

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

Whatever it is in your power to do, do it with all of your might...Ecclesiastes 9:10

What are your passions? What are your talents?

Imagine how you might make your mark with the Rashi community
Enrich your life and the lives of your children...

Listed in blue are many of the ways that you can contribute to our core value of Tzedek (Justice) at Rashi during the 2011-2012 school year. Walk the walk alongside your children. To volunteer or if you have further questions, please contact srotsky@rashi.org (Social Justice Coordinator) or jackihart5@gmail.com (Parent Volunteer). Thank you for taking the time to read and participate!

Walk to End Alzheimers on September 25th

This year the Rashi community is invited to join the Hebrew Senior Life team in the Alzheimers Walk in Cambridge on Sunday, September 25th. This will be our second year of our weekly social justice initiative connecting middle school students with residents in the Memory Support Units at NewBridge. For more information, contact Lynda Bussgang at lyndabussgang@hsl.harvard.edu.

[Join other families from Rashi and NewBridge to do the Walk and support our NewBridge neighbors.](#)

Sukkot Community Mitzvah Project

Every year at *Sukkot*, the Rashi community connects with different partners in the Greater Boston area to support them through our school-wide Mitzvah Bag collection. This year we will be reconnecting with last year's partners:

- Family Table
- The Dedham Food Pantry and
- The Women's Lunch Place

[Coordinate and organize a collection. Help deliver these items to our partners after *Sukkot*.](#)

Martin Luther King (MLK) Curriculum and Projects

During the month of January, the Rashi School community explores age-appropriate themes relevant to the civil rights movement, through study of specific Jewish text study and biographies along with assemblies and hands-on opportunities at each grade level. Some years families have gathered to do an "afternoon-on" of service.

[Think of someone you know who would be a compelling guest teacher during this month. Teach about the role you've played as an activist, standing up for a cause. Share this experience with the children.](#)

[Organize an "afternoon-on" of service in the community for Rashi families.](#)

Purim Tamchui All School Philanthropic Project

Now in its 15th year, the Rashi community thoughtfully studies about unique non-profit organizations that impact the lives of children in compelling ways. The students learn from *Tzedakah* Heroes (role models for social justice) and engage in hands-on philanthropic giving to these organizations.

Be part of the Rashi Purim *Tamchui* Team of parents and teachers. Together, develop and implement the two-week learning and action project. Educate, inspire, and empower students to make a difference!

Rashi and NewBridge Partnership

Last year we launched our exciting partnership with the NewBridge community and connected with the residents in a variety of meaningful ways. Together, we celebrated Chanukah and Purim, worked on a garden, visited residents, explored Jewish texts and celebrated Shabbat, sang and entertained one another, and shared the stories of our lives.

Spend time with elders. Be part of special visitor programs connecting families with seniors.

Mitzvah Makers Program

Now in our 17th year of connecting with elderly residents at Hebrew Senior Life, the Mitzvah Makers Program is open to students in grades 2 and up. Once a month, after school, students volunteer as a group with residents in the Health Care Center at NewBridge and create special bonds through celebrating holidays, working together on art projects, singing and sharing about their lives with one another.

Encourage your child to join Mitzvah Makers to be part of this moving, transformative experience. Join us once a month to assist the team of teachers and facilitate the experience for students and NewBridge residents.

Family Table Collections – Sukkot, Chanukah and Pesach

Family Table, located in Waltham, is a Kosher food pantry and distribution program utilized by those in need in the Jewish community. Three times a year, the Rashi community collects food for Family Table and delivers it to their main offices. Once a year, we have an opportunity to volunteer at the main office and make home deliveries to families in need.

Make a food delivery to Family Table following one of our 3 holiday collections. Bring your family to volunteer at Family Table, sort food at the pantry, and make a delivery directly to someone's home.

Dedham Food Pantry

Last year, the Rashi community started a connection with the Dedham Food Pantry located just minutes from our school. We collected food and helped stock the shelves in the spring.

Help organize a food collection. Volunteer to make a delivery to the Dedham Food Pantry. Bring your kids one day after school.

Tzedakah Hero Visits

Each year, Rashi students meet real-life ordinary "heroes" and hear their inspiring stories of how and why they chose to take action to do something extra-ordinary to make the world a better place.

Share your particular passion that you have put into action with Rashi students. Teach by example that as one ordinary individual we can each do extraordinary things!

Walk for Hunger

Over the past 16 years, the Walk for Hunger has become a fun and powerful Rashi family tradition! Every May, the Rashi community gathers in Newton Centre and walks to raise funds and awareness about hunger and poverty in Greater Boston and throughout Massachusetts.

Help co-ordinate new opportunities for the Rashi community to participate in this year's Walk. Join with other families to do the Walk and challenge yourself to get to the finish line!

Spotlighting Social Justice at Rashi and Beyond

All year long, powerful and inspiring social justice events occur throughout the school. We would love to spotlight, document, share and catalog these experiences on the 2nd floor Rashi Social Justice board, the Daf Keshet, the Rashi Website and publications like the Boston Globe, Reform Judaism, Teaching Tolerance and The Jewish Advocate.

Write, photograph, scrapbook, take videos, etc. to document and tell the stories about Social Justice learning and action at Rashi and by Rashi community members.

URJ Monthly Tzedakah Initiatives

The Reform Movement engages in many tzedakah projects. While there are many ongoing projects, there is also a regular attempt to respond to varieties of human crises throughout the world. Each month, we will join with the URJ in support of these efforts.

Take the small change from your pocket and put it in our Tzedakah box in the Sukkat Shalom.