



The Mitzvah Gram

CHICAGO MITZVAH CAMPAIGN

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בס"ד

CMC CHAPLAINCY &
SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION

TOUCHING LIVES

IN HOSPITALS

Patient visitation
Shabbat and Holiday meals
Advocacy and support
Food for Hatzalah transports
Free kosher guest meals
Family counseling
Hospitality suites & food pantries
Tefillin, prayer and observances
Shabbat packages
Friday night candles
Maternity box of delights
Emergency food deliveries
Bedside refrigerators

AT HOME

Medicar transportation
Senior Center daily programs
Emergency medical alert systems
Preventing elder abuse & neglect
Home safety assessments
Fall prevention equipment
Senior friendship
Medication management system
World-wide "SimchaVision"
(from any hospital or residence)

HOLIDAY PROJECTS

(Hospitals, Nursing Homes,
Home-bound)
Rosh Hashana: Shofar blowing
Sukkot: Lulov and Etrog
Chanukah: Menorah lighting
and gifts
Purim: Megillah reading and gift
Pesach: Seder plates

END OF LIFE

Rabbi William Z. & Eda Bess
Novick Z"L Musical enrichment
Counseling and support
Assistance with Jewish burials
Minyanim for kaddish
Kaddish recitation
Yahrtzeit and memorial services

"Once-in-a-Lifetime" Stories of Divine Providence

In the course of daily operations at CMC we often experience reminders of the presence of Divine Providence. Each of the following CMC stories features a pattern of extremely unusual events occurring at exactly the right moment to facilitate a propitious outcome. Read on to experience a deep sense of awe and wonder at the unmistakable display of Divine Providence revealed therein!

HOSPITAL BED "DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN"

"Mrs. G" was facing a predicament. Within the next few days her husband would be discharged home from the hospital and his health condition required him to use a special hospital bed along with two special air mattresses. Overwhelmed by the entire situation, Mrs. G felt like she needed the hospital bed to miraculously descend from the very heaven above. She picked up the phone and called CMC.

Upon receiving Mrs. G's phone call, Rabbi Wolf wasn't sure what to do. Although CMC maintains a well-stocked "medical mobility gemach" that lends out many types of wheelchairs, rollators, walkers and scooters,

due to storage constraints CMC had never accepted a donation of a hospital bed. Nevertheless, in trying to help patients and their families in need, CMC will leave no stone unturned. Thus, after reassuring Mrs. G, the Rabbi began brainstorming how to obtain the urgently needed items.

Before long, the needed hospital bed began its miraculous "descent from heaven." The very next day, CMC received another phone call from an individual who had a most unusual request to make.

"For the last two months," the caller explained, "I've been asking my neighbor to hold on to a hospital bed that she no longer needs because I thought that a family member of mine would need it. I've just realized however, that my neighbor's hospital bed isn't suitable for my family member. I feel bad about all this time that I've caused my neighbor to needlessly hold on to this large piece of unwanted furniture in her home, so I want to help her move it along as soon as possible to someone who could use it. Would you happen to know a

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“Once-in-a-Lifetime”

patient who needs this particular kind of bed at home?”

Indeed, this unwanted hospital bed that had been waiting two months for a new home was exactly the right bed that was needed by the husband of Mrs. G! It had all the necessary features and was exactly the right size too. Overcome with excitement, Rabbi Wolf immediately set about arranging to have the bed moved into the patient's home. But then the caller once again reached out to CMC, to deliver yet another unexpected piece of information.

“There's one more thing I forgot to mention,” the caller began. “In addition to the hospital bed, my neighbor also has two accompanying special air mattresses that he wishes to donate!”

EXQUISITE HAND OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

A number of years ago, a local community member had his tefillin scrolls checked, whereupon they were found to contain a particular issue that rendered them invalid according to many opinions. Upon asking his Rabbi for guidance, the owner was told that while his own tradition follows the opinions that invalidate tefillin with such an issue, the scrolls could still be used by someone whose tradition follows the opinions that tefillin scrolls with such an issue may be fixed and used. Consequently, the community member decided to donate the scrolls to CMC.

Soon afterwards, a local Judaica store called CMC and offered to donate an empty pair of tefillin batim (the boxes that house the scrolls) that were proving difficult to sell. Thus, the donated tefillin scrolls were now newly matched up with their own batim too. But who would use this particular pair of donated tefillin containing scrolls that were kosher only according to some opinions? The answer to this mystery was revealed with exquisite timing by the hand of Divine Providence when shortly thereafter, CMC received a phone call plea from across the country in New York to assist an impoverished family whose young teenage son had recently lost his tefillin.

As you've surely guessed, this family's tradition follows the opinions that tefillin scrolls containing the above-referenced issue may be fixed and used. Rabbi Wolf immediately shipped the donated tefillin to the boy's family.

A CASE OF “MONUMENTAL” DIVINE PROVIDENCE

A woman in the local community called CMC for a most unusual reason. “My family needs a particular blessing,” she stated. “And I recently read somewhere that sponsoring the matzeiva (tombstone) for someone in need is an especially auspicious method (“segulah”) for meriting that exact blessing. Right now I would like to make a donation to fully sponsor – even in advance – the cost of a matzeiva for someone in need.”

After processing the woman's advance sponsorship, not even five minutes had passed before CMC's phone was ringing

once again. “I buried my mother after her passing,” said the caller, “but I simply cannot afford to pay for a tombstone for her grave. Would CMC be able to help?”

“ONE GUY I CANNOT REFUSE”

Unsolicited, a local community member called CMC, explaining that he was selling his home and offering to donate his appliances. Rabbi Wolf visited the home, and although the appliances turned out to be unsuitable, the home featured a large patio with many tables and chairs. Rabbi Wolf suggested that the owner consider donating the tables and chairs to CMC's newly constructed outdoor garden and the homeowner promised to think it over. Days turned into weeks but the homeowner kept having trouble reaching a decision.

One day, Rabbi Wolf happened to meet a local rabbi and asked him if he is acquainted with the homeowner. “Sure!” replied the rabbi. “As it happens, he and I are scheduled to meet later today.” That evening, the homeowner called Rabbi Wolf to convey that he had reached the decision that very day to donate the furniture. “But tell me Rabbi,” the homeowner exclaimed. “How did you know that the Rabbi with whom I met today is the one guy in town whom I simply cannot refuse?”

To top off the story, it turned out that the homeowner's donation consisted of precisely the number of tables and chairs needed in the new CMC garden!

A SPEEDY RECOVERY

HaRav Yehoshua Heschel
ben Shartza Babtcha
Aron ben Shaina Rivka
Baruch Yisshochar Berish ben
Kreindel Atarah Yehudis
Benzion ben Michle
Brocha Ahuva bas Chaya
Esther
Brocha Sara Rivka bas Esther
Miriam
Chana bas Esther Malka

Chava Dvasha Sara bas
Chaya Raizel
Craig ben Roberta
Dov Yosef ben Rivka Tova
Dovber Hakahen ben Dube
Dobresh
Dovid ben Chaya Rivka
Dovid Yitzchok ben Chaya Sara
Eliezer ben Gitel
Gavriela bas Batya
Leah bas Chava

Mordechai Yaakov ben Miriam
Michael Avner ben Hinda
Noach ben Henna
Riva Sara bas Leah
Shayna bas Faige Perel
Shimshon ben Lucile
Shmuel Eliezer ben Fruma Gittel
Simcha ben Hinda
Simcha Dovid ben Chaya Yaffa
Shmuel ben Roda
Sholom Boruch ben Perla

Tamar bas Miriam
Tzuriel Aharon ben Sarah
Yisroel Alter ben Chava Chana
Yitzchak ben Hinda
Yoisef Pinchus ben Sara Leah
Yocheved bas Esther Rivka
Yosefa Devorah bas Shaina
Esther
Zellig Tzvi Hirsh ben Yaakov

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICES

Senior Center Highlights and Upcoming Events

In addition to the regular schedule packed with programs, classes and activities, there's always something new and exciting for seniors to explore, experience and enjoy at CMC Senior Center!

On Lag B'Omer, more than 90 seniors braved the pouring rain to join CMC Senior Center's festive party, which was moved indoors due to the weather. The inclement outdoor conditions increased the joyous atmosphere and exuberant mood of the party, which was highlighted by a delicious lunch and wonderful live musical entertainment.

On Sunday June 9, CMC Senior Center was filled with the delightful sounds of Bubbies and Zaidies enjoying a very special intergenerational art program together with their grandchildren. The participants relished this unique opportunity to create lasting memories together and bond through the wonderful world of art.



On Wednesday June 19, women participants at the Senior Center enthusiastically joined entertainer and vocalist Lisa Fishman as she sang traditional and contemporary Yiddish and Hebrew melodies.

On Thursday June 27, Leah Polin returns to CMC to lead a discussion group on "The Letters of Abigail Levy Franks: A Glimpse into the Colonial Life of an American Jewish Family."

On Sunday June 30, CMC Wellness Series continues with a lecture entitled, "Joint

Replacement: Feel Better, Function Better," presented by hip and knee surgeon, Dr. Mark Schinsky.

On Wednesday July 3, Matt Kanter returns with his drums and percussion instruments to lead the seniors in a fun and feel-good drum circle.

On Wednesday July 10, CMC is excitedly looking forward to our inaugural Senior Center Summer BBQ in our magnificent new outdoor garden.

On Thursday, July 18, expert musicians Aviva Chertok (violin) and Liel Weil (guitar) return for another fantastic and highly anticipated live musical performance.

On Wednesday July 24, Leah Polin returns to lead a discussion group on the topic of "Immigrants Get the Job Done!" In addition to the regular schedule packed with programs, classes and activities, there's always something new and exciting for seniors to explore, experience and enjoy at CMC Senior Center!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Unity in Chicago: 13 Organizations Sharing One Directory

CMC is thrilled to announce the publication and distribution of the updated 2024-2025 edition of our "ישועות" Directory for Chicago "cholim" (patients) and their families, highlighting the "cholim-related" services that are available from CMC and from 12 additional organizations from Chicago's Jewish community. Moreover, the "ישועות" Directory also contains a concise index of out-of-town agencies whose scope of services may also include Chicago patients. Several CMC articles and handbooks are also appended at the end of the Directory, packed with incredibly useful information for cholim and their families.

A copy of the new ישועות Directory has been mailed to every household in the community. Additional hard copies may be requested by contacting CMC. The entire Directory is also available for viewing and downloading online at www.yeshuosdirectory.com.



NEW PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

CMC is delighted to welcome Chana Devorah Urbach as Senior Center Programming Coordinator. Originally hailing from Toronto, Chana Devorah also spent time living in Israel before moving to Chicago, a city and community that immediately found a warm place in her

heart. Blessed with a friendly personality and excellent interpersonal skills, Chana Devorah looks forward to developing a personal connection with each of the seniors at CMC, and to continuing to expand the Senior Center's outstanding variety of stimulating and enriching classes, programs and activities.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

On Sunday June 23, CMC held a festive volunteer recognition lunch to honor the dozens of CMC volunteers who regularly contribute their time and talents in delivering meals to homebound patients and in serving lunch and leading programs and activities at the Senior Center. Each of the volunteers was personally recognized for their efforts and received a gift from CMC as a token of appreciation for their terrific contribution to CMC's mission of uplifting the lives of hundreds of seniors and patients in the community.



בס"ד

JOINT REPLACEMENT: FEEL BETTER, FUNCTION BETTER

Basics of hip and knee arthritis • Non-surgical management • Latest advances in surgical management



Dr. Mark F. Schinsky, MD

Hip AND Knee Surgeon!

Dr. Mark F. Schinsky, MD is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with specialties in Adult Reconstructive Orthopedic Surgery, Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery, and Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. Schinsky specializes in minimally invasive, complex primary, and revision adult total joint replacement surgery using the latest technology on patients from Chicagoland and across the country who travel for his skill and expertise.

[Sunday June 30, 2024 - 1:00pm]
At Chicago Mitzvah Campaign—2757 W. Pratt Blvd

No RSVP necessary. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers and to personally meet the doctor. This session will also be livestreamed via zoom.

For men and women of all ages • Light refreshments will be served • Transportation available for seniors

For more information or to arrange transportation,
please call CMC at 866.MY.RABBI (866-697-2224)



נר מצוה ותורה אור
CHICAGO MITZVAH CAMPAIGN

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