

Calvary Hospital Completes Restoration of MST#515

At a poignant ceremony on November 9, 2016 -- the anniversary of Kristallnacht -- Calvary Hospital dedicated MST Scroll No. 515 after a year-long restoration effort. This Torah scroll dates from 1880 and is originally from the town of Taus-Domazlice, in what is now known as The Czech Republics. Since 1988, it has been on permanent loan to Calvary. On hand for this historic and first-time Calvary event, were Jeffrey Ohrenstein, Executive Chairman/Trustee of the MST and Rabbi Levi Selwyn of Sofer On Site, the company who handled the restoration.

“I am so delighted to be here for this joyous and meaningful event,” said Mr. Ohrenstein. “Calvary could have easily commissioned a brand new sefer Torah. Instead they chose to take the time, effort and considerably more expense to breathe new life into this historic scroll. Now, all Calvary patients, families and staff will be able to benefit from this effort.

“The way that Calvary has used this sefer Torah to bring people of many faiths together is exactly what the Memorial Scrolls Trust envisioned when we formed this non-profit many years ago. We are so delighted that this scroll plays such an integral role in the lives of Jewish patients and families at this Hospital.”

Calvary, a Catholic-affiliated hospital and home hospice, provides palliative and end-of-life care, including extensive support for families and friends of our patients. The Hospital cares for nearly 800 Jewish patients and families every year. Calvary creates a welcoming environment for all Jewish patients and families, wherever they are in their degree of religious observance.

Thanks to early significant support from the Charles R. and Winifred R. Weber Foundation, Calvary launched the restoration in November 2015 at the 92nd Street Y, a prominent center of Jewish learning and culture in the heart of New York City. Over the year-long project, Calvary hosted three letter-writing events at their Bronx campus to give supporters the opportunity to

write a ceremonial letter. From individuals and empty nesters to entire families, attendees at the three letter writing events have been able to share the background about the person for whom they made the gift. Many supporters from throughout the year-long project have told Calvary how meaningful this project has been to them.

“Since our earliest years, Calvary has embraced the opportunity to care for patients from all faith backgrounds,” said Frank A. Calamari, President & CEO, Calvary Hospital. “We know how important it is to safeguard this sacred Torah. Once we found out that this scroll needed extensive repairs, there was no doubt that we would do whatever was needed to complete this important task. We are so pleased that this project has appealed to people of many faiths.”



To date, this initiative has raised more than \$111,000. Once all restoration expenses have been covered, remaining funds will benefit all patients and families under Calvary’s care. To support this important initiative, please visit: www.calvaryhospital.org/torahrestoration

The vast majority of MST Torah scrolls have been loaned to recipients firmly planted in the Jewish community such as synagogues, camps, yeshivas, day schools and community centers. Calvary’s scroll, No. 515, is one of only 20 in the greater New York area today and one of just a handful that have gone to non-Jewish recipients.

Jewish patients and families at Calvary have many amenities at their fingertips. Three rabbis at Calvary care for inpatients and home hospice patients each year. In addition to kosher food upon request, Jewish inpatients and their families can expect a daily visit from a rabbi, food from an expanded Kosher Hospitality Room, dedicated Shabbos Lounge, Kabbalat Shabbat service, and celebrations of all major holidays.

The Hospital’s outreach to the Jewish community, and the Torah restoration, has been spearheaded by Dr. Michael J. Brescia, Executive Medical Director.