**Congregation Tifereth Israel’s Rodef Tzedek Network**

**Please Join Us in the Sukkah!**

Our Rodef Tzedek Network will be holding a listening meeting on **Sunday, September 26th, at 4:00 p.m. in the TI sukkah** to: strengthen relationships among congregants, talk about community problems, and offer the opportunity to join us in fighting for solutions to those problems. **RSVP to cathyjlevine@gmail.com.**

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Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof – Justice, justice shall you pursue. Devarim 16:20

Why does the Torah repeat the word “justice” twice? Because it is up to us to pursue justice when it is easy, and to pursue justice when it is hard. Congregation Tifereth Israel has a Rodef Tzedek Network so that we can embrace the tradition of Tikkun Olam, to repair/heal the world.

Our Rodef Tzedek Network works to solve serious problems that plague our communities. To be successful at doing justice, we must build the power necessary to hold public officials accountable to implement proven solutions. We build our power by mobilizing our members and joining with other congregations through B.R.E.A.D.

**B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity)** is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of 44 congregations greater Columbus. The mission is to hold public officials accountable to implement proven solutions to serious community problems. Member congregations are religiously, racially, and economically diverse.

What are some things we have accomplished through B.R.E.A.D.?

* Over 12,000 families have affordable housing because we got the city and county to create the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
* Over 8,000 children have been able to stay in school because we got Columbus City Schools to decrease out of school suspensions for truancy.
* Over 1,000 older adults can access needed services to help them age at home because we got the City of Columbus to hire another social worker.

**To learn more, contact Cathy Levine or Diane Peters.**

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**Congregation Tifereth Israel’s Rodef Tzedek Network**

# Here are some of the projects we are working on, as part of B.R.E.A.D., to answer the commandment to do justice:

# “Families First and…Housing Now!” Committee

Our committee celebrated a commitment from Columbus City Councilmember, Shayla Favor, to advocate for 30% of American Rescue Plan funds coming to Columbus to go for affordable housing and a provision to encourage developers to set aside 20% of new housing units for affordable housing. This plan will result in access to more safe, decent, and affordable housing for families making less than $42,000 a year. We also won $10 million from the city and $2.6 million from the County in emergency housing assistance to prevent evictions during the pandemic.

# Juvenile Justice Committee

Our committee is working to expand Restorative Practices in all Columbus City Schools, to ensure that kids stay in school and have their emotional health addressed so that they can learn and graduate. 3 schools using restorative practices reduced out of school suspensions by an average of 40% in the first year!

# End Gun Violence Committee

Because of BREAD, the City of Columbus recently invested nearly $500,000 to work with the National Network for Safe Communities (national experts with 30 years of success) to implement proven strategies to reduce gun violence committed by informal groups or gangs. In other cities, they have reduced murders by up to 40%. Infrastructure is now underway, and implementation will begin as soon as possible.

# “Hire and Better Pay! Don't Throw Away!” Committee

We are implementing a plan to create worker-owned businesses in Linden that provide decent jobs and build wealth among residents, especially those with criminal records and other challenge, as an alternative to “improvements” that have driven residents out of other neighborhoods. These businesses will sell their products to anchor institutions (hospitals and OSU). With consultation from national experts, we have completed a procurement study, formed a Linden-based oversight board and are finishing the business plan. Then we will raise capital and launch the first business!

**Want to stay informed?** Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/breadorganization) or check out our website (www.breadcolumbus.com)!

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