



JCC ROCKLAND

Dear Friends,

No doubt we've all been riveted by the events unfolding around Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. You may be aware that Ukraine is home to one of the world's largest Jewish communities with some 200,000 Jews concentrated in the country's four largest cities and spread across dozens of smaller cities and towns in every corner of the country. A network of Jewish Community Centers (JCCs) grew up in the aftermath of the fall of the Soviet Union, largely under the auspices of one of the world's great Jewish organizations, the [American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee](#) (the JDC—or simply, The Joint), which provides ongoing guidance, coordination and support to these organizations throughout the former Soviet Union. This network of JCCs is also a proud part of the extended JCC movement—connected to us through [JCC Global](#). Over the years, many North American JCCs have established direct ties with individual Ukrainian JCCs via JCC Global's Amitim Program.

The Jewish world is deeply concerned about our brothers and sisters across Ukraine, who now find themselves in the path of war. Some are Russian speaking, with significant ties to communities and family in Russia, and others have roots among those who survived the Holocaust and contributed to the renewal of Jewish life there in recent decades. We can be confident that JDC, which, for more than a century, has borne responsibility for aiding Jews in such times, is working through its teams on the ground, coordinating with its partners, and will provide every possible support and assistance.

For those who want to help, urge those around you to [contribute to the emergency fundraising effort of the JDC](#), a nonpolitical organization that focuses solely on humanitarian aid and building Jewish life. Substantial resources will be required, and contributions can be made directly via local Jewish Federations. Our Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County has set up a Ukraine specific emergency relief fund at [Jewish Federation's Ukraine Emergency Fund](#).

The JCC Association of North America remains in close contact with JCC Global and its partners at the JDC. In the meanwhile, I know you join us in the hope there will be a quick and peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Shabbat Shalom,

David Kirschtel
Chief Executive Officer

Jeff Degen
President