

5776's Mitzvah DAY ONE– a heartfelt THANK YOU! to all our volunteers

**"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed citizens to change the world.
Indeed, it has never been done otherwise." -Margaret Mead.**

In its fourteenth year Mitzvah DAY ONE is now a well-subscribed, much anticipated, highly populated, volunteer-run event that our membership is proud of: a day on which we experience the power of a community effort towards *Tikkun Olam*, healing the world.

Tzedakah, righteous giving, *Gimilut Chasadim*, acts of loving kindness, and social action, all are aspects of *Tikkun Olam*.

With more than 200 members participating in projects on- or offsite as volunteers or donors, and some 30 volunteers either running projects or assisting at Mitzvah Day, your commitment made all the difference. Thank you to everyone!

Here's a look at what OUR small group of committed citizens accomplished:

- 10 volunteers fully restocked the Open Table Food Pantry with 8 dozen bags of groceries donated by KS members
- 8 volunteers harvest hardy greens at LindenTree Farm's Field of Greens, a Food For Free program supplying area shelters
- Raised funds through the *Big Tsimmes* lunch concession and the breakfast/coffee concession, which paid for the groceries ..that served our workers and that volunteers used to prepare apple crisp for 100 Open Table clients- & we gave \$300 to OT.
- Made 36 pumpkin center pieces for the families attending Open Table's dinner to enjoy and take home
- Sewed 30 polar fleece hats for sick and needy children at the Grow Clinic
- Knitted and completed 4 blankets for Project Linus's children
- Sponsored 55 needy children for the Holiday Cheer Project,Voices against Violence
- Donated household items to HGRM. **KS volunteers every 3rd Sunday of the month-New help always welcome.**
- Made holiday cards for inmates in Concord's prison and collected \$100 for Concord Prison Outreach
- Raised \$750 on pie sales and donations for Community Servings' Pie in the Sky fundraiser, enough to provide a week's worth of free, hot nutritious meals to 26 seriously ill, home-bound individuals.
- Provided 10 Thanksgiving turkeys to needy Jewish families with donations to the Turkey Tzedakah fund for JF&CS
- Decorated and assembled 24 terra cotta pots containing healing teas, lotions, amaryllis bulbs for forcing, made cards and origami nesting cranes for Healing Garden's cancer patients
- Gave 10 units of blood to Emerson Hospital's blood drive. **BLOOD donors are welcome year-round at Emerson's Blood Donor Center.** Help Emerson meet a critical and constant need when you [donate here](#).
- Supported Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Jimmy Fund with neckwarmer purchases
- Supported A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation with purchases of blankets www.akidsbraintumorcure.org
- Collected and donated winter outerwear for the adults and children living in Somerville Homeless Coalition's shelters.
- Supported student Tzedakah projects: The Thirst Project, Save-A-Dog, Uganda's Project Have Hope.
- Donated toiletries for patients at Shattuck Hospital and mothers in the Children Witness to Violence Project of the Boston Medical Center, books for Maynard's Green Meadow Elementary School library and Concord Prison Outreach; cell phones to JF&CS's Journey To Safety, to enable victims of domestic violence to be able to dial 911- a lifeline to help they need; eyeglasses for distribution to needy individuals through the Concord Lions
- Supported artisans from Safed, Israel and KS's school with purchases of Chanukah, Havdallah and Shabbat candles, Fair Trade Judaica and T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, with Equal Exchange Fair Trade chocolate and coffee sales
- Supported Uganda's [Clover Foundation](#) with our purchases of handmade jewelry and crafts
- Learned about volunteer and tzedakah opportunities with [Grassroots Wildlife Conservation](#) with several community members taking butterfly weed seeds home for indoor winter planting
- Collected signatures for Amnesty International's letter writing campaigns

Learned about Green Your Heat and LED lighting

Launched our Green Team's first Green event with all-compostable utensils and plates. If you're interested in joining the Green Team or learning about reducing waste at KS contact sally.a.edwards33@gmail.com or JoAnnSimon@gmail.com

Mitzvah Day 1 was a great start to a Mitzvah Year! Let's keep it going! THANK YOU-TODAH RABAH!