

\$5 million target for Jewish Care

AIN STAFF

DRIVING through South Africa with an elderly friend, Ronni Kahn had an "epiphany" that resulted in thousands of hungry Australians going to bed with full stomachs.

"As we drove into Soweto, [my friend] said, 'actually, I was responsible for electricity in Soweto'," Kahn recounted. "I went cold and thought, 'what must it feel like to make a difference to a million people?'"

Kahn, the founder of OzHarvest, was an inspirational guest speaker at Jewish Care's appeal gala last week.

She established her charity, which collects surplus food from caterers, restaurants and supermarkets, in 2004 and by January 2011, the organisation was delivering 185,000 meals to Australians struggling to get by.

"The rewards for giving are so much greater than getting," the former caterer said.

Jewish Care president Bruce Rosengarten certainly agreed.

He told the 620-strong crowd last Thursday evening that Jewish Care has a \$5 million shortfall, not covered by government funding or service fees, and asked for their help to raise this amount.

"I know there are many charity organisations calling for your support," he said.

But, he added, supporting Jewish Care is about giving tzedakah, "what is just, right and true".

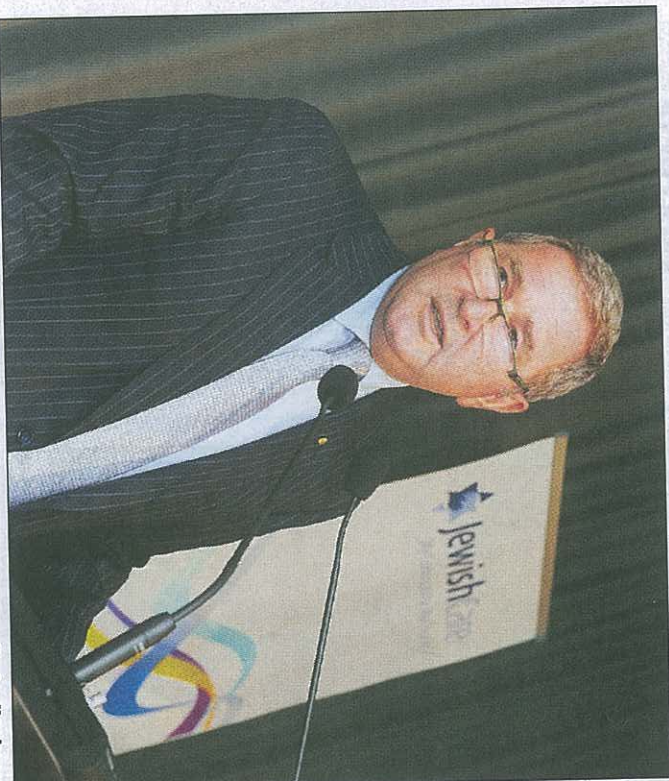
"At Jewish Care, we are not about handouts, we are about hand ups," Rosengarten said.

Honoured at the dinner, held at Caulfield Racecourse, was long-time volunteer Liz Nissen. Nissen, who assists elderly residents at Montefiore Homes, received an outstanding community service award.

She said "her oldies" have become part of her life and that she has felt satisfied providing "TLC and dignity to sad, lonely people".

Guests also heard from appeal patron David Smorgon, who said "Jewish Care is a wonderful example of Jewish people helping fellow Jews".

To donate visit jappeal.org.au or call 1800 539 474.



Jewish Care's appeal patron David Smorgon has asked the community to dig deep. Photo: Dean Schmidg

Smorgon's request to 'dig deep'

JEWISH Care's 2011 appeal patron David Smorgon said the local Jewish community must recognise there is serious disadvantage in its midst.

"I would be very disappointed if today, the Melbourne Jewish community isn't very aware there are 5000 people each year who need Jewish Care's help," Smorgon told *The AIN* this week.

The business, philanthropic and AFL

football identity is spearheading Jewish Care's charge to raise \$5 million to cover its annual shortfall left over after it receives government funding and fees for its services.

Smorgon explained he had been involved in Jewish Care, "in one way or another", for many years.

"It does a very good job looking after disadvantaged people," he said.

Smorgon, whose family name is synonymous with success in this state, called on those people with a little bit extra to dig deep for those who are struggling.

Jewish Care assists by providing residential and non-residential aged care, disability services and social welfare, including financial relief, counselling and a job network.

UIA bigwig in Australia

JOSHUA LEVI

THE man who headed a parliamentary inquiry into the 1997 Maccabiah Games bridge collapse will address Australians next week as a guest of United Israel Appeal (UIA).

Moodi Sandberg, who is now the UIA world chairman, is tasked with coordinating local UIA organisation and programs around the world.

"I'm coming to meet the Jewish community of Australia," Sandberg told *The AIN* from Israel. "I think the Australian campaign is excellent and I'm sure I will meet a lot of different people during my time there."

He said by donating to the UIA, Australians help refugees and migrants to Israel.

The world chairman was elected to the Knesset in 1992, founded the Israel-Africa Friendship society, and was the chairman of the Israel-Finland, Israel-Brazil and Israel-Vietnam parliamentary associations.

Sandberg will be speaking at the UIA opening gala dinner on Tuesday night. Enquiries: (03) 9272 5533.