James J. Peters “Minders Keepers” Group Garners Brookdale Grant

Bronx, NY – The James J. Peters “Minders Keepers” Program has been selected as a recipient of a grant from the Brookdale Foundation. In its second year of operation, the Minders Keepers Program provides a structured and stimulating program for elderly veterans who are suffering from early memory loss and dementia related disorders. The announcement serves to recognize the significant accomplishments of this important program and ensures its continued operation.

“We were thrilled to receive word of funding for this very special program,” stated Medical Center Director, MaryAnn Musumeci, “It is a truly collaborative effort, utilizing expertise from a broad cross-section of clinical resources. It has proven to be a very useful tool in addressing the needs of this unique patient population.”

Initiated by JJPVAMC Social Workers Linda Torres and Helen Bradley, the program was conceived to address the very special needs of aging veterans who have exhibited signs of memory loss and dementia. Veterans who have been diagnosed with minimal cognitive impairment, dementia secondary to vascular disease, and dementia secondary to Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s are considered for admission to the program.

“We ask that veterans are motivated to embark on a learning adventure,” explained Social Worker and Program Coordinator, Linda Torres, “It is our hope to provide an environment in which our patients are empowered while they develop skills and strategies to maintain and improve their present level of functioning.”
The Minders Keepers program meets 1 day per week, averaging 4 hours per day. The program runs on an on-going basis and includes training in improving cognitive skills; learning strategies to compensate for impairment; computer skills training; meditation; Yoga; relaxation techniques; as well as art and music therapy.

The Brookdale Foundation Group consists of the Brookdale Foundation, Glendale Foundation, and Ramapo Trust. All three were endowed by the Schwartz family and all share a common outlook and purpose: to enhance the quality of life of America’s elderly. To learn more about the Brookdale Foundation, and their commitment to America’s elderly, check their website at:
http://www.brookdalefoundation.org/

For more information related to this program or the James Peters VA Medical Center, please contact Jim Connell, Public Affairs Officer, at 718.584.9000, Ext. 6620.

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