

LOCAL NEWS

Los Gatos, Campbell agencies buy home for disabled adults



A resident of Hatikvah House in Campbell celebrates his birthday with his housemates. The home for

By **MICHELLE PITCHER** |

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Life Services Alternatives Inc., a Campbell-based nonprofit that has managed homes for local adults living with intellectual and physical disabilities since 2002, has added another home to its portfolio.

Life Services is taking over management of Hatikvah House, located at 577 N. Central Ave. in Campbell. Life Services purchased the house Nov. 15, in partnership with Jewish Silicon Valley, which was created in February via a merger between the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley and the Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center in Los Gatos.

The six-room house has provided housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for more than two decades. The facility follows Jewish traditions, including keeping a kosher kitchen and celebrating Jewish holidays. The home, however, is open to residents of any religious affiliation.

But this year, Hatikvah House, which was founded in the 1990s by South Bay residents whose adult children had disabilities, began to feel the strain of the worker shortage. The administrative manager was set to retire, and they were struggling to find a replacement. That's when Life Services stepped in, according to Dana Hooper, executive director of Life Services Alternatives.

Life Services will lease the home and operate it as an adult care facility from here on. The nonprofit will continue to honor Hatikvah House's Jewish traditions.

"Hatikvah House is a little pearl of Jewish values right in the heart of Silicon Valley," said David Hurwitz, president of the Hatikvah House board of directors, in a press release. "Life Services has a long history of supporting the needs of its residents and respecting their time-tested values. That makes them an outstanding steward for Hatikvah House going forward."

Hatikvah House is currently home to four residents, with room for two more. All of the current residents are remaining in their home during the transition, according to Hooper.

Hatikvah House is Life Services' 15th home in Santa Clara County, and that number has been rising rapidly. The nonprofit just about doubled its home portfolio in just the past 10 years. Life Services officials say the goal is to open a new home each year.

"We see such a shortage of quality homes for these individuals," Hooper said. "Our mission is to expand capacity one home at a time."

Life Services and Hatikvah House share origin stories, as the nonprofit was also founded by parents who were looking for housing opportunities for their children with disabilities.

Hooper said the fact that Hatikvah House and Life Services share similar roots and the same mission made the acquisition an easy decision.

“It was a great fit in terms of our capabilities to be able to staff and run the home,” Hooper said. “Our values are very consistent with the founders of Hatikvah House. We believe in respect for these individuals, inclusion in the community and partnering with families and community organizations to provide the best level of care.”

Life Services now has homes in Campbell, Santa Clara and San Jose that serve a range of adults. Each house is modified as needed to accommodate the needs of the residents: Bathtubs might be replaced with roll-in showers, ramps might need to be added to entryways and room assignments might change based on people’s ability to walk or climb stairs.

All of these accommodations are adapted to the individual resident, Hooper said. There are common areas designed to encourage residents to spend time together, but each resident gets their own room.

“As most people do when their parents and they age, they want to live on their own,” Hooper said. “In order to live on their own, they need to be in a home that can support their needs.”

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