

39TH AJFCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 15-17, 2011

The Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta

THE GOODMAN AWARD SUBMISSION FORM

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I. General Information

- a. Program Title: Voices of Resilience – Голоса Стойкости
- b. Agency Name: Jewish Family Service Calgary
- c. Date Program Began: October 2008

II. Summary

- a. Initial Problem(s) to be Addressed by the Program: The stories of Holocaust survivors from the Former Soviet Union have remained mostly unknown. There are multiple barriers that interfere with the inclusion of this aging Jewish immigrant group; they often remain isolated and silenced. The project addressed this problem by giving voice to the seniors and leaving a historical record of a little known chapter of Jewish history through recording stories told by seniors living in Calgary, Canada.
- b. Brief Overall Program Description: The project was coordinated by Jewish Family Service Calgary and implemented almost entirely by volunteers who conducted and transcribed life story interviews in Russian and translated the transcribed stories into English. The 20 stories, both in Russian and English, were published in a book in June 2010. The book, titled “Voices of Resilience” is believed to be one of the first of its kind in the story it tells and the manner in which it was brought to life.

III. Components

- a. Jewish Component: 100%
- b. Outreach Component: 20 seniors living in Calgary originally from the Former Soviet Union volunteered to tell their stories of the Soviet Holocaust experience and surviving World War II. About a dozen volunteers, most of them members of the Russian speaking Jewish community, contributed their time and their talents for interviewing survivors, writing, translating, proofreading, editing, and translating the stories, as well as consultation and coordination of the project.
- c. Community-Building Component: The potential impact of engaging Russian-speaking Holocaust survivors could be essential for the strengthening and growth of our community, similar to how our community was enriched by absorbing Holocaust survivors who arrived shortly after WWII. The book celebrates the survivors’ life stories and helps strengthen our community through inclusion, education and bridging the diversity gaps.

IV. Outcomes

- a. Outcomes of the Program to Date: To date, about 300 copies of the book have been distributed through donations to JFSC or donations to libraries and archives. The

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book “Voices of Resilience” is the most tangible, short-term outcome; the feedback from readers was overwhelmingly positive in Calgary and beyond. The long-term impact stems from communal engagement: empowerment and inclusion of isolated aging Russian-speaking survivors; engaging a large group of younger volunteers (mostly Russian-speaking); learning from survivors' stories – a strong educational impact on second generation and broader community; preserving survivors' stories that would otherwise be lost.

- b. Evaluation Method: Counting the number of books that have been distributed, oral and written feedback from participants, readers and the community.

V. Sustainability

- a. Total Program Cost: \$10,810
- b. Major Income Sources: Donors and supporters include: Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary, The Holocaust Education and Remembrance Committee of Calgary Jewish Community Council, Jewish Family Service Calgary, Blitzprint Inc., Haskel and Sandra Eisner.
- c. Agency's Plans for the Continuation of the Program: JFSC will continue to distribute copies of the book to the general public, to libraries and through the Calgary Board of Education. Future events will continue to include the participation of the seniors in workshops, readings and events held with the support of strategic partners like the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta.

VI. Contact Information

- a. Contact Person's Name: Bev Sheckter
- b. Contact Person's Title: Executive Director
- c. Contact Person's Telephone Number: (403) 692-6377
- d. Contact Person's Email Address: bev@jfsc.org