

# ONE FOR ALL

A PUBLICATION OF  
 **ChesedChicago**

## Pesach Playback

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**In memory of  
Rabbi Avraham  
Menashe Siegal z"l**

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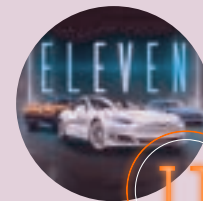
**More than  
Food and  
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**Annual  
Tesla  
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## A MESSAGE FROM

### RABBI SHMUEL FUERST

#### DEAR FRIEND,

Reflecting on this past Pesach season, I am overcome by your care for your neighbors and I'm thankful for your trusting ChesedChicago with a sacred mission to serve Chicagoans facing financial challenges. We simply could not do what we do without your commitment to making our community and K'lal Yisroel stronger.

We mourn the loss of our board member Rabbi Avraham Menashe Siegal, z"l. We are humbled and honored to pay tribute to him in this newsletter.

One of the highlights of this issue is our "smaller" programs. The services that don't get much publicity, but are equally vital. While ChesedChicago's flagship program is our food pantry, there's so much more to our organization, and we're happy to feature a description in this edition.

Please read further about JobLink's recent community outreach activities, as well as a wonderful local high school group, which comes each week to assist, while ultimately gaining themselves.

Thank you for your continued support of ChesedChicago. Wishing you a healthy and happy summer season!



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

## IN MEMORY OF Rabbi Avraham Menashe Siegal, z"l



### *A Life of Integrity, Service, and Unwavering Truth*

We were deeply saddened by the passing of our dear board member, Rabbi Avraham Menashe Siegal, whose presence, wisdom, and commitment left an indelible mark on Chesed-Chicago and everyone privileged to work alongside him. From 2008 to 2025, R' Avraham Menashe served on our board with unwavering dedication, guiding our organization through years of growth, challenge, and impact.

An accountant by profession, R' Avraham Menashe brought not only sharp financial insight to our board but also a steady moral compass. He was a straight shooter—never one to sugarcoat, but always grounded in truth, fairness, and a sincere desire to do what was right. His clarity and honesty often provided the voice of reason in the room, and his contributions helped guide our organization with transparency and strength.

"I knew Avraham Menashe since we were in 7th grade together," shared former board president Moshe Kahn. "And I can attest that he always had the courage to speak the truth, even when it was hard to hear. But he did it with purpose, humility, and a deep care for the mission. He was the perfect, all-around person to have on our board. He took every decision seriously. I knew if I called him with a question, he would try to help however he could. To have him on our board was invaluable."

Beyond his professional gifts, R' Avraham Menashe cared deeply about the people we serve. His involvement wasn't just about numbers—it was about making sure every decision reflected integrity, compassion, and responsibility.

"We are profoundly grateful for the time and talent R' Avraham Menashe shared with us," said Rabbi Yossi Fuerst. "He is sorely missed."

His legacy will continue to live on through the countless lives he touched and the positive changes he helped bring about. We honor his memory by continuing the work he helped shape so meaningfully.

יהי זכרו ברוך



**His clarity and honesty often provided the voice of reason in the room, and his contributions helped guide our organization with transparency and strength.**



### BEGINNER'S CANVA COURSE

A recent beginners' Canva course hosted by JobLink drew many satisfied attendees. Registration slots filled within a few days for the 2-part course. The course was given by Shari Imbo, a marketing and communications specialist. Canva is a user-friendly design and marketing tool.

Shari shared her expertise and delivered user-friendly, clear instructions on Canva basics such as dashboard and templates, basic design elements, saving and exporting, advanced features, creating designs, and more.



**18**  
ATTENDEES

"We're grateful to Mrs. Imbo for graciously volunteering her time and expertise to help our community members. I'm so pleased that we could offer such a course, free of charge. This could be game-changing for so many, as they increase their marketable skills and knowledge."

**ABE ADLER**  
*Director, JobLink*

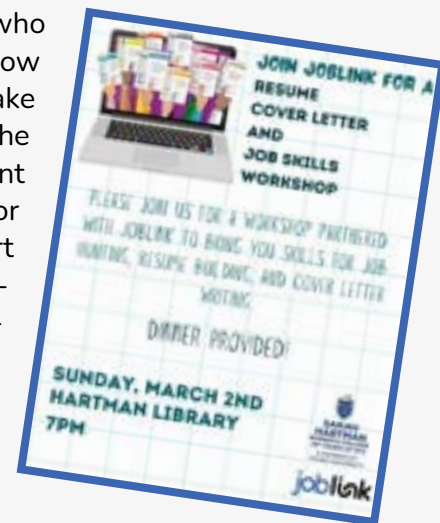
For more information  
please contact Abe Adler at  
773-866-1111 or [abe@joblinkchicago.org](mailto:abe@joblinkchicago.org).

### JOBLINK PRESENTS AT SARAH HARTMAN WOMEN'S COLLEGE OF TOURO

JobLink recently had the privilege of presenting a career development workshop at Sarah Hartman Women's College of Touro at HTC. Led by Mr. Abe Adler and Mrs. Talia Jacobson, the session was warmly received by students eager to strengthen their professional skills.

The workshop focused on writing résumés and cover letters that stand out. It also touched on practical strategies for successful interviews. "I feel so much more confident going into the job market now," one student shared. "The advice was clear, realistic, and incredibly helpful."

The many students who participated are now better prepared to take their next steps into the workforce. The event also opened the door for continued support from JobLink, offering personalized assistance as students begin their job search journeys. 🍷



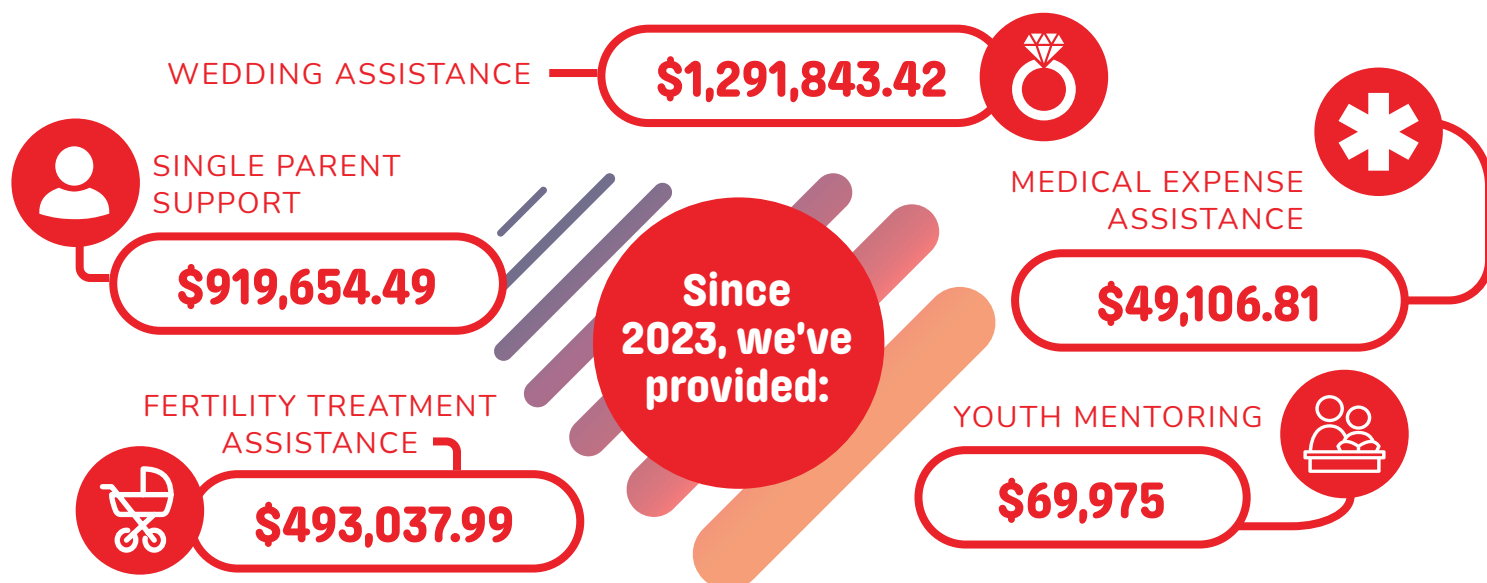
"Sarah Hartman Women's College of Touro thanks Abe Adler and Talia Jacobson from Joblink for an incredible and insightful presentation about resumes and cover letters. Our students benefitted greatly from this connection and we look forward to hosting again!"

**BARI FLEISCHER**  
*Director of Academic and Student Success,  
Sarah Hartman Women's College of Touro.*



# MORE THAN FOOD AND CLOTHING

While our food pantry and clothing department are the cornerstones of ChesedChicago's work, they're only part of the story. Behind the scenes, we also run a number of smaller, carefully targeted programs that quietly provide critical help to individuals and families. These initiatives may not be as visible, but they are just as vital—and they depend on the same resources and generosity that sustain our larger efforts.



We help couples afford costly fertility treatments, cover extraordinary medical expenses for families facing emergencies, and offer meaningful financial support to single parents working hard to care for their children. We also assist with modest wedding costs for families experiencing hardship and we connect youth with mentors who provide guidance, encouragement, and stability.

These programs reflect the heart of our mission: to meet people with dignity wherever they are, and to respond with compassion in moments that matter most. They also stretch our budget significantly. Every dollar we raise helps us continue to support the families who turn to us—not just for food or clothing, but for hope, healing, and a stronger future. 🍷

**These programs reflect the heart of our mission: to meet people with dignity wherever they are, and to respond with compassion in moments that matter most.**

3/30/25



I am so blown away by today's co-op!! The ahavas yisroel and chesed of all the volunteers (and employees!) is indescribable! There was plenty of everything, and everyone was just looking to help! I must have had 20 people come over to me to ask how they can assist me. I truly have no words. I am sure these people were there all day (and probably haven't had a minute to eat or sit down). I so appreciate all of the efforts, and the lev v'nefesh that each volunteer put in. I left the co-op with an overwhelming feeling of "MI KA'AMCHA YISROEL!!!!" and it also gave me chizuk to see that Hashem loves us and is taking care of us, providing so generously. Thank you for everything that you offer and provide to the community! It should be a big z'chus for you and for Klal Yisroel, and I am certain you are speeding the geulah up!



You and your staff did an incredible job yesterday providing this support for the community. Your volunteers were excellent and everything worked smoothly. A big, big yasher koach, continued bracha v'hatzlacha. Thank you so much!

3/31/25



3/30/25

From: ENT@gmail.com

Date: Sun, Mar 30, 2025 at 7:35 PM

Subject: THANK YOU

To: ChessedChicago Pesach <ccpesach@chedsedchicago.org>

I just want to say THANK YOU!

The staff and volunteers went above and beyond today to move things along, offer help, and overall ensure a pleasant and smooth pickup.

Thank you for today and always!

4/6/25



I'm exiting your parking lot right now, and I just want to tell you that it's so organized. Yes, there was a long line, but it went very smoothly, and everyone was so nice and pleasant, and I give you so much credit. You had everything that I ordered. Wow, it's mamesh another level. Thank you for everything.

4/6/25

As a recipient of your Pesach service, I must absolutely thank you and everyone for a fantastic job - helpful, cheerful, treated with so much dignity, organized, etc. I am so grateful!



Thank you so much for all that you do! Words can't describe the feelings of gratitude we have to ChessedChicago for providing so much help! May you all have a beautiful Yom Tov and be blessed!

4/5/25



978

families received food through our food pantry and co-op



194

girls received robes

158

boys received dress shirts



PESACH  
PLAY

THE IN  
In Their



3/30/25



From: 6543@gmail.com  
Date: Sun, Mar 30, 2025 at 8:59 PM  
Subject: Re: Pesach Co-Op Follow Up  
To: ccpesach@chesedchicago.org

Thank you very much! It was an amazing experience! Everyone was so kind and helpful! We are so blessed to live in this wonderful community! Yeyasher kochachem!



From: soimpressed@gmail.com  
Date: Sun, Mar 30, 2025 at 11:53 PM  
Subject: Re: Pesach Co-Op Follow Up  
To: <ccpesach@chesedchicago.org>

Thank you so much for offering this service to the community. The number of products and the politeness of the volunteers was so impressive. The bochurim were very helpful and deserve a lot of credit for being so good-natured with so many people talking to them at once.

3/30/25



4/29/25

I just wanted to give feedback on the Pesach program. It was such a pleasant, comfortable experience.

It was set up so generously. Instead of being stressful or intense, it was set up as straightforward as possible, and I felt so relaxed. We were made to feel so cared for and so comfortable shopping for what I needed for my family. I just want to thank you so much and let you know that we had such a happy, positive feeling.

4/20/25



From: 12345@gmail.com>  
Date: April 20, 2025 at 11:37:22 PM CDT  
To: Yossi Fuerst <rabbifuerst@chesedchicago.org>  
Subject: Thank you!

B"H, as we conclude a wonderful Yomtov, my wife and I wanted to thank you, mai'umkah leibeinu, for the tremendous assistance we received from Chesed-Chicago before Yom Tov. Everything we received was given b'ravchus, everything was top quality, and it was all given graciously and efficiently. It's impossible to imagine how Yomtov would have worked out without ChesedChicago providing all the necessary basic supplies.

May Hakadosh Boruch Hu bentch you, your father shlit"a, and the entire ChesedChicago staff, with gezunt, simcha, and continued hatzlacha in your avodas hakodesh!



I never thanked you enough for such a beautiful YomTov that we had in my home and a big, big chelek comes from the Dayan Rabbi Fuerst, and R' Yossi Fuerst. No words to thank you for caring, and just being there for our family b'prat, and for all of Chicago, and even past Chicago. You should be g'bentched.

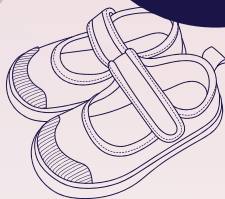
5/2/25

ACH  
BACK

IMPACT  
- Words

239  
families shopped in  
our clothing  
department

202  
shoe vouchers  
were given



All testimonials are genuine, with email addresses changed to protect privacy.

# 85 YEARS YOUNG

## And Still Giving Back!

*Most people celebrate their 85th birthday with cake and candles.*

But for one incredible woman, Paula Resnick, the celebration looked a little different. Surrounded by friends, she chose to spend her milestone day volunteering at ChessedChicago's Pesach distribution—lifting boxes, packing bags, and spreading joy.

With a big smile and even bigger energy, she jumped right into the action, proving that kindness doesn't retire. "What better way to celebrate life," she said, "than by helping others get ready for Yom Tov?" Her enthusiasm was contagious, and her group of friends quickly turned their shift into a mini party—with plenty of laughter, teamwork, and of course, a birthday treat or two.

Her presence reminded us all that giving is ageless, and that the best celebrations are the ones that make a difference. From all of us at ChessedChicago: thank you for your heart, your hands, and your beautiful example of what it means to live with purpose. 🍷



To: office@chesedchicago.org

From: Devra S.

Subject: NCSYxChesed Chicago Pesach Distribution Event This Sunday!

You guys are phenomenal!!

The experience at ChessedChicago was absolutely phenomenal!! Above and beyond expectations, and the way your staff treated my mom for her birthday was so beautiful!! We will be back!!

Thank you so so, so much!! What you are doing for the community, and the way you treat the recipients and the volunteers is truly a mitzvah!

Chag Sameach!

Warmly,

Devra

*An email  
from  
Paula's  
daughter*





CUT HERE

ATTENTION KIDS

BE A



CHESED  
Champ

THIS SUMMER!

BACK FOR OUR  
SECOND YEAR!

**MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.**

This summer, do an act of kindness each day  
(or more than one per day!) and earn a cool prize!

#### HOW IT WORKS:

- Use the form (other side of this page) to check off each time you do a chesed.
- Use the list of suggested tasks, or add your own.
- Once your sheet is filled, bring it to ChesedChicago to claim your prize!  
(one prize per person)

#### 2 PARTICIPATION LEVELS:

- **COMPLETE 25 – 50 CHECKBOXES:**  
earn a **DIGITAL WATCH!**
- **COMPLETE 51 – 75 CHECKBOXES:**  
earn a light-up electric **FRISBEE!**



photos for illustrative purposes only

CHESEDCHAMPS SUMMER CHALLENGE STARTS:

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22**

PRIZE PICKUP STARTS:

**THURSDAY, JULY 17**

CHALLENGE END DATE (and last day to claim prizes):

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28**

PICKUP  
M-TH  
10AM - 4 PM

FILL OUT THE FORM

ON THE OTHER SIDE

A PROJECT OF

**ChesedChicago**

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL CHESEDCHAMP FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT [CONTEST@CHESEDCHICAGO.ORG](mailto:CONTEST@CHESEDCHICAGO.ORG)



FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### THIS IS HOW I BECAME A CHESED CHAMP:

Check off the box next to the chesed you did to keep track of your chassadim. If something you did is not listed, add it to a line at the end of the list. Tally your checks before handing in your form.

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Make someone smile
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Clean up your toys
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Donate toys or clothes to ChessedChicago
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Help your parents prepare for Shabbos
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Clear the Shabbos table
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Call a grandparent to shmooze
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Share your toys with a friend
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Sign up to volunteer at ChessedChicago
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Help a neighbor or parent with groceries
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Give tzedaka
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Help an elderly person
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Surprise your friend with a treat
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Clean up garbage outside your house
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Give someone a compliment
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Share with your siblings
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Make a thank you card for your morah or counselor
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Help someone find a lost item
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Bikur cholim
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Bring someone a cold drink
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Hold the door open for someone
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Mow your neighbor's lawn
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Babysit for your parents or neighbors

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Bake a cake and give it to someone
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Take care of a family member that is sick
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Make a thank you card for your postal worker
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Deliver treats to a local fire station
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Leave a note in a family member's lunch box
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Pick up litter you see on the street or in a park
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Help your parents set the table for dinner
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Invite someone new to sit with you at lunch
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Tell someone how much you love them
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Write happy messages with chalk on the sidewalk

Choose your own!

- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ ☐ ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Weekly Group



Each week, a dedicated group of students from Bais Yaakov High School of Chicago brings energy, enthusiasm, and helping hands to ChessedChicago. Their tasks shift based on our current needs—from setting up the Chanukah toy shop and assisting with Ginat Shoshana, to tagging clothing, packing food boxes, preparing for Pesach distribution, organizing the toy department, assembling swag bags for volunteers, and packing Purim cards.

No matter the project, these teens jump in with heart and efficiency, making a real difference behind the scenes.

A huge thank you to **Tehilla Feiler, Bracha Yehudis Fuerst, Liba Greenspan, Adina Mandelbaum, Evie Moskowitz, and Miriam Soroka** for your incredible work and commitment!

### How did you get involved with volunteering at ChessedChicago?

There are different options for chesed in our school. When we saw that ChessedChicago was an option, we decided to volunteer because we knew it would be a good opportunity to give back to our community.

### What does a typical volunteer day look like for you?

We come once a week, and each time the job is different. Sometimes we organize toys, prepare food boxes, or even unpack coats to prepare for an upcoming season. We do whatever is needed. Each day is a surprise, and that's what's so fun about it!

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

It motivates us when we come each week and see that the items we worked on have benefited people in our community. We can also tell that our organizing work helps people have a better shopping experience. The positive atmosphere at ChessedChicago makes volunteering here the best time (especially the swag!) 😊

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

Volunteering at ChessedChicago really changed our perspective on the people in the community. From the big to the little, people are constantly thinking about how to help others, and it's very inspiring.

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

Everything ChessedChicago gives is so important and truly impacts the recipients, but we can definitely agree that the food and clothing are basic necessities that allow people to live normal lives.

### What do you feel you gain from volunteering at ChessedChicago?

We have gained an appreciation for our Jewish community here in Chicago. It gives us more of a love for chesed. 🌟

**From the big to the little, people are constantly thinking about how to help others, and it's very inspiring.**





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