

Chabad of Delray Launches a new program called: "SOS (Smiles on Seniors) The Program matches local volunteers with local seniors for a weekly visit — bringing joy and a sense of caring to many. With your help, SOS soon hopes to match a volunteer with every Jewish senior!"

Smile on Seniors aims to meet the needs of seniors within the community by connecting them with willing and capable volunteers.

"It has been proven time and time again that consistent human interactions can greatly impact the quality of life of the aged — and those who interact with seniors are in the position to accomplish a tremendous amount," Korf said.

SOS is designed to enable seniors to develop intimate on-going relationships with volunteers to spread Jewish wisdom and caring. As part of the program, volunteers share Torah thoughts, stories or relevant information about upcoming Jewish holidays.

"The time spent with the seniors will be utilized to its utmost so that they are able to benefit from it and enjoy it as much as possible," said Korf.

A major goal of the Smiles on Seniors program is to train volunteers that are interested in developing a long-term relationship with their senior. Anticipating future visits with an SOS volunteer can help seniors maintain a more positive outlook; therefore, consistency is a crucial key to a relationship that is beneficial for the senior, Korf said.

Rabbi Korf started the program when he realized the Chabad of Delray Beach could provide a much-needed service to the community.

"Our area has a large senior population that can benefit from this outreach program," Korf said, "For many seniors, the feeling of being left alone is something that can be extremely painful — and no senior should ever have to experience.

"Our program will provide weekly contact with one of our volunteers, who will bring some sunshine into a lonely life. Often, it takes just minutes to change a

person's entire week.

"The aim of our program is to visit seniors where they live — be it alone in an apartment or home, as well as those who reside in senior independent and assisted-living facilities. Helping to put a smile on someone's face is one of the greatest deeds (commandments) we can perform."