



## Teens gather for day of service

Hundreds of Jewish teens from Monmouth and Middlesex counties will join the global JSERVE teen service initiative from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22 with the stated goal of making the world a better place. J-Serve bills itself as The International Day of Jewish Youth Service, with tens of thousands of teens around the world each year performing acts of loving kindness, justice and charitable giving. Local Jewish youth group BBYO and the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey are the lead sponsors of Monmouth and Middlesex counties' 2018 JSERVE, hosted by the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville and supported by additional Jewish youth groups, including NCSY, NFTY, USY and CTeen, as well as the global, non-sectarian Good Deeds Day. This year's JSERVE planning was led by a teen advisory committee. Participants will engage in hands-on projects such as helping at a local food pantry, starting a garden for preschool children, making teddy bears with children with special needs decorating mezuzahs and candle sticks for Houston families who lost their homes in Hurricane Harvey, making video greetings for lone IDF soldiers in Israel, visiting with Holocaust survivors to hear their stories then make commemorative gift for the survivors, learning how to advocate for Israel, learning basic emergency response with Hatzalah EMS and socializing with seniors at an assisted living home.