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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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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ELISSA FRIEDMAN

Life takes us in many directions. On any given day I can be asked to provide information and referrals, I can be a shoulder to cry on or asked to provide documentation of our services to the frail, poor and disenfranchised. The individuals and families that reach out to Hatzilu for assistance request any number of services.

I recently spoke with a young mother of four small children. She knew about Hatzilu because a friend is a volunteer food deliverer. She had recently separated from her husband. Although she was feeling empowered by her decision to protect herself and her children from her abusive spouse she was faced with the reality of her new life. With no financial support, no income and only \$500 in food stamps to feed four hungry children and herself, she turned to Hatzilu for emotional support, kosher food and short term financial assistance. She had a plan, but as we all know the best laid plans don't always work out the way we hope. What touched me most about this young woman was the strength and courage that I was able to feel over the phone. This young woman was not angry or bitter. She told me that she was going to get back on her feet, but needed some help and she wasn't too proud or brave to ask for it. She was actively seeking out assistance from both public and private entities. At the end of the call I was moved by her gratefulness.

There is no telling what twists and turns will occur, but by providing a safety net Hatzilu touches many individuals and families, seniors and children. Just by answering the phone and offering a kind word Hatzilu made someone's day just a little brighter.

Visit our Website:

[Hatzilurescue.org](http://Hatzilurescue.org)

If you wish to receive a copy of this newsletter via e-mail, please send your e-mail address to [EFriedman@miyjcc.org](mailto:EFriedman@miyjcc.org) and note "Hatzilu Newsletter" in the subject line



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### JOE SKLAR

On Yom Kippur morning we read the Haftarah from Isaiah (58:7). Isaiah says that fasting is not enough. You must also:

...share your bread with the hungry  
And to take the wretched poor into your home;  
When you see the naked, to clothe him  
And not to ignore your own kin.

I always think of the Hatzilu Rescue Organization when I read these words. Hatzilu takes the place of family when there is no family or when a family is exhausted financially, emotionally, or both.

Hatzilu gives financial grants on a monthly basis so that Jewish individuals and families can afford to stay in their homes or apartments and still have enough money left for utility bills, medicine, clothing and other vital necessities.

Hatzilu has a kosher food pantry and volunteers who deliver food to needy families year round.

Hatzilu provides social work support to make sure that families in need get all the government aid to which they are entitled and refers our clients to other private agencies and foundations as well.

Hatzilu volunteers reach out to our clients with a phone call or a visit.

The importance of this emotional support cannot be underestimated.

May your New Year be sweet and your fast easy with the knowledge that you have reached out to help a fellow Jew.

## TEMPLE BETH TORAH WALKS FOR HATZILU

### IVAN ZIEGLER

On a recent sunny day, my Temple, in Westfield, held the annual Walk-a-Thon for our organization. Several Executive Committee members walked in excess of \$4,000 and gave. We have always held a warm place when we enjoyed hosting luncheons for many reasons, important for Hatzilu to get its ways. Fortunately, under the leadership of Temple Beth Torah's Social Action Chairwoman Roberta (Bobbi) Schleicher, we have replaced the luncheons with Walk-a-Thons.



Sunday in May, the congregants of Temple Beth Torah, showed their support for Hatzilu with their annual Walk-a-Thon. Temple members along with most of Hatzilu's members participated through nearby Cantiague Park. The event raised us an opportunity to schmooze. Our congregation in our hearts for Hatzilu going back to the days of our annual Hatzilu luncheon. Unfortunately, those are no longer being held, so it remains very important to raise the much needed funds in other ways.

Holding a Walk-a-Thon couldn't be easier. A simple letter to the congregation announcing the event and urging support was all it took. No pledges for miles walked nor any other complications – just show up and walk and donate to Hatzilu. Please consider running an event at your synagogue for Hatzilu, and help us help those who can't help themselves.

## **A VISIT TO OUR SOCIAL WELFARE MEETING**

### **HERB WEISS**

On July 14, 2010 I observed a meeting of our Social Welfare Committee. I want to share my experience with our readers because my presence gave me greater insight into how the difficult decisions are made regarding whom we assist financially, and to what extent.

The committee is led by Ann Goldberg who has capably chaired it for many years. The committee has a number of trained social workers, including Ann. Virtually all of the members of the committee are professionals. They meet monthly to review what they call the bible that is comprised of the names of persons to whom we give monetary grants and new potential clients that have been referred. Referrals are made by, among others, JASA, FECS, synagogues, rabbis and concerned members of the community. Hatzilu endeavors to help all referred in some way.

The status of roughly 60 families, the vast majority of whom, we already assist, was considered. These families can consist of a single person, siblings living together, or three generations living under one roof. Some of their stories are heart-rendering. Family members suffering from severe physical or mental illness, spouses subjected to abuse, spouses who have been abandoned or who are in the midst of divorce proceedings, breadwinners losing their jobs, are some of the harrowing situations the committee confronts. Each case is given proper and due consideration, with careful review and analysis and frequent robust debate. Decisions are made by consensus.

Let me assure you, this is hard work. Sometimes the problems the committee deals with are so large that Hatzilu is unable to render meaningful assistance. But for the many families we aid, the monthly grant that they receive means that they can now enjoy what the more affluent would consider a bare necessity.

To know that we are helping so many families in Nassau County to live at least a little better makes me proud to be a member of Hatzilu. I am deeply respectful of the work done by those who sit on our Social Work Committee. It's a tough job done by people with a big heart and a great desire to serve the community. Yasher Koach to each and every one of them.

## **THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW**

### **ANN GOLDBERG, SOCIAL WELFARE CHAIRPERSON**

While those of us on the Social Welfare committee go about our work visiting and talking on the telephone to clients and making our financial grants, we always have in the back of our minds, how much money is coming in from donations which will enable us to continue our work?

In a memorable sermon, my Rabbi distributed cards which read on one side, "Its never too late" and on the other, "Its later than you think". It is comforting to think that it is never too late - we still have time to change our ways, reconcile, make that telephone call, make that donation. But then comes "Its later than you think". Who knows what is around the corner for each of us? We have today - right now -to enjoy and appreciate what we have, loving spouse, children, good life. With that appreciation comes the realization that not everyone is so lucky.

Hatzilu tries to give some financial help to those who are not so lucky. If you have ever thought that you might one day give a donation to Hatzilu, do it now. Remember Hatzilu when your organization is choosing a recipient for charity funds or having a mitzvah day. If you would like to volunteer give us a call.

## DID YOU KNOW:

- Last year Hatzilu distributed over \$114,000 to our needy clients on Long Island.
- A crew of volunteers distribute food packages regularly to 60 families on Long Island.
- Eleven volunteers serve on the Social Welfare Committee to determine the distribution of funds to clients. All applications are reviewed by a social worker and all clients are seen by our volunteer human service professionals.
- Hatzilu volunteers report that they get great satisfaction from working for Hatzilu's clients.
- Hatzilu needs your help to keep aiding needy Jews on Long Island.
- 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!

Please make your check payable to HATZILU RESCUE ORGANIZATION

Your donation is tax deductible.

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*L'Shana Tovah*

*Happy and Healthy New Year*