



How will you help repair the world this year?

Volunteer Opportunities for Tikkun Olam at JRC

Interested? Contact the Tikkun Olam leaders listed with each initiative via email (or consult your JRC phone directory). They'll be glad to hear from you!

Justice/Advocacy:

- Environmental Concerns
- Fair Trade
- Hands of Peace
- Human Rights
- Israel Task Force
- Peace Dialog
- REACH Initiative
- Reggi Marder Task Force

Gemilut Chesed (Acts of Loving Kindness):

- Blood Drive
- Coat Drive
- Connections for the Homeless
- Maot Chitim
- Soup Kitchen

Environmental Concerns

JRC's Environmental Concerns Task Force seeks to educate and be a resource for the JRC community to create a "greener" congregation and a more sustainable environment.

What can you do? The Environmental Concerns Task Force invites YOU to get involved!

- 1) Act sustainably: Buy a JRC Stainless Water Bottle and/or a reusable JRC Bag made from reclaimed plastic bottles.
- 2) Celebrate sustainability:
 - Shabbat Noach (Oct. 24) Evanston-wide Interfaith Program** (at St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church): Sign the Evanston Climate Action Pledge to communicate the concern of Evanston congregations about climate change through letters to our governmental leadership. Learn how to take actions to lower your carbon footprint.
 - Life After LEED (Dec. 13) JRC Social Action Sunday:** Now that we are in our platinum-level LEED building, how do we continue our commitment to sustainability? Learn about how to get involved in educating our students, working with Bnai Mitzvah families or on adult ed programming, planting a JRC food garden, joining the docent program, and other green initiatives at JRC.
- 3) Advocate for sustainability: Come to our monthly meetings of the JRC Environmental Task Force as we deepen our knowledge and turn it into action at JRC and beyond. Contact Carole Caplan: sustainability@jrc-evanston.org.

Fair Trade & Sustainable Development

This task force strives to promote opportunities to put our Jewish values to work through the everyday purchasing decisions we make.

What can you do?

Volunteers needed to staff our sales table for Mireembe Kawomera fair trade coffee, Divine chocolate, fair trade olive oil, and Rwandan crafts at various JRC and community events, as well as assisting other Jewish congregations in the area to develop their own fair trade initiatives. Volunteers can also help set up and staff tables at our annual alternative Hanukkah Gift Bazaar on November 15. Contact Elaine Waxman and Beth Lange: fairtrade@jrc-evanston.org.

Hands of Peace

JRC provides support to this innovative program that brings Israeli-Jewish, Israeli-Arab, Palestinian, and American teens together each summer for dialogue and friendship. JRC hosts a Shabbat dinner and service for program participants.

What can you do?

Your family can consider hosting teen participants during their stay in Chicago. There are other volunteer opportunities throughout the year as well. Contact Rabbi Rosen and Alan Rubin: handsofpeace@jrc-evanston.org.

Human Rights

The Human Rights Task Force is designed to disseminate information and facilitate opportunities for learning and advocacy on a variety of issues, including the Darfur Crisis, refugee resettlement, immigration, and other emerging concerns.

What can you do?

We attend rallies both locally and nationally, do letter-writing campaigns, and act in support of immigrant rights, anti-genocide actions, and other issues. To be on the Human Rights alert list, contact Janine Biskind: humanrights@jrc-evanston.org.

Israel

The Israel Task Force is eager to plan programs about current issues and events related to Israel.

What can you do?

Volunteers are needed for programming ideas and locating speakers. Contact Rabbi Rosen and Ruth Wenger: israel@jrc-evanston.org.

Peace Dialogue

JRC's Peace Dialogue serves as a resource and catalyst to JRC members in addressing matters of peace and justice. This year, we have chosen as our focus Jewish-Muslim relations.

What can you do?

The JRC Peace Dialogue offers two distinct volunteer opportunities:

- 1) Read the names of fifteen civilian and military fatalities from the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at an erev Shabbat service during the Prayer for Peace. Contact Edie Canter: peaceprayer@jrc-evanston.org.
- 2) Join the Peace Dialogue initiative to develop connections with the Muslim community, both secular and religious. Contact Sallie Gratch: peace@jrc-evanston.org.

REACH (Recognition, Education, Acknowledgement, Comfort, Hope)

This initiative is aimed at increasing awareness of the ways in which traumatic events such as physical, sexual, emotional abuse destroy the sustaining bonds between individuals and communities. In the coming year, JRC will participate in a year-long pilot program sponsored by JCARES (Jewish Community Abuse Resources, Education and Solutions), and will offer an organized program of trainings and activities entitled Partnership for the Acknowledgement of Safe Synagogues. The goal of the program is to create an atmosphere of safety that encourages congregants to seek support, and put resources in place to be able to respond appropriately to congregants and families in need.

What can you do?

Volunteers will be given specific roles as this program develops. If you are interested, contact Ellen Rosen Kaplan: reach@jrc-evanston.org.

Reggi Marder Memorial Task Force

The RMMTF was created to increase awareness of clinical depression and suicide prevention through consciousness-raising, and also through a special and creative Jewish activism inspired by Reggi.

What can you do?

- 1) This task force is looking for additional leaders to help educate the JRC community about how we think and respond to the reality of clinical depression. Contact Josh Mark: rmmtf@jrc-evanston.org.
- 2) For JRC members, or their families dealing with depression, consider **Refuat Hanefesh** (Healing of the Spirit), our monthly confidential support group. Contact Kathy Rose and Carol Goldbaum: refuathanefesh@jrc-evanston.org.

Blood Drive

This year's Blood Drive, organized annually in conjunction with LifeSource Blood Services, is Sunday, October 25.

What can you do?

In addition to blood donors, volunteers are needed to help publicize the event, assist in set-up, and be available on the day of the drive for a variety of jobs. Contact Sara Cohn: blooddrive@jrc-evanston.org.

Coat Drive

JRC's annual Coat Drive, held each winter, collects coats for a variety of area social service agencies, such as the ARK and Sarah's Circle.

What can you do?

Volunteers are needed to coordinate the event with the office, create flyers and emails for the school and congregation, and visit classes to encourage student participation. Volunteers may also be needed to keep the coats organized during collection and to deliver them to receiving agencies. Contact Sara Cohn: coatdrive@jrc-evanston.org.

Connections for the Homeless

We welcome volunteers to assist with entertaining children whose moms are enrolled in the Connections for the Homeless Transitional Housing Support Group. While the moms meet at JRC, we have a pizza dinner and play time with the kids, who typically range from 3-10 years old.

What can you do?

This is a great tzedakah project for families, B'nai Mitzvah students and teens, and requires very little time commitment (a couple of hours once a month). Volunteers age 18 and older must agree to a confidential background check, but this is not required for minor volunteers. Teens 12 and up can volunteer on their own; younger volunteers are welcome when accompanied by a parent. Volunteers are currently needed to help plan a Hanukkah Party for the kids. Contact Elaine Waxman: cftsupport@jrc-evanston.org.

Maot Chitim

Maot Chitim is an all-volunteer organization that packages and delivers more than 5,000 boxes of food to less fortunate Chicago-area Jews twice a year, just before Rosh Hashanah and Passover. JRC members aged 12 and older assemble packages before delivery; all ages are welcome to deliver packages.

What can you do?

Contact Diane Melnick for the Passover and/or High Holidays packing sessions:
maotchitim@jrc-ewanston.org.

Soup Kitchens

JRC members operate three Soup Kitchens each month at which groups of JRC volunteers cook a community meal for approximately 90 people in need.

What can you do?

Participants are often asked to contribute one food item for the meal, and to prepare, serve and clean up. Children are welcome when supervised by their parents.

- 1) **Sundays (approx. once per month):** St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1004 Greenwood, Evanston), 2-4:30 pm. Contact Pam and Josh Mark: sunkitchen@jrc-ewanston.org.
- 2) **Mondays:** Second Baptist Church (1717 Benson, Evanston), 10 am-1 pm. Contact Linda Cosby: monkitchen@jrc-ewanston.org.
- 3) **Thursdays:** First United Methodist Church (1630 Hinman, Evanston), 4:30-6 pm or 5:45-7:00 pm. Contact Barbara Goodman, Candice Green and Terese Ross: thurskitchen@jrc-ewanston.org.