

B/NAI TZEDEK LIST OF JEWISH (AND GENERAL*) ORGANIZATIONS

Although this is not a complete list of organizations to which you may make a contribution from your fund, these organizations are all worthwhile and deserving of charitable contributions. If you have any questions about any of the organizations included in this list or would like to discuss any other specific organization, please contact Shannon Small at 615-354-1651 or email at shannon@jewishnashville.org

Please note: Organizations with an asterisk () are non-Jewish organizations. **If you have less than \$100 available to recommend, it MUST be to a Jewish charity and not to any charity with an asterisk.**

JEWISH EDUCATION

Akiva School

Congregation Beit Tefilah Chabad Religious School (through Center for Jewish Awareness)

Congregation Micah Religious School

The Temple Religious School

Sherith Israel Religious School

West End Synagogue Religious School

National Jewish Outreach Program – The National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP) is dedicated to providing, through educational courses and experiential programs, a basic Jewish education for every Jew in America. NJOP has become one of the largest and most successful Jewish outreach organizations in the world. NJOP offers Jews positive, joyous, Jewish educational opportunities and experiences.

The HASAC (Hebrew Academy For Special Children) – Since 1963, HASC continues to provide high quality education and therapeutic services to special needs children. Families are an integral component of our education process. Highly structured and individualized, our programs concentrate on the development of the whole child in the least restrictive environment. Progressive vision and traditional leadership enable us to synthesize proven techniques with new and innovative approaches. We are guided by creativity, compassion and motivation as we strive to make a world of difference in the lives of our children.

Amal 1 Network – is a network of approximately 110 institutions providing schools and

programs for junior high, high school, college and adult education levels. They provide the most sophisticated vocational and technological training in Israel, ensuring Israel's continued existence as a developed and advanced society.

Get Connected! Trip to Israel – Support our local Jewish 11th and 12th graders' community-wide trip to Israel for summer 2015 where our local teens learn from and interact with Israelis, including those youth in our sister city of Hadera.

Moving Traditions – helps women and men, boys and girls engage more deeply with Judaism. Their programs include: *Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!* – building the self-esteem, leadership skills, and Jewish identity for almost 6,000 teenage girls of all backgrounds across North America; *Campaign for Jewish Boys* – an action-research campaign to help educators understand and inspire the Jewish identity of teenage boys by helping them explore what it means to become a man; *Bat Mitzvah Firsts* – exploring the introduction and evolution of the bat mitzvah to understand how innovation is made in Jewish life.

THE ARTS

The Foundation for Jewish Culture - supports artists and scholars who explore the fabric of Jewish life, creating work that is both contemporary and profound. They administer grant programs that fund documentary filmmakers, writers, playwrights, scholars and performing artists. Their grantees have created 77 documentary films and 81 plays, and continue to leave their imprint on communities across North America.

THE ELDERLY

Buz-a-Bus – provides transportation to Jewish seniors in Nashville to enable them to go to doctors' appointments, grocery shopping and attend social and recreational events at the Gordon JCC and other locations.

Gordon Jewish Community Center Senior Programs – sponsors lunches, special learning events, classes, exercise classes, and day trips as well as visitation of homebound seniors.

Jewish Family Service – Jewish Family Service assists elderly community members needing services such as care management, nursing home transition and counseling services.

The Temple Senior Programs – provides transportation to services, educational, luncheons and social programs for senior adults.

West End Synagogue Senior Programs – members visit congregants in nursing homes and elderly shut-ins. The congregation's seniors group also offers social and educational programs for persons 60 years of age and older.

Memphis Jewish Home – provides nursing home services to Jews in the southeast region of the U.S.

Lifeline for the Old, Israel - operates 13 workshops for the elderly, who come from their homes to make items such as Challah covers, Tallaysim, toys, Mezuzot, ceramic items and clothing. In addition there is a bookbindery where they repair the schoolchildren's books for all of the schools of Jerusalem.

Project Ezra, NYC - For 26 years, this extraordinary group of devoted individuals has reached many elders on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Many of the elderly are still living independently today because of this crucial program.

Yad Sarah, Israel - lends medical equipment free of charge throughout Israel. In addition, Yad Sarah adds an impressive array of programs such as activity centers for elders and workshops for disabled people.

JEWS AT RISK

Nashville Jewish Federation Annual Campaign – conducts an annual campaign among Jews in Nashville and Middle Tennessee to assist Jews wherever and whenever they are in need. Locally, the annual campaign provides funds to the Akiva School, BBYO, GJCC, Hillel, Jewish Family Service, and local congregations. Through our overseas partners, JDC, JAFI and ORT, overseas dollars assist Jews in Israel and in 70 countries throughout the world. In general, funds are allocated to a variety of local, national and international agencies that help the Jewish people and Jewish communities through a wide range of vital programs and services.

American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) – Jewish Federation's overseas partner provides assistance to Jewish communities in and around the world. Current concerns include rescuing Jews from areas of distress, creating new programs for disadvantaged Israelis, helping develop Jewish communities in the Former Soviet Union and youth activities in Eastern Europe.

Chamah – “A Helping Hand and A Guiding Light” – Chamah is a non-profit organization in the United States, Israel and Russia. It was founded in 1953 underground in the Former Soviet Union. The programs which Chamah has been successfully operating for nearly fifty years are aimed to upgrade Jewish awareness among Russian Jews and help the elderly and needy, which include soup kitchens, “Meals on Wheels” programs, home care for the elderly, senior citizens centers, community centers, institutions for underprivileged children, distribution of food staples for the hungry and needy population from all walks of life in Russia.

ELI, The Israel Association for Child Protection – In recent years, Israel has experienced an increase of more than 400% in the number of reported incidents of child abuse. ELI protects Israel's children from sexual, physical, emotional abuse by providing a comprehensive continuum of services, including crisis intervention, emergency hot line and shelter services, therapy (including pet therapy and art therapy programs), prevention programming, professional education and community awareness. (Please contact the Jewish Foundation to support specific programs, if desired.)

International Institute – sponsors programs in Israel for socio-economic development, such as minority, youth and women leadership; for promoting peace and democracy and for absorbing new Jewish immigrants. Their training programs have educated participants from all over the world, including Africa, South America and Asia.

Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options (JAFCO) - Nothing is more tragic than a family torn apart. When a child is removed from his family, he leaves behind what he has known and takes with him his fears, anger, hurt and insecurities. JAFCO provides a child with a familiar cultural and religious environment. JAFCO currently provides an entire continuum of programs and services for at-risk children and their families including the following: Family Preservation/Case Management Services; Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment, MAPP Training and Licensing/Home study; Foster Care Placement, Supervision and Support; Adoption Placement and Post Adoption Support Services; “Forever Friends” (Mentoring) Program; MST (Multi Systemic Therapy); Emergency Shelter; Group Homes

Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI)– Jewish Federation’s overseas partner agency in Israel that is responsible for overseeing the social service programs and assists immigrants to Israel with absorption into Israeli life. It receives funding from money contributed by worldwide Jewry through their Federation annual campaigns.

Keren Hayaed – (“Because Every Child Deserves a Family”.) Much has changed since Keren Hayaed was founded over half a century ago. It began as a fund to save immigrant children from missionaries. Today it provides a warm home to orphans and children from dysfunctional families throughout Israel. Keren Hayaed’s goal is not just to provide its children with food, clothing, shelter and an education, but also to see that they grow up happy and healthy. Its dedicated staff gives their hearts and souls to the children, providing them with the home – and family – they never had.

SELAH – American Friend of the Israel Crisis Management Center - SELAH is Israel’s only country-wide volunteer network of assistance (including psychologists and physicians) and support for new immigrants hit by sudden crisis, terror or tragedy. Their mission is to be there on both a human and a professional level – by providing essential help, including direct aid (such as financial aid, food, temporary shelter, clothing) and emotional support, for newcomers whose already precarious lives have been shattered by tragedy. To date, over 14,000 distressed individuals and their families have received SELAH assistance.

World ORT - the world's largest Jewish education and vocational training nongovernmental organization. This year, through their network of schools, colleges, training centers and programs in Israel, Russia, Argentina and many other countries worldwide, they will benefit more than 200,000 people - young and old, Jewish and non-Jewish. Among their many programs are:

- Helping Children-in-Need*
- Assisting Students at the Gaza Border*
- Providing Computer for Every*
- Supporting Seriously Ill Children*

HUNGER

Mazon, Inc. NYC – a grant-making and fundraising organization that raises funds in the Jewish community and supports many projects that directly feed the hungry as well as programs that educate the public about solving the underlying problem: hunger.

North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry – NACOEJ is an organization with four mandates:

1. To help Ethiopian Jews survive Ethiopia.
2. To assist them in reaching Israel.
3. To aid in their absorption into Israeli society.
4. To preserve their unique and ancient culture.

NACOEJ also feeds Ethiopian Jewish Children whose parents do not have food at home to feed them. Because of NACOEJ, these children in their Feeding Centers are now growing strong and healthy.

***Second Harvest Food Bank** – the local food bank provides emergency food boxes to those in need in our community and provides donated food to area food pantries and feeding programs.

Table to Table Israel - Table to Table was founded in 2003 to rescue excess, nutritious food that would otherwise be destroyed and redirect it to people in need. By 2008, they have become Israel's umbrella organization for donations of surplus food, with a committed lineup of volunteers and staff members providing more than 50 tons of food per week to over 100 soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior citizen centers and other social service organizations around Israel.

Tova's Kitchen – Tova prepares a hot, nutritious lunch each Wednesday for 20-30 mostly elderly Jews in Jerusalem. Prepared in her own kitchen, the meals are served in the synagogue next door.

HOMELESS/IMMIGRANTS

Jewish Family Service of Nashville – the social service agency of the Nashville Jewish community. It provides counseling, emergency financial assistance, resettlement services for New Americans, adoption services and case management services.

***Nashville Family Shelter, Inc.** – provides emergency shelter to families as well as case management services and crisis counseling. A transitional housing program also provides longer term housing to those in need.

Room at the Inn – provides overnight shelter at various synagogues and churches to homeless men and women in the Nashville area during the winter months.

The Ark, Chicago, IL – among the first grassroots projects in the United States to

address the needs of poor Jews. This program offers a full range of services, including a shelter. The Ark set the example: people in need should not have to go from one agency to another to yet another to have their needs addressed.

HEALTH

American Red Magen David for Israel - Israel's equivalent to a Red Cross Society. The ARMDI supplies and equips ambulances, bloodmobiles, and cardiac rescue ambulances serving all hospitals and communities throughout Israel.

Chai Lifeline/Camp Simcha - Chai Life, founded in 1986, provides support to sick individuals, who suffer from cancer and other life threatening illnesses, and their immediate family at no charge. Camp Simcha is the foremost kosher camp in the world for children with cancer and related life threatening disorders.

Chaim Layeled – “Helping Children in Israel with Cystic Fibrosis” – At Chaim Layeled, they strive to increase their activity by offering maximal help to as many patients as possible. A winter camp at the Dead Sea and a summer camp in Switzerland contribute a lot to the patients' quality of life. The conferences and meetings between the sick children, their parents and siblings, as well as the emotional support that they get, give additional encouragement, as do other various activities sponsored by the organization. They are working towards purchasing an ambulance for transporting patients to and from treatments, with the future vision: Buying their own building in Switzerland for the annual, medical camp.

Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) - The Israel Cancer Research Fund is the only voluntary charitable organization in North America solely devoted to supporting cancer research in Israel. Since 1975, ICRF has provided 1526 grants to outstanding cancer researchers whose laboratories are located in all of the leading scientific research institutions, universities and hospitals across Israel, leading to many groundbreaking advances in the struggle to conquer cancer.

Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association – provides a non-traditional mode of therapy by placing the patient on a horse and using the animal's movements to stimulate muscles and nerves. This is used for people with head injuries, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, muscular dystrophy as well as other muscular impairments.

Israel Special Kids Fund – improves the quality of life for disabled and seriously ill children. Israel Special Kids Fund cares for desperately ill children and their families year-round, earning the accolades of the medical and health communities throughout Israel.

Jewish Braille Institute of America - provides access to Judaism for blind children and adults. They also provide significant services to the elderly visually impaired who cannot easily read print as well as for sighted children with significant reading disabilities who depend upon them for their Jewish education and development.

Jewish Genetic Disease Consortium - The goal of the JGDC is to increase awareness about the more than ten Jewish genetic diseases as well as encouraging and facilitating genetic testing for carrier status which can ultimately prevent (or greatly reduce) the birth of affected children.

Lanaido Hospital – Children of the Holocaust Memorial Hospital – To address the medical needs of the city’s 80,000 children and adolescents the “Children of the Holocaust Memorial Hospital” was inaugurated several years ago. Under the historic motto, “Save a Child, Remember a Child,” the hospital will assure the health and wellbeing of a new generation of Israel’s children, even as it memorializes the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis.

Sharsheret – Sharsheret aims to provide tailored support and resources to young Jewish women facing breast cancer through a national peer support network; to educate the health care community and the Jewish community about the unique concerns of Jewish women facing breast cancer through the presentation of medical symposia and outreach events; and to address the unique concerns of younger women facing breast cancer through programs that address their quality of life.

Shiloh Israel Children’s Fund (SICF) – provides medical and psychological treatments to children who have been traumatized by terror. SICF engages in various therapeutic techniques to help children, such as music therapy, animal-assisted therapy and movement/art therapy, all in addition to physical, occupational and speech therapy. Its petting zoo has become a therapeutic haven for the children.

WOMEN

NCJW, Nashville Section–NCJW offers Jewish women a way to make a difference in their community. Through their volunteer and fundraising efforts, they provide grants to local organizations that assist women and children in need.

Hadassah, Projects for Women – funds research and services at Hadassah Hospital in Israel in the areas of breast cancer, prenatal intensive care and osteoporosis. In the U.S. Hadassah chapters conduct programs and projects related to breast cancer education and awareness and sponsor the Young Judaea Camps.

Haifa Rape Crisis Center – is dedicated to opposing sexual violence. Established in 1979, its goals are to support survivors of sexual violence and their families, to raise the awareness of community members and professionals on the subject of sexual violence and survivors’ trauma, and to protect survivors’ right. The HRCC operates a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline for survivors of rape, sexual assault, incest and sexual harassment. They have many projects, including training volunteers to provide crisis intervention services; providing support groups; training professionals in the identification, prevention and treatment of sexual violence; facilitating “youth” at risk empowerment groups for adolescent boys and girls ages 13 – 18.

Israel’s Counseling Center for Women – Working in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the

Counseling Center offers several services to women who are victims of domestic violence but who, for many reasons, do not leave home. Counseling and other therapeutic activities for children are also offered.

Jewish Family Service – Jewish Family Service provides confidential services to birth parents (including counseling and help with medical and living arrangements) and prospective adoptive parents (including education counseling and post-placement services).

Jerusalem Shelter for Battered Women – This is only one of four such shelters in Israel. The work is difficult and painful, but the staff and volunteers do whatever is necessary to heal the wounds and to piece the women and children's lives back together.

ANTI-SEMITISM, ETC.

American Jewish Committee – protects the rights and freedoms of Jews the world over; combats bigotry and anti-Semitism and promotes democracy and human right for all; works for a deepened understanding between Americans and Israelis; and advocates public-policy positions based on American democratic values and the perspectives of Jewish heritage.

Anti-Defamation League – defends democratic ideals and works to eliminate anti-Semitism and bigotry around the world, while providing knowledgeable leadership for the American Jewish community on a national level.

The Jerusalem Foundation - Using Jewish values as the source of its inspiration, the Jerusalem Foundation seeks to create a just society for all citizens of Jerusalem. In this context, they support efforts that protect the interests of all minorities, regardless of religion or socio-economic background. The Jerusalem Foundation works toward creating an open, equitable and modern society by responding to the needs of the residents and trying to improve their quality of life. The Jerusalem Foundation will continue to pioneer change while at the same supporting efforts to preserve the history of the city. In particular, the Jerusalem Foundation has developed an agenda around three areas:

- Community Building and Economic Vitality
- Coexistence
- Cultural Life and Creativity

Simon Wiesenthal Center – is a center for Holocaust remembrance, the defense of human rights and the Jewish people. The Center brings a unique combination of social action, public outreach, scholarship, and media projects to impart the lessons of the Holocaust, develop educational strategies for tolerance, and impact on issues of the day.

World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews – has as its vision an environment where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Jews worldwide can enjoy free and fulfilling lives. In support of its vision, their goals are: to be the world-wide voice of LGBT Jews; to support, inspire, and strengthen local groups; to foster a sense of community

among diverse individuals and organizations; to achieve equality and security for LGBT Jews world-wide.

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Gordon Jewish Community Center Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund for Education – provides for educational programs in connection with the Nashville Holocaust Memorial.

Rosemary May Holocaust Education Fund for Students, Jewish Foundation of Nashville – a fund in the Jewish Foundation of Nashville established to provide money to enable the implementation of educational programs on the Holocaust for youth.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.

Yad Vashem Memorial Museum, Israel – Holocaust Memorial and museum located in Israel, whose purpose is commemoration, education and research about the Holocaust.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life - COEJL is the leading Jewish environmental organization in the United States. COEJL deepens the Jewish community's commitment to the stewardship of creation and mobilizes the resources of Jewish life and learning to protect the Earth and all its inhabitants. COEJL seeks to expand the contemporary understanding of such Jewish values as *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *tzedek* (justice) to include the protection of both people and other species from environmental degradation.

Jewish National Fund - performs groundbreaking work to develop the land of Israel through a variety of multifaceted initiatives. While they plant trees (you can plant a tree in Israel to honor or memorialize family, friends and loved ones) and create parks, their work in Israel is divided into these seven action areas: forestry & ecology, water, community development, security, education, research & development and tourism & recreation.

Society for the Protection of Nature Projects, Israel – conducts educational efforts and campaigns for the protection of Israel's unique landscape, wildlife and endangered species as well as a safe environment for all of its residents.

The Council for a Beautiful Israel – is a nonpolitical, international, volunteer organization, the purpose of which is to safeguard the environment, preserve historical landmarks, and enhance the quality of life for all Israelis.

ANIMALS

CHAI (Concern for Helping Animals in Israel) – a non-profit formed in the United States to help Israel's animal protection community in improving the condition and

treatment of Israel's animals.

Israeli Guide Dog Center for the Blind – Their mission is to help blind Israelis regain their lives by providing independence, mobility, self confidence and companionship through the use of Guide Dogs. You may be surprised to learn that Israel has one of the highest per-capita rates of blindness in the world, **because their soldiers as well as innocent civilians are often injured in barbaric acts of terror**, in addition to becoming blind from other medical disorders. They breed, raise and train the guide dogs in their facility near Tel Aviv. When a blind Israeli requests assistance, they transport them to their center, house and feed them for three weeks during training, and then provide an additional week of training in their homes. They also provide follow-up care twice a year to make sure that the partnership is still working properly. This is all done **AT NO COST TO THE BLIND!** The cost to produce a partnership is approximately \$25,000, and they are able to provide these services through the generosity of our donors – who have the vision to help those less fortunate. Many Mitzvah students set a goal to raise \$500 – which is the cost to sponsor a puppy for the first year of life.

***GENERAL EDUCATION**

***Creative Adaptations for Learning (CAL)** – creates and publishes innovative educational Braille flashcards, embossed pictures, and tactile illustrations that bring raised line drawings to life. CAL creates tactile graphics for children and adults with special needs: those who are blind or visually impaired, children who have dyslexia, autism, or may have a cognitive learning disability. CAL produces educational materials that transform lifeless, two-dimensional print pictures into legible, three-dimensional pictures. These unique raised line drawings are used by children, parents, teachers, therapists and caregivers; high quality and multi-textured; interactive and enjoyable to everyone - children to seniors, able or challenged.

A FINAL NOTE

Some of the programs described in this listing are funded through **The Good People Fund**. We suggest that if you are looking for even more ideas, you can go online at www.goodpeoplefund.org, download *The Good People Fund Guide* and find other programs such as “Birthday Angels” (providing birthday parties for Israeli children and teens in Israel who have never experienced a birthday party) or “A Package From Home”(providing packages to Israel's soldiers, many of whom have no family in Israel).