



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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William Penn Student Raises over \$700 for Holocaust Survivors

(Fallsington, PA) - Matthew Sherman, a seventh-grader at William Penn Middle School, just completed a successful fundraiser to support The Blue Card Fund. The Blue Card Fund is dedicated to assisting Holocaust survivors worldwide living in poverty.

There are close to 350,000 Holocaust survivors worldwide, more than a third of whom live below the federal poverty line and have no family to rely on for aid and support. The Blue Card Fund seeks to help through initiatives like delivering food and medication at no cost, arranging transportation to and from doctor's visits, helping support the payments of rent and utilities, or whatever services the person in need requires. Given the state of global affairs, the Blue Card Fund has recently turned a significant portion of its efforts towards aiding the approximately 10,000 Holocaust survivors remaining in Ukraine. Because of age and infirmity, many of these people are homebound. The Blue Card Fund has partnered with a global relief organization to bring aid to these people. They assist them in obtaining essential medicines, clean water, hygienic supplies, appropriate meals, shelter, and even evacuation to a safer place.

Matthew became interested in this project after visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and the Virginia Holocaust Museum in Richmond, Virginia during the summer of 2021. Deeply moved by learning about the atrocities committed during the Holocaust, Matthew was troubled to learn how many survivors are presently living in poverty, going without basic necessities most of us take for granted.

For Matthew's Bar Mitzvah this year, he decided to help Holocaust survivors in need as his mitzvah project. While we must never forget the fate that millions of Jews and ethnic minorities suffered, it is equally vital that we continue to remember the living and enable them to live in health, safety, and dignity. In cooperation with Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, Pennsylvania, Matthew began an initiative to raise money for the Blue Card Fund. He sold soft pretzels and silicone bracelets emblazoned with the Blue card Fund logo throughout the community and at William Penn during the week of April 25, 2022, which coincides with the

observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 28, 2022. To date, Matthew has raised over \$700 for the Blue Card Fund!

For more information about the Blue Card Fund, including how to donate, please go to <https://bluecardfund.org>.

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