

## Family Caregiver Connections

Helping people who are caring for aging or ailing family members

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From her office in the heart of the GTA, **Family Caregiver Connections** Project Coordinator Devora Schwartz-Waxman directs caregivers and seniors to the specific programs that suit their needs. It's the right thing to do, according to Schwartz-Waxman, both for the individuals and for the community.

Funding and support for the **Family Caregiver Connections** project reflect the community's commitment to, and support of, its aging seniors and caregivers.

Family Caregiver Connections is supported by [Circle of Care](#), [Baycrest](#), [Jewish Family and Child](#), [Reena](#), [Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living](#), [JIAS \(Jewish Immigrant Aid Services\) TORONTO](#) and the [Chai Tikvah Foundation](#). With the support of these seven partners, and with funding to March of 2010 through the province's Central Local Health Integration Network as part of Ontario's Aging at Home Strategy, **Family Caregiver Connections** helps seniors, their families and their caregivers with practical, relevant strategies for aging at home.

After developing a resource inventory of existing caregiver groups and support groups in the community, this new organization (established July 2008) can provide callers with comprehensive responses to their caregiver questions. "As callers become comfortable with me, we talk about the best approach to help them," said Schwartz-Waxman. "We work together to find the support services that are best for them."

Devora Schwartz-Waxman's background in community and social work helps her deal with the awkwardness and embarrassment that could be part of a telephone inquiry. "People may call Family Caregiver Connections not knowing exactly what they want or need," said Schwartz-Waxman. "If they are feeling overwhelmed or confused, they might just want to talk about their specific aging senior or caregiver situation. I am their compassionate listener at the other end of the line."

Family Caregiver Connections is now working to extend outreach and services to previously unidentified family caregivers, enhance existing support services and create new initiatives. Two such new initiatives are the upcoming [Personal Care Planning workshop](#), as well as the **Information Session which will be conducted in Russian**.

"The workshop, taking place [Thursday, October 30, 2008](#) from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm at the [Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living](#), is a good first step for people who want an informative overview of some Advanced Care Planning topics that are relevant to caregivers and seniors," said Schwartz-Waxman.

Led by Marija Padjen, Manager of Programming for the Alzheimer Society of Toronto, the Oct.30th workshop will offer a friendly atmosphere that includes High Tea, complimentary transportation if required, easy TTC access and free parking. Schwartz-Waxman hopes the session will not only give seniors, caregivers and family members a welcoming opportunity to learn about choices for future personal care but will also encourage them to participate in other caregiver and support group activities. The Thursday, October 30, 2008 Personal Care Planning Workshop has limited seating: RSVP required.

The Russian language information session will be held on Monday, November 10, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. RSVP required.

For registration or more information about Family Caregiver Connections programming, contact (416) 373-4093 or e-mail [care@supportingfamilycare.com](mailto:care@supportingfamilycare.com)



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