescuers in 30 countries. (See Attachment A) Including transfer fees, the total annual commitment of the JFR to these 1,630 rescuers is \$1,184,790 USD. This figure does not include one-time grants for the purchase of food at Christmas, medicines or other emergency needs. Nor does the figure include the staff costs to administer this aspect of the JFR's program.

In the past six years, the Foundation has initiated financial assistance to more than 900 Righteous Gentiles. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous expended \$1,311,848 USD in direct support of rescuers during calendar year 2003. Our 2004 budget includes expenditures of \$1.3 million for support of rescuers.

Need

Time is running out for the rescuers. Like the survivors they saved, these noble men and women are aging. Unfortunately, their small government pensions do not permit most to live out their remaining years in dignity.

As of January 1, 2003, Yad Vashem has recognized 19,706 men and women as "Righteous Among the Nations." It is estimated that more than sixty percent of those recognized have died. The JFR only supports aged and needy Righteous Gentiles. Currently the JFR is supporting approximately 20 percent of living "Righteous". Yad Vashem continues to recognize men and women as Righteous Gentiles and many of these individuals are applying for assistance from the JFR. During 2003, the JFR initiated support to 86 rescuers.

The Foundation has not yet witnessed a significant decline in requests for support from rescuers. For the past three years, approximately eight percent of funded rescuers have died each year. We expect that this pattern will hold for the next six years. In years seven and eight, we anticipate that the number of deaths will increase.

In the past five years, the JFR has made every effort to eliminate its waiting list as quickly as possible. However, within weeks of initiating support to those rescuers on the waiting list, another list quickly forms. All the Righteous on the JFR waiting list have been recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Gentiles and are in financial need. Requests for assistance continue to be received weekly.

It is interesting to note the pattern of growth in requests for support. In 1992, the majority of Righteous receiving monthly JFR support were from Poland. During the past three years, the largest increase in applications for assistance have come from rescuers living in Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, Hungary, Serbia and Croatia. In 1992, the JFR assisted less than 100 rescuers

in the former Soviet Union (FSU). As of January 1, 2004, there are 579 rescuers receiving monthly awards in seven republics of the FSU. We now support 36 Righteous in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia, and 81 rescuers in Hungary.

JFR policy has been to fund as many rescuers as possible. This policy kept the JFR Board of Trustees from increasing monthly stipends for more than seven years. However, during the past several years Foundation trustees have expressed concern that rescuers living in Poland and the FSU were not receiving an adequate monthly award from the JFR. The deteriorating economic situation in the FSU, specifically in Ukraine and Belarus, has prompted an increase in the number of requests for emergency assistance from rescuers in the former Soviet Union and in Poland.

The JFR, working with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), has undertaken an analysis of country award levels to determine the appropriate level of support. The dilemma the JFR finds itself in is that the Foundation is not in a position to undertake as comprehensive a review of each rescuer's current living situation as it would like, i.e., conduct on-site home visits. Therefore, the JFR is analyzing information on the cost of living in the targeted countries; reviewing the documents provided annually by the rescuers, i.e., pension statements, physician/medical documents, statements on their daily life; obtaining information from JDC country directors; and arranging for home visits with rescuers in selected countries.

In the fall of 1999, the JDC conducted a handful of home visits to rescuers in Poland and more than fifty home visits in Hungary. In August 2000, the JFR Executive Vice President traveled to Poland, Ukraine and Latvia to conduct a series of home visits. The purpose of these home visits was to obtain information from a sample of rescuers as to how they view their award, how they spend their money, the purchasing power of the award and the needs of the rescuers. Home visits were again made to rescuers in the summer of 2001 by both JFR staff and JDC social workers. A small number of visits with rescuers were also made in 2002 and 2003. Additionally, JFR staff maintains contact with the rescuer throughout the year and if necessary will contact the survivor. Based on these visits, on our conversations with rescuers and their survivors, and on our analysis of economic conditions in each country, we realize that our monthly awards do not adequately meet the expenses of daily living.

Several years ago, the JFR Board of Trustees found the monthly award level for a number of countries to be inadequate. The JFR board approved increases in the monthly award levels for the following five countries: Albania, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and New Zealand.

The monthly award of \$30 for Righteous in Poland was also deemed inadequate. The JFR Board of Trustees, over the past several years, has approved a series of increases in the monthly award to rescuers in Poland. Since 1999, the award in Poland has gone from \$30 a month to \$60 a month. Due to the large number of Polish rescuers supported, any increase in the monthly award has a significant impact on the budget of the Foundation. However, the Board strongly believes it is imperative for the Foundation to meet the needs of these noble men and women now – not later. Effective January 1, 2003, the monthly award to rescuers in Poland was increased from \$50 a month to \$60. The monthly award to rescuers in Ukraine was increased from \$30 a month to \$40 effective January 1, 2003. These monthly increases resulted in an approximate increase of \$149,520 in annual outlay for the Foundation.

In 1999, the JFR received a special grant from the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoa. The grant was awarded to the JFR through the World Jewish Restitution Organization. This grant enabled the Foundation to issue one-time grants to eligible Righteous Gentiles. This one-time award, which was in addition to the regular JFR award, had taken some of the pressure off the JFR with respect to increasing monthly award levels during 2000 and 2001, the years when awards were issued under the Swiss Fund program. However, the Foundation is now witnessing an increase in the number of requests from rescuers for one-time grants for the purchase of food, fuel and medicines.

Objectives

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous seeks funding which will enable the Foundation to provide an annual special grant of \$250 USD for each of the aged and needy Righteous Gentiles supported by the Foundation for the next eight years. This grant will provide the Righteous the ability to purchase medications, food and home heating fuel.

Methodology

The JFR has an established review process for all requests for assistance. Once an application is found complete, i.e., all requested information has been received, it is reviewed by staff. The JFR works closely with Yad Vashem on the important issues of rescuer verification and documentation and with the JDC on distribution issues.

The JDC has assisted the Foundation in distributing funds to rescuers in Poland and the FSU. As mentioned above, the JDC also provides information on the cost of living and pension levels in those countries where the Foundation supports rescuers.

When an application for support is complete, it is reviewed by the Allocation Committee and then by the JFR Board of Trustees. Once Board approval has been received, rescuers are placed on the waiting list. When funds are available, rescuers begin to receive support with the oldest and sickest receiving priority.

The JFR employs different mechanisms to transfer funds to rescuers. The type of mechanism used depends on where the rescuer lives and the options available to the rescuer. The JFR uses the following transfer agents/mechanisms: 1) Jewish Welfare Commission in Warsaw and Western Union in Poland; 2) Western Union; 3) JFR Bank Check; and 4) bank wire transfers in Serbia.

These various distribution systems have been in place for years and work well for both the JFR and the Righteous Gentiles. These distribution systems enable the JFR to send its funds safely and efficiently to rescuers.

Staff maintains contact with rescuers throughout the year and requires the submission of an annual verification form and supporting documents, e.g., a recent pension statement. When possible, staff also maintains contact with the survivor to learn more about the needs of the rescuer.

Budget

The JFR is requesting a multi-year grant of \$2,592,305 USD. We seek to give each Righteous Gentile a special grant of \$250 each year for eight years commencing in 2004 and ending in 2011. Please see Enclosure B.

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous
Rescuers by Country

COUNTRY	TOTAL # RESCUERS
1 Albania	11
2 Argentina	1
3 Arnenia	2
4 Australia	2
5 Belarus	88
6 Belgium	1
7 Bosnia	2
8 Brazil	1
9 Canada	6
10 Croatia	13
11 Czech Republic	4
12 Denmark	1
13 France	6
14 Germany	4
15 Greece	3
16 Hungary	81
17 Italy	1
18 Latvia	8
19 Lithuania	69
20 Macedonia	1
21 Moldova	5
22 Poland	820
23 Romania	8
24 Russia	31
25 Serbia	21
26 Slovakia	30
27 Sweden	3
28 The Netherlands	1
29 Ukraine	376
30 United States	30
TOTAL	1,630

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous
Budgetary Requirement

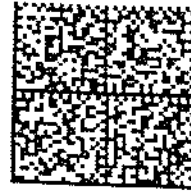
Given starting figure of 1,630 and declining percentage of 8% then 10% (starting in 2010)

Year	# Lost	# Added	Total Supported	\$250 grant per rescuer	Annual Total
2004	130	50	1,550	250	\$387,400
2005	124	50	1,476	250	\$368,908
2006	118	50	1,408	250	\$351,895
2007	113	50	1,345	250	\$336,244
2008	108	40	1,277	250	\$319,344
2009	102	30	1,205	250	\$301,297
2010	121	20	1,105	250	\$276,167
2011	110	10	1,004	250	\$251,050
				Total	\$2,592,305

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