MITZVAH DAY 2014 REPORT
OVER 500 PARTNER COMMUNITIES TOOK PART IN MITZVAH DAY 2014

45 communities
An additional 45 communities participated in Mitzvah Day this year

37,000 people
bringing over 37,000 people together to do hands-on social action

20 countries
in 20 countries across the world.

17
A key area of growth was young adults with 17 Mitzvah Day Active groups, an increase of X% from 2013.

55
A record 55 Mitzvah Days were inter faith – Jews working alongside a community from another faith, in order to build much needed bridges between local communities.

90,000 hours
In the lead up to Mitzvah Day and on the day itself, an estimated 90,000 hours of time were donated by volunteers, which equal over 10 years of time.

BUILDING BRIDGES AND BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

On Mitzvah Day 2014, 55 Jewish communities ran a social action project alongside a community of another faith – Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Bahai, Buddhist, Quaker, Bravanese or Zoroastrian! The vast majority (97%) of these Partners want, or might want, to work with the other faith group again. 99% of those asked agree that inter faith social action is a good way of building relationships between faith groups.

Mitzvah Day was proud to launch Inter Faith Week and continues to be the largest event during the week. A new partnership with the Council for Christians and Jews saw branches and offices across the country working together on Mitzvah Day.

Mitzvah Day has been praised by political and community leaders alike, described by Prime Minister David Cameron as "a wonderful example of how people from all faiths and backgrounds join together for the shared purpose of a greater good." Our Founder and Chair, Laura Marks, received an OBE in the 2015 New Year's Honours list, to reflect her work and success so far in the inter faith world.

Coordinators and participants agreed overwhelmingly that inter faith social action projects help to build relationships between faith groups. “Joint projects working together, raises understanding, changes perceptions and ignorance” (Nottingham Hebrew Congregation coordinator).
Mitzvah Day 2014 focussed on homelessness which continues to rise across the UK. Our “Shmitta”-related project in conjunction with the Trussell Trust saw dozens of groups collecting and donating food to 20 foodbanks across the UK. Our ‘Give Away Your Lunch’ project involved 77 office based teams donating food to local homeless shelters, including 27 Santander local branches.

Many of those who participate on Mitzvah Day want to engage in the longer term and in 2014, we introduced and supported a number of projects throughout the year, helping communities to develop the relationships started on Mitzvah Day.

In the inter faith arena particularly, we recognise that relationships need ongoing support and encouragement, and our inter faith cooking sessions at JW3 for example, bring representatives from faith communities together to meet, chat and build familiarity, whilst making a practical difference to a local charity.

Moving forwards, our environmental projects on Tu B’Shvat, ‘Give Away Your Chametz’ project at Pesach and visiting care homes at Purim give people who participated in Mitzvah Day an opportunity to repeat their project and further the relationship with their chosen charities.

Our first Mitzvah Day Awards, presented on Mitzvah Day 2014, recognised some of our Partners who have made efforts to continue their projects throughout the year and we were proud to honour the winners and runners up.
DOING MITZVOT AROUND THE WORLD

Whilst tragedies can too often bring the international Jewish community together, Mitzvah Day is a proactive and positive initiative which unites thousands of Jews with a common goal. Mitzvah Days took place in 20 countries in 2014, with participation for the first time in Uruguay and increased participation in Spain and Germany.

Our international coordinators met and shared ideas through online webinars, so building powerful international links encouraging people to feel part of a larger international Jewish community.

The Coordinator of the Union of Jewish Women in Johannesburg, taking part in Mitzvah Day for the third year, said “Mitzvah Day allows me to forge relationships internationally and locally and see the smile on other people’s faces.”

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

MAJOR DONORS:
- Gina Edwards
- Peter Oppenheimer
- Pears Foundation
- Shoresh Trust
- Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation

PATRONS:
- Sara and Paul Phillips
- ROAN Charitable Trust
- Stuart and Bianca Roden
- Together in Service
- UJIA

FRIENDS:
- Sir Victor and Lady Sylvia Blank
- Nimrod Capital LLP
- Lord and Lady Fink
- The Worth Charitable Trust

SUPPORTERS:
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- Sir Trevor and Lady Chinn
- Joy and Stanley Cohen OBE
- Judy and Paul Dewinter
- Fayre Share Foundation
- Lord Stanley and Lady Barbara Fink
- Denise and David Joseph
- Loftus Family Charitable Trust
- Jeremy Manuel OBE
- Met Group
- Rachel Charitable Trust
- Shabir and Ruwaida Randeree
- Ruth and Jeremy Smilg

MITZVAH DAY MENSCHES:
- Elizabeth and Philip Beckman
- Christopher Brockwell
- Sarah and Lionel Derriey
- Chris Lenihan and Jeremy Franks
- Harold and Mignon Franks
- Suzi Freeda
- Martyn Gerrard
- Sue Mandelbaum and John Gerszt
- Sue Charles and Richard Goldstein
- Ruth and Nick Green
- Shelley Jacobson and Brendan Robinson
- Raymonde Jay
- Howard and Jenifer Leigh
- Ben and Charlotte Leon
- Michael and Dvora Lewis
- Steven and Alicia Lewis
- Liz and Jeremy Manuel
- Richard Marchant
- Shirley and John Marks
- Richard and Philippa Mintz
- Gary Sakol
- The Rosalyn and Nicholas Springer Charitable Trust
- The Ann Zachary Foundation
SYNGOGUE

Yitzhak-Rabin-Schule Düsseldorf, Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland K.d.ö.R.
Oranienburger Straße Berlin, Tora Zentrum Leipzig, Touro College, Wiesbaden JuZe OZ, Wuppertal JuZe Lev Sahav,
Gymnasium Berlin, München JuZe Neschama, Ohel haChidusch Berlin e.V., Osnabrück Jüdische Gemeinde, Perusch
und Baden Baden, Kaiserslautern JuZe , Karlsruhe Jüdische Kultusgemeinde, Kiga der JG Frankfurt, Kita der JG Berlin, Köln
Lichtigfeldschule Frankfurt am Main, Jüdische Allgemeine Wochenzeitung, JuZes Freiburg und Emmendingen, JuZes Pforzheim
ELES West, Emuna Sheli Frankfurt, Europäische Janusz-Korczak-Akademie München, Flensburg Jüdische Gemeinde, Freunde
Gemeinde, Bonn Synagogengemeinde, Botschaft des Staates Israel, Central Council of Jews in Germany, Dortmund Jüdische
Bambinim Berlin, Berlin JuZe Olam, Bet Debora e.V., Beth Shalom München, Bielefeld Jüdische Gemeinde, Bochum Jüdische
GERMANY:
MESUSA, Vienna, Or Chadasch –
WIZO Matan, WIZO Victoria, Zionist Council of Victoria (ZCV), ZOOZ Israeli Dancing.
AUSTRIA:
Progressive Judaism, The Liron Choir, The Menora Charity Fund, The Perth Hebrew School, VAJEX Australia, WIZO Masada,
Recycling is Fun, Sholem Aleichem College, SKIF, South Head Synagogue, Spiritgrow with Ardoch Youth Foundation, St Kilda
Macabi Argentinian Hebrew
INTERNATIONAL – ARGENTINA:
community, Liverpool Jewish community, Oxford Jewish community.
Portuguese Jews' congregation, St Johns Wood synagogue, St Albans Masorti synagogue, St Albans United synagogue,
District Reform synagogue, Southend and Westcliff Hebrew congregation, Southgate Progressive synagogue, Spanish and
Nottingham Liberal synagogue, Oxford Chabad society, B'nai B'rith – Hatikvah
CZECH:
Escola Beit Yaacov.

AUSTRALIA :
10th Caulfield Scout Group, Australian Friends of Hebrew University, WA Division, B'nai B'rith – Hatikvah

IRELAND:
Jewish Chronicle, Jewish News, Times and Independent Series.

POLAND:
Comunidad Israelita de Barcelona, Comunidad Judia Bet Shalom de Cataluna, Comunidad Judia Masorti Bet-El,
Ulus Jewish School. Ukraine:

ISRAEL:
Bon Synagogues, High Holy Days, Yom Kippur Eve, Shabbat Shalom

THANK YOU TO
FRANCE
Brno Jewish community, Jewish Liberal Union in the Czech Republic.

COMMUNITY
Jewish Chronicle, Jewish News, Times and Independent Series.
WITH SO MANY CHARITIES INVOLVED

AJEX
Altenheim der JG Frankfurt
Arche e.V.
Ashford Place
Association of Jewish Refugees
Asylbewerberheim Hetteldorf
AWO München
Barnados
Barnet Homeless Shelter
Bayernkaserei
Believe
BES Hardship Fund
Bet Elazraki Children’s Home, Netanya
Bethany House Shelter for Abused Women
Bike Project
Birmingham & Solihull Women’s Aid
Budge Stiftung
Bürgerzentrum Neukölln
Camp Simcha
Caritas (Ayuntamiento de Alcobendas)
Centrepoint (Berwick Street)
Chai Cancer Care
Chayim Israel
Chana
Chase Farm Hospital
Children in Need
Children’s Adventure Farm Trust
Citykirche Konkordien
Connection at St Martins

Conway House
Cosmos at Waverley Gardens
Dashwood House
Deutsche nochenmarkspenderdatei (DKMS)
Doorstep Homeless Families Project
Emunah
Faith in Action
Flüchtlingsheim Köln
Flüchtlingsunterkunft Mannheim
Flüchtlingsunterkunft Stellingen
Förderkreis für krebskranke Kinder und Jugendliche e.V.
Foundation Reifloe Legae
Frida Hartley home for Destitute Women
Friedensdorf Oberhausen
GARAS
Gemeinschaftshaus Morus 14 e.V.
GIFT
Goldnetz gGmbH
Interculturalbusiness
Harrow Nature Conservation Group
Havens Hospice, Little Havens Care
Highgate Cemetary
Homeless Action Barnet
Homeless UK: St Albans Open Door
Homeless UK: Together in Barnet Winter Shelter
Hospital de San Rafael
Irish Centre Housing
JDC Kharhow
Jeannette-Wolf-Heim
Jewish Blind and Disabled
Jewish Care
Jewish Care Scotland
Jewish Child’s Day
Jewish Relief Agency
Jewish Women’s Aid
Kentish Town Farm
Kindersbenteuerhof Freiburg
Kisharon
Kit Aid
Lady Sarah Cohen House
Langdon Trust
Launchpad - Reading Homeless Support
L’Oeuvre Lubavitchoh Food Bank
Lebenshilfe Wiesbaden e.V.
Leeurop Correctional Services
Leo Black School Haifa
L’etoile de toujours
Little Havens Hospice
Maccabi GB
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Marie Curie Hospice

Meir Panim
Merseyside Jewish Community Care
Merton Faith in Action
Mutter-Kind-Heim Frankfurt
Nelly-Sachs-Heim
New Horizons Youth Centre
Nicki’s Smile
Nightingale Hammerson
NNLS Asylum Seeker Drop-In
Noahs Ark Children’s Hospice
Norwood
Notunterkunft Bonn
Oakeleigh School
Omanut - Künstleratelier
One Child Ghana
One Support Arlington
Open Door
Orden hospitalaria de san juan de dios
PAFRAS
Palm Cove
Pflegeheim Bochum
Pflegewohnanlage Katharinenhof
Positive Action in Housing
Providence Row
Queen Alexandra Home for the Elderly
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Rainbows
Randjeslaagte Retirement Village
Rene Cassin
Residenz Ambiente Leipzig
Re-Specs
Restos du Coeur
Salvation Army
Salesianos Carabanchel
Sandringham Gardens
Sandy Mount Burial Trust
Saul-Eisenberg-Pflegeheim
Save a Child’s Heart
Schneider Children’s Medical Center Tel Aviv
Schonfeld Square care home
Separated Child Foundation
Shaalavim School Ukraine
Shenley Park Trust
SIFA Fireside
Silwood Lodge
Stanmore Orthopaedic Hospital
St Ann’s Hospice
Stapelbury Nursing Home
St David’s Home
Step Up Shoes
Sterntaler e.V.
St Luke’s Hospice
St Mungos Broadway
Streetworkers
Sufran NW London foodbank
Suppenküche Ev. Kirche

And MANY MORE