



*This story was shared with us by Rachel Burlew at our Yaphank residence*

Residents and staff at our Yaphank residence were all getting a little tired of being cooped up inside and decided to think of ways to turn their home into more of a homestead. They decided to adopt some baby chicks! They adopted the chicks from Long Island Poultry Farm, who were very helpful, even answering questions in the middle of the night when needed (there was concern about a bump on one of the chickens but luckily it was just a full 'crop' from eating a big meal). There are six chickens in all but no names have been picked yet. The residents have been actively involved in the care and upkeep of the chickens, and have learned some 'do's' and 'don'ts' by watching YouTube videos and reading articles online. The chickens are growing fast and the residents are now looking forward to moving the chickens out to the coop, hopefully in the next few weeks. They are also very excited about being able to enjoy delicious fresh eggs.

To go along with the new chicken farm, one of the residents suggested that he would love to have a vegetable garden, but there was a barrier to overcome... the resident has health conditions which preclude him from being able to safely bend down to tend to a vegetable garden. To solve this, they got a raised vegetable garden bed, and Joe Kennedy from our Maintenance Department came out and assembled it, and filled it with fresh soil. The garden, which includes tomatoes, spinach and zucchini, has been growing nicely, and will soon have enough lettuce to make a nice healthy salad. Our Day Hab at Home has also been working with all of the residents and taking this opportunity to teach them about making healthy food choices.

With all of the wonderful fresh eggs and veggies, our Yaphank residence is looking forward to cooking up lots of healthy and delicious meals in the near future...not to mention the most delicious omelets ever!