

ONE FOR ALL

A PUBLICATION OF



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A MESSAGE FROM

**RABBI
SHMUEL
FUERST**

DEAR FRIEND,

We are grateful to everyone who participated in our 7th annual Shas for Shidduchim campaign. Your partnership is vital to us as we endeavor to provide shidduch and newlywed-related services.

In this issue, we highlight the expansion of our wedding assistance programs which are providing important help for families marrying off children.

Our seasonally-relevant programs such as the annual Spring Food Drive, Second Time Around pickups, and Yom Tov lending gemach are operating smoothly to help ease your Yom Tov preparations. This is in addition to our core Pesach food pantry and co-op, which will be assisting **more than 900 families** this year, bez"H.

We are gratified at the continued success of our Government Benefits department. See this issue's article about its successful lecture for seniors.

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

Wishing our community happy and healthy Pesach,



Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst
Co-Founder, ChesedChicago

OUR SERVICES

Provisions

Our warehouse provides essentials such as:

- Neiman-Fine 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
- Mental & Behavioral Health
- 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
- School and Camp Tuition Assistance

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

Education & Family Services

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

- School-Based Therapies
- Pediatric Non-School-Based Therapies
- Youth Volunteerism
- Mentoring

AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Simcha Link

JobLink

Ginat Shoshana

Jane Webster Simcha Gemach

Ateres Chaya Bridal Gowns



Pesach Prep is in Full Swing



Pesach preparations are well underway here at ChesedChicago. Shipments of food and provisions have been arriving at our warehouse as we get ready for one of our busiest seasons.

We are excited to help our community make Pesach through our variety of services.

ChesedChicago Pesach Programs

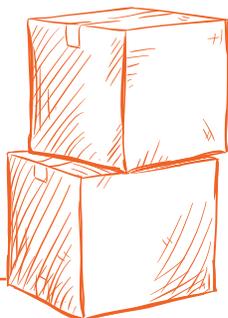
Food Pantry

Pesach food and provisions at no cost, including extra produce, paper goods, and dry goods



Pesach Co-Op

Pesach food and provisions at cost price for klei kodesh

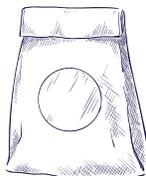


Second Time Around

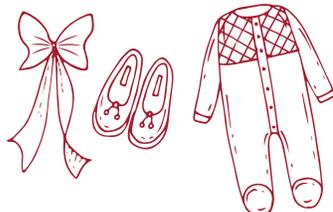
Pickups to meet your spring cleaning needs

Spring Food Drive

Help stock our food pantry while getting rid of your chometz



Extended **Clothing Department** shopping hours



Yom Tov Gemach

offering baby equipment, medical equipment, tables, and chairs



White shirts

for boys



Robes

for girls



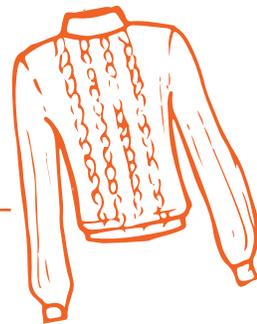
Suit

vouchers



Gift Certificates

to Girls on Glen, Magenta Bowtique, Magenta Boutique, or Itz You



Abundant

volunteer

opportunities





Ensuring True Simcha When Marrying Off Children



ChesedChicago's Wedding Assistance services offer crucial support to families navigating the financial challenges of marrying off a child. We understand that the expenses associated with weddings can often overwhelm even financially stable families. Our program aims to alleviate this burden by providing much-needed assistance, ensuring that families can focus on celebrating this special occasion without the stress of financial strain.

Ginat Shoshana, founded by Mrs. Rashi Schnell, a"n, supports local qualifying kallahs by providing a kitchen and dining package valued at \$3000, to help newlyweds set up their new home.

IN THE PAST YEAR, WE EXPANDED OUR WEDDING ASSISTANCE SERVICES TO INCLUDE:



We would like to express our hakoras hatov for all you do for the Chicago community and for new couples specifically. We just chose a beautiful seforim shrank that will iyH enhance our home tremendously.



We are so grateful to you for providing items for our kallah, b'derech kavod. The sheitel assistance, stunning bookshelves, makeup gemach, and even bags for our orchim... May HKBH repay you for your chesed.

THE KALLAH SHEITEL PROGRAM

Eligible kallahs may purchase 2 high-quality sheitels at participating local sheitel machers for a discounted price, co-sponsored by ChesedChicago.



SIMCHA GLOW

a Chicago network of professional makeup artists for families of baalei simcha, providing services at a subsidized, minimal fee.

Partnership with

OHR MALKA AND CHEIN

network of professional makeup artists and hairdressers for families making a wedding in the Tri-State area.



A 3-BOOKCASE durable wood wall unit.



Here's what we did in 2023

19

couples received a wall unit
value \$37,375

47

faces done by
Simcha Glow

\$2400

spent on makeup services in Chicago

49

kallahs purchased
sheitels through our
program
\$44,759

*ChesedChicago's portion of
the sheitel program*

8

talented makeup artists
servicing Simcha Glow



**Thank you so, so much
for arranging all of this
for us. Such a tremendous
chesed you do! All 3 of the
makeup artists were incredible. I
used Sarah personally, and she
was beyond amazing - profes-
sional, personal and very
talented!**

Best Practices, Unique Programming, Inspiration, and Unity

ChesedChicago recently participated in a full-day gathering of over 30 communal chesed organizations from across the continent. Hosted by the Jewish Nonprofit Planning & Research Institute (JNPRI) and the OU, the conference focused on addressing the financial challenges faced by families today and exploring strategies to reduce costs while maximizing the use of national and local resources.

ChesedChicago Executive Director, Rabbi Yossi Fuerst, presented insights to the group on best practices and unique program development. Beyond the practical discussions,



participants left the event feeling inspired and rejuvenated by the sense of unity and camaraderie among the organizations, paving the way for future collaborations and impactful initiatives.

Because of our formal participation in such gatherings and our robust informal networking it is clear that your generosity not only deeply impacts Chicago, but also has a national influence in inspiring and informally guiding many groups. 🙏

JNPRI>>>
Jewish Nonprofit Planning &
Research Institute

ORTHODOX
UNION



Shas for Shidduchim Lights a Heartwarming Ais Ratzon in the Cold of Chicago

“The people in the frigid cold of Chicago, their hearts are on fire with the love of Torah and chesed... A siyum on Shas, on shishei sidrei Mishna... what an incredible ais ratzon it is!”

These are the words renowned author, and Rov of Chofetz Chaim Torah Center of Cedarhurst, Rabbi Chaim Aryeh Zev Ginzberg, shared with the 400+ lomdim of ChesedChicago’s 7th annual Shas for Shidduchim initiative.

In the face of icy winter temperatures, these lomdim gathered to learn all of Shas in just 24 hours as a powerful z’chus for Klal Yisroel’s singles.

In the face of icy winter temperatures, these lomdim gathered to learn all of Shas in just 24 hours as a powerful z’chus for Klal

Yisroel’s singles. They were also joined by close to 200 children participating in Shas for Shidduchim Jr., learning all of Shisha Sidrei Mishna to contribute even more to the tremendous limud haTorah.

This massive undertaking culminated in a grand Siyum HaShas, featuring Rabbi Shmuel Schmelczer as the MC, Bruce Leon leading the Hadran Mishnayos, and Moshe Stesel leading the Hadran Shas, l’zecher nishmas his mother, Elka bas Nachum, A”H.

Pure joy filled the atmosphere of Ateres Ayala, as lomdim and their families danced to energetic and vibrant music from Gershon Friedman and the Mesamechei Leiv Orchestra, featuring singers Shimmy Atlas and Avery Amster.

The contributions made to Shas for Shidduchim support ChesedChicago’s year-round shidduch and newlywed-related services, helping countless single Yidden meet and start their new lives together. These combined acts of tzedakah and limud haTorah allowed for a truly powerful segulah.

“A siyum haShas allows us to face any challenge that we need to face,” Rabbi Ginzberg closed, “And to do so for other people, to understand what it means for other people, that brings geulah. That brings redemption to Klal Yisroel.” 🌟

Thank you to Agudas Yisroel of West Rogers Park for graciously allowing the use of the shul for the learning portion of this meaningful initiative.

Photo credits: Bottom Line Marketing Group





CONTEST!



Our Bags Are World Travellers!

ChesedChicago's winter bag contest was loads of fun.

We asked people to take us along on their midwinter break excursions and send us a photo of their ChasedChicago bag with their location in the background.

We got some great responses!



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR WINNERS,
**THE KATZ
FAMILY!**

It's good to know our bags are making an impact, near and far!

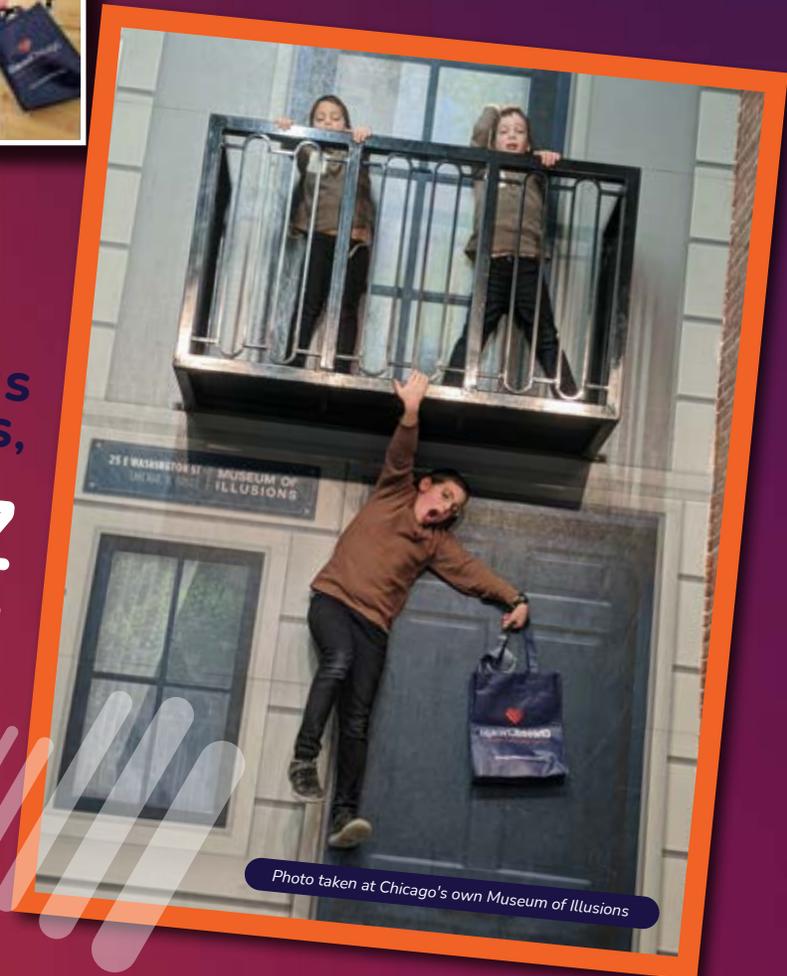


Photo taken at Chicago's own Museum of Illusions

Thank you to the following stores for helping us distribute our bags: Kol Tuv, Trendy Table, Candy Squared, North Shore Bakery, Mizrachi Market, Keshet Stam, Romanian, and Rosenblum's

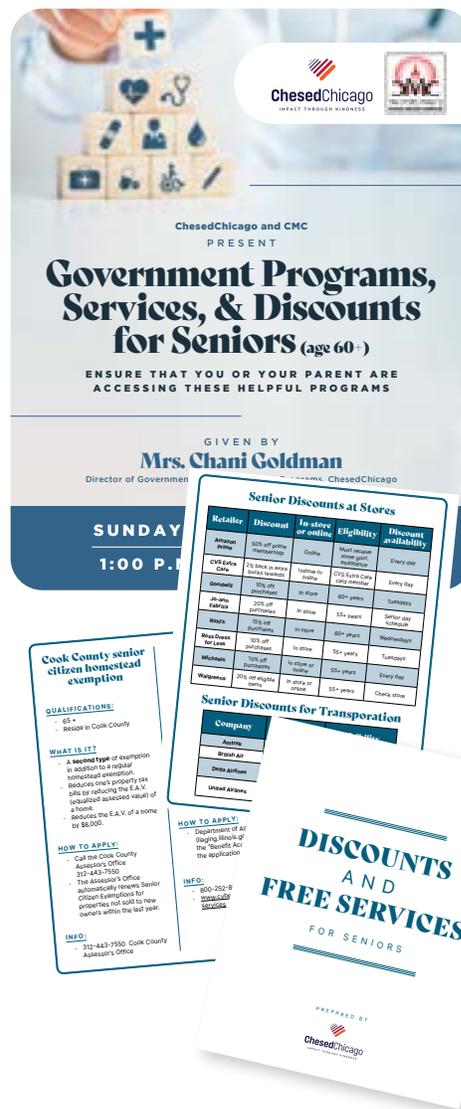
Government Programs for Seniors

We were pleased with the success of our recent lecture on Government Programs, Services, and Discounts for Seniors, in collaboration with Chicago Mitzvah Campaign. The event, held on Sunday, January 7, was attended by over 140 participants both in-person and via Zoom. Mrs. Chani Goldman, Director of Government Programs at ChesedChicago, delivered an informative presentation on the various programs and services available for individuals over the age of 60.

Attendees were provided with a comprehensive booklet containing valuable information on the relevant services and the application process for each one. The lecture was very well-received, with attendees expressing great interest in the information provided.

“People felt it was very informative and were very interested,” said CMC’s Rabbi Aron Wolf. “We heard the next morning from one attendee that he already started taking advantage of some of the services and is saving hundreds of dollars.”

This successful event is a testament to the importance of collaboration and education in empowering seniors to access vital resources and services. We look forward to continuing to work with Chicago Mitzvah Campaign to provide informative and valuable events for our community. 🌟



“We heard the next morning from one attendee that he already started taking advantage of some of the services and is saving hundreds of dollars.”

For a link to the presentation or to receive the booklet, please contact office@chesedchicago.org

For inquiries about these government programs, please contact cgoldman@chesedchicago.org



Ricki Peikes
AND
Batya Sulkin



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

TOY DEPARTMENT

How did you get involved with volunteering at ChesedChicago?

We were looking for a meaningful way to serve the community, but most of the opportunities that we were familiar with weren't compatible with our 9-5 workday schedules. We went to the ChesedChicago (then Chicago Chesed Fund) website to try our luck and see if maybe they had an opportunity for us in the evenings or on Sundays. We filled out the contact form, and sure enough, Esther Malka Goldberg reached out and let us know that they were looking for volunteers to organize the toy section of the warehouse.

What does a typical volunteer day look like for you?

We pick up the cart of newly donated toys, which have been separated out by the volunteers in the sorting room. Then, we sort them and place them on the shelves according to categories such as board games, dolls, building toys, crafting, and many others. Once we've put out the new toys, we revisit the shelves to straighten up and see if we can reorganize in any way that will make it easier for shoppers to find what they're looking for. If time remains, we help organize in adjacent sections, such as sefarim or sports equipment.

Why did you choose to volunteer at ChesedChicago specifically?

I (Ricki) have fond memories of volunteering in the food pantry when I was in high school, so ChesedChicago was top of mind when thinking about where to get involved.

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

Seeing toys leave the shelves! We love to come back every week and see that toys have found new homes and are being enjoyed by children in our community.

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

It's hard to choose just one! While volunteering in the toy section, we've gotten to see all of the seasonal items that are set up nearby. It's amazing to see how ChesedChicago keeps in sync with the calendar, ensuring that every child can start the school year confidently with the supplies he/she needs, that every man, woman, and child has a great coat for the winter - and that's only what we've gotten to see since we started in August!

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

Volunteering at ChesedChicago is fun! It's exciting to be part of such a large and multifaceted operation. You'll have the opportunity to interact with other volunteers and amazing staff who keep everything running. There is really something for everyone to contribute - whether you prefer to collaborate with a group or work on your own, you can bring true value to an organization that is there for the needs of our entire community! ✨



“Volunteering at ChesedChicago is fun! It’s exciting to be part of such a large and multifaceted operation.”



New Freezer Joins the Team



THIS WINTER WE WELCOMED AN ADDITIONAL FREEZER TO OUR COLLECTION.

Measuring 40' long x 8.5' tall, it brings our total number of freezers to 7, equaling 2380 square feet of frozen storage space.

We are now able to accept large frozen donations and order increased quantities for our growing co-op and pantry client base, resulting in more competitive pricing on items. 🍷



We now have
7 FREEZERS
TOTALING

2380

SQUARE FEET OF FROZEN STORAGE SPACE

Share your Simcha!

The G family generously included ChesedChicago in their recent simcha. Instead of using flowers as centerpieces at their bris, they used beautiful baby gift packages which were then delivered to ChesedChicago. Clients appreciated the diapers, baby shampoo, baby blanket, bottles, and wipes.

At another local bris, the S family placed ChesedChicago pushkas in the middle of each table in lieu of centerpieces, and asked guests to contribute what they could, instead of giving baby gifts. The proud father of the baby then dropped off the considerably full pushkas at our office later that day. How beautiful to acknowledge the blessings in their life by giving to others! 🍷



SHARE YOUR SIMCHA WITH CHESEDCHICAGO – YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!



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
- Coffee
- Condiments
- Drinks
- Flour, sugar, baking items
- Oil
- Pasta and rice
- Snacks

We also accept
Kosher L'Pesach
food items