

The Amazing Impact of Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches on LJCC Members

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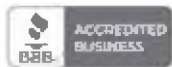
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On Sunday, September 28, a multi-generational group of 36 people gathered at the Levine Jewish Community Center to "Feed the Hungry." At this event, presented by LJCC Cares – the Social Action group at the LJCC – and held in honor of National Feed the Hungry month, participants made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to deliver to the Salvation Army's Center of Hope – a homeless shelter for women and children in uptown Charlotte. In addition, participants were asked to donate individually wrapped snacks to donate to the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club. The impact this event would have on the participants was so much more than had been anticipated.

The event began with a short talk by Marty Sanders, Director of Development for the Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte. Mr. Sanders noted that our feeling of hunger is different than that felt by a homeless person. Ours is a

grumbling in our stomach that goes away when we go get something to eat. However, a homeless person has no idea when he or she might get to next eat. Mrs. Sanders told the participants that in addition to the sandwiches being used at the shelter for lunch, women who are out looking for a job often take sandwiches with them so they don't need to spend money on lunch. This way they can save their money to build up enough to move out of the shelter. The children who participate in the Boys and Girls Club do not have a refrigerator or cupboards to go to when they are hungry after school; the snacks donated keep their stomachs full until dinner-time at the shelter. While Mr. Sanders was talking, you could see the children's eyes getting wider and the adults shaking their heads in sympathy.

Once the sandwich making got underway, the room got quieter as each table got busy with assembly lines and the making of sandwiches. When supplies ran out – after more than 300 sandwiches had been made – everyone was disappointed.

While the event gave people something to do on a Sunday morning, the impact will last much longer. Tony Purcell brought his wife, Mara, and sons Chad and Drew with him. Tony hopes that his "entire family has a much greater appreciation for the lunch we ate that day. We are so fortunate to live in a community that cares so much about all of our neighbors. We worked side-by-side with our friends and helped others, all the while, learning a great deal about our homeless population and our part in making a difference."

Six-year-old Collin Kanofsky woke up a few days later and asked his mother, Camille Kanofsky, when they were going to "get to make sandwiches again to help the families."

Allison Goland-Schlussel, her

daughter, Aimee, and her 10-year-old granddaughter, Isis, attended and also offered to deliver the sandwiches and snacks to the Center of Hope. Aimee said that, "Isis knew we were doing a mitzvah, but I don't think she knew exactly how this mitzvah would impact others. As we pulled our van up in front of the shelter, there were families scattered in groups on the sidewalk and all of a sudden, 1+1=2, and Isis realized that these people on the sidewalk were homeless and hungry and was sad for them. The food we brought was going directly to them; it's not often one can see why donating is so important. When I saw the look on Isis' face, I knew this was a mitzvah we will want to participate in again. We are so glad the LJCC gave us a platform to help."

Lenore Rubin recently joined the LJCC. She stated that "it was a wonderful feeling to walk into the room and see families working together as one community serving to provide for another community. I was proud to have been involved."

Five members of the Taback family, parents Adam and Robin, and 13-year-old triplets, David, Jacob, and Maegan, participated together. Robin notes that "hearing the shelter representative talk about the difference between the hunger we may feel between meals and the hunger those at the shelter experience was very impactful on our children. It was particularly great timing as our children fasted for their first time this Yom Kippur and I believe having participated in the feeding the hungry event brought home the message even further."

LJCC Cares is thrilled that not only is it proving volunteer opportunities, but they are ones that are truly making an impact on participants. For more information about LJCC Cares, contact Julie Rizzo at 704.944.6730 or julie.rizzo@charlottejcc.org. ✨

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Moishe House December Events

(Continued from page 13)

lotte, but we can still ice skate outside. Join us uptown for their annual Holidays on Ice. We can provide tickets and skate rental for \$5. The rink is located at the corner of MLK Blvd and Brevard on the NASCAR Hall of Fame Plaza. Meet at MoHo CLT at 7 PM to caravan or meet at the rink at 7:30 PM. Detailed ticket information

will be on our Facebook page.

To learn more about Moishe House Charlotte, visit us at www.moishehousecharlotte.org/houses/charlotte or check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/MoisheHouseCharlotte. To contact us, please e-mail mohocharlotte@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you. ✨

"The man whose good deeds exceed his wisdom is like a tree with few branches and many roots: all the raging winds will not move him."

– Ethics of the Fathers