PAST AWARD WINNERS

2017	Prevention & Wellness Trust Fund, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
2016	Support And Services at Home (SASH), Cathedral Square Corporation
2015	Student-Run Free Clinic Project Eldercare Program, University of California, San Diego
2014	Mobile Medicare Health Clinics, University of the Pacific
2013	Age-Friendly New York City, A Partnership between the Office of the Mayor, New York City Council, and New York Academy of Medicine
2012	Livable Community Initiative, City of Kingsport
2012	Healthy Steps in Silicon Valley, The Health Trust
2011	PEARLS, University of Washington, Health Promotion Research Center
2010	Area Geriatric Education Scholars Program for Upper Peninsula Youth (AGES), Upper Peninsula Health Education Corporation
2009	PREPARE: Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care, Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging
2008	Guided Care: Improving Chronic Care for High Risk Seniors, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
2007	The Dancing Heart Program, Kairos Dance Theatre
2006	Brain Get Your Mind Moving, New England Cognitive Center
2005	Legacy Corps for Health and Independent Living, University of Maryland, Center on Aging
2004	Dignified Transportation for Seniors, Independent Transportation Network
2003	Alzheimer's Health Education Initiative, Alzheimer's Association
2002	Kinship Support Network, Edgewood Center for Children and Families
2001	Groceries to Go, Elder Services Network
2000	Experience Corps, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Center on Aging and Health
2000	Assistive Equipment Demonstration Project, University of Massachusetts, Gerontology Institute
1999	Senior Wellness Project, Northshore Senior Center
1998	A Matter of Balance, Boston University, Royal Center for Enhancement of Late-Life Function

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2018
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2018 AWARD WINNER

Jewish Home Family's Parkinson's Center

Jewish Home Family, Rockleigh, New Jersey

PROGRAM

The Jewish Home Family is a multifaceted eldercare system serving Bergen, Hudson, and Rockland counties in New Jersey and New York. The Jewish Home Family, and its constituent organizations, seeks to provide the best care, service, and guidance for the benefit of older adults and their families, at home and in its facilities, now and into the future, regardless of race, religion, or financial ability.

In 2016, staying true to its mission, the Jewish Home Family's Parkinson's Center (Parkinson's Center) was established to provide care for those living with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. The Parkinson's Center is a comprehensive program that offers a suite of services addressing individual and holistic needs. It is the first of its kind in the region and was created in response to the large number of people in the area with the disease.

The Parkinson's Center offers a broad approach and embraces four key elements: clinical excellence, education, support, and connection to research. For the provision of care for those living and cared for at all Jewish Home Family sites, a Parkinson's protocol was developed in collaboration with the Parkinson's Center medical director, and Jewish Home Family staff.
Central to the protocol is a regular interdisciplinary review of care with a neurologist, primary physician, and rehabilitation and nursing teams. Medical staff is comprised of community physicians from local hospitals who have practice privileges at the Parkinson's Center. The Parkinson's protocol includes: 1) assessment tools; 2) dietary recommendations; 3) medication management; 4) sleep awareness; 5) pain management;
6) fall prevention; 7) restorative exercises; 8) adaptive devices; and 9) social work interventions.

In addition, specialized rehabilitation activities have been developed and are provided by therapy staff. These include the: 1) BIG and LOUD therapy program to improve function and slow motor deterioration; 2) SPEAK OUT speech therapy program to enhance voice and volume; 3) Rock Steady Boxing classes to improve physical health, agility, and daily functioning;
4) diaphragmatic breathing;
5) strengthening exercises;
6) flexibility training; 7) balance and gait training; 8) cognitive therapy; and 9) a virtual rehabilitation platform designed to treat neuromotor and/or orthopedic impairments. Other focused Parkinson's specific activities include Pilates, music therapy, dance, meditation, and relaxation.

OUTCOMES

Forty residents participate in the Parkinson's Center, and over 350 team members have been trained to understand the disease, better identify individuals with Parkinson's, and be exposed to and utilize specific tools and techniques that meet the needs of their residents. Twenty-five rehabilitation and recreation staff have been certified in BIG and LOUD, SPEAK OUT, Tai Chi for Parkinson's, and the MOVE and SHOUT programs. Many of them have also become Rock Steady Boxing coaches. Rock Steady Boxing classes have quadrupled in volume to 55 participants since its inception; 85% of participants have either stayed the same or improved in most, or all, of their physical and cognitive indicators.

As a new program, education and training for Jewish Home Family staff, patients and their family members, and the entire community is essential to the success of the Parkinson's Center, as is raising awareness around Parkinson's disease and the resources the Parkinson's Center offers. To date, the Parkinson's Center has offered two symposia drawing national researchers, two community seminars, and monthly support groups for individuals with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Collectively these educational and outreach opportunities have drawn nearly 400 attendees.

DISSEMINATION

In the last two years, the Parkinson's Center has become the "go-to" program in the region for education, support, and resources for those affected by Parkinson's disease. Through social media, e-blasts, and newsletters, the Parkinson's Center has disseminated information regarding Parkinson's disease. They have also connected individuals to research opportunities and to the Jewish Home Family through attendance at support groups and wellness programs.

To learn more, please contact:

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DEDICATION

The Award for Excellence in Program Innovation was established by an endowment from Archstone Foundation, to the Aging & Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association, to recognize best practice models in gerontology and geriatrics. National programs that innovatively link academic theory with applied practice in the field of public health and aging are considered annually for this award. It is our hope that these model programs will be replicated and will continue to be evaluated in an effort to enhance services for older people throughout the United States.

To Irena Pesis-Katz, PhD, Chair of the Archstone Foundation Award Selection Committee, and the other members of the selection advisory committee, we extend our deep appreciation for their efforts in reviewing the nominations and selecting the outstanding program to receive this year's award.

To the winner of the 2018 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation, all the nominees, and to all who participated in the award process as applicants or reviewers, we offer our best wishes for continued success in their commitment to develop service models in the field of aging and public health.

Joseph F. Prevratil, JD
President & Chief Executive Officer
Archstone Foundation

Mary Gallant, PhD, MPH
Chair, Aging & Public Health Section
American Public Health Association