



Tikkun Ha-Ir • תיקון העיר  
Repairing Milwaukee

## Lenten Almsgiving 2020

Tikkun Ha-Ir (which means “Repair the City” in Hebrew) is an alliance of Jewish congregations working together to help address hunger and homelessness in Milwaukee.

Tikkun Ha-Ir Milwaukee has been working in the food justice and rescue space for almost a decade and has been running **Veggie Chop Shop** (VCS) since 2015. They have developed deep relationships with a multitude of partners both individual and organizational ranging from volunteers and chefs to farmers markets and recipient agencies throughout the central city. Veggie Chop Shop has three main elements:

- Volunteers “glean” or rescue surplus produce from Farmers Markets. Food that is collected would have otherwise gone to waste and into landfills or compost piles.
- At-risk women, often in prison, and women from the Jewish community come together to cook and prepare the rescued fresh produce into healthy vegetarian meals. In the process, at risk women gain culinary skills, learn about new approaches to cooking with fresh vegetables, build community and give back to others.
- From these cooked meals, over 400 people are served per week in rehabilitation programs including Meta House, Sojourner Family Peace Center, and Nia Imani. In addition, another 600 lbs. of fresh produce per week are taken directly to food pantries. Over the course of the 2019 program, over 10,000 lbs. of produce were distributed and over 4,000 cooked meals were provided.

For the 2020 season of Veggie Chop Shop, Tikkun Ha-Ir’s goal is to strengthen the program in the following ways:

- upgrade kitchen facilities  
(new larger rental space, large scale for weighing produce, upgrading equipment, packaging, etc.)
- engage more volunteers and at-risk women
- broaden our culinary & nutrition training (new educational programs)
- expand the number of recipient organizations

The full cost of the program is \$25,000 - \$30,000.

As you discern your Lenten almsgiving this year, we hope you will join the family of four parishes in supporting this dynamic organization as we strive to alleviate the pressing needs of those most vulnerable in our community.

***Please make your check payable to "Tikkun Ha-Ir of Milwaukee" and return by Easter Sunday.***



**Lenten Service Opportunities** - This Lent we will have opportunities to serve alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters in our shared commitment to food justice in the city of Milwaukee! We will have opportunities to serve at the Riverwest Food Pantry (1250 E. Burleigh Street – Tuesdays, March 10 & 31 from 4:00 – 6:30 pm), the Jewish Community Pantry (2930 W. Center Street – Thursdays, March 12 & 26, 9:00 am – noon), and a Passover Food Distribution event (1414 N. Prospect Avenue – Sunday, April 5 from 9:30 am – noon). For specific details and to sign up, please use the following link to a Sign Up Genius form: <https://tinyurl.com/lentservice> or email Laura Hancock at [hancockl@archmil.org](mailto:hancockl@archmil.org). Space is limited, so please sign up for only one option to allow the most participants access to this opportunity. Thank you!

**Lenten Synagogue Visits** - Would you like to deepen your encounter with those of the Jewish faith? We have received very warm welcomes to join the Friday night Shabbat services and/or Saturday morning Torah study at seven area synagogues! There are opportunities to visit a wide range of communities throughout the month of March. To learn more about each community, to search the specific dates and times, and to sign up, please visit the following Google form: <https://tinyurl.com/synagoguevisit>. Please note: you will need to sign up by NOON of the Thursday before each service in order to attend! If you have questions, please reach out to Laura Hancock at [hancockl@archmil.org](mailto:hancockl@archmil.org).

**Lenten Meal Sharing & Reflection** - This Lent we are excited to invite Catholic and Jewish families to share their holiday meals with one another! We are hoping that Jewish families will welcome Catholics to their Seder table and that, similarly, Catholic families will welcome Jewish families to their Easter table (or another meal to be scheduled after Passover ends on April 16<sup>th</sup>). All expressions of family are welcome to participate. We also realize that, for a variety of reasons, perhaps including the needs of extended families, the personal expression of religious values, and travel plans, that all families may not be able to share TWO meals together. That is okay! In fact, there is a stand-alone opportunity to join Congregation Shir Hadash for their community's Passover Seder. Whether your family is able to participate in one shared meal, or two, we are requesting that ALL families make a commitment to join together for an Evening of Reflection to be held on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The location of the evening of reflection is TBD. Light snacks (dessert) will be provided. You can sign up for the Meal Gatherings here: <https://tinyurl.com/mealsharing>. You can also email Laura Hancock at [hancockl@archmil.org](mailto:hancockl@archmil.org) for more information. Please know that since this is our first attempt at partnering families in this way, space may be limited. We will do our very best to partner all interested families!

*“The general aim of all Catholic-Jewish meetings is to increase our understanding both of Judaism and the Catholic faith, eliminate sources of tension and misunderstanding, initiate dialogues or conversations on different levels, multiply intergroup meetings between Catholics and Jews, and promote cooperative social action.”* United States Conference of Catholic Bishops