



Tikkun Olam Opportunities for Families

Although these are unprecedented times, there are still opportunities to perform *mitzvot* and acts of *tikkun olam* as a family. Below you will find a variety of project ideas, including their Jewish context. Don't forget to use #BringingTheDomeHome for us to see all your amazing projects.

For the hungry:

Jewish context: *"Share your bread with the hungry, and take the wretched poor into your home. When you see the naked, clothe him, and do not ignore your own kin."* Isaiah 58:7

- Deliver a Meal with [Meals on Wheels](#).
- Volunteer or [Fundraise](#) for the [San Antonio Food Bank](#).

For those in need:

Jewish context: *"Your heart shall not be grieved when you give."* Deuteronomy 15:10

- Fundraise for the [Texas Diaper Bank](#).
- Donate items to our "[Little Free Pantry](#)" located at the Temple facing the Ashby lot. Items needed include toilet paper, household cleaner, hand sanitizer, and more.
- Consider providing a meal for a healthcare worker or first responder. Have the meal delivered to a local hospital or police/fire station.
- [Purchase items](#) for CreativeKidSA, a summer camp for at-risk youth hosted by Temple Beth-El.
- Adopt an Endangered Animal through the [World Wildlife Fund](#) website.
- Collect toiletry items for Hygiene Kits donated to Haven for Hope. Items needed include combs, shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and shaving cream. If you would like to participate in this project, contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org.
- Spring Cleaning
 - Clean out your closet, garage, game room, and house to purge the items and clothes you don't use anymore. Give the items to organizations in need.

Teaching:

Jewish context: *"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."* Deuteronomy 6:7

- Tell a Story on the Facebook group [Quarantine Learning Corner](#) and upload a video
- Investigate, explore, and map out your Jewish heritage by creating a Jewish Family Tree.
- Teach a Lesson
 - Know a fun dance? Interesting craft? You can record yourself teaching it and send it to friends, family, or seniors at a retirement community.

Advocacy:

Jewish context: *"Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof – Justice, justice you shall pursue, that you may live, and inherit the land which the Lord your God gave you."* Deuteronomy 16:18

- Writing a Letter to an Elected Official about an important issue to you or your family.
 - Find any issue through the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism \(RAC\)](#).
- Start a Campaign about an important issue to you or your family.
 - Create flyers, present via live stream, contact the local newspapers, or start a petition.
- [DoSomething.org](#)
 - This site is filled with a variety of ever-growing campaigns that are fueled by do-it-yourself advocacy and community service.

Working Outside:

Jewish context: *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it."* Gen. 2:15

- Planting seeds in Dixie cups
- Weeding out the backyard or apartment complex
- Planting a tree
- Decorating a compost or recycling bin
- Creating a "[butterfly puddle](#)"
- Making [seed balls](#)
- Building and/or painting a birdhouse.
- Litter Pick-Up

Helping Your Neighbor:

Jewish context: *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* Leviticus 19:9

- Mow their lawn
- Wash their car
- Walk their dog
- Knit or Sew:
 - Donate your work to Haven for Hope, Center for Refugee Services, or the Children's Shelter.
 - [Click here](#) for instructions on how to make a no-sew blanket
 - Learn how to sew virtually with a family member.
 - [Make and Donate Face Masks](#)

For Older Adults:

Jewish context: *"Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord."* Leviticus 19:32

- Help deliver groceries/run errands with [San Antonio Jewish Senior Services](#).
- Writing a Letter or Making a Card:
 - Many senior citizens are facing isolation during this time, with many retirement homes and senior living communities banning visitors; so consider writing a letter or making a colorful card to brighten up their day. Send cards/letters to local retirement communities or family or friends.
 - Need an address? Contact Ross Halfant at ross@beth-elsa.org.