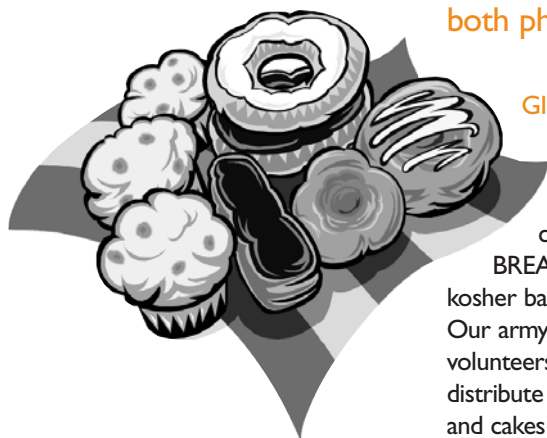


GIFT: the heart of giving



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS TO THE local bakery's leftovers, or the mounds of gourmet food that the caterer rounded up at the end of your simcha? Michelle Barnet did. And she acted on it.

Michelle founded a Jewish volunteer organization in 2003, and called it GIFT. Starting with providing basic bread for needy families, GIFT has ballooned into a massive volunteer organization that fills the gap of both physical and emotional needs of its users.



GIFT volunteers help with a number of different innovative projects. There is a daily collection of surplus BREAD from various different kosher bakeries around London. Our army of 120 regular volunteers collect, pack and distribute the bread, rolls, challahs and cakes to needy families, care homes and homeless shelters. Over the years we have accumulated a database of people's preferences; those who prefer white bread or whole-meal bread, when they would like to get it delivered and the number of people in the family, amongst other information. There is also a daily collection of FOOD from local restaurants and caterers, which is also distributed to the needy.

difficulty or they may have other special needs.

GIFT is now linking up with SCHOOLS to encourage young children and Bat/Bar Mitzvah students to create more goodness in the community i.e. by giving of their birthday presents to children in need; performing in, and visiting old age homes etc.

Please visit our website at www.jgift.org or contact us on michelle@jgift.org or on 020 8457 4429

GIFT is always looking for more volunteers to help with current projects, or to set up new initiatives, that promote goodness and being proactive in the community. At the very least, if you happen to pass by 39 Meadow Drive, Hendon, please save all your plastic shopping bags and deposit them in the silver Mitsubishi parked outside. We are always running out of this precious commodity to send our food packages in!



GIFT also takes people's emotional needs into account. We arrange for volunteers to visit the ELDERLY and DISABLED in their own homes, or in care homes, to befriend those people who need it. Our HELPING HAND scheme helps the elderly with those little things that make a world of difference, like changing light bulbs in their home, collecting prescriptions, carrying shopping, returning library books or reading letters and bills.

To date, GIFT has raised £35,000 for over 100 local Jewish charities, Israel and general charities. We have arranged Shabbat and Festival holidays for tens of students studying in London.

GIFT volunteers also help out with OUTINGS FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN. The children come from families who may be facing violence, abuse, family breakdown, financial

GIFT runs a FREE LENDING ORGANISATION – promoting 50 different Gemachs, ranging from baby equipment to furniture. We collect surplus sweets and Mishloach Manot after Purim and distribute these to children in Russia. We also organize collections of chametz before Pesach, distributing them to non-Jewish homeless shelters and also selling the food in order to distribute to needy families after Pesach.