

# ONE FOR ALL

A PUBLICATION OF



FORMERLY

CHICAGO CHESED FUND

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A MESSAGE FROM

**RABBI  
SHMUEL  
FUERST**

## DEAR FRIEND,

As we head into the winter season, ChesedChicago, with your help, is ready to meet the challenges facing our community. We are grateful to everyone who participated in our A Sweeter New Year campaign during the High Holiday season. Your partnership means we will indeed be providing A Sweeter New Year for our community.

We are very excited about our rebrand which was recently announced. Although we have a new name, ChesedChicago stays true to its humble beginnings and timeless mission to help individuals and families.

In this issue, we highlight the growth of our volunteer department. We are proud of and grateful for all of those who have given a most precious commodity – time – to help their neighbors.

Simcha Link's launch of community shidduch meetings has been very successful. We are hopeful that even more shidduchim will result from this hishtadlus. Please take a look further for interesting updates about our new building, our Chesed for a Chayal program, and our produce distribution.

With your help, we are continuing to focus on making ChesedChicago's provisions and services easily accessible. Thank you for your interest and support.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy winter,



Rabbi Shmuel Fuerst  
Co-Founder, ChesedChicago

## OUR SERVICES

### Provisions

*Our warehouse provides essentials such as:*

- Neiman-Fine Community Food Pantry
- Food Vouchers
- Clothing
- Furniture & Appliances
- Baby Needs
- Toys, Bikes, School Supplies
- Bridal Needs
- Medical Equipment
- Co-Op Shop for Klei Kodesh

### Financial Stability

*We provide a wide range of finance-related assistance programs, like:*

- School and Camp Tuition Assistance
- Government Benefits Assistance

- Interest-Free Loan Fund
- Single Parent Assistance
- Simcha Assistance
- Utilities Assistance
- Eviction Prevention and Home Repairs
- Tax, Debt, and Financial Counseling

### Second Time Around Pick-Ups / Drop-Offs

*Our incredible second-hand program upcycles numerous essential household and clothing items. The main categories we provide include:*

- Clothing
- Furniture
- Appliances
- Housewares

### Medical Assistance

*Our team is here for you in times of medical need, assisting with services such as:*

- Fertility Treatment Financing
- Mental Health
- Medical Insurance
- Extraordinary Medical Expenses

### Education & Family

*We offer critical services that assist families, including:*

- School-Based Therapies
- Pediatric Non-School-Based Therapies
- Mentoring
- Youth Volunteerism

## AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Simcha Link | JobLink | Ginat Shoshana | Jane Webster Simcha Gemach | Ateres Chaya Bridal Gowns

# IN WITH The New

AT THIS POINT, you've probably noticed our new name and new look. At ChesedChicago, we embrace change and recognize new challenges, new needs, and new opportunities. We put a new face on chesed this year.



## ChesedChicago

IMPACT THROUGH KINDNESS

After months of planning and thoughtful deliberation, we excitedly announced our rebrand.

We've rebranded in a way that clarifies the breadth of our services, strengthens our commitment to the Chicago community, and helps the community recognize and utilize our extensive resources and services.

With 80+ services, 5 affiliate programs, and 4 annual campaigns, we not only offer quick-fixes, we guide individuals towards long term independence - the greatest chesed of all.

ChesedChicago empowers individuals and families in need toward self-sufficiency via a full range of services delivered with kindness, dignity, and respect.

Although our name and look have changed, our mission remains the same: to provide a reliable and resourceful network of support for our community. ▀

”

“There were several reasons we rebranded in 2023”, says Dave Gendel, Director of Development.

“We wished to

- more accurately and warmly reflect our services and culture
- place ourselves at the center of Chicago's efforts to support people facing financial challenges
- highlight our increasing capacities to serve our community by calling fresh attention to our name and values
- and modernize our look to indicate our growth into a highly impactful force for good in our community.”





THE PARKING LOT IS FRESHLY PAVED, the roof is finished, and the beautiful interior is being constructed.

We are looking forward to inviting you to our ribbon-cutting at ChessedChicago's new clothing and baby equipment departments, Jane Webster Simcha G'mach, and Ginat Shoshana department at 7100 N. Ridgeway, formerly CAR Leasing. The new building is just diagonally across the street from our existing location.

We're excited to start client services at 7100 in the coming months, further making an impact through kindness in our community. 🌟



WELCOME

CHESEDCHICAGO IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE

### MRS. ADIRA GUREVICH,



the newest member of our marketing team. She's already hit the ground running, leading content creation and driving community engagement and growth. Her stellar dedication, talent, and creativity are tremendous assets to our organization. 🌟

Check out some of her recent work at:

 [facebook.com/ChesedChicago](https://facebook.com/ChesedChicago)  [instagram.com/ChesedChicago](https://instagram.com/ChesedChicago)



To sign up for our WhatsApp status updates, message 847-679-7799 on WhatsApp



# It's A Sweeter New Year *Thanks to you!*



THIS PAST ROSH HASHANA/YOM KIPPUR SEASON, the Chicago community came together more

than ever to help our neighbors during challenging times. Our Sweeter New Year campaign raised a record amount of support to meet the community's needs through the kindness of a record number of individual donors - and dozens of volunteer callers!

As living costs continue to rise, ChesedChicago is seeing a significant impact on clients' abilities to make ends meet. "The number of clients shopping in the Neiman-Fine Family Community Food Pantry, and our furniture and clothing departments - as well as almost all of our 80 services - has dramatically increased due to the current financial situation," says Executive Director Rabbi Yossi Fuerst. "Families who used to participate only in our seasonal programs are now calling to request more consistent help."

Though inflation is affecting everyone, it was encouraging to see so many stepping up to give what they can, to help grant their neighbors A Sweeter New Year.

As we approach 2024, ChesedChicago is a safety net, as always, providing assistance in a most discreet and dignified way.

**As we approach 2024, ChesedChicago is a safety net for our community, as always, providing assistance in a most discreet and dignified way.**

We are grateful to the many volunteers who helped out so wonderfully at our call center during the campaign.

Special thank you to Rabbi Aron Wolf, Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Wolf, and Chicago Mitzvah Campaign for graciously hosting our call center. 🌟

## OUR WINTER DEPARTMENT IS IN FULL GEAR!

Thank you to the Jewish United Fund for their partnership in keeping our community warm this winter.

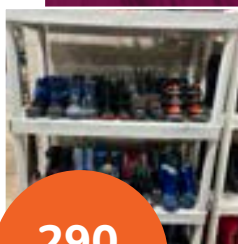
- Coats
- Hats
- Gloves
- Boots
- Socks
- Sweaters
- Tights

As we go to print, we've already given out

**339 coats**

**129 pairs of boots**

**290 Families**





# EXPANDING our Impact

ChesedChicago's volunteer department has blossomed under the outstanding leadership of our Volunteer Director, Mrs. Esther Malka Goldberg.

**Check out a sampling of recent volunteer activity:**

## Upward Community

JULY 2023

- Purchased school supplies and brought them to our warehouse.
- Organized and set up school supplies.



Back to SCHOOL

**40**  
volunteers  
AGES 10-12



## North Suburban Chabad

OCTOBER 2023

- Unpacked and set up our winter gear department.



**10**  
volunteers

## NCSY

OCTOBER 2023

- Sorted, arranged, and displayed winter coats and boots.
- Set up Chanukah toys.
- Helped rearrange the furniture department.

**22**  
volunteers



## Co-Op Volunteers

BI-MONTHLY

- Volunteers act as cashiers, obtain food from the freezer and lift heavy items, help people to their cars, direct traffic, and guide shoppers within the warehouse.

*As the co-op program continues to grow, our need for volunteers increases.*

**20**  
volunteers  
*and growing!*



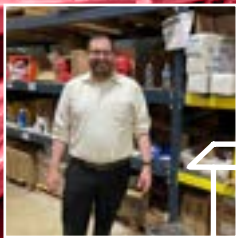
*Dedicated their work as a z'chus for the safety of the chayalim. Each teen said the name of a chayal to have in mind while they were doing the chesed.*

"I'm thrilled to witness the surge of individual volunteers and volunteer groups stepping up to make a difference. Let's keep this momentum going! Whether you're an experienced volunteer or someone eager to lend a hand for the first time, your involvement matters. Join us as we make the world a better place, one act of chesed at a time!"

*Esther Malka*

### Kevin Spiegel - Crowe Law AUGUST 2023

- Kevin's employer, Crowe Law, instituted a 'Day of Giving' and he spent it with us!
- Organized the shelves in our food pantry.



### Netivot Day School WEEKLY

- Stock shelves in the warehouse.
- Keep shelves neat and orderly.

**2**  
volunteers



**31**  
volunteers  
8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

### Hillel Torah SEPTEMBER 2023

- Created an assembly line to efficiently stuff our simcha hospitality bags - produced hundreds!
- Also prepared our Yom Tov Lending Gemach for borrowing before Yom Tov.
- Straightened and filled food pantry shelves.
- Wanted to come back!



### Skokie Chabad Sunday School OCTOBER 2023

- Started unloading all Chanukah toys from the warehouse to our new building for set up.



**10**  
volunteers  
AGES 10-14



"With such a large volume of clothing coming in and going out, our volunteers play an important role in keeping our department running efficiently. I don't know how we'd manage without them."

*Marilyn Siegel*  
Assistant Coordinator,  
Clothing Department

Want to make an impact through kindness? Contact [emgoldberg@chesedchicago.org](mailto:emgoldberg@chesedchicago.org) to get involved.



# Simcha Link **UDPATES**



JOIN SIMCHA LINK'S NEW INITIATIVE

## Host or participate in a shidduch meeting!

We all know that many shidduchim result from friends and acquaintances making suggestions. You don't need any credentials to suggest a shidduch. You just need an idea!

Since launching, 6 shidduch meetings have been hosted. Join us! Your shidduch suggestion can impact generations.

**SimchaLink**

**REDTING SHIDDUCHIM IS NOT JUST FOR SHADCHANIM**

**You can host a shidduch meeting**

**YOU DON'T NEED ANY CREDENTIALS TO SUGGEST A SHIDDUCH. YOU JUST NEED IDEAS!**

- Bring 5-7 people together
- Each person should bring the names of two girls and two boys
- Simcha Link will provide you with a shadchan to facilitate



**SPECIAL HOSTESS GIFT IF A SHIDDUCH RESULTS FROM YOUR MEETING!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SCHEDULE, CONTACT ESTHER MALKA GOLDBERG 847-679-7799 | EMGOLDBERG@CHESEDCHICAGO.ORG**



SIMCHA LINK'S Holding a Life In Your Hands lecture was a great success, with a large turnout of community members eager to learn the important halachos relevant to sh'miras halashon and shidduchim. Rabbi Label Lam delivered the address in a passionate and engaging manner. He highlighted important lessons and scenarios to help the audience clarify when a question needs to be presented to a rav.

The program was well-received, and it is our hope that attendees will implement the tools necessary to change habits, which will lead to positive results.



40 people signed up for Clarity Calls. If you want to sign up, go to [www.cchf.global/claritycalls/](http://www.cchf.global/claritycalls/) or email [office@simchalink.org](mailto:office@simchalink.org)



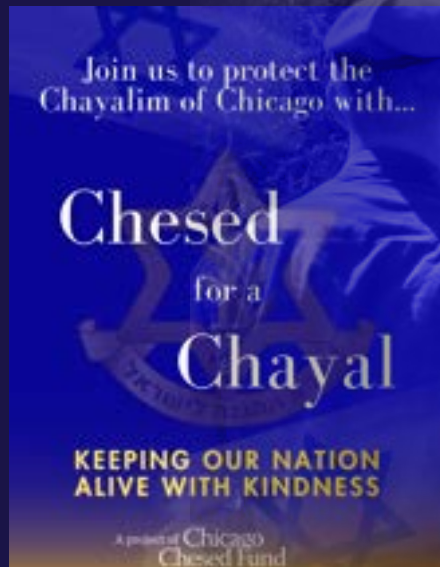
# Chesed for a Chayal

IN RESPONSE TO THE WAR in Israel, we launched Chesed for a Chayal to protect the chayalim of Chicago.

Through a shared spreadsheet, we asked our community to select a soldier who is on active duty, and keep that chayal in mind during their daily acts of chesed. People can also add names of soldiers to the spreadsheet to be 'adopted' as well. We know that the effects of chesed are boundless, and we hope that the z'chusim generated will provide extra protection during this perilous time.

**So far 172 soldiers have been adopted! There are still 70 waiting for a chesed partner.**

Contact [office@chesedchicago.org](mailto:office@chesedchicago.org) for the link to sign up!



## joblink UPDATE

STATS: JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2023

209

New client contacts

295

Students at JobLink courses

151

Resumes written/updated

69

Interview Preps

102

Job Offers for Clients

28

Mentor Matches

**\$5,277,419.00**

Salaries offered to JobLink clients (total)

If you are an employer looking to hire, or a job seeker looking for assistance, please reach out! 773-866-1111 or [abe@joblinkchicago.org](mailto:abe@joblinkchicago.org)

# A Farm Grows in Long Grove

THE INSTITUTE OF SOIL & SOUL'S INCREDIBLE PARTNERSHIP WITH CHESEDCHICAGO



**Gabriel Gould has extra produce from his organic farm.**

**ChesedChicago runs a food pantry.**

*It's a perfect match!*

**Meet Gabriel Gould – founder of The Institute of Soil & Soul in Long Grove, Illinois. This summer, Gabriel began donating some of his produce to our food pantry.**

**We sat down with Gabriel to discuss the origins of his farm and his community work.**

**Tell us about yourself and how you got into farming.**

I was born in Glencoe, I don't come from an agricultural family. In 2018, I went to a yeshiva program; it was one of my first experiences learning about Judaism. I come from a secular family, with very little Jewish educational background and I wanted to attain that. One day during morning prayers I asked Hashem for some guidance – what should I do after yeshiva? And I had this vision of horses. I'd never worked with horses before, but I took it pretty seriously as a sign. When yeshiva ended and I got back home, I made some calls to equine farms in the area. Eventually, I got connected to a family in Northbrook – they didn't have horses, but they had a fairly large garden, goats, and chickens, and that was the beginning of my experience with horticulture.

That summer was when I began to really feel Jewish. Because I started to see all the things I had learned in yeshiva, actually come to life on the farm. It was a very

intimate connection with Hashem through farming and caring for animals.

**When was Soil and Soul founded?**

The summer of 2020 was when we started our regenerative farm, Soil and Soul. We started growing vegetables and selling them to restaurants.

I always had a dream of starting a farm. In 2021 I started to look at properties around the area. I acquired the current property two and a half years ago, and I've been developing it slowly but surely, adding different elements.

**I really wanted to donate the food, as that feels much more purposeful. Especially to people who don't have access to healthy organic foods.**

**What does a typical day on the farm look like?**

We usually begin around 7:30 a.m. The farm is run by me, a few interns that come throughout the season, and some volunteers. We work until about 10:30 when we take a tea/coffee break, during which we study an essay about agriculture. We resume working at about 11:30. The day usually ends by 1 p.m. when we're ready for deliveries.

**How did you get connected with ChesedChicago?**

That was through the Polstein (Aryeh and Elisheva) family. I had gotten connected with them about a year ago at a Shabbat dinner. They've been so pivotal in my Jewish identity development. I mentioned to them that I have all this extra produce and don't know what to





do with it. I told them I really wanted to donate the food, as that feels much more purposeful. Especially to people who don't have access to healthy organic foods. And Aryeh told me that his mother works at ChesedChicago. The rest is history.

**Which items have you given to ChesedChicago?**

We've donated tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, squash, zucchini and eggplant. Since we started, we've been donating 40-75 LB produce each week, during growing season.

Next year, all the produce we grow will be donated.

**In your opinion, what is the most important thing ChesedChicago does?**

Any act to help someone who is facing a challenging situation – to help uplift them or just support them

is tremendous. And ChesedChicago is doing that for 6500 people. To know that your institution's support is so beyond helpful, I can't even begin to describe how important that is. To help empower these families and help them get by.

**Do you have an anecdote from your time with ChesedChicago?**

The openness with which I've been received has been fantastic, and I like the weekly interactions I have at the warehouse with Anshie Kranczer.

**What is your message to people considering volunteering at ChesedChicago?**

Just get up, go do a good thing! It feels good. And there's plenty of opportunities so just take a risk; do something good today. 🍷

## Produce and Bread Distribution

**WHAT WE DO:** Once a week, we distribute produce and bread, as well as some other donated items, to those who qualify.

**WHERE DO WE GET THE ITEMS?** We buy most of the produce and we also receive weekly donations from Whole Foods and Trader Joe's.

The bread is donated by Tel Aviv/Gratzia Bakery, Northshore Bakery, and Emma's Bagel Cafe.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of these donors, and are so lucky to be able to help the community through their donations!

**WHAT WE PROVIDE:** Depending on the week, we have items such as

**FRUIT:**

- Apples
- Bananas
- Grapes
- Melon
- Oranges

**VEGETABLES:**

- Carrots
- Celery
- Cucumbers
- Onions
- Peppers

- Potatoes
- Squash
- Sweet Potatoes
- Tomatoes

**EGGS**

**BAKED GOODS:**

- Bagels
- Challah
- Rolls
- Sliced Bread



# YOUR **DAUGHTER** NEEDS A SHIDDUCH.

BROTHER

NIECE

FRIEND

GRANDDAUGHTER

COUSIN

NEPHEW

NEIGHBOR

ROOMMATE

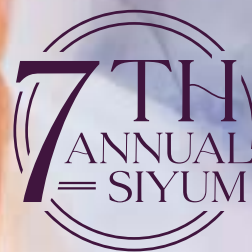
SON

GRANDSON

SISTER

CHAVRUSA


COWORKER



YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A SHIDDUCH.

**We know someone who will learn in their z'chus.**

SHAS FOR  
**SHIDDUCHIM**  
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN



**THERE IS NO GREATER Z'CHUS  
THAN LIMUD HATORAH.**

ChesedChicago is gathering more than 400 lomdim to complete all of Shas as a z'chus for those in need of shidduchim.

**SPONSOR A DAF** as a powerful z'chus for finding a Shidduch at:

**SHAS4SHIDDUCHIM.ORG**

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