LEADING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, DIPLOMATS, SCHOLARS TO FETE 30 POLISH HOLOCAUST RESCUERS

JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS AND WARSAW’S KOSHER FOOD BANK PARTNER TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR RESCUERS

WARSAW, Poland – The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) will honor the sacrifices of Polish rescuers of Jews living in Warsaw in one of the largest gatherings of Holocaust rescuers in Warsaw. These righteous gentiles, who range in age from early 80s to 100, are dwindling in number, such that the JFR luncheon is likely to be among the last of such commemorations of its kind. The event will take place on Sunday, September 8th, at 1:00 p.m., at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jewry, at 6 Mordechaja Anielewicz Street in Warsaw. The annual JFR program has become the largest and most prestigious ceremony honoring rescuers in Poland.

In addition to some 30 rescuers, the event will be attended by foreign diplomats, religious, and community leaders, who will speak to the gathering.

The luncheon will also serve as a launch event for the partnership between the JFR and Warsaw’s first Kosher Foodbank, which launched earlier this year under the leadership of Poland’s Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich and through the support and guidance of Yad Ezra of Detroit. Through this unique partnership, the food pantry based in the Nozyk Synagogue complex, will provide bimonthly food packages to righteous gentile rescuers who are in need.

The JFR provides monthly financial support to some 147 aged and needy Polish rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust. In the calendar year 2019, the JFR will send approximately US $600,000 to rescuers living in Poland.
“These are heroic people of exceptional character who risked their lives and often the lives of their families to save Jews during the Holocaust. This special event is designed to recognize them and give them the proper honor they deserve,” said Executive Vice President of the JFR Stanlee Stahl.

“While we have been doing this event for some time, this is a special year with the opening of the foodbank. Having developed foodbanks in the United States, I personally know the positive impact they have on families, so I am very happy we can play a role in the creation of the facility in Warsaw and utilize it as a local base through which to provide support to Polish rescuers,” she added.

The JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to more than 265 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 18 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than $40 million to aged and needy rescuers – helping to repay a debt of gratitude on behalf of the Jewish people to these noble men and women. Its Holocaust teacher education program has become a standard for teaching the history of the Holocaust and educating teachers and students about the significance of the Righteous as moral and ethical exemplars. For more information, visit https://jfr.org/.

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