Shalom, my name is Judy Mendel. Laurie Goldstein recently asked me to be the JRC delegate to the Interfaith Action of Evanston or IAE. As a delegate, I attend four meetings a year and disseminate information to JRC in the hope of finding volunteers and spreading the word about IAE. IAE is an organization whose purpose is to “bring together communities of faith and spirit to serve people who are hungry and homeless.” They also pursue interfaith dialogue and engage in advocacy that promotes social justice.

There are many volunteer opportunities, so if any of the following opportunities sound appealing, you can go directly Interfaith Action of Evanston’s website or contact me.

For those of you who don’t know, there are both lunch and supper soup kitchens at different locations every day in Evanston, four of which are sponsored by IAE, and two of which JRC volunteers host on a rotating basis.

IAE runs a morning Hospitality Center for the homeless, which offers breakfast and a chance to nap or visit, every weekday of the year. Employment counseling and computer training are also offered at the Hospitality Center.

In addition every weekday during cold weather, IAE sponsors afternoon warming centers at various faith communities around Evanston.

From November through March, an emergency overnight shelter will be open when the overnight forecast is 15 degrees or below. The shelter is expected to be open more than in the past when it was open only when the forecast was for 5 degrees or below. IAE is seeking to hire overnight shelter supervisors who will work from 7:45pm to 7:00am. on those cold nights. Perhaps you are newly retired and would like to serve the community in this way. And more volunteers than ever will be needed, including: set-up volunteers, overnight volunteers and morning clean-up volunteers. Lights out are at 10pm so it is expected that overnight volunteers
will get some sleep. If you are interested in the emergency overnight shelter, you are required to come to one training session, the first one being Oct 27. Please consider this opportunity to help your community.

There is also a Producemobile the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30am at Robert Crown Community Center on Main St. Anyone in need is welcome to come and receive an assortment of free fruits and veggies. If you would like to either distribute flyers about the Producemobile (a great activity to do with your kids) or sign up to help distribute the food, you can sign up directly on IAE’s website.

And keep your eyes out for information about the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

Lastly, perhaps you can think of friends or family outside of JRC who may be interested in IAE's work. Please let them know of these opportunities.

Again, my name is Judy Mendel and to learn more, you can contact me, JRC member Rich Cahan who is on the IAE Board, or go to Interfaith Action of Evanston’s website which is easy to remember...it’s www.interfaithactionofevanston.org and of course monetary donations are always welcome.

G’mar Hatima Tova.

Judy Mendel