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Thursday, January 10, 2002

## Jewish Council Gets WTC Grant

By JOYCE SHELBY  
Daily News Staff Writer

**T**he Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island has received a \$300,000 emergency grant to help people who lost their jobs as a result of the attack on the World Trade Center.

The council began assisting laid-off workers last week.

"Before we received this funding, we were getting so many calls that we were not able to respond," said Rabbi Moshe Wiener, executive director of the council.

For years, the agency has provided counseling, vocational training and job placement for other displaced workers, refugees and recent immigrants, Wiener said.

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"Naturally, victims of 9/11 wanted to be included," the rabbi said. "Many of them had been in comfortable positions for many years. Now, they may need to upgrade their skills."

With the funds from the federal World Trade Center Disaster Relief Project, the council is offering workers a range of services — from help with writing resumes to referrals for



Seymour for NEWS

**Rabbi Moshe Wiener, director of Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, and staff members (l. to r.) Leah Miller, Marissa Wunder and Shoshana Elefant.**

social services, if needed.

Leah Miller, director of the program, said people with a variety of employment backgrounds — ranging from cooks to artists, and retailers to dot-commers — have come in for help.

"There are lots of people who are falling through the cracks," said Miller. "They feel they are not eligible for assistance because their jobs were not located at the World Trade Center. But many industries have been hard hit economically. This program is for anyone who has lost a job as a direct result of the 11th."

The program's staff includes three job developers, a vocational coordinator and an intake officer.

Miller said, "We do an assessment to look at the person's employment background. Then we look at where the person wants to go, and how to get them there. We develop a short-term plan and a long-term plan.

"We already have an extensive employer data base and each job developer has contacts. We call employers and help set up interviews."

If the displaced worker needs help with food or housing, Miller said, referrals can be made.

"Our primary purpose is to get people back on their feet," she said.

The staff considers it a privilege to work with people as they try to go on with their lives, Miller said.

"We all remember that day, [Sept. 11]," Miller said. "The image of seeing the World Trade Center burning will never leave my mind.

"It's a wonderful feeling to help people regain and recover."

The Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island is at 3001 W. 37th St., near Sea Gate. Hours for the 9/11 program are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call (718) 449-5000, ext. 222.

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