

Category: Replicable Programming-Disabilities Services

Jewish Federation & Family Services, Orange County

Agency Budget: \$6,806,912

Contact information: Lauren Gavshon, PsyD  
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Staff listing by title (of staff involved in program):

Coordinator, Special Needs: Reega Neutel, MSW

Summary description of program:

Mandel House is not only a milestone for the Orange County Jewish community, but serves as a model for the Regional Center of Orange County for future group homes. The home was purchased without a mortgage, renovated, decorated and furnished entirely by donors from the Jewish community. Congregations and chavurahs adopted rooms in the home to assist in completing the renovations. Six adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities live in the home, and may reside there for the remainder of their lives. The house is staffed by highly-trained individuals who provide assistance with activities of daily living, transportation and any other needs the residents have. The program also includes a focus on wellness: nutritional education, exercise with certified trainers, organic gardening and participation in seasonal events.

Jewish organizations and volunteers partner with Mandel House to provide Jewish cultural activities and social programming in the home, with the goals of building a Jewish community around the residents. Residents have the opportunity to experience Jewish life through Shabbat dinners, Hanukkah menorah lightings and High Holiday observances. Volunteers assist with projects such as crafts, cooking, discussion groups and social outings. The residents themselves are encouraged to volunteer for other organizations as well.

Total program or production cost if applicable and funding sources:

The cost of the program is \$25,482 per year. The operation of the home is funded by private donations, ongoing fundraising events and the Regional Center of Orange County, sparing families the typical high costs of private residential care.

A pdf file or link pertaining to the program as part of the strategy: please see attachment outlining the innovative enrichment/wellness program developed for the residential home.

List of 3 major outcomes and evaluation method(s) used to determine those outcomes:

1. Engage community volunteers
  - Tracked at every engagement opportunity, over 100 volunteers worked in this program in 2015.
2. Create a timeline and tool for evaluation of outcomes for residential enrichment/wellness program
  - Staff completes a quarterly progress report that serves as a monitoring system that tracks actions and accomplishments related the enrichment/wellness program focusing on resident satisfaction with outcomes. 90% of residents participate in targeted activities.
3. Set program objectives and goals in developing residential enrichment/wellness program
  - The elements and components of the monthly activity calendar on an individual and group level is shared with the families with special needs residents. Special Needs Coordinator attends monthly activity meetings and Regional Center of Orange County annual and semi- annual reviews with administrator and direct support staff.