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<http://www.hebrewhome.org>

SWISS BANKS HOLOCAUST



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Baptist Nursing Home  
 ElderServe Community Services Division  
 Housing Division  
 Riverdale Terrace  
 River House West  
 Research Division  
 Maurice R. Greenberg Wellness Center  
 National Alzheimer Center  
 Judaica Museum

The Honorable Judah Gribetz  
 Special Master, Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation  
 Post Office Box 8300  
 San Francisco, CA 94128 – 8300

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JAN 06 2004

LEGAL SERVICES

December 31, 2003

Dear Mr. Gribetz,

When Mrs. B. came to The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale she weighed 96 pounds. Having survived Auschwitz there was absolutely no family remaining. She had married after the war but could not have children, and her husband died 22 years ago. She had lived alone in an apartment that had not seen a visitor for over 15 years and everything was in a state of neglect, her health as much as her home. She was effectively living all alone with the nightmares of the experiences she had endured during the war.

Mrs. B. is not a single case. Among the more than a thousand residents we care for at the Hebrew Home there are approximate 40 Holocaust survivors, many of whom come with similar problems that have been neglected far too long. The mere fact that they need a placement in a long term care facility is an expression that they are among the most frail of Nazi victims, the ones that can not care for themselves any longer.

Today Mrs. B., like the other survivors, has found the comfort of a new home, a compassionate staff that understands and respects her particular needs, and a community of fellow survivors that comes together in the support group I have the privilege to conduct. All of this has helped her to gain back not just the weight she had lost but also a sense of hope and well-being that formerly seemed impossible in her own mind.

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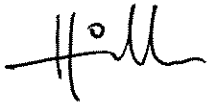
In my work with Holocaust survivors and their families as the Director of Religious Affairs of the Hebrew Home over the past seven years I realize the support group modality alone is not sufficient, that whatever comfort we can give and whatever care we offer, is limited by the Medicaid/Medicare payment system. This particular population needs a more wide-ranging approach above and beyond even the excellent care we already offer.

It is with this in mind that I respectfully submit a proposal for a *Comprehensive Care Module for Holocaust Survivors* that addresses all levels of their particular needs, from additional assistance in activities of daily living to more intense psycho-social help and case management by a qualified social worker to spiritual support throughout their stay and especially at the end of their lives.

All of the funds requested for the proposed module will be used for direct services for Holocaust survivors. The Hebrew Home's contribution will not only be the continuation of the excellent care we provide but the creation of a specialized *Center for the Care of Holocaust Survivors* that would engage in research, training and consultation service for professionals working with this particular population.

With the generation of survivors aging and with an average length of stay of three years at the Hebrew Home the time left represents not just an unique opportunity to help those victims of the Holocaust at a moment where they are vulnerable once again but it becomes our moral mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hirschhorn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rabbi Simon Hirschhorn  
Director of Religious Affairs

## ***A Comprehensive Care Module for Holocaust Survivors in Long Term Care***

The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale respectfully submits this proposal to create a replicable Comprehensive Care Module for Holocaust survivors in long term care, assisting them and their families through a period that is fraught with distinct challenges for this group of residents. Identifying survivors' particular needs creates an unique opportunity to help them at a moment in their lives where they have become vulnerable once again – due to age and infirmity – this time in an environment which enables them to live their lives with dignity, in comfort, and with compassion and joy.

The Hebrew Home is committed to support the special needs of Holocaust survivors. However, our resources are severely limited by the Medicaid/Medicare payment system. It is therefore necessary to find external funding for the creation of the Comprehensive Care Module. Our goal goes further in that we seek to find the means to provide the needed services for Holocaust survivors, and create a specialized *Center for the Care of Holocaust Survivors* that would engage in research, training and consultation service for professionals working with this particular population.

### ***Description of the Problems and Needs***

At the time when Jews were liberated from the horrors of the Holocaust in Europe very few expected to reach old age. Having survived their tormentors against all odds, they find themselves – now in their 70s, 80s, and 90s – facing a challenge from which there is no escape: the trials of old age.

Holocaust survivors in their later years suffer from physical and emotional distress at higher rates than the elderly population as a whole. The cumulated effects of earlier trauma results in greater challenges in old age ranging from higher rates of heart problems, vision and dental problems, and high blood pressure.

An even greater challenge to their well being, however, is the emotional burden. Holocaust survivors, as we know, did not only lose their families and communities but, in most cases, their basic sense of belonging and identity as well. Even though they started “new lives” after the war with unusual resilience, the collective as well as the individual trauma remained a heavy, often unbearable burden for them and their new families.

The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale  
Rabbi Simon Hirschhorn, Director of Religious Affairs

What is true for survivors living in the community is multiplied tenfold for the frail ones who come to The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale. It is in this context of lifelong discontinuity that a needed placement in a Long Term Care facility frequently becomes a trigger for a recurrence of old traumas, leaving the now aging person with little or none of the resources that helped them to survive in the first place: physical strength has turned into frailty and the leading a busy life as a means to ward off intruding memories has become impossible.

Even though a transition to a nursing home is never easy, for survivors it is yet another repetition of being up-rooted. Compared to their former independent lives, the more directed and regulated daily events like meals or baths often lead to a sense of loss of control and autonomy which usually precedes the re-experience of victimization. It is at this point that their special needs become more and more evident.

Under the leadership of the Hebrew Home's Director of Religious Affairs a long-standing support group has been established for Holocaust survivors which has been of help in addressing and sometimes alleviating the pertinent issues. However, for this population, the group modality alone is not sufficient. Holocaust survivors need a more comprehensive care approach above and beyond the regular long term care that addresses all levels of needs: from additional assistance in activities of daily living (ADL), to supplementary case management by a qualified social worker, to spiritual and psycho-social support.

Throughout their stay one can identify distinct periods that require different services for Holocaust survivors, from the heightened needs at the time of admission, through the duration of the stay to the end of their life, always keeping in mind that it is not just the survivor him/herself that is the object of concern but their families as well, be it the spouse or the adult children.

### *The Comprehensive Care Module*

There are a number of direct service components to the Comprehensive Care Module (CCM) which include

- *Nursing Assistance & Case Management Services*

The goal of the CCM is to provide services beyond Medicaid or Medicare reimbursements that will allow the survivor to maintain their highest level of functioning by providing the quality of life they deserve. To achieve this goal, a care coordinator will assess the survivor's needs. Since this process will have been already set in motion during the admissions process the resident and the family will have a better chance to cope with adapting to the new environment.

In particular the coordinator will offer the following direct services as appropriate.

- Additional nursing assistance for activities of daily living (ADL)
- Specialized case management services (social worker hours)
  - Dealing with issues related to medical/dental care not paid for by government-funded programs, purchase of medical equipment like wheel-chairs or hearing aids, dentures etc.

- *Pastoral Services*

In addition to the above direct services that go beyond the regular care at the Hebrew Home, the CCM's intent is to ease the emotional suffering of Holocaust survivors and their families by providing a framework of pastoral services that will allow the survivors to be understood and accepted.

- Chaplain visits for spiritual needs and pastoral care
- Referral to the ongoing survivor support group
- Referral to the support group for adult children

- *Psycho-social Support*

Survivors as a whole have not always found their ways to professional help, even though that they might need it more than others. The idea that a psycho-therapist or a psychiatrist could help alleviate their problems is often seen as an impossibility, tantamount to make the Holocaust disappear.

It is therefore necessary to provide psycho-social services in an supportive but rather informal setting such as friendly visits and the like. However, staff for such visits need to be even more skilled and qualified for that purpose. A possible partnership with an institution of higher learning such as Columbia University's Social Work School or a clinical center such as that of the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research (IPTAR) could become a good resource for training and recruiting qualified therapists.

- *Spouses & Adult Children*

An important aspect of working with Holocaust survivors is to recognize that it is not just the Survivor him/herself that is the object of concern but their families as well, be it the spouse or the adult children. For them the resurfacing of the old, often buried trauma is emotionally demanding if not devastating at times. And the fact that there were often no grandparents, makes this their children's first experience of aging. Working with this extended unit of resident and family necessitates new modalities such as support groups for adult children with or without their parents present.

- *Housing Allowance for Spouses*

With a necessary placement into the Hebrew Home a heavy emotional and physical burden is placed upon the respective spouse. While struggling with their sense of guilt of “abandoning” their loved one they often feel the only thing they still can do is to come and be at the side of their husband or wife. However, being aged themselves, the coming to and from the Hebrew Home on a daily basis creates an enormous physical stress in addition to everything else. The Hebrew Home’s River Walk, a senior apartment community akin to assisted living can offer a solution. However, if the spouse can not afford the rent, the CCM coordinator would assess the financial situation and possibly subsidize the costs so that a couple will be together as much as they possibly can.

### *Conclusion*

At the time when the elderly survivors come to the Hebrew Home they have already suffered from isolation and loneliness and often have serious emotional problems. Most of them used to rely primarily on their own coping mechanisms and therefore have never sought the professional help of social workers, pastoral counselors, therapists or psychiatrists for that matter. Generally problems have been neglected far too long with too few services to help. Providing Holocaust survivors with the comprehensive care they need and deserve represents not just an unique opportunity to help them at a moment where they have become vulnerable once again but it becomes our moral mandate.

***Proposed Yearly Budget  
for a Comprehensive Care Module  
for Holocaust Survivors in Long Term Care***  
based on the current number of 40 Holocaust Survivors  
throughout the 3 Hebrew Home for the Aged facilities

• Coordinator		
1.0 FTE		\$ 60,000
Benefits @ 33% of salary		<u>\$ 19,800</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$ 79,800</u>
• Certified Nursing Assistant		
(Based on an average of 10 weekly hours per survivor)		
11.5 FTEs		\$ 272,100
Benefits @ 33% of salary		<u>\$ 89,800</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$ 361,900</u>
• Social Work Case Manager		
(Based on an average of 3 weekly hours per survivor)		
3.5 FTEs		\$ 254,800
Benefits @ 33% of salary		<u>\$ 84,100</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$ 338,900</u>
• Pastoral Care		
(Based on an average of 1 weekly hour per survivor)		
1.0 FTE		\$ 60,000
Benefits @ 33% of salary		<u>\$ 19,800</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$ 79,800</u>
• Psycho-social Support		
(Based on an average of 1 weekly hour per survivor)		
1.0 FTE		\$ 82,000
Benefits @ 33% of salary		<u>\$ 27,100</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$ 109,100</u>
• Housing Allowance for Spouses		
3 cases @ \$ 3,000/month		<u>\$ 9,000</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$ 108,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 1,077,500</u>

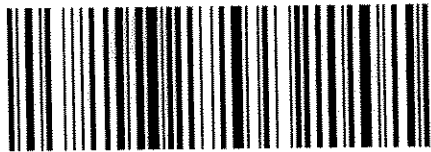
THE  
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