We would like to introduce you to two individuals who have found the true meaning of community through JCS.

MEET Howard

A Providence native and life-long Red Sox fan, Howard has had the good fortune to live a long and healthy life until 2 years ago when, at age 88, he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. No longer able to drive and reliant on the use of a cane or walker to prevent falls, Howard insists on staying in the home he shared with his wife of 58 years until her death five years ago. These last five years have been the hardest of my life,” Howard said, “I’ve felt very alone, even before the COVID hit.” He started attending the Kosher Senior Café about two years after his wife died. Howard said, “I think I first went there for the hot meals but kept going for the company.” When he had to stop driving and felt it was too dangerous to walk unsupervised, he began to receive Kosher Meals on Wheels. Friendly volunteers delivered meals right to his home.

“That was when I met Whitney who delivered my meal every Tuesday.”

Whitney first learned about JCS’ volunteer opportunities when her mother, a resident of a local nursing home, received visits and gifts from JERI (Jewish Eldercare of RI). Immediately inspired by the work that JERI was doing, Whitney looked for ways to give back to the community that had long supported her family. This led to her volunteering with Kosher Meals on Wheels, where she met Howard. The pair discovered that they were members of the same Temple and that Whitney had gone to Hebrew school with Howard's son, who now lives on the West Coast. Whitney said, “We hit it off right away. I had lost my father to cancer at about the same time that Howard lost his wife. We are great company for each other, and a bonus support system. We are both Red Sox fans as well, so there is always something to talk about. We've built a note-worthy friendship that I will forever cherish. To me, this is the true meaning of community.”

With your continued support, we CAN and WILL continue to make connections for more members of our community, just like Howard and Whitney. Please consider making your gift to JCS today.

On behalf of Howard and Whitney, THANK YOU.