

**Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation**  
**NVHC CHANGE (Social Action Committee) ACTIVITIES**

More information: <http://www.nvhcreston.org/live/nvhchange-social-action>

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*Organization websites are listed at the end of the document.*

**Ongoing Activities Include:**

**Fighting Hunger**

- Forest Edge Elementary School & Clearview Elementary School Weekend Snack Bags (food donations and volunteer packing monthly for 225 children at each packing)
- Meals for Cornerstones' Hypothermia Shelter (food donations, cooking, and volunteering to serve meals during winter)
- Meals for Cornerstones' Embry Rucker Community Shelter (prepare and serve meals)
- Meals for Cornerstones' Financial Literacy Classes (prepare and deliver meals)
- High Holy Day Food Drive for Cornerstones' Food Pantry (food donations)

**Education**

- Forest Edge Elementary School Mentoring Program & Before-School Enrichment Program (volunteering)
- Clearview Elementary School Mentoring Program & Classroom assistance (helping with reading).
- Financial Literacy Mentoring at Cornerstones (volunteering)

**Social Activism**

- Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) (initiatives include education, criminal justice; and on the local level, inclusive FCPS calendar, Get Out the Vote, affordable housing)
- JCRC (member of NoVA commission; participation in advocacy day in Richmond; host VA-10<sup>th</sup> candidate forum)
- Facilitating buses to transport interested members to marches in DC (women's, gun violence prevention)

**Collection Drives (other than food programs noted above)**

- Winter Coat Drive for Cornerstones in Reston (coats, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens donations)
- Women and children's clothing donations for Women Giving Back in Sterling
- Toiletries for Cornerstones Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston
- Infant & pre-school children's clothing, diapers & book donations for Early Head Start & Women Giving Back
- Pre-School Book Collection for Laurel Learning Center and other organizations
- Book Drive for Cornerstones' Cedar Ridge Community Center
- Cell phone collections for JCADA

**Volunteering**

- Forest Edge Elementary School Mentoring (weekly mentoring and assisting teachers in enrichment classes)
- Elementary School Snack Bags (packing and transporting food)
- Hypothermia Shelter Meals, Embry Rucker Community Shelter Meals, and Financial Literacy Class Meals at Cornerstones (cooking and serving meals)
- Women Giving Back (sorting clothing and helping in the WGB "store")
- Knitted Blanket Squares for Warm Up America (knitting squares)
- Fleece Blanket Making for Project Linus (traumatized children in local hospitals etc.)
- Various volunteer activities at Cornerstones (including individual activities done by youth)

## Miscellaneous

- Religious School Projects and B'nai Mitzvah Projects (Project Linus, Civic Engagement, Get Out the Vote, etc.)
- Interfaith activities with the ADAMS Center
- JCADA programs for religious school students on healthy dating and for adults on domestic abuse
- HIAS (member of Welcome Campaign)
- Reston Pride Day participation (sponsor table at event)

## Tikkun Olam Campaign

- The Social Action Committee ran its first annual Tikkun Olam campaign in 2018 to raise money from congregants for elementary school weekend meal bags, Cornerstones, HIAS, MAZON, VOICE dues, a new microgrant program, and other social action programs.

## Other Recent One-Time Activities Include:

- Sharsharet (making Shabbat candlesticks for Jewish women with cancer) <https://sharsheret.org/>
- Environmental - October 2018 Plastic Free Challenge (promotion of program) <https://350fairfax.org/plastic-free-challenge/>

## Organizations with whom we partner:

**Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith):** nonprofit organization that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, and other services. [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org)

**VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement):** nonpartisan, nonprofit, interfaith organization working to build community relationships, identify community concerns, and work for social justice at the local and state levels. [www.voice-iaf.org](http://www.voice-iaf.org)

**HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society):** Jewish organization supporting refugees in the US. (We are participating in the Welcome Campaign.) [www.hias.org](http://www.hias.org)

**JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council):** Jewish organization focusing on public policy concerns central to Jewish consciousness. [www.jcouncil.org](http://www.jcouncil.org)

**JCADA (Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse):** organization that engages the Jewish community on the issue of domestic abuse through education and prevention programs and that provides free clinical support to victims of domestic abuse. [www.jcada.org](http://www.jcada.org)

**Donations to some of the above organizations noted above and also to MAZON** <https://mazon.org/>

**Occasional programs for:**

**Women Giving Back** <http://womengivingback.org/>

**Project Linus** <http://www.projectlinus.org/>

**Warm Up America** <http://www.warmupamerica.org/>