

**ABRAHAM'S TENT** is a community-based program with Columbus House ([www.columbushouse.org](http://www.columbushouse.org)), which, through the generosity of local religious congregations and organizations, provides shelter and case management for 12-15 weeks for a group of adult men experiencing homelessness from December through the beginning of April throughout Greater New Haven. On a rotating basis, volunteers from each host site provide shelter, meals, and fellowship from early evening through breakfast each day for one week.



This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that a group will be physically hosted at BEKI. For the 3 years previous to that, we had participated as supporting partners during the week a group was hosted at the Church of the Holy Spirit (COHS) in West Haven. The partnership was a wonderful experience and although we have switched roles in recent years, we always enjoy working with our friends from COHS and look forward to doing so again this year.

**BEKI will host Abraham's Tent from March 20<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

The Abraham's Tent participants must apply before the winter to participate. Once chosen and the program begins, the participants arrive in the late afternoon daily to Columbus House, are interviewed to make sure they are in suitable condition to participate that day, shower, collect or store their belongings and bedding, and travel together by van to that week's host location, arriving by about 6pm with several members of the Columbus House staff. After settling in, participants and volunteers dine and spend the evening together. The men will spend a comfortable, warm and safe overnight at BEKI, with several BEKI or COHS volunteers on-site. In the early morning, breakfast is served for all, and the van will transport the participants to Columbus House to continue their daily activities. They will return each night of that week to BEKI. All case management is done by professionals from Columbus House.

Most host organizations prepare meals through pot-luck participation of their members. ***Because of BEKI's kashrut standards, all meals will either be prepared in the BEKI kitchen or through an approved kosher caterer.***

Over the last 8 years, many of the participants who completed this program have moved to transitional or permanent housing. Each works with a case manager to figure out their best next step. The Tikun Olam committee remains in touch with several of our guests from previous years and we're happy to continue to support their efforts and their moves to permanent housing. Although last year the program was able to include women, for a number of reasons, once again this year, participants will include only men.

The BEKI Tikun Olam Committee is proud to be able to coordinate BEKI's effort in this worthwhile project.

Sign up [HERE](#) to help in any/all of the following ways at

- **DONATE funds to help defray additional costs**
- **Volunteer to help shop before and during the week**
- **Volunteer to help cook dinners and/or breakfasts before or during the week**
- **Volunteer to help serve dinners and/or breakfasts**
- **Sponsor dinner or breakfast for one or more nights**
- **Sign up as an overnight volunteer for one or more nights**
- **Help with logistics and equipment (moving around furniture, TVs, provide power strips, etc.)**

For more information, please contact the Abraham's Tent at BEKI Coordinators:

[Darryl Kuperstock](#), [Steve Werlin](#), [Ivan Alvarez](#), [Rob Lettick](#), [Cynthia Rubin](#)