

Jewish Family Service of San Diego responds to wildfires

Friday, October 26, 2007

Jewish Family Service is coordinating the local wildfire response in the Jewish community and also is coordinating with the Red Cross and other agencies on responding to the whole San Diego community.

All individuals impacted by the fires, both Jewish and non-Jewish, should call the Jewish Family Service Fire Support Hotline at (800) 295-4254 or e-mail firesupport@jfssd.org. Individuals may also start the process by visiting www.jfssd.org to register for fire-related assistance or to volunteer.

Jewish Family Service provides free case management services including assessments, counseling, referrals, and advocacy with disaster related benefits. Limited financial assistance is available.

Emergency food bags are available for seniors and other isolated clients in need of short-term provisions. Food bags are available for pick-up or delivery to individuals in isolated and/or emergency situations.

Other services will be added as San Diego County moves from crisis response to long-term recovery.

Jewish Family Service is in need of volunteers to help respond to calls, accept and sort food donations, as well as administrative assistance. Licensed mental health professionals are also needed to assist with initial intakes for those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by the wildfires.

Jewish Family Service is currently accepting donations of non-perishable food, diapers, money, gift cards, baby formula, and personal hygiene items.

The Jewish Community Disaster Fund has been established by the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego, the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County, and Jewish Family Service of San Diego. The fund provides assistance to Jewish families and others in need in the community who have been affected by the fires in our region as well as any rebuilding to the communal infrastructure. No overhead costs will be taken from the fund — all dollars raised will help those in need. Donations can be sent to the Jewish Community Disaster Fund at 4950 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego, 92123. Donations can also be made online.

For more information about Jewish Family Service and their wildfire response, please contact (858) 637-3000 or visit JFS online.