

# J-Serve Empowers Jewish Youth

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## Roving Reporter – Sydney Wilson (17 Years Old)

<http://torontoyouthvolunteer.org/2013/05/13/j-serve-empowers-jewish-youth/>



In Judaism there is a well-known concept called *Tikkun Olam*. *Tikkun Olam* is the responsibility that we have to repair the world and make it a better place for everyone. On Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> over 500 Jewish youth from all over the city came together for just that reason.

J-Serve is a Jewish youth service day that occurs globally and unites charities and volunteers to help change the world. The action packed day included organizations such as Pencils for Kids, Mazon Canada,

Free the Children, Zareinu Education Center, Ve'ahavta and many more doing activities like tree planting, kinder kit making, workshops and telethons.



Participants first gathered for an exciting kick off event held at TanenbaumCHAT Wallenberg. Here, the volunteers were treated to an impressive show by a Toronto drumming group called HDrummers. The HDrummers put on an interactive drumming experience that got everyone excited and ready for a day full of volunteering and fun. After the show, volunteers got on school buses, which delivered them to each of the work sites where they helped out all day.

To many, the day was an inspirational experience, shedding light on the positive changes that can occur when young people chose to get involved. Seventeen-year-old *Pencils for Kids* volunteer Yael Saban explained,

*“Seeing teenagers from all over Toronto join together to devote their time to different organizations was a powerful sight. It restored my belief that teens can be motivated to take part in making the world a better place.”*

The program was directed towards youth in grades 6-12, who were lead by representatives from each participating organization. The day went from 11:30am to 5:00pm and was spread to sites across Toronto. A youth volunteer noted early on in the day, *“Seventy years ago (during the Holocaust), the Jewish people could have used groups like this coming together to make a change for us. Now that we have flourished and are able to celebrate our culture it means even more that we can help others. Seeing five hundred Jewish youth in one place for such a good cause just shows the resilience of the Jewish nation.”*



Days like J-Serve help to empower youth and demonstrate than anyone can make a difference when they set their mind to it.

**For more information on J-Serve and how you can participate next year go to: <http://www.jservice.ca>**