

Seniors at Home

An initiative of **Federation's Chaplaincy** program that helps home-bound seniors feel connected to their community.

CHAPLAINS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

376
visits to seniors



61
unique individual visited

94%



repeat visits

Chaplains spoke with each senior about 2-3 times a month

Visiting was discontinued with 16 seniors. In the majority of these cases the senior had passed away or the health and/ living situation changed so our chaplaincy service was no longer appropriate.



27



Referrals to Seniors at Home



9

Community members



7

Chaplain referrals & other



6

GMW CARES Partners



5

Other Agencies

CHAPLAINS PROVIDE COMFORT AND JEWISH COMMUNITY

Our Chaplains share:

"A client was quite ill in December and I made visits before and after Chanukah. I gave her a dreidel before the holiday. The next week she told me that her late husband's birthday was the second day of Chanukah. She had asked her son to bring the dreidel to the cemetery when he visited and she told me how special she felt that I made this emotionally and **spiritually powerful act possible.**"

"Prior to Yom Kippur he shared his anxieties about fasting and walking home during the break. I tried to assure him that the Rabbi will be there to guide him and that the congregants will watch out for him and so it was."

"The client and I have developed a relationship around singing Jewish songs/prayers."

Chaplains bring holiday tradition to the seniors



Lulav & Etrog for Sukkot



Jars of honey for Rosh Hashana



Chocolate gelt for Chanukah



Purim baskets

"All clients were happy to get their Chanukah treats of dreidels and chocolate gelt. They **shared memories** of the holiday from their childhood or other times in their lives."

CHAPLAINS MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE FAMILIES TOO

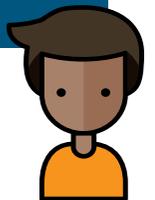
"I value the way that the Chaplain appreciates her and opens her up to intellectual discussions which she doesn't get much of anymore."
-daughter



"I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate that you visited her and you call me too. You did such a Mitzvah." -family friend



"My mother looks forward to your visits. She becomes so alive."-daughter



"Thank you again for all that you do - helping my parents and spending time with them. It means the world to them and to me too."
-daughter



CHAPLAINS NOURISH MINDS



7



Dorot University Without Walls (over 40 seniors called into the classes taught by Senior at Home Chaplain)



3



Committee/Conferences (incl. text study at Caring Communities Conference)



3



CARES Partners (incl. presentation about Seniors as part of the Greater MetroWest program for "Solo Seniors")



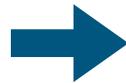
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Cafe Europa (discussions with Holocaust survivors and their families - over 70 attended)



1



Greater MetroWest Institutions (discussion of Women and the Chanukah story)



Comfort during the time of need:

Our Chaplains **arranged a program at Cranford Senior Housing Complex shortly after the Tree of Life Terrorist attack in Pittsburg.** Our Chaplain spoke to many of the individuals present prior to and after the program and did counseling session with a resident around spiritual family issues.

WHAT SENIORS AT HOME IS ALL ABOUT

Decrease feeling of isolation among home-bound seniors

By making frequent calls and visits to homebound seniors in Greater MetroWest NJ, our Chaplains establish positive relationships with the seniors. The Chaplains serve as a supportive presence, actively listen to the seniors, and provide opportunities for meaningful conversations. In 2017, the program added a second chaplain due to increased demand and desire for this service.



Create and deepen a sense of belonging to a caring Jewish community

When visiting, our Chaplains create a sacred space in which the senior feels safe and cared about. When appropriate, our Chaplains act as a resource about Jewish ritual, tradition, spirituality, and values. Seniors want to deepen their connection to Jewish tradition and spirituality, and engage in life review.



Inform and inspire the community

The Chaplains and Federation colleagues make Greater MetroWest agencies, congregational rabbis and other synagogue staff, as well as members of the community, aware of the service provided by this program in order to encourage as many seniors as possible to take advantage of this resource.



HOW MUCH DOES THIS CHAPLAIN'S DIRECT SERVICE COST?

\$34,500 per year

- 2 Chaplains

WHO ARE THE KEY PLAYERS?

Seniors at Home Partners:

GMW Healthcare Chaplains

GMW Synagogues

Jewish Family Service of Central NJ

Jewish Family Service of MetroWest NJ

GMW CARES and ABLE (departments of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ)

LOOKING AHEAD

Areas in which Seniors at Home plans further work in the year ahead:

- ★ **Increase number of Chaplains in order to visit more isolated seniors in more places.**