

Dear NFTY-NW,

My name is Grace Leibowitz, and I'm running to be your Social Action Vice President for the 5780-5781 year. Judaism has been a huge part of my life since the beginning, and the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) has always been extra special to me. I've grown up volunteering continuously with my family and with my friends, so social action has always been something that's interested me.

My leadership experiences within Judaism began a long time ago when I was on the TDSY Jr. board, but recently I've had some more experiences which had a much more fulfilling impact. This year, I was the Social Justice Intern/SAVP for TDSY, and I also served as a Social Justice Chair for NFTY-NW. With this opportunity, I got to plan and lead a track at Winter Kallah, where we made goodie bags and party hats for a nonprofit organization called Birthday Dreams. While serving in this position, I also got to contribute and help with many other great NFTY-NW social action programs throughout the year. Within the internship at TDSY, I got to write programs and lead those programs over the course of the year. Outside of NFTY, I have been a hadracha for Sunday School at Temple De Hirsch Sinai for the past two years, and I was a camper at URJ Camp Kalsman for too many years to count. I also volunteer at The Friendship Circle and for Relay for Life. These two organizations have taught me so many wonderful ways to help give back to the community and to help raise awareness. Both organizations have helped me to experience Tikkun Olam in a fun and engaging way. I feel that as Social Action Vice President, I can help to implement Tikkun Olam into the lives of NFTY-NW participants through different programs, and activities.

The primary role of a Social Action Vice President is to help the NFTY-NW community to learn about important topics and give back to our communities. This is something that not everyone can do at home so, NFTY-NW events are a great place for people to be able to partake in Tikkun Olam. The main role of a SAVP is to teach and lead programs about different topics, but I think that a good SAVP can do this while also teaching the individuals about how this information affects them and what they can do about it.

For my platform, I plan on getting the NFTY-NW community more involved with Tikkun Olam by having the participants help choose the topics that the social action programs are based on. I would make this happen by sending out an email with a selection of social action topics to everyone in the NFTY-NW community, then the participants would choose their favorites. There would also be a place for people to put their own ideas or topics. Then, using this information, I would use the top topics selected to be the topics of the social action programs of the year. By doing this, it would allow more people to be engaged and interested in the programs. Another outcome of this is that people would feel more included in the process of choosing the overall topics of social action programs.

Another thing that I would like to implement into NFTY-NW social action programs, is connecting everything learned during each program into a full circle at the end of the program. I want the participants to feel like they've gotten a lot out of each social action program, leading

them to know what to do with that information after each program is over. I will implement this by incorporating smaller topics throughout programs that are easier for people to connect to. By being able to connect more to the program, the participants will get more out of the programs, and they will be able to implement the ideas learned into their own lives. Something else that I plan on doing, is helping the NFTY-NW community stay more involved in social action topics throughout the year. I will do this by working directly with the CVP, to post on the NFTY-NW Instagram about topics that relate to past programs along with current events. This will be a very good way to stay connected to social action even when not at a NFTY event.

Sometimes the word Tikkun means to repair, but more often it means to improve, or perfect. Improving the world is something that is done through social action, and as Jews, we believe that we should leave the world better than it was when we entered it. Thank you so much for reading! I love NFTY-NW so much, and I would be honored to serve as your next regional Social Action Vice President.

With love,
Grace Leibowitz