

ONE FOR ALL

A PUBLICATION OF



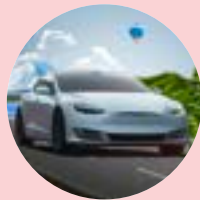
Getting Chicago Ready for the School Year

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A MESSAGE FROM

**RABBI
SHMUEL
FUERST**

DEAR FRIEND,

As we approach a new year it's time to reflect on past activities while planning for the future. This past year has been busy at ChesedChicago as we've strived to meet our growing community's developing needs and ease the impact of inflation.

As you'll read in this issue, our school supplies store has helped so many families send their children off to school well-prepared, while saving them this tremendous expense.

We are grateful to everyone who participated in our annual Tesla Raffle campaign. Your support enables us to continue doing what we do best – serving our community with dignity.

Simcha Glow, one of our newer programs, has already helped numerous families. We are proud to highlight this service in this issue and give you the background on how it started. Simcha Link's efforts continue ceaselessly, and they are excited to now have two cars available for lending in Chicago to those who need for shidduch purposes.

As we sign off on another year, we thank you for your continued support. It is only due to our dedicated supporters that we persist in our mission to serve our neighbors in any way we can.

Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy new year,



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

 **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:

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

 **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

 **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

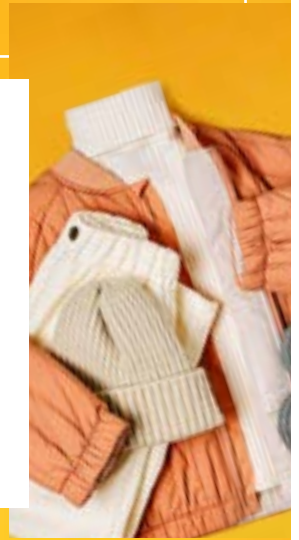
Simcha Link

JobLink

Ginat Shoshana

Jane Webster Simcha Gemach

Ateres Chaya Bridal Gowns



THE NEED IS REAL

MAKE IT A SWEETER NEW YEAR FOR CHICAGO
WWW.ASWEETERNEWYEAR.COM
OCTOBER 6 - 11, 2024 | עשרת ימי תשובה

INFLATION is taking a toll on our community, driving more people to rely on our organization for essential support. The rising prices of food, housing, and tuition are making it increasingly difficult for many families to make ends meet. As the cost of living escalates, wages are not keeping pace, leading to a growing number of individuals and families seeking assistance.

ChesedChicago has seen a significant increase in the demand for our services. More people are turning to our Neiman Family Food Pantry to supplement their grocery needs, as food prices continue to soar. The economic pressure from inflation is particularly hard on low-income families, elderly individuals on fixed incomes, and those with disabilities, who are all disproportionately affected.

In response to this growing need, our organization is stepping up to provide more comprehensive assistance. Our aim is to ensure that everyone in our community has access to the essentials they need to navigate these challenging times.

However, meeting this increased demand requires more than just our internal efforts; it necessitates the support of the entire community. Donations, both financial and in-kind, are crucial in helping us sustain our expanded services.

We are incredibly grateful for the help we have received so far, but the sustained high levels of inflation mean that this is an ongoing issue. Together, with the continued backing of our community, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive, even in the face of economic adversity. ❖

**THIS CRISIS
NECESSITATES
THE SUPPORT
OF THE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY.**

THE NEED IS REAL - AND URGENT.



SIMCHA

glow

A PROJECT OF
ChesedChicago

How It All Began

Tova Papoff was just a 'regular' Chicago girl, but she saw a need in our community and took action. We sat down with Tova, founder and coordinator of Simcha Glow, to get the backstory of how Simcha Glow started.

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself, and your background?

My name is Tova Feuer (née Papoff) and I grew up in Chicago. I founded and continue to run the Simcha Glow makeup and hair styling g'mach. We significantly subsidize professional hair and makeup expenses for eligible baalei simcha who are making weddings. I started this g'mach a few months after returning from seminary.

Are you a trained makeup artist?

I received formal training from a makeup program and additional training from a Lakewood-based MUA (make up artist). However, I believe that experience is the best training in the makeup industry!

What drove you to start Simcha Glow?

I wanted to give back to my community by providing chesed with the talents I've been blessed with. I was also interested in gaining more experience by working with different demographics. I dedicated the g'mach in memory of my two grandmothers, who I believe get nachas in my ambition to create an outlet of chesed. Both of my Bubbys were very focused on chesed for their communities and utilizing their skills.

How did you connect with ChesedChicago?

I originated the idea of the g'mach and decided to affiliate with ChesedChicago, since they already provide a variety of wedding services. I spoke with my neighbor, Mrs. Sara Webster. She encouraged me to get involved with hachnosas kallah and put me in contact with Rabbi Yossi Fuerst, who enthusiastically took on my g'mach. I was thrilled to have my idea become an official g'mach!

How has Simcha Glow grown since launching?

We've B"H helped over 60 families and have expanded to help Chicago families making weddings, not only in Chicago, but also in Lakewood, Monsey, and Brooklyn. We currently have 23 makeup artists and hair stylists teamed with us.

What are your feelings about the growth of Simcha Glow?

I'm so grateful to help in alleviating expenses for baalei simcha in a dignified way. I believe that our swift growth is because of the amazing makeup artists and hair stylists who dedicate their talents and time to helping us.

Families in Chicago can email simchaglow@chesedchicago.org to verify eligibility and book services.

What motivates you to keep being involved with Simcha Glow?

I feel so passionately about this chesed! The cost of a standard wedding has risen over the years. These days, getting hair and makeup done professionally for the families of the chosson and kallah can cost well over a thousand dollars. I feel fortunate that I have the opportunity to give back to the Chicago community. As a side benefit, I've learned invaluable communication skills in the process of matching clients with makeup artists and hair stylists, as well as discussions with staff members of ChesedChicago.

What is your role at Simcha Glow and what do you do daily?

My role is coordinating the g'mach appointments. Clients reach out to me daily, and I work to schedule appointments with our clients' preferences and our MUAs' and hairstylists' availability. I also type up and send out invoices after each appointment to compensate makeup artists and hairstylists by subsidizing costs.

Do you have an anecdote about your work at Simcha Glow that really moved you?

During the first few months of our g'mach, I arranged makeup for a kallah and her family. I was the makeup artist and a friend of mine, who's a hairstylist, did the kallah's hair. After the appointment, a family member told me she'd work out payment after the wedding. It was pretty clear to me that the family wasn't in the position to even pay our subsidized g'mach fee. As we were leaving the wedding hall, my hairstylist friend told me that she wasn't paid either. We decided to forgo our payment for these baalei simcha as a chesed. We both found our chossonim shortly after, and surprisingly, we happened to have gotten married on the same night!

We don't know the exact reward for hachnosas kallah, but as like every mitzvah, it may have great reward in this world, in addition to the next!

Do you have a message for the community?

Everyone is obliged to give tzedakah. I think that giving of your time and talents is also an extremely valuable form of tzedakah. No one is too young to get started in helping the community with their talents and abilities! 💎

Here's how Simcha Glow has helped



54 families

SINCE 2022



204 faces

SINCE 2022



54 heads

SINCE ADDING HAIR SERVICES IN 2024



25 weddings

IN 2024

PARTICIPATING MAKEUP ARTISTS:

CHICAGO

- Maggie Barnatan
- Aviva Genuth
- Elisheva Grunfeld
- Avigayil Gulevsky
- Sarah Rais
- Etta Suss

LAKEWOOD

- Yosefa (Roberts) Brustowsky
- Yehudis (Eisenbach) Grossbard
- Chaya Bracha (Cardash) Kaufman
- Devora Rubin
- Michal Schreiber
- Sori (Eisenbach) Weinberger
- Shalva (Epstein) Zell

PARTICIPATING HAIR/WIG STYLISTS:

CHICAGO

- Chaviva Feiner
- Shifra Holman
- Shaindy (Lebovics) Kaufman
- Tehila (Tessler) Nirenberg
- Sarah Rais
- Blumi Rajchenbach

LAKEWOOD


- Yehudis (Eisenbach) Grossbard
- Soshy (Eisenbach) Aronovitch
- Effie Brownstein

SCHOOL SUPPLIES STORE

HOW IT WORKS

For more than a decade, ChesedChicago has been opening a school supplies 'store' to help minimize the back-to-school expenses of families in our community. Parents come every year to get supplies for their children – all free of charge.

At the beginning of the summer, when school is just a figment in most imaginations, ChesedChicago starts planning our school supplies store. We review the supply lists of each school, take inventory of our stock from previous years, and see which items are needed.



It is so important to us that our store is filled with a wide variety and large selection of supplies so that parents can find everything they need for their children.

Generous community members purchase items and drop them off at our warehouse, buy items online and ship them to our warehouse, or simply donate funds on our website. Some families will pick up extra supplies while shopping for their own children, and other families will take their children shopping to choose the supplies, allowing their kids to experience giving to others.

Mid-summer, the donations increase, and our dedicated volunteers and staff members work hard to organize the supplies and purchase what still might be needed to fill in any gaps. We like to make sure we're fully stocked to offer a complete selection! All of the supplies are arranged in a neat and eye-pleasing manner for the ease of our shoppers.

Clients begin signing up for an appointment to shop for school supplies for their children. "Wow, you really have everything here" is a quote we hear very often. And it's true! It is so important to us that our store is filled with a wide variety and large selection of supplies so that parents can find everything they need for their children.

On the first day of school, 583 children come to school well-prepared for a successful year. And their parents feel good knowing that they were able to send their children off with all their school supplies, and not worry about the expense.

Every year, thanks to the generosity of our community, we're able to offer an amazing selection of school supplies. At ChesedChicago, we believe every child deserves to start off the school year on the right foot, and because of our community, we were able to facilitate that once again this year. 🍷

583
children



Thank you so much
for Chesed Chicago's
School Supplies
Program!

Thank you for offering
all the many different
supplies each child
needs from their lists.



167
families



The
room was set
up very organized and
easy to see everything
being offered.

Thank you for
assisting with our
children's return
back to school!





DRIVING HOME THE WIN FOR CHICAGO

OUR 10TH ANNUAL TESLA RAFFLE WAS HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNER,
MINDY ZUCKER
FROM
LAKEWOOD, NJ!**



X Marks the Dream, our 10th Annual Tesla Raffle Campaign, attracted the participation of individuals across the country, and the globe! Proceeds will benefit ChesedChicago's 80+ programs and services.

We thank all who participated in this year's raffle campaign. Your support has enabled us to help thousands of Chicago's Jewish families receive immediate, individualized attention for their every need – all at no cost.

OUR TESLA WINNERS' CIRCLE:

- 2023 Rabbi Eliyahu Millen, Chicago, IL
- 2022 Levi Israel, Chicago, IL
- 2021 David Schreiber, Evanston, IL
- 2020 Mitch Zolty, Toronto, ON
- 2019 David Haziza, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018 David Hartman, Lincolnwood, IL
- 2017 Waygee Ho, Queens, NY
- 2016 Avromi Russell, Jerusalem, Israel
- 2015 Elan Magence, Chicago, IL

WELCOME!

Simcha Link

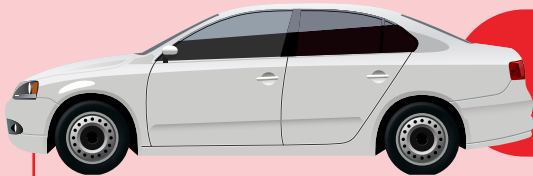
SIMCHA LINK IS EXCITED TO WELCOME MRS. FAITH NEUMAN TO THE TEAM!

In her role as Assistant Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Mrs. Neuman works to ensure that alumni of our local high schools are being optimally serviced by Simcha Link. That includes connecting them with shadchanim who are best suited to their needs, making sure their shidduch resumes are updated correctly, clarifying what they're looking for in a spouse, and helping them and their parents navigate the shidduch scene.

As a longtime educator at Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov and Bais Yaakov High School, Mrs. Neuman brings a familiar, beloved face to this vital role. Her strong interpersonal skills and deep insight into human nature are a wonderful match for this position.

We wish her and the entire Simcha Link team much hatzlacha.

Mrs. Neuman can be reached at fneuman@simchalink.org or 847-679-7799 x109.



Simcha Link's Cars for Dating

DID YOU KNOW THAT SIMCHA LINK OWNS 2 CARS?

These cars, donated by a community member who wishes to remain anonymous, can be reserved for shidduch dating in Chicago – free of charge. While it may seem small, this service has drawn the appreciation of many young men who travel to Chicago to date our local girls. 🙏

To reserve a car, please contact Mrs. Susie Rosen at srosen@simchalink.org

Special thank you to Jay Schultz and LAS Leasing for facilitating the car donations.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

WAREHOUSE/NEIMAN FINE FOOD PANTRY



Yehuda Rudack

Yehuda Rudack uses his weekly day off to volunteer at ChesedChicago.

How did you get involved with volunteering at ChesedChicago?

I filled out a volunteer contact form on the website and the volunteer director, Mrs. Esther Malka Goldberg responded.

What does a typical volunteer day look like for you?

I come in every Wednesday. It's my day off from work, and I want to do something productive. Usually I help set up the weekly produce distribution that takes place on Wednesday afternoons. I unload the produce from the truck, set up the tables, and arrange the items on the tables for shoppers.

I also help with various other tasks, such as organizing shelves in the food pantry and doing heavy lifting. Sometimes I'll go out on a truck route to pick up donations. I try to help out wherever is needed that day.

Why did you choose to volunteer at ChesedChicago specifically?

ChesedChicago was one of the first things I heard about when I came to Chicago. They also helped me when I first moved here a year and a half ago. They helped me, and I want to reciprocate!

What inspires you to stay involved at ChesedChicago consistently?

Being productive with my time while doing something that gives back to the community makes me a better person, and I like that.

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

That's a tough question because they do so much. But I'd say feeding the community – that's huge. Especially nowadays with food being so expensive. For people to be able to come and take what they need for their families – it's an incredible thing. I've never seen this anywhere else. When I first walked in here, I was blown away – it's a sight to see. It's WOW!

What do you feel you gain from volunteering at ChesedChicago?

I would say making a difference. It's a good feeling when you know you're helping people. So much effort goes into running the warehouse, so anything I can do to help out with that is great.

It's a very welcoming community here in Chicago, and I feel that I need to give back. It's only right.

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

I don't know if people in the community know how much time and effort goes into running this place on a regular basis. There are a lot of good people here, spending their days helping those in need. Volunteers are always appreciated. It's a huge mitzvah. 🌟

When I first walked in here, I was blown away – it's a sight to see. It's WOW!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE MANY



CHESED Champs IN CHICAGO!

ChesedChamps encouraged my kids to help our elderly neighbors by bringing them food and spending time with them.

This year, we launched a summer project designed to help keep kids busy during the summer while focusing on doing chesed. Using a specially designed form, participating children checked off each time they performed a chesed – either one of the suggested acts listed on the form, or an idea of their own. When they earned the requisite number of checks, they brought the form to the ChesedChicago office and claimed a prize! Twenty-five to fifty checks earned a stainless-steel water bottle with customizable stickers, and

fifty-one to seventy-five checks earned a light-up electric popper game.

Some of the suggested acts of chesd included cleaning up toys, calling a grandparent to shmooze, helping an elderly person, giving someone a compliment, cleaning up garbage outside the home, making a thank you card for a morah or counselor, or inviting someone new to sit with you at lunch.

Feedback from the program was extremely positive, with over 170 kids participating! 🍷

MOST POPULAR ACTS OF KINDNESS

- Helping parents prepare for Shabbos.
- Sharing with siblings and friends.
- Making someone smile.

Thank you for setting the tone for summer- it started off with chesed. And thank you for making it age-appropriate!"



"This was such a great program – with my kids trying to fill in their charts, my house has never been so clean!"

Hamodia Newspaper contributed to this article.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHESED CHAMPS, PLEASE CONTACT CONTEST@CHESEDCHICAGO.ORG

YOUR NEIGHBOR IS
STRUGGLING TO BUY

groceries

PRICES HAVE SKYROCKETED



THIS YEAR **ChesedChicago** PANTRY SHOPPERS
INCREASED BY 18.4% TO AN
AVERAGE OF 140 SHOPPERS PER MONTH.



THE NEED IS
REAL

MAKE IT A SWEETER NEW YEAR FOR CHICAGO
WWW.ASWEETERNEWYEAR.COM
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