



Meet Kari Heitzner: Haworth resident, wife, mother, and TBE volunteer. She is currently an account manager for Acelleron Medical Products, a maternal health and wellness company. She works with hospitals and physicians offices in New Jersey.

Kari has always had a soft spot in her heart for helping others, focusing on the senior population. As a young teen, she shared a very close relationship with her Aunt Ruthie who lived in an adult care facility. Kari would visit regularly, participating in outings and activities and eventually becoming Ruthie's advocate. When she passed, Kari made a decision to continue to enrich the lives of seniors.

Combining her loving kindness and dedication with her background in psychology and education, Kari started volunteering at the Rockleigh Jewish Home as well as the Bergen County Health Care Center. She was involved with arts and crafts, current event groups and reading. She even served as a scribe to an older gentleman, writing down his life story for him on weekly visits before he passed. It was an honor for her to read this story aloud to their community shortly after his death.

Currently, Kari runs the film program at TBE and at the JCC on the Palisades in their REAP Program (Retired Executives and Professionals.) Several times a year, Kari shows Jewish themed movies. These movies are historical, educational and spark stimulating discussions amongst those who attend. She takes a lot of pride in cultivating a film history program that touches the people she cares about most. Kari also provides refreshments for all of her guests ensuring the greatest level of comfort during the screenings. She hopes to expand the movie program to include guest speakers one day soon.

It is Kari's hope that her senior programming can be expanded as our temple communities merge. She looks forward to establishing events/classes where we have book discussions, crafts, technology lessons, current event talks and game days. Adults and teens can volunteer at these activities and provide a wonderful space for all generations to come together and help one another.