



Kol Amuno

תורה FINDING MEANING עבודה STRENGTHENING FAITH חסדים גמילות חסדים CREATING COMMUNITY

December 2005 / Heshvan/Kislev 5766

Performing *Mitzvot*: Through the Hands of our Community

Our Community Reached Out

The entire Chizuk Amuno community joined together to offer aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. With pride, we announce that we raised almost \$30,000 to provide relief to those affected by the storm.

The funds were distributed to several worthy organizations, including the American Red Cross, *Mazon*: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Bush-Clinton Katrina Disaster Relief Fund, *B'nai B'rith* Disaster Relief, America's Second Harvest, Habitat for Humanity, and Northshore Jewish Congregation.

In addition to contributions made directly to the Congregation earmarked for Katrina relief, the children in our schools and youth programs came forward to help collect donations and supplies. At our community barbeque in September, USYers carried *tzedakah* boxes as they made their way through the crowds.

The Rosenbloom Religious School and Goldsmith Early Childhood Education Center collected supplies and created 160 backpacks full of materials that were shipped to the East Baton Rouge school district. Some of our students also filled backpacks as part of their *b'nei mitzvah* projects.

Several students from the Krieger Schechter Day School created "Crafts for Katrina." They made and sold bracelets, erasers, pins, drawings, necklaces, bookmarks, and stationery. The students fully participated in making this program a success. They set up tables in the Rosenbloom Lobby, advertised and solicited customers, collected the money, and cleaned up after their event. They raised over \$200, which was sent to the Solomon Schechter Day School hot lunch program to assist 8 families evacuated from Louisiana.

Schechter teachers contributed items for a raffle, including gift cards from local businesses, home made cookies, movie tickets, and their time to teach special classes or share a meal together.

In addition, some of our members and school parents have traveled south to help in shelters and lend a hand in restoring some normalcy in the lives of those displaced after the devastation.

Kol HaKavod to all who have given of themselves.

From Darkness to Light

It was in 1938, as part of their campaign to terrorize the Jewish community, that the Nazis organized attacks on synagogues and Jewish owned stores. That event is commemorated every year as *Kristallnacht*, the "Night of Broken Glass."

In 2005, on November 9, the day we remember *Kristallnacht*, renowned artist Gary Rosenthal visited KSDS to discuss the concept of *hiddur mitzvah*, beautifying a *mitzvah*, and to guide the 8th graders in a magnificent art project.

Mr. Rosenthal is recognized for his work with broken glass and welded metals. In this project, he showed our students how to take shards of glass and create objects of beauty and *mitzvah*, *hanukkiyot*. From the darkness of the holocaust, the artist took our children to the light and joy of *Hanukkah*.

In addition to each student making his/her own *hanukkiyah*, all of the youngsters joined in the creation of a work of art celebrating the memory of two great teachers, Diane Mandy and Carol Lombardo. This work will hang in the hallway outside the Middle School office.

The funding for this program was provided by Drs. Steve and Bobbi Schulman, in honor of their daughter's *Bat Mitzvah*. What a marvelous way to honor Abby, who loves art and performing acts of loving-kindness! We thank the Schulmans for their generosity.

Gary Rosenthal will host a *Hanukkah* party for New Orleans Jewish residents when he travels there this month. He will present 1,000 *hanukkiyot* to families who have lost everything, created through projects like the one in which the KSDS 8th graders participated. To learn more about Gary Rosenthal's *Hiddur Mitzvah* program, visit www.hiddurmitzvah.org.

