WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

For every £1 we receive, 79p is spent on our life-changing projects supporting older Jewish people and those escaping poverty, primarily in Eastern Europe. We invest the other 21p to manage our income and to help raise the next pound.

To make a donation please visit worldjewishrelief.org
SAVING LIVES
THEN
SAVING LIVES
NOW
But let me take the opportunity to remember that 85 years ago, World Jewish Relief was founded to respond to the growing disaster facing European Jewry, as Adolf Hitler rose to power. It led to the launch of our single greatest disaster appeal, raising millions of pounds in the 1930s and rescuing over 65,000 Jews fleeing to Britain.

Not only rescuing them but finding them homes, school places, jobs, businesses and helping so many of them to become integral building blocks of our own successful Jewish community.

This year we’re celebrating our role in instigating the Kindertransport, 80 years ago. Many of your parents, grandparents and great grandparents may well have either been beneficiaries of such action or helped fund it. Without World Jewish Relief then, arguably some of you would not be here today. Without World Jewish Relief today, many others elsewhere may not be here tomorrow.

There are commemorative events throughout this 80th anniversary year, most notably the Berlin to London bike ride. Amazingly 42 cyclists have been riding 600 miles in six days, raising money for our work today whilst poignantly taking the route that children on the Kindertransports took in 1938 and 1939. What a wonderful effort.

In April, our Krakow Jewish Community Centre (JCC) reached its 10th anniversary. Now this is worth shouting about. The brainchild of our Patron, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and built and funded by World Jewish Relief, the JCC has provided a catalyst for the rebirth of Jewish life in this tragic city, so close to Auschwitz. The centre today boasts 600 Jewish members and has recently opened a Jewish kindergarten, playing a critical role in the future of Jewish life in Poland. If you are ever in Krakow you must visit.

In the 1940s we helped Jewish refugees arriving in the UK learn English, get skilled up, find apprenticeships and secure employment. Today we continue to believe that the highest form of charity is helping individuals to help themselves. In Ukraine and Moldova our Back to Work programmes are helping Jewish individuals find work – we are currently seeing 78% of people on the programme find good jobs.

Our expertise in helping people out of work and under-employed encouraged the UK Government to seek our assistance in finding work for Syrian refugees to the UK. Funded by private donors and the Home Office, I am proud to see World Jewish Relief living our Jewish values and supporting this refugee community. Results are encouraging and we welcomed the Minister of State for Immigration to our project in Bradford recently.

We cannot help the thousands of people who rely on us for support without you. And we cannot update you nor ask you for help if we don’t have your permission to speak to you. Taking care of your data is paramount and we will not fill your inbox with rubbish. So please “opt in” to our email communications. That will also enable me to keep thanking you for your fabulous support.

I’m not a great one for celebrating charity birthdays – they tend to highlight the sad story of ongoing needs rather than being simply celebratory. I’d love nothing more than to celebrate the day when all global Jewish needs are met and we can shut up shop. We’re working every day to make that a reality.

Paul Anticoni
Chief Executive

paul@worldjewishrelief.org
Helping Lev rebuild his life

Lev had not only lost his friends and clients, but also his confidence, strength and optimism. He was plagued by uncertainty. What would happen to his businesses? How would he continue to support his family? Where would they live?

His family relied for months on the little money they had saved, in order to buy basic food and clothes. However, Lev’s life began to turn around. He enrolled on the “New Start” project, one of World Jewish Relief’s Livelihood Development Programmes. With our help, he found his confidence, reignited his spirit, and enhanced his skills. Lev told us, “This training gave me the impetus to restart my own businesses.”

Back on his feet, Lev is not only taking care of his family, but other displaced Ukrainians too. He has employed one of the most successful graduates from the Livelihood Programme, who also moved from the conflict zone. Wanting to “bring just a little more kindness to this world”, Lev also volunteered to conduct a training course in internet skills for disabled members of Krivoy Rog’s Jewish community.

There are thousands of others like Lev, each with their own stories and struggles, who have not yet received the help they need. Your support can give them and their families a future.

This is the first time in history that successful, thriving Jewish businessmen have been forced to relocate, abandoning their businesses, homes and communities.

Imagine if the stories you once heard, stories you thought were consigned to history books, suddenly became a reality.

This is what Lev was faced with. His peaceful life in Crimea, with two successful businesses, was shattered by a military invasion. Tanks rolled in and helicopters flew overhead. His three young children were scared and confused. Lev made the impossible decision to leave everything behind.

Travelling with the little they could fit in their car, Lev’s family fled from Crimea to Krivoy Rog. Having saved only their photographs and books, they had no choice but to rebuild their lives from scratch. Lev’s wife told us how, as displaced people, they were looked at by their new neighbours as “unknown animals”.

Over the last year, Lev has been able to build up his main business once again, a web development studio. He hopes to do the same with the trekking business he also left behind. Slowly but surely, his life is regaining a kind of normality.
9 November 1938 is embossed on the collective consciousness of the Jewish people. Kristallnacht and all that followed should never – and will never – be forgotten. Amidst the darkness of the atrocities, we cannot forget the chink of light that emerged. The Kindertransport is the quintessential Jewish story of survival and heroism.

Immediately after Kristallnacht, CBF founders Lionel De Rothschild and Chaim Weizmann, who went on to be the first President of the State of Israel, together with a small delegation of prominent British Jews, met with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to appeal for help in rescuing children from the Nazis. They proposed providing financial support, education and training and asked that the need for German travel documents and British visas be waived in order to expedite the mission.

Chamberlain wasn’t keen initially, but the Home Secretary, Samuel Hoare, raised it in Cabinet and it was supported by Lord Halifax, Foreign Secretary, who believed that it could be the kind of positive...
Harry Heber has been volunteering for World Jewish Relief for 20 years. Harry was only seven years old when he was forced to flee the Nazis. He arrived alone in Britain 80 years ago on one of the first Kindertransports and grew up to become an optician. In 1997, Harry read an article about how World Jewish Relief had rescued the Kindertransport children. Determined to give back to the organisation that saved his life, Harry became a World Jewish Relief volunteer and set up the World Jewish Relief Optical Programme when he discovered that thousands of Jews in Central and Eastern Europe didn’t have the gift of sight because they couldn’t afford glasses. Using his extensive experience, within a year Harry had dispatched 1,000 new pairs of prescription glasses to people who desperately needed them. The number has since grown to nearly 60,000 prescriptions in 15 countries.

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In September 2015, World Jewish Relief launched our second international emergency appeal for refugees fleeing the devastating conflict in Syria. The work that we carried out then, in Greece and Turkey, continues today. At the same time, David Cameron announced that by 2020 Britain will take in 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, through the Government’s Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Our extensive research showed us that there was a serious gap in provision for refugees arriving in the UK; they were not being offered specialised support to find employment. With years of expertise running programmes to help people into employment across Eastern Europe, we decided to intervene, supported by a number of private donors and the Home Office.

The pilot Specialist Training and Employment Programme (STEP) launched in Bradford in April 2016 and expanded to Coventry nine months later. Here we met Baraa, 20, whose family left their home in Damascus in 2012. Through the programme we assisted Baraa to develop his CV, access additional English language support, develop his career goals and understand the UK job market.

Shortly after Baraa joined STEP, staff developed a link with Timpsons, which offered participants places on its Corporate Social Responsibility scheme. Timpson’s scheme provides a two week placement, followed by 16 weeks of paid work experience with a potential job offer at the end. Baraa was immediately put forward for the scheme and trained to become a Branch Support Colleague. He received a job offer and has since progressed from trainee to Branch Manager in just seven months, recently being promoted to a larger branch. He is now a talented key cutter, shoe repairman and phone repair technician.

Baraa is one of 245 people we have helped during the last two years across Bradford, Coventry and later the Yorkshire region, through a partnership with the Home Office. To date, 77 of our participants have secured sustainable employment and can now begin to build a new life for themselves and their families, as integrated, valued members of British society.

Baraa told us, “In Syria, you don’t think about what you’re going to be in the future, just...
how you’re going to save your life. STEP didn’t just help me earn money, it also showed me where to go and made me feel like I can give more. Now I dream of having my own business fixing watches and phones. I’m grateful to World Jewish Relief. A very big thank you!”

The STEP programme will continue until 2021, during which time we will provide training to 800 more Syrian refugees. We will also build relationships with more large employers like Timpsons, to help participants secure work experience, volunteering opportunities and full-time employment.
I’d like to think that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is a fan of Costner’s. Prince Charles was visiting Krakow on an unrelated mission in 2002 when he met older members of the local Jewish community. He was moved by their plight, affected by seeing Holocaust survivors’ living conditions and the lack of a cohesive, warm, community space for them to gather. It’s easy to see how for visitors to both the death camps and to Krakow, the story that was told was one of death and despair. There is, by necessity, a constant reminder of the atrocities that took place. Death seeps through Auschwitz’s every pore. So when Prince Charles had his vision, to build a Jewish community centre just an hour down the road from Auschwitz, he wanted to create something paradigmatically opposed to Poland’s death camps; a ray of hope arising from darkness. An entourage from World Jewish Relief took part in the Jewish Community Centre’s (JCC) tenth anniversary celebrations in April. We celebrated Prince Charles’ vision being brought to magnificent fruition by World Jewish Relief and the generosity of our supporters. The building is now the vibrant beating heart of Jewish life in Krakow. It offers a refuge and sanctuary for Krakow’s remaining Jews, many of whom have recently discovered their Judaism. It brings in staff and volunteers from beyond the community, creating a sense of community not seen in the city – or probably even amongst Poland’s Jewish community – since the time of the shtetl! The JCC represents not just a rebirth of Jewish life but continuity. Whilst Jewish life in Krakow declined post-Holocaust, a thriving Jewish centre recalls the centuries of flourishing community, where people across the generations celebrated their Jewishness collectively. At the event, I met Zofia Radzikowska, born in 1935. She is one of the matriarchs of the community, one of 60 Holocaust survivors to attend the centre’s Seniors Club. She survived the Holocaust by using fake documents and is now the JCC’s most active member. The Beatles medley that her and her friends on the JCC choir sang, with the words adjusted to pay homage to the JCC, will live long in the memory. Possibly the most impressive new feature of the JCC is the bright, sparkling new Kindergarten, the first pluralistic Jewish preschool to open in Krakow since the Holocaust. A new generation of Jewish children will grow up there. With 700 members and growing, Prince Charles’ ambition, possibly inspired by Kevin Costner (!), has been realised. I look forward to returning in ten more years to meet some of those Kindergarten children as they undertake their Bnei Mitzvot. It’s in their tiny but safe hands that this community will go from strength to strength.
My 600 mile journey for World Jewish Relief

Ian Goldsmith, Supporter

MY FATHER ARRIVED WITH HIS BROTHER IN HARWICH, ESSEX, ON THE VERY FIRST KINDERTRANSPORT BOAT ON 2 DECEMBER 1938. HE LEFT HIS FATHER AND WIDER FAMILY IN HAMBURG. IT WAS ONLY WHEN I APPROACHED WORLD JEWISH RELIEF THAT I FOUND THIS OUT.

Now I’ll be continuing his journey, cycling the same route, from Germany to the Hook of Holland, then on a ferry to Harwich and into Liverpool Street Station, 80 years on.

When Britain voted to leave the European Union in June 2016, it made me realise how much I valued being a European. So in February 2017, I took the decision to apply for German nationality.

I knew my father was German and Jewish but like many of his generation, he never spoke of it. When I was 12, we lived in Nairobi and he made me sit and watch a TV series about the Holocaust. A year or so later, he spontaneously spoke German to some tourists who asked directions! Whilst both of these occurrences struck me as strange, I thought little more of it until I started applying for German citizenship.

In order to apply for citizenship, I needed as much evidence as possible of my Germanic roots, so I approached World Jewish Relief. All I was looking for was some paperwork but it started my journey towards the insanity of cycling 600 miles in six days!

I knew that my father, Salomon Robert Goldschmidt, and his brother Bruno, were German and Jewish, but my father died over 30 years ago, in 1977 aged 52. So the World Jewish Relief archive opened up his childhood for me. I saw a photo of my father at aged 13 that I had never seen before and detailed records of his living accommodation, education, work life, and social care through to age 20 when he married my mother. Perhaps most poignantly, I found confirmation of the death of his father, in Sachsenhausen, when he was just 15.

Having found all of this out, I researched my wider family in depth and found that there are memorials (Stolpersteine – literally, ‘stumbling blocks’) in Hamburg to commemorate my grandfather and a great aunt and great uncle. I’ve since found out all about my dad’s story, his first job as a boot maker, his emigration to Tanganyika in 1953 and how, despite being self-taught, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a computer engineer and programmer.

My family and friends keep on telling me how crazy I am to do this bike ride. 600 miles in 6 days is quite an achievement, but having found out about the hardships suffered by my dad and his family, my aches and pains will pale into insignificance. I’m particularly proud that I’m raising money to support what World Jewish Relief does now, giving poorer Jewish communities around the world the kind of opportunities that were afforded to my father.

World Jewish Relief has thousands of individual historical records for the children who came on the Kindertransport and other Jews who sought refuge in Britain. To find out if we have yours or your families’ archive please visit www.worldjewishrelief.org/archives.
60 SECONDS WITH...

PAUL MINIKES-ALEXANDER, ONE OF THE 42 RIDERS ON WORLD JEWISH RELIEF’S BERLIN TO LONDON KINDERTRANSPORT COMMEMORATIVE BIKE RIDE.

Why are you doing the ride?
I was only 1½ years old when my mother, Eva, put me into the arms of a volunteer nurse in Leipzig station to take me to England on one of the last Kindertransports, six weeks before the outbreak of WW2.

I’m doing this ride to celebrate my survival, my happy life, the victory of good over evil and in honour of my parents who had the courage and foresight to send me away alone. It is not only a poignant, exciting and emotional event, it is also an immense physical and mental challenge which attracts me.

So why are you doing it for World Jewish Relief?
World Jewish Relief played a key role in organising the Kindertransport, in finding homes and providing for the children, including me, after their arrival. I am particularly indebted to Mr. Harry Jacobs in whose care I was placed and remained for 2 or 3 years.

World Jewish Relief was also instrumental in establishing the Kitchener transit camp for male refugees, many of them going on to fight in the war. My father arrived in the camp immediately after his release from Buchenwald, shortly after my arrival in England.

Who are you doing the ride with?
I’m doing it with my son Nadav and one of my grandsons Daniel, a triathlete aged nearly 15. It means a great deal to me to be doing this ride with the next generations.

Who are you doing the ride to commemorate?
I will ride in honour of - and in tribute to - my late parents Eva and Alfons Minikes. Nadav and Daniel are riding in tribute to me.

CHALLENGES FOR EVERYONE

Whatever challenge you’re interested in, at World Jewish Relief there’s something for you – from a 600 mile bike ride to a 1km walk!

Personal trainers Simon and Karina of Freerange Fitness will be supporting all our participants. “Find out what your real limits are - it’s is a great personal challenge and an amazing way to raise money for World Jewish Relief.”

We have spaces on three major up-coming events:

• **Royal Parks Half Marathon**
  14 October 2018

• **Wolf Run**
  29/30 September 2018

• **Virgin London Marathon**
  28 April 2019

To hear more about the event that’s for you, contact Rafi on 020 8736 1250 or rafi@worldjewishrelief.org

FREE WILLS...

Want to leave a gift to World Jewish Relief and don’t know where to start?

World Jewish Relief run a free Will scheme so you can help the World’s poorest Jews at no extra cost to you.

Gifts in Wills are critical to World Jewish Relief. We couldn’t achieve what we do without the invaluable support of those who want to leave a lasting legacy.

For more information about leaving a gift to World Jewish Relief and about a free Will please contact Richard Budden, Head of Individual Giving & Legacies on 020 8736 1255 or richardb@worldjewishrelief.org