



Community Board 7 – Monthly Community Service Award Testimonial  
by Congregation Rodeph Sholom for  
Joanna Kapner

Among its many spiritual and educational experiences and programs, Congregation Rodeph Sholom's mission statement concludes with the words: We seek to enrich the lives of our members, contribute to the continuance and vitality of the Jewish people, and Tikkun Olam - to help "repair the world." As a long time synagogue member and honorary Trustee, Joanna Kapner exemplifies Congregation Rodeph Sholom's mission.

Joanna's involvement in the synagogue is dedicated and far-reaching. She is the treasurer of Congregation Rodeph Sholom's Sisterhood, and thus responsible for helping share some of the synagogue's resources with organizations dedicated to women's rights and Jewish women in particular. However, Joanna is most associated with two of the synagogue's flagship social action projects. Heading up its Project Moving On program, affiliated with Women in Need, Inc., Joanna and her committee of volunteers has helped countless women and families who move from shelters into permanent housing. Under Joanna's direction the synagogue community provides these women with some basic items they need to start in a new home, including kitchen supplies and some toys for the children.

In addition to these commitments, Joanna stepped in as Chair of the synagogue's Food Drive about two years ago. Each year she manages donations of over \$50,000, and ensures their distribution to various service providers around New York City, including Dorot, WEME, Urban Pathways, and the West Side Campaign Against Hunger. Based on her involvement through the Rodeph Sholom Food Drive, Joanna also sits on the board of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger.

In a congregation committed to social justice and social action, Joanna exemplifies these values in her active, dedicated service. She is most worthy of an award dedicated to community service from Community Board 7.