



## The Association of Jewish Refugees

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

[www.ajr.org.uk](http://www.ajr.org.uk)

March / April 2013

### **New dementia service for Holocaust refugees and survivors**

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) is delighted to announce the introduction of a new volunteer befriending service for Holocaust refugees and survivors suffering with dementia.

The project, which is being sponsored by Six Point Foundation (SPF), will provide much needed “one to one” visits from volunteers who have received the relevant training in dementia in order to befriend on a regular basis, use appropriate resources where necessary and be able to “step into the world” of a dementia sufferer.

Some vulnerable clients may have no family or anyone who is able to visit; they are lonely and isolated and this valuable befriending service may be the only personal contact a client has all week.

The term 'dementia' is used to describe the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by specific diseases and conditions. Symptoms of dementia include loss of memory, confusion and problems with speech and understanding

People with dementia in hospitals are dying at a significantly higher rate than people without the condition according to a new report released by the Care Quality Commission earlier this month. More than one in 10 people currently living with dementia at home will go in to long term care too early due to a lack of support and awareness of where to go for help.

Effective communication, co-operation and co-ordination between all those involved in caring for a person with dementia are essential for providing a level of care that assures dignity and quality of life for the person with dementia and their carers.

Launching the service AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman said: “Having identified the need for specialised dementia services we are very grateful to SPF in helping us deliver this ground-breaking initiative that will enhance the lives of those of some of our most vulnerable members and those of our partner agencies.”

If you are interested in learning about dementia and being involved in this rewarding volunteer opportunity by becoming a volunteer befriender, please contact Lesley Woolfe at the AJR at [lesley@ajr.org.uk](mailto:lesley@ajr.org.uk) or 07985 422372.

#### **Notes on the AJR and SPF for Editors:**

The AJR is the leading national charitable organisation exclusively delivering social and welfare services, including financial assistance, to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression as well as their dependants and descendants living in Great Britain.

SPF is a time-limited grant-making foundation which exists to enhance the quality of life of UK-based Jewish Holocaust survivors and refugees, with an emphasis on those facing difficult financial circumstances.