

iVolunteer Announces First Annual Purim Party

iVolunteer will be hosting its first annual Purim Party on March 20, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the 92nd Street Y (1395 Lexington Ave) in Manhattan. This event is an opportunity for our friends and neighbors to join together for an evening of merriment while we celebrate the Purim holiday. There will be great food, music, and activities to participate in including a reading of the *Megilla*.

iVolunteer began in September 2007 and consists of a dynamic team of over 35 volunteers who visit Holocaust survivors in their homes throughout Manhattan.



The program's name, iVolunteer, illustrates the goal of this unique visiting program, which brings caring neighborhood volunteers into the homes of Holocaust survivors. During their visits, volunteers read to survivors, escort them to doctors' appointments and assist with shopping and light household tasks. These weekly visits enrich the lives of survivors and volunteers alike, and guarantee that the experience of the Holocaust will not be forgotten. iVolunteer fosters a sense of community by providing both survivors and volunteers with social events and special programs. These programs include monthly Friday night dinners for the volunteers and luncheons for survivors.



iVolunteer volunteers come from all walks of life. Many of them are professionals who want to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Others are local high school and college students who are excited by the chance to reach across the generations and establish a friendship with a senior who has a uniquely individual experience.

All iVolunteer volunteers are screened and trained prior to beginning their home visits. In particular, the volunteers are trained to identify the Holocaust survivor's other social service needs, so that iVolunteer can bring in an outreach caseworker to help the senior access additional benefits and services when necessary. Volunteers communicate regularly with the iVolunteer directors, Tzvi and Elisheva Tauby, who work to ensure that every senior, and every volunteer, is satisfied with and gaining from the relationship. Mrs. Tauby also makes an initial assessment visit to each senior's home in order to assess his/her needs and concerns. "When I visit with a survivor, I feel so privileged to be able to get to know such unbelievable people and hope to assist them in any way I can," Tauby explains. "When I speak with volunteers, they often say that they got a lot more than they gave."

If you know of a Holocaust survivor who would like to be a part of this program, or if you would like to participate in an iVolunteer initiative, please call (646) 461-7748, or e-mail sheva@ivolunteerny.com.