

## **NYSCC Member Success Story: Survivorship**

Chai Lifeline offers Orthodox Jewish women living with breast cancer a unique Women's Healing Respite, partially funded by a grant from the Greater NYC Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Women participated in a weekend-long retreat to garner support, occupational therapy and stress reduction. They participated in professionally led support groups, activities led by an occupational therapist, swimming and stress-reduction activities. This was an opportunity for women whose cultural differences and needs, including requiring kosher food, programming that does not conflict with the Sabbath, or engaging in prohibited activities, might make it difficult to participate in many mainstream agency programs.

The program partnered with the management of the Holiday Inn, Plainfield, New Jersey who donated conference space and rooms for each of the twenty participants.

All women that participated lived in the Greater New York City area. They were all mothers with the majority under the age of 50 and some as young as 22 years old.

Ninety-two percent of the participants evaluated the program as being very valuable and very effective in offering them support. Based on the success of the program, Chai Lifeline would like to offer the program again in the future.