



Advocacy Update

Sent February 18, 2010

Women Helping Impoverished Jewish Mothers

Susan C. Bass (Beth Israel, Houston, TX), WRJ vice president, writes: "During our recent visit to Buenos Aires, my husband, Jerry, and I visited Fundacion Tzedaka, which is housed with NCI Emanuel Synagogue (a WUPJ congregation). This agency focuses on families, providing clothes, medications and eye glasses to needy Jews. The day we visited, a local, successful optician was there, doing eye exams, fitting frames and grinding lenses (all donated by his vendors). A large part of the agency's mission is to help people get back on their feet. To that end, they work with people to develop skills for the work force, counsel them, and even tutor them, if necessary. Truly, this agency sees the value and potential of "woman-power!"

The mission of Fundacion Tzedaka is to help 9000 impoverished members of the Argentine Jewish community. Visit its website, www.tzedaka.org.ar/en, for details. The agency is beginning a new initiative dealing with women working together to help other women.

Fundacion Tzedaka is coordinating women's gatherings in cities across the world to celebrate International Women's Day, March 8th, by helping other women live with dignity. WRJ has been invited to join this mission. The agency proposes small gatherings in women's homes with the goal of helping Jewish women in Argentina who are single mothers with unstable low-paying jobs and no medical insurance.

We suggest that sisterhoods set up informal gatherings, inviting members for tea, breakfast, lunch, or even a casual get-together at the temple, using materials supplied by Fundacion Tzedaka. Although it would be good to host a get-together on International Women's day, an event at another time to help impoverished Argentine Jewish women live with dignity would be a meaningful addition to your sisterhood program.

Fundacion Tzedaka sends the hosts or leaders of events program e-mail resources including: invitation cards, a power point presentation about a few of the 205 single mothers who are part of this program, flyers, and additional materials. (One woman's story is attached to this e-mail.) To sign-up to host an event and for information about holding events, go to: <http://www.tzedaka.org.ar/newsletter/MinisitioAmigos-ingles/index.html>.

National Medical Marijuana Week: Support the Truth in Trials Act

One in four Americans now lives in a state with laws permitting and governing medical marijuana. Unfortunately, law-abiding citizens can still be prosecuted on federal marijuana-related charges. The "Truth in Trials" Act, H.R. 3939, would enable federal defendants to present evidence showing that they were following state medical marijuana laws.

Women in the Administration's FY2011 Budget Request

Unprecedented steps were taken to improve the impact of international and domestic programs on women and girls in the president's 2011 budget request. Women Thrive Worldwide has prepared an analysis of the FY2011 budget request, which is attached. Read the two page overview (pp.1-2) for a quick analysis and the rest if you have the time.

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