

## **CHESED UPDATE - Volunteers shepp nachas**

“I get so much nachas from my visits with my new friend and his wife. We talk, we kibbitz, we have so much in common.” This is the experience of a Chesed volunteer who visits a homebound congregant.

“The homecooked meals you deliver every week are like a lifeline for our family.” Several OJC families are faced with severe illness and appreciate the anonymously prepared meals that are delivered on a regular basis.

Our volunteers report such joy from meeting and chatting with community members who need some extra assistance. The feedback from visitors, cooks, drivers and their recipients reports a link that is valued, sincere and heartwarming.

OJC has many arms working toward the common goal of creating a more caring community. Volunteering to help friends, neighbors and community members is found deep in our personal and communal makeup. The long-term goal of Chesed is to guide OJC into an entire chesed community where tikkun olam is a regular expectation for all our members.

We have made a strong and meaningful beginning towards this goal. Yet, there is much to develop and accomplish in our community. We are continually finding new needs and trying to expand ways to reach out to our members meaningfully. Chesed is working privately and confidentially with individuals and families on an ongoing basis.

Our latest project: after the last serious storm when there was no power and trees were blocking roads, we realized that there are congregants who are vulnerable in a dangerous situation. As a result, we are gathering a list of members who may have difficulty accessing the help they need in an emergency. We will work to set up connections and buddies to check on each other.

We have regular visitors to individuals and families who are shut in at home. Many individuals receive regular telephone calls from volunteers. In addition, regular visitors are meeting with members living in nursing homes or rehab centers. There are regular weekly meals being cooked and delivered to member families facing long-term severe illness. Drivers have been taking members to doctor’s appointments and physical therapy appointments. We are sending letters with OJC Yahrzeit notices offering connection and solace on this potentially painful anniversary. Volunteers are connecting with congregants who have lost a close family member some time after Shiva is completed. And to balance our focus on those in need, The Baby Connection volunteers have put together a welcome packet for expectant couples and new parents.

Tikkun Olam is a basic element of OJC’s mission: Chesed is certainly an essential aspect of this mission. Shepp nachas with the rest of us by offering your help and by asking for what you need.

**CALL 845-359-5920 x114 to reach Chesed**

**Call or email Adele Garber or Maddie Roimisher to be connected to the help you need.**

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