StarTribune | west metro

amazon 12 Days OT Deals > Shop now

Thems Local Sports Business Politics Opinion Lifestyle Entertainment Obituaries Classifieds Autos Housing Jobs

WEEKLY

Weekly ads | North Metro | West Metro | South Metro | East Metro | Minneapolis | St. Paul | Your Voices | Blogs + Columns | Minnesota Topics EDEN PRAIRIE holidayevent ROLLOVER FOR PRICE NISSAN THE NISSAN ALTIMA® Eden Prairie Nissan, a locally owned & operated dealership. We are the newest Nissan dealer in the Twin Cities. NOW OPEN FOR SALES AND SERVICE AT OUR NEW LOCATION Payments are plusitax, Altima w11,800 cash down, plus 1st payment. LicPlates, all rebates to dealer, OAC. Expires 12/31/14. (952) 567-2100 | www.EdenPrairieNissan.com | 12790 Plaza Dr. eden Prairie, MN

Home > Local > West Metro

Community group pitches in to 'repair the world'

Article by: ANNA PRATT, Special to the Star Tribune | Updated: December 16, 2014 - 3:13 PM

on projects inspired by a call to social action.

Adults with disabilities and others who meet at the Sabes Jewish Community Center take



comments | 🖨 resize text 🚯 | print | buy reprints

with disabilities, Lewis said.

field trips.

A Share





related content

Feed My Starving Children is

one of the projects taken on by

the group at the Sabes Jewish

Photo courtesy of Anita Lewis

more from west metro

Hennepin County increases

levy; Ramsey County holds

More than 200 Hennepin

County workers hit pay

withdraws next Arbor Lakes

kinks before holidays

Opus Development

Community Center.

steady

project



crafted colorful Hanukkah cards for Israeli soldiers who can't be home for the holidays. The project falls in line with the group's purpose. "Tikkun olam" is a Hebrew phrase meaning "to repair the world," said Anita Lewis, the

Last month, the Tikkun Olam group at the Sabes Jewish Community Center, which brings together adults with disabilities and others,

center's inclusion director. "It's a call to social action, to pursue social justice," that rests on everyone's shoulders, she said. The group tackles a different cause every month. Youth and other volunteers participate in their endeavors. They're paired with adults

Over the past several years, the group has done everything from packing meals for Feed My Starving Children to putting together photo boards for nursing home residents. Also, the Tikkun Olam group sometimes sings or practices yoga, and occasionally it takes

The group has a core group of attendees who have been coming since the beginning, along with more recent arrivals. Lewis said. Depending on the day, the group fluctuates from six to 30 people.

month, the group has a \$5 fee to defray the cost of materials and staff time, but nobody is turned away for lack of money. For the greeting cards, which the group produced just before

For each session, which always falls on the last Tuesday of the

Thanksgiving, members used recycled postcards and prints. That became a lesson all its own. The craft was one way to "be aware of the Earth and what we're throwing away and what we can reuse," Lewis said.

The cards are cheerful-looking and come from the heart, she said. Lewis didn't get a count of how many cards people made, but it was

enough to fill much of a grocery bag, she said. Already, the cards have been mailed overseas.

Photos of the Tikkun Olam group fashioning the cards have also

been included with the package, she said. Likewise, pictures will be taken of the soldiers receiving the cards, so in turn, "the group can see its impact on them," she said. Last year around this time the group sent similar cards to American

soldiers. Lewis started the Tikkun Olam group, which is supported by the

Minneapolis Jewish Federation, after she realized that adults with disabilities have few opportunities to mingle with their peers. As children, people with disabilities are integrated with the general

they're cut off from the mainstream, she said. In her role at the center, "My job is to help generations from babies all the way to seniors to be able to access and participate in all kinds

population at school. However, once they reach adulthood, too often

She thought of the Tikkun Olam group as a way to bridge that gap.

of programs at the center," from the fitness area to the theater,

help." The group is about "embracing people with disabilities as contributing and engaging members of our community," Lewis said. "I wanted them to know they're as capable as anyone else," and to

Too often, people with disabilities are seen as "those in need of our

teach the "tikkun olam" concept, she said. "I try to do things that fit them physically and intellectually and that connects to the Jewish component," Lewis added. At the same time, it's a chance for participants to make friends and

People with disabilities are an important part of the community. "They make a lot of what happens here at the center happen," she

said, citing the nearly 30 adults with disabilities who volunteer with mail delivery, filing, baking bread and so much more, she said. A lot of love in the room

Olam group. It's his job to set up the different projects.

have fun, she said.

Lewis said.

Jacob Frankel, a staffer at the center, is a regular with the Tikkun

Frankel especially likes doing the messy, hands-on-type projects. During the activities, he's able to be himself, "goofy at times, fun in the moment," he said.

Frankel enjoys the social time. For him, the group underscores the fact that "we are more alike than we are different, that we all struggle in different ways," he said. "Being together to help those in our community who are less well off than we are reminds us all that we have something to give."

Connecting with the group, it brings about "a sense of my own belonging to both the Jewish community" and the community at large, he said.

Cathy Mogelson, a volunteer with the Israel Center at the Sabes, led a group of Israeli teenagers in an exchange with local teens nearly a year ago. As a part of the program, the teenagers spent time with the Tikkun Olam group at the center.

The group did a variety of activities that day. Everyone was "superexpressive. They were clearly having a good time," she said.

"You could see that clearly relationships were developing," Mogelson

said. The fact that it's a learning, supportive atmosphere that meets

consistently makes it all the more meaningful, she said. "It's the kind of things where it starts to feel like a second home," she said. "There

Anna Pratt is a Minneapolis freelance writer. She can be reached at

was lots of love in the room. You could feel it."

annaprattjournalist@gmail.com.

I-694 reopened after officers chase, kill slaying

from the homepage

Obama: US re-establishing relations with Cuba

Bernadeia Johnson out as Minneapolis schools



THE CHOICE IS EASY

WITH CULLIGAN®

Get \$200 off your purchase of a Culligan HE Softener the world's most efficient water softener. Limited time offer. Decler participation may vary. New austomers only One coupon per austomes. Offer Expires 5/30/14. See dealer for

dereik. © 2014 Culligan International Co

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CULLIGAN DEALER

most read most emailed most watched

pay kinks before holidays Osseo students get chance to hone interest in

More than 200 Hennepin County workers hit

Community group pitches in to 'repair the world'

West metro police blotter

Dead Bemidji student from Bloomington had been walking to dorm from 'social gathering'

Chaska powers down as an Internet provider

WMEP considers giving up school ownership

Opus Development withdraws next Arbor Lakes project

connect

engineering







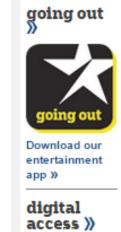


most vie



ADVERTISEMENT







Access! » steals »

more! »

L.L.Bean





