



Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visiting Homemaker's CHEER Program for the Elderly Receives Grant Award From the Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund

The Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund has awarded a \$2,000 grant to CHEER, the flagship program of Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County.

CHEER makes it possible for frail older people to live safely at home even if they are limited in their ability to perform routine household tasks and have no family available. CHEER provides them with weekly visits by aides who help with those essential activities that they cannot do on their own. Typically CHEER aides will do the grocery shopping, run errands, do the laundry, and change the bed linens. Very importantly CHEER aides spot problems and arrange for help before crises develop. They bring each of their clients the warmth of knowing that someone cares and the reassurance that someone is there.

“We are so grateful to the Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund for its generous support,” said Gail Ryan, Executive Director of Visiting Homemaker. “Today people are living longer than ever, but they don’t want to forfeit their independence. CHEER helps them fulfill their wishes and remain living independently at home. The Lillian Pitkin Schenck Fund is truly sensitive to the needs of our community’s seniors, especially during this time of economic hardship. This grant will help us meet the challenge of serving Bergen County’s proud but vulnerable older adults.”

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Since 1954, Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County has been helping the frail elderly and sick or disabled individuals of all ages in need of assistance to remain living at home. It is a non-profit agency provides high quality, individualized home care including certified health aides, companions and light housekeeping, help with hospital or post surgery discharge, help so that a disabled person can attend special family occasions, and other home care services. For further information about CHEER or the agency's other services or to request assistance contact Gail Ryan, Executive Director, 201-488-0041, ext. 23, ryan@vhsbc.com.

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