

Holocaust Giving Resource

Giving with intention, begins with personal connection and stories.



Elie Wiesel once said:

“The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.”

By learning from the stories of others, we carry those important lessons forward. We allow them to guide us and embrace the pieces of our heritage that make us who we are.

Honeycomb has put together this educational Holocaust giving resource for you to use in order to have deeper conversations around this important topic. In it you will find access to guiding Jewish values, texts, information on giving and links to additional resources. Importantly, it provides information on how to make informed giving decisions related to Holocaust survivors today, Holocaust education and anti-semitism.

THE STORIES THAT GUIDE US

In the not-too-distant future Holocaust Survivors will no longer be around to share their own stories. In Jewish tradition, we uphold the value of *L'dor v' Dor* which translates to: "From generation to generation". It is our responsibility as Jews to learn from those that came before us and to preserve their stories.

How can I give to support this important issue?

Judaism has many traditions around *Tzedakah* (righteous giving) and there are many different ways to give. So how can you decide? When we reflect on our own unique experiences; our personal stories, our families', our heritage, and our Jewish traditions and teachings, these different aspects become the guiding light we need to give with purpose and create change.

We have identified 3 major categories and ways to support Holocaust remembrance:

- Preserving the Legacy through Testimonials and Stories
- Supporting Emergency Needs of Holocaust Survivors Today
- Holocaust Education and Combatting Anti-Semitism

While these are all connected, there are many organizations that support different aspects of these needs. To make an informed decision, we encourage you to follow these steps outlined in this resource to guide your giving:

- 1 Understand a survivor's unique story and how we are all connected as a Jewish people.
- 2 Explore Jewish values that resonate with you.
- 3 Choose an organization that supports your values.

Individual stories can have a deep impact and shape our perspective.

Below are some resources you may consider using in order to hear real testimonials from survivors and have a discussion about the legacy they leave us. It is our responsibility to learn from them so that we can give from a place of knowledge, empathy and intention.

- ◆ Read testimonials and create a found poem by using this resource: [Responding to Stories of Holocaust Survivors Resource from Facing History.](#)
- ◆ During BBYO IC 2021, we heard the inspiring story of Holocaust Survivor, Anita Karl. To learn more of her story, you can read the book [Escape to Life](#), written by Anita's mother, Mali Karl.
- ◆ Hear other testimonials from these places: [Holocaust Hero](#) [Zikaron Basalon](#) [The Shoah Project](#)

Supporting Survivors Today

According to [Kavod SHEF](#), recent studies indicate that of the 80,000 Holocaust survivors that are living today in the United States—more than 30,000 are living at or near poverty. The support these survivors receive does not allow them to afford what is needed to live a dignified life. Many are choosing between heat or food, medicine or rent. Others have dire living conditions because they cannot invest what is needed to repair their homes. Examples of emergency needs include things such as:

Dental, Vision, Medical, Food, Emergency Home Care (keeping them at home and live their days in dignity), Emergency Transportation (including getting survivors to get to their vaccinations), Emergency Home Services (emergency utilities, home repair, and rent support), PPE (COVID response), Delivery (COVID response).

When compared with the general population in their age demographic, Holocaust Survivors living at risk or below the poverty line are nearly double the poverty rates for the wider senior community. There are multiple factors that contribute to this discrepancy including the early trauma they experienced.

What Jewish value can help guide my giving?

As you embark on the journey of doing this work, you will ultimately select one or two Jewish values that can help guide you. In learning of the hardships and atrocities of the Holocaust, you may wonder how you can take action. Start by selecting a Jewish value; explore where you want to give, let your value help center your decision and continue to refer back to that value.



Areyvut - Responsibility

Avodah - Service

G'milut Chasadim - Lovingkindness

Kavod - Human Dignity

Shmirah - Preservation

Tikvah - Hope

Tzedek - Justice

What does Jewish text say?

Remember the days of old, Consider the years of ages past; Ask your father, he will inform you, your elders, they will tell you. Deuteronomy 32:7

Discussion:

- ◆ How do the 7 values listed above connect to this text?
- ◆ Why might it be important to remember the past?
- ◆ What does it mean to listen to previous generations?
- ◆ How does listening to the stories of our elders honor them?
- ◆ How does this text comment on strengthening our Jewish connection?
- ◆ If you could add another sentence to the text, what would you add?

Select Your Guiding Values:

- ◆ Consider the list above and Select 1-2 Guiding Values for the group.
- ◆ How can you uphold that value through your actions?

Chose an Organization and Issue to Support

Now that you have taken the time to learn, connect and recognize this important issue through personal stories, you are now ready to take action guided by your values.

Which of the 3 categories of Holocaust Remembrance (Preserving Stories and Legacy, Holocaust Education, Emergency Needs of Survivors Today) does your value best support? To answer this question and take action follow this next steps:

- ◆ Research organizations that support 1 of the 3 categories of Holocaust.
- ◆ Look at the organization's About page. What is their mission?
- ◆ How does their mission align with your value?
- ◆ Select an organization that your group would like to contribute to.

Website Resources

Learn more about the Holocaust and organizations that support this work.

[Facing History](#)

[Holocaust Hero](#)

[Kavod SHEF](#)

[United State Holocaust Museum](#)

[USC Shoah Foundation](#)

[Zikaron Basalon](#)



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