

Gemilut Chesed Working Group
Report to the Community
2022

Goal: To support Or Shalom members in times of need by providing direct help for their physical, emotional, and/or spiritual well-being.

The Gemilut Chesed Working Group is a hands-on group of four committee members and more than one hundred volunteers who provide temporary support to Or Shalom members in these areas:

- Preparing and delivering meals
- Visiting in homes, hospitals, care homes
- Making friendly phone calls
- Keeping in touch via email
- Driving to appointments
- Running errands
- Grocery shopping
- Caring for a pet
- Supporting the bereaved and their families

During this past year, we have needed volunteers in all these areas – except caring for a pet! We are always proud of the response we get when the call is put out for willing workers. In one case we were able to provide weekly meals to a family for several months.

We also supported ten mourning families with meals of consolation, condolence cards, shiva set-up, memorial candles, and sheloshim gatherings.

Ann Daskal continues to attend monthly meetings of the Jewish Federation's senior service affiliated organizations to share information and coordinate services for seniors. We partnered with this group to provide Chanukah gift boxes for our members.

Our goals for next year are to

- update our volunteer lists
- devise a way to query all new members about their interest in volunteering

- increase the congregation's understanding of what we do and how to access our help
- continue to provide the loving support our members need to the best of our ability

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Gill
Fran Ritch
Ann Daskal
Harriett Lemer