Every act begins with a dream and ends with one.

Theodore Herzl

It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes all the difference in the world.

Pirkei Avot 1:17

We rise by helping others.

Robert Ingersoll

Do not withhold good where it is due, if it be in your power to bestow it!

Proverbs 3:27

Do a little bit of good where you are. It is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

Desmond Tutu

A person who runs to do just, good and kind deeds, attains life, success, and honor.

Proverbs 21:21

Meryl & Ron Gallatin TZEDAKAH, LEARNING & CHESED PROGRAM at B’nai Torah Congregation
Dear Friends,

This booklet shows some of the projects that allow B’nai Torah to respond to the most central religious call. There are questions asked in the book of Genesis. The first is: Where are you?, God wanted to know after the fruit was picked from the tree. And later God asked Cain: Where is your brother? He answered with another question: Am I my brother’s keeper?

The first question, Where are you?, is one we all need to ask ourselves. And it is not just a question about physical location. It is a question of the nature of our lives, what we do, who we help, and what responsibilities we share. The second question’s response: Am I my brothers keeper? is probably the central statement of responsibility found in Genesis. Because the answer is clearly YES. We have been taught, and it is emphasized throughout our tradition, that we do not live only for ourselves. We are partners in this world and share in the responsibility to clothe, feed, and shelter. We truly are our brothers’ keepers. And who is our brother? Our “brother” is every living man, woman and child - all of God’s creatures.

B’nai Torah is a place of prayer, a place of learning, a place of culture, and a place of support. We are here to support each other and to support others in need. And all the help and support that we provide is done in kindness. This is the essence of the TLC program described in this booklet.

I encourage you to get involved, to volunteer, to help, to contribute - this will allow our work to reach even greater heights. As we say during the Days of Awe, L’eilah U’L’eilah, higher and higher! I hope we see each other doing some of these important projects!

Rabbi David Steinhardt

"Tzedakah and acts of kindness are equal to all the commandments.

Talmud
When I was approached to take on the role of Tzedakah, Learning and Chesed (TLC) program director, and I learned the vision that our leaders had for this program, I knew that I was going to be part of something great. I knew that it was going to change the landscape of our synagogue and that it was going to put B’nai Torah on the proverbial map within our greater community. What I didn’t know was just how much it would affect me, and so many other congregants, on a personal level. I watch as others become moved by their involvement in this program, and have seen how those who participate become attached to certain projects, organizations and causes. I see how spiritual lives are enriched by tikkun olam and by working together toward a more responsible community and world.

What you will read within this brochure may seem like only words on a page, but I have seen these projects develop and grow - in many cases from inception, and some from nothing but an idea - into a comprehensive program that provides food, shelter, support and resources to so many vulnerable populations. Together we have fed the hungry; sheltered the homeless; aided and comforted the sick; taught the underprivileged, provided support and companionship for the elderly; and spread hope and compassion to the neglected.

Although our work is impressive, we must continue doing more, reaching more and helping more. That’s where we need your help. Please review this book and see what speaks to you and where you would like to get involved and be part of the change.

If you have any questions or want more information, or if you have ideas for new projects and/or organizations that could benefit from TLC participation, please contact me at summerf@bnai-torah.org or (561) 392-8566 ext. 340.

I look forward to working with you!

Summer Faerman
SHELTERING THE HOMELESS

Family Promise

ABOUT: An organization comprised of faith-based communities which assists children and their families that have become homeless in our community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Attend B’nai Torah’s hosted events for the families and children of Family Promise; collect and donate food, clothing and other necessary items; volunteer to drive the Family Promise van (no special license necessary); collect tzedakah through the Family Promise Houses for Change program. Contact Mark Wasserman at (561) 699-5116 or markwboca@gmail.com for more information.

Collections and Deliveries to Homeless Assistance Centers

ABOUT: Community intake centers where homeless men, women and children receive support.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Collect and donate food, clothing, blankets, backpacks, toiletries and other items; volunteer to drive and deliver items to these centers.

VISITING THE SICK

B’nai Torah Cares Committee - (Beatrice Mayer Pastoral Care Program)

ABOUT: This committee of caring volunteers is responsible for visiting the sick, whether they are in hospitals, rehab facilities or homes. Many times, these people don’t have family or friends nearby to see them, making this volunteer opportunity so meaningful.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Be a friendly visitor, or if you aren’t able to pay visits, participate by decorating cards, making phone calls, etc.

HONORING THE ELDERLY

Building Community Partnerships

ABOUT: There are several senior facilities in our neighborhood that we are proud to provide outreach to, including but not limited to: Stratford Court, Brighton Gardens and Menorah House.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Throughout the year, with a special emphasis during the Jewish holidays, volunteer to visit; participate in activities; decorate the facilities and build friendships with the residents.
EMBRACING SPECIAL NEEDS

JARC, Yachad and The Friendship Circle

ABOUT: Throughout the year, B’nai Torah partners with special-needs organizations to host inclusion-based programming such as Shabbat services and gatherings, holiday celebrations, social and team-building activities, and off-site community service projects.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Participating in a social capacity to build friendships and help promote community inclusion; lead group activities; work one-on-one with a special needs individual; and more.

IMPROVING LITERACY

B’nai Torah Literacy Program

ABOUT: There is a Jewish proverb that says “As you teach, you learn.” Our comprehensive literacy program is designed to help people of all ages and backgrounds. Volunteers are strategically matched with those who can best benefit from their skill set.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Volunteer to be a classroom reader or a teacher’s helper or become a mentor. Funding is also needed to further develop this much-needed program.

Inter-generational Reading Program

ABOUT: Through this program, we pair our youth as well as children from local afterschool programs with seniors in our community looking for companionship or residents in local senior living facilities to visit and read with them.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Volunteer to be a reader. Funding is needed to develop this program, most notably to provide transportation to those children who wish to participate but are unable to.

Book Collections

ABOUT: We believe in the power and potential of books to transform lives. Our book collections and donations have been some of our most successful and rewarding initiatives.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Collect and donate new or gently-used books. All genres and age-levels are appreciated including school textbooks, comic books and magazines.
**FEEDING THE HUNGRY**

**Food Drives**

**ABOUT:** We support The Jacobson Family Food Pantry throughout the year and are proud to participate in their annual High Holy Day food drive. This collection coincides with the Ten Days of Awe (the time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), when there is a strong emphasis on tzedakah. The goal is to collect at least one pound of food from each member of our B’nai Torah family, thus providing enough food for the hungry in our community.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Collect and donate food items to be brought into the synagogue before Yom Kippur. If you aren’t able to donate food items but want to contribute, monetary donations are welcomed and appreciated.

**Boca Helping Hands Backpack Program**

**ABOUT:** Over 58% of American students receive their primary meal each day through the government funded National School Lunch Program. But what do these children eat on the weekends? Through this program, backpacks filled with meals and snacks are sent home with elementary school children for the weekend during the school year.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Volunteer to pack the backpacks and/or transport food items. Financial support is also needed to help facilitate this program. Just $6 fills a backpack, and **HOT* will match the donation dollar-for-dollar.

**Sandwich & Munchies Program for Students in After-Care**

**ABOUT:** Sandwiches and other healthy snacks are delivered to students in low-income after-school programs. Each sandwich donated is matched with a financial contribution to the Leket Sandwich Program, which distributes sandwiches to hungry children throughout schools in Israel.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Donate food items (individually-wrapped snacks, bread, cheese, jelly, cream cheese, pizza sauce, nut-free butter, etc.), sandwich bags and gloves; volunteer to put packages together; shop for food items and transport items. Financial support is also needed to ensure we have sufficient resources available to meet the demands within our community.

**Food Donations/Food Recovery**

**ABOUT:** After a simcha or life event you may want to donate your leftover food instead of seeing it go to waste. We can arrange for food items to be picked up and delivered to a worthy organization in need.

**Stop Hunger Now**

**ABOUT:** People of all ages come together for two annual meal-packaging events hosted at B’nai Torah, where volunteers work in teams. Meals are then distributed through feeding programs operated by partner organizations in developing countries.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Sign-up to participate in one or both of the Stop Hunger Now projects; donate to help make this project possible - $.29 feeds 1; $2.90 feeds 10; $29 feeds 100; $290 feeds 1,000.

*See page 9.*
TEACHING OUR YOUTH

Sandi and Barry Schwartz Kids Care Program

ABOUT: The mission of this program is to teach our children about the importance of mitzvot by sharing meaningful, age-appropriate experiences with their peers and families that make a real, notable difference. Projects are held monthly.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Sign-up to participate in the monthly programs. More information is available online at www.bnai-torah.org/KidsCare.

Samaritans 365

ABOUT: Samaritans 365’s promise is that all children are educated and inspired to contribute to society by giving what they can to make the world a better place. In doing so, the children develop a greater sense of personal confidence and gratitude.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Become a B’nai Torah ambassador to the Samaritans 365 program. Responsibilities include representing B’nai Torah at meetings, assisting in community programs, and leading projects within the synagogue.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Title -1 Elementary School Partnerships

ABOUT: Approximately 90% of the students in several local schools are living below poverty level, and are not receiving sufficient support from outside organizations. We provide meals and snacks for these students to take home after school and on the weekends. (During the week at school, most have free or reduced meals). These schools also benefit from our literacy program through book collections and volunteer readers. We also collect toys for the holidays to ensure that every student has a gift to open.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Donations of school supplies, books, holiday gifts, etc; volunteers to deliver items; participation in on-site activities; reading to students.

Mitzvah Crib

ABOUT: This is a permanent fixture located in the ECC school wing. The Mitzvah Crib is used to collect clothing, household items, artwork, toys, and any other items suitable for donation (Note: items do not need to be child-related).

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Fill the mitzvah crib with the above items. If you have any items that you wish to donate that are too large for the crib, please contact the Synagogue Office at (561) 392-8566.
MITZVAH DAY

Yom Mitzvot at B’nai Torah

This is a day when the entire congregation comes together to make a difference. There is something for everyone, and all members are strongly encouraged to participate in this special B’nai Torah philanthropic event. While mitzvot are done everyday at B’nai Torah, on Mitzvah Day we offer a sampling of many local non-profits that need our assistance, in hopes that all participants will find a way to get more involved and continue to make a difference.

Look at what we have accomplished so far!

4,800 backpacks have been filled with food for the Boca Helping Hands Backpack Program, 9,000 snacks have been packed for the Milagro Center, over 6,000 sandwiches have been made to feed the hungry, 21,235 books have been collected and distributed for the literacy project, over 40,000 meals have been packed to aid world hunger, over 2,000 volunteer hours have been logged at various non-profit agencies, 213 comfort dolls have been knitted and distributed, 3,000 pounds of supplies have gone to help disaster relief, 1,600 hygiene kits have been given to JFS, 1,600 dental kits have been given to the Caridad Center, over 1,000 letters have been sent to soldiers, 1,865 pairs of shoes have been donated, 2,500 holiday gifts have been purchased, 500 essential personnel received sweet treats and a smile on Christmas day, over 1,500 diapers have gone to families in need, 250 pairs of eyeglasses have been dispersed, 2,920 meals-on-wheels meals have been delivered, over 500 High Holy Day mitzvah meals have been delivered, 2,200 school success packs have been assembled for youth caregivers...

...and we look forward to doing even more!
WE SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

AACY
Addison Mizner Elementary
AJWS
Alcoholics Anonymous
American Cancer Society
Boca Helping Hands
Boca Raton Regional Hospital
Brighton Gardens
The Caridad Center
Cell Phones for Soldiers
Chesed Animal Rescue & Adoption
Chicken for Shabbat
Dixie Manor
Dress for Success
Family Promise
The Friendship Circle
Gift of Life
Girls on the Run

Habitat for Humanity
Highland Elementary
Hospice by the Sea
HOT
In Jacob’s Shoes
The Jacobson Family Food Pantry
JAFCO
JARC
JCC
Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital
Leket
Love Boca Outreach Ministries
MASWI
Matanya’s Hope
MAZON
Meals on Wheels
Menorah House

The Milagro Center
OneBlood
One Love One Community
Palm Beach School for Autism
Pearl City Cats
Stop Hunger Now
Stratford Court
Ronald McDonald House
Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service
Safe Haven
The Salvation Army
SOS Children’s Village
The Spirit of Giving
Verde Elementary
The Village Academy
Wellington Regional Medical Center
Wish-a-Book
Yachad

*HOT: Meryl & Ron Gallatin are the founders of Hands on Tzedakah (HOT), which was founded to give people the opportunity to choose exactly how they want to help others without having any part of their gift encumbered by an organization’s expenses. Meryl & Ron pay all the expenses of HOT so that all other HOT donor gifts go directly in their entirety, to helping those in need. Meryl & Ron also make a large annual gift that seeds all 50 projects, which allows donors to choose between more than 150 alternative ways to expand these projects that target seven key areas of need: hunger; poverty; youth at risk; the elderly; special needs; compassionate care; and victims of war, terror and natural disasters - domestically, in Israel, and internationally.
“Milagro Center has been blessed to be a beneficiary of B’nai Torah Congregation’s TLC Program. Because of their generosity, the children in our after-school program have enjoyed nutritious foods and snacks each week. TLC not only provides this to our students, the giving and the kindness that comes with it helps teach them the importance and value of generosity and giving to the community. The children’s upcoming participation in the International Pen Pal program, writing to children in Israel, and in the reading program with local seniors coordinated by the TLC Program, will add to the understanding of generosity as well as to the acceptance of others from other walks of life.

The overall experience Milagro Center has had with the B’nai Torah Congregation is true testimony to the willingness to help and provide resources that enhance our program and, most importantly, our children’s lives. Thank you!”

Barbara J. Stark, M.A., President and CEO of Milagro Center

“Volunteering and community service have always been very important in our home, but sometimes it is hard to figure out how to connect with an organization in a way that the whole family will enjoy and find meaningful. TLC has been a great way for our entire family to get involved in tzedakah - not just at B’nai Torah, but also in the larger community. We have spent hours packing snacks for the kids of the Milagro Center, sorting and packing food at Boca Helping Hands, and sorting and cleaning sneakers at In Jacobs Shoes. When you do things as a family, the good feelings you get from helping are multiplied tenfold. We consider ourselves very fortunate that we have TLC to help us get involved in a meaningful way.”

The Statsky-Frank Family

“The backpack of food makes all the difference for my son on the weekend. Without it he runs on almost empty as food is sparse. I am so thankful for the program”

Telisa, mother of a 4th grade student at Addison Mizner Elementary

“I love having food on the weekends. My favorite is the applesauce. It’s yummy!”

Sedrick, 4th grade student at Addison Mizner Elementary

...so that he may instruct his children to keep God’s ways:

to do what is just and right - tzedakah u’mishpat...

Genesis 18:19
SIGN UP TO HELP!

Name: ____________________________

Phone #: __________________________

Email: ____________________________

Best form of contact: ____________________________

PLEASE CHECK THE KIND OF PROJECTS YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN:

☐ Homelessness
☐ Hunger
☐ Visiting the Sick
☐ Elderly
☐ Literacy
☐ Kids Programming
☐ Mitzvah Day

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER ALONGSIDE:

☐ Singles
☐ Young Professionals
☐ Children
☐ Seniors
☐ No preference

How many hours a week/month are you available to volunteer? ____________________________

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO SUPPORT THE TLC PROGRAM:

Amount: $ ____________________________

Please return to the synagogue, attn. Summer Faerman: 6261 SW 18th Street, Boca Raton, FL 33433. If making a donation, please make checks payable to B’nai Torah Congregation, memo line TLC Program.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE