



Advocacy Update

Sent September 19, 2012

Social Action Project Ideas from the Department of Programming and Advocacy, North American Social Action Program Committee

With WRJ's Centennial year in mind, please find below program and project ideas with a "Centennial" theme—collections of 100—as the goal. These ideas encourage sisterhoods to engage in tikkum olam, repairing the world. Projects can be modified for different target audiences: local community, global populations, and more. We'd love to hear about your successes! Share you sisterhood's special projects and collections with WRJ by emailing a summary of your project (and include some photos) to Sharon Benoff: sharon.benoff@gmail.com and Amanda Feldman: afeldman@wrj.org. You can even write a blog about it! We hope you enjoy these Centennial social action project ideas.

September

Collect 100 coloring books and crayons

Target Audience: Local underserved schools and head-start programs

October

Collect 100 Halloween costumes

Target Audience: Local children's charities

*Think globally!

November

Collect 100 canned food items for Thanksgiving dinner

Target Audience: Local food pantry

December

Collect or make 100 new hats, mittens, and scarves

Target Audience: Red Cross or other community charity in need

*Think globally!

Collect 100 gift cards (in any denomination; for local and chain stores like supermarkets, pharmacies, and big-box stores)

Target Audience: Local agencies, women's shelters, or other charities in need

January

Collect or make 100 new lap blankets, shawls, etc.

Target Audience: Seniors in extended care facilities and/or home-bound seniors

February

Collect 100 new bats, balls, and other sports equipment

Target Audience: Local underserved schools

March

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home

Collect 100 boxes of matzos and other Passover food items

Target Audience: Local Jewish community members in need

April

Collect 100 packets of flower seeds and plant them in 100 small pots

Target Audience: Local senior citizens and elder care facilities

May

Collect 100 new T-shirts and shorts

Target Audience: Red Cross or other community charity in need

*Think globally!

June

Collect 100 hours of volunteer service (Mitzvah Day concept)

Target Audience: Local agencies with need

Collect and create 100 fistula and/or birthing kits

Target Audience: Girls and young women in villages in Sudan

July

Collect 100 boxes of tissues, wipes, toilet paper, and personal care items

Target Audience: Local Women's Shelter

August

Collect 100 school supplies

Target Audience: Local underserved schools

Best wishes for exciting and engaging projects from the North American Social Action Program Committee:

Amanda Feldman- Manager of Meetings and Programs

Sharon Benoff- Vice President of Department of Programming and Advocacy

Marci Delson, Deb Faye, and Patti Grossman- Committee members

Eradicate Obstetric Fistula Worldwide

More than two million women and girls in Africa and Asia are plagued by obstetric fistulas after childbirth, a condition that, without treatment, physically and emotionally brands them for the rest of their lives. Fistula—and women's health more broadly—have long been priorities for the WRJ. We have a number of pilot programs aimed specifically at combating fistula and its adverse effects.

WRJ is an active supporter of the United States Leadership to Eradicate Obstetric Fistula Act of 2012 (H.R. 5748), sponsored by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). This bill seeks to eliminate obstetric fistulas in a decade through a network of clinics and teams of U.S. and African doctors, social workers and midwives. Unfortunately, this bill does not have a counterpart in the Senate as yet. Take action by calling your member of Congress (202-224-3121) and telling them that you support H.R. 5748.