

ONE FOR ALL

A PUBLICATION OF
 ChesedChicago

Shas for Shidduchim

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A MESSAGE FROM

**RABBI
SHMUEL
FUERST**

DEAR FRIEND,

As you turn these pages, you will see the story of a community that takes responsibility for one another. Baruch Hashem, from food on the table and coats in the winter, to dignified employment through JobLink and heartfelt tefillah and limud haTorah through Shas for Shidduchim, ChesedChicago continues to strengthen families across Chicagoland in ways both practical and uplifting.

Aside from the scope of the work, what's most inspiring is the unity behind it. Rabbonim, volunteers, donors, staff, and community partners working together with one shared goal: to ensure that every individual is treated with dignity and every family knows they are not alone. When community leadership and organizations collaborate, we create a strong and caring network of support.

I extend my sincere gratitude to each of you who make this possible. Your generosity, time and commitment allow ChesedChicago to continue growing and serving our community with compassion and dedication.

Wishing our community happy and healthy Pesach,



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
- 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

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:

- Appliances
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Housewares
- Sports Equipment

AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Ateres Chaya Bridal Gowns

Ginat Shoshana

Jane Webster Simcha Gemach

United Bikur Cholim Kitchen


847-679-0496


773-866-1111

Strengthening Community Connections: ChesedChicago Presents to Local Rabbonim

ChesedChicago was honored to be part of a recent gathering of local rabbonim focused on strengthening awareness of vital community resources. At this meeting, our Executive Director, Rabbi Yossi Fuerst, presented an overview of ChesedChicago's programs and services, highlighting the many ways we support individuals and families throughout the Chicagoland area.

The meeting was organized by Rabbi Yaakov Robinson, menahel of the Midwest Conference of Rabbonim / Agudath Israel of Illinois, with the goal of keeping rabbonim informed about the resources available to their congregants. By bringing together community organizations and rabbinic leadership, the gathering fostered collaboration, clarity and meaningful relationship-building.

In addition to ChesedChicago, presentations were given by The Chicago Center, Chai Lifeline Midwest, Chicago Mitzvah Campaign, Upward Community, and Agudath Israel of Illinois. Each organization shared insights into its mission and services, creating a comprehensive picture of the support network available within our community.

Rabbi Fuerst's presentation outlined ChesedChicago's broad range of programs, emphasizing how rabbonim can partner with us to guide individuals and families to appropriate assistance with sensitivity. The presentation was very well received, and the discussion that followed reflected a shared commitment to working together for the benefit of Klal Yisroel.

We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this important forum and for the leadership that made it possible. Strengthening communication and collaboration between rabbonim and community organizations ensures that those in need receive informed guidance and timely support. We look forward to continuing these relationships and working together to better serve our community. 🌟



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There are really no words for me to properly express the immense hakarat hatov and appreciation we are all indebted to ChesedChicago. It is truly one of Chicago's prides.

I really learned so much about the amazing things ChesedChicago does and offers to the community. May HKB"Y give you the ability to go from strength to strength with much continued Siyata Dishmaya for many more years to come. Thank you and Kol Tuv!

Rabbi Netanel Isaacs, Sefardic Rabbi, Kehilat Chovevei Zion / Morasha

24 Hours of Storming the Heavens for Singles Across Klal Yisroel



This January, Chicago once again became the setting for an extraordinary outpouring of limud haTorah, as nearly 400 lomdim participated in ChesedChicago's 9th Annual Shas for Shidduchim initiative, learning together as a collective z'chus for singles throughout Klal Yisroel. The learning, which took place at Agudas Yisroel of West Rogers Park, also brought together over 200 children who participated in Shas for Shidduchim Jr., learning all of Shisha Sidrei Mishna, adding even more z'chusim to this tremendous undertaking of limud haTorah.

"What stood out most was the sense of achdus," one participant noted. *"People from many different backgrounds came together with a shared understanding that limud haTorah can truly be a z'chus for others."*

The impact of the initiative extended well beyond the walls of the beis medrash. This year alone, over 2,700 names were submitted through the Shas for Shidduchim website, each one a precious neshama in Klal Yisroel patiently awaiting his or her zivug.

The limud culminated in a grand Siyum HaShas held on Monday evening attended by hundreds of men and women. The program was guided by emcee Rabbi Yaakov Robinson, who addressed the tzibbur and framed the magnitude of what had been accomplished.

Divrei bracha were delivered by HaRav Zalmen Leib Eichenstein, the Zidichover Rebbe, followed by a keynote address from Rabbi Daniel Glatstein, who spoke about the koach of Torah learned on behalf of others and the responsibility carried by those who have the opportunity to learn for Klal Yisroel. The Siyum HaShas was completed by R' Eliezer Hildeshaim, marking the completion of a monumental undertaking of limud haTorah.

Attendees were treated to special video messages from Eretz Yisroel from HaGaon HaRav Yitzchok Zilberstein and HaGaon HaRav Dovid Cohen. Rav Zilberstein emphasized *"Learning Torah on behalf of others is an especially elevated ma'alah; when people learn as a z'chus for those seeking their zivug, it becomes a powerful means through which the Ribbono Shel Olam brings about yeshuos."* Rav Cohen spoke at length about the unparalleled koach of limud haTorah, particularly when undertaken as a tzib-

Photo credits: Bottom Line Marketing Group



bur and on behalf of others. Citing the words of Rav Chaim of Volozhin in *Ruach Chaim*, he stressed that there is no greater z'chus than Torah learning, explaining that even the greatest Gedolim relied on limud haTorah as the ultimate source of yeshuah.

Shas for Shidduchim Jr. held its own siyum, as the young lomdim completed Shisha Sidrei Mishnah, a remarkable achievement alongside the adults' completion of Shas. The Hadran was recited by Rabbi Avrohom Shimon Moller. The children enjoyed a special presentation by Rabbi Boruch Perlowitz to celebrate their dedication and accomplishment.

Through the combined koach of limud haTorah by adults and children alike, Shas for Shidduchim once again demonstrated the enduring power of Torah as a z'chus for shidduchim and a source of chizuk for all of Klal Yisroel. 🙏



Thank you to Agudas Yisroel of West Rogers Park for graciously allowing the use of the shul for the learning and Shas Jr. siyum.

Thank you to Mesamechei Leiv Orchestra for generously providing the sound and musical accompaniment for the Grand Siyum.



CAN YOU GUESS THE NUMBERS?

2025 STATS

1

How many children received Chanukah toys or gift cards this year?

- A Enough to fill a school bus
- B Enough to light up a whole neighborhood
- C Enough to make 750 kids smile



2

How many shoppers visited the Fine-Neiman Community Food Pantry in 2025?

- A About the size of a small shul
- B A crowd at a community event
- C More than 1,200



3

How many people shopped in our Co-Op this year?

- A A packed auditorium
- B A small town's worth
- C More than 3000 people

4

How much was distributed in food vouchers?

- A Enough for a few Pesach carts
- B Over a quarter-million dollars
- C A number with 5 digits



4,064 *volunteers*

7,315

volunteer hours



5

How many families received furniture or appliances?

- A More than 100
- B Nearly 200
- C Over 250

6

How many children started the school year fully prepared?

- A A classroom full
- B A whole grade
- C More than 200 students



7

How many pairs of boots were given out this year?

- A Just a few shelves worth
- B Enough for a snowy Chicago winter
- C More than 100 pairs



8

How many coats helped families stay warm?

- A Nearly 300
- B A small mountain of coats
- C Enough to fill a coat room

9

How many hair and makeup services were provided for weddings?

- A A busy week's worth
- B Over 250 glow-ups
- C Countless smiles

958

people were helped with government programs

10

How many newlywed couples received bookcases or wall units?

- A 10 couples
- B 37 couples
- C Just over twenty couples



SEE

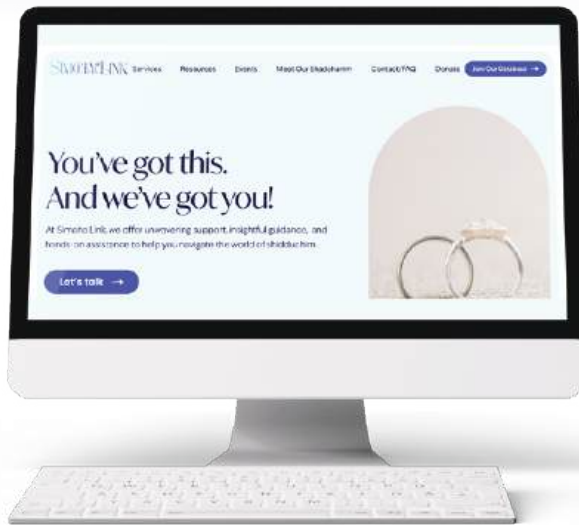
ANSWERS HERE!

- 1. C - 750 children
- 2. C - 1,222 shoppers
- 3. B - 3,276 people
- 4. B - \$270,750 in vouchers
- 5. B - 194 families
- 6. C - 228 children
- 7. C - 143 pairs of boots
- 8. A - 292 coats
- 9. B - 252 services (166 makeup / 86 hair)
- 10. C - 22 couples

BONUS: 229 PIECES OF FURNITURE DELIVERED!

UPDATE

SIMCHA LINK



SIMCHA LINK HAS A NEW LOOK AND WEBSITE!

We're thrilled to announce the rebrand of Simcha Link, with a fresh new logo and a completely redesigned website!

Our updated look reflects the warmth and care with which we've always guided families and singles through the shidduch process. From emotional sup-

port and practical guidance to assistance with the many details along the way, Simcha Link is here to walk beside every family at every stage.

But that's not all - our enhanced website is packed with new resources to make the journey even smoother:

SIMCHA LINK STATS 2025

27 

SHIDDUCHIM MADE

2

STAFF MEMBERS DEDICATED TO ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH

\$38,425

SPENT ON FLIGHTS



146

FLIGHTS PAID FOR

7

EVENTS HOSTED BY SIMCHA LINK

17 

SHADCHANIM ON STAFF, INCLUDING 5 IN LAKEWOOD

38 

TIMES THE SIMCHA LINK CARS WERE BORROWED

Practical resume writing tips to make a great impression

Date planning listings to take the stress out of where to go

Ongoing resources and inspiration for singles at every stage

Explore our new website today, and see how Simcha Link continues to make the journey smoother and more supportive:

WWW.SIMCHALINK.ORG

Thank you for being part of this mission. Your support helps us bring clarity, comfort, and simcha to so many.



 **ChesedChicago**

ANNUAL

spring food drive

It's the perfect time for you to help keep our food pantry shelves fully stocked! ChesedChicago provides kosher food to hundreds of individuals each month.

DONATE YOUR SURPLUS FOOD ITEMS - EVERYTHING MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

**We accept your unused mishloach manos
and chometz food items before Pesach.**

• **No homemade, opened, or expired items please!** •

ITEMS WE NEED

- Barley and beans
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned soups
- Canned tuna and salmon
- Cereal, oatmeal
- Coffee
- Condiments
- Drinks
- Flour, sugar, baking items
- Oil
- Pasta and rice
- Snacks

We also accept
Kosher L'Pesach
food items

 **ChesedChicago**

Drop-off bins are located at our new building

7100 N. Ridgeway Avenue | Lincolnwood, IL

MON - THURS 9 AM - 3 PM • FRI 9 AM - 12 PM • SUN 9 AM - 1 PM

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS WITH JOBLINK

On January 15, JobLink participated in a national Jobs Working Group focused on addressing employment challenges within the Orthodox Jewish community. Joined by 15 other employment service organizations from across the United States, the half-day conference provided an opportunity to collaborate, share insights and develop strategies to better serve job seekers.

The sessions focused on supporting clients with employment barriers, strengthening workforce

development efforts and preparing individuals for long-term career growth. Participants also explored emerging industries, remote work trends and the importance of research and data in guiding effective programming.

The conference concluded with a collaborative discussion of next steps, reinforcing a shared commitment to continued partnership and innovation. Through meaningful networking and new organizational connections, JobLink strengthened its ability to help members of the Jewish community secure sustainable employment and achieve financial stability with dignity.



JOBLINK STATS FOR 2025

<p>244 NEW CLIENTS</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>Secured 114 job offers for clients</p>	<p>HOSTED 2 EDUCATIONAL COURSES</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>HELPED 93 people with interview preps and salary negotiation</p>	<p>219 people were assisted with resume and/or LinkedIn page</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>Gave career and search strategy to 333 CLIENTS</p>	<p>\$6,213,497 in cumulative salaries for JobLink clients</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>Provided guidance to 20 employers about performance review, compensation, and job descriptions</p>
<hr style="width: 80%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>MADE 1414 job referrals</p>			

"THE BIKE MAN"
BIKE DEPARTMENT

STAY TUNED FOR CHESEDCHICAGO'S UPCOMING

SPRING BIKE DRIVE

APRIL 27 – MAY 12

In loving memory of Mr. Bill "The Bike Man" McGraw, continuing his legacy of bringing joy and confidence to children in our community.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bracha Altman, Meira Keener
AND THE HANNA SACKS BAIS YAAKOV HIGH SCHOOL GROUP

How did you get involved with volunteering at ChesedChicago?

Our first experience was taking part in one of their volunteer events for the community. We wanted to see for ourselves what it was like to be part of something that actually helps our local people. Once we joined, we realized how rewarding it is to contribute, and it quickly became something we looked forward to regularly. It started as just trying it out, but now it's something we're proud to be a part of.

Why did you choose to volunteer at ChesedChicago specifically?

We chose ChesedChicago because we believe deeply in its mission and the real difference it makes for families in need. Being part of an organization that provides meaningful support to the community is important to us. Volunteering here allows us to use our strengths in a way that feels both fulfilling and enjoyable. It's rewarding to give back and know we're making a positive impact together.

What motivates you to stay involved at ChesedChicago on a consistent basis?

Seeing firsthand the impact our work has on local families. It's incredibly rewarding to know that even the smallest tasks can make someone's day a little easier. We also value being surrounded by others who are just as committed to giving back as we are. It makes the experience meaningful and keeps us proud to be part of ChesedChicago.

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

Every small task truly matters!

Even if you're just organizing shelves or packing items, your work is helping someone in a real way. Go in with a positive attitude and be ready to help wherever you're needed. You won't just be helping others, you'll walk away with a meaningful and rewarding experience yourself.

What do you feel you gain from volunteering at ChesedChicago?

We gain a strong sense of purpose and the fulfillment that comes from making a real difference in our community. It's incredibly meaningful to be part of something larger than ourselves and to connect with others who are equally passionate about giving back. Volunteering at ChesedChicago leaves us feeling proud, inspired and motivated to continue contributing. 🌟

It's incredibly rewarding to know that even the smallest tasks can make someone's day a little easier.



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LINCOLNWOOD, IL 60712

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
South Suburban, IL
Permit No. 776



THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE



ChesedChicago is supporting 1,000+ families
with food and essentials for Pesach.

But rising prices mean **THE NEED IS GREATER** than ever.

Your donation makes a difference. **GIVE TODAY!**

chesedchicago.org/pesach

