

Jewish Social Services

Thoughts From Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg
JSS Director

Every crisis that happens in the life of an individual can be considered major — be it divorce, death of a family member, unemployment, etc. In each situation there are adjustments to be made, feelings to be sorted out, and new life styles to be adopted. When we come face to face with our own vulnerability, it is definitely a scary, helpless feeling.

Such is the case when someone suddenly finds themselves or a loved one diagnosed with a chronic, perhaps critical, health problem. All that was once taken for granted is now eschewed amid medical needs, financial concerns, interrupted life styles, and a growing awareness that what one once accomplished physically, is no longer possible.

The losing control of one's body — or part of it — and being dependent on others as a result, is not easy for most people. This is especially true of our society which values good health, independence and good looks. As a result, we do not prepare people to even know how to discuss or be around those who are sickly. When a friend of mind had a mastectomy last year, she commented how most people had trouble knowing what to say to her. Some even stayed away because they were uncomfortable. She found herself comforting them rather than visa versa.

When one finds they are seriously ill, they need support to help them through the feel-

College Students Granted Loans

There were six college students from Charlotte who received interest-free college loans through the Jewish Children's Service of Atlanta for the school year 1986-87. One of the students received a \$400 Scher Family Scholarship, one of five students in southeastern region who were so awarded.

Jewish Children's Service awards student loans to college students who qualify based on need. Priority was given to those students already receiving previous funding and those attending local schools. Jewish Social Services serves as the screening agency locally for this program.

Joel Goldman, Chairman of the Jewish Social Services Committee, and Morris Speizman attended the annual meeting of the Jewish Children's Service in Atlanta. At this meeting the decisions were made as to which students would receive funding.

ings of loss and vulnerability. They often find people rally around when the news is first learned, but that they are often abandoned as they wrestle with the feelings of despair, anger that one's body has let them down, depression and guilt. They would like to know people are around to listen, to understand, to be touched, to be cried with, and to share hope for the future.

Each person handles illness differently. Not all can be non-complainers or not be viewed as demanding and grouchy. It's not always possible for those friends and family members to be patient when one is ill and going through emotional ups and downs. For

the status quo of what was once assumed normal has changed.

For all of the above reasons, Jewish Social Services can be a supportive source for individuals and families who are trying to cope with serious illness or disabilities. It is here that the subject can be accepted and discussed; it is here that the realities of one's changing life can be examined; it is here that resources can be learned and explored.

If we can be of help, please contact Jewish Social Services at 366-5007.



JUST A REMINDER

Jewish Social Services can send out cards for you in honor of or in memory of someone you care to remember for a donation to the Agency. Please call Jewish Social Services, 366-5007, and we will handle the rest.

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