

## Who Shall Live... and Who Shall Die?

It is a New Year. The elderly Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe who you have been helping would like to thank you for your generous support this year. So many letters have come to us at Rosh Hashanah filled with good wishes for all of you.

Fira Bronfeld from Ivankov, Ukraine wrote:

"May the Almighty grant that all of you be strong and healthy, that you should all live long lives, fortunate (mazeldike) years, that mazel should fly to you straight through the window, that there should be well-being, luck, and successes to you in everything, that peace will be established on earth, that there will be a peaceful sky above our heads. G-d grant that all of you and all of us stay alive and well, stay on our feet, in a good frame of mind, and that we receive good news from relatives and dear ones. Omen!"



Fira & Zane Buzby, Ivankov, Ukraine

We at *The Survivor Mitzvah Project* would also like to thank you and update you on our efforts to provide emergency aid to these last survivors of the Shoah. These brave individuals in their 80's and 90's, some born as early as 1912, live in incredibly harsh conditions, lacking food, life-saving medication, and heat for the brutal winter months. Isolated, ill, and alone, these are the people who have fallen through the cracks in the assistance net and are still struggling to survive over 70 years after the start of the war. **The Survivor Mitzvah Project is the only organization in the world that delivers direct and continuous financial aid to these survivors. And we are able do this because of your help.** 

Our project has grown considerably. From the initial 8 survivors we identified and starting helping in

2001, we now have 2,000 survivors in 7 countries in our program. And the number of survivors we serve is still growing. As this forgotten population ages, their medical needs become more critical, more complex and more urgent. In Eastern Europe there is no medical insurance, no Jewish Family Services, no "assisted living" facilities, no nursing homes and no welfare services available to help them. And if they do receive government pensions, they are meager and are being reduced every year, to almost nothing. The average pension is \$60 per month - which doesn't even cover enough food for one person, let alone enough money for medications, heating fuel, or shelter.



Jewish Huts - Lithuania

Now, with so many urgent cases and so many newly identified survivors to support, the need exceeds our capacity to help all who are suffering. We are forced to make hard decisions daily regarding allocation of funds to survivors who are all ill and all in dire need. Who will receive help? Who will have to wait? Who get a visit from a nurse or caregiver? Who will be left alone? Who will have their eyesight saved? Who will go blind? ... Who will live, and who will die?

These are truly heart-wrenching questions and we must make heart-wrenching decisions every day. But it doesn't have to be this way!

If more people join us, more survivors will be helped! Our goal at this time of great need is to reach out to everyone to whom this urgent undertaking resonates and ask them to take just a few minutes to reach out to their friends and families.



Ours is a finite project, yet right now is the most critical moment in history for these survivors who have no other lifeline but us to provide them the emergency aid they so desperately need.

(Left: Volunteer Laura Stella comforts survivor Berl Glazer - Lithuania)

We receive hundreds of letters a month from survivors. The survivor's share their Holocaust testimonies and always express their endless thanks to all of you who have helped. **Your support** 

means life. They call you, "The Angels from America." In letter after letter they write, "We could not live without your help."

Please help us provide more aid to more survivors by reaching out to friends, family and colleagues. Introduce them to The Survivor Mitzvah Project and ask them to join you in this effort. We will be happy to provide you with packets of informational materials for anyone who you feel may be interested.

These are the last generation of Holocaust survivors and we are the last generation to have the responsibility and the honor to help them.

## Your help is not just a donation, it is an investment in an ennobling and rewarding effort to help people and save lives.

Who will live, and who will die? It's up to you. It's up to all of us.

## We can make a difference. Help write a name in our Book of Life!

Please make a generous donation this Rosh Hashanah.

Wishing you a sweet New Year!

Sincerely,

Zane Buzby

Donate online at: <u>www.survivormitzvah.org</u> or send a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project 2658 Griffith Park Blvd., Suite #299, Los Angeles, CA 90039

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Watch our humanitarian expeditions at: http://youtu.be/bJLRKA2VhAY

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