

## Around the Community



*Talmidim enjoyed spirited dancing at the Yeshiva Darchei Torah campus in Far Rockaway and in Camp Oraysa at the Shavuot Neilas HaChag*

## Achiezer at 13: A Talk with Malkie Schorr

### Part 7 of a Series



*At a hospital opening*

By Avi Shiff

**I**n honor of Achiezer's 13<sup>th</sup> year, we are conducting a multi-part series celebrating the various facets of this remarkable organization. For Week #7, we spoke to Malkie Schorr, who oversees Hospital Support for Achiezer.

#### **What is your role at Achiezer?**

In Achiezer's hospital support and patient advocacy department, we deal with any type of help or support that a patient or their family may need in a hospital setting. I assist Rabbi Boruch Ber Bender in helping patients, whether they require medical guidance, kosher food, Shabbos-related assistance, and so on. Whatever a patient needs and whatever request they have, Achiezer is there to do whatever we can.

#### **Do you work with specific hospitals?**

We are available to assist anyone anywhere, but our focus is naturally on the hospitals in proximity of Achiezer, such as LLJ, North Shore, South

Nassau, and so on. But we've been called to help those in Brooklyn, Monsey, Westchester and beyond, as well.

#### **How does being a registered nurse play a role in your position at Achiezer?**

Having a medical background definitely helps me, because I am more familiar with the medical language. Having this unique vantage point has been a benefit in guiding and advocating on behalf of patients and their families.

#### **When do people contact you?**

Everyone at Achiezer is on call essentially whenever needed, especially with time-sensitive matters.

#### **That's incredible. How has Covid-19 impacted your work?**

I started working at Achiezer during Covid, when many hospitals still had very limited or no visitation at all. Relatives were understandably concerned. They'd drop off a patient at the hospi-

tal and have very little idea of what was happening next, as they weren't permitted entry. They wanted to make sure that the patient was receiving the care they needed and was being tended to. We were involved in a lot of advocacy in this regard, working on behalf of the patients and helping to arrange communication between hospital personal and relatives. Even after the heavy Covid period passed, visitation was still barred or severely limited.

We've also been very involved in arranging for people to receive the Covid vaccine, making appointments and connecting people as needed.

#### **What in your mind makes Achiezer so unique?**

The people who work here are exceptional. I am amazed by their willingness to help others, whether in life-and-death situations and *meis mitzvah* cases or just going the extra mile to make things a bit more pleasant for a patient or family, like designing the Shabbos meal packages extra nice. It truly is something very special to witness.