

Social Justice Committee

Our mission is to help alleviate suffering, offer aid to those in need and to work towards and seek peace and justice in our world. We seek to raise the awareness of the congregation and obtain their help in the fulfillment of these needs, thereby fulfilling the responsibility of Tikun Olam—helping to heal the world.

Along with the Rabbi, the Social Justice Committee makes donations from the **Laurence B. and Elaine J. Sommer Memorial Fund for Social Justice**. This fund was established in memory of Laurence and Elaine Sommer who throughout their lifetimes cared for the hungry, homeless and disadvantaged. Through the auspices of this ongoing tzedakah fund, donations received are dispersed to agencies which continue good works.

Past endeavors and other ongoing projects include:

*Back to School Fund—supplying backpacks to needy students on the shoreline and contributing money to purchase library books for inner city schools.

*Habitat for Humanity/Madison Cares—monetary donations and volunteer work force for six building projects.

*Integrated Refugee Immigrant Services (IRIS)—sponsor a refugee family from Iraq. Help them acclimate to a new culture and build understanding of religious diversity.

*High Holiday and Spring Food drives—collect and distribute food to food banks along shoreline as well as to Jewish Family Services. Also purchase of Thanksgiving turkeys for various agencies.

*TBT knits—volunteers knit warm accessories for donation to those in need.

*TBT Cooks—Volunteers cook meals on a monthly basis for the Branford Community Dining Room