



“Throughout it all, we have so much to be thankful for, and one of the things I’m most grateful and thankful for is being a part of the Search and Care family. You are a group of wonderful people and I’m so glad to know you” –Ms. S

## SOCIAL DISTANCING DOES NOT MEAN SOCIAL ISOLATION

**COVID-19** hit us like a ton of bricks, with all of us experiencing tremendous challenges, uncertainty, and adversity. Times like these remind us to keep *searching* for the light and keep *caring* for thy neighbors. We, at Search and Care, are truly grateful to be able to say that we have done our best to see this mission through and continue remaining fully operational despite the challenges of our current public health crisis. Our dedicated team of licensed and other interdisciplinary, multicultural professionals are in regular contact with our older neighbors by phone, virtually, and even in person (practicing safety protocols) when absolutely essential. We continue to provide our clients with a full range of innovative services they need to remain at home, to help them retain their quality of life and peace of mind. “It really takes a village” to care for our older neighbors and we are appreciative of all the continued support from our community and readers like you.

### Don’t miss out on these and other upcoming events!

**ORGANIZING & DECLUTTERING**  
with Felice Cohen

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021**  
Join by phone or Zoom  
Registration Required

For more information  
Call: 212-289-5300

Search and Care

**Amigos Virtuales**

Se reúne el tercer Sábado  
de cada mes a las 12:00 PM  
Por Zoom

Para mas información  
Llame al: 212-289-5300

Search and Care

Contact Groups Coordinator,  
Priscila Gallegos, LMSW at  
[gallegos@searchandcare.org](mailto:gallegos@searchandcare.org) to obtain  
the registration links or call-in number

**Talkin’ It Out** offers free *bilingual* and *confidential* telephonic or virtual informal counseling with two of our experienced bilingual (English and Spanish-speaking) LMSWs. Clients are able to freely chat about anything that is on their minds—be it topics related to COVID-19/health concerns, or joyful moments that bring them pleasure. We want our clients to know they are being heard when they need it the most, especially for those who are alone or simply do not have access to mental health services at their disposal. Our goal is to ensure an empathic voice that says, “I care.”

**Telephonic Check-in and Monitoring** touches base with hundreds of former clients and community referrals weekly, providing them with undivided attention to assess and ensure their safety, and introducing them to our scope of services that may benefit them.

### Check us out on Social Media!

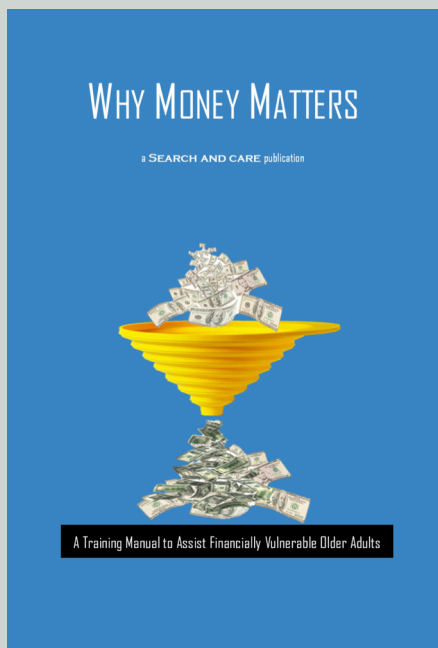


1844 Second Avenue New York, NY 10128

Call us: (212) 289-5300 or

Email us at: [SandC@searchandcare.org](mailto:SandC@searchandcare.org)

Visit us online at: [www.searchandcare.org](http://www.searchandcare.org)



### Now out on Amazon!

For most of us, the responsibility of managing our finances, paying our bills on time, and advocating on insurance claims with medical and insurance providers can be daunting. These hurdles can be even more challenging to navigate if you are much older, facing hearing or vision challenges, and can't easily ambulate. That is who Money Matters helps!

Based upon Search and Care's Money Matters program, this manual is intended as a guide for social services seeking to replicate the program and provide vulnerable older adults money management services, helping seniors sustain financial security.

### What is on hiatus?

Due to the nature of these programs that involve in-person engagement, the following programs are temporarily on hiatus until further notice, to protect both clients and workers:

- ❖ Handyman on call
- ❖ Home care/housekeeping
- ❖ Medical Escorting
- ❖ In-person friendly visiting

**Nutritional Support & Emergency Grocery/Supply Services:** We are honored to be the recipient of emergency grants from Robin Hood Foundation, New York Community Trust, and Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies to supply our physically at-risk and financially constrained clients with emergency groceries, safety products, sanitary and pet supplies throughout the pandemic. Additionally, our agency's Nutritionist helps clients explore their nutritional needs and habits during scheduled one-on-one sessions or in a fun nutrition-focused group activity. Eating deliciously and nutritiously for seniors on a budget and reducing food insecurity has been an essential goal of ours throughout the pandemic.

**Silver Circles Technology Initiative:** Even prior to COVID-19, our dedicated staff and volunteers from Silver Circles work hard to ensure that as many clients with an interest in technology have one-on-one assistance from a tech coach – in English and in Spanish. More recently, we have been able to loan out all of our available devices from our "lending library" (phones, tablets, Kindles) for those who have been getting coaching lessons and did not have the proper equipment or access to Wi-Fi to enjoy and embrace the new world of technology they may have thought passed them by! Those individuals who did not have the access are now re-connecting with people they love, participating in their telemedicine appointments or enrichment groups (now necessary for many during COVID-19), exploring social media platforms and using other apps on their devices, and even learning how to order online for home deliveries. We are looking forward to expanding this service to many older adults who wish to learn.

**Groups and Enrichment Activities:** We currently offer some exciting enrichment and therapeutic (telephonic or virtual) group activities on a daily basis. These groups offer diverse programming that greatly helps reduce social isolation—providing camaraderie, education, peer support, cognitive stimulation, self-empowerment, and much more! Conducted by specialists in their fields, some popular groups are: Morning Meditation, Music and Melody, Medical Rap, Newsroom, Nutrition, Amigos Virtuales, Medication Education, PET Pro Workshops, Tea and Creativity, and Reading Room (book club) to name a few! Explore our groups brochure listed on our website for more information.

**Pets and Elders Together (PET) Program:** Provides support that enables vulnerable seniors to maintain their cherished bonds with their beloved animal companions—often their only source of attention and affection. Our PET Program helps seniors with their animal companions by providing them with upkeep support, emergency supplies (e.g. pet food and sanitary supplies), veterinarian assistance, and valuable pet caring tips, as seniors and their pets age safely at home.

**New Advocacy Initiatives:** Seniors can often be overlooked and underserved in their communities because they are not always the "loudest voice" or are out and about. Our new client advocacy brigade teaches and empowers seniors on speaking up for their rights—framing their thoughts and concerns for the most impact and effectiveness. This chorus of seniors who have built our great nation deserve to be heard!

**Intergenerational Volunteerism:** Regis High School students will be conducting a holiday check-in/call-a-thon with our more isolated and homebound Search and Care clients to bring them good cheer!