

Tikun Olam

Each one helping another to build a stronger world

Through a variety of activities we will build an experiential base for recognizing our shared commitment to Tikun Olam and thereby heighten the sense of community.

A. PROJECT: Support for the young people serving in the Israel Defense Force and their families.

Congregation Eshel Avraham traditionally honors new soldiers among the congregant families with a special "New Draftee" Friday evening service. To mark this milestone of being inducted into the Israel Defense Forces, each soldier is given a siddur with a personal inscription and blessing.

In addition to the Rabbi's individual support, the congregation staff and volunteers keep in touch with them and their families throughout the years, with the prayer for their safe return home.

OBJECTIVE: To provide support for families, veteran and immigrant alike as well as their children, the soldiers.

IMPLEMENTATION:

☪ In order to support these families, the congregation maintains ties with the children of congregation members who are serving in the IDF.

☪ The congregation supports these soldiers and their families from their first call-up notice, throughout their military service and until they are released.

☪ Soldiers receive holiday packages, cards on their birthdays, and spiritual counseling during their service, for instance, during difficult periods of the military service, the rabbi will meet with soldiers to listen to their stories and provide spiritual guidance.

☪ It is important to note that soldiers receive a salary of only approximately \$65 per month, so that each and every package, special meal and gift is greatly appreciated.

B. PROJECT: "Smile Visits" to the Senior Center, activities which include children, parents and congregation members for Kabbalat Shabbat and holiday celebrations.

OBJECTIVE: Many of the seniors in the day care center are alone in Israel. We believe that Congregation Eshel Avraham can bring smiles and moments of joy to their lives with visits from the kindergarten children for holiday celebrations and Kabbalat Shabbat.

IMPLEMENTATION: The children bake challot on Friday, and walk to the Senior Center to give them to the members, as well join in the Kabbalat Shabbat service. To celebrate the holidays, the children go with gifts and bring joy and laughter to the seniors, as they share special music and songs for each holiday.



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C. PROJECT: "D'var Torah" for home-bound - Bringing the message of the weekly Torah portion to those living in the Assisted Living Center.

OBJECTIVE: To provide the opportunity for those who cannot come to services to have the Shabbat experience

IMPLEMENTATION: Congregation volunteers give D'var Torah on Friday in one of Assisted Living Centers in the city.

D. PROJECT: NOAM (Masorti Youth Movement) "Greening" Project

OBJECTIVE: To engage in neighborhood/community projects which are ecologically safe and enhance the quality of life.

IMPLEMENTATION: Weekly workshops regarding Ecology with Tally School pupils and active community "clean-up" projects and working in the community garden

E. PROJECT: After Aliyah: Becoming Israeli

OBJECTIVE: Give the new immigrant the support and "tools" to build his/her life in Israel.

IMPLEMENTATION: Congregation members volunteer weekly to provide a variety of activities and experiences to strengthen the confidence of the new immigrant to become part of Israeli society.

F. PROJECT: Support Fund for families in emergency financial crises

OBJECTIVE: Assisting new and veteran members during family financial crises.

IMPLEMENTATION: Providing the financial assistance according to need.

G. PROJECT: Community Garden "Greening the Neighborhood"

OBJECTIVE: To enhance and "green" the neighborhood through the partnering of Congregation members, kindergarten parents and children, neighborhood residents.

IMPLEMENTATION: Through the partnering of Congregation members, kindergarten parents and children, and neighborhood residents volunteers working together to prepare, plant, nurture and maintain the Community Garden.

Congregation Eshel Avraham - Masorti Judaism blooming in the Negev
www.masorti.org.il/eshelavraham

