

## Community Outreach Year in Review 2009-2010

The best part about being part of the Community Outreach Committee is experiencing the infinite generosity of the Temple Aliyah Community. This committee provided so many opportunities this past year for the community to come together and provide for those in need.

Our year began with a High Holiday collection for Jewish soldiers abroad and our annual High Holiday Food Drive with empty bags given out on Rosh Hashanah and filled bags returned on Yom Kippur. Our recipient, SOVA, was overjoyed by the response and was grateful for what Temple Aliyah provided. Members of our community answered the call from Jewish Federation in October for a day of packaging bulk food items that also benefited SOVA. We continued assisting SOVA at Mitzvah Day, our largest community program of the year. Along with supporting SOVA at Mitzvah Day, we also collected new shoes for a school in need (Shoes That Fit), held a blood drive, had children from the community record their reading of books for blind children (Tattletales), supported Jewish World Watch, collected candy for Operation Gratitude and provided many green and recycling opportunities to name only a few of our projects. A highlight of Mitzvah Day was joining with St. Bernardine's, Pacific Boys Lodge and the Mohammedi Center to make 500 bagged meals to distribute to food and homeless shelters across the San Fernando Valley.

The Temple Aliyah Community was back at Pacific Boys Lodge in December, preparing and serving Christmas Eve dinner to the boys housed there. We were overflowing with volunteers and enjoyed a wonderful evening of food and song provided by Hazzan Stein. Again, because of our generous congregation, every young man received a gift card to Target or Old Navy as gift for the holiday and a handmade holiday card from the children of Temple Aliyah. December also brought our annual Toy Collection for the Family Violence Project. New toys and gently used women's clothing was collected and delivered to the Family Violence Project to be distributed to their emergency domestic violence shelter.

The New Year began and with it, our first annual Interfaith Environmental Day. Once again, the Mohammedi Center, St. Bernardine's and Temple Aliyah joined forces to do replanting at Paramount Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, pick fruit from a local ranch to be delivered to SOVA and planted flowers for Spring with residents of a local assisted living residence. The new year continued with a Passover collection for Jewish troops abroad, a Passover food collection for SOVA and an afternoon of games and music at the Jewish Home for the Aging with Hazzan Stein and the children's choir. In April, over 50 members of the Temple Aliyah Community participated in the Walk to End Genocide sponsored by Jewish World Watch and we finished the month with a Shoes That Fit collection partnering with another school in need of new shoes for students. Our year comes to an end with a collection of men's and women's

business clothing for veterans looking to reenter the work force and, finally, a day at SOVA packaging and organizing food at their distribution center.

As you can see, the Community Outreach Committee had a very busy year doing good works in our community. I am grateful for an amazing committee and the guidance of Jeff Bernhart, our Community of Caring Director. I am also grateful for a greater Temple Aliyah community that readily steps forward to help those in need. Thank you to all that have made this such a special and fulfilling year for me as the VP of Community Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Schnitman