



The 2020 WRJ Incubator Grants supported the following programs:

Days for Girls

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom

Days for Girls is an international organization that provides reusable menstrual kits for girls who otherwise have no access to feminine hygiene products. These girls live in third world countries and miss 25% of their education since they are unable to attend school when they have their periods. These kits keep them in school and greatly increase their lifelong earning potential as well as keep them safer from sexual assault, which often happens to girls who are left unattended during the school day. The Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom has partnered with the Needham Chapter of Days for Girls to create an interfaith and intergenerational group that meets once a month to sew and make these menstrual kits. They have involved youth through Rosh Hodesh Groups and B'nei Mitzvah projects, some of whom continue to work with the sisterhood after their bat mitzvah.

Laundry Love

Temple B'nai Chaim Sisterhood

This interfaith service project provides free laundry services once a month to the homeless and indigent population living in Danbury, CT and surrounding areas. The Laundry Love program enables people who are struggling financially to clean their clothes and linens free of charge on a regular basis, with no questions asked. The Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Chaim along with eight other faith-based organizations, volunteer to run the program in Danbury. The interfaith component allows the sisterhood to participate in an interfaith exchange where volunteers learn and share with one another about their lives, trading notes on their respective church and synagogue activities, and derive the satisfaction of shared and purposeful work.

Naturalization Ceremony
Temple Israel Sisterhood

Temple Israel Sisterhood will sponsor a naturalization ceremony to support immunization and citizenship and welcome new citizens. As part of the program, the synagogue cantor will sing the national anthem, and the senior rabbi and a few congregants who are immigrants themselves will speak. There will be a short musical presentation and an *oneg*. The sisterhood is also considering inviting another faith congregation from the community to participate. The program demonstrates the Sisterhood's and Temple's appreciation for those who value becoming a part of the United States and their community, regardless of national origin.

Vegetable Garden
Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Torah of Wantagh

Temple B'nai Torah Sisterhood of Wantagh is creating a vegetable garden on synagogue grounds. This garden will provide fresh produce to local food pantries and families in need and serve as an on-going, multi-generational community experience reflecting Jewish values for the synagogue. Although there are other community gardens, this garden is unique in that it will be developed to create an opportunity to learn about, and to live through Jewish values more actively. Development of this giving garden will focus on concepts such as care of creation, feeding the hungry, providing for the poor and caring for the next generation by respecting and protecting the environment. The congregation's youth group will also participate in the care of the garden and the religious school will develop curriculum utilizing the garden as an educational resource.