

Mitzvah Corps 2009-10

Our Eighth Grade Mitzvah Corps is a social action based curriculum with both classroom learning and hands-on social action. The focus is on Urban Poverty and the Jewish imperative to feed the hungry. We began with a Mitzvah Corps field trip to deliver food for Maot Chitim (for Rosh Hashanah) to families in need. For our **October 25th session (8:45-10:45)** we will return to the classroom for an introduction to the Judaism and Urban Poverty curriculum.

The Judaism and Urban Poverty Curriculum

For almost 25 years, the Judaism and Urban Poverty (JUP) program has introduced seventh through tenth grade students to the causes of poverty, to potential responses to poverty, and to Jewish approaches to poverty and the poor. The curriculum emphasizes the systemic causes of poverty and focuses on ways to make society as a whole more equitable.

Every year, JUP reaches more than 1800 students in approximately thirty-five synagogues throughout the Chicago area. The curriculum consists of seven sessions including a tzedakah project field trip.

Topics covered include: Understanding poverty, Causes of poverty: The Distribution of Resources, Causes of poverty : The Distribution of power, Responding to Poverty - G'milut Chasadim, Tzedakah & Tzedek , Responding to Poverty: Direct Service, Philanthropy, Advocacy & Organizing.

Mitzvah Corps dates in 2009-2010 are:

September 13 (Maot Chitim Project)

October 25

November 15

November 22 (Partners in Mitzvah Hunger Project)

December 13

January 24

February 21

February 28 (Purim Carnival)

March 21 (Feed the Hungry Field trip)

April 25

Class meets on Sunday mornings 8:45 – 10:45 except for special projects on November 22, February 28, and March 21.