

Ukrainian refugees are coming to Portland

The United States government is admitting up to 100,000 Ukraine refugees in the “Uniting 4 Ukraine” (U4U) program, with 1,319 Ukrainian refugees scheduled to come to Portland in the next few months.

The number of Jewish refugees who are coming is currently unknown. Portland’s Ukrainian population (ninth largest in the country) includes refugees who arrived from the former Soviet Union during Operation Exodus in the 1990s.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland has launched a campaign to raise the funds to welcome and support Ukrainian refugees coming to Portland. Donate at jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis.

When the war on Ukraine began, Portland’s Jewish community rallied to raise more than \$450,000 to send overseas.

Now the community needs to raise \$150,000 by July 15 to cover the basic cost for each family arriving in Portland. In the first week, the fund already raised \$122,000. The Stern Family matched the

LOCAL UKRAINE REFUGEE FUND

Donate: jewishportland.org/ukraine-crisis

Or mail checks to:

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland
Ukraine Refugee Fund

9900 SW Greenburg Road, Suite 220
Tigard, OR 97223

Memo Line: Ukraine Refugee Fund

first \$50,000 that was raised. All funds will go to support the new arrivals, whether they are Jewish or not. The funds will help provide housing, transportation, food, counseling, job training, legal assistance and assistance applying for government benefits.

“Resettling refugees requires three things: money, expertise and volunteers,” wrote JFGP President and

CEO Marc Blattner in his weekly email announcing the arrivals and the new fundraising campaign. He asked those with expertise who can assist with housing (reduced cost rentals), legal assistance or job training to email him at marc@jewishportland.org.

“And, of course, we will need volunteers. ‘Welcome Circles’ are being created, and additional people will be needed when families begin to arrive,” he wrote, adding more details will be available when arrival dates are set.

Dignity Grows under Red Tent

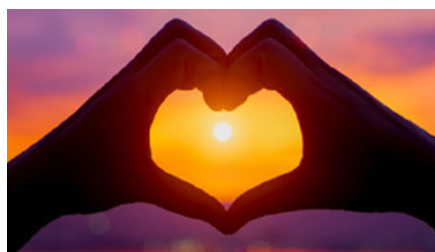
Dignity Grows invites everyone to come together under the Red Tent Aug. 28 for an informative evening of connection, learning, entertainment, desserts, drinks and activities to nurture body and soul.

Red Tent gatherings, named for Anita Diamant’s best-selling novel, are a reference to the ancient law that required women to take refuge during menstruation and births. Red Tents are spaces to come together, rest, share stories and care for one another.

“By sponsoring just one hygiene tote (\$10), people can register to attend the Red Tent Event and experience the beauty of Rosh Chodesh Elul and learn about the work of Dignity Grows, our distribution partners and how they can get more involved,” according to event chairs Debbie Plawner and Nicole Sacks. “When people come together, magic happens. We invite all Sisterhood, ReJewvenation, Rosh Chodesh ladies and those looking to connect to come together under the Red Tent to support Dignity Grows’ efforts in eliminating period poverty.”

Dignity Grows Portland is a chapter of a national nonprofit and a Jewish Federation of Greater Portland Women’s Philanthropy project. Nicole Sacks and Mark Sacks are the Portland chairs.

Human dignity should not be considered a luxury, yet one in four menstruators in the United States experience period poverty, lacking the financial resources to purchase basic menstrual-hygiene necessities. Dignity Grows provides free hygiene essentials packed in a discrete reusable



shoulder bag. Each Dignity Grows tote is filled with a full month’s supply of hygiene products and period necessities. The totes are distributed by Dignity Grows partners, Transition Projects, Virginia Garcia Health Centers, Outside In, Self-Enhancement, Inc., A Safe Place and Divine Threads.

Dignity Grows Portland has packed more than 1,500 totes (and engaged over 180 volunteers) since starting in March 2021.

“But the demand from our partners outstrips our available funds,” says Plawner.

“The only way we can continue to purchase, pack and distribute these essential items is by inviting the community to sponsor totes,” says Nicole Sacks. “We need to raise a minimum of \$20,000 to enable us to pack 2,000 totes in 2023. If we raise more, no problem, the demand is there and we will get packing.”

The Red Tent Event will be 7-9 pm, Aug. 28, at Congregation Neveh Shalom. The event is open to those 13 and older; full vaccination is required. Registration is limited to 150 individuals.

Register at jewishportland.org/red-tent.

Make a donation without attending at jewishportland.org/dignity-grows.

Share your stories of 75 years of JFCS help

Everyone loves a good story. Do you have one about Jewish Family & Child Service?

JFCS has been providing stability and hope to Portland’s Jewish and greater communities since 1947. This is our 75th year, and we’re seeking stories about how JFCS has helped you, a friend or a loved one over the decades. It’s been 75 years: we’re certain there are some great anecdotes out there, as well as photographs and memorabilia.

Perhaps your story is from a bygone era that reflected a communal need at the time.

For example, JFCS once helped facilitate adoptions in the late 1970s, resettled Jewish refugees from the former Soviet Union, and provided household goods like kitchen supplies and furniture to Holocaust survivors.

Or perhaps your story reflects communal needs evolving out of the pandemic.

JFCS pivoted immediately in March 2020 from in-person counseling to providing mental health assistance online, increased its reach into greater Portland to help more clients than ever before with making rent or putting food on the table, and provided stimulating online arts and crafts gatherings for our disabled clients.

Indeed, everyone loves a good story, and JFCS is sharing yours throughout this 75th year. JFCS supports its community because you support JFCS. Reach into your memory banks – including boxes of photos and filing cabinets. Remind us how things were and help us celebrate!

To participate, contact JFCS Communications Manager Jenn Director Knudsen at jdirectorknudsen@jfcs-portland.org.