

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL



June 2012

Dear Friend/Neighbor,

We are pleased to announce that St. Elizabeth's Medical Center this month becomes home to Boston's first and only Bikur Cholim room. The hospital, a major affiliate of Tufts University School of Medicine, is located within the Eruv and steps from the local Jewish communities in Brighton, Brookline and Newton. ROFEH International of Brookline and St. Elizabeth's are partnering together, with generous support from Wingate Healthcare of Needham, and we are proud and humbled to be the first hospital in Boston to provide our observant and Orthodox Jewish families with this accommodation.

Our hope is that the Orthodox Jewish families of the greater Boston area never again will be stranded in a hospital over Shabbat or Yom Tov, either as a patient, patient's family member or as a new or expectant parent. When you and your family need expert medical care, compassion and comfort, you should not have to struggle to keep the Mitzvot of Shabbat and Yom Tov.

In June, St. Elizabeth's will open the Bikur Cholim room on Seton 6 East, adjacent to an inpatient unit and centrally located. This would not have been possible without the generosity of two organizations. First ROFEH International has contributed greatly to planning and developing this effort. Second, Wingate Healthcare donated the furniture for this project.

The Bikur Cholim room will be fully furnished with couches, table and chairs and a kosher microwave and refrigerator. The room will be stocked with kosher food provided by The Butcherie of Brookline and maintained under the auspices of ROFEH International. It will have siddurim, chumashim and other religious items to allow you to remain close to your loved ones when they are patients at the hospital. The room will be accessible 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

In addition, St. Elizabeth's has made accommodations to ensure Jewish families can observe Shabbat and Yom Tov. The Bikur Cholim room has a mechanical lock to facilitate use and is easily accessible by stairs or elevator. Maps identifying stairways and doors that do not use electricity are available. Hospital staff have been trained to be sensitive to Jewish practices and will not ask you to sign documents when this would be religiously forbidden.

For a tour of St. Elizabeth's and our Bikur Cholim room, or to find out more about special provisions made for observant and Orthodox Jewish patients at St. Elizabeth's, please contact Dr. Rebecca Schwartz, vice chair of Radiology, at Rebecca.schwartz@steward.org or 617-789-2740.

We look forward to greeting you!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Polanowicz in black ink.

John Polanowicz
President
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

Handwritten signature of Rebecca K. Schwartz in black ink.

Rebecca Schwartz, MD
Vice Chair, Radiology
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

Handwritten signature of Mike Hirsh in black ink.

Mike Hirsh
Program Director
ROFEH International

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

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