

First Ever Public Recognition and Honoring of 1000 People Sent to U.S. as Children to Escape Nazis on April 18, 2001

PRESS RELEASE

April 1, 2001

Rabbi Elan Adler and the Moses Montefiore Hebrew Congregation of Baltimore, Maryland, in cooperation with the non-profit organization One Thousand Children, Inc. (OTC) will be holding the first ever Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Program, to honor the approximately 1,000 people who were sent to U.S. foster families and other facilities as children fleeing the Nazis in World War II. The Program will include testimony from OTC children as well as a musical presentation and candle lighting ceremony. This Program is open to the public. It will begin at 7:30 PM at 7000 Rockland Hills Drive, Baltimore MD. See driving directions at end of this press release. The phone number of the Moses Montefiore Hebrew Congregation is 410-653-7485.

OTC is a nonprofit tax exempt research and education organization documenting the experiences of children, aged 1 to 16, who came to the U.S. between 1934 and 1945 to escape Nazi persecution. Working with a number of Holocaust-related and other organizations, OTC is: Locating and communicating with as many of the surviving one thousand as possible Organizing a first reunion Publishing memoirs and related educational information

BACKGROUND: A handful of children were part of one of the most triumphant and tragic stories of the twentieth century - the rescue and placement in foster homes and in other facilities across America of approximately 1,000 unaccompanied Jewish children while a generation of 1,500,000 children perished in the Holocaust. An operation, quietly carried out because of fear that a backlash from isolationist and anti-Semitic forces could cause its demise, the "underground railroad" spanned three continents and two oceans, was fueled by donations of ordinary people and the work of hundreds of volunteers and ran for almost eleven years. Yet, mention of it will not be found in American history books. Museums and memorials do not celebrate the lives of these children and the individuals and organizations who rescued them. There are no movies about it. Its heroes are not heralded and its villains not reproved. Few Americans know of it and only one scholar has studied and written about the subject. Most of the 1,000 children themselves are unaware they were part of an organized effort of private citizens between 1934 and 1945 to bring to America as many Jewish children as possible nor that this was

accomplished in the face of powerful economic, social, political, religious and governmental constraints that had such a devastating outcome for the sixteen million people who perished in the Holocaust. America's response to the calamity of the Holocaust, especially as it relates to children, as well as the experiences of these one thousand children and the people and organizations who made their escape from persecution possible, remains to be told. It is an unknown story of courage, sacrifice and triumph.

(This Press Release may be reprinted)