



Jewish Association for Community Living

Community Active...Community Strong

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January 2021

Community Connections

Friends,

Did you hear the one about a priest, a minister and a rabbit who walked into a bar? The bartender asked the rabbit, "What'll you have?". Rabbit says, "I don't know, I'm just here because of a typo".

Did I just hear a collective moan? Well, I'm determined not dwell on the negative impact of Covid 19. For over 10 months, Covid has been harassing and bullying us. Everyone is tired.

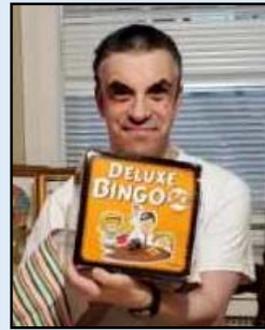
Therefore, this is about optimism and hope. As I write this, our employees and residents are beginning to access the vaccine or are on the verge of being able to do so. As I near finishing my 28th year with JCL, I have never been more proud of our employees and their steadfast perseverance and discipline. As far as I'm concerned, they walk on water. While we are not out of the woods, we think we see beautiful fields of flowers and grass and sunshine just beyond the tree line.

Please root for us and we will do the same for you, our generous friends and supporters. Stay safe and thank you for being by our side.

Denis Geary
Executive Director

Many thanks to our community

At the end of 2020, we were the recipients of many generous acts of kindness. We reached out to our local community to help with holiday gifts for a few of our residents in our Supported Community Living and Continual Residential Supports. We had 5 holiday wish lists fulfilled and 5 very happily surprised residents. Arsenia, Josh, Jess, and Mary received gifts which included painting supplies (a HUGE hit with our residents), yoga mats, games, gift cards, etc.



Josh with a new Bingo game and Jessica with her make up set.

Lapghans by the Beth El KNITzvah group

We also had a thoughtful donation initiated by Board Member, Susie Namerow. The KNITzvah group at Beth El Temple in West Hartford donated lapghans to our residents to enjoy a little bit of cozy comfort when they are in need. The KNITzvah Group creates cozy handcrafted gifts for people in our community and in Israel who need a little extra love. Since 2002, the group of knitters and crocheters fashion useful items that they donate to shelters, hospitals, veterans' homes, and special-needs facilities. The group creates "lapghans" (small afghans), hats, scarves, mittens, sweaters and baby blankets. Their motto: We make strings into things one stitch at a time, to give comfort and warmth to others!



Mira enjoying her lapghan.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah celebrations looked a little different this year. Our Judaic Programmers, Bonnie and Susan along with storyteller Sara deBeer hosted a virtual Hanukkah celebration. All JCL residents and other Judaic Program participants were invited to listen to stories of miracles and how Mattathias, father of the Maccabees, brought a man home from the woods. To listen to Sara tell these wonderful stories, you can find them on the Virtual Judaic Program page of our website.



JCL Hanukkah event on Zoom.

BlumShapiro Foundation

Another shout out of gratitude to our friends at the BlumShapiro Foundation. In response to our grant request, they donated \$1,000 to JCL to use for therapeutic and program supplies for our residents. To date, we have purchased art and craft supplies, as well as sensory stimulation equipment.



JCL Staff play a game of Sorry! with Jaime.

JCL's Annual Campaign

Our annual campaign has officially started! As you can imagine, maintaining a stable financial outlook has challenged us in ways we have never seen before. One small example of additional Covid costs comes in the form of personal protective equipment. In March 2020 we were able to purchase a box of 100 gloves for \$2.50. Now, that same box, if we can even get it, costs \$11.50. In addition to seeing an increase in the costs of supplies, we have also increased our costs in cleaning products. We have hired professional cleaners, which has amounted to approximately \$12,000 in the past 10 months.

We've also spent money on fun and enriching activities for our residents. We have continued our Thankful Thursdays, gave turkeys out during the holidays, personalized cards of gratitude, and handmade holiday treats for all employees.

This year, more than ever, we are depending on our donors to help us. We know that there are many organizations struggling who are also worthy of your support, so we truly appreciate your consideration. If you would like to make gift, you can do so by sending it to our office or on our website.

Thank you to all of our donors who have given towards our campaign. This alphabetical list is updated as of January 19, 2021.

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