

Beit Ahavah Yom Kippur Food Drive 2020/5781

“Is this the fast I have chosen for you?! ... Is it not intended for you to share your bread with the hungry, and to bring the homeless poor into your house? When you see the naked to clothe them? And to not hide yourselves from your kin?”

-- Yom Kippur haftarah, Isaiah 58:7-8

This year our food drive is for the Springfield-based “New Americans Program” run by Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Western MA, that serves refugees who arrived before COVID. While Beit Ahavah usually collects for the Northampton Survival Center’s emergency food pantry, the Center is not taking food at this time due to Covid. JFS believes that our food donations will urgently help feed its refugee families, enabling those families to put their limited financial resources toward paying rent.



Two ways that you can help:

- 1) FILL this bag with non-perishable food items. You can drop your bags off with no contact, on any Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 2-6 pm at Beit Ahavah, now through Sukkot.
- 2) Donate funds to either of these organizations so that they can use the money to purchase food that they will distribute to families in need:
 - Northampton Survival Center www.northampton-survival.org
 - Jewish Family Services www.jfswm.org. Please cite the Beit Ahavah Yom Kippur drive.

ITEMS THAT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL TO REFUGEE FAMILIES:

- Maze (corn flour)
- Beans
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Soups
- Shelf stable juice (e.g. mango, orange, apple)
- Cooking supplies like Olive Oil, Salt
- Flour
- Sugar
- Tea
- School snacks for kids/teens (e.g. granola bars, energy bars, things with protein, juice boxes, cheese & crackers, chips)

Why Jewish Family Services?

We want to continue Beit Ahavah's connection with JFS, through the work of our Tzedek Tzedek Committee, to provide for the needs of refugee families who were able to come into our country during the diminished quotas set by the current government.

- Last September 2019, days before Rosh Hashanah, our Beit Ahavah community members furnished and set up the apartment for an incoming Eritrean refugee family (two parents and four young children) who arrived from Israel where the family had lived for 10 years while seeking asylum. Rabbi Riqi has maintained connections with this wonderful family, who speak fluent Hebrew after their years in Tel Aviv.
- In March of 2019, Beit Ahavah community members furnished and set up an apartment for a family of four from South Sudan (two parents, uncle and young son), and for a Congolese family (a mother and three children) who were finally joining their grandmother in Springfield.
- These are just some of the many families that will be helped by our food drive.

Thank you for your generosity!

**WE WILL COLLECT FILLED BAGS
THROUGH SUKKOT SO PLEASE
HELP US TO HELP OTHERS!**