



ENGAGEMENT & ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (EEP)



Creative Arts Programs
Engaging Social Activities
Community Outings & Trips

JESPY's Engagement & Enrichment Program offers supportive outlets that enable clients to foster genuine connections and uncover their talents. Specially-designed programs provide activities that enhance clients' well-being and encourage socialization. The breadth of well-rounded recreational programs include opportunities for creativity, community involvement, and inclusion.

Onsite Programming

Creative & Expressive Arts

Clients participate daily in sessions that give them opportunities for creative self-expression, inventiveness, and alternative ways to explore and discover talents.

JESPY offers a wide range of creative workshops and groups that include Creative Writing/ Journaling, Specialized Art, Zumba, Painting, and Book Club. Clients interested in musical expression can participate in Theater and Chorus, as well as Piano and Voice Lessons. These activities enrich clients' skill-based learning to further their creative interests.



Social Wellness

To promote wellness and provide outlets to alleviate stress and anxiety, JESPY offers clients sessions in Yoga, Meditation, Pet Therapy, and Relationship & Boundaries Chats. To further encourage interaction and creativity, additional activities include: Community Dinners – Every Friday; Cooking – Twice per month; Fiber Arts - Weekly; Sewing – Twice per month; Photography – Twice per month.

Critical Thinking

To learn to analyze information and develop an opinion or judgement, clients participate in trivia and discussion sessions. Clients also explore various aspects of technology during workshops such as 'iPad Tech'.

Independent Activities

The Engagement & Enrichment Program also offers independent activities for clients who prefer to participate in something other than a structured session. There are impromptu groups and activities - such as patio sessions to discuss recent events; card games; drawing opportunities; and Smart Board activities which clients can do independently.

Taking Trips

Trips offer JESPY clients the opportunity to travel and gain new experiences. Weekday trips are taken locally for shopping, meals at restaurants, bowling, and more.

JUDI House Fund

The JUDI House Fund, which was created by Arthur Schechner in memory of his wife and former JESPY Board President Judith, sponsors interactive and engaging trips for clients. Outings have included a fishing trip to Belmar, NJ, Seaton Hackney Stables, New Year's Eve celebrations, Harry Potter on Broadway, and a visit to the 911 Memorial & Museum in New York City.

Overnight Trips

JESPY overnight trips encourage independence, socialization, and money management. Clients have enjoyed overnight trips to Disney in Orlando, Florida, Atlantic City, Boston, Delaware, and Salem, Massachusetts.



Community Integration

JESPY clients enjoy participating in local events where they have the opportunity to immerse themselves and their creative talents as members of the larger community. Their participation has enabled clients to interact with their neighbors, earn money, and showcase their talents.



Clients in EEP's Photography Club have participated in and sold their photography at photo exhibits during Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Clients have also displayed and sold their art and crafts at the SOMA (South Orange/Maplewood) Studio Tour.

The JESPY chorus have sung carols at the local holiday markets in Maplewood and South Orange. They have also performed at a residence for senior citizens in West Orange.



Learning & Education – Organizations such as Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, South Orange Police Department, Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center, and Temple B'nai Abraham, visit JESPY clients to conduct sessions that enhance client knowledge. Sessions have included Jewish Learning, health and public safety, and the importance of voting.

GROUPS

In order to provide a variety of options for personal development, hobbies, and community inclusion, several groups are available for client participation. Groups include: Young Adult Group, Happy & Mature Group, We Care Group, Men's Group, Lincoln's Stroll Walking Group, Women's Book Club, Cathy's Fiber Arts Group, and Ellen's Dinner Club.



Giving Back

JESPY's We Care group, which brings together both fundraising and social action, helps others in need by filling the community fridge in Maplewood with grocery items. The group also collects and then donates food items to the community food pantry, Our Lady of Sorrows Food Bank in Maplewood and South Orange, and has donated dental items to a Women's homeless shelter in Montclair.



As part of the Warmth Project, clients annually place items such as mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves throughout downtown South Orange for those in need during the winter. Clients in the EEP program also participated in their 'Little Black Cat food shelter donation program', donating pet food to A Perfect World shelter and Bloomfield Animal Shelter. In addition, they held a fundraiser for school supplies and created a food basket for a women's shelter. Clients also made greeting cards for crossing guards during Crossing Guard Appreciation Week.

JESPY's Omega Leo Club, which was officially inducted as part of the South Orange Lions Club, assisted with clean up at Founders Park in South Orange. Following a successful sock drive, they donated socks to Isaiah House in East Orange.

The JESPY Café is held in JUDI House, a multi-purpose building that houses many of JESPY's recreational, cultural arts, and wellness activities. The Café, which is a meeting place where clients socialize, play games, or listen to music, is open on weekdays from 3:00pm to 8:00pm and on the weekend from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Special events include: Birthday Club, Cooking Made Easy, Movie Matinee/Night, Board Game Night, and Sports Night.



JESPY's Enrichment & Engagement Program offers a well-rounded and supportive approach to building clients' confidence to engage in recreation, social, and community-building activities.



“It’s really good to be with other people at JESPY and participating in new activities and learning new skills. I have a lot of friends. We play volleyball, basketball, track & field, and pickleball.”

— Dominique B., *JESPY Client*

“I think JESPY is a great place to hang out with friends and do a lot of the things I want to do for myself. . . things like poetry, sports, and all of the outings and overnight trips.”

— Tommy F., *JESPY Client*

JESPY House is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization, founded in South Orange in 1978 to serve the needs of adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

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