

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Levin-Abir
JNF Campaign Executive
847-656-8880
slevin-abir@jnf.org

Riverwoods Resident Spearheads Campaign to Donate Fire Truck to Israel

May 14, 2007 -- Chicago, IL -- In an effort to provide Israeli firefighters with state-of-the-art equipment, **Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Rd., Northfield** will officially kick off a fundraising campaign to purchase a compact fire truck through **Jewish National Fund (JNF)** at **11 a.m., Sunday, May 20** at its annual family street fair.

In addition to the usual festivities of the day -- including a barbeque by Brotherhood, carnival games, and entertainment to celebrate the end of the school year -- the temple will showcase its effort to purchase a fire truck for Israel's Fire and Rescue Services, the first responders to all fires, emergencies, and terrorist attacks. Two antique fire trucks and a compact fire truck will be on display at the fair.

The plan for the campaign began when **Howard Brenner**, a Riverwoods resident and member of Temple Jeremiah, saw an advertisement thanking a Chicago-area JNF donor for purchasing a compact fire truck, which is much smaller than a traditional truck and is quickly and easily deployed in any emergency situation and on any terrain.



Brenner, 75, a retired businessman who has a basement collection of firefighting paraphernalia rivaling that of a museum -- including antique helmets and badges, model fire trucks and a complete telegraph set -- was immediately interested. A former volunteer fireman, he has been fascinated by firefighting ever since he was a young boy, when he would spend time at his father's tailor shop down the street from a fire station.



Brenner called the JNF Chicago office and learned that in 2004, JNF partnered with Friends of Israel Firefighters to replace Israel's aging fleet of fire engines with compact fire trucks, a collaboration that proved all the more vital during last summer's war with Hezbollah.

Four thousand rockets were fired into northern Israel throughout the month-long conflict, destroying not only homes and property but also sparking fires that consumed 2 million trees and 20,000 acres of forests and nature reserves. Thanks to the heroic efforts of foresters and firefighters, much forest was saved, but the war exposed a dearth of firefighting equipment, with trucks at the top of the list.

Compact fire trucks are an effective and economical solution. At a cost of \$100,000 each, they have four-wheel drive, which allows for easy access to narrow streets and alleyways, and are highly effective in rough terrain common in most forest fire regions.



Shortly after he saw the ad, Brenner went on a mission to Israel with Temple Jeremiah, during which he arranged for the group to stop at firehouse in Jerusalem and meet with Eldad Halachmi, director general of Friends of Israel Firefighters. The temple later decided to partner with JNF to purchase a compact fire truck.

"Hopefully, the fair on May 20th will generate a lot of enthusiasm so we can raise enough money to purchase this much-needed truck," said Brenner. "Chicago has a population of 3 million people and we have 5,500 firemen. Jerusalem, with a population of 1 million, only has 100 firefighters, and they do not receive much

funding from the government. Israel's Fire and Rescue Services need our support and I am happy to give them as much as I can."

For more information, contact Susan Levin-Abir at 847-656-8880 or slevin-abir@jnf.org.

Captions:

Top - A compact fire truck.

Middle - Howard Brenner's collection of hats.

Bottom- An antique telegraph system, the technology used from the 1870s until around 10 years ago to notify firehouses of fires.

###

Jewish National Fund is a non-profit organization founded in 1901 to serve as caretaker of the land of Israel, on behalf of its owners—Jewish people everywhere. Over the past century, JNF has planted over 240 million trees, built over 180 reservoirs and dams, developed over 250,000 acres of land, created more than 1,000 parks, provided the infrastructure for 1,000 communities and educated students around the world about Israel and the environment. Today, JNF is restoring northern Israel, making it home again to its residents, and is putting its century of experience to work with *Blueprint Negev*, supporting Israel's newest generation of pioneers in developing the Negev Desert, Israel's last frontier. For more information on JNF or to plant trees in Israel, call 800-542-TREE (8733) or visit www.jnf.org/trees. To contact your local office, please call 888-JNF-0099 or visit <http://www.jnf.org/>.