

**Words Of Gratitude From A Few Of The Many
Who Have Benefited From Our Program:**

"You gave me the light of hope and courage when I lost them in the days of pain and fear that gripped my spirit and when I felt so alone. Thank you for your warmth, caring, good humor, and gentle prayers."

Enrique, Mexico

"You brought much love and comfort, as well as peace and healing to me and all of our family. Being from so far, it was extremely special to be visited by a person who so understood our situation and who made us feel welcome."

Miriam, Minnesota

"Your presence was so comforting. You know I am not overly religious but you have never been judgmental. That and praying together before my transplant meant so much to me."

Carole, Texas

"I remain so very grateful for your visit and the comfort you brought me at a difficult time. I was moved by our discussion and inspired by the power of our meeting."

Allan, Wisconsin.

"Thank you so much for being there and brightening up my stay in the hospital. The shabbos candlesticks were wonderful."

Susan, Nebraska

"Most of all my parents enjoyed your visits with them. Your willingness to listen, your spirituality, and your ready smile always eased their difficult days."

Adam, New York

"My brother would often tell me about your conversations of counsel and friendship. They helped him get back on an even keel after a downturn, always returning him to centeredness..."

Matthew, South Carolina

Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Fund
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
5603 South Braeswood
Houston, Texas 77096

The Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program



*Bikkur Cholim
... strengthening the body and the spirit*

MISSION

"All Jews are responsible for each other." Talmud
You are part of our community.

During your journey, we are here to assist you in finding strength and hope. We want to be a part of your path to recovery and healing. By upholding the Jewish tradition of bikkur cholim, visiting the sick, we hope to shorten the distance between you and a refuah shleimah, a complete healing.

"Your energy, prayers, hugs, and healing touch gave me the strength and hope to continue. You have been so important in taking me from disease to wellness."

Catherine, Texas

Bikkur Cholim is the mitzvah of visiting the sick, one of the nine obligations we recite each Shabbat. The observance of aiding the sick is not just being considerate and helpful. It is a spiritual practice, linking the everyday to the divine. Through this mitzvah, we bring inspiration into the lives of those in need and in turn into our own lives. Thus we are made holy.

PROGRAM

Since 1965, the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program has served thousands of Jewish patients, their families and caregivers, who come to the Texas Medical Center from all over the world.

Originally, chaplaincy services were provided by volunteers, and the program was coordinated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. Due to changes in patient needs and an increase in the number of patients at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the program has been expanded and reorganized.

The program is now professionally staffed by a fulltime chaplain at M.D. Anderson and another chaplain who serves other local hospitals. Additionally, a dedicated group of volunteers make daily hospital visits. Our primary purpose is to provide emotional and spiritual support to those in need by providing comfort and encouragement during a time of stress, change or crisis.

A program with



in partnership with



Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
Making a Difference in Jewish Lives



SERVICES

The Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program provides:

- Spiritual Direction
- Prayer
- Spiritual Development
- Energy Work
- Supportive Counseling
- Community Connections
- Crisis Intervention
- Holiday Celebrations
- Jewish Prayer And Ritual Materials
- Jewish Herald-voice Delivery (Weekly Newspaper)
- Houston Jewish Community Resource Handbook
- Assistance With Obtaining Blood Platelet Donors
- Jewish Home Hospice Spiritual Care
- Contact With Local Patients’ Rabbis (with patient permission)

Area hospitals served by the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program include:

- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- The Methodist Hospital
- St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- Memorial-Hermann Hospital
- Ben Taub Hospital
- Memorial-Hermann Southwest Hospital

A Jewish Chaplain is on call for hospital emergencies twenty-four hours a day. To contact a chaplain, please call:

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center:

Office: 713.792.7184 | Monday – Thursday, 9 – 5
Pager: 713.404.3596 | Friday, evenings or weekends

(Mi Sheberakh)

מִי שֶׁבֵרַךְ
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב
וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ שָׂרָה רַבֵּקָה רָחֵל וְלֵאָה
הוּא יְבָרֵךְ וּיְרַפֵּא אֶת הַחֹלִים
...
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא
יִמְלֵא רַחֲמִים עֲלֵיהֶם
לְהַחֲלִימָם וּלְרַפְּאֵתָם
לְהַחְיִיקָם וּלְהַחְיִיתָם
וַיִּשְׁלַח לָהֶם מְהֵרָה רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה
רְפוּאָת הַנֶּפֶשׁ וּרְפוּאָת הַגּוּף
בְּתוֹךְ שָׁאֵר חוֹלֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
הַשְׁתָּא בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב
וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.

(Masculine pronouns/ Feminine pronouns)

Mi Sheberakh
Avoteinu Avraham, Yitzhak, v’Yaakov,
v’Imoteinu Sarah, Rivka, Rachel v’Leah,
Hu yivarekh virapei
et haholeh/haholah

,ben/bat,
HaKadosh Barukh Hu
yimalei rahamim alav/aleha,
l’hahalimo/l’hahalimah,
u-l’ra p’ oto/u-l’ rap’ otah,
l’hahaziko/l’hahazikah
u-l’haha-yoto/u-l’haha-yotah.

V’yishlah lo/Iah bim-hera
r’fuah shleimah,
r’fu-at hanefesh u-r’fu-at haguf,
b’tokh sh’ar holei Yisrael,
hashta ba’agalah u-vizman kariv,

v’no-mar,
Amen!

(Son/Daughter of)

May the One who blessed our ancestors -
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,
Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah,
bless and heal the one who is ill:

_____, son/daughter of,

May the Holy One, the fount of blessings,
shower abundant mercies upon him/her,
fulfilling his/her dreams of healing,
strengthening him/her with the power of life.

Merciful One:
restore him/her,
heal him/her,
strengthen him/her,
enliven him/her.

Send him/her a complete healing
from the heavenly realms,
a healing of body and
a healing of soul,
together with all who are ill,
soon, speedily, without delay;
and let us say:
Amen!

FUNDING

The Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program of Jewish Family Service, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, is officially recognized by the Texas Medical Center hospitals as the coordinator of comprehensive services specifically addressing the spiritual needs of Jewish people dealing with illness. None of the hospitals includes a rabbi or Jewish chaplain as part of the staff of their Spiritual Care or Chaplaincy Department. The Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program is not funded by the hospitals and does not receive any portion of contributions made to the hospitals by patients or other benefactors.

The Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program is funded entirely by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

You can join our current supporters, knowing that your tax deductible donation is vital in helping to insure the future of the Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Program.

Contributions can be made payable and sent to:

**Houston Jewish Chaplaincy Fund
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
5603 South Braeswood | Houston, Texas 77096
Phone: 713.729.7000**

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip code _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Acknowledgement to _____

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