

West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc



OVER 35 YEARS OF
WELCOMING PEOPLE HOME

Building safe and sustainable affordable housing with supportive services

Enhancing the independence and dignity of every resident

Supporting the development of healthy neighborhoods

Preserving and protecting housing for low income persons in our communities

The most fundamental commitment that is made to each member of the WSFSSH community is living with dignity, and as fully and as freely as possible.

Our staff is committed to the growth and possibility inherent in each person, as an individual and as a member of the community.



WSFSSH buildings and programs are operated using a team approach. Social service staff, management, and direct care staff work closely together, focused on the needs of the individual and the needs of the community.

Residents are integral and active participants in decision making about life in the building, including areas such as house rules, food service, activities, and holiday celebrations.

PARTNERS





As WSFSSH recognizes the importance of providing comprehensive social work services, on site social services are available in every WSFSSH building.

Our residents do well living in a supportive community with meaningful social connections. Community creates the conditions for health, growth, acceptance, and happiness.



The social work services provided are geared to meeting individual needs and strengthening the community as a whole. The services that WSFSSH provides include:

- Psychosocial assessment, individual treatment planning

- Social work in individual and group settings

- Crisis intervention

- Assistance arranging and maintaining
medical, dental, and specialist care
home care services, as needed.

- benefits and entitlements, as needed

- Money management and budgeting assistance as needed

- Support and counseling around issues related to health,
relationships, and other life challenges.

- Social, educational and recreational activities

WSFSSH is committed to the importance of clinical supervision and makes it available to all staff.



Additional Services:

Depending on the type of building,
meals,
personal care,
housekeeping services,
escorts to medical appointments,
on-site psychiatric services
activities
are also provided.





Success with the WSFSSH Model

Our model has helped us house, stabilize and enrich the lives of over 2500 New Yorkers. We have been able to provide a home to many severely physically and mentally ill residents, often for many years. We also have little staff turnover with many staff having over 10 years of service to WSFSSH. We think the strength of the model is based on the following 5 components:

1

Core Beliefs

A belief in the right of everyone to have safe, affordable housing,

A belief in the potential of every person to live a healthy and meaningful life and

A commitment to work to provide the resources needed for each person to accomplish these goals.



2

Importance of a team. All staff in a WSFSSH building, with the exception of some clinical staff (psychiatrists, some nursing staff), are WSFSSH employees.

Each employee has an understanding of the agency mission, of the general needs of the residents and a commitment to working together for the benefit of the residents. Each staff person understands not only his/her job responsibilities, but the way his/her job contributes to each resident's well-being.

TEAM



3

WSFSSH Confidentiality Policy:

WSFSSH has its own confidentiality policy; all staff are trained in this policy. Our confidentiality policy insures staff shares resident information appropriately, insuring the privacy as well as the safety of the residents.



4

Community Building

Human change and growth take place in the context of relationships, and relationships are the foundation of a community.



5

Positive Peer Pressure:

“It was really smart you went to the doctor today.”

“Did you talk with your caseworker about that?”

These are examples of resident comments that show a concern for each other and confidence that participating in program services will be beneficial.

PEER PRESSURE



As Residents Age



As Residents Age:

- * **Adapting the physical environment**
- * **Adapting program procedures**
- * **Need for access** to timely, collaborative physical and mental health care.
- * **Dementia** and its impact on one's ability to live in an open community.
- * **Need for coordinated home care services**
- * **Importance and benefits** of community nursing and cluster home care

