With a yellow brick well background and tall windows, John and Amy Pegraman, a Denver- and Memphis-based couple on a mission to photograph every Holocaust survivor, photographed four of them recently at the Wagner College Holocaust center.

"I think having Staten Island and Wagner College Holocaust Center represented in a national project like this is incredibly meaningful for our community," said Leif Weim- brod, the director of the Wagner College Holocaust Center. Wagner College partnered with the Jewish Advance to bring the couple to Staten Island.

Holocaust survivors Arthur Spielman, Egon Salmon, Hannah Steinle and Shirley Gottseman were in attendance.

The photography project began in 2014 when John Pegraman was invited to photograph Holocaust survivors at a museum in Skokie, Illinois. He said he photographed 65 survivors in 11 days.

"I really became enamored with these amazing people," he said. "It’s very important for them to be remembered and to have their stories remembered."

His moving experience in Illinois turned into five years of traveling across the country, meeting hundreds of survivors. It even led him to Hampstead, where he met his wife, Amy Pegraman.

The pair began traveling together and have now visited 40 U.S. cities, as well as Krakow, Prague and Tokyo to photograph 889 survivors. After this visit to New York, Houston and Israel next week on the list.

But, with photography in Orlando, John Pegraman was determined to find out that a 94-year-old survivor had no food in her fridge and had to spend her grocery money to repair her air conditioner. He soon discovered that 30% to 35% of Holocaust survivors in the United States are living in poverty.

"So we decided .. but we just had to do something," he said. KAVOD’s mission is to provide "emergency aid to Holocaust survivors in need," according to its website, kedveisflutig-dignity.com. John Pegraman said they’ve given aid in 15 cities in more than 1,200 survivors.

The organization has raised over $250,000 in about three years for aid to Holocaust survivors. The money was raised by individual donations through Facebook crowd-funding, phone calls, speaking at events and news spread through the media, the couple said.

All aid is given through Jewish Family Services, Self Help or other organizations that work with survivors on the ground. The survivors receive all of the funds through gift cards. "One hundred percent of all these donations goes directly to the survivors," John Pegraman said.

In addition to helping survivors in need, KAVOD also is devoted to educating people about the Holocaust, and the photography project became an education resource.

"(The) photographs led us to knowing the issues, which led to us forming KAVOD and then it clicked back around to having the photos help us teach the stories and be witnesses to the stories," Amy Pegraman explained.

The photographs are displayed on the KAVOD website and are exhibited in Holocaust museums around the world, including an upcoming exhibit at the Los Angeles Forum for Urban Health (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

"We don’t have grandparents," John said, who writes handwritten notes to each survivor after he photographs them. "So we stay in touch.

In addition to the photo show, Wagner College sophomores Bethany (Dobrovitz) Seiden organized students to sing for the survivors as a part of a program. Stu Leav (Singing with Heart), which brings students and Holocaust survivors together through singing, dancing, food and art. The goal is to have students perform for the survivors to brighten their day. Alexandra Rose DeAngelo, Olivia Esten, Andrew Kollar and Colleen Kelly performed in the event.

"I think by having the students singing with them and bonding with them it was so special," Weimbrod said. "We had both the survivors and new generation together witnessing the KAVOD photography project."

"Our time is short," Amy Pegraman said. "We’re running out of time. We need to do something now. We’re responsible for the survivors."