

JEWISH HOME AT ROCKLEIGH HEALING OF THE WORLD PROGRAM

BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In the spring of 2014, realizing that the Jewish Home at Rockleigh had many unused walkers and wheelchairs, they connected with Afya Foundation to collect the equipment and ship to disaster areas. The program then evolved into the Jewish Home residents repackaging unused medical supplies that were provided by Afya and then shipped to those in need throughout the world.

Based in Yonkers, New York, Afya is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to recover targeted surplus medical supplies, hospital equipment and humanitarian provisions from the healthcare, corporate and private communities in order to establish categorized inventory to support ongoing health initiatives in Africa, the Caribbean and disaster zones. Afya has connections with New York City hospitals who often discard unused surgical supplies following surgeries. They have a large warehouse where supplies are sorted. The Healing the World Program was the first time that Afya had partnered with another agency to repackage the supplies, let alone a skilled nursing facility.

With the assistance of students from Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, the Jewish Home residents have repackaged the supplies into packages which were then shipped overseas to be used as birthing kits, surgical kits, etc. The Home set up assembly lines to facilitate the program. Together, they repacked untouched sterile supplies, including robes, drapes, underpads, diapers, iodine packs, prep trays, gauze, masks, ambu bags to aid in breathing, surgical scrub brushes, and sponge sticks into clear plastic bags, marked with a sticker noting what's contained in the bags. Residents with all stages of dementia participated in the program because they were able to conduct the repetitive activity.

This program has evolved into a monthly activity during the academic year.

IMPACT OF THE HEALING THE WORLD PROGRAM

Significant program outcomes have included:

- The delivery of 25 walkers to the Philippines.
- The delivery of 15 boxes of supplies to West Africa.
- The provision of meaningful, purposeful activity to our residents which, in turn, improved their quality of life.
- The development of strong relationships between the seniors and students.

LOCAL NEWS

Jewish Home at Rockleigh Donates Medical Supplies

Rockleigh—A group of residents recently joined with representatives of the Afya Foundation, a medical supply recovery organization, which collects no longer needed and still usable medical and humanitarian supplies from hospitals, nursing homes, corporations and individuals and ships them in sea cargo containers to places such as the Philippines, Haiti and Africa. Led by Danielle Butin, who started Afya six years ago, JHR residents and staff members, Afya staff members and a group of seventh graders from Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County in New Milford joined together to repack untouched sterile supplies, including robes, drapes, underpads, diapers, iodine packs, prep trays, gauze, masks, ambu bags to aid in breathing, surgical scrub brushes and sponge sticks into clear plastic bags marked



with a sticker noting what's contained in the bags. These supplies will go to a hospital in Africa or Haiti, said Butin, to be used as birthing kits.

As the session began, Ron Aroesty, a member of the Board of

Directors at Jewish Home at Rockleigh, noted that his mother, father and uncle had all been residents at this facility. A few months ago, he realized that JHR had many supplies, including wheelchairs and walkers that were no

longer needed by the original residents. When he met Danielle Butin he realized that Afya could make good use of these supplies. The first batch of items including 15 rollator walkers and 10 rolling walkers went to the Philippines a few months ago because many members of the staff at JHR come from that part of the world originally and still have family members living there. In addition, Eric Riguerra, JHR's director of nursing had just returned from a mission to the Philippines, following the devastating typhoon that took place there late last year.

By the end of the most recent session, the supplies were repacked, clearly marked, and ready to be sent to Afya. Sunni Herman, JHR's executive vice president/CEO, noted that when you have two organizations committed to a project, the end result is a successful partnership. This is

the first time the sorting of items has been done at a site, said Butin. This will be the start of a meaningful intergenerational partnership with Solomon Schechter; the students will help the residents with the sorting in the future. In addition, said Herman, "We are reaching out to area hospitals so that we can receive supplies from them to use for sorting."

The residents enjoyed working on this project because many are happy to have the opportunity to be productive members of society.

In addition to donating the medical supplies and equipment, the Jewish Home Family raised \$13,789, which was contributed to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund through the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey to the Joint Distribution Committee.

For further information about the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, please call 201-784-1414.

Jewish Link, May 8, 2014

Jewish Home at Rockleigh Donates Medical Supplies to the Philippines and Other Countries

Sunni Herman, Executive Vice President and CEO, Jewish Home at Rockleigh

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, a group of residents joined with representatives of the Afya Foundation, a medical supply recovery organization which collects no-longer needed and still usable medical and humanitarian supplies from hospitals, nursing homes, corporations and individuals. They then ship them in sea cargo containers to countries such as the Philippines, Haiti and Africa. Led by Danielle Butin, who started Afya six years ago, Jewish Home at Rockleigh (JHR) residents and staff members, Afya staff members, and a group of seventh graders from Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County in New Milford joined together to repack untouched sterile supplies, including robes, drapes, underpads, diapers, iodine packs, prep trays, gauze, masks, ambu bags, surgical scrub brushes, and sponge sticks into clear plastic bags, marked with a sticker noting what's contained in the bags. These supplies will go to a hospital in Africa or Haiti, said Butin to be used as birthing kits.

As the session began, Ron Aroesty, a member of the Board of Directors at JHR, noted that his mother, father and uncle had all been residents at this facility. A few months ago, he realized that JHR had many supplies, including wheelchairs and walkers that were no longer needed by the original residents.



From Left: Ron Aroesty, Board Member; Bob Bardach, Assistant Administrator; Lorenzo Alvarez, Staff; C.J. Penaranda, Staff

When he met Danielle Butin he realized that Afya could make good use of these supplies. The first batch of items, including 15 rollator walkers and 10 rolling walkers, went to the

Philippines a few months ago because many members of the JHR staff come from that part of the world originally and still have family members living there. In addition, Eric Riguerra, JHR's Director of Nursing, had just returned from a mission to the Philippines, following the devastating typhoon that took place there late last year.

By the end of the most recent session, the supplies were repacked, clearly marked and ready to be sent to Afya. Sunni Herman, JHR's Executive Vice President and CEO, noted that when you have two organizations committed to a project, the end result is a successful partnership. "This is the first time the sorting of items has been done at a site," said Butin. This will be the start of a meaningful intergenerational partnership with Solomon Schechter. The students will help the residents with the sorting in the future. "We are also reaching out to area hospitals so that we can receive supplies from them to use for sorting," said Sunni.

The residents enjoyed working on this project because many are happy to have the opportunity to be productive. In addition to donating the medical supplies and equipment, the Jewish Home Family raised \$13,789 which was contributed to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund through the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey to the Joint Distribution Committee.



From Left: Residents Rose Astrita, Sophie Beldner, Nora Kaufman, Hon Hantgan, Theresa Spagnuolo, and staff member Cathy Crowl