




Engaging Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Our sisterhood affiliates and Regions are now working with new administrations. We would like to introduce you to an important initiative started in response to the epidemic brought to our awareness during Covid-19; the growing epidemic of food insecurity. We've acknowledged the need, now we're excited to announce the solution! No, we don't expect WLCJ to end hunger in America, but we can be proactive in working toward a resolution.

A new administration means a new chance to get involved in our Social Action initiative: **Project Stock The Shelves!**

How can you help? While the plan for each sisterhood will vary, the object is to connect with your local food pantry and find out what is their greatest need. The Social Action committee will publish a recommended monthly selection if your pantry doesn't have a specific request.

The project is simple:

1. Select a collection spot; a box in the synagogue lobby if you have access or a designated member's home.
2. Encourage members to consider purchasing the monthly recommendation or any other necessary product during their regular shopping trip and drop it off in the collection box. Sometimes you'll see a by one get one free but can't use the second one. Donate it!
3. Deliver collected items monthly to the selected pantry in the name of WLCJ and your sisterhood.

Most synagogues have food drives during the high holidays. Consider partnering with that committee to begin publicizing the project under the name Stock the Shelves to

encourage name recognition. It will then be more familiar to your congregation and increase participation during the following months.

That's it! Simple enough yet will result in a huge impact.

Many sisterhoods are already working on a similar project, which is great! If so, you are a step ahead. Continue what you've been doing and let us know about it. We will highlight your story in Women's League Week. If it's at all possible, please rebrand your program to match the WLCJ title of Stock The Shelves.

To help plan ahead, and in case you see the item on sale, the recommendations for the next several months are:

August – Hot or cold cereal, Shelf stable milk

September – Tuna & Macaroni and cheese, Shelf stable milk

October – Feminine hygiene products; Socks (adult or children), toothbrushes & toothpaste

November – Pancake mix & syrup, Shelf stable milk

December – Diapers (children and adult) Wipes, Soap

Consider using local brands. Be aware of "sell by" dates. While they may not be harmful, food pantries are not able to distribute "expired" products. Unless you are supplying a kosher pantry, there's no need to check the Heckscher. Gift cards and cash donations are always welcomed. Diapers and feminine hygiene products are needed at all times. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

If you need suggestions to get this program started, we're happy to help.

Thank you in advance for your generosity, we look forward to embarking on this initiative together and making a true difference in our communities!