

HOME CARE
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
ISABELLA & MENORAH CENTERS FOR
REHABILITATION AND NURSING CARE
ELDERPLAN/HOMEFIRST
INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION IN
PALLIATIVE CARE



InFOCUS

Spring 2023



Miranda Family Fund Supports the New Sunroom at Isabella

Inside This Issue

Thank You to all the donors who supported us during 2022. Because of your continued generosity, we are able to build on the quality programs and services MJHS offers to members of our community. As you read through this newsletter, you will see how your giving impacts the lives of our patients and their families, as well as supports the enormous progress we have made.

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MJHS
InFOCUS

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With the Cut of a Ribbon the Beautiful Edmunda Claudio Sunroom Officially Opens for the residents of MJHS Isabella Center!

Generously funded by the Miranda Family in honor of their dear abuela, the light-filled space will be used for everything from plant therapy to family visits. As mentioned by Loyola Princivil-Barnett, COO of MJHS Centers for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care, renovation of the space—and transformation into the beautiful and welcoming sunroom that it is today—would not have been possible without the generosity of the Miranda family. **We so appreciate their support.**



2022 EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Every year our very own employees donate funds for the programs and services of MJHS! Thank you to our staff who not only give to us every day by caring for members of our community but also go above and beyond to donate funds to ensure we can continue caring for those in need.

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MJHS Is

Relocating to 55 Water Street



I'm very proud to announce that MJHS Health System has reached a new milestone. We are relocating our corporate headquarters to 55 Water Street in the financial district of downtown Manhattan. **We are scheduled to start occupying our new space in July of 2023**, when our lease in Brooklyn expires. A critical part of our roots, MJHS will continue to maintain a presence in Brooklyn. We will also keep our Garden City office.

Improving quality of life for our employees was at the top of the list during our office search. 55 Water is a sun-filled, high-security building with advanced technology that will offer our employees access to important amenities within the building complex and in the surrounding community. The new space will also give our staff much greater access to public transportation, including proximity to multiple subways, bus lines and ferries.

The current office space in Brooklyn is spread across numerous buildings, plus we have offices at 39 Broadway in Manhattan. Our new 138,000-square-foot space on the 46th and 47th floors at 55 Water will bring together most of our office-based staff, supporting even greater collaboration between business lines and across the organization. The consolidation of offices and larger floor sizes at 55 Water will facilitate greater efficiency and allow us to reduce our square footage needs by 20 percent. Continuing our office search and negotiating the lease during the pandemic allowed us to obtain favorable terms. This has enabled us to provide a much-improved environment for our staff while remaining fiscally responsible.

Here's to the exciting next chapter in the story of MJHS!



David Wagner
 President and CEO
 MJHS Health System

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Viktoria Grinberg
Annie Groysman

Raise a Glass for Another Successful Wine Tasting

The library at the Union League Club served as the perfect backdrop to taste the wines of Spain during our annual Wine Tasting. The wines, generously donated by Golden Ram Imports, showcased varietals from the world's third-largest producing nation. Each wine was paired with chef-selected hors d'oeuvres to perfectly complement the flavors.

As it is each year, the Wine Tasting was dedicated to raising money in support of the MJHS Golden Family Supportive Treatment and Resources Fund (STAR). This fund focuses on supporting caregivers whose loved ones are receiving hospice care from MJHS. Dollars raised provide additional Home Health Aide (HHA) support—over and above what patients are eligible to receive—to help caregivers who are in desperate need of additional support but don't have the resources to pay for it.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, we were able to provide an additional 827 HHA hours to support caregivers in crisis, bringing our total hours funded for 2022 to over 1,900!

Donations raised through our annual Wine Tasting helped provide additional HHA hours to support Peter and his family.

To help ground us in the importance of this fund, Peter, whose father was receiving care from MJHS Hospice, shared with the crowd how his family benefited from the additional hours.



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“When my dad received a terminal diagnosis, my mom became the primary caregiver, helping to bathe, change and assist him with all activities of daily life. So when she fell and broke her wrist, she became distraught, trying to figure out how she would care for him. Thankfully the social worker caring for him recognized the situation and requested additional home health aide support for them. This gave her and me great peace of mind, knowing that Dad would be well cared for while her wrist healed.”

—Peter

Donations raised through our annual Wine Tasting helped provide these additional HHA hours to support Peter and his family. Thank you to all the donors who participated and helped us make a difference in the lives of so many families. ■



The 2023 Wine Tasting is scheduled for October 11 at the Union League Club, NYC. The featured wines will be announced closer to the date. Please visit mjhoundation.org/events for details as we get closer. You won't want to miss it.

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MJHS in the Spotlight

Extra! Extra! Read All About
MJHS In Our News Round-Up!

If you've flipped on your TV, opened a newspaper, or surfed the internet, it's likely you've seen MJHS in the news! Some of the recent coverage has showcased the expertise of our people, as well as highlighted how our quality and culturally-sensitive programs and services help so many. **Join as we look back!**

WCBS—Eye on Hospice Care: MJHS
Expertise on Display

To help more New Yorkers learn about hospice care, **MJHS teamed up with CBS New York** for a four-part educational series that aired on television and is available online.

The first segment features **Susan Lage**, a senior vice president with MJHS Hospice. She begins by explaining that “saying yes” to hospice care means saying yes to receiving quality end-of-life medical care with compassion, dignity and respect. She adds that it also means the patient and family are offered emotional, spiritual and psychological support. Up next is **Toby Weiss**, assistant vice president of our Hospice Cultural Diversity Program. She focuses on our person-centered care and adds that each patient's current needs and sensitivities are rooted in everything from past experiences, family dynamics, and religious beliefs to identity. Our deep understanding of different cultures allows MJHS Hospice clinicians to tailor a plan of care for patients and families.



Our very own **Dr. Damani Taylor**, senior pediatric hospice physician, is in the third CBS Eye on Hospice Care segment. He talks about our specialized pediatric hospice program and explains that overwhelmed and frightened parents often

don't realize that their child can continue to pursue curative treatments while receiving hospice care from our organization. **Marguerite Metzendorf**, director of integrative medicine and bereavement services, closes out the series by highlighting the important roles of our art and music therapists, chaplains, volunteers and bereavement counsellors.

CFO Answers 3 Key Questions

Have you ever wanted to know what a top executive is thinking?

David Koschitzki spoke with **HealthLeaders** about MJHS Health System being a mission-driven organization that balances managing costs without cutting programs and services. He stressed the importance of investing in staffing and technology, as well as focusing on more relationship building so everyone from physicians and hospital groups to community organizations better understand hospice care. David joins the ranks of other CFOs featured in this leading industry source of news for senior executives.

MJHS Executive Discusses Cultural
Competency, Recruitment and Retention

Hospice News, a leading trade publication, featured **Joyce Palmieri**, senior vice president of clinical services with MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care, alongside two other executives from across the country, in an article about the importance of integrating cultural competency into staff recruitment and retention efforts. Joyce shared that our hospice program has expanded internal diversity, equity and inclusion programs and culturally-sensitive training sessions during the past 10 years. She added that this has been embraced by staff and fostered an environment where new hires aren't afraid to ask questions or learn the best ways to help patients feel heard, valued and respected.

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 Sheila Molarto
 Dina Moldavsky



CBS New York Heads to Washington Heights

Each election, **Isabella and Menorah Centers** staff take the many steps necessary to make sure nursing home residents can cast their ballots on time. For a segment about voting during the 2022 midterm election, **CBS New York** traveled to Isabella Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care and interviewed two residents about the issues that matter most to them. Jessica Garcia-Robinson, assistant administrator of Isabella, spoke about how and why we support residents' right to vote.

TV Viewers Hear About Annual Pediatric Hospice Holiday Tradition

Dr. Damani Taylor, senior pediatric hospice physician, joined **BronxNet Community Television** to outline what makes our specialized pediatric

hospice program so unique. While in the studio, he talked about the beloved MJHS tradition of our clinical team dressing up in festive costumes and delivering holiday joy, presents and the gift of songs to our youngest patients and their families. From the studio on CUNY's Lehman College campus, Dr. Taylor also thanked our MJHS Foundation Young Leadership Council for generously donating dozens of gifts and added that hospice volunteers helped gift wrap and write holiday cards. The conversation is viewable on YouTube.



Three MJHS Experts, Three Distinct Conversations

Francine Crawford created the **Autumn is Here** podcast to amplify all that she learned while caring for her mother with dementia. One of her first interviewees was Theresa Bavero, a MJHS bereavement counselor who helped Francine process her emotions. Theresa and Francine spoke about the different types of grieving and ways therapy supports a person coping with a loss. Next, Dr. Tartania Brown, director of Palliative Care Provider Practice, joined the podcast for a conversation about palliative care and its focus on improving quality of life. Recently, Kundan Patel, nurse team manager with MJHS Hospice, spoke with Francine too. She explained hospice care, discussed what patients and their families can expect, and shared why hospice is her calling.



Continued on page 10

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Barbara Pignataro
Donna Podd
Johanna Polanco
Russell Portenoy
Trecia Powell
Denis Previlon
Loyola Princivil-Barnett
Garnel Prophete
Chenshuang Qu

MJHS in the Spotlight *continued*



WWII veteran sings with hospice music therapist

What helps **Mr. Lawton Corbett, a 102-year-old WWII hero**, who is supported by our hospice veteran program, remember the past and share life lessons? Singing with MJHS Hospice music therapist **Charla Burton**! News12 Brooklyn filmed as the two sang everything from *The Army Goes Rolling Along* to *Blueberry Hill* and *Down By the Riverside*. After a while, Mr. Corbett's stories flowed as Charla strummed her guitar.

Some of the recent coverage has showcased the expertise of our people, as well as highlighted how our high quality and culturally-sensitive programs and services help so many.

Love, Music, Art and Memories

Our innovative memory care programs at Isabella and Menorah Centers for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care offer a range of non-pharmacological interventions, programs and services, including art, music, and horticulture therapies. From **Symphony Magazine** and **The Staten Island Advance** to **News12 Brooklyn** and **i Advance Senior Care**, our incredible Menorah Center staff and the residents who live on the 80-bed memory care wing, continue to capture the attention of reporters!

Still Hearing Wedding Bells

Before the music began and the flower girl walked down the aisle, Mikhail was already grinning from ear to ear. The big day at Menorah Center had finally arrived. After 65 years of marriage, the 89-year-old resident was renewing wedding vows with his beloved Feyga, who also lives at Menorah. **News12 Brooklyn** was there to record it all—from the live music and exchange of vows to the big cheers and toasts at the end. Word spread fast. Mikhail and Feyga's love story reached audiences as far away as Israel. Special thanks to Menorah staff, particularly the memory care team, for planning the heartwarming summer celebration. During the reception, some residents spoke of their great loves, others remembered their own weddings, and many participated in a singalong of tunes that were popular in the 1950s and 60s.



2022 EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

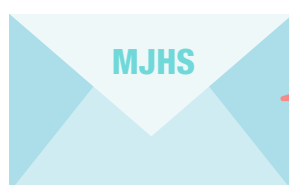


Best Practices for Supporting Emotional Wellness Among Residents

In **Symphony Magazine** and **i Advance Senior Care**, Kendra Ray, PhD, the dementia program's director who is a leading researcher and sought-after expert in music therapy, outlines some of the ways she and her team monitor and address the emotional wellness of Menorah Center residents with memory loss. In the magazine, Dr. Ray describes "music as medicine for our souls" because it "decreases agitation, reduces depression, improves motor skills, and increases mental acuity." In the online publication, she highlights that Menorah Center offers virtual music therapy so families can participate. "We take the same approach with art therapy, sending art supplies to family members so they are able to virtually participate in the sessions....These virtual groups give residents that valuable opportunity to engage with family members, even at a distance."

Inspiration Is Everywhere, in Everything

The Staten Island Advance profiled the memory care program at Menorah Center through exploring the inspiring life and career of dementia program coordinator Olga Barbakova. On the front page, Olga shares that her art therapy projects for residents begin with everyday ideas, like the bright sun on a summer day. She adds that the residents use everyday materials, from tins to envelopes, to create memorable pieces. Art, Olga says, has been a vehicle of change and positivity for those she has worked with by creating friendships, connecting residents with their pasts, and staying engaged while relieving stress. ■



Eileen Quinlan
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Miryam Rabner
Baby Rambaran
Melessia Ramlakhan
Rameshwar Ramnarine
Beverly Ramnath
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Candita Ramos-Montes
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Yevgeny Rayev
Lyubov Raykh
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Fighting Social Isolation

at MJHS Menorah Center



As the natural progression of life takes its course, some individuals can become more and more socially isolated. This often happens as people get older and weaker, are no longer connected to their family, leave the workplace, their spouses and friends slowly pass away, or develop a disability or illness.

Social isolation is a lack of social connections and leads to loneliness, depression, and other health risks. It is a growing public health concern in our aging society, especially in nursing homes. And the impact of COVID-19 exacerbated this tremendously across the country. Residents have experienced depressed moods and post-traumatic stress syndrome due to the inability to connect with family and friends as frequently.

With the help of two generous grants from the Sephardic Foundation for the Aged, we are helping combat social isolation in our residents at our Menorah Center. The funding has helped us establish

an interdisciplinary team that offers psychosocial services, music and creative arts therapy.

It has also allowed us to partner with our neighbors at Kingsborough Community College to develop intergenerational programming and mindfulness practices.

The work began with our long-term residents, and we are expanding the services to short-term rehab patients

as well as working with those transitioning to long-term care. With the help of The Sephardic Foundation, this program continues to grow and has become an integral part of the critical care at Menorah Center. ■

Social isolation is a lack of social connections and leads to loneliness, depression and other health risks.

2022 EMPLOYEE GIVING
CAMPAIGN

Charitable Care Fund Helps

Patients at the End of Life

At the core of our values is a commitment to providing health care and support for at-risk members of our community. That's why, thanks to a generous founding donation, we launched our Charitable Care Fund in late 2021, with the mission of helping families who are uninsured receive quality end-of-life care. Whether they do not have insurance or need assistance with copays, MJHS believes that all New Yorkers deserve to spend their final months and days being cared for with dignity and respect.

In 2022, raising support for the Charitable Care Fund was a priority for MJHS Foundation. In fact, we made it the focus of our Employee Giving Campaign. We're pleased to share that our own employees came together and raised over \$100,000 toward this important effort!

Last year, the Charitable Care Fund raised nearly \$375,000 in total, including continued support from

Last year, the Charitable Care Fund raised nearly \$375,000 in total, including continued support from our founding donor.

our founding donor. This community-wide effort allowed MJHS to offer 26 patients and families the full range of hospice services and care we provide... and that they would otherwise have been unable to afford.

One of those patients was Maria*, who was in New York City from Panama visiting her daughter when she had a stroke. This life-threatening episode rendered Maria unable to travel back to her home country. What made her situation even more heartbreaking was that, without insurance, she would have had to spend her final days in the hospital. However, thanks to the MJHS Charitable Care Fund, Maria was able to be transferred to her daughter's home, where she received hospice care and support until she passed away peacefully surrounded by family.

We thank our employees and donors who made it possible for us to touch so many lives! ■

Please help us provide support to families in need.

To donate to the Charitable Care Fund, visit mjhsfoundation.org/ or scan the QR Code.



**Name, photo and identifying information have been changed to protect member privacy.*

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THANK YOU 2022 DONORS

Thanks to our donors, we were able to further invest in our programs and services as well as expand our ability to provide high quality, compassionate health care for more New Yorkers.

To donate to MJHS Health System visit mjhsfoundation.org or scan the QR Code.



FOUNDERS SOCIETY

The 1907 Founders Society joins together our most dedicated philanthropic partners to help further the mission of MJHS. With a minimum annual contribution of \$1,000,* members receive invitations to special events and programs with opportunity to meet MJHS Executives, recognition on the Foundation website and in the *MJHS in Focus Newsletter* and more. For information on how to join, please email Jessica Laufer, jlaufer@mjhs.org.

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* Minimum contribution is based on annual, non-event related contributions to the MJHS Foundation. Pledges are listed by the full amount in the year the commitment was made.

SUSTAINERS SOCIETY

The Sustainers Society recognizes and honors staff as well as all individuals who have committed to providing support for MJHS through a planned gift. By joining others who have taken this step, you can take satisfaction from knowing that you are part of an important legacy. For information on how to join, please email Chinwe Egonu, cegonu@mjhs.org.

Anonymous (3)

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2022 MJHS HOSPICE GOES TO BROADWAY

Hospice Goes To Broadway is our annual event dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the specialized programs MJHS Hospice provides for patients and families during their final months.

Thank you to our donors who supported this special event.

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ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

In 2022, we returned to Fresh Meadows Country Club for a Par-tee.

Our community joined together and raised \$781,550 to support the extraordinary health care services MJHS provides, such as music and creative arts therapy, pastoral care, bereavement support, specialized dementia care and more.

Thank You To Our Sponsors.



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2023 Events Calendar

SAVE THE DATES!

Each year, MJHS Foundation hosts events to support the mission of MJHS Health System. Not only do these events help us raise funds towards our mission, but they provide an opportunity to get together, thank our supporters and show them first-hand the difference their involvement makes—and have a little fun.

Below are some of the events we have planned this year:

June 5 **MJHS Golf Classic at Golf Meadow Country Club**

The MJHS Golf Classic is dedicated to **raising funds for the underfunded programs and services of MJHS Health System.**

October 11 **Wine Tasting**

Our Wine Tasting event is dedicated to raising funds to support the **Golden Family STAR program, which provides additional home health aide hours to families in need.**

November **TBA Hospice Goes to Broadway**

Hospice Goes to Broadway is dedicated to **raising awareness and funds for the end-of-life programs MJHS Hospice provides** to those in need.

If you are interested in being part of one of our events, contact the Foundation at **(212) 356-5300** or email us at **events@mjhsfoundation.org** or visit **mjhsfoundation.org/mjhs-events**.

