

**SHABBAT MESSAGE**  
**JULY 29, 2022**



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a great week. Last week I traveled to Poland to learn more about how the funds we raised supported Ukrainian refugees at the outset of the Russian invasion, and how they continue to support efforts today. To be honest, I'm still processing what was a truly moving experience. It's hard to believe that five days can create such a range of emotions. I'm planning to share more about the experience through events in the community, through an article in *Jewish Rhode Island*, and through other means. But today, I'd like to share the story of one Ukrainian refugee family, and how because of you, because of all of us, they are safe and on the path to a new life.

It's the story of Dani and his wife, Misha. We met them at a hotel that has been converted into a refugee center. Before the war, Misha was an IT project manager and Dani had a restaurant. Their son Sasha, who has special needs, was with them adding an extra layer of complication to their exit from Ukraine. Sasha had such a warm personality and was so playful as his parents recounted their journey to us. How, even though they were all able to leave, including Dani, they still traveled across the border separately. Dani crossed with Sasha, and Misha with their dog. They were afraid that if they traveled together, despite having permission to go with his family, Dani would be pulled out and required to stay. Thankfully, they all made it out, and thanks to the work of the Jewish Agency, and support from organizations like ours, they will be heading to Israel next week to begin their new life as Israeli citizens.

Most of these refugees fled with very little, usually what they could fit in a suitcase, if that. At this hotel, several rooms were set up where people could get needed clothing. In one room, there were boxes of new shoes. It made me think of the Holocaust Museum in DC and other memorials around the world. At these museums and memorials there are piles of the shoes taken from Jews as they entered concentration camps. Now, eighty years later, there are these boxes of shoes, taking on a completely different meaning. Our community helped to provide shoes to those who needed them.

This is just one small memory from a trip filled with them. And it's a powerful testament to the importance of our work at the Alliance and the importance of your support. The Alliance and our partners were able to mobilize and help during this emergency—thanks to you, we are ready to respond even before emergencies exist. Seeing what I saw last week in Poland, I could not be more grateful.

Until next time, I wish you a safe, peaceful, and joyous Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom!

Adam Greenman  
President & CEO