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Jewish Community Disaster Fund Distributes Substantial Grants To Families Impacted by the Wildfires

San Diego, CA – Through an outpouring of nationwide support, the Jewish Community Disaster Fund has received donations of more than \$500,000 to date, to provide assistance for victims of the recent San Diego wildfires.

The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego's Grants Committee approved an initial \$200,000 grant from the Jewish Community Disaster Fund to Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS) to support these critical recovery services:

- Emergency cash distributions for groceries, rent assistance, food, gas and clothes
- Case management to assess needs and develop a long-term plan for services
- Free or low-cost therapy sessions
- Services within the burn areas such as resiliency training at schools for children

"Our community received amazingly generous donations from people around the country who expressed their concern for us by contributing to the Jewish Community Disaster Fund," said Charlene Seidle, Vice President, Philanthropy, of the Jewish Community Foundation. "In the names of these donors, we're happy to support Jewish and non-Jewish families in their time of need."

The Jewish Community Disaster Fund's second grant provided a gift of \$1,800 to each of the 50 Jewish families who were identified as having lost a home, or whose homes suffered such severe damage that they are still uninhabitable. The Fund also granted \$1,800 to two long-time employees of the Jewish community who lost homes. These grants – awarded regardless of financial need – are gestures of outreach and support to assist those affected by the fires during the holidays.

"These families are facing a myriad of expenses and they may use these funds to buy Judaica, to purchase Chanukah presents, to rebuild in any way that's helpful to them," said Grants Committee Chair Martin Klitzner. "They'll know the Jewish community nationwide is behind them."

JFS is the lead agency in the Jewish community providing nonsectarian response for fire-related needs. JFS has a strong reputation for service and extensive experience with disaster relief from its work with victims of the Cedar Fires in 2003 and Hurricane Katrina evacuees in 2005. JFS is collaborating with Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army, American Red Cross and 2-1-1 San Diego to minimize the duplication of services.

JFS has reported that the numbers of families seeking its help has climbed at a much faster pace than during the Cedar Fires and it expects to require a case manager for at least two years to support these victims.

The Jewish Community Disaster Fund is being used entirely to support those impacted by the devastating wildfires. No overhead costs will be taken from the fund; all dollars raised will help those in need. The Grants Committee consists of representatives of the Foundation, JFS, the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County and the Jewish community at large

Checks designated for the Fund can be made payable to the Jewish Community Foundation and sent to:

Jewish Community Disaster Fund

c/o Jewish Community Foundation
4950 Murphy Canyon Road
San Diego, CA 92123

Credit card contributions may be processed online at www.jewishinsandiego.org.

For questions about the Fund, please contact Charlene Seidle at the Foundation at 858-279-2740 or charlene@jcfsandiego.org or consult the Foundation's Web site at www.jcfsandiego.org.

About the Jewish Community Foundation:

Founded in 1967, the Jewish Community Foundation partners with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their philanthropic goals and to increase current and future support for a vibrant and secure Jewish community in San Diego, Israel and around the world.

With managed assets of more than \$260 million, the Jewish Community Foundation is the largest grant maker in San Diego. During fiscal year 2006-07, the Foundation awarded more than \$55 million in grants. Since its inception, the Jewish Community Foundation has granted more than \$400 million to nonprofits that serve the community.

Visit the Jewish Community Foundation at www.jcfsandiego.org or call 858-279-2740.

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