

Chelsea Jewish Foundation CEO receives Community Organizer Award

The All-Chelsea Awards Committee recently presented Barry Berman, CEO of the Chelsea Jewish Foundation, with its Community-Based Organization Person of the Year award in recognition of his not-for-profit services in the senior healthcare industry.

"The Chelsea Jewish Foundation with Barry at the helm has a storied history of providing new ways to help people age with dignity," said City Manager Jay Ash, the coordinator of the All-Chelsea Awards Committee. "This honor acknowledges Barry's leadership as he has guided so many important advances in the care of our

most vulnerable due to his tireless approach that inspires all of use to do better as well."

This year, the Chelsea Jewish Foundation has expanded its program base to augment its existing services, which includes the Chelsea Jewish Nursing Home, the Manuel R. Grell Home Care agency, and two assisted living facilities: the Cohen-Florence-Levine Estates and the Florence & Chafetz Home for Specialized Care. With the continued development of the Dr. Matthew S. Shwartz Hospice and the launching of the Gilda & Bob Richman Personal Care agency, the organization's home care

services now meet the needs of those in Chelsea and its surrounding communities.

Berman, who has been with the Chelsea Jewish Foundation for the past 33 years, headed the effort to develop the Leonard Florence Center for Living, a cutting-edge skilled nursing home due to open in February 2010 that will follow the Green House® model of revolutionizing long-term care by replacing large nursing institutions with a home environment complete with private rooms and baths for each resident. Along with serving the elderly and providing short-term rehabilitation, the Leonard Florence Center for

Living also will have separate residences for those living with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and multiple sclerosis.

"When Barry approached us with the concept of bringing the first urban Green House model to Chelsea, we couldn't get on board quick enough," said Ash. "It is an honor to work with him because, time and again, his visions on a better quality of life for seniors have become reality."

For more information on the Chelsea Jewish Foundation, call 617-884-6766 or visit www.chelseajewishfoundation.org.