

# Foundation *in Focus*

## Annual Gala: A Magical Evening

### Inside

- 2 A Mitzvah in Challenging Times
- 3 Foundation Welcomes New Development Director  
2008 Annual Employee Giving Campaign
- 4 A Magical Evening—Gala at the Gotham
- 6 You Did It! Spreading the Culture of Philanthropy at Metropolitan
- 11 Board Member Q & A—Phillip Geller
- 12 Hospice and Palliative Care Month Activities  
Grants Corner
- 13 Hospice Care to a Family's Rescue...Granting a Patient's Last Wish
- 14 Philanthropy—A Lasting Partnership
- 15 2007 Most Valuable Employees
- 16 Ways to Give: The Easy IRA Charitable Gift



Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation's annual gala, "An Evening of Magic, Music and Moolah," brought sparkle and style to the historic Gotham Hall. The event is part of the "Second Century of Caring" philanthropic campaign in support of New Yorkers with unmet health care needs.

## 2009 Leadership Announced for Annual Employee Giving Campaign

**2009 AEGC Co-chairs:** (left to right) Elliot Schwartz—director of medical services, Menorah Home and Hospital; Candace Zaiff—director of rehabilitation for Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center (MJGC) home care; Lanny Chen—account manager, business development; Lee Ditekowsky—director of claims, Elderplan; Dolores Roque—director of admissions for MJGC.



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**A Mitzvah in Challenging Times**



In 1907, it became clear to a group of community-minded Jewish women that the frail elderly in their community needed a home where they could receive comfort and care in their final days. Thus, the seeds of a culture of philanthropy were planted.

They did not look around and wonder why there were such limited services in the community. They did not discuss the issue over coffee and wait for someone else to meet the challenge. Together, they went door to door, neighbor to neighbor, explaining the need and their vision to help the

neediest and most vulnerable among them. Through accumulated donations, most ranging from \$2 to \$25, they raised the funds to open the Brooklyn Ladies Hebrew Home for the Aged.

Their efforts laid the groundwork for what is now Metropolitan Jewish Health System (Metropolitan).

Today, more than 100 years later, Metropolitan is proud to carry on the tradition of these inspirational women. Times have changed; health care, insurance and even the family structure have adjusted to new technologies, changing attitudes and challenging economic forecasts. But through it all, Metropolitan has honored its commitment to care for the neediest and most vulnerable among us while at the same time, many of you recognize through your acts of *tzedekah* that our services are gift-worthy.

It is our supporters—the staff, foundations, community businesses and agencies—that make it all possible. You stand with us, acknowledging what needs to be done and step forward with your support and philanthropy.

Each year, I am heartened to look back and see old friends who continue to join us in the delivery of care and compassion to our patients and the many new friends we have gained throughout the year. As this year draws to a close, I want to thank each and every one of you for helping make it all possible. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Sincerely,

David Nussbaum  
Executive Director and Chief Development Officer  
Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation

**Contributors:** Estère du Boulay, Tamy Cozier, Jennifer Dudley, Chinwe Egonu, Jordan Katz, Michael Madole, Caroline Mansuetto, Duane McFarlane, Emily Pring, Joan Seitz, Enrique Sevilla.

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The Foundation is the financial resource development arm of Metropolitan Jewish Health System. The Foundation is charged with creating a culture of philanthropy and has a strong legacy of providing financial support to those with unmet health needs and to those who lack access to quality health care services.

**Foundation  
in Focus**

Executive Editor: David Nussbaum  
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**Foundation Welcomes New Director of Development**



The Foundation is proud to introduce **Jennifer Dudley**, the new director of development. In this capacity, she will coordinate and supervise a number of activities to promote the development of the Foundation's culture of philanthropy which includes overseeing operations while planning and executing

activities to increase the Foundation's financial resources.

Dudley, a resident of Staten Island, N.Y., has a Master of Public Administration degree from Columbia and a bachelor's degree in English and Asian Studies from Colgate University. She also has an extensive background in fundraising and experience working for nonprofit organizations.

Before Dudley's transition to the Foundation, she was associate director of development for the Cancer Research

*"I look forward to helping educate New Yorkers about the caring and vital services Metropolitan provides to our city's elderly and disabled."*

Jennifer Dudley  
Director of Development

Institute; a senior associate for Rabin Strategic Partners, where she worked on a number of health care marketing and fundraising campaigns; a regional director for the American Heart Association; and a Peace Corps volunteer.

"I look forward to helping educate New Yorkers about the caring and vital services Metropolitan provides to our city's elderly and disabled," said Dudley.

**The 2008 Annual Employee Giving Campaign:  
Phenomenal Participation**



The 2008 Annual Employee Giving Campaign (AEGC) was an unprecedented success. Overall, contributions increased 20 percent and staff participation increased to more than 1,600 contributors.

Recently, five agencies were recognized for extraordinary participation rates:

- Adult Day Health Care:** 100 percent staff participation; two consecutive years
- Elderplan:** 80 percent staff participation; average gift of \$153
- HomeFirst:** 92 percent staff participation; average gift of \$111
- Hospice:** 73 percent staff participation; average gift of \$264
- Corporate:** 95 percent staff participation rate; average gift of \$304

The Foundation would like to thank the 2008 AEGC co-chairs and champions who created the framework for the campaign, energized staff and participated in campaign events and weekly drawings.



## Hundreds Participate in the Foundation's



## "Evening of Magic, Music and Moolah"



# GALA at the GOTHAM

*an evening of Metropolitan magic*



Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation's (Foundation) annual gala, "an Evening of Magic, Music and Moolah," transformed Broadway's historic Gotham Hall into a cityscape reminiscent of a miniature Las Vegas on Thursday, October 30, 2008. The event is part of the Foundation's "Second Century of Caring" philanthropic campaign in support of New Yorkers with unmet health care

needs. Elderplan's senior ambassadors also were honored for their dedication to assisting others.

In attendance were a number of health care executives as well as local politicians—including Congressman Anthony Weiner and Councilmember Bill de Blasio—who came out to support their constituents including

Elderplan's senior ambassadors. The nine honorees, each presented with an award, hail from various areas of Brooklyn and were lauded for their volunteerism and support of their peers. Also acknowledged were Metropolitan's 2007 Most Valuable Employees of the Year.

From the Mezzanine filled with a bevy of casino games, to the main hall mapped by themed food stations—which included Asian, Italian, Viennese, Southwestern, a New York-style delicatessen and a well-stocked dessert bar to satisfy any sweet tooth—every inch of the Gotham was abuzz with delight.

Magic filled the air as Steve Cohen, "the Millionaires' Magician," strolled through the crowd performing his mystifying tricks, while the Times Square Orchestra took the crowd on a musical journey of a variety of genres.

For more than 16 years, the Foundation has hosted an annual gala to support patients and families served by Metropolitan Jewish Health System's agencies and programs including hospice, home care, palliative care, adult day care and its skilled nursing facilities.

For more information on the Foundation's upcoming charitable events or to make a tax-deductible gift, contact director of development Jennifer Dudley at (718) 759-4778.



## You Did It!—Living the Culture of Philanthropy at Metropolitan

Thanks to everyone throughout the system, Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation's (Foundation) 2008 annual employee giving campaign (AEGC) was a huge success. The enthusiasm and support of employees translated to direct care for Metropolitan Jewish Health System's (Metropolitan) patients with unmet health needs.

Under the effective leadership of co-chairs Kerry Leary, branch director of Metropolitan Jewish Home Care (Home Care); Rabbi Charles Rudansky, director of pastoral care at Metropolitan Jewish Hospice (Hospice); Carol Ilund, administrative assistant for Metropolitan's corporate division; and Dolores Roque, Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center's (MJGC) director of admissions, the campaign raised more than \$210,000.

Charged with energizing employees to participate, the co-chairs helped to stimulate staff involvement, which increased to 50 percent—up from 20 percent in 2007.

Also deserving of recognition, each and every department displayed a significant level of commitment and generosity, which added to the campaigns overall success. However, the following departments made an extraordinary effort this year:

- Metropolitan Jewish Adult Day Health Center (Adult Day)—100 percent staff participation
- HomeFirst—92 percent staff participation
- Elderplan—80 percent staff participation
- Hospice—73 percent staff participation; 121 percent increase from the 2007 campaign

- Metropolitan corporate division—95 percent staff participation

The Foundation formally acknowledged these departments for their outstanding support with special ceremonies in October and November of 2008.

### Employee Leadership to Jumpstart 2009 with Annual AEGC Kickoff

Employee leadership will jumpstart the New Year with the launch of its "Second Century of Caring" AEGC campaign on Thursday, January 29, 2009. The Foundation supports this opportunity to positively impact the lives of many more under the leadership of the campaign's co-chairs who include:

- Lanny Chen— account manager, business development
- Lee Ditkowsky— director of claims, Elderplan
- Dolores Roque— director of admissions, MJGC
- Elliot Schwartz— director of medical services, Menorah Home and Hospital
- Candace Zaiff— director of rehabilitation for home care, MJGC Home Care

Be sure to look for more information on the upcoming philanthropic drive and the chance to win fantastic prizes.

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Dudley at (718) 759-4778 or Chinwe Egonu at (718) 759-4133.*

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## Board Member Q & A: Phillip Geller



Queens-based **Phil Geller** has served on the board of directors for Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation (Foundation) since its inception. In this capacity, he offers a unique perspective on building services, construction opportunities and real estate investment prospects.

Originally an employee of Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center (MJGC)—formerly Brooklyn Hebrew Home and Hospital for the Aged—Geller was first invited to serve on the board’s building committee. During the system’s earlier days, Geller and the other directors were instrumental in launching Metropolitan Jewish Health System’s (Metropolitan) home care and managed care agencies. One of his other major accomplishments includes negotiating all leases with the owner of the corporate office building at 6323 Seventh Avenue in Brooklyn. Although Geller’s been retired for two years, he still visits Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center three times a week.

In the following interview, Geller shares why he supports the Foundation.

**Q: Who inspired you to become involved with charitable giving?**

**A:** From as early as I can remember, my parents stressed the importance of helping those in need. I passed that lesson on to my three children; they now share that message with my eight beautiful grandchildren.

### About Phil Geller

Phil Geller is vice chairperson of the board of MJGC Corporation; board secretary of Caregivers, Inc., the Institute for Applied Gerontology and Shorefront Towers; and board treasurer of Shorefront Towers. He also is a board member of PHCG, Inc. and is a board member emeritus of Metropolitan,

**Q: What expertise do you bring to the board?**

**A:** I’ve spent my entire life in the building business; my father was in it, too. Before I retired two years ago, my firm—called Geller Company—had clients in all five boroughs. Throughout those many years, my team and I kept our finger on the real estate pulse. The successes led to consultant opportunities. The rest, as often said, is history.

**Q: Why is it important to donate to the Foundation?**

**A:** It’s important to give because the Foundation helps support more than 2000 elderly people on a regular basis. From the administrators and nurses to the many people behind the scenes, Metropolitan does a good job in keeping New Yorkers as healthy and as comfortable as possible.

**Q: Are there areas of greatest need?**

**A:** There are so many areas of need, especially now that the economy is losing strength. I’m a grandparent so St. Mary’s Metropolitan Home Care for Kids has a soft spot in my heart. Home Care is a sentimental favorite, too. Last but not least, I am healthy for my age; many of my peers are not as fortunate. Because of this, I am particularly appreciative of the work done by our skilled nursing facilities, as well by our managed, hospice and palliative care programs.

**Q: After so many years of service, how do you see your role on the board today versus when you were first selected?**

**A:** In my opinion, the role of the board member is always the same—fiduciary. Board members have an obligation to employees and, in Metropolitan’s case, patients, clients and members. Honesty, willingness to challenge ideas and decisions and active support of the organization’s goals also are extremely important.

Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center and Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center. For 18 years, Geller worked as a real estate and building consultant at Shorefront Towers. Prior to that he owned tennis and building businesses. Geller is a graduate of the City College of New York.

## Grants Corner

### Supporting Metropolitan's Vision with Grants

Metropolitan has a long history of determining and anticipating community needs. As the cost of care can be extraordinarily high, the organization is fortunate to earn grants from many sectors, including federal and state agencies and private foundations. By combining resources with these funding sources, some of the system's most crucial programs are further bolstered.

Grants help Metropolitan in three important areas:

- Developing partnerships within the community
- Sustaining current programs
- Generating funds for pilot programs

More specifically, grants make it possible for Metropolitan Jewish Home Care (Home Care) to provide outreach and education in pharmacies throughout the community. At no charge to the client, Home Care representatives check blood pressure and review prescription medications, thus raising the organization's profile while providing a valuable service.

Over the years, Metropolitan has enjoyed consistent and strong support from the United Jewish Appeal Federation (UJA). UJA, made up of more than 100 philanthropic organizations, shares Metropolitan's goal of ensuring

that all people have access to high-quality medical care. Recently, UJA approved the following awards for Metropolitan:

- \$122,921 for general operating support
- \$100,000 to increase the Orthodox community's access to palliative care
- \$25,000 for Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center's caregiver support group

Funds from government agencies and other foundations are often used to support specific programs. Recent grants include:

- \$213,000 from Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation to develop a Chinese-speaking hospice team
- \$100,000 from the Department of Homeland Security to improve security in Metropolitan's facilities
- \$52,000 from New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and the New York State Department of Health to train Menorah staff on bathing residents with dementia

With continued support, Metropolitan will make a difference in the lives of even more New Yorkers.

## Hospice and Palliative Care Month Activities

Metropolitan Jewish Hospice (Hospice) proudly joins health care providers across the country in celebrating National Hospice and Palliative Care Month in November. During this special time, we honor and thank the health care professionals and volunteers who provide comfort and compassionate care to those with life-limiting illnesses.

Though hospice and palliative care have formally been in existence in the U.S. since 1974, many individuals across our nation still are unfamiliar with end-of-life directives, health care proxies and options for care.

To help increase community awareness of this special plan of care, Hospice will place



information tables at health facilities throughout our service areas during the month of November. Hospice service areas include Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Manhattan and Nassau County. For locations, dates and times, please call (718) 491-7166.

*To honor and celebrate the lives of those who have touched our lives, Hospice will hold its fall memorial service on Sunday, November 16, 2008, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The service will be held at Menorah Home and Hospital; 1516 Oriental Boulevard; Brooklyn, New York. The Hospice staff looks forward to reconnecting with families and friends during this service of "remembrance, hope and love."*

## Hospice Care: To a Family's Rescue...Granting a Patient's Last Wish

By Estère M. du Boulay

Eight weeks shy of her 69th birthday, on July 12, 2007, Marie du Boulay succumbed to the cancer that had started its growth in her colon and ravaged her lungs and liver for months, following her personal decision to stop chemotherapy in December 2006. It was a peaceful passing from this world, surrounded by friends and family in the comfort of her home, and in the compassionate care of Metropolitan Jewish Hospice.

Although I had heard about Hospice before my mother's illness, my understanding was limited to an idea of a care facility limited to a geriatric population in their



Marie and Estère du Boulay on June 22, 2007

final months of life. However, during my mother's final months, I would get an insider's view into what "care" really meant in the context of "hospice" and how all hospice programs are not created alike.

When a close friend of mine first brought up the idea of hospice as starting when all treatment options had ceased, I wondered why the oncologists treating my mother had not suggested it before. After making the decision to seek out hospice care, the next obvious question was how to choose a program. If I had to do it all over again, I would have handled this critical part of the process differently. But how does one evaluate a program's ability to meet a patient's needs in crisis before one is "in crisis"?

Of utmost importance to my mother was her last wish to spend her final days in the comfort of her home. She wanted to remain in familiar surroundings doing routine things for as long as she was able. This desire was my primary consideration in selecting a hospice program.

Sadly, despite the best intentions, our initially chosen hospice program was unable to rise above the realities and imposed limitations of a deficient Medicare and Medicaid system. They failed us as crisis struck again ...

Facing the final days of my mother's life, I arranged to take her on a 4th of July outing. After a joyful day of pampering for her, we attempted to commence our short trip back to Brooklyn from Norwalk, CT but my mother was unable to breathe. We quickly discovered that her oxygen tank was empty! In the unusual happiness of the day, no one had stopped to consider this possibility. Panic ensued. Laughter and comfort were transformed into tense voices and distress. The paramedics arrived with full oxygen tanks and transported my mother to Norwalk Hospital.

The drama that followed led me to make a desperate call to Metropolitan Jewish Hospice—call for help that represented a full-circle moment for us in what was to be the final 10 days of my mother's life. As I battled feelings of helplessness in the July midnight chill outside the emergency room at Norwalk Hospital, I was greeted with understanding and compassion by the voice on the other end of the telephone at Metropolitan. By the next day when my crisis story was known, the "troops" at Metropolitan had bravely resolved our ongoing insurance challenges as they remembered to *care* for a patient who was facing the most difficult period in her life.

The next day, arrangements were put in place for two home-care nurses in consecutive 12-hour shifts, new needed oxygen equipment and a hospital bed. The wonderful people

**"I was embraced, reassured and never judged for my actions."**

Estère M. du Boulay

at Metropolitan really got it. They demonstrated, by their actions, an understanding of caring for the whole family, as well as the patient, as one indivisible whole. At no time was I told "there is nothing we can do." Instead, I was embraced, reassured and never judged for my actions. Those feelings continue to this day as I recall receiving calls from Metropolitan within the six months following my mother's passing to offer bereavement support and services to both me and my daughter. My support of Metropolitan Jewish Hospice is, of course, deeply personal and will continue as long as I remember the trust and shelter that Hospice care embodied for our family in granting my mother's last wish.

*Estère du Boulay writes on health care, personal development and spirituality matters from her home in Litchfield County, CT.*

*This article is printed in its original form.*

## Philanthropy—A Lasting Partnership



**Italian Club of Staten Island Makes Donation**  
**John Gallucci** (2nd right) past president and member of the board of directors of the Italian Club of Staten Island, presents **Barbara Hiney**, vice president of Hospice and Palliative Care (2nd left) with a check in the amount of \$1,000 from his organization to help Hospice in its mission to care for the those who are critically ill. John is a longtime supporter and friend of Hospice, and served on the Hospice Community Advisory Board. **David Nussbaum**, executive director and chief development officer (right) and **Caroline Mansuetto**, director of hospice development (left) were present to thank Gallucci on behalf of the Foundation.

## Dorothy Kourt Fund—Half Way There!

Dorothy Kourt, a beloved, key member of the Metropolitan Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP) team greatly benefited from the loving, nurturing care provided by Metropolitan Jewish Hospice in her final days.

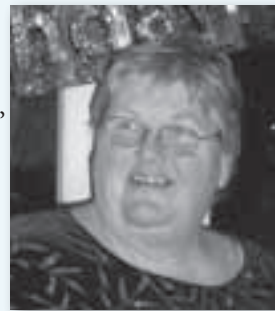
In recognition of the extraordinary appreciation that Dorothy had for Metropolitan Jewish Health System (Metropolitan), her friends, family and colleagues have begun a memorial fund in her honor. Generous gifts ranging from \$25 to \$500 have brought the fund to nearly \$5,000. It is Metropolitan's goal to raise \$10,000 in order to memorialize Dorothy with a dedicated plaque at the proposed new hospice residence.

"Dorothy left more than fingerprints wherever she touched and more than footprints wherever she walked," said Lydia Galeon, vice president of LTHHCP and Outreach Services.

"She left heart-prints, created and strengthened with kindness, compassion, benevolence and sincerity that will remain eternal."

Contributions are being accepted by Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation (Foundation), which has established a restricted capital fund for this specific purpose. Every dollar contributed will support Dorothy's final wishes.

Checks, cash or credit card payments may be made through Chinwe Egonu of the Foundation. Please specify that you are making a contribution in memory of Dorothy Kourt.



## Pythian Sisters Make a Difference

Since 1997, the Pythian Sisters have generously raised funds in support of residents in need at Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center (Shorefront). On October 13, 2008, a group of sisters from the New York chapter presented a \$1,000 check donation to Derek Murray, administrator at Shorefront and Jennifer Dudley, Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation's (Foundation) director of development.

During the visit, Murray led the group on a tour of the facility as well as updated them on the latest services being offered at the Coney Island-based residence.

Truly embracing and living their mission "to help themselves and others grow through the principles of purity, love, equality and fidelity," the sisters consistently show their unwavering commitment to Shorefront's residents and provide an ongoing opportunity for enrichment. Their connection to the community is greatly appreciated.

The Pythian Sisters is an order of members, age 16 and up, throughout the U.S. and Canada committed to philanthropic work within their communities.

## METROPOLITAN MILESTONES

### Most Valuable Employees

# MVEs of the Year 2007

Recognized at the 2008 Gala at the Gotham



**Kristine Mysholowsky, Research**  
 Metropolitan Jewish Health System—  
 Corporate and Managed Care



**Kathlyn Kemper, First to Care Home Care**  
 Metropolitan Jewish Health System—  
 Home Care



**Ilona Grose, Nursing**  
 Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center



**DeShauna Appleton, Therapeutic Recreation**  
 Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center



**Mary Santo, Dietary**  
 Menorah Home and Hospital



**Roman Spektor, Social Work**  
 Metropolitan Jewish Adult Day Health Center

Metropolitan Jewish Health System (Metropolitan) Most Valuable Employees (MVE) of the Year exemplify the organization's commitment to quality care and outstanding service; have a non-supervisory role in the organization; and have been employed in the system for at least one year. Employees who wish to nominate a colleague should contact the human resources department. Congratulations to Metropolitan's 2007 MVEs.

## Ways to Give: The Easy IRA Charitable Gift

For many people, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) represent the largest asset in their estates. By making IRA charitable rollover donations of up to \$100,000—as single-year or multi-year gifts—you can help a worthy cause in a significant way while reducing your taxable assets.

In the past, making a charitable donation from an IRA increased your tax liability, because the amount of the donation first had to be distributed as income. In 2006, Congress changed the rules. Now, if you are over age 70 1/2, you may roll over money from your IRA directly to charity without claiming any increased income or paying additional taxes.

This is a good opportunity for a number of donors, especially those whose IRAs have increased in value over the years. To avoid the required distribution for people over 70 1/2,

simply contact your financial advisor and request that a donation be transferred to charity.

Your charitable deductions for cash gifts are limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income for a given year. However, if you wish to give more, with an IRA rollover gift you can transfer funds from your IRA to charity without paying more in tax or exceeding your limit.

Money given directly from IRA accounts is not tax-deductible. Please contact your financial or legal advisor for professional guidance.



*For more information, please contact Jennifer Dudley, director of development at (718) 759-4778.*

# Foundation *in Focus*

Published by  
Metropolitan Jewish Health System Foundation

The articles in this publication describe the Foundation's ongoing fundraising activities. Guided by a culture of philanthropy, the Foundation provides financial support to Metropolitan Jewish Health System (Metropolitan) programs and initiatives, as well as to individual New Yorkers with unmet health needs or without access to quality social outlets. The Foundation's contributions have helped Metropolitan provide innovative and comprehensive health care services for more than 100 years.

## METROPOLITAN JEWISH HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION

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