



Twin Cities Jewish Healing Program

♥ 2018 IMPACT REPORT for Twin Cities Clergy

For more than 25 years, the Twin Cities Jewish Healing Program (TCJHP) has used the wisdom and traditions of Judaism to offer comfort, hope and strength to Jewish individuals and families facing illness, end-of-life concerns and grief. The Healing Program has created vital partnerships with Twin Cities' synagogues and clergy and healthcare chaplains in hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices to ensure that Jewish patients receive culturally-sensitive spiritual support.

HISTORY

In 1994, the Healing Program grew out of the response to the Jewish community conference, "Finding Our Way: Jewish Journeys toward Healing," which demonstrated a real hunger for Jewish spiritual resources to help with life-altering health challenges. After that, the Healing Program became the first pioneering Jewish Healing Center outside of New York. TCJHP continued to grow as Jewish individuals facing illness requested Jewish spiritual support and local healthcare chaplains requested Jewish resources to help them serve their Jewish patients. In 2000, the clergy rotation was created as a more efficient way of responding to requests for clergy visits.

IMPACT

In 2018, the Healing Program responded to 252 requests for service – comparable to previous years. Of these requests, 157 were individuals requesting services either for themselves or for loved ones and 95 were requests for essential Jewish resources.

157 Individuals requesting services: While the initial call to TCJHP might begin with a simple request for emotional support related to a health challenge, our holistic assessment often uncovers a variety of additional needs, including coordination of services, financial assistance, education about hospice care, and/or referrals to other JFCS programs or other community resources.

95 essential Jewish resources: Including Jewish prayers, prayer books, electric Shabbat candles, electric menorot, Hagadot, Jewish resources for women with breast cancer, Jewish hospice/end-of-life traditions, Jewish grieving resources, and presentations about Shabbat/Jewish Holiday traditions. These help to educate chaplains about special needs of their Jewish patients.



SERVING JEWISH INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AFFILIATED WITH A SYNAGOGUE:

For affiliated Jewish families, their synagogue's spiritual support at times of need can be truly lifesaving. When a healthcare chaplain asks TCJHP to help Jewish patients, we clarify if they are affiliated, and if so, reconnect them with their synagogue. TCJHP works closely with synagogues' congregational nurses and caring communities.

SERVING UNAFFILIATED JEWISH INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES:

TCJHP connects folks who are unaffiliated to needed resources and services.

SERVING TWIN CITIES HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINS/PROFESSIONALS:

TCJHP has created vital partnerships with hospital/hospice/nursing home chaplains to help them better serve the special needs of Jewish patients. We send an electronic newsletter to 230 healthcare chaplains three times each year. It includes relevant holiday observance information, prayers, and more to equip chaplains to serve Jewish patients' needs.

CLERGY ONE-TIME VISITS/CONSULTATIONS FOR JEWISH PATIENTS UNAFFILIATED WITH A SYNAGOGUE:

Thanks to the dedication the Healing Program's clergy, we are able to respond in a timely manner to all patient's requests for one-time clergy visits. After each visit, staff follows up with clergy and healthcare chaplains to assess patient's ongoing needs. Sometimes the healthcare requests are for clergy to attend a Medical Ethics Grand Rounds for an unaffiliated Jewish patient; or it may be for a clergy member to consult with healthcare staff in regards to Jewish views on end-of-life concerns for a specific patient.

PROJECTS FOR 2019:

- Creating a partnership with Sharsheret to provide Twin Cities Cancer centers with resources for Jewish women dealing with breast cancer
- Educational presentations and trainings to North Memorial Healthcare chaplains/student interns, 24 Allina Hospice chaplains/bereavement specialists, and others to increase their knowledge of Jewish end-of-life concerns, traditions and resources
- Creating learning opportunities for Twin Cities Jewish chaplains
- Bikur Cholim training for synagogue volunteers available upon request

PROGRAM COORDINATION:

Healing Program Coordinator, Judy Marcus uses clinical social work expertise to fully assess each request and provide case management, including practical and spiritual resources.

For more information on the Healing Program, call JFCS at 952-546-0616.