

# Grant fuels transport program for elderly

THOUSANDS OF seniors in southern Brooklyn will be able to get to much-needed doctor's appointments thanks to a grant from the New York Community Trust.

Rabbi Moshe Wiener, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, said yesterday the private foundation granted his organization \$25,000 for its senior citizen transportation program.

"This enables us to respond to the needs of the low-income frail elderly in our communities," said Wiener. "Our organization is overwhelmed with the desperate appeals of count-

**BY ELIZABETH HAYS**  
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less numbers of frail elderly who require our assistance."

Founded in 1981, the senior citizen transportation program last year helped some 5,000 seniors in Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Borough Park, Coney Island and other neighborhoods get to doctor's appointments or run vital errands.

In all, it ran more than 47,000 trips for seniors last year.

"The demand for the service far exceeds our available resources," said Wiener, adding that the southern Brooklyn neighborhoods it

serves have the highest concentration of seniors in the city.

"We have waiting lists. We have to constantly turn people away," he added.

Wiener estimated that about 40% of the program's \$350,000 annual budget comes from private donations, with the balance coming from public sources.

In addition to the transportation program, the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island also runs five senior centers and provides other services for the elderly, as well as running other vocational and educational programs.

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