

The American

Jewish World

VOICES OF MINNESOTA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY • FOUNDED JUNE 12, 1912

VOLUME 98 • NO. 4 • OCTOBER 30, 2009 • 12 HESHVAN, 5770 • www.ajwnews.com

\$1.50

NCJW program helps homeless students in Minneapolis schools

Volunteers with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Greater Minneapolis Section, recently gathered to fill backpacks with personal items for homeless and highly mobile youth in the Minneapolis school district.

The effort is part of the organization's new Stuff for Kids program, which aims to provide the students with school supplies, reading books, mittens, personal hygiene products and other personal belongings. The filled packs are distributed by school social workers to K-6 students who are enrolled in an after-school enrichment program at three schools.

NCJW has added a unique component to the program that engages teen volunteers who seek community service hours for school or synagogue projects. The new Stuff for Kids Toolkit is a "how-to" packet that includes a list of community service project ideas that teens can use or build upon, pre-written letters that teens can send out to solicit funds or specific items for homeless youth, templates for creating posters to build awareness about homelessness, scripts for reaching out to potential donors over the phone, and other tips to help teens make a difference in the lives of homeless



Courtesy of NCJW

NCJW — Stuff for Kids program volunteers recently assembled backpacks with needed items for homeless students in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Pictured above are (l to r): Dyanne Cooperman, Christine Hausman, Francine Gersh and Lisa Gottstein.

and highly mobile youth.

The toolkit is organized around four key activity areas that NCJW believes are critical to helping teens learn how to address community needs, includ-

ing education/communication, fund development, advocacy and giving.

For information about Stuff for Kids, call the NCJW office at 952-922-7900.