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# האיגוד העולמי של יוצאי ווהלין

## WORLD ASSOCIATION OF WOLYNIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL



RECEIVED

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LEGAL SERVICES

To Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation P.O. Box 8300 San Francisco, CA 94128-8300 U.S.A.

30 December 2003

## Application to the Funds from the Swiss Banks Settlement

Attached please find application of Wolyn Center to the residual funds of the Swiss banks Settlement.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Aharon Stein, Chairman

#### Application for Residual Funds

#### General

On November 17, 2003 Judge E. Korman signed an order inviting "any person or organization who seeks to offer a plan for providing assistance to needy Nazi victims" to submit proposals of allocation of the unclaimed residual funds from the \$1.25 billion Settlement fund (the "Order"). The undersigned organization hereby submits a proposal for such allocation of the unclaimed residual funds in accordance with the guidelines specified in the Order.

#### The Wolyn Center

- The Fenderation of the Wolyn Jews in Israel was founded in 1965 ("The Wolyn Center"). The organization had been founded as a cooperative society ("Aguda") and later changed its legal structure to a Non Profitable Association ("Amuta"). The Article and certificate of Association are attached as Appendix A.
- 2. The Wolyn Jews Federation was established with the vision to assist the survivors of the Wolyn region in Poland, a map attached as **Appendix B** (today part of the Ukraine) and, among others:
  - a. To amalgamate the former residents of the Wolyn region in the world for communal activities: public, social and cultural.

- b. To help and support former Wolyn residents especially new immigrants and other bodies by establishing funds, mutual aid societies, loans, employment, legal advice, information services and in any other way.
- 3. Since 1965, the Wolyn Center has been involved in many social, educational and cultural activities which all aim to help the individual survivor. Among others, the Wolyn Center, is involved in:
  - a. The Wolyn Center's building, located in Givatayim, Israel, is a Holocaust memorial and educational center. So far, approximately 100,000 students and soldiers participated in various memorial and educational activities in the Wolyn Center.
  - b. The Wolyn Center comprises 126 Jewish communities from the Wolyn region.

    A list of the communities is attached as <u>Appendix C</u>. The Wolyn Center is a roof organization for these communities and serves the survivors by organizing meeting, seminars, assemblies, memorial services and cultural events, and manages a large library. In 2000, The Wolyn Center organized the assembly of Wolyn Jews from all over the world.
  - c. The Wolyn Center support the needy survivors by establishing scholarships fund and providing other assistance with regards to the communities' history and memory, such as gravestones and memorial books.
  - d. The Wolyn Center has been organizing memorial ceremonies for its communities in Europe and founding monuments for Wolyn victims and partisans in Israel.

- 4. The Wolyn Center is in close contact with approximately 5,000 Wolyn survivors who receive monthly updates about the activities in Israel.
- 5. The Wolyn Center is in daily contact with other organizations including a tight relationship with Yad Vashem, Israel.

#### Financial resources:

6. The Wolyn Center is mostly financed by donations from members and fees paid by other organizations which use the Wolyn Center's facilities. In 2002 the Wolyn Center received 10,546 New Israeli Shekels ("NIS") in donations, and a total income of 73,562 NIS from all financial resources. In the last ten years, due to the decrease in memberships, the total income of the Wolyn Center has declined gradually, as demonstrated in **Appendix D**.

## Financial needs and the proposed Projects:

7. As specified below, the major needs of Wolyn Center are funds to support specific projects, which have already started during the 40 years of Wolyn Center's activity.

#### Brothers' Tombs' Gravestones

- 8. During the Second World War approximately 300,000 Jews, who came to the Wolyn area as refugees or had lived there for many generations, were murdered by the Nazis. Over 5,000 Wolyn Jews survived the Second World War. Most of the Victims were murdered and buried in the open fields in mass graves. There are about 150 brothers' tombs ("Kivrei Achim") which were found in the Wolyn area.
- 9. Until the 1990s the vast majority of Wolyn area was part of to the USSR (the Ukraine). Even before the fall of the "Iron Curtain", the President of the Federation of

the Wolynian Jews, Mr. Elbirt, went under the Wolyn Center's initiative to the Ukraine in order to examine the subject. The Ukrainian government gave its consent to lay the gravestones on the brothers' tombs. The Ukrainians laid 46 gravestones until they went out of budget. In the late 1990s it has been advertised by the Wolyn Center that there has been opened possibility to lay additional gravestones. As a result, some of our communities' representatives went to the Ukraine to lay gravestones inscribing both in Yiddish and in Hebrew, on the gravestones the dates of the barbaric slaughter.

- 10. All together, 46 gravestones were built by the Ukrainian government and additional 30 gravestones were donated and built by the communities themselves.
- 11. In 1999 the whole project was abandoned due to the lack of financial resources. The Ukrainians did not have available funds anymore for that project. In addition, the remaining communities, which came from the poor background in the Communist USSR, could not finance such a project.
- 12. The need is clear. There are many bothers' tombs without gravestones or any other memorial sign in the Wolyn area. Thousands are buried without a memory. The impression of the one of the victims, who went to Wolyn and found the human bones spread on the ground, is summarized in the attached **Appendix E**.
- 13. The victims can no longer support this project despite its importance. Victims had located the exact spots in which their parents and siblings are buried, but have no monies to build a gravestone for their beloved ones. We know, from our daily contact with these victims, the psychological and emotional need. They wish to know that the memory of their Jewish families is memorized by, at least, a gravestone, indicating the names and the dates on which their relatives were murdered.

- 14. We further know that these open fields are used today by the locals for agricultural purposes. Cattle are fed from these fields and desecrate the memory of the victims and their families.
- 15. During the last years we were urged by the Wolynian victims to speed up and to finalize the building of the gravestones. However, we do not have the funds to continue this project in order to give the last honor to the victims who perished in the Holocaust, and therefore we were forced to abandon the gravestones' project.
- 16. In the last five years we addressed several organizations with this fundamental need for a financial support. Nobody could assist us. See also letter attached as Appendix F. Many of our members have already died knowing that we could not even provide them a stone for a grave.
- 17. Today we know about 75 locations in Wolyn, in which the Wolynian Jews were buried but a gravestone has not been erected yet. According to the figures above, these 75 graves represent many thousands of victims.
- 18. We need the funds to resume the project and provide this most important service to our communities' victims.
- 19. The gravestones project is expected to be completed by 2007 and will serve the needy communities and many thousands of victim families who could not sponsor the gravestones and have no place to mourn their beloved families.
- 20. The monies required to finalize the project are detailed in <u>Appendix G</u> and represent the sum of \$1,897,500 USD.

#### Memorial Books

- 21. After the Holocaust, many survivors wished to document the history of their families and communities. The requests came from the individuals, the survivors and the families of the victims. Besides the general documentation of the Holocaust and the Jewish fate in general, the survivors essentially need a personal documentation of their family trees.
- 22. Upon the establishment of the Wolyn Center we took upon ourselves the obligation to meet those needs. We documented the history of our communities in 40 separate memorial books, which described the life and fate of each community. We distributed those books to our communities and a copy of the memorial book was also sent to the survivors. In the early 1970s we stopped the project, due to a financial shortage, and consequently only 40 books were completed.
- 23. Since then we have collected many new pieces of information about the communities.
  During these years, the survivors constantly requested to update the old versions of these memorial books and to complete the task by describing the new historical information. In addition we wanted to complete similar memorial books for the needy communities, which could not be included in the previous project due to the lack of financial resources.
- 24. Meeting the victims' need for specification about each town and each family is our purpose. There are various databases worldwide which aim to document the heritage of the Jewish people and the Holocaust. However, thousands of our communities' survivors could not and did not participate in these academic projects and databases. We understand and appreciate the academic needs. Nevertheless, our need is unique

and based upon the requests of the communities and their survivors. Our survivors ask for their family trees to be documented as well together with the updated versions of the memorial books focused on their respective community. A memorial book which will specifically detail the history of their families. The survivors want to leave behind them not only rich databases kept in memorial centers for public use, but also an intimate book about their specific community with a family tree attached. In this way the survivors can personally convey the heritage of their families to their descendants.

- 25. Needy survivors do not have the sources and the opportunity to track the history of their families. The public databases do not answer this need. Naturally, the memorial centers are less concerned about the individual and more concerned about the collective memory of the Holocaust.
- 26. The need of the survivors is clearly different from the need of the history books and academic institutions. The need of the victims is for a booklet to be placed on the shelf and passed to their children and grandchildren.
- 27. Throughout the preparation of such booklets, the survivors will have a unique opportunity to rebuild their family trees and heritage. For some of them it is almost the last opportunity to document their stories.
- 28. The memorial books and family trees project is expected to be completed by 2,008 and is expected to serve our 2,000 survivors of which 70% are presumed needy victims.
- 29. In order to complete and update the memorial books project the sum of \$460,000 is required. The calculations are attached in **Appendix H**.

#### Scholarships for needy survivors

- 30. Since its establishment, Wolyn Center has been constantly approached by needy survivors who look for scholarships for their children's and grandchildren's high education. Many of the needy survivors cannot provide the help for their relatives by themselves.
- 31. We understand the need. In Israel, academic studies are costly and a financial assistance is rarely offered by the state. So far, we have provided approximately 400 needy survivors with scholarships. These monies were donated by our members. Sometimes we could just partially address the need since the demands exceeded our resources.
- 32. In 2000 we had to stop this most important assistance. Due to the lack of funds, we could no longer help our needy survivors.
- 33. We receive approximately 50 requests for scholarships per year. Most of the requests (about 80%) come from <u>needy</u> survivors.
- 34. The proposed scholarships fund is expected to operate until 2,014 and will serve approximately 400 needy survivors.
- 35. We ask to enable such a support in the next ten years by providing us with the funds specified in **Appendix I** of a total of \$3,320,000.

#### Number and Location of Nazi victims to be served

36. The information detailed hereunder is based on the latest survey conducted by JDC-Brookdale Institution from October 2003 (attached as **Appendix J**). The survey

comprises national Survey of People Age 60 and over, which was conducted by the

Central Bureau of Statistics in 1997, the JDC-Brookdale Institute, JDC-Israel, ESHEL

- The Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in

Israel, the National Insurance Institute, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the

Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, and the Ministry of Health.

37. The findings of this survey show that at the end of 2002, there were 279,000

Holocaust survivors living in Israel, out of which 258,000 survivors are aged 65 and

over and 71,000 are aged 80 and over. The survey also shows that in 2015 the

Holocaust survivors population is expected to be less than 100,000 people.

38. The needy survivors served under each project us specified above and derive from

approximately 5,000 Wolyn victims served by Wolyn Center and many thousands of

their second and third generations.

Additional request for support:

In addition, for daily operation and continuation of the heritage of the Wolyn communities,

we specify in **Appendix K** our financial needs for several ongoing activities.

הינוד של מצאי והדלין בשראל רח' כוראין 10 גבעתיים כול 152125

THE FENDERATION OF THE WOLYN JEWS IN ISRAEL

A. Stein Brick Boris

**30 DECEMBER 2003** 

#### Enclosed:

Appendix A – A Certificate and Article of Associations

Appendix B – A map of the Wolyn region

Appendix C - A list of the Wolyn communities

Appendix D – Financial information

Appendix E – A letter of a survivor

Appendix F – A letter from the Sochnut Ha Yehudit

Appendix G – Financial request – Gravestones project

Appendix H – Financial request – Memorial books

Appendix I – Financial request – Scholarships

Appendix J – Statistics

Appendix K - Additional financial requests



מערד הפנים העמותות

# תעודה לרישומה של עמותה

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#### אישור תרגום

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encesados dialegos en la esperada de esperada de la esperada de la esperada de la esperada de la esperada de l Name of the association:

WORLD ORGANIZATION OF FORMER RESIDENTS OF WOLYN, THE CENTER IN ISRAEL.

#### 人名英格兰 九世 生物的 人名 The goals of the Organization:

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- To amalgamate the former residents of the Wolyn region in the world, for communal activities: public, social and cultural;
- To eternize the Jewish congregation of Wolyn, their b. personalities, creations, institutions and deeds in various ways and meane; الروان الترواديان في البراء بالشاء معد اللا ألاَّ
- To care for historical assets cultural and others, C. and the works of the Wolyn Jews;
- To assist associations of former Wolyn residents and ď. other bodies in gathering material on Wolyn, to encourage and guide such activity, and publish such material in books and any other form;
- e . To help, and support former wolyn residents, especially new immigrants and other bodies by establishing funds, mutual aid societies, loans, drives, employment, legal advice, information services and in any other way;
  - To act and do all that is necessary in order to establish in Israel a house to eternize Jewish Wolyn, which will serve as a cultural center, and e meeting place for former wolyn residents etc.;
  - To organize and establish institutions and other undertakings to materialize the objects of the organization.

# Authorization of the Organization:

To represent the Organization, its members and others as an independent juristic body, authorized to act on their behalf and on behalf of the Organization as a whole, before the Government, public and hational institutions, municipal, social economic and others, and before any other body in Israel and abroad. To appear by proxy before all kinds and levels of courts, and before any mational and public institutions as plaintiff and defendant and enjoy the rights of an independent juridical body;

- b. To enter into agreements in agreement and contracts with institutions, bodies and various people for any matter connected with the activities of the Organ-ixations and attainment of its objects;
- c. To acquire, lease, rent and receive movable and immovable property, and any other property for the ownership and possession of the Organization, and register rights of ownership or others in the name of the Organization legally, to hold and manage such property, to sell, lease rent, mortgage, donate, transfer and do any other disposition in connection with the property that will be in the possession or ownership in whatever form at any time, to give possession and assign to other according to resolutions of its institutions:
- of the Organization from bodies or individuals by accepting allowances, gifts, constions, inheritances, wills, dues of permanent or occasional members, and in any other form, wither in currency or stocks, bonds, property or any other form;
- e. To establish and manage loan offices, various funds, to maintain clubs, information centers, libraries, to organize exhibitions and book publishing etc. and in general care for any other social and cultural undertakings;
- f. Establish and keep branches of the Organization in Israel and abroad:
- g. To belong to central bodies and be a member in other institutions or co-operate with them;
- h. To open up accounts with banks and financial institutions and others for the financial activities of the Organization and receive from them loans for the purposes of the Organization;
- i. And In general be engaged in various public and social activities and assistance within the frame of the fundamental objects of the Creanization.

#### 4. Membership in the Organization:

The right to membership in the Organization will be secured to former residents of Wolyn congregations upon the following principles:-

a. Former residents of wolyn congregations who are organized in their own associations may partake as members
though their representatives in relation to the number
of their members, one representative for every 50 people.
An association numbering less than 50 members will be
represented by one representative. Large associations
will be limited to 5 representatives;

b. Fermer residents of Wolyn congregations who are not organized in local societies, would be accepted as supporting members (see below) with a right of representation given to one representative for every 50 supportry members;

- c. A supporting member may be every body who has had some connection with Wolyn, is 18 years of age, and pays the Organization the dues which will be determined from time to time by the Organization's organs;
- d. Members of the Organization and supporting members will be accepted and approved of by the governing Warafay of the Organization, and it will have the right to refuse admittance of any applicant to be a member or a supporting member in the Organization without having to explain its refusal. Such refusal could be appealed before the board of the Organization and the board resolution will be final;
- e. Each member or a supporting member will be entitled to participate in the general meeting of the Organization and so will societies members be allowed to be present at general meetings as observers. Every representative of an association will be entitled to elect and to be elected to the organs of the Organization. But a supporting member will not be entitled to vote, however, he would be eligible to be elected to the Organization's organs;
- f. A member or a supporting member who will fall behind with the dues of the Organization's organs will be liable to be expelled by the management of the Organization or to be deprived of his rights conditionally;
- g. Membership of a member or a supporting member of the Organization will be terminated in the following events:

  1. According to a written declaration by a member or a supporting member, expressing his wish to leave the Organization and the case of exit will be reckoned 30 days after receipt of his declaration, however, leaving the Organization uses not exempt him from fulfilling his financial and other obligations which were imposed on him as on the rest of his co-members prior to his exit;
  - 2. According to a special resolution of the management of the Organization;
  - In the case of the weath of a member or a supporting member;
  - 4. In the case of liquidation of the society that he is representing in the Organization;
  - 5. In the case of dissolution of the whole Organization.

### The organs of the Organization:

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The Management; c)

The Inspection Committee.

- The General Assembly is the superior institution of the Organization and will hold its meeting once every two The Governing Body will be empowered to call a general meeting out of the ordinary, whenever it sees The Management will be obliged to call a general meeting following a written request by a third of the members of the Crganization. A General Meeting will be deemed legal when \$0% of the members of the Organization are present. In the case that no such number is present the meeting will be postponed to another date, and then it will take place with whatever number of participating members and will be deemed legal. Attention will be drawn to that in the invitation or approvement. At the general meetings each representative of an association will have one vote.
- The Board will be composed of representatives of associations amalgamated in the Organization, and aslo of additional number which will be elected at the general meeting. The board will be authorized to add personalities and other public men provided that the number of the added persons will not be over 25% of the number of the members of the Board. The Board will elect from its members to the presidency with vice presidents. It will also elect the Management of the Organization. The Board will serve from one general meeting until the election of a new Board. The Board will convene at least 5 times during the year, will hear the report by the Management and will direct the management of the affairs and plans for the future.
- The Management will be elected by the Board in its first meeting and will serve until replaced by a new Management which will receive from it the management of the affairs. The Management will number 7 to 15 people. The Management will elect out of its midst the presidency: a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary with deputies. The resolutions of the Management will be approved by a majority. In case of an equality of votes the easting vote will rest with the Chairman or his deputy when he is in charge. The legality of the meeting and order of postponment and calling of a second meeting will be similar to the principles stated above in paragraph 5-c docting with a general mosting. The Management will manage all the business and activities of the Organization and appoint its representatives and determine and appoint signatories on behalf of the

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General Meeting and will have 3 to 5 members. The Committee will serve during the term of the Board until an election of another Inspection Committee in its stead. The Committee will forward its report and remarks to the Management and the General Assembly.

## 6. Amendments to the Articles of Association:

Any amendment to these Articles of Association will require the approval of a general meating and it is necessary that the proposal for an amendment be made to the Management in writing and be passed by a majority of those present at the meeting.

# 7. Dissolution of the Organization;

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A general meeting called for that purpose is authorized to pass a resolution of dissolution of the Organization and anything pertaining to the dissolution, if it has been convened for that purpose and if at least 50% of the members will be present and two thirds of the members present at that meeting will vote for dissolution.

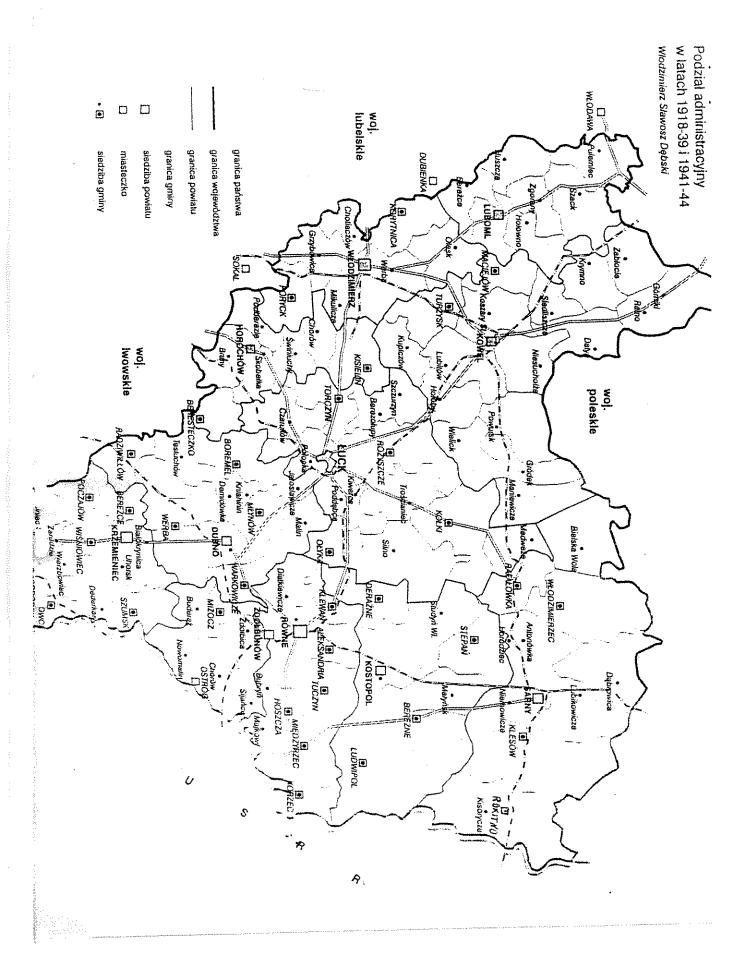
If such a meeting will not be able to take place owing to lacking the required 50% of the Organization's members, a second meeting will be called for the same purpose which will be legal with any number of participating members. In the case of dissolution of the Organization, its property will be given to a national or public institutions, with the object that the receipient will continue with the eternization of the Wolyn Jewry.

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A. ITZKOVITZ & CO. CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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> רחוב יואל אלון 157 67 443 0' קור 167 443 סלפון 2067 1990 פקטימיליה 268 1990

חל-אביב, 23 December, 2003

## Confirmation

As accountants of

# THE FEDERATION OF WOLYN JEWS IN ISRAEL

We hereby confirm:

1. The persons authorized to sign on behalf of the Federation are as follows:

Stein Aaharon Apple Iair Brick Borris Zussman Haim

2. The income of the Federation from donations for the years 1994 - 2002 were as follows:

25,484 N.I.S. 1994 38,455 N.I.S. 1995 10,802 N.J.S. 1996 24,584 N.I.S. 1997 114.882 N.I.S. 1998 30,762 N.I.S. 1999 17,580 N.L.S. 2000 38,814 N.I.S. 2001 10,546 N.I.S. 2002

A Atakovitz & Co. Certified public accountants

# E

# שלומית (פרדלה) גיסיס (שויב):

# מתוך יומנה: ביקור בבכובה (1990)

"שני קילומטרים מחוץ לעיר, ביער ע"י בכובה, ראינו שלט עם חץ: "הדרך למצבה".

האוטו פילס לו דרך ביער, היינו המומים, לא יכולנו לעצור את הדמעות ואת הזעקה שבלב, כשהתגלה לנו שטח צחיח, אבנים, חול זיפזיף, צמחיית טרשים מכסה את הבורות ועל גבעונת מצבה. היינו חמש נשים ושני גברים, לא היה מניין לתפילה.

לאמירת קדיש ואל מלא רחמים הצטרפו אלינו אלפי הקורבנות הקבורים בשטח. הדלקנו נרות זיכרון, שמתי דגלי ישראל, פרחי עד-עד תכלת לבן (מישראל), פיזרתי אדמה מירושלים ומהמעפיל, שהבאתי איתי, פיזרתי זרעי פעמונים סביב המצבה- אולי יפרח שם פעם פרח...?

ירדנו מהמדרגות ואז בא השבר שלא ציפינו לו- בכל השטח פזורות עצמות בני אדם!! זה היה מעל לכוחות אנוש לשאת זאת.

ניסינו לאסוף עצמות, רצינו לקבור אותם אבל לא היה לנו במה לחפור. ירד גשם-באצבעות גירדנו את אדמת החימר הדביקה, אך ללא הצלחה, היינו חסרי אונים. לא יכולנו לעזוב את המקום כשכל אחד שקע ברגשות ומחשבות שלו: "אולי אלו עצמות אמי, אבי, אחיותי. אחיי? של יקירי. חברי?

במקום הזה, בבכובה יכולנו רק לזעוק, לבכות- לזכור.

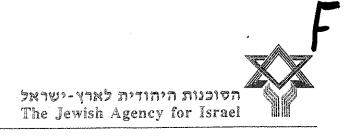
כתובה באוקראינית, ומסביב פרוץ, מעליב וכואב.

זה היה ביקורנו האחרון בקובל. נסענו לבכובה, פעם נוספת להתייחד עם זכר יקירנו. היה גשם שוטף. התבוססנו בבוץ, ביער, הכל מעלינו ומסביבנו בכה. זה היה מעל לכוחותינו

לנטוש את המקום הקדוש לנו, כשעצמות יקירנו מתגוללים בשטח והכתובת על המצבה

הבטחנו לעצמנו- לא לשקוט עד שהעוול שנעשה ליקירינו, גם אחרי הרצחם,- יתוקן!!! שלומית. "

שלומית ז"ל שהייתה מהפעילים שבאירגון, נפטרה לאחרונה לאחר מחלה קשה. על קברה נשא יו"ר האירגון, אלי מנדל, דברים נרגשים וזכרונות על קורות משפחתה בקובל.



לשכת יו"ר החנהלה Office of the Chairman of the Executive

הי בטבת תשנייט 1998 בדצמבר 24

> לכבוד עוייד ש. זיסקינד יוייר האיגוד העולמי של יוצאי ווהלין בישראל רחי כורזין 10 <u>גבעתיים</u>

> > שלום רב,

בהמשך לפנייתך ליו"ר הנהלת הסוכנות היהודית, מר אברהם בורג בענין קברי אחים, הנושא נבדק על ידי אנשינו ומתברר כי פלח ווחלין הינו בפולין.

אנו נמצאים בעיצומו של משא ומתן עם הקהילה בפולין להקמת קרן לטיפול בנכסים יהודים כולל בתי קברות, ומקוים כי עם סיומו נוכל להכליל את בקשתכם. העברנו את מכתבך לידיעת נציגתנו בפולין.

בכבוד רב,

צילה קרסקין ממונה על פניות הציבור

# Appendix G

# Estimated Costs for the Gravestones project:

Total (per gravestone)	25,300 USD
Costs of ceremonies and events	1,300 USD
Costs of maintenance and security (calculated for 10 years period)	12,500 USD
Costs of enclosure and fences	2,200 USD
Costs of labor	3,300 USD
Costs of the materials	6,000 USD

## Total for 75 grave stones:

1,897,500 USD

(Estimated administrative costs 8%)

## Appendix H

#### Estimated costs for the memorial books

Costs of editing and updating the latest versions (for 40 books) 20,000 USD

Research, drafting and editing new memorial books and attached family trees 400,000 USD

Printing copies for survivors (per 2,000 copies) 30,000 USD

Distribution 10,000 USD

<u>Total</u> <u>460,000 USD</u>

(Estimated administrative costs 16%)

## Appendix I

<u>Scholarships</u>

Funding (per 400 scholarships)

3,200,000 USD

Selection and applications procedures

120,000 USD

Total

3,320,000 USD

(Estimated administrative costs 11%)

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# Holocaust Survivors in Israel: Current and Projected Needs for Home Nursing Care

Jenny Brodsky ◆ Shmuel Be'er ◆ Yitschak Shnoor

Jerusalem

October 2003

#### For additional information, please contact:

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Tel: 972-2-6557400 Fax: 972-2-5612391

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# Foreword by the Chairman of The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

To turn one's eyes away from a site of a terrifying crime or catastrophe is almost a natural reaction. To struggle with facts which are unexplainable, is an almost impossible task. To deal with the aftermath of the Holocaust is difficult and frustrating.

Only in light of the above may we understand why there are so few records of the fate of those who reached Israel at the end of the Second World War, and are collectively known as "Holocaust survivors."

These people, despite their integral place in the history of the Jewish State, have received as individuals very little attention with regard to their social structure, their education and their mental and social needs. Today, more than fifty years after they reached Israel, we face problems, and we seek every bit of data that may be able to help and to solve painful dilemmas and provide some help.

Providing assistance to these elderly survivors in need, who are not capable of coping with the problems which time has wrought, should be both a humanitarian and a national commitment.

This study is the result of the work of the staff of the JDC-Brookdale Institute who took upon themselves to try to resolve a number of questions which did not seem to have answers. There is no doubt that these findings will help to create a clearer picture and gain perspective to respond to needs during the time which remains.

The Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel and the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel have the obligation to give recognition and appreciation to the professional staff of JDC-Brookdale Institute, who faithfully carried out their work. Our thanks to Jenny Brodsky, Director of the Research Program on Aging, and to researchers Shmuel Be'er and Yitschak Shnoor.

Wolf Zeev Factor Chairman

# Foreword by the Director General of The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

Is it possible for data to be poignant?

It would seem not. Data are dry numbers that are the result of statistical calculations and field study. However, in this case, the data reveal a difficult and painful reality. As the survey findings demonstrate, tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors living in Israel today are in need of nursing care. Many thousands among them are entirely dependent on assistance in order to carry through basic activities of daily living. Sadly they are poor and do not have sufficient means to pay for the daily aid they need. In the coming years, as survivors grow older and poorer, there will be a greater need for nursing care.

These facts are startling to people exposed to this issue for the first time. The reality is harsher than in the report. Survivors who endured the most horrendous experience, and succeeded in rehabilitating themselves and earning their livelihood, are reaching the latter years of their lives, after their retirement, and finding themselves in distress. The little that they managed to save over the years is not adequate to meet their essential needs, including the cost of expensive medications that are not covered by their health plans, the purchase of diapers, which they sometimes need, special treatments and the like. Thus, every day, more survivors join those who need financial aid to manage their nursing and medical care.

In their interpretation of the Book of Exodus (Chapter 30, Verse 12), our sages declare that the children of Israel should not be counted. The sage known as the *Malbim* explains that "a blessing is received in a manner that is hidden from the eye, and when they are counted, the blessing is withdrawn." The conclusion of the *Malbim* is paramount: "As long as the nation is united as one, the public merit is very great." May this gathering of data be considered a way of recognizing our great debt and commitment to the survivors of the Holocaust. It is our aspiration that we now fulfill the important pronouncement:

"All of Israel are responsible one for the other." ("כל ישראל ערבים זה לזה").

Dov (Dubby) Arbel Director General

#### **Acknowledgments**

It is our pleasant duty to thank the people who helped us with this study. Special appreciation to Ramsis Gera of the Research and Planning Division of the National Insurance Institute for his considerable help in providing data for this study. We are grateful to the staff of the JDC-Brookdale Institute, and particularly to Professor Jack Habib, the Director of the Institute, and to Haim Factor, Deputy Director of the JDC-Israel for their valuable insights. Finally we thank Jenny Rosenfeld for editing the report, Marsha Weinstein for the translation into English, Leslie Klineman for graphic design and production, and Sue Bubis for print preparation.

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in light of the increase in the number of people who have requested assistance in recent years, and given the aging of the population of Holocaust survivors, the Foundation asked the JDC-Brookdale Institute for help estimating the size of the needy population in the future, so that the Foundation would be able to make the necessary preparations, develop policy, and set priorities.

In addition to estimating and projecting the number of Holocaust survivors living in Israel, this project involved examining the characteristics of the population by age, gender, marital status, living arrangements, and functional and health status. This report presents the principal findings regarding the current and projected size of the population, and of the population's need for long-term care.

#### 2. The Data Base, Methods, and Assumptions

We estimated the size of the population of Holocaust survivors currently living in Israel, and projected the changes expected in this population up to 2020. On the basis of this estimate and the projection, we estimated the number of Holocaust survivors who will be eligible for the long-term care benefits, and of those among them who will be eligible for 150% of the benefit.

The principal data base for this project was a national Survey of People Age 60 and Over, which was conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in 1997 in cooperation with the JDC-Brookdale Institute, JDC-Israel, ESHEL – The Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel, the National Insurance Institute, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, and the Ministry of Health. The survey included interviews with approximately 5,000 people age 60 and over, who constituted a representative sample of all elderly people living in the community in urban centers. The survey did not include residents of institutions, or residents of rural areas (e.g., kibbutzim and moshavim).

The Survey of People Age 60 and Over was the first ever to make it possible to identify the Holocaust survivors living in Israel. It accomplished this by asking questions about the respondent's country of birth, date of immigration to Israel, and ever having lived in a country that was under the Nazi regime or direct Nazi influence. In addition, it asked respondents where they had

lived between 1933 and 1945, and whether, during that time, they had been in a ghetto, in hiding, in a labor camp, or in a concentration camp.

A "Holocaust survivor" was defined as anyone who had lived in one of the countries occupied by or under the direct influence of the Nazi regime at any time between 1933 and 1945. Also included in this population was anyone who had fled slightly before, or during, the Nazi occupation (that is, displaced persons – "fled").

According to this definition, about 283,000 Holocaust survivors were identified by the survey; they constituted slightly more than 40% of all Jews age 60 and over at the end of 1997. If we examine all those born in Europe only, we find that Holocaust survivors represented about 75% of them at that time.

As noted, we used the estimated population of Holocaust survivors derived from the 1997 Survey of People Age 60 and Over to calculate the current and projected size of that population.

#### An Estimate and Projection of the Population of Holocaust Survivors

We estimated the current size of the population of Holocaust survivors, and projected its annual progress up to 2020, using current mortality rates stratified by age and gender. Given the lack of data on the mortality rates specifically for Holocaust survivors, we used the mortality rates of people born in Europe-America, since most European-born people of these ages are survivors.

To the population of Holocaust survivors derived from the 1997 Survey of People Age 60 and Over, we added relevant populations not included in that survey. They included the following:

a. People who in 1997 had not yet reached the age of 60. The proportion of survivors among this group is unknown. It stands to reason that the proportion of survivors among them would be more similar to the proportion among the 60-64 age group than to that among the older survivors. Nevertheless, we assumed that the proportion of Holocaust survivors among this group would be 25% of their proportion among people ages 60-64, as found in the 1997 survey. This assumption was based on two factors: First, only a small percentage of infants and toddlers survived the Holocaust, and second, people in this age group are unlikely to be found among the displaced persons – that is, those who fled shortly before or during Nazi occupation.

- b. Immigrants from the former Soviet Union who arrived in Israel between 1998 and 2001 (based on ongoing CBS population estimates).
- c. A projection of those who will immigrate from the former Soviet Union between 2002 and 2020. We based our projection on three alternative population projections prepared by the CBS, which took into consideration the expected immigration to Israel using a high variant, a medium variant one, and a low variant.<sup>2</sup> In this report, we present our findings on the basis of the medium variant. However, it should be noted that we also estimated the population of Holocaust survivors based on the low variant; in several places, we cite these findings in order to assess the estimates' range of sensitivity. The medium variant assumes the arrival of 230,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union between 2001 and 2020, 25,000 of whom will be elderly (age 65 or over). In contrast, the low variant assumes the arrival of 130,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union during this period, 14,000 of whom will be elderly.
- d. People who live in the rural sector, that is, in villages with fewer than 2,000 residents.
- e. People who reside in institutions.

The addition of these populations was calculated on the basis of the percentage of Holocaust survivors found in the Survey of People Age 60 and Over, by age and gender. Their percentage was then applied to each of the additional populations.

In this study we used institutionalization and mortality rates of people born in Europe and America. We did not use separate rate for immigrants and for non-immigrants, in order to assess the range of sensitivity of using separate rates we did construct such a model, but it yielded almost no differences in the results. Therefore the findings presented are based on a model which uses uniform rates of institutionalization and mortality.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  These projections were based on the situation of the population at the end of 1995. At present, the Central Bureau of Statistics is preparing new population projections, based on the situation of the population at the end of 2000.

## Eligibility for Receipt of Services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law

We estimated the number of Holocaust survivors eligible for benefits under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law by applying the rates of use of services of all those eligible for services under the law at the end of 2001 to the population of Holocaust survivors living in the community, stratified by age and gender. The specific rates for the end of 2001 were then applied to the entire period of the projection (2002-2020). It is important to note that the 1997 Survey of People Age 60 and Over did not find any differences in the use that Holocaust survivors or those in the general elderly population made of services provided under the law. Given the lack of differences in use, we felt that the national data, which address the entire population of elderly, and are systematic, reliable, and up to date, were preferable.

#### 3. Findings

#### a) Estimated Size of the Population of Holocaust Survivors, and Projected Size up to 2020

As can be seen in Table 1, the total number of Holocaust survivors was estimated to be 279,000 in 20023. This number declines to 167,000 in 2010, and to 49,000 in 2020. The number of survivors aged 65+ is estimated at 258,000 at the end of 2002 (93% of all survivors), constituting 40% of the 65+ population in Israel. In 2010, the percentage of survivors will be 23% of the 65+ population, and in 2020 – 5%. It is important to note that the population of Holocaust survivors is aging. We therefore expect an increase in the number of Holocaust survivors age 80 and over, which will peak in 2008, as indicated in Table 1 and Figure 1. Since people in older age groups are the primary consumers of services provided under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law, the increase in their number is important.

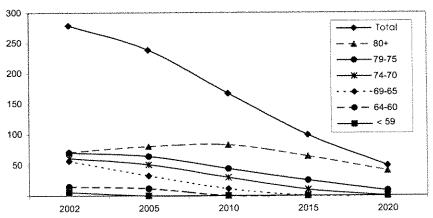
When we examined changes in the population of Holocaust survivors according to the low CBS variant, we found no large difference in the estimated size of the population of Holocaust survivors. For example, according to the low variant, in 2002 the number of survivors was 278,000, in 2010 it is expected to be 164,000, and in 2020 it is expected to be 47,000.

<sup>3</sup> All the data in this report are end-of-year data.

Table 1: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Living in Israel, by Age Group (in Thousands, Year End)

		Age Group					
Year	Total	Up to 59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80 and Over
2002	278.9	5.8	14.6	56.4	61.0	70.2	71.0
2003	265.0	3.1	14.3	49.9	52.0	72.1	73.6
2004	252.0		14.6	43.3	48.7	67.0	78.4
2005	238,6		11.6	32.4	50.5	63.9	80.1
2006	224.1		8.6	23.9	51.7	56.3	83.5
2007	210.1		0.6	14.4	52.3	52.9	84.5
2008	195.9		3.2	14.0	45.9	45.2	87.6
2009	181.3			14.1	39.5	42.2	85.4
2010	166.8			11.1	29.5	43.7	82.5
2015	98.7				10.0	24.8	63.9
2020	49.1					8.4	40.7

Figure 1: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Living in Israel, by Age Group (in Thousands, Year End)



Since this report is concerned with assessing the need for nursing care at home of Holocaust survivors living in the community, it was important to calculate separate population estimates by place of residence (that is, in the community, or in an institution). Table 2 presents an estimate of the population of Holocaust survivors by place of residence.

We arrived at the estimated number of survivors living in institutions by using the institutionalization rates of people born in Europe, as found in the census of residents of institutions, carried out by JDC-Brookdale Institute in 1999-2000. We assume that these specific rates (by age and gender) will not change during the projection period.

Table 2: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Living in the Community and in Longterm Care Institutions (in Thousands, Year End)

	<u> </u>		Place of Residence			
Year	Total	In the Community	Long-term Care Institution	Percentage in Long-term Care Institutions		
2002	278.9	265.1	13.8	5.0		
2003	265.0	250.9	14.1	5.3		
2004	252.0	237.3	14.6	5.8		
2005	238.6	223.7	14.9	6.2		
2006	224.1	208.9	15.2	6.8		
2007	210.1	195.0	15.1	7.2		
2008	195.9	180.6	15.3	7.8		
2009	181.3	166.5	14.8	8.2		
2010	166.8	152.5	14.3	8.6		
2015	98.7	88.2	10.5	10.6		
2020	49.1	42.7	6.4	13.0		

As can be seen in Table 2, the number of survivors living in the community at the end of 2002 is estimated at 265,000 people. The number of survivors in long-term care institutions is 14,000 people (5% of all survivors).

The number of survivors aged 65+ living in the community is estimated at 245,000 people, representing 39% of the 65+ population living in the

community. In 2010 the percentage of survivors living in the community will be 22% and in 2020-4% of all elderly aged 65+ living in the community.

The percentage of survivors expected to be living in long-term care institutions rises over the years as a result of population aging, as can be seen in Table 2. The number of survivors aged 65+ living in institutions at the end of 2002 is estimated at 13.8 thousand, constituting 52% of the 65+ population living in institutions in Israel. The number of survivors living in institutions is expected to peak in 2008 (15.3 thousand).

In 2010 Holocaust survivors living in institutions will still constitute a high proportion of the residents (48%), and this percentage is expected to decline to 15% in 2020.

Henceforth in this report we will address only those Holocaust survivors who are living in the community.

### b) Estimated Size of the Population of Holocaust Survivors Eligible for Services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law

First we present an estimate of the number of all Holocaust survivors eligible for services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law (Table 3), and then an estimate of the number of Holocaust survivors who are eligible for services under the law at the level of 150% of the benefit (who comprise the target population of the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel; Table 4).

At the end of 2002, it was estimated that 45,000 Holocaust survivors would be eligible for services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law. This number is not expected to change appreciably through the end of 2005, and is expected to have declined to 37,000 people by 2010, and to 14,000 by 2020. Nevertheless, because of the aging of the population of Holocaust survivors, those eligible for services under the law will represent an increasing percentage of all Holocaust survivors living in the community. These data are true for the entire population of survivors receiving services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law, and not only for those assisted by the Foundation.

Table 3: Estimated Number of Holocaust Survivors Eligible for Services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law (in Thousands, Year End.)\*

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	······································	Holocaust Survivors	
	****		Percentage
	Total	Eligible	Eligible
	Living in the	for Services	for Services
Year	Community	under the Law	under the Law
2002	265.1	44.5	16.8
2003	250.9	44.4	17.7
2004	237.3	44.3	18.6
2005	223.7	43.8	19.6
2006	208.9	43.2	20.7
2007	195.0	42.4	21.7
2008	180.6	41.2	22.8
2009	166.5	39.3	23.6
2010	152.5	37.3	24.5
2015	88.2	25.4	28.8
2020	42.7	14.4	33.1

<sup>\*</sup> It is important to note that all estimates of eligibility for assistance under the Community Longterm Care Insurance Law in this Table are governed by the definition of the target population and the criteria currently maintained by the National Insurance Institute. If these change, the data will, perforce, change.

Figure 2: Total Holocaust Survivors Eligible for Services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law (in Thousands, Year End)

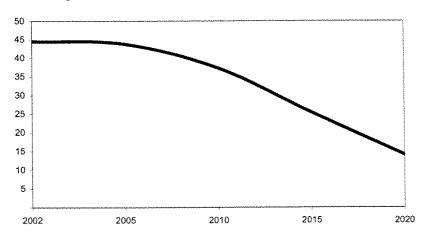


Table 4 presents the estimated number of Holocaust survivors eligible for the maximum (150%) benefit under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law. As noted, this law mandates services to the disabled elderly at two levels: a benefit for those who are partially dependent on assistance from others (100%); and a benefit for those who are completely dependent (150%), which is designed for the most severely disabled elderly. However, some of those whose level of disability makes them eligible for the enlarged benefit actually receive a reduced benefit from the National Insurance Institute, because their income is higher than the threshold of eligibility set for the benefit. The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel does not help these survivors because of their relatively high income, which is commensurate with, or greater than, the average market wage. It should be noted that survivors whose level of income is more than 1.5 times greater than the average market wage are not eligible at all for services under the Community Long-term Care Insurance Law. In calculating this estimate, we used the assumption that 75% of all elderly receiving the reduced benefit would be Holocaust survivors. However, we also examined alternative assumptions, but found no significant difference between the alternatives, as will be discussed below.

Table 4 presents the estimated number of Holocaust survivors eligible for the 150% benefit under the law, exclusive of those survivors who receive the reduced benefit because of their relatively high income. As can be seen in Table 4, the number of Holocaust survivors eligible for the 150% benefit is expected to peak in 2004 at about 11,000 people. The number of elderly Holocaust survivors eligible for the enlarged benefit is expected to drop to about 10,000 people by 2010, and to about 4,000 people by 2020.

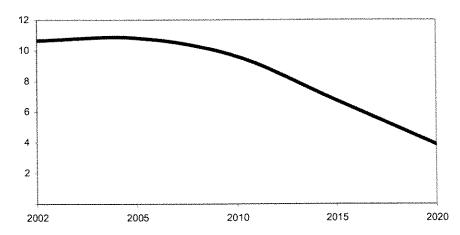
As noted, we examined two alternative assumptions regarding the proportion of Holocaust survivors among those eligible for the reduced benefit. The first alternative assumed that the proportion of recipients of the reduced benefit among Holocaust survivors would be identical to the proportion of recipients of the reduced benefit among the general elderly population. According to this assumption, the number of people eligible for the reduced benefit at the end of 2002 is slightly higher – 11,000. This number is expected to peak at 11.2 thousand people by 2004, and to decline to 4,000 in 2020.

Table 4: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Eligible for the Enlarged (150%) Benefit under the Community Long-term Care Law (in Thousands, Year End)\*

	Holocaust Survivors				
Year	Total Living in the Community	Eligible for 150% Benefit	Percentage Eligible for 150% Benefit		
2002	265.1	10.6	4.0		
2003	250.9	10.7	4.3		
2004	237.3	10.8	4.6		
2005	223.7	10.8	4.8		
2006	208.9	10.8	5.2		
2007	195.0	10.6	5.5		
2008	180.6	10.5	5.8		
2009	166.5	10.1	6.0		
2010	152 <i>.</i> 5	9.6	6.3		
2015	88.2	6.7	7.6		
2020	42.7	3.9	9.1		

<sup>\*</sup> It is important to note that all estimates of eligibility for assistance under the Community Longterm Care Insurance Law in this Table are governed by the definition of the target population and the criteria currently maintained by the National Insurance Institute. If these changes, the data will, perforce, change.

Figure 3: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Eligible for the Enlarged (150%) Benefit under the Community Long-term Care Law (in Thousands, Year End)



The second alternative made the extreme assumption that **all** recipients of the reduced benefit would be Holocaust survivors. According to this assumption, the number of people eligible for the reduced benefit was slightly lower – 10.4 thousand people – at the end of 2002, and was expected to peak at 10.5 thousand people by 2004, and to decline to 3,900 people in 2020. The numbers in Table 4 represent an interim calculation. In any case, however, it is possible to see that the estimates based on the various assumptions do not differ greatly.

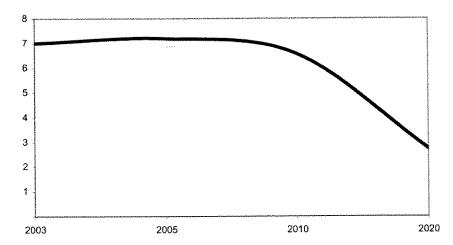
Another way to project how many Holocaust survivors will be eligible for assistance from the Foundation is to use Holocaust survivors' current use of Foundation assistance as a base, i.e. the actual number of people using the Foundation's services, of all survivors living in the community. Table 5 presents such a projection. According to Foundation data, 6,300 Holocaust survivors were receiving assistance in mid-2003; Foundation staff estimate that this number will reach 7,000 by the end of 2003. This projection is based on the assumption that the current pattern of use of assistance from the Foundation will continue without change. However, we would note that the patterns of use may indeed change, once the service becomes more widely known. Thus it is possible to calculate alternatives, which assume a relative increase in the patterns of use of Foundation assistance. For example, we calculated the effect of a 50% increase in use. The results of this calculation are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Eligible for Foundation Assistance, based on Current Use of Foundation Assistance (in Thousands, Year End)

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	Holocaust Survivors			
Year	Eligible Based on Current Patterns of Use	Eligible Based on 50% Increase in Use		
2003	7.0	7.0		
2004	7.1	10.7		
2005	7.2	10.8		
2006	7.2	10.9		
2007	7.2	10.8		
2008	7.1	10.7		
2009	6.9	10.3		
2010	6.6	9.8		
2015	4.7	7.0		
2020	2.7	4.1		

Based on the current pattern of use of Foundation assistance, the number of Holocaust survivors who will be eligible for assistance from the Foundation is expected to peak in 2006 at 7,240 people. About 6,600 people are expected to use Foundation assistance in 2010, and about 2,700 are expected to use it in 2020. If the pattern of use does change, the number of people eligible for assistance from the Foundation may increase; such that in 2006, for example, the number of users would be somewhere in the range between 7,200, according to the current pattern of use, and 10,900, if there is an increase of up to 50% in the pattern of use.

Figure 4: Estimated Holocaust Survivors Eligible for Foundation Assistance, based on Current Use of Foundation Assistance (in Thousands, Year End)



As can be seen, there are differences between the estimated total number of Holocaust survivors who will be eligible for assistance from the Foundation based on the two alternative assumptions discussed above — the estimate based on patterns of utilization of the enlarged (150%) benefit under the Community Long-term Care Law (Table 4), and the estimate based on current use of Foundation assistance (Table 5). In mid-2003, the gap between the estimates was calculated to be 3,600 elderly people. In other words, some Holocaust survivors who are eligible for Foundation assistance

may not be receiving it. A number of factors may explain this, chief among them the following: Some survivors may be receiving services from other organizations (such as the Association of Immigrants from the Netherlands); and some survivors may not seek assistance – either because of the stigma associated with it; because of the bureaucratic procedures involved in procuring it, e.g. the stipulation that a social report be filled out by a social worker from the local authority (this is especially true of solitary elderly people who do not have children to help them); or because of a lack of awareness of the assistance that is available from the Foundation. If utilization patterns grow by 50%, the estimate of people using the Foundation's assistance in the peak year (2006) will reach 10.9 thousand.

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This paper presented estimates of the numbers of Holocaust survivors living in Israel today and in the future. We focused on the area of nursing care, but it should be noted that there are needs in other areas as well, such as in the social and health areas. Note also that based on the survey of people aged 60+, information exists regarding the additional needs of survivors; this information was presented at various opportunities to services developers and decision makers working with this population.

# K

#### Appendix K

### Additional funds requested

Total	239,000 USD
Annual Memorial Ceremony in Israel (calculated for 10 years)	27,000 USD
Library	12,000 USD
Handicapped elevator in the Wolyn Center's building	50,000 USD
General maintenance of the Wolyn Center's building (calculated for 10 years)	150,000 USD

