

## The Towers Receives EPA Grant to Build Community Garden

Thanks to a generous grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, The Towers will turn our basketball court, now decaying, into a beautiful, enjoyable and functional handicapped accessible fruit and vegetable garden. The Environmental Justice Grant, made possible through the Clean Air Act, will enable The Towers to improve our campus and our neighborhood overall. Adding green space will provide residents with a much needed venue for outdoor socialization, recreation and volunteerism.

Jennifer Bayer, Director of Development and Community Relations, explains, "This project will be beneficial in incalculable ways. Our garden will be transformative, for The Towers and for our neighborhood. An under-utilized area will become a gorgeous and enjoyable space. Residents, neighbors and partners will have easier access to healthy fruits and vegetables. Community partners will help make this garden into a hub for learning and volunteering. Ultimately, this exciting initiative will be an invaluable asset, not only to our residents, but also to our staff, our neighbors and the entire community. This project really complements our Meal Sustainability through Co-generation Project. It achieves the same goals: reducing food insecurity, improving the environment and providing outlets for socialization. We are so grateful to the Environmental Protection Agency for its support turning this vision into a reality."

In addition to growing fruits and vegetables, Morrison Living plans to provide nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations based on the produce grown. Demonstrations will be streamed for those who wish to watch them later from their apartments or remotely. Produce grown will be shared with the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry and other local organizations in need. Area



schools will be invited to volunteer and to participate in these classes.

There are plenty of ways that you can help with this exciting project. To volunteer please contact Sarah Moskowitz, Volunteer Coordinator, at 203-

772-1816, ext. 410 or [sarah@towerlane.org](mailto:sarah@towerlane.org). To donate, contact Jennifer Bayer, Director of Development and Community Relations, at 203-772-1816, ext. 290 or [jennifer@towerlane.org](mailto:jennifer@towerlane.org).



## Congratulations on the Promotion of Jesse Wescott to Associate Vice President

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Jesse Wescott to the position of Associate Vice President. In this new role Jesse will play a greater role in renovation projects to modernize our common spaces and apartments and our new Proactive Partner Model to support residents. President/CEO, Gus Keach-Longo, shared his thoughts on Jesse's new chapter. "One of the gifts of my career has been watching people grow. It has been such a pleasure to watch Jesse throughout the many years we have worked together. I've seen his internal drive keep him striving to always improve his skills and increase his knowledge. Though it may be true that many individuals can learn the necessary tasks of most any job, it is equally as true that what really counts in our human services field is that it is not the work we do, but how we do the work. I think we all have had moments when we see someone who brings so much more to the work than skills and

knowledge. I am proud of how Jesse makes our team stronger and our residents' lives better."

Jesse shared his excitement to expand his impact on The Towers, "It has been an amazing few years at The Towers and I am thrilled to increase the areas of our organization that I will support. As we further grow the operations teams, begin our transformative renovation project, and lead through our Proactive Partner Model, I have to say; I am truly excited. I will do my absolute best to continue to lead with quiet competence, to foster respect for all and to embrace innovation, while continuing to put the person before the task. I believe in this community's mission and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to help bring it to life each day here at The Towers."

Cindy Leffell, Board Chair, also added her well wishes for the future. "Congratulations to Jesse on this well-deserved advancement! It is such a



comfort knowing he and his excellent team are taking care of The Towers and our residents. Wishing him much more success."

### *"Love is in the Air" at The Towers!*

**Thanks to generous donations from two supporters of The Towers, every resident will receive sweet treats on Valentine's Day!**

The Towers Foundation is incredibly grateful for the support of our community members, which enables us to provide wonderful and meaningful life enrichment to all.



You too can support The Towers Foundation this Valentine's Day.

By making an \$18.00 donation to our Programming Fund, we will include a personalized card in your loved one's gift bag.

You can make your donation online at [www.towerlane.org](http://www.towerlane.org) or by contacting Nicole Merritt at 203-772-1816 ext. 180 or at [nicole@towerlane.org](mailto:nicole@towerlane.org) by February 10th.

## **Towers Foundation: *Loving Kindness in Action*** **Tributes**

Mr. William Barry III and Mrs. Helen Honorow in honor of  
Isidor Juda's 100th birthday  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Brumberger in memory of Bea Smirnoff  
Mr. Justin Cohen in memory of Minnie Cohen  
Mr. Scott Cohen in memory of Sidney Cohen  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Gaidosz in memory of Pat Folsom  
Mr. Isidor Juda in honor of Stacey DeLeonardo  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kahn in memory of Milton and Lillian Brownstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kahn in memory of Fran Wallnau  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Levine in memory of Ann Levine  
Ms. Sara Mag in memory of Sam Teitelman  
Mr. Stuart A. Margolis & Honorable Joan Margolis in honor of Kaila Margolis  
Mr. Stuart A. Margolis & Honorable Joan Margolis in memory of  
Leonard Margolis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Murray in memory of Harold Katz  
Ms. Sandra Naclerio in memory of Catherine Colomonic

Ms. Sandra Naclerio in memory of James Burns and Stephen Rediker  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerid O'Connell in honor of Elizabeth O'Connell's birthday  
Mr. Robert Teitelman & Mrs. Reesa Olins in memory of Sam Teitelman  
Ms. Sydney Perry in memory of Samuel Teitelman  
Ms. Sydney Perry in honor of Ina Silverman  
Mr. & Mrs. David Persky in memory of Bernard Barkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Reich in memory of Esther Reich  
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley F. Reiter in memory of Samuel and Ruth Teitelman  
Mrs. Elinor Shanbrom in memory of Sidney Shanbrom  
Mrs. Betty Swinkin in honor of Dorothy Greenwald's birthday  
Mr. & Mrs. David Teitelman in memory of Samuel Teitelman  
Ms. Roberta Vine in honor of Dorothy Greenwald's birthday  
Mr. Richard Wurtzel in honor of Michael Romeo's military service  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Zelinsky in honor of Jesse Wescott and Ryan Linsley  
Ms. Barbara Zuk in memory of James Bayne  
Ms. Barbara Zuk in honor of Bea Breiner

*Date range for Tribute List is November 29, 2021 – January 20, 2022*

*The Towers makes every effort to list donors as they wish. To make a correction, please contact Jennifer Bayer.  
To make a gift in someone's honor or memory, contact Jennifer Bayer, Director of Development and Community Relations,  
(203) 772-1816, ext. 290, [jennifer@towerlane.org](mailto:jennifer@towerlane.org). A beautiful card will be mailed to the recipient.*

## **Meal Sustainability Through Co-Generation**

Thanks to support from the Jewish Foundation's Elderly Grant Process and from the Jewish Federation's Allocation Process, The Towers has received some added support for our Meal Sustainability through Co-generation Project. Through this initiative The Towers has developed an innovative way to address food insecurity issues that often arise for those who are living on fixed incomes and for those who are no longer able to shop or cook for themselves.

The Towers is happy to share that our new co-generator is humming along and providing most of the energy needs to Tower One. The savings have started to be realized and are already being used to provide more people, more meals in our community. The Towers Meal Sustainability project provides 75% of the funding needs to make two healthy meals a day affordable for those who may not otherwise be able to afford them. Community support helps The Towers close the remaining 25% funding gap.

From September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, The Towers provided 19,949 meals through our Meal Sustainability Project. This outstanding goal could not be reached



*Gustave Keach-Longo, President/CEO,  
The Towers at Tower Lane, speaking  
at the Co-Gen Ribbon Cutting event,  
September 30, 2021*

without community support for our community's elderly population.

The impacts have been great. Jesse Wescott, Associate Vice President, explains, "These meals, for many of our residents, were very much a step toward a healthier lifestyle, leaving behind the days of microwaved pre-packaged items for freshly cooked balanced and nutritious Kosher meals. This project has allowed our team in the back and front of the house to truly foster their

passion for food and feed more people. With the added number of residents who can receive a meal subsidy and dine with us, we can stretch the amount of hours the dining room and café are open. Looking into the future, when we can safely open our dining spaces back up for communal dining, a new layer of impact will unfold as we can now welcome many new residents to break bread together.

Craig Sklar, Chair, Jewish Foundation Elderly Grants Committee, shared, "In 2020, the Jewish Foundation was fortunate to receive funds which allowed us to establish the Jewish Elderly Initiative, an annual grant to support the Jewish elderly in the New Haven area. A significant portion of the Jewish Elderly initiative funds have been allocated to support the vital work of the Towers. We hope to continue to aid their essential mission of providing food security to those in need and reducing the isolation of their residents, especially during this difficult pandemic."

To support this important program, contact Jennifer Bayer, Director of Development and Community Relations, at (203) 772-1816, ext. 290, or [jennifer@towerlane.org](mailto:jennifer@towerlane.org).



# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

