



Hatzilu engages the Jewish community in the fight against poverty by providing food, financial, social work intervention and assistance, and emotional support to Jewish persons and families in need in the Nassau County area.

HATZILU: A Bar/Bat Mitzvah Project

Rabbi Michael Katz, Temple Beth Torah, Westbury

More and more of our 13 year olds (and their families) are using the occasion of a Bar and Bat Mitzvah to do real mitzvahs: We're seeing baskets of toys and games on the Bimah or on the Kiddush tables instead of the usual flowers; we're hearing about significant donations from Bar and Bat Mitzvah gifts to Tzedakah; we know that many teens are asking guests to bring canned food to the party or the Temple which is then donated to soup kitchens or food pantries.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see some of our teenagers take on Hatzilu as their Mitzvah project. Here's how it might work:

COLLECT. Our teens would get the word out (including on their Invitations) to drop off cans and boxes of kosher food staples to the synagogue or to the party. Special boxes or receptacles, clearly labeled, would be left in a prominent spot, and eventually brought to the Hatzilu warehouse.

TEACH. At the Bar or Bat Mitzvah service, the teenager would let everyone know about the Mitzvah project, including information about Hatzilu and the work it does. This might be done in an oral Dvar Torah, or on a written program. They could also speak in their Hebrew School about the project- recruiting others who might follow their example.

DELIVER. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah teen (along with a parent) would then team up with one of Hatzilu's veteran volunteers bringing packages of food to the needy on Long Island.

The beauty of this project is that the student is involved from start to finish; he or she is involved in the planning, as well as in the execution. Most importantly, the Bar or Bat Mitzvah child is able to actually bring the food to those who will receive it. There will be a new and deeper understanding of what it means to feed the hungry, and to help those in need. The teens who take this on will feel a tremendous sense of accomplishment. They will also come to know that there are two kinds of "Mitzvahs" in Judaism: The Ritual acts that we do (such as participating in a service in the synagogue), and the acts of Hesed- of kindness (feeding the hungry) that we perform. Additionally, the Hatzilu Bar and Bat Mitzvah Project will raise the profile of Hatzilu in the Long Island Community, and it will create a new cadre of volunteers for the important work that we do.

For more information, contact us at 516- 931-2884, or at Hatzilu@HatziluRescue.org

HATZILU NEEDS YOU! — CALL ELISSA TO VOLUNTEER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Herb Weiss

I am honored to serve as Hatzilu's new president. I want to thank my predecessor, Joe Sklar, for his more than three years of outstanding service to Hatzilu during a difficult, transitional time for the organization. The good news is that we are alive and well, continuing as we have for more than 35 years to provide for the needs of the Jewish distressed on Long Island. With the help of our dedicated staff of volunteers and the generous support of our donors, we will be around hopefully for many more years to come.

When I read about and observe what is happening today in the Jewish community at large, I am disturbed like many others by the fact that our children do not seem to be as engaged in Jewish communal life as their forebears. Issues like intermarriage, synagogue affiliation, volunteerism and philanthropy on behalf of Jewish organizations, even support for the State of Israel, to name a few, seem to suffer from less involvement by the Jewish young. We Jews are not exempt from the phenomenon of "Bowling Alone", the title of a recent book that explored the diminishing involvement of Americans in general in communal life.

You may ask, "What does this have to do with Hatzilu?" Quite a bit, actually. True, financial support is our lifeblood because without it we would be unable to provide for the substantial and varied financial needs of our clients. So please, keep that money coming. But we also recognize the importance of getting our youth actively involved in what we do. We look to partner with university Hillel chapters across Long Island so that we can work together with young adults who want to do community service on behalf of the needy, and perhaps even make it a career. We are reaching out to the youth attending our synagogue Hebrew Schools by encouraging them to help in fundraising, to participate in food drives such as the one for Passover that we have co-sponsored with the Shomrim Society for many years, and by asking them to consider Hatzilu if they wish to make a gift of some of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah proceeds to a worthwhile organization.

We also need young adults (if you're under 50 we consider you not only young, but a "kid") to become active volunteers, committee members, trustees or to serve in some other role on Hatzilu's behalf. We perform important work. I can think of few obligations and mitzvahs that surpass in importance and priority the need to take care of the disadvantaged among us. If Hatzilu is to continue and daresay, thrive, young Jewish men and women will have to step forward and join us in our mission. We will welcome you with open arms. Believe me, there isn't much other work in life that you will find more satisfying and fulfilling.

Hatzilu thanks all of the children who participated in food drives at their temples. Special thanks to Woodbury Jewish Center and Midway Jewish Center for their enthusiasm throughout the school year.

What a wonderful way to teach Tzedakah to our children!



WALK-A-THON NEWS

The weather on Sunday, May 22nd was questionable. Rain was threatening, the sky was overcast, and there was a chill in the air, but in spite of this, a group of brave volunteers from our Temple Beth Torah family, along with representatives from Hatzilu, came out to show support for a very worthwhile organization by participating in our yearly sponsored Walk-a-Thon in Cantiague Park. This Jewish rescue organization has served the needs of the Jewish poor of Long Island for over 35 years by providing financial support to enable people to pay rent, medical and insurance bills, buy food, or finance many of the other daily necessities of life. Hatzilu also maintains the largest kosher food warehouse on Long Island and delivers food to hundreds of individuals each month.

Next Walk-a-thon: May 20, 2012

Cantiague Park

ROCKCANROLL HELPS RESCUE HATZILU—Karen Somers

There are times when even an organization with the name “Hatzilu Rescue Organization” needs some rescuing. This has been the case as of late regarding our struggle to maintain enough food in our warehouse for our growing number of clients. We are fortunate that an organization called “rockCANroll” has come to our rescue.

rockCANroll, Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit, hunger relief organization that collaborates with rock concerts, schools, corporations, and private individuals to collect canned and non-perishable food for distribution to local agencies and into the hands of children, seniors and families who are living with hunger and in poverty. We are one of those local agencies that rockCANroll helps.

Aimee Holtzman, president and founder of rockCANroll, has personally gone out of her way to help us numerous times. Just this month when our warehouse shelves were practically bare, Aimee met me at BJ's Warehouse to do a huge shopping of essentials for Hatzilu. It was extremely generous and we now have many of the most important foods, especially key protein foods, which should last us until food comes in from the many drives we are running. A hearty “THANK YOU!” to rockCANroll for being part of a partnership to prevent hunger and help people in need!

HATZILU WANTS TO THANK SUSAN JAFFEE AND THE DONORS AT OHAV SHOLOM FOR THEIR DONATIONS OF CLOTHES FOR TEENAGERS.



HATZILU FOOD ACQUISITION—Karen Somers

With all the Jewish poor on Long Island, there is always a need to acquire food. Fortunately, we have food coming from many sources. Obviously, Long Island Cares is the “bread & butter”, so to speak. However, we also get food from generous local businesses and individuals in the community.

Last year, a new program was launched called the “Hatzilu Nursery School Tzedekah Program”. The nursery schools at Woodbury Jewish Center, Midway Jewish Center, Jericho Jewish Center, and the Mid-Island Y are all participating. Woodbury Jewish Center and Midway Jewish Center have called me about once a month with lots of food collected from each of the nursery school classes. At Woodbury Jewish Center, the Hebrew School has also joined in and is contributing too. This is a great source of food, since it is ongoing throughout the school year.

RockCANroll is an organization that runs food drives at school concerts and local venues such as Westbury Music Fair and Tilles Center. Every person who attends these concerts is asked to bring an item of food for the poor. Aimee Holtzman, the founder and president, calls me when she has food for Hatzilu from one of these events. Aimee has also given us cash from rockCANroll to buy food for Hatzilu. We are very fortunate to have this generous resource for food.

I also launched another food drive, specifically connected to Passover called the “Clear Out Your Hametz Food Drive”. While the drive only lasts one month, I'm hoping that plenty of people will want to clear their kitchens of hametz and be willing to donate it, instead of having to store it for the holiday. The synagogues participating are Woodbury Jewish Center, Midway Jewish Center, and Jericho Jewish Center.

Occasionally I contact the Jericho Public School PTA's community service committees for food too. They do food drives and other community service events that yield food for us as well. Also, from time to time, I get food from stores such as Fairway Market, Trader Joe, Whole Foods, and Shoprite.

Dr. Michael Blitz, Midway member and Chief Instruction/CEO of KMLI-Kombat Masters of Long Island in Syosset. The students at the martial arts school have been asked to donate food. The result has been a full car packed with food, more than once!

**MAKING A LEGACY GIFT TO
HATZILU — Herb Weiss**

We have received several inquiries about how someone can include Hatzilu in their estate plans. Making a testamentary bequest to Hatzilu is easy and will help us to continue in our mission to serve the Jewish needy on Long Island.

One of the easiest ways to create a legacy gift to Hatzilu is to add specific language in your will. You can also make a gift to Hatzilu through unused retirement funds, life insurance, real estate, securities and other kinds of assets.

For more information about creating a legacy gift to Hatzilu, please contact our Executive Director, Elissa Friedman, at the Mid-Island Y JCC (telephone: 516-822-3535 ext. 335), or our President, Herb Weiss, (telephone: 212-643-6400 ext. 109). We will be happy to work with you and your attorney to make this legacy gift a reality.

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