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Contact: Ian Schraier, Public Relations + Communications Manager

516-484-1545 | ext. 132

ischraier@sjcc.org

Annual Friendship Circle Luncheon Raises Significant Funds for Adult Day Programs

Featured Guest Marisa Tomei Unites With Community to Help Families Affected By Neurodegenerative Diseases

East Hills, N.Y. (Oct. 11, 2024) – On Wednesday, October 9, Sid Jacobson JCC held its 21st annual Friendship Circle Luncheon at The Lannin at Eisenhower Park, where over 500 supporters gathered to champion the agency’s Adult Day programs, and its vital mission of improving the lives of those with dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders, and their caregivers.

Honoring the mother-daughter pair of **Rita Levy** and **Rebecca Levy** for their ongoing philanthropic work with SJJCC, along with the Tikkun Olam Award recipient, **Jemi Goldstein**, the luncheon was an overwhelming success, raising nearly \$400,000 for a mission that was carried forward by the vision and dedication of Co-Chairs **Gabby Goodman** and **Andrea Stein**.

Both **Rita Levy** and **Rebecca Levy** shared, “We are so grateful to be a part of Sid Jacobson JCC and to be able to support the Adult Day programs, helping individuals and family members suffering from neurodegenerative diseases. We have seen how this illness affects so many of us in devastating ways. The Adult Day programs are a source of hope, help, and peace.”

Tikkun Olam Award recipient **Jemi Goldstein** echoed similar sentiments, stating, “Sid Jacobson JCC is the gateway to resources required for navigating the journey traveled by families dealing with neurodegenerative disorders. The JCC provides these families with support, safety, and acknowledgment of their challenges. The Friendship Circle Luncheon provides the vital funds necessary to support this mission.”

The event featured Academy Award-winning actress **Marisa Tomei**, who shared her enthusiasm for the JCC's mission: "I'm so happy to be here to help raise funds for the JCC's mission to support patients and families with neurodegenerative disorders. The JCC's dedication to improve the quality of life for those living with these complicated and difficult conditions is such important, life-saving work."

It also included a poignant video titled, "There Is Help at Sid Jacobson JCC," chronicling the experiences of **Cynthia Caffey**, a member of SJJCC's Adult Day program, through the lens of her daughter, **Ashley**. The video highlighted the critical support provided by the JCC for families navigating the challenges of neurodegenerative disorders. You can view the heart-wrenching story on YouTube at this [link](#).

Taylor Graf, LCSW, Associate Executive Director, Specialized Services, added, "It truly takes a village. Any neurodegenerative disease is cruel, progressive, and takes everything away from someone's life. Coming together in a beautiful setting to raise awareness and funds for this level of programming and support truly saves lives. Today was a huge step in saving those lives."

For more information about SJJCC's Adult Day programs, please visit SJJCC.org/adultday.

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About Sid Jacobson JCC

Sid Jacobson JCC (sjcc.org) in East Hills provides a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts, and social service programs. SJJCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage, and culture, and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community. See community differently, "Like" the JCC on Facebook (facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc).

Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.