



JULY 17TH-22ND, 2022

This emergency bulletin offers an insider's update for supporters like yourself, whose generosity enables JDC to respond quickly and effectively to the Ukraine crisis.

In most of Odesa, an eerie silence reigns. The port is quiet, the tourists gone. But this week, the sound of children's laughter rang out in downtown Odesa. The children are enjoying Jewish day camp, the second such camp JDC helped run this summer in this beleaguered Ukrainian city. This bulletin illustrates the meaningful difference these camps make in the lives of children under fire.

Joyous Jewish Life Even in the Face of Crisis

Coming together as a community is vital to maintaining a sense of normalcy in these uncertain and scary times.

For the children of Odesa, JDC camps are an oasis of joy in a desert of crisis.

The first summer camp we operated in mid-June was so successful that we extended it from two weeks to three! Campers included internally displaced children who recently fled to Odesa from Mykolaiv and Kherson. For them, camp was truly a ray of sunshine and a true expression of Jewish community solidarity as they were welcomed with open arms.

And **right now**, from July 11th-25th, over 50 Jewish children are participating in a second JDC day camp where they spend their day playing sports, creating arts and crafts, even taking master classes in cooking!

For seven hours each day, Odesa's Jewish children escape the crisis and become children once again.

At times, the emergency did intrude – camp was moved from its usual home in the JCC to a building equipped with a bomb shelter (which unfortunately the children ran to more than once) and there were no field trips or excursions. Overall the joy of summer camp prevailed!

Thank you for bringing Jewish summer camp to children whose reality has been unfathomable over the last five months.



Children enjoy a craft activity at JDC's Odesa Day Camp

Thousands of Jewish children across the FSU are benefitting from over 60 JDC summer camps & retreats.

