

J-SERVE 2008 REGISTERED PROJECTS AND DESCRIPTIONS:

Arizona

Chandler

Lead Agency: Operation Noah

60 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Dennis Fries (operationnoah@cox.net)

Project Description: : In a joint effort spanning two cities and two projects, in Tucson, AZ and in Chandler, AZ, teens participated in a toy drive and delivered donations to a local children's hospital.

***** Phoenix**

Lead Agency: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Mountain Region

150 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Steven Baker (sbaker@bbyo.org)

Project Description: J-Serve in Phoenix was an environmentally themed project. Teens rotated through five different stations, learning about different aspects of the environment and Judaism. The rotations focused on: *Tikkun Olam*, a Judaic discussion about Judaism and the environment; Recycling, where teens made recycling bins and learned about recycling; Israeli Environmental Accomplishments; Daily Environmental Impacts & Sustainability; and a discussion about global warming. After the rotations ended, the group cleaned up the local park.

Scottsdale

Lead Agency: Phoenix High School of Jewish Studies

20 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Myra Shindler (myras@bjephoenix.org)

Project Description: In Scottsdale, teens participated in a Passover food delivery to needy and elderly households.

Tucson

Lead Agency: Operation Noah

40 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Ariella Faitelson (atfaitelson@gmail.com)

Project Description: In a joint effort spanning two cities and two projects, in Tucson, AZ, and in Chandler, AZ, teens participated in a toy drive and delivered donations to a local children's hospital.

California

Chico

Lead Agency: Congregation Beth Israel, BBYO HaTikvah

15 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

Project Description: For J-Serve, BBYO HaTikvah volunteered at the Humane Society. Teens received an orientation to the organization, and participated in a dog washing afternoon. Other teens did service projects at the synagogue, making improvements and repairs outdoors.

***** Los Angeles**

Lead Agency: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Pacific Coast Region

130 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Lederman (rlederman@bbyo.org)

Project Description: Los Angeles's J-Serve project was a large-scale environmental action day. Working with the Shalom Institute to build their organic garden, teens participated in four major projects: building a fence, digging post holes for the fence, and attaching the fence using instant cement; constructing large planter boxes for the garden and painting them with the camp colors; sanding and constructing large wooden recycling receptacles for local Jewish organizations; and lastly, digging large holes and planting olive trees. The teens picked one project and spent two hours dedicated to the work.

**** Orange County**

Lead Agency: BBYO Southwestern Region

56 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Jayme David (j david@bbyo.org)

Project Description: In Orange County, the J-Serve project was an all-night lock in. Working in conjunction with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the program educated the teens on the different areas that the JDC helps and allowed the teens to participate in direct service to these communities. For example, the teens learned about the JDC's work in Ukraine and in Argentina and about the political circumstances in these countries and then sent their citizens Passover cards.

*** **San Diego**

Lead Agency: Agency for Jewish Education of San Diego County **225 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Selk (rselk@roadrunner.com)

Project description: J-Serve teens in San Diego volunteered at a number of different service sites that related to homelessness. Teens sorted donated toys; assembled gift baskets for moms; sorted and packed food; served lunch to residents in a shelter; cleaned a women's emergency shelter; and lead a Children's Center art activity.

*** **San Francisco**

Lead Agency: BBYO Central Region West **50 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rae Goodman (RGoodman@bbyo.org)

Project Description: In California's Bay Area, teens participated in a beach cleanup and habitat restoration at numerous locations on the shoreline. Ocean Beach, Half Moon Bay State Beach, Francis Beach, and Natural Bridges Beach all benefitted from J-Serve participants working to clean these areas.

Connecticut

* **Stamford**

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Center of Stamford **57 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Nancy Shiffman (nlevy@stamfordjcc.org)

Project Description: J-Serve teens in Stamford volunteered at eight different agencies, including the Jewish Home for the Elderly, Friendship Circle, Stamford Jewish Little League, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, and the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.

*** **West Hartford**

Lead Agency: Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford **95 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Anna Elfenbaum (aelfenbaum@jewishhartford.org)

Project Description: Hartford's J-Serve project was split into three parts. Over lunch, participants collected canned foods for the Kosher Food Pantry, cell phones for US Soldiers in Iraq and Tzedakah for children in Sderot. They also had the opportunity to write letters to Israeli soldiers and children at makeachildsmile.org. After lunch, participants heard from Jason Lieberman, an advocate for people with disabilities who presented an interactive program entitled "Why Me, Why Not Me? What the Good Book Says." Following the address, teens went to direct action work sites, including an old age home, a park to distribute food to the homeless and a community kitchen where they prepared Kosher for Passover meals.

Florida

Boca Raton

Lead Agency: Weinbaum Yeshiva High School **25 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Heather Andron (MHA@wyhs.net)

Project Description: J-Serve teens in Boca Raton participated in the MS walkathon.

* **Maitland**

Lead Agency: BBYO North Florida Region **50 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Mickey Stone (mstone@bbyo.org)

Project Description: In Maitland, the day started out with a presentation on sea turtles from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Teens then cleaned up the beaches to prepare them for nesting season.

Georgia

*** Atlanta

Lead Agency: Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta **175 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Anita Blustein (anita.blustein@atlantajcc.org)

Project Description: Atlanta's J-Serve project centered around the environment and conservation. Teens attended one of four project sites around Atlanta where they studied Jewish texts regarding the environment, participated in group discussion, and worked on a task benefiting the site. The project sites included the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta Community Gardening, and the Big Trees Forest Preserve.

Illinois

Chicago

Lead Agency: Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago **40 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Brett Klugman (BrettKlugman@juf.org)

Project Description: J-Serve Chicago took place at two Council for Jewish Elderly sites. Activities included: BINGO, potting plants, and celebrating a monthly birthday party with residents.

Indiana

* Indianapolis

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Center of Indianapolis **16 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: David Waldman (dwaldman@jccindy.org)

Project Description: J-Serve Indianapolis consisted of three different service sites: participants went to Hooverwood, a local Jewish nursing home, to participate in a social program with the residents, landscaped the JCC Teen House and designed and developed a recycling system for the JCC Teen House.

Kansas

Kansas City

Lead Agency: CAJE - Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City **50 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Karen Gerson (KarenG@jewishkc.org)

Project Description: Kansas City J-Serve focused on the importance of water. Participants learned about water purification, talked about the importance of water in Judaism, cleaned up a park and stream, and raised over \$460.00 to purchase LifeStraws for people in developing countries so that they can drink safe water.

Louisiana

** New Orleans

Lead Agency: Goldring-Woldenberg Jewish Community Center **60 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Aliza Herman (aliza@nojcc.com)

Project Description: J-Serve 2008 gave New Orleans teens an opportunity to help preserve the bayou area of City Park. The teens picked up debris around the shoreline and planted plants to help beautify and preserve the area from shoreline erosion. Teens also worked alongside a new public bike path to enhance the area's appearance.

Massachusetts

Boston

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston **50 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Hall (RHall@jccgb.org)

Project Description: Teens in the Boston area participated in the Walk for Hunger. Some of the teens walked, and others participated by encouraging the walkers. Teens designed and created T-shirts and signs for the big day, and cheered the walkers on with snacks and supplies.

Framingham

Lead Agency: Jewish Family Services of Metrowest **50 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Deb Hurowitz (dhurowitz@jfsmw.org)

Project Description: J-Serve in Framingham consisted of 4 intergenerational Passover Seders. Youth from four synagogues planned, organized, and led the Seders for the residents at four assisted living facilities

Maryland

*** Baltimore

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore **172 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Melanie Waxman (MWaxman@jcc.org)

Project Description: J-Serve in Baltimore had two different components. The first was a clothing donation and exchange program that began a month before J-serve. J-Serve volunteers clerked, collected, cleaned, distributed and packaged the clothing. During the J-Serve "It Starts HERE!" program, community teens were invited to shop the exchange and make a donation towards a charity of their choice from a list that was compiled by the J-Serve teen committee. Any formal attire that was not picked up by the donation drive was donated to the "Priceless Gown Organization." The second component took place in northwest Baltimore in conjunction with CHAI's Senior Home Repair Day. Teens did light yard work, changed light bulbs, removed plastic from storm windows, and completed other minor repair work.

*** Rockville

Lead Agency: Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning **156 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Merritt (rmerritt@pjll.org)

Project Description: In Washington, DC, groups split into four to participate in different projects that would benefit the Earth Conservation Corps, an environmental group in Anacostia. Each group spent some time picking up trash along the Anacostia River; helping with an ECC Mailing; and participating in a reflection program which had teens to write themselves a postcard reminding themselves of the three things they vow to do as a follow-up to J-Serve

Michigan

Detroit

Lead Agency: Young Judaea **100 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Samantha Hodz (shodz@youngjudaea.org)

Project Description: J-Serve Detroit worked with Motor City Blight Busters Organization, and gave participants the opportunity to work on different activities ranging from demolition work to painting and landscaping.

Southfield

Lead Agency: National Council of Jewish Women

Lead Agency Contact: Libby Sherbin (lsherbin@comcast.com)

Project Description: J-Serve participants in Southfield made and donated fleece blankets to comfort children removed from their homes by Protective Services because of abuse or neglect.

* West Bloomfield

Lead Agency: Temple Shir Shalom **45 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Judy Lewis (judy@shirshalom.org)

Project Description: In connection with Detroit's project, West Bloomfield's J-Serve project also partnered with Motor City Blight Busters (www.blightbusters.org). Teens spent about three hours cleaning an empty lot, gutting an abandoned home, and removing yard waste and debris from two abandoned homes.

Minnesota

* Minneapolis

Lead Agency: JCRC of Minnesota and the Dakotas **60 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Seth Skora (seth@justicejustice.org)

Project Description: Teen participants in J-Serve Minneapolis split up among four different service sites: Sojourner Truth Academy, a local charter school; Neighborhood House, a shelter and food pantry; People Serving People, a local shelter; and Fort Snelling State Park.

New Jersey

* Cherry Hill

Lead Agency: BBYO South Jersey Region

100 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Jenna Lipson (jlipson@bbyo.org)

Project Description: Teens at BBYO's spring convention dedicated their Sunday to serving at four project sites: a local animal shelter; a senior citizen home; an environmental project at a local historical society; and a pediatric hospital.

* Metrowest

Lead Agency: Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life

500 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Adam Oded (aoded@thepartnershipnj.org)

Project Description: J-Serve in Metrowest consisted of work in more than 20 different sites ranging from environmental projects, to sending care packages and letters to Israeli soldiers, volunteering at the zoo, and working with the elderly at a home for the aged.

* Montclair

Lead Agency: Essex County Coalition for Darfur

1,000 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Cheryl Marshall-Petricoff (apetricoff@att.net)

Project Description: A coalition in Montclair held a "Walk for Darfur" to raise money and awareness about the current humanitarian crisis in Darfur.

New York

* New York

Lead Agency: Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor High School

67 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Bess Adler (badler@jtsa.edu)

Project Description: After a morning lecture by Rabbi Jill Jacobs, teens at the Prozdor High School went to five different service sites: two NYC soup kitchens, the JCC to join teens making candles for indigent New York Jews, a nursing home to visit the elderly, and a local polluted river to do an environmental cleanup.

New York

Lead Agency: JCC Manhattan

40 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Ben Greenberg (bgreenberg@jccmanhattan.org)

Project Description: The JCC in Manhattan's J-Serve project began with learning about issues of Jewish poverty in NYC. Teens then created Jewish ritual objects, candlesticks and candleholders, to be given to impoverished Jews.

Plainview

Lead Agency: BBYO Nassau/Suffolk Region

200 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Fran Haskel (fhaskel@bbyo.org)

Project Description: Final project description pending.

*** Rockland

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Center of Rockland

1,000 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Cathie Izen (cathiei@jccrockland.org)

Project Description: Teens in Rockland developed and implemented approximately 50 different service projects for J-Serve 2008. Projects were divided into categories based on local, national, and international focuses. Local projects included running a Special Olympics program, packing 300 emergency food baskets for Meals on Wheels, and an arts and crafts party for people with special needs. National projects included running tournaments and walkathons for MS, People to People, and Camp Simcha. International projects centered on putting an end to genocide with a movie night and skateathon to raise money for the victims of Darfur, a dodgeball tournament for the IDF, and a walkathon for Magen David Adom.

*** Westchester

Lead Agency: J-Teen - UJA Federation of New York **180 participants**
Lead Agency Contact: Adi Flesher (adiflesher@gmail.com; jteenny@aol.com)
Project Description: J-Serve Westchester held a large service carnival at the Bronx Zoo. The project had two main components. Each youth group involved in J-Serve planning hosted a table featuring a different social action organization. Teens who visited the carnival learned about each of the causes by visiting the booth and participating in the games and activities run at the booth. A teen from each organization spoke about the cause and then the teens voted to allocate the funds raised that day (through entrance fees) to one of the causes. The program raised over \$800 dollars for Play Pumps International. Additionally, the teens hosted groups of kids from different at-risk communities in the Bronx area at the carnival.

Ohio

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Canton

Lead Agency: Canton Jewish Community Center **46 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Ellen Shankle (WRSEDS@neo.rr.com)

Project Description: Canton's J-Serve participants maintained the Hebrew cemetery, cooked for area firefighters, helped maintain the Jewish Community Center, and painted and planted with Jewish residents at two separate nursing homes.

Cleveland

Lead Agency: Jewish Education Center of Cleveland **200 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Sheila Balk (SBalk@jecc.org)

Project Description: Participants in J-Serve Cleveland played BINGO with residents of a local nursing home; helped the local Friendship Circle's spring clean up; packed up the local Hebrew shelter home for a move to a new location; and assisted with New Life Transitional Housing's spring clean up. Participants could also remain at the JCC and make lunches for the Salvation Army and the Women's Domestic Violence Center, write letters to Israeli soldiers, make blankets for the Children's Hospital at the Cleveland Clinic, and give manicures to senior adults.

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Dayton

Lead Agency: Dayton Jewish Community Center **49 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Meryl Hattenbach (MHattenbach@jfgd.net)

Project Description: Three projects were included in Dayton's J-Serve program: assisting at Temple Israel's blood drive (with eligible teens giving blood); joining with residents at Covenant House, the Jewish Federation's long-term care and rehab facility, to make surgi-dolls and play kits for children at Dayton's Children's Medical Center; and interviewing residents at Covenant House for an oral history project.

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Toledo

Lead Agency: United Jewish Council of Greater Toledo **37 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rene Rusgo (rene@jewishtoledo.org)

Project Description: J-Serve participants in Toledo organized and ran a carnival for people with special needs.

Oregon

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Portland

Lead Agency: BBYO **24 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Josh Erde-Wollheim (PBBYO@portlandjewishacademy.org)

Project Description: Portland's J-Serve project took place at Mcleay Park in the Portland area. Teens spent four hours cutting ivy from trees. The food left over after the project was donated to a local shelter.

Pennsylvania

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Allentown

Lead Agency: BBYO Central Region East **115 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Jeff Koch (jkoch@bbyo.org)

Project Description: Teens helped pack and move the Reading, PA JCC that is relocating to a different building.

* **Jenkintown**

Lead Agency: Jewish Reconstructionist Federation

78 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Isaac Saposnick (ISaposnik@jrf.org)

Project Description: As part of the North American Teen Kallah, No'ar Hadash brought together teens from across the United States and Canada for a J-Serve project coordinated through AchieveAbility. This local organization, which helps single mothers to find housing, jobs, and access higher education, arranged a street clean up in West Philadelphia.

*** **Philadelphia**

Lead Agency: Kevy K and Hortense M Kaiserman JCC

91 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Hercky (rhercky@phillyjcc.com)

Project Description: J-Serve Philly teens met at the SHARE Warehouse and participated in 12 different service activities, including: sorting and packaging food, bagging and boxing food, tending the SHARE garden, creating food pallets for JRA and Mitzvah Food Project, painting a mural, restoring and refurbishing furniture for St. Vincent De Paul thrift store, stocking shelves and taking inventory for the Free Teacher's Store, assembling lunch bags for a homeless shelter, creating food packages for seniors, and writing advocacy letters to government representatives.

*** **Pittsburgh**

Lead Agency: Agency for Jewish Learning (SAJS)

198 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Meredith Gettys (mgettys@ajlpittsburgh.org)

Project Description: Organized by the Agency for Jewish Learning, Pittsburgh's J-Serve extended beyond J-Serve itself. From January to April, participating agencies held donation drives to collect goods to distribute to their 12 service sites. On April 13, teens gathered at the JCC and assembled baskets to give to the service sites. After hearing state representative Dan Frankel talk about *tikkun olam*, politics and leadership, the teens went to the designated service sites, including: Family House, Sojourner House, Global Links, Charles Morris Nursing home, Gwen's Girls, Friendship Circle, Pittsburgh Cares, JNF, Weinberg Terrace, and the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry. At each site the teens donated the baskets and performed hands-on service.

Rhode Island

Providence

Lead Agency: Temple Emanu-El

40 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Miriam Abrams-Stark (miriam@teprov.org)

Project Description: Providence teens participated in a park clean up.

Tennessee

** **Knoxville**

Lead Agency: Knoxville Jewish Alliance

200 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Deborah Oleshansky (doleshansky@jewishknoxville.org)

Project Description: Knoxville's J-Serve project was a dinner fundraiser and educational evening to benefit Darfur. Teens raised money for both American Jewish World Service and local refugee resettlement program. Participants were invited for an information fair prior to the dinner to learn how to get involved and make a difference on these issues. "Action Placemats" with additional social action ideas were distributed to keep teens involved.

Texas

*** **Austin**

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Association of Austin

65 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Felber (Rachel.Felber@ShalomAustin.org)

Project Description: Austin's J-Serve day gave teens the option of three different service projects. The first group assisted with clean up and beautification projects at LifeWorks, a facility that works with underprivileged and at-risk youth. The second group worked to prepare trails for

Bright Leaf, a local nature preserve. The third group learned about advocacy techniques with Roberta Clark of the Anti-Defamation League. All the teens participated in and volunteered at the Tents of Hope Darfur Rally at the end of their J-Serve experience.

***** Houston**

Lead Agency: Jewish Community Center of Houston **250 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Sheryl Eskowitz (SEskowitz@bbyo.org)

Project Description: Houston's teen leadership decided to focus this year's J-Serve project on the theme "There is No Place Like Home," working on projects that benefitted four agencies that tie into this theme. The agencies were SEARCH, a local agency that works with the homeless; The House of Tiny Treasures, a preschool for homeless children; Aishel House, an agency that provides free living arrangements for families seeking medical care in Houston; and the JCC's Teen Center, a second home for Houston's Jewish teens.

**** San Antonio**

Lead Agency: Barshop Jewish Community Center of San Antonio **95 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Rustin (rustinr@jcc-sa.org)

Project Description: Teens in San Antonio volunteered at six different sites for five different agencies. They volunteered with two local Jewish agencies – interacting with seniors at Golden Manor and doing yard work for the Southside Counseling Center, a branch of Jewish Family Service. In addition, teens served at the San Antonio Food Bank, San Antonio Youth Center, and two locations of Goodwill.

Virginia

Newport News

Lead Agency: United Jewish Community of the Virginia Peninsula **40 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Jennifer Meyers (jennifer@ujcvp.org)

Project Description: J-Serve in Newport News began with a Lunch and Learn. Teens were then split into two service sites, the Sandy Bottom Nature Park, and the York County Public Library - Tabb Branch, Yorktown.

*** Virginia Beach**

Lead Agency: Tidewater Jewish Teens **27 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Lindsey Adler (ladler@simonfamilyj.org)

Project Description: At J-Serve in Virginia Beach, participants held a Senior Spring Fling at their local Jewish nursing and assisted living facility, Beth Sholom Village. For the first part of the program, teens made decorations for the party and gave the residents manicures. The second part of the program included escorting residents to and from the "Spring Fling" birthday celebration and music event.

Washington

***** Seattle**

Lead Agency: Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle **150 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Amy Hilzman-Paquette (amyhp@jewishinseattle.org)

Project Description: Seattle's J-Serve theme focused on violence prevention. Teens volunteered at seven different sites whose mission was either helping people who have experienced violence or supporting other organizations in preventing violence. In addition, teens created rape whistles with cards attached that had numbers that teens could call if they found themselves or a friend in a violent situation. Also, teens learned some quick and easy defensive moves to use if they need to protect themselves.

Wisconsin

*** Milwaukee**

Lead Agency: B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Wisconsin Region **74 participants**

Lead Agency Contact: Rachel Frydman (rfrydman@bbyo.org)

Project Description: J-Serve teens in Milwaukee participated in three different service projects: pulling garlic mustard, an invasive species to Wisconsin; going to a homeless shelter to clean up after winter storms; and visiting a Jewish senior center to participate in an ongoing volunteer project, Glamour Gals and Dapper Dans.

Projects Outside the United States:

Canada

Manitoba

* Winnipeg

Lead Agency: Rose and Max Brady Jewish Community Center

24 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Roberta Malam (RMalam@aspercampus.mb.ca)

Project Description: Participants in J-Serve Winnipeg had the option of two different service projects. The first, at the Brady Centre, youth participated in games and sports, and shared snacks with special needs members of the community. At the Manitoba Children's Museum, a second group helped clean the grounds around the museum of litter, broken glass, and other debris left behind from winter.

Ontario

Toronto

Lead Agency: BBYO Lake Ontario Region

200 participants

Lead Agency Contact: Missy Korn (MKorn@bbyo.org)

Project Description: J-Serve in Toronto offered teens the opportunity to participate in any of 14 community service initiatives, ranging from a ceramics and ice cream social at the Extendicare senior residence and aiding the National Council of Jewish Women with their annual Passover Food Drive to preparation work for the Walk for Israel, setting up for the Global Day for Darfur rally, and participating at a Passover celebration at the Cummer Lodge Nursing Home. Younger kids, in grades 5 to 7, got to take part in community initiatives developed especially for their age group, such as learning about how they can help the environment and tie-dying pillow cases to be donated to charity.

Israel

* Jerusalem

Lead Agency: Service for Peace

80 participants

Lead Agency Contact: David Wallsh (dawallsh@gmail.com)

Project Description: J-Serve Israel engaged Jewish teens for the second year in a row. Youth spent an afternoon talking and playing with and performing for the elderly, entertained sick children in a children's hospital, learned about organic farming practices and planted a garden, cleaned trash in communal areas, and, Jewish and Muslim youth worked together to plan fun activities for young Darfurian refugees in Israel.