

## Sharsheret Awarded by the NYC Susan G Komen Race for the Cure

BY AMBER GRISTAK

In mid September thousands of women and men gathered in New York City's Central Park to participate in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Race for the Cure. The Jewish not-for-profit group, Sharsheret also participated in the charitable event.

For the last three consecutive years, Sharsheret, a national organization, has had the largest team of participants in the race. The not-for-profit group even received the "Largest Community Team Award" for their impressive accomplishment of motivating so many, over 700, to take part in the day. This number includes many students from Magen David Yeshiva High School who were active in Team Sharsheret. Also, to Sharsheret's credit is a long list of team sponsors. This year the team attracted over 60 sponsors that included business and friends, with contributions over \$40,000.

"700 people on the Team is a terrific accomplishment!" said Team Sharsheret Guardian and Med-Pat President Sam Zagha. "Sharsheret should be proud of what has been achieved with this event in addition to all that has been done in putting Sharsheret at the forefront of Jewish organizations confronting breast cancer."

Sharsheret's Executive Director, Eilene

Leistner said "We deeply appreciate the continuous dedication and contributions from our devoted friends and businesses, enabling Sharsheret to raise breast cancer awareness and provide vital support to all Jewish women and their families facing breast cancer."

In addition to this recent Race for the Cure, volunteers from Sharsheret across the country have taken time to organize Team Sharsheret in their own communities. Some recent locations include California, Florida, Minnesota and New Jersey.

Sharsheret was founded in 2001 and since then has received more than 13,000 phone calls from women's organizations, health care professionals, Jewish organizations, people afflicted with breast cancer and other's interested in learning more about the noble and nationwide organization.

In response to the needs of the women, Sharsheret has developed many free national programs and services that include "The Link Program," "Education and Outreach Program," and "Quality of Life Programs." Information for these programs can be found on their website.

Sharsheret plays a continuously active role in the community. Earlier, in March 2008, Sharsheret along with the Sephardic Community Center of Brooklyn, New York and the Sephardic Bikur Holim presented a



Students from Magen David Yeshiva High School participated in the NYC Race for the Cure.

free breast cancer symposium, "Genetics and the Sephardic Jewish Woman: Understanding Our Past, Guarding Our Future." At the symposium, Geneticist Dr. Harry Ostrer, Oncologist Dr. Ruth Oratz, and Sharsheret Executive Director Eilene Leistner discussed the latest in scientific research pertaining to Jewish Women of Sephardic descent. Last year, Sharsheret

Director of Operations, Elana Silber and Project Manager, Ellen Kleinhouse were guest speakers at a Magen David Shabbaton in Connecticut.

For more information you can log on to [www.sharsheret.org](http://www.sharsheret.org) or call 866-474-2774



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