



132 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001, 212-273-5200; www.jasa.org

CONTACT: Nickie Falk
212-273-5301 (office)
201-788-7182 (cell)
nfalk@jasa.org

JASA's PETS Project Receives Second Major Grant from Amie's Place Foundation

(New York, NY – February 14, 2011) The Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$50,000 grant from Amie's Place Foundation to support its Pets and Elder Team Support (PETS) Project. "There's no doubt that pets play a crucial role in maintaining the mental and physical health of seniors, especially those living alone and with limited opportunities for social engagement," said Aileen Gitelson, Chief Executive Officer, in acknowledging the grant. "JASA is thrilled to receive its second grant from Amie's Place Foundation, which brings the Foundation's total support to \$90,000, so that we can continue our successful outreach to the elderly and their beloved companions."

Seniors with pets suffer less from depression, require fewer doctors' visits, and have lower blood pressure than those without an animal companion. Although the benefits of pet ownership for seniors are great, many older adults have limited physical and financial resources, making it difficult to provide their pets with adequate ongoing care. JASA created its PETS Project in 1997 to address this problem through the recruitment and mobilization of more than 130 volunteers who perform basic pet care tasks for Manhattan seniors in the program. The PETS Project has also built relationships with local pet care professionals and provides referrals for veterinarians or groomers. In addition to assistance with pet care tasks, PETS Project clients also receive clinical social work services and partial financial support for their pet care expenses.

About the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged

The Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA) was established in 1968 and today is one of the largest community-based, voluntary social service agencies serving the aged in the United States. Its mission is to sustain and enrich the lives of the aging in the New York metropolitan area so that they can remain in the community with dignity and autonomy. JASA's comprehensive and integrated network of services provides a continuum of community care for the elderly, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity in New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties.

<http://www.jasa.org>

About Amie's Place Foundation

It all began in 1982 in Long Beach, Long Island, New York, with the exceptional work of Lewis J. Gelfand, DVM who provides pet care treatment and assistance, for people too ill to care for their pets. Based on Dr. Gelfand's work, 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. When pets matter, they matter deeply. 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 at The Caring Community and St. Vincent's Hospital, in Greenwich Village, New York City. Amie's Place Foundation has funded programs that include Beth Israel Hospital, JASA, Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals and Search and Care, which it believes can also serve as best practice models for programs around the nation to prevent the unnecessary separation of people and pets that need each other.

<http://www.amiesplacefoundation.org>

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