

Come Join PJ Library and Camp Shalom

As we celebrate
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
With a
Tzedakah Project and Pizza!



We will be putting together everything necessary for a terrific Birthday Party for children living in a temporary Shelter!

When: Monday, January 20 at 12:00 noon

Where: Puccini's Restaurant Chevy Chase

Who: PJ Library and Camp Shalom, grades K-4

What: Please bring: cake mixes, frosting, candles, invitations, party favors, and anything else you think would make for a festive Birthday

Party Cost: Free w/donations of birthday party supplies! RSVP: Lori or Tamara at 268-0672 or

lori@jewishlexington.org or tamara@jewishlexington.org

PJ Library and Camp Shalom MLK Day Tzedakah Project

Program Focus:

Age Group: 5-10 year olds (k-4/5 grades)

Time Frame: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm.

Central Value: Tzedak, Tzedak, Terdof
Righteousness, righteousness, you shall pursue.

Synopsis:

Every child loves a birthday party but there are some children, due to circumstances beyond their parent's control, who are unable to celebrate their birthday with a party. Our objective was to enable children living in a battered women's shelter the opportunity to celebrate their birthday with all the party trimmings. Participants were required to bring birthday party supplies such as cake mixes, icing, candles, plates, cups, decorations, and party favors.

Goals:

- 1) Educate children so that they are aware that some children live in shelters and do not have all the opportunities that they have.
- 2) Differentiate between tzedakah and donating money.
- 3) Build community.

Activities:

- 1) Enjoy a pizza lunch with friends.
- 2) Sort party supplies and distribute (equitably) into decorated bags.
- 3) Decorate bags.
- 4) Make Birthday cards to put in the bags.

Submitted by:

Lori Bernard – Lexington, KY

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Plan in advance:

1. Reserve location that has enough space to put together the birthday bags. We reserved a popular, local pizza parlor that had a party room. They also gave us a 20% discount on our pizzas.
2. Find a shelter to accept donations. We donated to a battered women's shelter. I suggest a shelter because they tend to have pans to bake cakes and working ovens. Frequently, low income families do not have working ovens or the pans necessary to make a cake.
3. Publicity. We publicized the event in both of our congregations bulletins, the community Jewish Newspaper, flyers to both of the Jewish preschools, posters in local bookstores that hold children's story hours, coffee shops, preschools, synagogues, religious schools, etc.
4. Whole Foods donated their mini reusable shopping bags for this program.
5. Collect art supplies to decorate bags and make cards.

Introduction:

Welcome families and have them sort their donations into piles, i.e., cakes and icing, paper goods, decorations, party favors, games, etc. We had families sign-in and made nametags for everyone. While sorting, we discussed what the children thought was necessary for a good birthday party. (15 minutes)

Activities:

While waiting for the pizza to be served, we asked the children questions about what we were doing. (5-10 minutes)

- What is tzedakah? (Righteousness, justice)
- What are some of ideas about how to help others. (Giving someone the opportunity to help and/or do for themselves.)
- Why are birthday parties important?
- How would you feel if you couldn't have a birthday party?

Once the pizza arrived, we chanted Motzi and enjoyed socializing with friends and meeting new friends.

After lunch, children (with the help of their parents) took a bag and filled it with items for a birthday party. They then decorated their bag with ribbons and made a card for the special birthday child wishing him/her a wonderful birthday.