

THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE! *The Mensch Edition*



Honor. Community. Jewish Values.

Open to see how aging forward is happening at Kavod

● Mensches ● Fundraiser Recap ● Partner Highlight ● More



DEAR FRIENDS,

So many wonderful individuals, companies and foundations help make Kavod a home for all who live here. We call these individuals "*mensch*es". **A mensch is a Yiddish word for a person of great character, generosity and integrity.** It can be someone who gives of their time, talent and/or treasure to serve others. It is someone who earns admiration and respect for their selfless giving.

In this publication, we're celebrating just a few of the many *mensch*es who make Kavod special. They include our donors, event sponsors, board members, volunteers, staff and others whose contributions, both big and small, have a lasting impact on our community.

We consider **you, our readers, some of our mensch**es as well. Your involvement with us, whether it's through advocacy, volunteering or financial support, is a huge blessing. If you are still considering future support, we've outlined some upcoming opportunities.

With gratitude,



Michael Klein
President & CEO



Gary Saltzman
Board Chair

BOARD HIGHLIGHT: CHAIRMAN GARY SALTZMAN

Join us in welcoming Gary Saltzman as Kavod's new Board Chair. Gary stepped into the role in August after serving on Kavod's Board since 2019.

A Denver native, Gary brings a strong background in financial services and years of experience supporting community organizations. He served for three years as International President of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish service organization with a long history of giving back and strengthening communities.

Gary's connection to Kavod is also personal. Several members of his family have lived at Kavod, so he knows firsthand the difference Kavod's housing, services, and community can make in the lives of older adults.

"Kavod Senior Life is a mirror reflection of what is critical when providing life's necessity of security and dignity for all, regardless of one's station in life," he says.

Kavod is excited to have Gary leading our Board for the next two years. His experience, commitment to community, and big heart make him a true mensch—and we're lucky to have him!



FUNDRAISER DAZZLES AND INSPIRES

Thanks to you - sponsors, donors and attendees - proceeds from Kavod's annual fundraiser will provide specialized audio equipment in common areas at Kavod that will profoundly improve the quality of life for residents living with hearing loss.

The event, held on August 27, was an unforgettable evening with Ben Seidman, a mentalist, magician, and illusionist whose career has taken him from Las Vegas stages to television screens around the country.

During the VIP reception, Ben mingled with guests and performed close-up magic in the crowd, creating plenty of surprises, laughter, and conversation. His interactive style provided a taste of what was to come—and built the excitement for the evening's main performance.

Once the show began, Ben brought his signature combination of sleight-of-hand, mentalism, and audience participation. It was an evening filled with wonder and laughter—all while supporting Kavod.



FUNDRAISER FUN



COMMITTEE MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: PERRY MOSS

Kavod wishes to recognize Perry Moss for being a real mensch. Perry has served as a valuable member of Kavod's leadership network for over ten years.

"Kavod is an outstanding organization that allows me to fulfill one of my key life missions, which is to serve others," Perry shares. **"The reward is evident when you see and talk to the residents and observe the incredible depth of programs and support Kavod provides."**

While his day job is as an auto broker for HM Brown & Associates, Perry has spent countless hours outside of work volunteering with Kavod as Board Chair, Foundation Board Chair, and Treasurer on Kavod's Fiscal Committee. Perry is currently the Chair of the Kavod Senior Housing and Services Board.

"My grandmother was a resident many years ago when Kavod only had one building. It was a natural fit for me to continue the relationship," he says.

Perry and his wife, Susie, were honorees at Kavod's annual event in 2019. They are also involved in other community organizations and their synagogue.

"We are so grateful for the time, insight and guidance Perry has devoted to Kavod over the years," said Michael Klein, President and CEO. **"His wisdom, steadfastness, and care for our community are second to none."**



RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT: ONDALEE KLINE

While Kavod has many wonderful mensches among its residents, Ondalee Kline stands out for the difference she has made on campus.

Now 82, Ondalee moved to Kavod in 2008 after Hurricane Katrina displaced her from New Orleans. Her family brought her to Colorado to begin a new chapter, and she wasted no time getting involved in her new community.

Ondalee helped establish **Senior Loan Program**, through which she and her committee provide residents with interest-free loans of up to \$150. These loans help cover unexpected expenses, often including medical bills and everyday living costs.

In honor of volunteer and former Board member, Robin Hanssen, Ondalee created **Robin's Nest, a fund that gives cash gifts to residents in need**. Recipients remain anonymous, allowing them to receive assistance with dignity.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Ondalee and her committee give away 20-30 turkeys to residents each November. She also served as Resident Council president for many years, and continually finds ways to support and strengthen the Kavod community.

What inspires her to do so much? Ondalee simply says, **"It is just good knowing we are helping people and making an impact in the community."**



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EMPLOYEE MENSCHES SHINE

At Kavod Senior Life, our staff members do more than fulfill their job responsibilities—they bring our core values of **Excellence, Compassion, Commitment and Respect** to life every day. Each year, we recognize those who go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents and the Kavod community.

The Mensch Award celebrates these exceptional team members. Supervisors nominate employees who exemplify one or more of Kavod's core values, sharing what makes each nominee deserving of recognition. Supervisors then vote to select the recipients.

The following are the 2026 honorees:



EXCELLENCE: Mayeli Morales—Housekeeper, Facilities

COMMITMENT: Jody Alweis—Coordinator, Marketing

COMPASSION: Goundo Diarra—Care Partner, Assisted Living

RESPECT: Maung Htay—Server, Dining Services

Their dedication, kindness and commitment to Kavod's values help make our community a special place to live and work.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: CU ANSCHUTZ | SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Anschutz

Multidisciplinary Center on Aging
Living Lab

CU Anschutz | School of Medicine is one of Kavod's most important partnerships on campus. For six years, CU Anschutz has been providing medical care for older adults at a geriatric clinic in Kavod's West Building, expanding to include mental health and dental services.

Now, an exciting new chapter in this collaboration has emerged: the launch of the **Living Lab, a community-centered innovation hub designed to elevate the voices and experiences of older adults.**

"The Kavod Living Lab marks an important step toward more inclusive, community driven research in aging," shares Dr. Cari Levy, Head, CU Anschutz Division of Geriatrics.

Motivated by the long standing lack of inclusion of older adults in research—particularly those residing in senior living communities—the Living Lab (the second of its kind in Colorado) brings research directly to where residents live, ensuring their perspectives guide the development of aging related innovations.

"We are excited to be part of this innovative work that will benefit our residents and the aging industry as a whole," says Kara Harvey, Kavod's Chief Operating Officer. The launch date for the project is scheduled for early 2027.



Kavod

SENIOR LIFE

Honor. Community. Jewish Values

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