

Dear SA/TO Vice Presidents,

Maybe I'm a little biased, but you have been elected to the most important and powerful position on all of USY board. Congratulations! As SA/TO Vice President, you have the ability to make a difference on such a huge level. You can raise awareness on so many different issues, raise money, and change the world!

As Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President, you have the ability to influence so many people around you to do good deeds. You can plan fun, unique programs in order to create awareness; you can raise thousands of dollars for Tikun Olam, and so much more. In order to help you with all of the amazing things that you can do throughout this year, I'm providing you with some resources that you will find very useful. Hopefully this section of the handbook will answer your questions and provide you with ideas, but if it doesn't, please don't hesitate for one second to call me. I'm always here to answer your questions and help you with brainstorming, and so is the SA/TO Regional General Board.

Good luck this year! You were each elected to this position for a reason, and I know that you can all do an incredible job.

Peace, Love, SA/TO,

Melissa Sperber

Hagalil Regional SA/TO Vice President 2009-2010

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*"When we do for others, we can't help but be touched by the love and generosity we thought we were giving away." Kimberly Kirberger*

## **SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT IDEAS AND EVENTS:**

- MAKING CARDS FOR SOLDIERS, PEOPLE IN HOSPITALS, OR THE ELDERLY
- HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS
- SANDWICH BRIGADES
- WALL POEMS THAT CAN BE HUNG UP IN A HOSPITAL ROOM OR NURSING HOME AS INSPIRATION
- APPLE PICKING AND APPLE BAKING FOR A FOOD PANTRY
- SHABBAT SERVICES AT A NURSING HOME
- RIVER/BEACH/HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP
- PLANTING TREES OR A GARDEN

## **COLLECTION OR DRIVE IDEAS:**

- CLOTHING
- FOOD
- TOYS
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- TOILETRIES
- GLASSES
- BLANKETS
- STUFFED ANIMALS



## **TO FUNDRAISERS:**

**WE NEED THESE NUMBERS WAY UP THIS YEAR! ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMY ISN'T DOING TOO WELL, WE STILL HAVE TO FOCUS ON TO AND RAISING AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE!**

- MOVIE MARATHON
- TO TAXES
- TO TEA PARTY
- PURIM CARNIVAL
- COIN CHALLENGE
- BAKE SALE
- PHONE-A-THON
- FASHION SHOW
- CLOSED SHOE BOX AUCTION
- BAGEL SALE
- CAR WASH
- ENTERTAINMENT FOR TIKUN OLAM
- SILENT AUCTION
- DANCE-A-THON

*\*\*Relating Social Action and Tikun Olam to what people are interested in and passionate for will grab their attention and get them involved.*

# **613 MITZVAH CORPS**

**The 613 Mitzvah Corps is USY's very own SA/T0 club! It is an advocacy club for USYers who are interested in getting involved and making a difference in the world. It is only \$6.13 to become a member, unless you want to become a lifetime member for \$61.30. All membership fees go to Tikun Olam. At the end of this year, members of the club will be going mitzvah clowning and delivering the SA/T0 boxes that we will be working on at regional events all throughout the year to sick children. There will also be other social action events. For more information, please contact your 613 chairperson, Ariel Lubow.**

## **THE MEGA MITZVAH CHALLENGE!**

**(Hagalil wins this all of the time so let's make sure we win again this year!)**

**The Mega Mitzvah Challenge is a competition between all of the regions. It is our chance to show international USY that we are the ultimate SA/T0 Superheroes! The Mega Mitzvah Challenge is a point system. For every social action project we do, we get points. I will be contacting each of you so that we can compile our points and make sure that we win Mr. Potato Head at International Convention!**

**Regions can earn points:**

- **Regional Collection (i.e. Toiletries, Food) (10 points)**
- **Social Action Program at Regional Event (15 points)**
- **SA/T0 Day (25 points)**
- **SA/T0 Kinnus (35 points + 10 points per program)**

**Chapters can earn points for their region by:**

- **Chapter Collection (i.e. Toiletries, Food) (5 points)**
- **Chapter Social Action Events (10 points)**
- **SA/T0 Day (25 points)**

**Individuals can earn points for the region by:**

- **613 Members (1 point)**
- **UDAFE Members (1 point)**

# Tikun Olam Program

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## **What is Tikun Olam?**

Tikun Olam is the vehicle through which money is contributed to Tzedakah by United Synagogue Youth. We recognize the value of the individual of giving Tzedakah, and we realize the importance of helping others. One major way that this is done in the world today is through financial assistance.

## **Who benefits?**

The limited financial resources of Tikun Olam ("Building a Better World") allow that only Jewish causes be included on the approved list of Tzedakot. If a chapter wishes to allocate funds to a local non-Jewish Tzedakah, it must write the Central Office for approval. The list of approved Tzedakot includes hospitals, orphanages, and social service organizations, and also Tzedakot that provide for the development of individual Jewish communities worldwide. Tikun Olam also benefits the growth and success of the Conservative Movement in North America and Israel, through the support of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Noam Masorti, our sister organization in Israel.

## **Support for Programs in Israel and Scholarship Assistance**

Our commitment to Conservative Movement's programs in Israel and USY summer and long-term programs is obvious and essential because they serve each chapter and region directly. The programs in Israel provide many of the future teaches and rabbis to guide our communities. Scholarships to USYers participating on USY summer and long term programs are beneficial because of the special spirit and enthusiasm that develop during these trips. One look into the eyes of a recent Wheelnik or Pilgrim will convince anyone of the importance of these programs. For these reasons, Tikun Olam is structured to provide 30% of its funds to the Conservative Movement Programs in Israel (as well as covering the operating expenses of the program and educational materials about Tzedakah) while another 30% is returned to regions to provide scholarships for USYers participating in summer and long-term programs.

## **USYers Raise and Allocate All Fund**

Basic to the Jewish concept of Tzedakah is the direct participation of every individual. Therefore, our chapters and regions do not contribute what is "left over" in their treasury for Tikun Olam; instead they plan specific events and drives in which their members actively raise money. Therefore, each chapter and region individually decides which Tzedakot the remaining 40% of this contribution will assist.

## **Tikun Olam is the Exclusive Tzedakah Fund for USY**

In order to assist the Tzedakot that we support, Tikun Olam collects its funds centrally. By donating our contribution in one lump sum, we allow our Tzedakot to plan special programs meeting their major needs, whereas small contributions only allow these charities to pay for operating expenses. Most importantly, since the Tikun Olam program was created and is run by USYers, all Tzedakah is contributed through Tikun Olam.

## **To Clarify**

The Tikun Olam money is allocated as follows:

- 30% - Scholarships for USY programs
- 30% - Tikun Olam Budget and Conservative Movement Programs in Israel
- 40% - Chapters/Regions Allocate