



January 2011

Shvat 5771

Fighting Hunger with Sensitivity at the Senior High School

The Challenge

In spite of reports of Israel's booming economy, a tragic level of poverty continues to permeate Israeli society.

- Almost one in 5 Israelis is living in poverty in a constant state of overdraft and debt.
- One out of every 3 Israeli children is experiencing hunger and poverty.
- More Israelis are working yet staying poor regardless.

Education - the Leo Baeck Solution

There is no doubt that education is the key to empowerment, independence, individual responsibility and to breaking the cycle of poverty, hunger and debt that destroys so many lives and which so negatively impacts Israel's social and economic wellbeing.

Leo Baeck is committed to fighting hunger and poverty on an immediate level whilst acknowledging that food baskets, backpacks, school materials and bus passes are only temporary solutions to larger social problems that only education can ultimately resolve.

The Leo Baeck Senior High School

It is estimated that at least 10% of the school's 1,100 students live with severe financial hardship. With sixty students on 70% or more scholarship, at least thirty have nothing to eat during the day and have little to eat when they get home. Leo Baeck provides ten families living in extreme hardship with basic weekly groceries; sixty families receive holiday food packages.

Lunch Voucher Program

Although many hungry students have benefited from the Leo Baeck Soup Kitchen, it is clear that many are ashamed to take advantage of this service. Well balanced, subsidized hot meals are available every day at the Leo Baeck Cafeteria located in the Leo Baeck Community Centre. The Lunch Voucher Program enables students to purchase packages of 10 lunch vouchers - ten hot lunches at the Leo Baeck cafeteria - for 180 NIS/18 NIS per meal. From January 2011, lunch vouchers are being discreetly distributed to the thirty neediest students.

Program Cost Based on 30 Students

One day x 30 students x 18 NIS per hot meal cafeteria voucher =	540
One week (6 days) x 30 students x 18 NIS =	3,240
230 days x 30 students x 18 NIS (3.6=\$) =	124,200NIS/\$34,500