

BECOME A  
PATRON  
OF US CHESED





# THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE

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The United Synagogue is Europe's largest synagogue movement. Today it comprises 56 local communities supported by a central office, including our small but incredibly dynamic Chesed Department.

The United Synagogue has been admired and respected for over 150 years and plays a pivotal role in maintaining and developing central modern orthodoxy in the UK. When we speak, people listen. When we act, others follow.

We have the professional infrastructure, capacity, experience and expertise to deliver an excellent service.

We are also uniquely placed to engage with huge numbers of people and parts of the Jewish world that other charities may not reach.



*It has been a wonderful opportunity to get involved in a project that directly benefits so many individuals and families in the wider US family. It is surely what being part of a community is all about.*

Chesed volunteer





# US CHESED

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The United Synagogue's mission is to engage Jews with mainstream orthodox Jewish living, learning and caring. US Chesed represents the 'caring' side of our work.

'Chesed' can be translated as 'loving kindness', which encompasses welfare and social responsibility.

Our aim is to help our members and people in the wider community, treating them with loving kindness. We also aim to engage our members as volunteers in practical Chesed activities, enabling them to make a tangible difference to other people's lives.

Through our strong network of 56 synagogues and 11 schools, we have easy access to over 40,000 members and their families.

In each of our synagogue communities, local rabbinic teams, administrators and Care Coordinators gain an extremely good understanding of our members' individual needs, so people needing our support are easily identified, cared for and monitored.

Our synagogue network also provides us with a pipeline of wonderful volunteers and contacts.

# WHAT CHESED DOES

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The US Chessed Department runs a wide range of projects and initiatives.

**WEEKLY FOOD PARCELS:** We distribute packs of good-quality food and household essentials to around 160 families every single week. We are now creating a **permanent Kosher Food Bank** in Bushey, Hertfordshire, to support our food distribution project and broaden its reach.

**COOKING FRESH MEALS:** Five teams of volunteers cook and prepare around 400 nutritious hot meals and soups every week for people in severe need.

**PESACH SUPPORT:** We provide well over 800 families with Pesach food parcels and supermarket vouchers.

**US COMMUNITY CARES:** We train and support the Care Coordinators and over 1000 welfare volunteers in our synagogues.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** We run projects to encourage our members to engage in activities that make a positive difference to the wider community. Projects include running drop-in centres for asylum seekers; collecting food, stationery and toys; donating clothes for homeless people and wrapping over 1200 Chanukah and Christmas gifts for those in need.

**TRIBE BURSARIES:** We provide thousands of pounds worth of bursaries to ensure that no child misses out on a Tribe camp or programme because of their family's financial situation.

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY:** We run Jewish Visiting, a hospital visiting and chaplaincy service for the entire Jewish community all over London and the Home Counties.

**PRISON CHAPLAINCY:** We recruit, train and coordinate Jewish prison chaplains on behalf of HM Prison and Probation Service. They help anyone in an English or Welsh prison who declares themselves Jewish, and provide specialist support for their families.

**'PAUPERS' FUNERALS:** We cover the costs of around 15 funerals and stone-settings every year for people whose families cannot be traced or cannot afford to pay.

**TRAINING:** We train our staff and volunteers in areas including bereavement befriending, end-of-life care, working with asylum seekers, and supporting hospital patients with mental health issues.



# WHY CHESED NEEDS PATRONS

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Your involvement will directly benefit hundreds of people every single day.

As a Chessed Patron, you will enable us to help everyone who needs our care or support – whether financial, emotional or otherwise.

In particular, you will help prevent hundreds of the very neediest members of our community from going hungry by supporting our purpose-built, sustainable Food Bank in Bushey, Hertfordshire.

This Food Bank will facilitate a more systematic way of purchasing, storage and distributing kosher food and household essentials, enabling us to achieve greater efficiency and value for money.

Most importantly, we'll be able to provide more people across more communities with packages of high-quality kosher goods, with confidentiality and dignity. We are also aiming to expand what we can offer from the Food Bank, to include toiletries, children's clothes and other items.



# BECOMING A PATRON

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When you become a Patron you will have the opportunity to:

- support the wonderful and truly life-changing work of US Chessed
- see our projects in action, such as packing food parcels, preparing Mishloach Manot boxes, wrapping gifts for our Chanukah/Christmas toy drive – and volunteer if you wish
- attend the annual Chessed Conference
- receive a regular Patrons' update report
- be invited to an exclusive annual Patrons' reception
- with your permission, have your name honoured as a Patron on the Chessed webpage
- become a Matched Donor for the US Chessed fundraising campaign.

**TO BECOME A PATRON OF CHESED, PLEASE CONTACT  
ELLIOT SHORRICK ON 020 4529 9792 OR  
ESHORRICK@THEUS.ORG.UK**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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