

TOMCHEI LA NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

GEARING UP FOR OUR
5th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC & DINNER

PESACH RECAP
◇ **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS** ◇



www.tomcheila.org

PESACH RECAP

It is tough to adequately convey the pendulum of emotions that we experienced here at Tomchei LA over the past few months. The phone calls were pouring in from morning to night. The nature of our phone calls ranged from families pleading to keep their lights on and cover their rent, to the voices of grateful children thanking us for their brand-new beautiful clothing they received. We answered calls from individuals who used to be donors and were requesting assistance, on the other line we had volunteers lined up eagerly waiting for the opportunity to experience the bliss of giving.

I can say that when the clock struck 7pm on Friday April 19th, and Pesach was ushered in, thanks to the generous support of our donors and selfless dedication of our incredible volunteers, over 600 families totaling over 3,000 individuals were enjoying their delicious food and brand-new clothing. It takes a community to help a community. This is our community and we took responsibility like never before.

Looking forward, we are gearing up for the most exciting event of the summer, The 5th Annual Tomchei LA Golf Classic & Dinner. This is an event you don't want to miss. This year's event will be held at the exclusive Trump National Golf Course and ballroom in Palos Verdes and will be catered by the world class PAT'S catering. Our event planner, the one and only Jenny Kdoshim, is working around the clock to ensure this year's event will be the best ever. We are forever indebted to the magnanimous and ongoing support from our title sponsor, Yossi Manela, ESQ., CPA. Yossi has been there for Tomchei for close to 20 years, answering the call whenever needed. Tomchei is thriving because of incredible individuals like him. Whether you like to golf or are just looking for an evening to remember, please join us and support this extremely important and worthy cause while having a lot of fun! Looking forward to greeting you personally.

We continue to see steady growth with all of our programs. Our JobLink program is seeing more candidates get back to work as our network of employers continue to grow. Our new JobLink director, Tova Klein, has been doing incredible work ensuring that no one feels alone during the very challenging phase of

seeking employment. Tova holds the candidates by the hand from intake until placement.

Our food program continues to expand. Currently, we are assisting over 300 families on a weekly basis with store credit and fresh food for Shabbos and the week. New food applications are streaming in as the community expands and the need increases. Without fail, for 42 years and counting, we have been packing and delivering fresh food for Shabbos and the week in Pico (8761 Pico Blvd.) and in the Valley (12405 Sylvan Street). Come join us every Thursday night from 6pm-7pm and experience the gift of giving.

A special thank you to our tirelessly devoted Valley volunteer directors, Ruth and Yefat Dimant, for all their incredible work. A special thank you to our volunteer Pico coordinators, Rebbeca Mary and Joe Naroyd. Thank you to all of the incredible packers and drivers who stop what they're doing every Thursday night to give their precious time and energy to help out. It is truly an amazing sight to see. I strongly encourage you to come and experience the true beauty of our community in real time.

Our "One of a Kind" clothing program assisted over 420 families, totaling over 2,900 individuals with beautiful brand-new clothing for Yom Tov. A very special thank you to the One of a Kind team who makes this happen twice a year: Shaindy Maryles, Rochel Haberman, Tziporah Coronel, Linda Mirman, Tzirel Landau, Rivky Czapnik, Lila Eilat and of course to the many volunteers who give their precious time to ensure this program's success.

Tomchei LA has been there for the community since 1977. We started with six families and now assist over 600 on an annual basis. There is no community in the world that is immune to the effects of poverty, financial hardship and unemployment. It is our duty to provide this vital assistance for our friends and neighbors in need. With your help we will continue to do so.

With deep appreciation and immense gratitude.

Schneur Braunstein
Executive Director, Tomchei LA



THANK YOU



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: JOBLINK

Since 2012, our JobLink program is committed to connecting local candidates seeking employment with local employers in a dignified and discreet manner. Hundreds of households have seen their breadwinners laid off. Many breadwinners are ashamed and overwhelmed by their struggles. They feel ill-equipped to start looking for a job or to redefine their career.

Over the past six years, we have assisted over 300 candidates with job placement, resume assistance, job training, guidance counseling, interview preparation and networking. Our goal is to make JobLink the source for all potential employers seeking qualified and talented candidates.

MESSAGE FROM OUR JOBLINK DIRECTOR, TOVA KLEIN:

Our JobLink Program is growing exponentially. We are helping the unemployed and underemployed in our community get back to work in a more timely and dignified manner than ever before. We interview each candidate and meet most of our potential employers to better understand their needs. Our JobLink candidates register on our online Job-Board, send us their resumes, meet with us, have their resume modified by an expert, receive guidance counseling and much more. The JobLink staff also ensures that our candidates have an updated LinkedIn profile and access to all the job placement sites like Indeed, ZipRecruiter, Monster, etc. In addition, we connect them with local and relevant job fairs that would be suitable for the positions they are seeking.

Currently, there are over 45 candidates being assisted. Over 40 individuals acquired jobs since November 2018. We are seeing an 80% retention rate for the candidates we have assisted with placement.

Employers inform us either through our online job board, via email or via phone with an exact description of the candidate they are seeking. We then move quickly to match up the most compatible candidates in our system. We are in the midst of building a comprehensive state of the art database that will allow us to communicate with candidates and employers in real time which will lead to quicker placement rates. Over the past six months, more than 50 new employers have been added to our network and that list is growing.

We have placed candidates in the following sectors: Healthcare, Real Estate, Education, Accounting & Finance, Logistics, Retail, Manufacturing, Medical, Hospitality, Tech and more. Our candidates range from bookkeepers to C-level executives and everyone in between. JobLink is like a personal shopper for both the employer and candidate. With JobLink there is no red tape and no hoops to jump through.

Through our comprehensive sister programs, including food assistance, financial assistance, clothing and furniture, we effectively and discreetly alleviate the crushing burdens off the candidates shoulders while they seek employment. The transition from one job to the next can be emotionally draining and mentally debilitating. Our goal here at JobLink is to ensure this challenging phase is as seamless and painless as possible for the candidate. Loneliness is more painful than loss of employment. With Tomchei LA, you are never alone.



If you are looking to hire or seeking employment please email us at joblink@tomcheila.org or call **323.851.1000 ext. 303.**

TOVA KLEIN

JobLink Director, Tomchei LA

A PROJECT OF
TOMCHEILA
NEW ORLEANS

JUST LAUNCHED!

ONLINE JOB BOARD

WWW.TOMCHEILA.ORG

JOBLINK | THE TRUSTED SOURCE FOR CONNECTING LOCAL EMPLOYERS WITH QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

EMPLOYERS

- Create an account with your business profile
- Post available job opportunities, viewable only by applicants & IL Staff
- View resume of candidate once request approved by JobLink
- Manage your job listings - edit, delete, or add jobs at any time

CANDIDATES

- Create a secure personal profile
- View available job opportunities posted by employers
- Resume available to employers only upon request
- Manage your profile - edit and update at any time
- Professional assistance with resume building
- Interview prep and guidance
- Mock interviews to coach candidate for job interview

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: DIAPER DISTRIBUTIONS

When families are struggling to pay for food, rent, clothing and so much more, it becomes difficult for them to even purchase diapers. There are 100's of families in LA who are unable to purchase diapers for their infants. Thanks to our three Tomchei LA diaper outlets (in Pico, Hancock Park and the Valley), we are able to distribute over 85,000 diapers annually. The average family saves \$1,000 annually helping alleviate a tremendous burden. If you need diapers, please contact us at 323-851-1000.



THANK YOU TO OUR
DEDICATED VOLUNTEER
DISTRIBUTORS:

Miriam Berkowitz

Dena Kramer

Yakov Subar

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: "DOUBLE PLAY" TOY PROGRAM

The "Double Play" Toy Program distributes thousands of brand new and gently used toys to hundreds of families in our community. In conjunction with Chasdei Avigail, under the leadership of Mrs. Chaya Ullman, money is raised with the help of her highly motivated seventh grade girls to purchase toys for kids of all ages. Four times a year, by appointment only, qualified recipients are invited to shop at our distribution center. The recipients are able to purchase these toys for a mere fraction of our cost.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We accept donations of brand new or gently used toys in excellent condition. Our program is geared for children ages 6 months-12 years. You can drop off toys at 157 S. Mansfield Ave. The drop off times are: Monday and Thursday from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Please include your name and contact number along with your donation. Contact

buildaheartworkshop@gmail.com or

Call **323-250-6998**.





SHOP. SHOP. SHOP. GIVE.

May you never experience the burden of
not being able to afford to shop for Shabbos.



PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR NEW “CHECKOUT HUNGER” CAMPAIGN!

May you never experience
the burden of not being able
to afford food.

Next time you're shopping,
please pull a tab and

give back to help our friends
and neighbors in need.

IT'S OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY.



INFO@TOMCHEILA.ORG | 323.851.1000

345 NORTH LA BREA AVENUE, #208, LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Touch of Kindness, Inc. d.b.a. Tomchet Shabbos is a California Non-Profit Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) organization, ID #75-3002144

TOMCHEILA.ORG

AVAILABLE AT THESE STORES:

CAMBRIDGE FARMS

LE MARKET

LA BREA KOSHER

WESTERN KOSHER

GLATT MART

PICO GLATT

On behalf of our family and with the deepest gratitude, I am writing this letter to Tomchei LA to thank you for all you have done and continue to do for us.

My husband and I are both very hardworking individuals. My husband works two Jobs and I work part time. The rest of my time is spent taking care of our children. We have always been able to provide for our family and have always been supporters of Tomchei LA and other organizations as well.

We are very grateful that recently we were able to marry off two children. We are very grateful that we have been able to pay almost full tuition for our children. Our children always had what they needed, we never had to take out any loans or come onto others for any financial assistance...until the past few years.

My husband had been working in a company for many years. He was making over \$220,000 a year with benefits. Then the company was bought out and they downsized and terminated my husband's position. To put it mildly, he was devastated. He didn't even let the family know for the first few months out of sheer embarrassment. He finally came to terms with this new reality. Having to look for a new job as a C-level executive was a very demeaning process and it began to take a toll on him, on our entire household and on our shalom bayis. Our savings were being exhausted, and the debt was beginning to pile up. We started to lose hope. We were also at risk of losing our home that we saved up for so many years to buy. On the outside, aside from a few close friends, everyone assumed we were doing just fine. We tried to hide our reality from our wonderful children, but eventually we had to share with them what was going on. Our teenage children were very worried, they were afraid, we tried to reassure them that Abba would get back to work shortly, but the truth was that there were no solid job opportunities available. We as a family, had hit rock bottom! I never imagined this would happen to us.

We had nowhere to turn, no one else to call. Our Rav who had been there for us throughout these challenging years suggested that we reach out to Tomchei LA. "WHAT??? US? TOMCHEI LA? NO WAY!," I exclaimed. "We used to be donors, there is no way that I would reach out for help. That's below my dignity."

The Rav calmed us down and informed us know that Tomchei LA is assisting over 600 families in our community, many of whom are in similar situations. They have a kind and caring staff, and always use the highest level of discretion and dignity. He continued to share with us the comprehensive programs they offer to ensure no family falls through the cracks. My husband was very reluctant.

I took the initiative without informing my husband to reach out to Tomchei LA. At first, I was very scared, but the Tomchei staff held my hand, carefully and confidentially walking me through the process. For the first time in many months, I felt something I had not felt in almost a year, I felt the feeling of HOPE, I felt that incredible feeling of not being alone, I started to feel alive again.

Tomchei LA was there to make sure our family was completely taken care of for Yom Tov. They provided us with all the food we needed for Pesach, brand new beautiful clothing for our entire family, funds to help us with our and they even gave us access to their Toy Distribution Program so we could give our children Afikomen presents. JobLink helped my husband find a new job. They made the process as painless as possible. How can we ever thank them?

We still have a long road ahead of us and a mountain to climb, but with organizations like TOMCHEI LA, literally holding our hand, we know we are not alone. THANK YOU TOMCHEI LA! We can't wait until we can start giving back again.

**Thank you,
An Extremely Grateful Recipient**

GOLF, WINE & DINE

JOIN US FOR GOLF and POST GOLF DINNER

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019



TOMCHEILA
GOLF CLASSIC



Please join us at the exclusive

Trump National Golf Club

CONTESTS • HOLE GIVEAWAYS • RAFFLES • AUCTION
SUSHI BAR • BBQ LUNCH AND DINNER WITH PAT'S
OPEN BAR • HERZOG WINE TASTING • CIGAR ROLLING

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019 POST GOLF DINNER

AT TRUMP NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
ONE TRUMP NATIONAL DRIVE
RANCHO PALOS VERDES

CATERED BY PAT'S

8:30-10AM Registration & Breakfast

10 AM - 4 PM Golf Tournament
Giveaways, Contests and Raffles
Gourmet BBQ Lunch

4:30 PM Cocktails, Fine Scotch,
Fine Cigars

5 PM BALL Drop
Buy a Ball, Split the Pot

5:30 PM Sumptuous Dinner
Wine Tasting by Herzog Winery

6:30 PM Exclusive Dessert Lounge
Entertainment, Open Bar and Prizes

TOMCHEILA
תומכי שבת



TO REGISTER Call 323.851.1000 or email: info@tomcheila.org

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Connect With Us On Social Media:

Facebook: Tomchei LA



Instagram: @TomcheiLA



Twitter: @Tomchei LA

www.tomcheila.org

VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF LOS ANGELES FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT OF OUR FOOD AND JOB PROGRAMS. INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE FEDERATION ALLOW US TO HELP OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

The Jewish
FEDERATION
OF GREATER LOS ANGELES