

Gifts from the Heart

Momy (pronounced Momee) Benzaquen and his wife Cindy live in St. Louis Park. Cindy works with Microsoft and IBM Resellers doing lead generation which she does from her home. Momy has been a member of our Jones-Harrison family for four years and works in our maintenance department. He and his wife have an affection for Jones-Harrison that would be hard-matched by anyone.

Momy says his work here is not just a “job” – it’s a mission. His motto is to, “Always do the best I can, and do it with love in my heart.” Momy and Cindy recently graced Jones-Harrison with a beautiful 1933 German-made baby grand piano and 100 folding chairs. He loves to find things we can use to make the residents and staff comfortable and happy!

Born in 1943 in Casablanca, Morocco, and raised by his father, Momy was forced to flee the county when he was 16 years old. After a long and arduous journey, he made it to a Kibbutz in Israel where he lived for 25 years.

Momy served in the Israeli army for two years and was an active reservist after that. He was engaged in the six-day war in 1967, the war of 1973 and the war in Lebanon in 1983.

In July 1983, Momy immigrated to the United States with his wife and four children. In 1984, he began working at Torah Academy where he’d cook for the children. “I love the kids. When I can make them happy, then I am happier too,” he says. From there he went to work at Talmud Torah, where he was employed for 21 years.

When he was 27 years old, he confessed a life long secret – he couldn’t read or write. After years of pretending, he knew he must learn. Fighting dyslexia, and with the support and encouragement of his wife and the drive to become an American citizen, Momy did indeed learn to read and write. He is especially thankful to be able to read his precious Torah.

People like Cindy and Momy make Jones-Harrison a unique and interesting place to live. We thank them for giving so generously of their time, talent and resources.