

TIKKUN OLAM (Social Action)

The mission of the Tikkun Olam committee is to organize activities through which KE members will have the privilege and opportunity to fulfill the traditional Jewish obligation to "repair the world" by serving the needs of our local, national and global communities. These activities include direct service to those in need in our community, the collection and distribution of funds both locally and internationally, and creating partnerships with other organizations to amplify the impact of our efforts. Our hope is that everyone in the Kol Emeth community will find a way to fulfill the obligation of Tikkun Olam and participate in at least one of our sponsored activities. The projects below are currently ongoing and always need volunteers. Don't hesitate to volunteer because of previous commitments and travel; all the projects can accommodate busy schedules.

Sandwich making for the Urban Ministry of Palo Alto (UMPA). On the third Sunday of each month we compile approximately 200 lunch bags in Kol Emeth's social hall; each bag includes a sandwich, a granola bar and a juice box. UMPA picks them up and distributes them at its food bank. KE created this project about 15 years ago and is the only organization that does this. It's a wonderful activity for families and people of all ages, with something to do for everyone. Come and join us; no need to call first. If you have questions, contact **Judi Zeitlin** (yurlady@yahoo.com or 650-851-7612).

Breaking Bread. On the fourth Thursday of every month we prepare and serve lunch to the homeless and needy at All Saints' Church on the corner of Hamilton and Waverly in downtown Palo Alto. Volunteers work in either of two shifts: meal preparation from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, or lunch service and clean up from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm. We usually serve over 100 people each Thursday and always need volunteers. If you want to help, contact **Judy Shulman** (shulman.judy@gmail.com) or 650-494-8864).

Soup for the Soul. Participants in this project cook and deliver soup every Wednesday to patients in the V.A. Hospital Hospice and long-term care programs. Cooks commit to preparing 16 liters of a soup of your choice, once every three months. The soup can be prepared in your kitchen or at Kol Emeth with prior arrangements with the office. Containers are provided and used for delivery at the V.A. in Palo Alto on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Volunteers are especially needed to serve the soup to the hospice patients from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. For more information or to sign-up, contact **Ruth and Julius Honig** (jzhonig@yahoo.com or 650-941-7560).

Shalom Bayit: Bay Area Jewish Women Working to End Domestic Violence (www.shalom-bayit.org). This group offers spiritual support groups for battered women and teens. Congregants will be matched anonymously with one or more clients. They might purchase items on a Hanukkah wish list, provide financial

assistance, or support them in other ways as requested. If you want to volunteer for this project, contact **Roslyn Sholin** (rmslists@sonic.net or 650-366-5846).

Jewish Coalition for Literacy. If you want to be a reading tutor in a local public school for children in grades K-3, contact JCL. After going through one three-hour training session, volunteers are asked to spend an hour per week at a site convenient to them. Morning, afternoon, and evening hours are available. Several volunteers from Kol Emeth have been doing this for years. For more information, visit <http://www.jclread.org> or contact **Jennifer Advani** at jadvani@jcrc.org or 650-940-1229.

We also have an ongoing collection of toiletries for the homeless and transitional families at various shelters (see barrel in the courtyard) and are engaged in a number of one-time projects during year. These include:

Annual Yom Kippur Food Drive. We collect canned food and contributions for Second Harvest and the Jewish Family and Children Services. Last year we received a gold certificate from Second Harvest for our donation.

Holiday Projects. During the Christmas and Thanksgiving seasons, we distribute food at the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo and deliver gift baskets to shelters that service transitional families.

Matanot L'Evyonim. On Purim we raise money, generally for global organizations in need. We also collaborate with our religious school to coordinate a Tikkun Olam activity during the carnival. This year we compiled school supplies bag that were delivered to Haven House and the Maple Street Shelter.

Women's Retreat. During the annual women's retreat, we coordinate a Tikkun Olam project during one of the sessions. This year we compiled gift bags of toiletries and clothing for the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

Annual Mitzvah Day. For the past few years the Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto has coordinated a mitzvah day with local Jewish organizations. Kol Emeth collaborates in planning this event and sponsors its own activity. If you have questions or suggestions, contact our liaison **Jeff Schwartz** (jeff@kolemeth.org).

Annual Blood Drive. Twice a year we sponsor a blood drive through Stanford University to help the thousands of people who are in need of blood. If you want to help with this project, contact **Sonia Moss** (650-369-6129).

*If you would like to join the Tikkun Olam committee and/or take leadership in a new program, please contact **Judy Shulman** (shulman.judy@gmail.com, 650-494-8864) or **Ora David**, (odavid123@comcast.net, 408-830-0501), co-chairs*

