



Feeding Families, Nourishing Hope...

Winter 2011

Message from Richard Simtob, Yad Ezra president



It's hard for me to believe that it's almost the end of the year. In October, we had a very successful fund-raising event thanks to honorees Jan and Mark Hauser, dinner co-chairpeople Anita and Bob Naftaly and Donna and Michael Maddin, and a hard-working fundraising committee. We are very grateful to those who supported this effort which provides the revenue needed to purchase food for our client families.

As the holiday season of gift giving approaches, we find articles in magazines and other periodicals publishing lists of things to buy the 'person who has everything'; the latest smart phone, clothing item, jewelry, car or pet paraphernalia. We are convinced that we need these things – that having these items will fill us with happiness. Instead, it's the people who give that are the ones who are filled up and feel good about themselves and what they are doing.

Our community is growing with young individuals who feel good about giving. I'm happy to tell you about Olivia (Livvy) Gordon, a seventh grade student at Cranbrook who is an accomplished dancer. Livvy decided to merge her love of dancing with her concern for those less fortunate and host a Dance-a-thon as her mitzvah project. With the help of family members and Annette and Co., the Dance-a-thon, (similar to a Walk-a-thon where participants ask friends and family to support them with donations) took place at the dance studio on October 23rd for four hours and raised more than \$1,700. According to Susan Gordon, Livvy's mom, Livvy has "always been eager to help others in need" and has understood for a long time that not everyone can provide the basics (food and clothing) for themselves.

Livvy believes that it is our obligation to do what we can to help those who are vulnerable.

It's heartwarming to learn about individuals like Livvy who understand that there are too many people living among us who don't have the basics, families facing enormous financial hardship. Livvy and Sophie Hirsch (who donated money she found in a parking lot instead of keeping it) and Adin Kleinfeldt (who hosted a hoola-hoop-athon to raise money for Yad Ezra this past summer) are the true gifts of this holiday season.

Bountiful produce for Yad Ezra this year:

Thanks to a variety of gardening efforts, Yad Ezra was the recipient of thousands of pounds of produce this summer/fall for our client families to enjoy.



Thanks to the following:

Congregation Shaarey Zedek/Young Israel of Southfield Garden – 415 pounds of produce donated
Our Lady of Lasalette – 620 pounds
Congregation Shir Tikvah – 62 pounds
Marc Zuppmore and the DTE Energy Gardens – 756 pounds
Fran Wolok – 238 pounds of apples
Catherine Connelly and the Beverly Hills Community Garden – 1,165 pounds donated
Our onsite gardening crew headed by Howard Knorr and Harvey Goldstein

And, of course, our good friends at...

Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan – 51,344 pounds
Forgotten Harvest – 68,500 pounds
Huge (green) thumbs up!!

Thanks to Jeff Katz and Robert Tokar and The Wolverine Group for the preparation and mailing of this newsletter

**Meijer is including Yad Ezra in its
Holiday Season Simply Give Program
November 6th - January 7th
at the Southfield store
(12 mile and Telegraph) only.**



Purchase a Simply Give card for \$10 at the check-out. Amount raised from the card sales along with a donation from Meijer will result in a store credit that Yad Ezra will then use to purchase food and toiletries for client families.

Tribute to Jan and Mark Hauser



On Monday, Oct. 24th, Yad Ezra paid tribute to Jan and Mark Hauser at our annual fundraiser. More than 400 people attended the Strolling Supper at Shaarey Zedek which included a very short program. Dinner Co-chairpeople Donna and Michael Maddin and Anita and Robert Naftaly were thrilled to report that the event raised more than \$560,000, thanks to the hard work of the fundraising committee. Family members and friends of Jan and Mark were on hand to congratulate them on their commitment to helping vulnerable families in our community. Two of Jan and Mark's children, Sandy Hauser Parness and Michael Hauser spoke of their parents' dedication and generosity and what wonderful role models they continue to be.

Diane and Emery Klein presented the Diane and Emery Klein Volunteer of the Year Award to Mike Rich, an individual who has been an active volunteer of the food pantry for the past 15 years.

Thanks to the following businesses who donated their services: Gary Miller Photography, Walker Printery and Preferred Brands. Thanks also to the following individuals who donated lots of their time and talent to help ensure the success of the event: Carol Hooberman, Susie Citrin, Rachel Zimmerman, Bluma Schechter, Sarena Paul, Karen Gluckson, Dorothy Last and Nancy Baron.



Income Tax Act of 1967 is Repealed Effective January 2012

The Income Tax Act of 1967, as amended in 1988, enabled Michigan donors the opportunity for a tax credit for 50% of contributions to [those] entities providing overnight accommodation, food or meals to indigents...

Before the end of the year you can still participate.

The State of Michigan has a special incentive for those who donate to food pantries like Yad Ezra. For a married couple filing jointly, a donation to Yad Ezra of \$400 results in a \$200 state tax credit as well as a deduction on their federal tax return, and a single person's donation of \$200 results in a \$100 state tax credit as well as a federal income tax deduction.

This opportunity ends December 31st!!!

Please contact your tax advisor for more info.

Turkey Thanks!

We wish to thank the following for helping ensure that everyone has a turkey for Thanksgiving:

- Lynda and Ron Charfoos
- Rissa and Sheldon Winkelman
- Esther and Neal Zalenko
- Ari and Karolyn Leibovitz
- Stuart Wish and Midwest Linens

Goldberg Family Thanksgiving Baskets

For the 33rd year, Nate Goldberg, family and friends have been providing Thanksgiving groceries for JFS client families. Thanks to Nate and co. for helping enable everyone to celebrate Thanksgiving!



**Have 3 minutes to
spare?
Watch Yad Ezra's
video and learn
about what we do
and how you can help make a
difference!!**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj1kdLSLDJA>

Kudos Corner

Individuals:

Raye Siegel – for her commitment to Yad Ezra, and exceptional work in the warehouse
Mandi Bucceroni – for consistently helping w/ our late night serving sessions
Rimma Polevoy – for going above and beyond the call of duty in assisting one of our clients in need

Groups:

JVS
The Roeper School
Southfield Career Center
Wayne State Slavic Club
Wayne State Medical Students
Temple Beth El
Shir Shalom
Akiva Hebrew Day School
Shaarey Zedek
Cooley Law Students
Bloch-Israel B'nai B'rith
Amma Center of Michigan
Adat Shalom (Chaldean partnership)
Temple Israel Labor Day Picnic attendees
Red Thread Yoga Event
Jewish Women's Circle of West Bloomfield
Challah Baking Event

New Client Profiles:

Jewish mother of 6 living separately from abusive husband but can't afford to get divorced. Husband helps pay bills but threatens repeatedly to stop paying. Woman has no income. Some of her children have serious mental health issues. It took the mother one year before she could come to Yad Ezra for help (too embarrassed and ashamed).

Non-Jewish mother of 3 without income. DHS cash assistance was discontinued recently due to new state law. The mother has many serious health issues and can't return to work. Her son suffers from bipolar disease – the family is applying for disability insurance. The family lives in Section 8 housing. Mom doesn't know how she will come up with December rent.

Non-Jewish divorced woman formerly making a good living. Was recently laid off and she's worried that she will lose her home. Her ex-husband is unable to pay child support and is not working.



Want to donate a cart filled with groceries but don't have time to shop?

Visit our website www.yadezra.org and 'shop' our virtual food drive!

Planning a trip abroad?

When you return, bring your left over currency to Yad Ezra and we'll take it to the bank to exchange and then use it to purchase healthy food for our client families. **Safe travels!!**



Building Economic Security¹

Hunger, poverty and economic insecurity are a toxic mix for America's low-income families – with an especially harsh impact on children.

More and more families throughout this decade have been struggling against stagnant wages, shrinking government supports, and rising costs for food, energy, housing and health care. Living below poverty puts tremendous strains on a household, giving families barely sufficient money to put enough food on the table to feed themselves and their children. Nutrition research shows that as income goes down, the nutritional adequacy of the household's diet goes down as well. The federal nutrition programs play a critical part in providing economic security. The SNAP/Food Stamp program has grown substantially in recent years and has become the government's most important economic support program for the non-elderly poor, as well as the first line of defense against hunger. In fact, government data show that SNAP/Food Stamp benefits are the single most effective program in lifting children out of extreme poverty (defined as family income below 50 percent of the poverty line).

Hunger is a condition of poverty. Ending hunger in this country requires an ongoing, integrated approach:

- An economy with strong growth and good jobs can lift many families out of food insecurity;
- Better public income supports like low-income refundable tax credits (such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit), Supplemental Security Income for seniors and disabled persons, and other programs help lift incomes and reduce food insecurity;
- Expansion and improvement of nutrition programs like SNAP/Food Stamps, school meals, child care food, WIC and summer and afterschool food
- Emergency food assistance to help fill in the gaps.

¹ Taken from FRAC's (Food Research Action Center) website www.frac.org

Yom Kippur Food Drive

This year, Yad Ezra had some help from new friends.



Thanks to Nancy Welber Barr and the Chaldean-Jewish Initiative, a group of about 50 6th and 7th graders came to Yad Ezra to learn about our food pantry, kashruth, and to help sort food that was donated through our annual community

wide effort. Many thanks to the synagogues, schools and organizations that participated in the drive: Hadassah, Temple Shir Shalom, Congregation Beth Shalom, Temple Israel, Adat Shalom Synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, Downtown Synagogue, Beth Isaac Synagogue in Trenton, Beth



Ahm, Young Israel of Oak Park, Congregation Shir Tikvah, Temple Beth El, Workman's Circle, Hillel Day School, Akiva Hebrew Day School, The Birmingham Temple, B'nai Moshe, B'nai David, Jewish Community Center Oak Park, Congregation T'Chiya, Meer Apartments, Hechtman Apartments, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Congregation Beit Kodesh, Bais Chabad Farmington Hills, Birmingham Bloomfield Chai Center and Bais Chabad West Bloomfield. More than 31,000 pounds of food and over \$13,500 was donated through this event.



Special thanks to Eugene Sherizen and staff of Lighting Supply for assisting us with the logistics of the drive. Thanks to David Jaffee, our new warehouse supervisor, who coordinated this with the help of volunteers Mike Rich and Jerry Eizen.



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Letter from Max Rotenberg, a young donor about to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah:

Dear Family and Friends,

In addition to studying for my Bar mitzvah, I also chose a community service project to volunteer some of my time. Yad Ezra, a local kosher food pantry that feeds the Jewish hungry in southeastern Michigan is that organization.

The fact is that there are a growing number of families in our community going to bed hungry each and every night. Because of the impact that Yad Ezra has had on me, I ask that when you come to my party on November 6th that you please bring along one non-perishable kosher food item. All of the food collected will be donated by me to the local Yad Ezra. Thank you in advance for making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Sincerely, Max

Berkley High School Robotics Team 247 Da Bears is excited to partner with Yad Ezra for our annual Da Bears Care Initiative. Special T-Shirts will be available commemorating this yearlong partnership and 100% of the profits will be donated to Yad Ezra. The robotics team, which includes students from Berkley High School, Hazel Park High School, and Shrine High School, strives to be involved in the community and thought Yad Ezra was a perfect organization to assist. T-shirts will be available mid-January through Team 247 and Yad Ezra. Info will be posted on websites shortly.

Yad Ezra is enrolled in Kroger Community Rewards. Anyone can register their Kroger Plus Card at krogercommunityrewards.com and link it to Yad Ezra #90949. Kroger will send us a portion of the proceeds.

Berkley Community Marketing Program 12 days of Giving

From December 3rd through the 14th, the city of Berkley is promoting awareness among its residents and businesses with a call to action. BerkleyLive (<http://berkley.commlive.net>) has chosen four charities (each charity is highlighted for 3 days) to support. Yad Ezra has been chosen along with Berkley Schools/ Berkley Junior Women's Group Caring and Sharing (Dec. 3-5), New Beginnings Animal Rescue (Dec. 6-8), Yad Ezra (Dec. 9-11) and South Oakland Shelter (Dec. 12-14).

Thank you Berkley! We're proud to be a part of your great city!

Yes, I/We would like to contribute...

- \$ 36, providing an individual with a nutritious food package lasting 2 weeks
- \$ 50, providing a couple with nutritious food lasting 2 weeks
- \$ 75, providing a family of 5 with nutritious food lasting 10 days – 2 weeks
- \$ 100, providing a family of 8 with nutritious food lasting 2 weeks
- \$ 150, providing 3 small families with nutritious food lasting 10 days
- \$ 180, providing 4 small families with nutritious food lasting 10 days
- \$ _____ other

YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS ELIGIBLE FOR A 50% MICHIGAN TAX CREDIT THROUGH DEC. 31, 2011 (Subject to certain limitations)

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Day Phone: () _____

Evening Phone: () _____ Email address: _____

Please contact me about Endowment Opportunities. Have you remembered Yad Ezra in your will?

Contributions to Yad Ezra can be acknowledged with certificates sent in honor or memoriam of specific people. Please complete the following if applicable.

in Memory of: _____ Speedy Recovery of: _____

in Honor of: _____ in Appreciation of: _____

Message: _____

Notify: _____

Address: _____ City/St./Zip: _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ as a tax deductible contribution.

Please make checks payable and mail to YAD EZRA 2850 W. 11 Mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072.

OR - You may charge your contribution to VISA/MasterCard or Discover \$ _____ (*Minimum Suggested Charge Donations -\$18.00*)

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____ 3 digit code: _____

Signature: _____ Name (please print) _____

Questions? Call (248) 548-3663 Donate online! www.yadezra.org



Yad Ezra gratefully acknowledges your gift!

Tribute Packs
Available - 5 cards with envelopes for \$25
Check here to Receive

Clip and mail back to Yad Ezra



Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #100
Detroit, MI

**2850 W. 11 Mile Road,
Berkley, MI 48072**



Yad Ezra presents...

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

**7:00 PM AT STAGECRAFTERS AT THE
BALDWIN THEATRE**

**Help
'vanish' hunger with
SHIMSHI,
the Wynn Hotel's
Magician in Las Vegas.
Check out his website:
[http://
www.shimshimagic.com](http://www.shimshimagic.com)**

*Silent Auction
Food and Drinks*

SAVE THE DATE!

FOR MORE INFO, EMAIL
LEA@YAEZRA.ORG OR VISIT
YAD EZRA'S WEBSITE
WWW.YAEZRA.ORG

Vanish Hunger

Vanish Hunger Event:

Yad Ezra presents: Vanish Hunger,
March 1, 2012 at Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre
in Royal Oak.

Following a successful run of Ante-Up for
Hunger events at Yad Ezra, the pantry's leadership
has decided to change its program and venue for
the annual spring event. This year, the event will
be held at Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theatre at
7:00pm. The featured performer will be Shimshi,
the Wynn Hotel's (in Las Vegas) official magician.
Co-chaired by Nancy Kleinfeldt, Amy Schluskel and
Suzanne Jacoby, the evening will include cocktails,
snacks and a silent auction.

**Check out our website
www.yadezra.org
for more information!**