

## Jewish Journal

**PALM BEACH JEWISH NEWS**

# Jewish agencies provide assistance for hurricane season

By Sergio Carmona  
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Danielle Hartman, Rales JFS' president and CEO, said the agency coordinates with first responder agencies and volunteers to play a vital role before and after major weather events. (Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services/Courtesy)

As the 2022 hurricane season begins June 1, Jewish social service agencies in South Florida are providing hurricane preparedness assistance to vulnerable people in the areas they serve.

In efforts to ensure vulnerable seniors are looked after during hurricane season, **Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services** in South Palm Beach County is currently seeking older adults in Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Highland Beach who live alone with no family close by to register with the agency. They do not need to be an existing client of the agency to register. The annual registry opens at the start of each hurricane season as part of the agency's hurricane response efforts.

Danielle Hartman, Rales JFS' president and CEO, said, "JFS takes our responsibility to help seniors, particularly those with no family nearby, very seriously."

"Although JFS is not a first responder agency, JFS coordinates with first responder agencies and volunteers to play a vital role before and after major weather events," Hartman continued.

The agency utilizes pre-screened volunteers, board members and staff to check in after a storm – first by phone, and then in-person if needed. There is no charge to register for this service and information used is only for hurricane response purposes.

Visit [ralesjfs.org/stormreg](https://ralesjfs.org/stormreg) or call 561-852-5044 to register for the program.

The agency is also seeking volunteers for its Storm Response Team. Volunteers will be screened and trained in advance. They may be asked to help make phone calls to registered seniors or possibly to bring supplies and perform in-person wellness checks. Visit [ralesjfs.org/stormvol](https://ralesjfs.org/stormvol) if interested in volunteering.



Over at **Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County**, Ross Adel, director of operations for the agency's The Dorit & Ben J. Genet Cupboard, said, "Each May, just ahead of hurricane season, we begin to distribute our hurricane preparedness bags including flashlights, batteries and water to over 700 Broward residents."

"Many of these individuals also include our most vulnerable population – seniors and Holocaust survivors," Adel continued. "We never know what hurricane season will bring South Florida, so we want to be sure to prepare our community for whatever may come."

Visit <https://www.jfsbroward.org/> or call 954-370-2140 for more information on Goodman JFS.

**Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service in West Palm Beach** will distribute Just In Case bags in July. The packages will provide supplies for clients of Alpert JFS during hurricane season or other emergencies. Supplies will include non-perishable food, water, flashlights and more.

Contact Belinda Lasky, the agency's director of volunteer leadership and Food insecurity, at 561-713-1893 for more information or to request a bag. Visit [AlpertJFS.org](http://AlpertJFS.org) for more information on the agency.

