

SOCIAL ACTION AT THE TEMPLE



***Reaching Out
to Protect Those in Need***

5770

*As each year ends
and a new one begins,
we see The Temple,
Congregation Ohabai Sholom,
as a sacred community
in which all may pray to God
in perfect truth,
“I have acted to fight injustice.
I have acted to relieve
the suffering of others.
I have not been indifferent.”*

Social Action Committee
VISION STATEMENT
The Temple
Congregation Ohabai Sholom

Compiled for High Holy Days, September 2009

The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom
5015 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205
615.352.7620 • www.templenashville.org

**We stand on the shoulders of
those who came before us.**



**The Temple
Congregation Ohabai Sholom
Nashville, Tennessee**

The Work of the Social Action Committee Begins with an Idea.

Yours.

Do you see a need in our community
that needs to be addressed?

Don't be silent!

Share your idea with members of the Social Action Committee at the next meeting. Together, discussing all sides of an issue has helped to forge most of the current programs offered at The Temple.

We need you!

Come up with an idea, bring it to the committee, and join us as we all do our job of *Tikkun Olam*—
Repairing the World, Repairing Ourselves.

JOIN US...

Sunday, October 4, 2009, for coffee and a “nosh,” and see what programs might interest you, among The Temple’s many social action projects.

The Social Action Committee Needs Your Help!

The Temple Social Action Committee has a long and illustrious history of involvement in the Nashville community, not only in outreach to the community at large, but also within the community itself. It is a committee that has been built through the efforts of individual Temple members who, through their own personal experiences, have seen a need that might be addressed through the combined efforts of other interested Temple members. We are a very “grass roots” oriented committee—as a Social Action Committee member, you’ll have the opportunity to bring your ideas to the table and use your expertise to effect real change. In addition to programs described in this booklet, we are planning exciting new programs that will be launched within the next year.

A Great Way to Get Involved and Meet Some Great Temple Members

If you’d like to become more involved in Temple activities in general or Social Action in particular, or if you’re interested in meeting some terrific people, we want you to know that the Social Action Committee is open to all interested Temple members. You are welcomed to attend any of our monthly meetings—just call Ann Gilbert to ask about the meeting schedule. We open our hands and hearts and invite you to join us in *tikkun olam*—reaching out to “repair the world” and “repair ourselves” through community support activities.

The Social Action Committee is directly responsible to the Executive Committee of The Temple and then to the Board of Trust. We are greatly assisted in our mission by the Rabbinic Staff. Our Rabbinic Liaison is Rabbi Shana Goldstein Mackler, and our Executive Committee Liaison is Randy Goldstein.

**For additional information about the Social Action
Committee, or to volunteer, contact:**

Ann Gilbert – 292-4737 or anngilbert623@yahoo.com

Resources for the Social Action Committee

Who Funds The Temple's Social Action Committee?

projects, programs, agencies, and initiatives described in this booklet come almost exclusively from *Temple members who donate to the specific funds below*. Please use this form to make a donation that will directly benefit Social Action projects. We hope you'll consider designating these funds when you make future donations to The Temple, as well.

— SOCIAL ACTION DONATION —

Please check here if you do not want your donation published in the *Kol Shalom*.

Person(s) making donation – Print exactly the way you want name(s) printed on the acknowledgment card:

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

In Honor of: Anniversary____ Birthday____ Recovery____

Other: _____

In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

If not a Temple member, give address:

If acknowledgment is sent in memory, or to someone other than person being honored, please tell us what relation they are:

Amount of check or cash: \$ _____

Please check the Social Action Fund(s) this donation should be applied to:

Calvin A. Buchman Social Action Fund: The Temple's Social Action Committee assists Nashville agencies with hunger, housing, medical care or other social concerns with these funds.

Lee and Theresa Kuhn Social Action Fund: The Temple Social Action Committee uses this fund to assist individuals or organizations in the Nashville area with hunger, housing, medical care or other social concerns.

Memorial Tablet Fund: When a memorial tablet is purchased, the name of the deceased, with date of death, is placed permanently on the wall of the Memorial Alcove. During the anniversary week, an additional plaque is displayed, and the name of the deceased is read during Kaddish at Shabbat services. Receipts from this fund may be distributed equitably to the Adult Education Fund, Religious School Enrichment Fund, the Library Fund and to Social Action efforts.

Please mail this form with your check to:
The Temple, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205.

THANK YOU!

CURRENT SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS

The Social Action Committee, in conjunction with the Religious School and our Rabbinic Staff, is committed to our “Year of Heros”. To help more congregants get involved, Social Action Committee members serve as liaisons between the congregation and the organizations funded by The Temple. The members listed with the projects below are fully aware of the volunteer opportunities available with these agencies. **To get connected with the Social Action Committee**, please contact a project liaison or the committee chair, Ann Gilbert.

High Holiday Food Drive

This once-a-year program collects foodstuffs from the congregation on Yom Kippur. Second Harvest Food Bank will supply a large truck on site, which will then be filled with canned and non-perishable food. In addition, there is a box located within the foyer of The Temple where members can drop off foodstuffs year-round.

Room in the Inn Program

(Women every Monday night from November through March)

Each week, we have 10 female guests who arrive from the Campus for Human Development at approximately 5:30 PM, have dinner, spend the night, have breakfast, then depart at 5:30 AM, carrying a lunch. Temple members and their families prepare dinner, and some spend the night, as we must have overnight supervision. If you are interested, the Social Action Committee Contact for dinners is Betty Werthan or Glenda Kraft. Overnight volunteers should contact Robb McCluskey or Beth Convoy. The Social Action Committee wishes to thank the Temple Arts Festival for the generous donation of the income from the “door” to help with the cost of the Room in the Inn Program.

Boulevard Bolt

The Boulevard Bolt is a free-standing committee under the umbrella of the Social Action Committee. This incredible Thanksgiving Day event started in 1994 and now raises over \$160,000.00 a year, with proceeds benefiting an array of city agencies and programs that serve the homeless. The Bolt is a joint project of The Temple, St. George's Episcopal Church and Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Now one of the largest 5-mile races in the country, the Boulevard Bolt has become a family tradition for thousands of people who view it as a way to do for others before counting their own blessings on Thanksgiving Day. Since its inception in 1994, the Boulevard Bolt has raised a total of \$1,200,000 to aid the homeless in the Nashville area. Imagine a world where Baptists, Jews and Episcopalians come together to help meet a critical need in the Nashville community—serving the homeless. The Boulevard Bolt meets that need with a long tradition of serving Nashville's homeless community. Proceeds have been used for such vital projects as:

- Purchasing backpacks with “street survival supplies” for homeless youth
- Helping pay for laundry facilities at a homeless shelter
- Adding a hot breakfast to services provided by a local soup kitchen
- Operating a truck to deliver meals to the homeless on the streets
- Supporting “safe nights” in a 24/7 shelter for homeless victims of domestic violence
- Supporting a chronic disease program for a local medical clinic serving the homeless
- Paying for electronic health records for a mobile healthcare van serving the homeless

....and many other much-needed services

All All Nashville agencies that benefit the homeless are invited to apply for funds from the Boulevard Bolt. Each year, an allocations committee with members from each congregation determines the priority for funding.

Recipients of 2008-2009 Boulevard Bolt Funds

- Campus for Human Development
- Davidson County Mental Health Courts
- Dismas House of Nashville
- Galaxy Star Drug Awareness/Peacemakers Project
- Loaves & Fishes
- Luke 14:12
- Magdalene
- Matthew 25, Inc.
- Mobile Loaves and Fishes
- Nashville Homeless Power Project
- Nashville's Table
- Oasis Center
- Operation Stand Down Nashville
- Park Center
- Penuel Ridge Retreat Center
- Renewal House
- Rooftop
- Safe Haven Family Shelter
- The Shade Tree Family Clinic
- Siloam Family Health Center
- St. Luke's Community House
- United Neighborhood Health Services
- Urban Housing Solutions
- YWCA

Habitat for Humanity

Like the Boulevard Bolt, Habitat for Humanity is a free-standing committee under the umbrella of the Social Action Committee. Under the leadership of Alan Mazer, The Temple has successfully built houses and community. With great respect for each other, Alan has led Temple members and members of other diverse ethnic and religious communities to come together on joint projects to assist in the construction of new homes for Nashville families. Contact Alan Mazer about future opportunities.

Prescription Review

This four-year-old program was brought to the Committee by a Temple member, Dr. Bob Neaderthal. It was his contention that there were many seniors within our congregation who might wish assistance in reviewing their options regarding insurance coverage for medications. The program has been very successful and will be offered again this year on December 6th & 12th. Social Action Contact: Ann Gilbert.

Nashville Cares AIDS Walk

The Temple Team lead by Rabbi Shana Mackler on September 26, 2008, numbered about 50 walkers. The group included Religious School students and their family members, Social Action Committee members, other Temple members, and friends of The Temple.

Staff Relief for Holiday Coverage

This program is designed to assist agencies, either directly funded through the Social Action Committee or funded through the Boulevard Bolt, that must maintain social services over religious/secular holiday periods that do not affect our congregation. We have staffed the Oasis program for Runaway Youth, as well as their Transitional Housing Program. Social Action Contact: Robb McCluskey.

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach program has been reaching out to the gay and lesbian community in Nashville for several years. Numbering nearly 30 and led by Rabbi Mackler, the program includes Passover Seders and is expanding this year to include a dinner under the Sukkah. Social Action Contact: Beth Convoy.

Red Cross Disaster Training/Blood Drive

This past year the Temple held a very successful Blood Drive to benefit the Red Cross in their efforts to aid people in need. We also had a training session to familiarize congregants with their programs. This year we are offering programs again, a blood drive, as well as CPR training. Dates will be in the Kol Shalom. Contact: Carol Fradkin.

JACS

Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Addicted Persons and Significant Others

The JACS program has met without interruption every Wednesday night for seven years, and is now up to a consistent weekly attendance of 8 to 12 members. The annual Passover celebration now numbers about 30 participants. The group includes Temple members, as well as members from other congregations and non-affiliated Jews. JACS will celebrate the start of its eighth year with a dinner/meeting under the Sukkah. Social Action Contact: Robb McCluskey.

Allocations

The program of allocations review is under the purview of the Social Action Committee. Requests for funds are submitted by a number of social service agencies in the Nashville Area. The Committee will review agencies whose mission or activities are deemed consistent with Jewish values and are actively supported by Temple members. Additional criteria for submission can be found on The Temple website, www.templenashville.org. Submissions are reviewed and submitted to the entire Committee with recommendations. The entire Committee reviews the recommendations and makes its determination. A presentation is then made to the Executive Committee, which reviews and re-evaluates the recommendations. The final allocations are then passed on to the entire Board of Trust for approval.

Agencies approved for Social Action funds are also suggested to individual congregants for support and as possible contacts for B'nai Mitzvah projects.

Social Action funds are generated through donations to the Kuhn Fund, the Buchman Fund, and partially through the Memorial Tablet Fund, all under the guidance of the Board of Trust. Additional funds are generated through direct donations by members in honor of various life cycle events. **For more information, contact Ann Gilbert or see page 4 of this booklet.**

AGENCIES RECEIVING SOCIAL ACTION FUNDS

TNT Nashville — Tying Nashville Together (TNT) is a city-wide coalition of faith-based communities, working in the area of Social Justice. Successfully working with the Mayor, School Board, and elected officials, this broad-based group of congregations and community groups has been integral in creating equity in areas such as education, safe neighborhoods, improvements to MTA, and working toward more affordable housing.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$2,200

Room in the Inn — Each Monday evening, from the first Monday in November until the last Monday in March, The Temple hosts 10 women from the Campus for Human Development. The women are brought to The Temple by van, and have dinners prepared for and served to them by members of the Congregation. The guests are then provided with bedding, watch television, and play cards until 10 PM, then lights-out. At 5 AM, they are given breakfast and provided with a lunch before they are picked up by the van and taken back down to the Campus. Social Action Funds pay for the van service, lunches, and breakfasts. These funds are held within The Temple for expenses; any funds that are not expended are retained.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$3,500

CASA, Nashville — Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) puts children first. Staffed almost entirely by unpaid volunteers, CASA makes a real difference in the lives of children at risk. Focusing on the child's best interests, every CASA volunteer serves as a fact finder, an informed voice in court, and a watchdog:

1. The volunteer serves as a factfinder for the judge by thoroughly researching the background of the assigned case.
 2. The volunteer speaks on behalf of the child in the courtroom.
 3. The volunteer acts as a watchdog for the child during the life of the case.
- Funding from The Temple helps to pay for the training of the volunteers. The funds will pay for two volunteer advocates at \$800 each.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$2,000

Homework Hotline — Homework Hotline has 14 teachers or volunteers each night, Monday through Thursday, 4-8 p.m., to provide free one-on-one academic assistance by phone to students and parents. Current certified teachers and trained volunteers each night include:

- Elementary, middle, high school, and AP math teachers, bilingual teachers in Spanish, Arabic and Kurdish, reading specialists.
- Elementary, middle and high school science teachers, language arts specialists.

- Volunteers to work with spelling, social studies, music, art, and other calls.

Funds are non-designated for this agency that will answer 35,000 calls from struggling students or their parents each year. More than 800 callers will have a significant problem speaking English and will require special or bilingual assistance.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$2,000

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)

— The OIC Mission: OIC enables those who are ready and willing to achieve a better quality of life by getting a job or a better job.

Having a good, steady job can move a person from a condition of despair and degradation to independence and a feeling of self-worth. The person may be able to escape homelessness or move out of a crime-ridden project. The effect extends beyond the individual. When someone enters the workforce or gets a better job, he or she begins making a greater contribution to his or her family and to society as a whole, rather than being a burden. For ex-offenders and for persons who have in the past been addicted, the chance to live a life free from crime and alcohol or drugs has even greater rewards, but also greater challenges.

Funds are non-designated to this agency that provides job preparedness skills for a population that is 75.4% African American, 21.6% Caucasian and 3% other; 68.8% are female.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$2,000

Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee

Planned Parenthood affiliate health centers provide culturally competent, high-quality, affordable health care to millions of women, men, and teens every year. Planned Parenthood welcomes everyone—regardless of race, age, disability, sexual orientation, or income.

Planned Parenthood provides education and training for teens and parents to assist in fostering open discussion between parents and their children regarding responsible sexual behavior.

The funds are non-designated, but will be used to provide services in the Youth At Risk Program. This program is to empower youth to make wise, healthy decisions, with a focus on decreasing the incidence of risky sexual behaviors. The target populations are Juvenile Detention Center Outreach, as well as education sessions provided to Metro Schools.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$1,000

Better Decisions — Seeking a way to prepare incarcerated women for their transition back into the community, volunteer Candy Markman introduced the DECISIONS program to the Tennessee Prison for Women (TPW) in January 1985. Since then, eight-week spring and fall cycles have been offered at TPW without interruption.

Better Decisions is a volunteer-driven organization, attracting women of all ages and backgrounds who are interested in working one-on-one with an inmate who wants to learn decision-making skills. A structured curriculum, a comprehensive training weekend, and check-ins with experienced volunteers provide new volunteers (during the eight-week program) with everything they need to be effective mentors.

The grant from The Temple pays for the printing of all training materials for this organization. **2009 Grant from The Temple:\$500**

Jewish Family Service — Jewish Family Service of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, Inc., provides professional social services from Jewish perspectives and responds to and supports individuals and families through life's transitions.

Jewish Family Service strives to:

- Improve social, emotional and economic conditions
- Enhance personal growth
- Increase opportunities for independent, productive and satisfying lives

Under this grant, JFS provides the Healthy Skills for Healthy Kids Program. Children from grades K-4 are served at the JCC Kids Konnection, St. Luke's Community House, and The Temple Pre-School. In addition, there is training for JCC camp counselors. Focus is on teaching social skills, staying safe, and accepting differences. **2009 Grant from The Temple:\$2000**

Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) — The mission of the Neighborhood Resource Center is to assist residents in the formation and development of ongoing neighborhood organizations that take action to improve the quality of life in their respective communities. The NRC offers a state-of-the-art geographic information service, capacity building workshops, job-based economic development services, neighborhood technology training and deployment, and intensive neighborhood organizing efforts. Funds for this agency are non-designated and used for program operations. **2009 Grant from The Temple: \$750**

Special Olympics Tennessee

Special Olympics Tennessee provides year-round athletic training and compensation for thousands of our fellow citizens with special needs. Funding was requested for a special event at the state competition known as Olympics Town. Olympic Town is an area where athletes can relax between events. This consists of a variety of arcade games, which give prizes to every person who participates.

2009 Grant from The Temple: \$750

2009 SAC Grants....\$19,700



Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Resources & Tools for Social Action

rac.org/advocacy/specialresources/sachairsall09

**Be a Hero!
Participate in National Issues!
rac.org**

Health Care:

Jewish tradition reminds us of the importance of the community providing health care for all its members. We have an historic opportunity to pass health insurance reform that guarantees access to quality affordable health coverage to all. Visit JewsForHealthCareReform.org for information and materials.

Iran:

Iran's enrichment of uranium in defiance of international inspectors, stated opposition to the existence of the state of Israel, denial of the Holocaust, and sponsorship of terrorist organizations pose fundamental challenges to international security. Use our Iran Advocacy Toolkit to learn about the steps you can take to help meet these challenges.

Climate Change:

Now is the time to pass climate and energy legislation - before the critical UN Climate Change Conference this December. Visit our Climate Change Resource Page, where you can keep up with domestic climate legislation, get ready for the international negotiations, and call for clean energy solutions to climate change!