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February 4, 2010

Dear Friends,

As Purim is rapidly approaching, it is time once again to think about the mitzvah of Matanot L'Evyonim.

In light of the continuing severe poverty situation in Israel, with one out of three children living below the poverty line, we have decided to raise money as we have done the last four years for Yad Eliezer. Yad Eliezer is currently the largest anti-hunger agency in Israel, dedicated to providing food, job training and adolescent mentoring to more than nine thousand Jewish families on a weekly or monthly basis. To learn more about the work of this organization, you can log on to www.YadEliezer.org.

We are also going to be allocating a portion of the funds that we receive to Leket Israel, formerly known as Table to Table, an organization to which our members provided volunteer services on recent shul missions. Leket rescues excess, unsold food from catered events, army bases, food manufacturers, bakeries and farms and delivers the food to soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior citizen centers and other social service organizations throughout Israel that serve those in need. For more information about Leket, log on to www.leket.org.

In addition, we will be allocating a portion of the funds to Hazon Yeshaya Soup Kitchens, a leading humanitarian organization in Israel that is fighting hunger and poverty by providing food for the hungry, day care for the needy and a warm atmosphere for all. They provide thousands of hot nourishing meals every day at over 60 locations. If people are unable to get to a facility, food baskets are delivered to them. For more information about Hazon Yeshaya, log onto www.hazonYESHAYA.org.

Please make your checks payable to the Young Israel of Scarsdale, noting that they are for Matanot La'Evyonim, and send them to the shul office.

Thank you for participating in this mitzvah and Chag Purim Sameach!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jonathan Morgenstern Steve Fredman Howie Schub Robin Samot