

PARCARE BRINGS THE SPECIALISTS TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

One morning, an elderly woman was wheeled into ParCare Community Health Network by her son. This was not uncommon, as ParCare staff see a wide variety of patients, a broad array of specialties affirming the facility's high quality.

The woman was Elizabeth (name changed), and she presented with acute joint pain to ParCare's medical practitioner Leon Kohanbash. Her family said she had quickly become wheelchair-bound, with no apparent cause. Regardless of her age, this was unusual. She had not suffered from depression and was known for her active, upbeat personality. Perhaps it was arthritis? her son asked.

ParCare's specialists are used to fielding questions from worried family members. Their mission is to bring accessible health care options to the community—from primary care and pediatrics to specific fields like dermatology, podiatry and Lyme disease, as well as a full suite of physical and occupational therapies.

"The Williamsburg community was very underserved when it came to medical needs," says ParCare CEO Gary Schlesinger. "There were primary care doctors, but there was a lack of specialists in many fields."

In establishing the network, ParCare recruited experienced professionals from across the city, giving Williamsburg residents the opportunity to consult with top authorities in their fields—people like Drs. Paul Rosenstock, Jeffrey Stark, Yehudah Jay Winzelberg, Jacob Gerlitz, Leon Kohanbash, Benjamin Hillel, Louis Kiwala,

Mary Beth Charno, Robin Akseirud, Maria Ebona Fernando, Marty Fernando, and Dr. Alan Brickman. All staff members are highly educated, with years of experience. Most importantly, they understand the frum community.

Four years ago, ParCare opened its first clinic at 445 Park Avenue in Williamsburg, and at the end of 2018, a second facility at 6010 Bay Parkway in Boro Park. Staff rotates between sites, so patients in both locations have a chance to be served by the experts. ParCare offers service on a sliding scale, and accepts almost every form of commercial insurance, Medicare and Medicaid HMOs, such as HealthFirst, HealthPlus, Americhoice, Fidelis, and all UHC plans.

ParCare prides itself on its relationship-centered approach. When Elizabeth arrived, her son assumed that she had arthritis, and that the aging process was simply moving more quickly than expected. However, Elizabeth had no other symptoms of early onset rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

Kohanbash, a Family Nurse Practitioner, decided to act proactively. Although RA was possible, given the suddenness of Elizabeth's collapse, he suspected something else. Rheumatoid arthritis is a long-term disease where the body mistakenly attacks the soft tissue surrounding joints, leading to inflammation. Lyme disease, sometimes called "the great imitator," is a tick-borne bacterial infection that can be confused

with other conditions.

ParCare is one of the only clinics in the country with a world-class Lyme specialist; patients drive in from upstate and beyond for treatment. A comprehensive approach means care is coordinated across the entire healthcare system, and ParCare collaborates with leading medical facilities across the city so patients have access to specialists as well as home health care and community services.

Not every chronic ailment that crosses ParCare's threshold requires a specialist. General practitioners and pediatricians are kept busy treating diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, depression, chest pain, and thyroid dysfunction, as well as the usual ups and downs of healthcare in a growing family.

In Elizabeth's case, however, Kohanbash's lab report confirmed his suspicion: no indication of arthritis, but positive results for Lyme disease. Elizabeth was placed under the expert care of world-class Lyme disease expert Mary Beth Charno, RN. Weeks later, following a comprehensive treatment plan, she was out of the wheelchair.

ParCare Community Health Network stands at the forefront of awareness and treatment in the Williamsburg, and now Boro Park, communities. With a focus on compassion, integrity and accountability, ParCare provides every patient with the highest quality of care possible.

Their vision for the future? Plans are in place for new clinics in upstate New York, while continuing to emphasize the signature quality and service patients have come to know and love.

