



Volume I Issue 1 Fall 2009

The Hatzilu Rescue Organization provides food, financial aid, social work intervention and assistance, and emotional support to Jews in need in the Nassau County area.

From the Hatzilu Mission Statement

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Editor: Harriet Blatt

**MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

ELISSA FRIEDMAN

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; I am Elissa Friedman, the Executive Director for the Hatzilu Rescue Organization. Working with charitable and non-profit organizations has always been a passion for me. As a professional social worker, I have spent the past sixteen years assisting individuals and families in crisis. I joined the Hatzilu Rescue Organization in February 2008 and I have been committed to providing support to Jewish people in need all over Nassau County.

Giving to the poor is an obligation in Judaism; it is a simple act of righteousness, a performance of a duty. In the past eighteen months I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of individuals and families: a single mother of two struggling to care for two boys, one suffering from a life-threatening illness, a Holocaust survivor struggling to put food on the table and a senior adult whose struggle with mental illness led to homelessness. The Hatzilu volunteers are there to provide assistance in the form of emotional support, monetary support, food and nutrition, as well as encouragement.

As the Executive Director, I am privileged to work with a volunteer group that encompasses such professionalism and compassion for Jews in need. Hatzilu began in 1976 as a grass roots movement to support needy Jews. In the past thirty years, the organization has held true to its mission, although there were some turns in the road on the way, the grass roots nature of Hatzilu's work remains strong today.

I am extremely proud and honored to be working with this organization.



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JOE SKLAR

Welcome to the first edition of the Hatzilu newsletter. When I think about Hatzilu and my more than thirty years of association with this wonderful organization, I see how much it has changed and how much it has remained the same. Hatzilu began when a group of members of various Jewish organizations from Long Island realized the desperate situation of many of our fellow Jews in the inner city. Our goal then was relocating and assisting those elderly Jews. Over the years, that population has, for the most part died out, although one of our clients we originally moved just celebrated her 100th birthday. She is still receiving help from Hatzilu. A small monthly check makes the difference so that she can afford to buy the kosher meat she has eaten all her life. The calls and visits from the same Hatzilu volunteer social worker who helped her relocate in 1979 are an important part of the life of this single woman today, who has outlived all other family members and friends.

Recently, we started getting calls for help from people in our own neighborhoods. We feel compelled to help the Jews in Nassau County. These people are affected by old age, illness and/or poverty. We offer food, financial aid, social work assistance and emotional support.

The Hatzilu Rescue Organization is now located in the Mid-Island Y JCC in Plainview.

HEROES OF HATZILU — REMEMBERING AL NEVINS

MANNY BARDASH

It has been over two years since the death of our immediate past president, Al Nevins z"l, and hardly a meeting goes by without mentioning Al's name. It occurs most frequently at the monthly Social Welfare Committee meetings where how much assistance clients receive is reviewed. Al presided at these meetings and he was always a strong advocate for every client. Of course, with our limited resources and sense of obligation to Hatzilu contributors, the majority of the committee did not always agree with Al. He occasionally compared the committee to boiled eggs and he was always the one who was the "soft boiled egg."

I have been a Hatzilu volunteer since its inception in 1976 and have known all of our past presidents. No one served as long and with so much dedication as Al Nevins. It is difficult to sit at meetings and evaluate what assistance Hatzilu can offer each of our clients. If Al was told of a Jew in need of immediate assistance, any time day or night, he was available to meet them in their time of need, whether at home or at a hospital. Al Nevins was truly a righteous person, who in our tradition is known as a Tzaddik.

Visit our Website:

Hatzilurescue.org

FOOD DELIVERY PROGRAM

BEN SCHNAPPER



How does the food delivery program work? Every two to three weeks our volunteer team of food deliverers brings two to four bags of kosher food to poor Jewish families on Long Island. These bags contain canned vegetables, fruit, tuna, dry cereals, pasta and other food items. We also try to include frozen kosher chickens.

The food deliverers go to our warehouse, located in Roosevelt, Long Island to pick up the food for delivery. To-date, we have 23 deliverers who deliver to 55 families in need.

If anyone would like to volunteer to deliver food, please call Ben Schnapper at 516-750-8935. It is simple to do and is a wonderful mitzvah.

A LETTER TO OUR BOARD

On behalf of my husband and myself, I want to say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart. Your help over the last six months has kept us fed and helped us pay some of our bills on time.

I have applied for, and have just been approved for Social Security Disability. Between my husband's check and mine, I will be able to pay our rent and bills. We have never lived the high life, gone on trips, or spent money foolishly, so we should be able to manage.

Again, without your help it would have been much harder to survive. I hope one day to return the kindness you showed to us.

Shalom and thank you.

**THANK
YOU
FROM
ONE OF
OUR
CLIENTS**

FUND RAISING

IVAN ZIEGLER

In order for us to carry out our mission of helping the Jewish poor on Long Island, Hatzilu must raise funds. One synagogue, Temple Beth Torah in Westbury, "ran" a Walk-a-Thon to benefit Hatzilu. It took place on a cloudy and damp Sunday in April. Under the leadership of Roberta (Bobby) Schleicher, chair of the Social Action Committee, 20 participants raised over \$8,000.



It is important that the work that Hatzilu does be advertised in all synagogues and all synagogues be encouraged to run a fund raising event for Hatzilu. We will be glad to help organize and support your fund raising effort.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Last year 600 grants were made and more than \$100,000 was distributed on Long Island
- 52 families in 26 communities receive monthly cash grants
- Hatzilu volunteers deliver food packages to 55 needy families on Long Island
- Six human service professionals (i.e. social workers, therapists, etc.) determine which clients receive money and how much
- More than 60 people volunteer their time to Hatzilu activities.
- Last year we received two sizeable testamentary bequests. They enabled us to expand our grant program during the economic downturn. If you would like more information about making a gift or bequest to Hatzilu, contact our Executive Director, Elissa Friedman at 516-931-2884

I DO CARE!

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Your donation is tax deductible.

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