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THE

# Lev Kertsburg

FUND

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As the son of Holocaust survivors, Lev Kertsburg knew what it meant to sacrifice in order to protect one's family. Living in the Soviet Union, Lev, his wife Irene and four-year-old son Alexis enjoyed a nice lifestyle but lacked the freedom to practice Judaism. They were not able to attend synagogue or carry on Jewish traditions. Thus, in 1979 they left behind their comforts and departed the Soviet Union in search of a better life, with only \$90 in their pockets and spoke no English. Lev was a hard worker and worked hard to provide for his family and ensure his son received the best education. After various jobs and several moves, Lev and Irene built a wonderful life in the United States. They eventually ended up in Dallas to be close with Alexis, who now has a family of his own.

Lev was comforted to know that his grandsons were practicing Judaism and attending a Jewish school - this was why he had risked everything by leaving the Soviet Union all those years ago. In Dallas, Lev became actively involved in the daily lives of his grandsons. He brought Gabriel and Maxim to the JCC's Goldberg Early Childhood Center (GECC) daily and often attended Shabbat with them. Lev always had a smile on his face when he walked through the doors and the pride that he had for his grandsons was palpable. Lev was a quiet man who always looked out for the best opportunities for his family.

The name Lev means heart in Hebrew and lion-hearted in Russian. Hearing the story of Lev Kertsburg, this comes as no surprise as he was a man who lived each day with bravery, love and determination.

In honor of all grandparents and the special relationships that they have with their grandchildren, the Intergenerational Program Fund is being established in the loving memory of Lev Kertsburg. The program is designed to connect children with elders in their community, learning from each other and building relationships that enhance everyone's lives in a deep and meaningful way.

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**“Lev was a family man, devoted husband, excellent father, exceptional grandfather and a good friend and this is what made him a great man.”**

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