



Elder Care

Meet the People We Help...

Problem

Rachel and Avrum were Holocaust survivors who lived in a small town north of Pittsburgh near most of their children and grandchildren. But as the couple grew older and sick, they no longer could receive the medical and psychological care they required in their tiny community. Their oldest daughter wanted her parents to join her in Pittsburgh so she could help them seek the best possible treatment, although she was worried about the responsibility of caring for her parents alone. And leaving behind everything familiar was a daunting prospect that Rachel and Avrum were loath to even consider. Their other children also weren't convinced it would be the right move.

Solution

An experienced geriatric care coordinator from JF&CS arranged a family consultation with Rachel, Avrum and all of their children to discuss the options for their future and what resources were available. The family wanted information about housing, doctors and religious and social institutions in the Pittsburgh area. The care coordinator discussed what life in the city might be like for Rachel and Avrum and then helped put together a well-thought-out plan for their care here in case they decided to move.

Outcome

Rachel and Avrum now live independently in an apartment in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where they have made friends through the Jewish Community Center and their synagogue. Their oldest daughter visits them at least twice a week, as does a caregiver arranged through JF&CS. Her siblings travel to Pittsburgh to help as often as they can. Thanks to the support of JF&CS, the couple is now receiving the quality medical care they need as they slowly rebuild their lives in their new home.