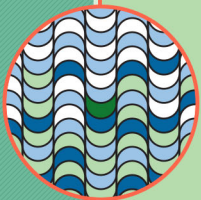




WHAT IS
Social Action



at
**CHICAGO SINAI
CONGREGATION** ?

WHAT IS *Social Action?* AT CHICAGO SINAI

Of all the values espoused by our congregation, the charge to '*repair the world*' or '*Tikkum Olam*' is very close to our hearts.

With our volunteering efforts we aim to:

- Improve the **quality of life** and enable a **brighter future** for local communities facing significant economic and social challenges
- Provide a **variety of opportunities** for us to participate in community service projects while **building bonds and friendships** with fellow Sinai volunteers
- **Role-model** and pass down to our youth and children the Jewish value of *Tikkum Olam*

How we do just that is described on the next few pages.

Need more information?

Visit ***chicagosinai.org***

Select the **ACT tab** from the menu bar.

MORE THAN PACKING:

Supplementing kids' weekend meals via
Blessings in a Backpack



Each Friday, 75 students at Ogden International School and LaSalle Language Academy receive bags of non-perishable kid-friendly foodstuffs, packed courtesy of dedicated Sinai volunteers. Distributed weekly by Sinai for more than a dozen years, these Blessings in a Backpack are truly that: Making sure that every child will enjoy meals on Saturdays and Sundays – since the federally funded breakfast and lunch programs cover Monday through Friday.

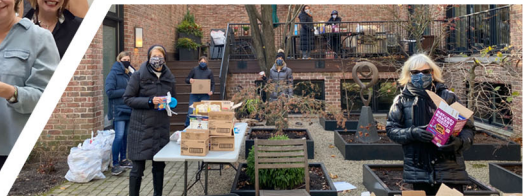
AND TEACHERS TOO:

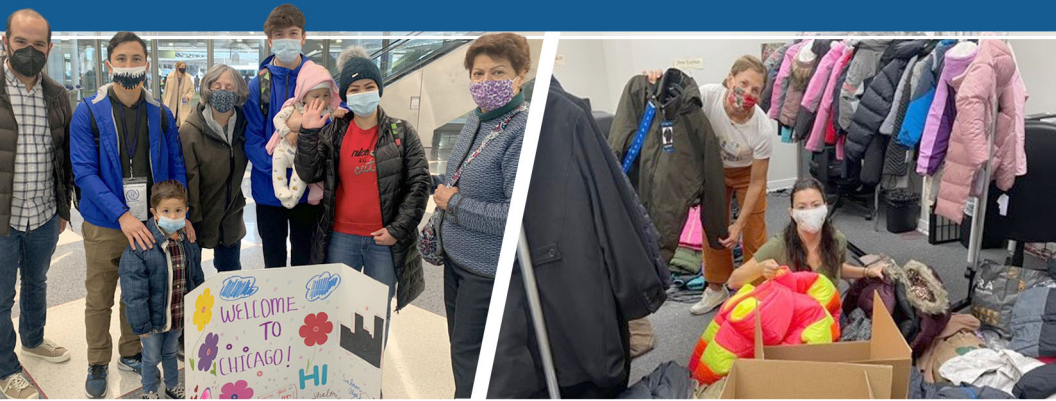
How we help inside and outside the classroom at **Ogden-Jenner**

First day of school donuts and coffee. Snacks during professional days. Welcome back to school events for parents and kids and teachers. And all types of clothing – from Halloween costumes to winter hats and gloves – supplied for low-income students. Even through the pandemic, Sinai volunteers were more than present, ensuring that our assistance made a difference.

Did you know?

We distribute 5,000 Blessings in a Backpack to CPS students on the north and west sides.





Helping refugee families become independent Chicagoans: our work with RefugeeOne

Ask the Jafari family, the fourth refugee family Sinai has co-sponsored with RefugeeOne (the largest resettlement non-profit Chicago agency):

These newly arrived Afghani refugees were greeted with a warm welcome, a hot meal, and a fully furnished apartment. Their new life started almost immediately, thanks to Sinai volunteers who bought household goods and set up the apartment.

More than 40 Sinai congregants welcomed the Jafaris, with visits every week: Coaching on daily activities - food shopping, taking mass transit, locating a preschool, managing a budget and bank account, learning English, and, in general, acclimating to the American culture.

Plus: Ask the 100s of other refugees lacking winter coats:

Sinai volunteers donated heavy-duty garments – and sorted coats delivered to RefugeeOne from other Chicago areas, then created a shopping experience complete with racks and hangers.

And ask any of the 40+ involved Sinai volunteers to describe how our five-year partnership with RefugeeOne touches their lives — and the lives of the four families we co-sponsored.

NO CULINARY EXPERTISE NEEDED:

Cooking and providing dinners for the homeless

Through two organizations – **Lincoln Park Community Services** and the **Fourth Presbyterian Church** – every month Sinai volunteers wield spatulas and mixing utensils to make sure Chicagoans experiencing homelessness enjoy a fulfilling meal. Healthy chicken dinners every month at Lincoln Park Community Services are part of the organization's offerings: Empowering individuals to make sustainable life changes. And the Sunday Suppers at Fourth Presbyterian are well attended; lines form around the corner in anticipation of the meal. Interested?

Did you know?

Every 12 months, we serve 2400 meals to people experiencing homelessness through Fourth Presbyterian Church and Lincoln Park Community Services?





Eggplants and tomatoes and hot peppers, oh my!

Digging the **Stone Temple** **Community Heritage Peace Garden**

It's food for the body – and for the soul. Together with parishioners of Stone Temple Baptist Church, a North Lawndale historic African American church (once a synagogue), a goodly dozen Sinai volunteers turned a vacant lot into a sustainable garden. Now volunteers show up regularly to plant and prune, hoe and harvest foodstuffs donated to those in need. Future plans? Nutritional and educational 'classes' as well as community moments of peace and remembrance.

Did you know?

In 2021, we harvested 150+ pounds of produce at the Stone Temple Community Heritage Peace Garden?



Why is this MITZVAH WEEKEND different from all others?

For the past year or so, Sinai has promoted a second-Sunday-of-the-month, open-to-all list of opportunities to do good. The projects may vary. Each might last a few hours – or stretch to monthly activities. It may involve delivering foods to seniors. Packing boxes for new mothers. Or organizing donations. It's a weekend where singles and couples and families can engage with each other, and with area organizations (like Share Our Spare, The Ark, Maot Chitim) to volunteer and give back.

More: This is a great way to pass down values – and positive memories. Watch for the monthly call to volunteer

Did you know?

Our Religious School actively promotes and engages our youth in passing on the values of Tikkum Olam?



NOT HANDY? No matter — all skills welcome during our **Civil Rights/Social Justice trips**

A hurricane in North Carolina. Floods in New Orleans. Once a year, since 2008, no matter what the natural disaster, a group of Sinai volunteers travel to help one (or more) homeowners rebuild, from painting to re-laying floors. At the same time, we learn what different local groups have accomplished, get inculcated in a bit of history, and hear from well-known religious and lay leaders about current issues of environmental and racial justice, civil rights and immigrant justice. A plus: Long-lasting friendships inside and outside Sinai.

Did you know?

Our Sinai Fund for Social Action distributes \$50,000 annually, supporting our social action projects and community organizations?



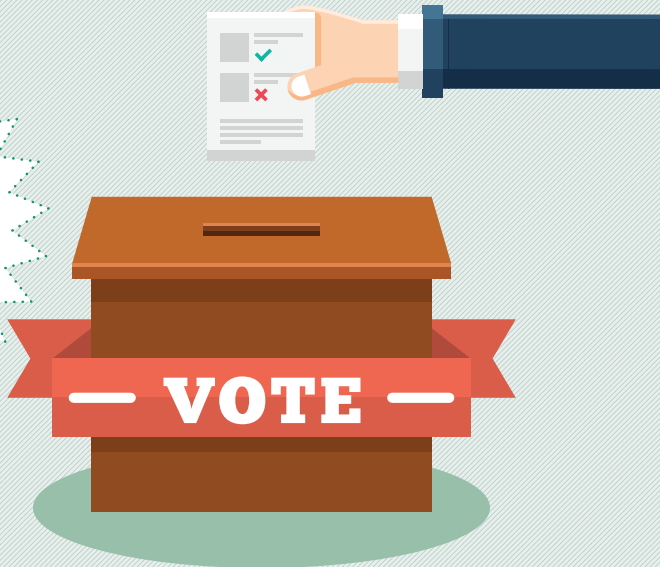
VOTING IS FOR EVERYONE:

What RAC Illinois (and others) have wrought

More than 70 years ago, Reform synagogues throughout the US formed the **Religious Action Center (RAC)**, with local organizing bodies in almost every state. One example: In 2020, Sinai partnered with RAC and the Center for Common Ground to work with disenfranchised communities, encouraging them to register and vote. The result? We contacted more than 8,800 voters by phone and by postcards. [By the way, this occurs every election cycle – every two years.] And fighting for racial justice: The focus of our 25 congregations and 25,000+ Jews in Illinois is on criminal justice reform, immigrant and refugee rights, and, in general, ensuring equality for all in Chicago and Illinois. That could mean pressing legislators to pass certain bills, attending press conferences, speaking out about income discrimination in housing.

Did you know?

*We contacted 8,800
disenfranchised voters during
the 2020 voting campaign?*



CRIME CONCERNS US ALL.

Do something ... through the
United Power for Action and Justice.

How to reduce gun violence? This coalition of 40+ Cook County faith and non-partisan institutions works to hold gun manufacturers/dealers accountable through the Do Not Stand Idly By campaign. Meet with elected officials. Buy one stock share. And as a shareholder, help advocate new resolutions and actions for gun manufacturers. It works on this simple process: Brandish the clout of the many to pressure people in power.

Did you know?

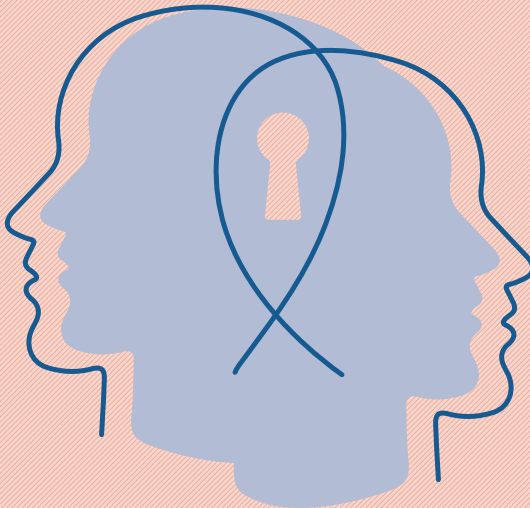
300+ Sinai members and their families participate in social action initiatives each year?



MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS:

Learn about Sinai's contributions to **The Kedzie Center**

In 2014 the non-profit Kedzie Center opened, a community organization providing access to compassionate mental health care for North River residents. Our involvement started a few years before, when, in 2009, Sinai's board, together with The Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers, joined to advocate for a law allowing Chicago communities to vote for a nominal limited local tax increase, directed to mental health care. Two years later, the law passed, garnering bipartisan support. Not only did Sinai members act as founding professionals, they also continue to serve on the board.



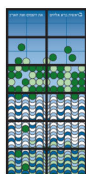
*Help us help you
continue to do good.*

Your contribution to the
SINAI FUND FOR SOCIAL ACTION
allows us to meet the important needs of
our communities — locally, nationally, and
internationally — for today and tomorrow.
Your generosity strengthens our 100+ year
history of making a difference in our worlds.

Please consider making a donation today!



Visit chicagosinai.org/donate
to support the work of social action.



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