

**1. What goals do you have as Social Action VP for the 2020-2021 year?**

For the 2020-2021 year, I plan on creating a greater sense of community not only within NFTY-STR, but also with the people around South Florida. I will do this by encouraging community service beyond each event so that participants leave with ideas on how to better their own towns and temples throughout the year. I also want to spread awareness on topics such as mental health and illness, as these are things that affect everyone of every class and race around the world. Finally, I want to increase the amount of donations raised for Camp Jenny.

**2. Why have you chosen to run for Social Action VP?**

Social action and community service has always been something that I have been passionate about. From a very young age, my parents encouraged me to embrace the beauty that is *tikkun olam* in order to help benefit those around me who are less fortunate. We live in a world that's not perfect. There's poverty, abuse, illness, war, and so much more. However, through social action, we can each help to make our community a better place. I want to bring my ideas to NFTY-STR in order to impact an even larger group of people, and inspire participants to continue the hard work even after every event is finished.

**3. List what experiences make you qualified to be Social Action VP.**

I am an officer of the Interact Club at my school, which is an organization where we complete monthly community service projects. This past year, I personally organized successful events, such as a program where we packaged Thanksgiving meals for thousands of people in Florida, a toy drive/cookout for families staying at St. Mary's Quantum House, and a weekend where we built an obstacle course for our local Junior Scouts. Furthermore, I am Vice President of the Ronald McDonald House Charity Club, a member of eight honor societies, a staff member for my school's yearbook, on the Dance Marathon committee at my school, and SAVP of

Temple Beth Am's youth group, JAMTY. I also attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference this past month, which is a huge convention where I learned how to be an effective leader.

**4. What is your experience with Camp Jenny?**

While I have not attended Camp Jenny, I have knowledge on the way the program is run and am in love with the opportunity the weekend provides for the kids who attend. I am constantly working on ways to raise money for the event and have organized events to fundraise for Camp Jenny through my TYG, such as a Hanukkah Painting Party where all proceeds are donated to Camp Jenny. I have also helped raised hundreds of dollars at every NFTY-STR event within my TYG, and have ideas on how to increase the amount of total donations.

**5. Name one Social Action initiative you would like to bring to NFTY and explain how you would implement it.**

Mental health is a major issue in today's world. A recent study conducted by the World Health Organization estimated that approximately 300 million people suffer from depression, and the number is continuing to grow. As teens in a society where pressure is constantly being pushed on us to take harder classes, join hundreds of clubs, and strive for every honor society. While also dealing with the stresses of home life, we can understand that the amount of anxiety that our generation receives is life-threatening and unacceptable. I believe NFTY-STR can aid in the efforts to change this. In order to support the millions of teenagers around the world who are suffering from depression, the tzedakah item at one a regional event could be to bring a cash donation for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Through donations, the AFSP provides help to those having suicidal thoughts, aids in research on the causes of suicide, and creates a beacon of hope for families who have been affected.