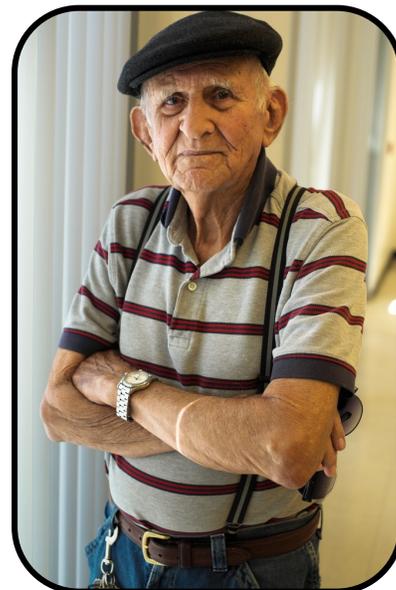


Two years ago, Mark*, a 77 year old widower on a very limited income, learned about Jewish Family Service (JFS) through his synagogue. He became a JFS client through our Bikur Chaverim (Visiting Friends) program, following his only daughter, Sarah's* advice. Since Sarah lived out of state, she called her father weekly for brief conversations to ensure that he was well, but remained worried about his isolation and whether he could get fast medical help should he ever need it. Mark was living alone in his apartment, unable to drive, and with no other support system aside from one neighbor.



Sarah called JFS asking if we could help. Mark was assessed and paired with a Bikur Chaverim volunteer who began visiting him twice a month. During visits, Mark enjoyed playing competitive cribbage with the volunteer, and although she reported him to be in fair health, he was lonely, and unable to keep his apartment clean.

Following a discussion with Sarah, Mark was enrolled in the JFS Homemaker program, and soon both his spirits and living conditions improved. His Bikur Chaverim volunteer continued to pay him regular visits, while his JFS homemaker spent several hours twice a month, providing him light housecleaning, doing his laundry and driving him to the library on occasion.

One evening while home alone, Mark slipped and broke his hip in the shower. His neighbor heard his cries for help and he was rushed to the hospital. After weeks spent recovering in the hospital, his doctor suggested he move to a nursing home.

After years of independent living, Mark was not interested in moving to a nursing home and longed to return to his own apartment. It seemed his mental and physical health depended on his ability to return to his own home. After many conversations with Sarah and Mark, JFS swung into action by providing Mark with financial assistance to make his apartment safe and accessible (including equipping his bathroom with hand rails), enrolling him in Lifeline for emergency response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, renewed visits from his prior homemaker, and providing discounted taxi vouchers through Catch-A-Cab.

Today, Mark remains in the comforts of his own home. He has taught his second Bikur Chaverim friend how to play a fierce game of cribbage. His daughter Sarah recently expressed how grateful she is for JFS services and that she worries less about her father, knowing he has the care that he needs.

**Names were changed in order to protect client privacy .*