

*For Immediate Release:*

*Contact: Michelle Pipia-Stiles  
212/523-4044*

*Comprehensive Patient Care Includes Patient's Pets at Beth Israel*

**Beth Israel Medical Center Receives Three-Year Grant from  
Amie's Place Foundation  
To Establish Pet Care Assistance Program for  
Hospitalized Patients**

New York, NY (December 17, 2008) For people all over the world, there is no greater companion than a pet. Studies have shown that having a pet can reduce stress, and enhance physical and emotional healing. For many isolated frail individuals it is their pets that give purpose to their lives, and even a reason to live. But what happens if you are a pet owner and need to be hospitalized for some time—and are without family or support to take care of your pet while you are hospitalized?

When pets matter, they matter deeply. That is why Amie's Place Foundation was created: to recognize, support and preserve the unique and healing bond between a beloved pet and its human companion. And ironically because of the strength of this bond, it is not uncommon for medically at-risk individuals to refuse vitally needed care unless they are assured their pet will be cared for.

In an effort to help Beth Israel Medical Center comprehensively respond to these individuals, Amie's Place Foundation has awarded a three-year grant of \$182,700 to the Medical Center's Social Work and Volunteer Services Department to establish "The Amie's Place Patient's Pet Care Program at Beth Israel." This will enable the hospital to recruit, train and supervise volunteers who will be available to provide care to the pets of Beth Israel patients.

Fran Silverman, director of social work and homecare services at Beth Israel says, "We are so thankful for the generosity of Amie's Place Foundation in their support of this effort. Knowing that their pets are cared for through the Amie's Place Patient's Pet Care Program will alleviate their concerns, facilitate their acceptance of medical care and assist in their overall well-being and recovery process."

The founder of Amie's Place Foundation, who wishes to remain anonymous, says, "The program will implement services that will utilize volunteers to provide food, water, walking and other necessary services for pets while their human companions are hospitalized. This, in turn, will allow patients to focus on their

own recovery rather than worry about the safety and well-being of their beloved pets.”

If you would like to become a volunteer in our Patient’s Pet Care Program, please contact Anne Moses at 212 420-4247.

**About Beth Israel Medical Center -- <http://www.bethisraelny.org>**

Beth Israel Medical Center is a 1,106-bed, full-service tertiary teaching hospital that was founded on Manhattan's Lower East Side before the turn of the 20th century. Beth Israel originally was dedicated to serving a vulnerable population in that community. Now a century later, the Medical Center serves individuals and families from every walk of life throughout New York City and beyond.

**About Amie’s Place Foundation -- <http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org>**

Amie’s Place Foundation was established to fund organizations that provide programs for people who need help caring for their pets, who risk losing them during times of crisis, and who face barriers limiting access to their pets when they most need each other. In light of the profound healing effect that pets have on individuals who are going through a difficult, sometimes life-changing event, the Foundation works to provide necessary pet-care assistance and to promote public awareness of the unique bond a beloved pet and its human companion share. Grants have funded the first senior center and hospital-based programs in New York City and are models for replication by other institutions. Amie’s Place Foundation has funded a limited number of programs which it believes can serve as best practice models for programs around the nation to prevent the unnecessary separation of people and pets who need each other.