

ONE FOR ALL

A PUBLICATION OF



What happens to my donation?

An in-depth look at our Second Time Around program

PAGE 6



**Year in Review:
Simcha Link**

PAGE 4



**Getting Down
to Business
with JobLink**

PAGE 8



**Shas for
Shidduchim
is back**

BACK COVER

ALSO IN
THIS ISSUE

2 A Message from Rabbi Fuerst

3 Three Generous Grants

10 Volunteer Spotlight

11 Furniture Finds a Home

A MESSAGE FROM

**RABBI
SHMUEL
FUERST**

DEAR FRIEND,

As we head into the winter season, ChesedChicago - with your help - is prepared to meet the challenges facing our community. We are grateful to everyone who participated in our A Sweeter New Year campaign during the Yom Tov season. Your partnership means we will indeed be providing A Sweeter New Year for our community.

In this issue, you'll find a recap of Simcha Link's activities this past year. We are proud of Simcha Link's ever-expanding efforts to make the shidduch process as easy and pleasant as possible. We hope that even more shidduchim will result from our hishtadlus.

Also featured is a review of recent happenings at JobLink. This vital service continues to provide invaluable support and guidance to job seekers and employers.

Please take a look further for interesting updates about a few amazing grants we received, and the fascinating journey of your donations once they arrive at ChesedChicago.

With your help, we continue to focus on making ChesedChicago's provisions and services easily accessible. Thank you for your interest and support.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy winter,

Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst
Co-Founder, ChesedChicago

OUR SERVICES

Provisions

Our warehouse provides essentials such as:

- Fine-Neiman Community Food Pantry
- Food Vouchers
- Clothing
- Furniture & Appliances
- Baby Needs
- Toys, Bikes, School Supplies
- Bridal Needs
- Medical Equipment
- Co-Op Shop for Klei Kodesh
- Seasonal/Holiday Distributions

Medical Assistance

We're here for you in times of medical need, assisting with and facilitating services such as:

- Fertility Treatment
- Medical Insurance
- Extraordinary Medical Expenses

Financial Stability

We provide a wide range of finance related assistance programs, such as:

- Tax, Debt, and Financial Counseling
- Government Benefits Assistance
- Interest-Free Loan Fund
- Single Parent Assistance
- Simcha Assistance
- Utilities Assistance
- Eviction Prevention and Home Repairs
- Education and Camp Assistance

Education & Family Services

Our team offers critical services that assist families in need, including:

- Youth Volunteerism
- Mentoring

Second Time Around Pick-Ups / Drop-Offs

Our incredible second-hand program upcycles numerous essential household and clothing items. The main categories we provide include:

- Clothing
- Furniture
- Appliances
- Housewares

AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Simcha Link

JobLink

Ginat Shoshana

Jane Webster Simcha Gemach

Ateres Chaya Bridal Gowns



Generous Grants Support Growing Operations

We are thrilled to announce that ChesedChicago has been awarded transformative grants to enhance our operations and expand our capacity to serve the community. The new grants will fund a forklift, a freezer truck, and a driving scrubber, each filling essential gaps in our infrastructure and helping us serve more people in need.



MOTORIZED FORKLIFT

THANKS TO THE CHIDITAROD FOUNDATION

Improves our ability to move and manage large quantities of goods. Our warehouse operations have long relied on a forklift for loading and unloading, but we were in desperate need of a new one. The new vehicle allows us to handle donations effectively, transport goods between facilities, and streamline daily operations to better serve our community partners and beneficiaries.

FREEZER TRUCK

THANKS TO THE WASHINGTON SQUARE HEALTH FOUNDATION

A crucial addition to our food distribution efforts. Until now, we faced limitations in transporting perishable items due to a lack of appropriate refrigeration during transit. The new freezer truck enables us to collect and distribute fresh food products, ensuring they reach our clients in optimal condition. This represents a vital step toward addressing food insecurity within our community by allowing us to offer a wider variety of fresh, nutritious food options to families in need.



DRIVING SCRUBBER

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS

Maintaining cleanliness in our warehouse and distribution areas is a top priority for us, as an organization handling food and other essential goods. With this addition, we ensure that our facilities remain clean and safe for our clients, volunteers, and staff, reflecting our commitment to those we serve.

These grants underscore the faith our grantors have in our mission and impact. We are deeply grateful to the Washington Square Health Foundation, CHIditarod Foundation, and donors for their generosity, and we look forward to sharing the positive outcomes these grants will help us achieve. 💖



Jewish United Fund  TOGETHER for GOOD

Our winter clothing department is fully stocked and actively distributing coats, boots, hats, gloves, socks, tights, and sweaters. Thank you to the Jewish United Fund for their partnership in keeping our community warm this winter.

Simcha Link Year in Review

It's been a busy and productive year for Simcha Link, which continues to expand its staff and services to meet the needs of Chicago's singles.

ONGOING

Community Shidduch Meetings

With the goal of encouraging local community members to redt shidduchim, Simcha Link coordinated shidduch meetings in different neighborhoods. A Simcha Link shadchan attended each meeting to facilitate, with attendees bringing the names of two boys and two girls. This initiative will continue this coming year as well!



January 13, 2024

Women's Tehillim for Shidduchim & Panel Discussion

Produced in conjunction with Shas for Shidduchim and the Zisa Zimmerman Aneinu on the topic of Bringing Tehillim to Life: Personal Reflections. Panelists were Mrs. Tziona Adler, Mrs. Aliza Rosenbaum, Rebbetzin Rivkie Schecter, and it was moderated by Mrs. Aliza Polstein.



February, 2024

Simcha Link shadchanim Mrs. Estie Karman and Mrs. Frumit Roberts travelled to the east coast to meet with boys and network with shadchanim.

February-March, 2024

Building Blocks to Bitachon series of 4 lectures by local rabbonim speaking on the topic of bitachon.



June 2, 2024

Meet Your Advocates for BYHSC alumni

Alumni of specific ages met with local Simcha Link shadchanim, as well as Simcha Link's Lakewood shadchanim over Zoom.



I thought this event was so nice and so necessary. I felt that each shadchan really took the time and was super nice and open, I didn't at all feel rushed or intimidated. THANK YOU!!

I felt every shadchan there cared and was dedicated to what they do and expressed it so nicely.

July, 2024

Simcha Link shadchanim **Mrs. Rochel Leah Krystal, Mrs. Rivkie Levitin, and Mrs. Estie Karman** travelled to New York and New Jersey to network and meet boys on the east coast.

July, 2024

Simcha Link received a second car donation, bringing the total to **2 cars available for lending to young men who travel to Chicago to date our local girls.**



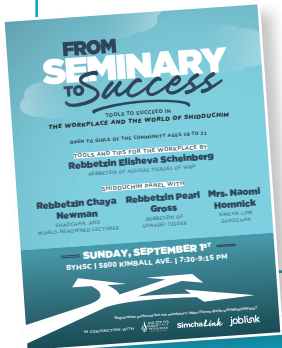
August, 2024

Simcha Link shadchan, **Mrs. Hilary Kahn**, attended 2 networking events on the east coast.

September 1, 2024

From Seminary to Success (IN CONJUNCTION WITH BYHSC)

For seminary grads entering shidduchim and the workplace, this lecture was open to the community. Attendees heard from Rebbetzin Elisheva Scheinberg about entering the workplace, followed by a panel discussion about shidduchim by Rebbetzin Chaya Newman, shadchan and lecturer from Israel, Rebbetzin Pearl Gross, and Simcha Link shadchan Mrs. Naomi Homnick. They also received a folder with resources about the topics discussed.



September 15, 2024

Meet Your Advocates for HSBY alumni

Alumni met with Simcha Link shadchanim. We also flew in 4 shadchanim - YU connects Mrs. Mindy Eisenman and Mrs. Malky Galler, Mrs. Frumi Weinberger from Brooklyn, and one of Simcha Link's Lakewood shadchanim, Mrs. Miriam Gross. The goal was to have shadchanim for all types of girls, and to ensure attendees met with shadchanim whom they hadn't yet met.



It was great! Thank you so much for this event!

It was organized really nicely and very enjoyable. Thank you!

September 15, 2024

Moving Out-of-Town Daters to the Forefront by YUConnects

Given by YU connects dynamic duo shadchanim Mrs. Mindy Eisenman and Mrs. Malky Galler, this lecture was open to the community. They spoke about how to navigate out-of-town dating, and how to see it in a positive light.

Link to the recording can be found at: www.yutorah.org/lectures/1110355



November 10, 2024:

Simcha Link's first Second Generation Shidduch is finalized, with Simcha Link having made the kallah's mother's shidduch many years earlier!

Stay tuned for Simcha Link's new website coming in 2025!



There's a use for everything!

What Happens

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT OUR SE

1

Drop off at our loading dock bins



SORTING



A

CLOTHING



B

FOOD

GOOD CONDITION

Clothing is sorted to determine quality and condition

Food pantry items are sorted for kashrus and quality

Sorted by Clothing Department, Shoes, Gowns, Accessories, Shaitels, Linen

NOT GOOD CONDITION

GOOD

Tagged and hung up or placed on shelves

Items that cannot be used are sold to a thrift shop, so ChesedChicago still benefits from your donation!

Placed on our food pantry shelves

Shoppers take home to enjoy!



Shoppers take home to enjoy!



to My Donation?

SECOND TIME AROUND PROGRAM

2

Schedule a Second Time Around pickup, and we pick up your stuff



TOY ROOM



FOOD



TOYS / BOOKS / SUPPLIES

Items are sorted by expiration dates

EXPIRED OR NOT KOSHER

Food gets sent to other food pantries



Toys, books and other items are sorted for quality and condition

NOT GOOD CONDITION

Items that cannot be used are sold to a thrift shop, so ChesedChicago still benefits from your donation!

GOOD CONDITION SUPPLIES

Supplies such as paper goods, toiletries, baby supplies, medical supplies, cleaning supplies, school supplies, tools, and housewares are shelved appropriately throughout our pantry/warehouse

GOOD CONDITION TOYS AND BOOKS

Placed in our Toy/Book department

Shoppers take home to enjoy!



DROP-OFF BINS ARE LOCATED AT:

ChesedChicago
loading dock
7045 N. Ridgeway Ave.
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

Darchei Noam
of Glenbrook
3465 Techny Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

Northbrook Community
Synagogue
2548 Jasper Court
Northbrook, IL 60062

Or schedule a Second
Time Around Pickup –
we'll come to you!
Call 847-679-7799
or email
office@chesedchicago.org
to schedule.

Getting Down to Business with



HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW VIDEO SERIES?

JobLessons by JobLink provides helpful tips and lessons for employees and employers! We publish about two one-minute lessons per month on job-related topics ranging from picking the right career, and preparing for an interview, to performance reviews and hiring tips for employers. Feedback is strong that these have helped many clients and employers.

To suggest any topics you would like to hear about in future videos, or to sign up to receive the videos by email, contact info@joblinkchicago.org



In September, JobLink welcomed **MRS. TALIA JACOBSON** as Associate Recruiter.

Mrs. Jacobson works to further JobLink's goal of providing full-service employment and human resource services for job seekers and employers. Her experience in education and administration provides a fitting background for this role, which includes meeting with prospective employees to discuss career options and job search strategies, networking with companies, and cultivating relationships with hiring managers.

In the short time she's been with us, Mrs. Jacobson has already demonstrated success. Her proactive approach and ability to build strong relationships have significantly impacted JobLink's efforts.

She can be reached at 773-866-1111 or talia@joblinkchicago.org

JOBLINK STATS IN 2024:

Over
\$6,850,000
in cumulative
salaries secured

108
job offers
for clients

Over
210
new clients
served

116 interview preps/salary negotiations



FIFTH THIRD BANK MOCK INTERVIEWS

Fifth Third Bank, which has a long-standing relationship with JobLink, recently hosted interview training sessions for JobLink clients. Attendees had the opportunity to be interviewed by Fifth Third staff and get feedback about their interview readiness. This was the first time this joint program was offered, and it was a success!

Fifth Third interviewers worked with JobLink clients to help them learn how to best present themselves to hiring managers. Some of the advice given included:

- How to present oneself in the interview process with confidence and presenting examples to the questions
- Applying minor changes to the resume to amplify skills
- Additional ways to be more present on LinkedIn and reach out directly to hiring managers for positions of interest
- Reaching out to past coworkers to gather information for possible open positions
- Tips about the technologies that are useful to improve knowledge and skills.

“I found it helpful, the person who gave me a mock interview was very nice and friendly and wanted to find areas to give me advice and be helpful.”
-H.S.

The response was extremely positive on both ends.

Denise Franta, Assistant Vice President at Fifth Third Bank, was excited about the trainings. “The crucial first step in building stronger communities is to be present with them – in fact, to be a member of them. We want to be a partner with the communities we serve to help them achieve their goals and help all their residents achieve their best lives,” she said. “We are proud to partner with ChesedChicago in strengthening our community.”

“Thank you for the opportunity to do the mock interview. It was a great experience. This program is a great way to have an interview without the pressure of the panel interviewers and also to receive feedback on what you can improve on.”
-S.K.



Abe Adler, Director speaks

“JobLink’s success continues to grow! Over the past year, we added new connections with hundreds of companies and hiring managers and worked with over 300 clients on their job searches. To further JobLink’s mission, Talia Jacobson joined the JobLink team to thoroughly support the community’s employment needs.

We added several business leaders with industry-specific skills to mentor and guide clients – call us to find out more!

Your feedback about services and education is vital – tell us what services and classes we should consider providing. We want to hear from you!”



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

CO-OP *Michael Allen*

A conversation with Michael Allen, one of our Co-Op Cashiers.

How did you get involved with volunteering at ChesedChicago?

R' Yossi Fuerst approached me and said, "You know about computers, right?"

I am a retired software engineer, so of course I said yes and was happy to be able to use my skills to help the community. It turned out the only computer skill I needed was using Excel. At first, I thought there might be a better use for my skills. But on my first day volunteering, I saw rabbeim, businessmen, and other technical professionals pitching in -- shlepping boxes, pulling things out of the freezer, filling out spreadsheets -- whatever needed to be done to help families in our community get food.

What does a typical volunteer day look like for you?

I work as a cashier for the Co-Op. I arrive at the warehouse on Co-Op shopping days, where there is already a line of families waiting. I find a computer and get ready. There is a pretty constant flow of people, but there is also some free time. I bring a mishnayos for the gaps and am usually able to learn at least a couple of mishnayos between checking out shoppers.

Why did you choose to volunteer at ChesedChicago specifically?

I was in contact with Dayan Shmuel Fuerst before even moving to Chicago. We have been direct beneficiaries of ChesedChicago over the last 30 years. It is very gratifying to be able to now give back.

What motivates you to stay involved at ChesedChicago consistently?

My family and I moved to Chicago 30 years ago and we love the community. It is so nice to have the opportunity to be part of the "infrastructure".

If you could tell future ChesedChicago volunteers one thing, what would it be?

There are lots of opportunities to help. Most people don't know the depth and breadth of services that ChesedChicago offers. Contact them and they'll be able to find a job that needs doing and that will fit into your already busy schedule.

In your opinion, what is the most important work that ChesedChicago does?

To me, the range of things ChesedChicago makes available is impressive. Moreover, everything is done with *menschlichkeit*. The warehouse feels like "big box retailers", such as Costco and Walmart. The shopping and checkout experience is the same for everyone. Any payment arrangements or subsidies are handled with extreme consideration for privacy and personal dignity.

What do you feel you gain from volunteering at ChesedChicago?

The mishnah in Avos 1:2 says "The world stands on three things: Torah, Avodah, and Chesed". With chavrusas, davening in a minyan, and volunteering for ChesedChicago, I get to be a real part of each of those pillars upon which the world stands. 🌟

Most people don't know the depth and breadth of services that ChesedChicago offers.

1 FRIEND + 1 FRIEND =

Furniture for Lots of Friends

MANY FAMILIES IN CHICAGO ARE ENJOYING SOME NEW FURNITURE, AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO A TIP FROM A 'FRIEND OF A FRIEND'!

The chain of events was triggered by **Jeff Friedman of McCormick Auto**, a longtime friend of ChesedChicago.

>>

Jeff has a buddy named **Jay**, who sells **auto parts** and has, over the years, helped ChesedChicago with costly truck repairs.

>>

Jay has a friend named **Scott**, who had recently closed his furniture business and was looking for a home for the furniture remaining in his warehouse.

∨
∨

Jay recalled **ChesedChicago's trucks** and knew that our furniture department was a great place to send all that furniture!

>>

Jay pitched the offer to **Rabbi Yossi Fuerst**, and the wheels were set into motion.

ChesedChicago arranged for the transportation and storage of over 180 pieces of furniture, including dining room sets, dressers, breakfronts, end tables, kitchen dinette sets, and small couches – all brand new!

ChesedChicago notified our clients about the exciting news and offered shopping hours where sample items were available for viewing and selection. Shoppers were delighted with the collection and thrilled to enhance their homes with some new furniture at minimal cost.

AN OFFHAND RECOMMENDATION FROM A FRIEND OF A FRIEND... RESULTING IN ASSISTANCE TO NUMEROUS FAMILIES! 💖



I WANT TO HELP THE SINGLES I KNOW...

...but I'm not a shadchan.

...but I have no experience.

...but I'm not well-connected.

...but I don't have time.

...but my shidduch suggestions don't pan out.

...but I'm not the convincing type.

You can help.

On Sunday, January 19th, 400+ lomdim will unite to complete the entire Shas as a z'chus for those who need a shidduch.

Sponsor a daf for up to five singles
whose weddings you long to celebrate.




TO SECURE A Z'CHUS, VISIT

[SHAS4SHIDDUCHIM.ORG](https://shas4shidduchim.org)

847-679-7799 x 170 | info@shas4shidduchim.org

THERE IS NO
GREATER
Z'CHUS
THAN LIMUD
HATORAH.

SHAS FOR 
SHIDDUCHIM
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN