

## Ghana volunteer programme a success

This summer saw the sixth Tzedek volunteer programme in Ghana with a record number of 15 participants spending eight weeks volunteering with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Tamale, Northern Ghana, under the auspices of Tzedek.

Living in the Jisonayili district of Tamale, alongside the bleating goats and the calls to prayer, the volunteers were placed in a variety of challenging organisations where they were able to learn about Ghanaian and local Dagbani culture and also to contribute in a small way to sustainable development in Tamale. Alongside their busy work schedules, the group also ran weekly learning sessions for each other, examining Jewish perspectives on different aspects of development and poverty.

The placements ranged from health clinics to campaigning groups working against human trafficking, to schools and youth clubs.

Volunteers spent their time writing funding proposals for struggling NGOs, visiting communities producing shea butter, and helping to improve young people's English speaking skills. One volunteer, Lucy Newman, developed a new counselling venture for victimised women with an NGO called Centre for the Initiative against Human Trafficking (CIAHT). This service is the first of its kind in Northern Ghana, and has the potential to make a real and lasting difference.

During the first few weeks, the entire Tzedek team visited the small village of Jana where three volunteers, Deborah Ezra, Amy Gower and Sophie Mindell, were teaching at a school provided by the Maltiti Child Foundation, to which Tzedek has made several grants in the past. The volunteers spent the day painting the bare outer walls of the school building with bright coloured letters, numbers and pictures. They also had to contend with a crowd of children seeking entertainment, which was duly provided with football matches, singing, dancing and games.

On the penultimate Shabbat, the volunteers invited staff from their partner NGOs to a wonderful seudah shlishit, and a very poignant havdalah service. As the candles were lit, the volunteers explained the significance of the ceremony to their hosts. Other highlights included a safari trek in Mole National Park, a vibrant relegation battle for Real Tamale United at the football stadium, a visit to the Afrikids offices in Bolgatanga, as well as a Kabbalat Shabbat experience for some of our Ghanaian co-workers.

The programme was a great success and all of the volunteers were a real tribute to Tzedek.

by Peter Ndonwie, overseas coordinator and David Bush, overseas intern

More photos and volunteer experiences on Page 4



The volunteers on their last night in Tamale, northern Ghana

## Shana Tova from Tzedek

It has been a busy year for Tzedek and an especially busy summer. Not only did 15 young volunteers spend July and August in Ghana but our youth education programme, JGCP, has reached new heights (see page 2); and Tzedek director Dan Berelowitz has been to Israel to facilitate a conference for Jewish innovators (see page 5). That's not to mention a number of very successful fundraising events in the UK and some new additions to the Tzedek staff (see page 3). Do come along to the Tzedek AGM on 18th October to hear more about Tzedek's work as well as the insights of our guest speaker, Labour MP John Battle. Wherever the coming Jewish year takes you, we hope it is a happy, healthy and sweet new year for you and your families, and we hope you continue to stay involved in the growing Tzedek community.

**We include here some recent reactions to the various strands of Tzedek's work:**

**M Thangamuthu, executive director of Chanard, an Indian vocational training organisation supported by Tzedek since 2008, provides feedback on Interchange, Tzedek's newsletter for overseas partners:**

*"We received our Interchange which is a small and substantial, beautiful and beneficial magazine. The name "Interchange" is rightly fitting because it greatly helps us to interchange our thoughts and ideas, goals and objectives and also certain strategies by going through our partner's fine articles in the magazine."*

**Rabbi Ben Zion Lewis, Principal, Bury & Whitefield Jewish Primary School, provides feedback on JGCP:**

*"I must congratulate you on your schemes of work; each one is excellent. You are really providing the professionalism that is so important in delivering excellent, meaningful Jewish education."*

**Katie Susser, a student nurse, who spent the summer with Tzedek volunteers in Ghana and worked at a local clinic as part of her medical training:**

*"I cannot express how thankful I am to Tzedek for allowing us to be a part of your programme this summer. I have gained so much from my experiences out in Ghana as a member of the Tzedek group. Thank you for giving us this opportunity."*

**Jeffrey Leader, an education consultant commissioned by Tzedek to evaluate the JGCP's impact on its target audiences, sums up his findings:**

*"Everyone, from whatever educational background or institution, was highly supportive of the project and spoke of it in glowing terms. They felt that the subject matter was relevant to the lives of the learners, of topical interest and could be delivered effectively through a number of curriculum channels..."*

## An Update on Tzedek's Education Work

The Jewish Global Citizenship Project (JGCP), Tzedek's education programme funded by the Department for International Development, has been running for almost two years. So far it has successfully engaged teachers and pupils in 18 Jewish primary schools, 5 Jewish secondary schools, 9 Jewish youth movements and 7 chedarim. But it's not just the Jewish community that is finding Tzedek's materials useful; many non-Jewish schools are also accessing our online resources to teach pupils about Jewish values on social justice.

A particular highlight of the last few months was when we facilitated a national leadership programme for Streetwise GB in April. Young Jewish people from the North of England were invited to the Zone Youth Club in Leeds to attend a leadership and volunteering day organised by Tzedek. Two former overseas volunteers, Joel Barnet and Sasha Maisel, shared their experiences and the main focus of the day was the universal right to education. Through real life case studies, the young leaders were able to learn the true impact and long-term consequences of a lack of education. The Streetwise leaders then set about designing a 25-page booklet of educational games. The booklet, which later received contributions from youth group Habonim Dror, was used by our volunteers in Ghanaian schools this summer.

Another recent highlight was a trade education programme we coordinated for Yavneh College, a Jewish secondary school in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. Drawing on the expertise of some key Fairtrade campaigners in the community, pupils aged 13-14 explored the reality of world trade and compared it to Fairtrade. The pupils showed a real change in attitude over the course of the programme and the majority spoke of feeling empowered to address some of the issues highlighted. They were keen not only to explore where their clothes and food came from, but also to buy Fairtrade goods wherever possible. Pupils also developed a number of campaign ideas



*Streetwise GB volunteers at the Zone Youth Club, Leeds*

to be carried out in their school next term.

It has been an extremely busy two years for the JGCP and to ensure we are progressing on target we commissioned education consultant Jeffrey Leader to evaluate the project with participants and contributors. His findings were extremely encouraging and highlighted significant successes in a short time. We are looking forward to the start of a new term which will see us coordinating primary school twinning projects and launching our theatre project, Future Perfect, in Jewish secondary schools across the country. More details in the next issue of Arevut.

*Vikki Rose, Education Projects Director  
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*More than 100 people took part in Tzedek's inaugural quiz night on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at the Adelaide pub in Swiss Cottage, North London. Hosted by Ivor Dembina of the Hampstead Comedy Club, the night was a great success, with some taxing questions and exciting prizes. Organized entirely by a team of volunteers led by Elana Goetz, the event raised an impressive £1500 for sustainable development projects across Asia and Africa.*



## An Update on Tzedek's Overseas Projects

This has been a busy time for Tzedek's overseas projects team (OPT), the group that decides which overseas projects should be the recipients of Tzedek funds. We have been reviewing new funding applications from community-based organisations in the developing world and also monitoring existing projects.

Monitoring and evaluation is crucially important at Tzedek because, along with regular audits, it assures both the board and our donors that money is being well spent. Evaluating the progress of projects also informs the OPT's future decisions about grant applications from around the world.

The OPT has traditionally used written testimony for evaluation as it updates Tzedek on successes and difficulties that have arisen and gives clear information about how funds are being spent. Photos are often included as well so that partners have the chance to showcase their work. To improve the confidence Tzedek has in the projects it supports, the OPT has now started arranging site visits with appropriate volunteers and consultants to verify that activities are taking place and projects are being managed professionally.

This process will help to illustrate the changes Tzedek's funding is making on the day-to-day lives of the people in the communities we support. Lessons learned at the end of each project are factored into future funding decisions and help the OPT to understand the sort of project that makes the biggest difference.

The coming months will see the approval of several exciting new grants, which will make a difference to vulnerable communities in Ghana and India. As always, the OPT will be keeping up with them and doing its best to help the partners succeed in their important work. There will be more information on new and existing projects in the next issue of Arevut.

*Julia Mayersohn*

## Volunteers get cycling and jogging for Tzedek

It was a healthy summer for a large number of Tzedek volunteers who took part in the Community Fun Run and the inaugural London to Southend bike ride, organised by Tzedek in conjunction with the Jewish Community Centre for London (JCC).

On Sunday 24th May, London was bathed in the most beautiful sunshine of the year as more than 700 people, including five Tzedek runners, turned out to run for a number of communal charities. A large number of supporting families and friends lined the length of the course at Haberdashers' Aske's School in Elstree, Hertfordshire.

Special thanks go to Samuel Lugassy who ran the 10K race in 53 minutes and raised more than £150 for Tzedek, and Jo Grainger and Pnina Nathan who competed in traditional Ghanaian dress and raised an incredible £1500. Despite the bongos and head decoration, they completed the 5K race in less than 50 minutes. Other recorded times include Oded Neifeld, who finished the 10K in 48 minutes, and Zachary Katznelson, who finished the 5K in 27 minutes.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July, the JCC/Tzedek bike ride saw Tzedek volunteers working just as hard in equally warm weather. 21 intrepid athletes cycled the 50-mile route from London to Southend, setting off at 8.30am from Victoria Park in Hackney, travelling through the outskirts of London and into the Essex countryside. Along the way, cyclists were met by volunteers from Tzedek and the JCC with cars full of water and Fairtrade Geobars to help them along the route.

The fastest cyclist, Jamie Munk, completed the race in just under four hours, arriving at the



Jewish care home on the Southend seafront at 12.25pm. The remaining 20 cyclists had all finished the race by 1.30pm. "I really enjoyed myself, even if my body had had enough about ten miles from the end!" said one participant, Paul Burnstein. Despite the hard work, many were very keen to take part again next year.

The cycle ride raised a fantastic £6000, which will be shared between Tzedek and the JCC. Many thanks to all our hardworking volunteers — keep on training!

Katie Hill  
katie@tzedek.org.uk



## Staff changes at Tzedek



Left to right: Dan Berelowitz, Claire Nacamuli, Vikki Rose, Zoe Payman, Katie Hill

The Tzedek team continues to evolve and expand, with the recent addition of two part-time members of staff, Claire Nacamuli and Zoe Payman, and a new Tzedek intern, Kevin Bates.

Claire Nacamuli replaces Yolande Kerbel as Education Worker and brings a wealth of experience to the role, having volunteered with Tzedek in Zimbabwe back in the late 1990s. Since then, she has worked with the Jewish Council for Racial Equality and always maintained a strong involvement in Tzedek's work.

Zoe Payman, who previously worked in marketing at WestLB Asset Management for four years and then at J O Hambro Capital Management for five years, began volunteering for Tzedek earlier this year and took on the role of fundraising assistant in June. Working two days per week, she has been assisting in preparations for Tzedek's major donor event with James Wolfensohn, former CEO of the World Bank, scheduled for September 16th.

After the success of Tzedek's new internship programme, Kevin Bates succeeds David Bush as the Tzedek intern, starting in September. Kevin recently graduated from a degree in History at York University and has spent the summer on the Birthright programme in Israel. He will spend the first six months of his internship in the London office and the second six months in Tamale, Ghana.

Tzedek's staff and trustees would like to thank Yolande Kerbel, Peter Ndonwie and David Bush as they leave Tzedek for pastures new. All three have contributed a great deal to Tzedek and we know they will continue to champion its work in the future.

# Ghana Volunteer: Seeing poverty in 3D

Three weeks into this summer's volunteer programme in Ghana, **Lucy Newman**, one of the 15 volunteers, shared some of her experiences and reactions to the poverty she witnessed at first hand.

It seems strange that it took just three weeks of living away from home for my new surroundings to feel like the norm: the children shouting "sillyminger" (meaning white person in local dialect); the goats and cows that casually roam the streets while the cars politely wait for them; the women carrying loads on their heads ranging from water to kitchen tables.

I am working at the Centre for the Initiative Against Human Trafficking (CIAHT), visiting rural villages and speaking to victims of trafficking. Yesterday a woman with wrinkled skin and brightly patterned clothes told me about her child who ran away because of a lack of food. These stories are now as normal to me as the women carrying portable shops on their heads.

Trafficking is a massive problem here; children run away from home or are taken by traffickers promising a better life than they live in their poverty stricken villages. They arrive in the richer areas of Ghana to become virtual slaves. Prostitution or crime often becomes their new existence.

CIAHT works to prevent trafficking and rehabilitate the victims. After a few days of working there, I started writing a document and needed clarification on the amount of time CIAHT provides to victims in terms of counselling. I asked my boss and the reply was that they provide just one hour. He explained there are no facilities for counselling in Tamale and there are no government services to rehabilitate women. I asked whether money was the issue, and if we could train volunteer counsellors. So we started researching the idea and suddenly a new project was on the agenda.

I have embarked on a massive research project on what currently exists to rehabilitate victims of trafficking and what we think the new organisation should look like. A number of Tzedek volunteers are involved and it's still early days. But it's coming together and it has been enlightening to meet and speak with government officials and victims of trafficking as part of the project.

Extreme poverty is a normal part of life here and the stories no longer shock me as they did at first. Before coming here I saw poverty through the lens of

Oxfam adverts and political statistics, but it is very different seeing every detail of poverty on a daily basis and meeting the people who have to live with it.

It is hard being a white person here and I sometimes wonder whether the reactions of the people I meet are a part of the problem. When any westerner walks down the streets of Tamale, they are treated as celebrities. White skin is so different to what people are used to that sometimes children cry in fear. Sometimes it feels like people see only money when they look at us. At first, I treated the reactions of the Ghanaian people I met as comical; marriage proposals quickly became a daily occurrence. It all seemed like such a pantomime, just an illusion. But the reality is that, even with what little I have, I really do have the money and the power to change people's lives. I feel the way we relate to each other as individuals has parallels with the way our countries relate to each other in terms of power. Power in the world is not equally distributed. I'm starting to see the power and therefore responsibility I have both in my living room and in the streets of Tamale; it's just that here it is so much more real and measurable.

My whole experience with Tzedek has changed the way I look at responsibility. Studying politics, it was systems and theories, but now I link the statistics to individuals. When I go back to the UK, maybe my life won't seem such a given as it did before.



*Right: Volunteers making havdalah*

*Below: Caroline Hurst teaching in a local school*



*Above: Schoolchildren outside the Maltiti Child Foundation school, newly decorated by Tzedek volunteers*

# Extracts from the Volunteer Blog

During their two months in Ghana, the 15 volunteers kept a group blog which reveals both the poignant and the comic elements of their individual experiences. We reprint extracts here, the full entries can be read at: [www.tzedekghana2009.blogspot.com](http://www.tzedekghana2009.blogspot.com).

"The classroom: three planks of wood. An aluminium roof. No electricity. And worst of all, the "toilet" is anywhere you want it to be. With an open space substituting for a door, we are frequently visited by a selection of farmyard animals, including goats, chickens and lizards. Our shacks resemble stables more than classrooms.... Lacking these very basic necessities is a huge obstruction to education. To think that in our school days we had almost expected resources such as electronic blackboards and Apple Mac laptops, and most certainly never even questioned that we would have a seat to sit on, a pencil to write with and four walls to keep us dry. Everyone knows of the poverty that exists in Africa, but nothing can prepare you for when the Oxfam faces of malarial, malnourished children each have a personality and a story behind them."  
*Laura Arenson, Catherine Mansoor*

"Yesterday I went into a rural village for the first time on this trip. What I saw was just poverty, and I can't think of a better word or a more meaningful one. The dusty roads and mud huts that I see from a foreigner's eyes as "quaint" or "typically African" are in reality these people's homes, and I felt almost guilty for having taken pictures of those we'd passed. But there's nothing I can change about that while I'm out here – that's how people in these villages live. Development has to start at a smaller scale and that, hopefully, I can help with."  
*Amy Gower*

"Last Sunday I had one of the most insane cultural experiences of my life: Real Tamale United vs. Ashgold. Tamale needed to win or they would be relegated. The atmosphere was one of humour, excitement and anxiety, and the noise was wonderful. No other white people, no other women. The stadium was half full, the noise was deafening. Real Tamale United won one-nil and at the end of the game there was massive rejoicing and cheering so we all went on to the pitch and were mobbed with calls of "snap me" with the camera or "marry me", which was a little less understandable. What a day, what a game."  
*Talia Chain*

"In every sense of the word, I feel as if I have entered a strange land, an alien culture, and a life so abstract from my own that it is almost incomparable. My first experience of teaching in Jana School was daunting, and that was before I even stepped into a classroom. As we walked past a field where men were using cows to plough, and women were beating beans in large ceramic pots, I knew this would be a very different ball game to what I was used to. Speaking as much of the local language Dagbani as they spoke English, I was almost immediately left to fend for myself in a sweltering room crowded with forty children, a piece of white chalk... and a cane. This was the point where I decided to abandon both of the objects in my hand (one more quickly than the other), and resort to what I knew best — free-style."  
*Deborah Ezra*

## Director's Diary

Every time I write for Arevut, I'm struck by how quickly Tzedek is developing. Recent highlights for me have been the first Tzedek cycle ride from London to Southend which had the most fantastic atmosphere and raised more money than we had expected (see page 3). We will definitely repeat it next year. Also over the last few months there has been real excitement on university campuses about Tzedek, which led to 15 people volunteering in Ghana this summer. We have many more events coming up with the aim of growing the Tzedek community of volunteers and donors and I hope to see you at some of them.

I would like to tell you a bit about a summit I facilitated for ten days in Israel in June called ROI, because of the impact it had on me and the participants. ROI is a global community of Jewish innovators who have a personal vision about how to make the Jewish world a better place. Built around intensive networking and skill-building activities in Jerusalem and the Diaspora, ROI enhances its members' ability to recreate the community in their own image. ROI stands for Return on Investment — an investment in the global Jewish community. This year there were 120 participants from 29 countries.

My role at the summit was to facilitate a group of 17 participants working loosely in the field of "Service & *Tikkun Olam*". I took my group on a journey from finding common values and vision through to practical collaborations. I learnt an enormous amount from the other facilitators, who were inspiring people working at the cutting edge of their fields, and felt honoured to have been asked to facilitate alongside them.

I built a strong network of people that share Tzedek's vision of a just world. These are people to learn from, share information and potentially collaborate with. I made a number of excellent contacts in foundations, in particular the Schusterman Foundation who are the sole funders of ROI and are interested in developing their field of service to *Tikkun Olam* globally.

On a more personal note, I have come back inspired and energised, having gained a deeper understanding of Israel and its relationship with the Diaspora in terms of Jewish identity and the part I play. Throughout the summit I had a strong sense of pride in the UK Jewish community's social justice work. Despite our community's small size, we set an example in coordination among social action organisations, volunteer management, overseas volunteer programmes, project

assessment and particularly campaigning, with the support of Hannah Weisfeld, social action coordinator at the Jewish Cultural Centre for London, who also attended the summit. Our challenge now is to bring this agenda to the mainstream community so that issues of social justice have a wide base of support and we can be proud of our community as a whole.

If you are interested in being a part of next year's ROI summit, please contact me.

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## Towards whom are we obligated?

The requests addressed to us and the demands made on us may often leave us feeling overwhelmed and bewildered, making it difficult to justify the giving of money to people in far-flung corners of the world. To whom are we obligated to give *Tzedakah* (charity) and practise *Gemilut Chesed* (lovingkindness)? Who should be the beneficiaries of our activities in *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world)?

**Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg** examines these questions through close analysis of the key terms.

*Tzedakah* is usually translated as charity, but this is only partly accurate. *Tzedakah* does refer to our obligation to give to those in need. But Judaism views this not as an act of kind-hearted charity, but rather as doing what is right. That is the core meaning of the word *tzedek* – righteousness, the same root as *tzedakah*. Maimonides famously lists eight categories of *tzedakah*, the highest of which is enabling another person to gain his or her livelihood without having to be dependent on others. Giving generously, in a manner which does not humiliate the recipient, comes next. But in Jewish law to give at all, even if from selfish motives, is better than to fail to give. We are not only entitled, but obliged, to ensure that the money we donate is going to a worthwhile cause. The exceptions are if a person is hungry and needs to eat, or cold and naked and requires clothing and protection. In such cases we should give for immediate needs without making further enquiries.

*Gemilut chesed* is often translated as the bestowing-of-lovingkindness. But beneath these long and awkward sounding words, the meaning is simple: it's about being kind. Alongside the longing for universal peace and justice, *gemilut chesed* expresses Judaism's highest value. But there is nothing idealistic or exalted about it. *Gemilut chesed* involves the most ordinary, everyday actions: visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, and offering hospitality. *Gemilut chesed* is therefore what really makes the world go round. *Chesed* really means love, but not of the passionate and romantic sort. It refers to the kind of faithful love which commits itself to neighbour and stranger alike through thick and thin. Thus, the relationship between God and Israel is described as a bond of *chesed*.

According to the rabbis, *gemilut chesed* is even greater than *tzedakah* (which is also essential), because *chesed* involves not just our purse but our person and encompasses our relationships with absolutely everybody.

*Tikkun Olam* literally means repairing the world, but the words have an interesting history. One of the earliest uses of the expression is found in the *Aleinu* prayer, when we ask that all human beings should work together to perfect the world under the sovereignty of God. As used in the Talmud, the phrase is often translated as "for the better running of society". For example, the rabbis ruled that captives were not to be redeemed for more than the going rate and they gave as the reason, "for the sake of *tikkun olam*". Selling off captives was commonplace and if people thought that they could extort a higher price, they surely would. Nowadays, to be involved in *tikkun olam* is to dedicate oneself and one's community to social justice by alleviating suffering and redressing wrongs.

So, taking all of this into account, towards whom are we obligated? Judaism understands our first responsibility to be towards those nearest to us; our family, our neighbours and our immediate community. The poor of your own city take precedence over the poor in other locations, teaches the Talmud. But we live at the intersection of several communities - family, friendship group, faith community, the diverse multi-ethnic range of people who shop at the same supermarket and travel on the same buses. Thus our responsibility is profoundly inclusive. The Talmud teaches that we should visit the non-Jewish sick, give them charity and attend their funerals 'because of the ways of peace'. The phrase suggests not merely preventative action to avoid bad feeling, but positive

engagement for the sake of what is ultimately the greatest shared value of all, *Shalom*.

Samson Raphael Hirsch, (C19 Germany), makes it clear in his Torah commentary that the neighbour whom we are commanded to love is our fellow human being, irrespective of race or creed. The vision of international justice underlying *Tikkun Olam* today takes these same values into a wider horizon. For Jews, they are rooted in the understanding that the world belongs to God and that we are here on earth to care for it; that responsibility for its welfare is an indivisible duty incumbent upon us all, and that every person is created in God's image and every life is of inestimable value.

*Jonathan Wittenberg is Senior Rabbi of the Assembly of Masorti Synagogues*



## Clive's Column

The other day I came across one of our former volunteers who had started eating *treif* (non-kosher food) when he was in Africa with Tzedek. Apparently, he'd been losing his conviction that kosher food mattered for a couple of years, but this was the first time he'd been a good distance away from his observant family and amongst a group of

people who he felt wouldn't judge him.

Of course Tzedek takes no view about the religious position of those who work with us. Put another way, the only religious commitment Tzedek cares to comment on is the *mitzvah* of caring for the poorest in our world. For the rest, adult Jews must make up their own minds about what they think about

Jewish practice. There are more than enough other organisations in the community that will address these issues if anyone wants to explore them further.

The one concern I had was that it might actually be the practicalities of the Tzedek volunteer programme that had encouraged him to take this step when away in Africa,

but that was reassuringly not the case. It would of course be appalling if the group was unsympathetic to those wishing to keep kosher or observe Shabbat, for example by going out to eat and leaving the one strictly kosher member of the group behind. But I am assured that this doesn't happen.

So on one level, good. Our volunteer felt free to act as made sense to him and was confident that others would not look down on him if he chose his own Jewish path. And I'm very clear that, whatever my personal views on the value of *kashrut*, it's not the business of Tzedek to take an organisational position.

But on another level there is still work to do. We don't organise our volunteer programme just so that Jewish young people can hang out together or to pander to any Jewish unease at participating in a non-Jewish group — we have more Jewish values than that. That's why, during the orientation for the volunteer

programme, our volunteers learn how to deliver a *dvar Torah*. It matters to us that our volunteers and activists engage in learning about the rich Jewish values and perspectives with which our tradition is redolent.

For the same reason, our brilliant Jewish Global Citizenship programme, currently being taught in Jewish schools, chedarim and youth movements, takes pains not just to alert Jews to the issues of global poverty and justice but seeks to make sure that participants discover the deep underpinnings and concerns in our teachings.

Going on our volunteer programme is designed not least to help our volunteers learn the truth about the way the world works and to develop Jewish responses. So whether or not this young man does or doesn't eat kosher in future will be for him to work out. But I hope, whatever he decides, he remembers to say blessings

on what he eats — he can make them up himself if he wants — because the easy eating we all take for granted is a privilege not enjoyed by far too many of the world's population. Proper gratitude and appreciation is a Jewish imperative — and not just for the 'religious'.

*Clive Lawton is chair of Tzedek's trustees*



## Spotlight on a Trustee

Tzedek's executive board comprises a team of ten dedicated trustees who devote a great deal of time, energy and expertise to the charity. In the first of a series of trustee profiles, **Ian Rosmarin**, Tzedek's treasurer, explains how he became involved in Tzedek and why it is so important to him.

My personal involvement with Tzedek dates back to 1994 when I came across an advert in the Jewish Chronicle for an event in London at which Steve Miller, Tzedek's founder, had invited two Burmese dissidents to speak. I'd visited Burma some twenty years earlier but had heard very little of it since, and went along with some interest. It was a successful meeting and I put my name on the mailing list, and some time later responded to an appeal for help with accounts.

After meeting the excellent Clive Lawton, I came onto the board and was formally appointed as a trustee on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1995. That was the exact mid-point of a financial year in which Tzedek's income was a princely £3000, reflecting clearly that at that time Tzedek's message was very much a minority interest and well outside of mainstream Jewish thinking. By contrast, the terrific energy of our professional staff and volunteers today is thankfully pushing against comparatively open doors.

Much of the work I did in the early days is now done by director Dan Berelowitz, but I oversee the creation and monitoring of our budget, I keep an eye on our book-keeping, ensure that we follow an effective system for approving payments, prepare the annual accounts, monitor relevant tax legislation and act as a resource for ad hoc financial issues that might

come up at the Tzedek office. Unrestricted donations (in which a donor does not specify a particular project that funds should support) give us the greatest flexibility and accounting for restricted funds can become complicated. But dealing assiduously with these pedestrian issues is a necessary part of ensuring that our donors' and partners' wishes are fully respected. I attend about six executive board meetings per year, where I certainly learn more than I put in. It's a privilege working with ex-overseas volunteers, our professional staff and other talented individuals on the board who between them contribute to an increasingly serious and significant pool of specialist knowledge.

Why do I hold Tzedek as a cause close to my heart? I have always feared the effects on any community of not understanding those outside of it. Hand in hand with that, I could never understand why one would not wish to treat another human being with respect. I am also a great believer in the net benefits, both personal and communal, generated by enterprising individuals entering into a trade. So to me, Tzedek's objective of addressing poverty by facilitating small, self-help, sustainable projects and educating our community about the underlying issues could not be a more naturally compelling imperative.



### Ian in a nut-shell

Name:	Ian Rosmarin
Age:	55
Profession:	Chartered accountant in central London
Married:	to Galia, a contemporary dancer from Cuba, who he met when her company toured the UK in 2000
Children:	Carlotta, 4, Felix, 2
Interests:	More challenging than they used to be, but they include Barbie, Roary the Racing Car and others.

## DONATION FORM

Please support Tzedek's essential work

Regular giving form

Yes, I would like to combat poverty and make a monthly donation to TZEDEK of ...

**£50**    **£25**    **£15**    other £ \_\_\_\_\_ a month

      

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### Gift Aid Declaration

If you pay tax you can add almost 30% to the amount we receive at no extra cost to you. Simply tick the declaration below.

I want TZEDEK to treat this donation and any further donations as Gift Aid donations until further notice.

### Single Donation

I'm making a donation of ...

£150     £100     £75     £50  
 £25     £15    other £ \_\_\_\_\_

I have pleasure in enclosing my cheque/voucher for £ \_\_\_\_\_ as my gift to Tzedek.

Cheques should be made payable to Tzedek. If you pay tax, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration above.

### Your details

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you do not require an acknowledgement of your donation.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Tzedek – The Jewish Social Action Hub,  
152 West End Lane, London, NW6 1SD

Tel: 020 7443 5121

Email: [info@tzedek.org.uk](mailto:info@tzedek.org.uk)

[www.tzedek.org.uk](http://www.tzedek.org.uk)

Registered charity 1016767  
Registered in England and Wales: 2781146

Registered Office: 1 Regent Street, London SW1Y 4NW



## Tzedek is...

...an overseas development and educational charity working in some of the poorest communities in Africa and Asia. Tzedek is motivated by Jewish values and teachings but works beyond the Jewish community to relieve poverty regardless of religion or race.

### Principal Aims:

- to provide direct support to small-scale, self-help, sustainable poverty relief development projects
- to educate people, particularly in the Jewish community, about the causes and effects of poverty and the Jewish obligation to respond
- to support campaigns that aim to bring an end to global poverty
- to run an overseas volunteer programme in which Jewish volunteers can work with local development projects in Africa and Asia

### What makes Tzedek Jewish?

In addition to drawing its support from within the Jewish community, Tzedek's work is guided by and expresses vital Jewish values. Tzedek understands tzedeka (charity) to be a form of tzedek (justice). Our work enables us to express the Jewish imperative of acting as an or *lagoyim* (a light to the world) and our responsibility to pursue *tikkun olam* (repair of the world). Maimonides said that the 'highest form of charity is to take a poor person into partnership' and this is now state-of-the-art overseas development practice.

**To donate to our valuable work, please fill out the donation form, or visit our website.**

### Mark your diaries for two major events...

#### The Tzedek Annual Public Meeting (incorporating the AGM)

Sunday 18th October, all are welcome.

Time: 10am – 12 with optional lunch and discussions until 1:30pm

Venue: London School of Jewish Studies, Hendon

Chair: Clive Lawton

Free admission but booking is essential for security reasons. Please email [info@tzedek.org.uk](mailto:info@tzedek.org.uk) to confirm your place.

#### The Age of Stupid

Wednesday 11th November

Join the Jewish Social Action Forum for a screening of *The Age of Stupid* - starring Pete Postlethwaite as an old man living in the devastated world of 2055, watching archive footage from 2008 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance? - to launch the Jewish community's environmental campaign. Following the film Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, will join us for a Q&A. This will be his keynote address to the Jewish community in the run up to the Copenhagen climate talks in December.

Time: 8pm, Price: £10

To book, call the Tricycle Box Office on 020 7328 1000 or visit [www.tricycle.co.uk](http://www.tricycle.co.uk)

