



Tikkun Olam Committee



"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

- Albert Einstein

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

SPRING CLEANING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On Sunday, May 1, the Tikkun Olam Committee hosted the second "Spring Cleaning for a Good Cause" event. Despite the pouring rain, TBA members and others in our community came in droves to drop off donations to help the needy in our area.

Within 2 hours we collected:

- 71 boxes and 19 bags of books for **Friends of the Library**
- 1½ truckloads of household goods, professional clothing, and furniture for **A Wider Circle**
- 122 pairs of eyeglasses and 37 pairs of sunglasses for the **Lions Club**
- 1 huge box of art supplies for **South Lake Elementary School**
- A full van of sports equipment for **Leveling the Playing Field**
- A car load of non-perishable kosher food for the **Capital Kosher Pantry**
- More than 2 huge bins of clothing for **Interfaith Works** and the **Recycle Clothing Center**
- 32 cell phones and 6 tablets for **Secure the Call**
- 4 boxes of pet-related items for the **Montgomery County Humane Society**
- 4 bins of non-perishable food for the **Manna Food Center** (This included donations from the Temple's 50th Anniversary Gala the evening before.)
- More than 1,500 pounds of shredded recyclable paper

We are so thankful to all of the TBA and student volunteers, community organizations, and donors who contributed to another successful event!

We are already thinking about next year and would love to have more members involved in both planning and volunteering. If you are interested in helping with this project that helps so many, please contact [Jeri Berman](#) or [Arlynn Joffe](#).



TOC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We were pleased to have Susan Koss, manager of **Capital Kosher Pantry** (CKP), as the guest speaker at our May 17 meeting. She shared that:

- CKP's mission is to provide kosher food to individuals who are food insecure in a grocery store-like setting.
- CKP provides kosher food and other items to approximately 350 people each week.
- CKP relies heavily on food and monetary donations from synagogues and schools.
- CKP appreciates year-round kosher food donations to the TBA lobby collection bin.

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The TOC will not meet over the summer. Mark your calendars for the next meeting, which will take place on **Tuesday, September 20**, at 7:30 p.m. More details to follow in the July/August Newsletter.

COLLECTIONS CORNER

There is no specific June collection scheduled, but please remember that the following donations can be dropped off in the lobby throughout the year:

- Eyeglasses for Lions Club
- Cell phones for Secure the Call
- Non-perishables for Manna
- Kosher food for Capital Kosher Pantry



The TOC is excited to announce plans to form a **Collections Committee** to help organize collection efforts throughout the year. Please contact Arlynn Joffe if you have ideas for new collections or are interested in working on this feel-good project that helps the needy in our community.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

July/August Collection:
School Supplies for
South Lake Elementary School

Watch for more details to come.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please review these volunteer opportunities and click on the contact's name to send an email for more information or to volunteer.

Makon (Formerly Jewish Foundation for Group Homes)

We have returned to in-person craft projects now! If you are interested in organizing a craft, assisting participants, and/or making goody bags in the next few months, please email [Charlotte Zuckman](#) or call her at 301-312-8137.

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Interfaith Works

- We continue to need prepared meals for clients at the new IW Women's Center in Derwood, Becky's House in Rockville, and Priscilla's House in Gaithersburg. To assist the clients of the Women's Center, contact [Samantha Cheakalos](#). To assist the residents of Becky's House or Priscilla's House, contact [Gina Esipila](#).
- The IW Clothing Center needs assistance with sorting and placing clothes. Shifts are available Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday. If interested, contact [Miranda Marks](#).

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Refugee Resettlement

We always need volunteers who are able to help with transportation, babysitting, summer activities, job search ideas, and more. If you can't commit to regular hours but would like to be added to a list of people who would be able to help for a few hours on occasion, let us know. It makes a difference!

If interested, contact Sue Fox (301-461-0917) or Sherry Nason (301-526-2721)

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Community Reach of Montgomery County - Volunteers Needed

- Client Intake Coordinators, Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (one 4-hour shift/week, when the Clinic returns to its permanent location, training provided)
- Interpreters, Kaseman Health Clinic (currently virtual volunteering)
- Photographer to memorialize Reach programs, services, and events
- Short-term project volunteers to help Housing residents find volunteer and educational opportunities

If interested, contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) at Reach, or contact [Debbie Jacobs](#) if you would like more information.



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT RECAP

The Temple Beth Ami Refugee Resettlement Group continues our partnership with NNIA (New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance) and our work with Afghan refugee families. On May 17, the fourth family we are supporting settled into their new home in Silver Spring, close to a relative, which is very comforting and helpful for that family. News from the other three families includes these wonderful highlights:

- One father has started a full-time job with a house painting company and reports that he enjoys his colleagues, loves the work and the 6 a.m.-3 p.m. day is great!
- Another father, who has an MD degree, has started taking courses to train to be a Certified Medical Assistant, which will enable him to reenter the medical field.
- All the parents are taking English classes. Two parents are taking the class in person at Montgomery college and have learned how to commute by bus!
- The school-age children will be attending summer school, and some of the children will attend the City of Rockville summer camp, too! Summer camp was paid for by donations to NNIA and generous financial aid from the City of Rockville.
- One child, who attends Julius West Middle School, made the Honor Roll for the 3rd quarter -- her very first quarter attending a school in United States! She and her family are so proud of her academic accomplishments!

Go to the [NNIA website](#) to learn more and see how else you can help out.



One of the Afghan families we support celebrated Eid al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan, at Cabin John Park with some of our congregants!

GET TO KNOW SOME OF OUR PARTNERS



Like Temple Beth Ami, Community Reach of Montgomery County celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. Beth Ami's involvement with Reach goes back to 1979, when Reach was called Community Ministries of Rockville (CMR). Over the years, congregants have volunteered in all five of Reach's areas of social service: health care, housing, financial emergency assistance, education for immigrants, and eldercare.

Most notably, a dedicated committee of Beth Ami congregants invested years of effort to help Reach establish its Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic in downtown Rockville. The clinic provides low-cost health care to about 1,000 Montgomery County adults who are uninsured, or insured with Medicaid or Medicare.

For decades, Temple volunteers delivered meals every Thursday to the 36 men living at the Chase Shelter, which was operated by Reach from its opening in 1986 to 2010.

Debbie Jacobs is the TOC's representative on Reach's Faith Advisory Committee, an interfaith group of lay and clergy leaders from local congregations who work together and share ideas. Throughout the year, Beth Ami volunteers prepare and deliver meals to the women living at Rockland House and the men living at Jefferson House, both permanent supportive homes for individuals experiencing homelessness. Each December, our congregants deliver Christmas Dinner Baskets to Reach Holiday Giving clients. Pre-pandemic, Gan Ami families prepared snack bags for the children of adult learners in English Language classes provided by Reach's Language Outreach Program.

GET INVOLVED



This monthly newsletter lets you know of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities, and highlights programs and projects supported by the Tikkun Olam Committee.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

You do not need to be a member of the TOC to get involved! Give as few or as many hours as you can toward a variety of one-time, occasional, or ongoing volunteer opportunities.

If you have questions and/or want to be added to our email list, feel free to contact any member of the

Tikkun Olam Leadership Team:

Joanne Brodsky

Arlynn Joffe

Gail Kaplan-Wassell

Amy Weinberg