

BJH Foundation Grants Make an Impact on the Lives of Jewish Seniors Throughout the Carolinas

Charlotte Non-Profits Awarded Grants

Greensboro, NC – Each year, grants from the BJH Foundation for Senior Services, based in Greensboro, NC, make a vital difference in the lives of many Jewish older adults throughout North and South Carolina. Funding assists non-profits that provide critical services to older adults in areas such as case management, meal and fellowship programs, health screenings and home visits.

This year, BJH Foundation for Senior Services has awarded 24 grants totaling more than \$230,000 to non-profits in North and South Carolina.

Four Charlotte non-profits were awarded grants:

* Jewish Family Services – Part-time Senior Outreach Associate

* Oasis Senior Enrichment Program at Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center- Holistic Wellness Program

* Temple Beth El – SPICE program

* Temple Israel – Celebrating Life program

“According to the U.S. Administration on Aging, 10,000 people turn 65 every day. As this population moves through its senior years, health care and other resources needed for their support will be stretched to capacity. This is why these grants from BJH Foundation play such a crucial role in the lives of older adults,”

says Cheryl David, president of BJH Foundation for Senior Services.

Over the past nine years, BJH Foundation has awarded more than \$1.6 million to qualifying non-profit organizations that support Jewish older adults. For a complete list of the 2014 grant recipients and to learn more information about receiving grants, or how you can help, please visit www.bjhfoundation.org.

Many non-profits use the funding to support program expenses for food, mailings, supplies, educational materials, salaries for social workers, and nursing staff. BJH Foundation funding makes a huge impact in the lives of older adults like Esther, Saul, and Brenda every day.

* Esther lost her housing, since her meager income could not cover the costs of moving into an apartment. Her nutrition was also poor due to her limited funds for groceries. She reached out to a non-profit organization whose case management program receives funding from BJH Foundation. Esther was assigned a JFS social worker who helped her gain access to affordable senior housing. Now Esther regularly eats a nutritious kosher lunch and enjoys being in a safe and caring Jewish environment at the JFS Elder Club, which is also funded in part by BJH Foundation.

* Saul, who lives independently, was no longer able to drive and did not want to depend on others for rides. Through an agency funded by BJH Foundation, he learned about a local transportation network that enabled him to attend Shabbat services and events at the local Jewish Community Center. He now has a greater level of independence and can remain active within the Jewish community.

* The holidays can be a particularly lonely time for many older adults. Brenda is a resident at a senior living facility and does not have family living nearby. While most residents participate in Christmas traditions at the facility where she lives, Hanukkah celebrations are uncommon. This year, funding from BJH Foundation to the temples and the Jewish Federation in her city, brought programming to the senior living facility where Brenda lives. She was able to attend a number of celebrations that included performances from students, traditional Jewish foods, and visits from the Rabbi. This provided a new opportunity for her to socialize and celebrate the Jewish holiday.

“The support from BJH Foundation can make a huge impact in the lives of seniors,” says David. “Results from the most recent Profile on Older Americans report

from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services show a full 8.5% of seniors over the age of 60 live below the poverty level. These grants help make some of life’s necessities available to seniors as well as needed social opportunities to support their mental health and well being.”

About the BJH Foundation for Senior Services:

BJH Foundation for Senior Services, founded in 2006, provides grants to organizations that enhance the lives of Jewish older adults in North and South Carolina. Grants are awarded for ac-

tivities, services and programs for the elderly in accordance with Jewish values and beliefs. For information on donating to BJH Foundation for Senior Services call 336-854-8400 or please visit www.bjhfoundation.org. The next grant application deadline will be in spring 2015.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-807-2214. The license is not an endorsement by the state. ☆

Schools

Meet the New Teachers at CJDS

First in a Series

The beginning of a school year has brought with it fresh starts, fun adventures and new faculty members to the Charlotte Jewish Day School family. While formal biographies and curriculum vitae are the typical fare for introducing instructors into the world of education, as you know, CJDS is anything but typical. So we thought it would be fun to add a twist

Introducing Kathy Otte (kindergarten teacher)

Where did you grow up while in elementary school? What was it like?

I went to elementary school in Maryland and also in Bangkok, Thailand. In Thailand, I went to

an international school with children from many different countries. My best friend was Sasha, a girl from Russia. I also remember seeing monkeys in the trees in my yard all the time eating bananas!

Who was your favorite elementary school teacher and why?

My favorite elementary school teacher was, not surprisingly, my kindergarten teacher, Ms. Grenada. She would sing all the time and she let me pull the milk wagon down the hall at snack time.

Why did you become a teacher?

I fell in love with being in the classroom when I volunteered to help in my son’s (who is 21 now) classroom in kindergarten. As

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Kathy Otte then ...



... and now.

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– DAVID SWIMMER



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