PJ Library
Jewish Bedtime Stories & Songs for Families

Tzedakah Fair
JCC Children’s Place
May 19, 10-11:30 a.m.

Practicing Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) by Giving Back!

Join PJ Library in helping our Louisville Community!

We will learn about tzedakah through one of our very own PJ Library books, *Jumping Jenny*, then we will all perform mitzvot by making items to be donated to JFCS, Four Courts and the Center for Women and Families.

A $5 donation and a canned good or toiletry is appreciated. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Recommended for ages 18 months-8 years old. Age appropriate activities for all.

RSVP by May 15 to Jennifer Tuvin at 459-0660 or jtuvin@jewishlouisville.org
PJ Library Louisville’s First Annual Tzedakah Fair

Featuring Jumping Jenny by Ellen Bari

Submitted by: Jennifer Tuvlin jtuvlin@jewishlouisville.org

Age Group: 2-8

Time Frame: 60-90 minutes

Central Idea: Encourage children and families to think what they can do for tzedakah and to contributing towards tikum olam, repairing the world, by not just writing a check but actually doing something helpful.

Actual event: This was a paid event. Every child brought a canned good for the JFCS Food Pantry and paid $5 for supplies. Jewish coloring pages (to be hung in our Jewish senior’s home) were available for the children as soon as they arrived. Once a crowd assembled, the children were read Jumping Jenny. In this book, a young girl commits to a jump-a-thon and raises money to help students in Uganda. We talked about actions we could take in our community to be like Jenny.

The children then participated in the event where they made various items and were “paid” for their work. We had 4 craft stations where the children made the projects listed below. We also had a bean bag toss, blocks and stackables set up for the younger children. These participants were also “paid” for their tosses and making towers.

Jump ropes were set up in the hallway and children had their own jump-a-thon.

At the end of the event the children were given the opportunity to donate to 3 different charities and they decided how to best use their earnings.

(Full disclosure. Louisville did not create this event. We found it on a webinar on pjlibrary.org and just tweaked it a bit to fit our community!)
**Advanced Preparation**

**Tzedakah boxes:** We wanted the children’s experience with tzedakah to extend beyond the morning so one activity was decorating their own tzedakah boxes. We ordered tzedakah boxes from JNF (which sent them for no charge). We then cut strips of paper and covered the tzedakah boxes in advance so they could be decorated immediately. At the event the children decorated the boxes with Jewish stickers we made from copying PJ materials onto basic sticker pages and markers.

This was the one item that they took home with them.

**Materials:** JNF boxes, construction paper, stickers, markers or crayons

**Quilt:** The children decorated quilt squares. This was a set ordered from Amazon. It was approximately $20. Children were “paid” for each quilt square they decorated with fabric markers. The kids loved making this activity (especially the older girls). I made two mistakes with the quilt though. 1. The quilt was to be donated to the Center for Women and Families in Louisville, a non-Jewish agency that helps battered women and families. This center only take new items and the quilt was not deemed “new enough” because it was decorated with marker and more of a keepsake. Just check where you want to donate the quilt to make sure it meets specifications. 2. Tying the quilt together is very time consuming. Make this an activity at your event and “pay” some of the kids to actually assemble it for you.

**Materials:** quilt squares, fabric markers
Reusable bags: The children decorated reusable bags to be used by patrons of the JFCS food pantry. We ended up buying red bags from Target (with small logos on them) as plain bags were very expensive. The children used the same fabric markers. We purchased one bag to decorate per child.

**Materials:** Reusable bags, fabric markers

General Decorations: We printed out Jewish coloring pictures for the younger children to color and also pre-cut strips for children to decorate and make a chain. These basic art projects were brought to the Jewish senior home.

**Materials:** Coloring pages (simply google whatever design you want), construction paper, crayons, stapler
**Snack:** We had basic snacks and drinks. Just make sure to keep the drinks separate from the activities so kids don’t spill and mess up the other kids’ crafts.

**Money:** Banks don’t always have enough penny rolls so start going to the bank earlier in the week. It is much more cost effective to pay the kids in pennies, plus you can give multiple coins for each event or use a lot of coins for the jump rope portion.

**Tzedakah Boxes:** At the end of the event the kids were shown the tzedakah boxes that PJ staff had made and were given 3 options for their donations. The money that was “raised” was then donated to these charities.