

Austin Jews & Partners for Refugees strives to connect refugees with resources to meet their immediate needs and to support their next steps toward building successful lives.



A Note from the Board

We are so grateful for the presence of so many of you at Russ Apfel's z"l funeral, and the outpour of generosity given. We thank each and every one of you for your support in this difficult transitional time.

Nancy Wolf will be resigning as board president to be with her family and heal. Our new Board President will be Sherry Blum.

Chichi Armstrong will be covering our finances until we find a new Board Treasurer. Our work alongside HIAS hasn't stopped, with several new families arriving in Austin this month. Your donations will be put to good use as always. We ask for your patience in donor communications as we deal with the legalities of new accounts and signatories. We hope you continue to support our mission of "welcoming the stranger" through these difficult times.



AJPR would like to thank the following for donations in memory of Russ Apfel

Ron Axelrod, Rachel Bader, Bob Batlan, Judith Berkowitz, Richard Berkowitz, Leon Barish, Lu Bush, Michelle Cutaia, James Cravens, Mary Esther Diaz, Sanford Dochen, Jon Donovan, Judy Feinstein, Michael Fleischman, Susan Greening, Katherine Godey, Lawrence Goldman, Lois Goldberg, Jerome Groskin, Sarah Grant, Rachel Bader Weiner, Danielle Hendrickson, Nhaila Hendrickse, Lea Isgur, Stephanie Kwait, Barbara Klayman, Lenny and Lynn Krasnow, Lana Lavis, Liz McIlravy, Marcia Nieder, Justin Oswald, Ken Pruski, Louise Rosen, Robyn Shapiro, James Shaunessy, Sandy Schwartz, Eric Smith, Larry and Bette Silver, Elizabeth Silver-Schack, Cathy Thomas, and Sandra Wolkowicz.

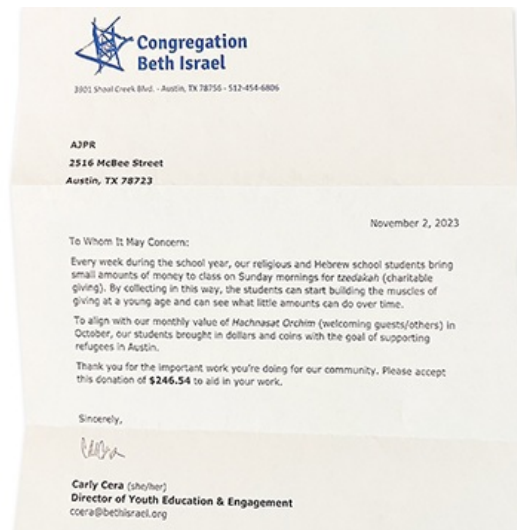
AJPR also wants to thank the following people who generously made in-kind donations over the past months for our new refugee families:

Sandy Dochen
Amy Greenspan
Paloma Efron
Kathryn Shultz
Nancy Wolf
Lauren Montijo

Helene Myers
Leone Lain
Janice Pearce
Laura Hyman
Linda Cox
Nina Raccach

Ellen Tai
Lorri Haden
Ina Power
Lori Kline
Susan Johnson
Mike Baum
Linda Garriott

THANK YOU to CBI Sunday School Students for their generous support of refugees in Austin!



To Whom it May Concern:

Every week during our school year, our religious and Hebrew school students bring small amounts of money to class on Sunday mornings for tzedakah (charitable giving). By collecting in this way, the students can start building the muscles of giving at a young age and can see what little amounts can do over time.

To align with our monthly value of Hachnasat Orchim (welcoming guests/others) in October, our students brought in dollars and coins with the goal of supporting refugees in Austin. Thank you for the important work you're doing for our community. **Please accept this donations of \$246.54 to aid in your work.**

Sincerely, Carly Cera, Director of Youth and Education and Engagement CBI



A NOTE ABOUT DONATIONS

HIAS, with the volunteer and financial help of AJPR, has settled 5 families in the past weeks, and there are more, large families coming soon! Unlike the families that came in 2021, these are arriving with **NO SNAP, work authorization, and other documents necessary for their becoming financially independent**

What does that mean?

That we need help with donations more than ever to being able to keep helping their resettlement. As always, we are grateful for your help.

I'd like to donate to AJPR

Volunteer of the Month

Sherry Blum



What would you say to someone who is thinking of volunteering?

Why did you decide to volunteer with refugees?

One of the many reasons that I volunteer with refugees is that my grandmother and most of my great-grandparents arrived in this country as refugees from Europe in the early part of the 20th century. When they arrived, they had help from other refugees who had come before them, and also from HIAS, so I am especially happy to be helping HIAS here in Austin, and paying it forward.

How did you find AJPR?

A friend and fellow congregant at Congregation Kol Halev, Susan Pintchovski, introduced me to AJPR. She knew of my interest in Tikkun Olam in general, and helping with refugees in particular, from work that we had done together with other congregants, dating back to the Syrian Refugee crisis.

How has your help these past couple of months impacted refugee lives?

I have mostly been helping with apartment set-ups, including furniture donation collections, and I have also done some individual missions, taking refugees to doctor's appointments etc. I have also been involved in creating connections between Austin Community College, where I work as a philosophy Professor, and the services that ACC has to offer refugees, such as English classes and assistance with job searches, as well as regular college courses and courses to earn vocational certificates. I hope that all of these things help refugees find their feet and get established in their new lives here in the USA.

How has it impacted your life?

Volunteering with refugees has impacted my life by reminding me that what I do matters. My late mother brought me up to feel that helping others is the most important thing there is, and she lived by that teaching. So now, I feel that I am continuing an important family legacy, as well as manifesting the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World).

If you are not already volunteering, take that first step even if you think that you are too busy. It turns out that when you commit to helping others, the time and other resources that you need seem to magically show up, and the feeling that you are making a difference is priceless!

AJPR presence at AMAL event was a success!



Amal danced with Austin Ballet



Amal was a strong positive symbol of all refugees



Cathy networking at the AJPR desk



**VOLUNTEERS, HAVE YOU OK'D A
BACKGROUND CHECKED YET?**

WITH A BACKGROUND CHECK YOU CAN:

- do airport pickups
- deliver welcome meals and groceries
- do transportation missions
- help a family settle in Austin
- teach ESL classes
- teach cultural orientation classes

**IT'S FREE AND SUPER EASY!
JUST CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW**

I'd like to get a free background
check!

AJPR is currently taking nominations for
AJPR Board Members,
most importantly the position of Treasurer.

**a commitment to refugee work
and**

I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE A BOARD MEMBER

Refugee Basket



WELCOME BASKETS

It fun for you and IMPORTANT for the families!

Welcome basket descriptions are [HERE](#)

I'd like to help with Welcome
Baskets!

PARTNER NEWS



It is with great sadness that we announce **the passing of James and Patrick Kantamutuzo**, newly arrived refugees from Congo. They died in a fatal car accident with another vehicle on Saturday Nov 4. Patrick was 19 years old and working on getting his HS diploma. James was a 15 years old high school student. Catholic Charities, UT, AISD, and the Congolese community are making arrangements for the family and supporting them during this tragic time. Someone is always there to check on them. Someone has arranged for pro- bono legal assistance. The funeral and memorial were held on Nov 10. Our hearts go out to their father Pacifique, sister, older and younger brothers as well as their friends and families in the Congolese community.

May they rest in peace.

International Training for the Effective Immigration Advocate

JANUARY 8-19, 2024



We are excited to announce that our next immigration advocate training will be in Oaxaca from January 8th to the

19th, 2024.

Applications will be accepted from now until November 20th.

To learn more about the training and apply, go to

<https://ollinoaxaca.org.mx/training>



ANNOUNCING!

LADIES LET'S TALK

Fall II 2023 Sessions

Thursday evenings 7:00-8:30pm CT

November 30; December 7, 14, 21

also on

Friday mornings 10:30am-12:00pm CT

December 1, 8, 15, 22

All sessions are held online using Zoom

[Register to Volunteer HERE](#)

Austin Jews and Partners for Refugees

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