

Editor's Note

Time For Giving

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Baltimore Hebrew and GEDCO

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation has done a great deal to connect more Jewish families to Rosh Hashanah with its innovative Rosh Hashanah Under The Stars service.

This year, that connection can remain strong after the holiday as the Park Heights area congregation works to reach its goal of some 1,800 bags of groceries to be donated to the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, GEDCO.

Among GEDCO's many contributors are some 33 churches and four synagogues, including Baltimore Hebrew, Beth Tfiloh, Suburban Orthodox and Kol Halev.

Mitch Posner, GEDCO's executive director and a member of Suburban Orthodox, sees this as a perfect Rosh Hashanah message to give of oneself and give resources to those in need.

Baltimore Hebrew has been collecting food for several years during the holidays. The shul puts free, empty grocery bags in its lobby.

For the past four years, Baltimore Hebrew member Steve Cornblatt has raised the bar on the food project. It started when he took about 50 bags home. He and his son Ben distributed the bags throughout their community and then would pick them up filled with food. First his daughter, Tilly, would write a note to go in each bag urging neighbors to join them in collecting the food.

Over time, the project was extended throughout Yom Kippur until Oct. 3, after Simchat Torah.

At Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars, Santoni's Market in Glyndon is going to provide two empty trucks and two drivers. Worshipers are being asked to bring non-perishable food as a donation. The truck will then go directly to GEDCO.

The effort makes Mr. Cornblatt feel really great.

"I know that when I'm hungry, I get grumpy," he said. "I can't imagine what it would be like to be chronically hungry day in and day out."

GEDCO, according to Mr. Posner, as part of its CARES program, provides emergency food supplies for those in need. The foods collected by Baltimore Hebrew will go to the CARES (Civic And Religious Emergency Services) program, a food pantry and emergency financial assistance center.

GEDCO's website is gedco.org.

To read more, pick up a copy of the Jewish Times at one of our [newsstand locations](#).