



## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application

### Section 3: Category

Please choose up to two (2) selections. Please note, you can only win in one category. The co-chairs reserve the right to reclassify your program.

- Club Administration
- Community Outreach
- FJMC Other
- Fundraising
- Health and Wellness
- Hearing Men's Voices
- Jewish Observance
- Israel / Masorti
- Keruv
- Men's Club Shabbat
- Programming for Younger Men
- Shomrei Ha'aretz
- Synagogue Service Project
- World Wide Wrap
- Youth Programming
- Shoah Yellow Candle
- I'm not sure, select for our club
- Best Overall Activities** \*\*To apply for this award, please see specific instructions in "2015 Torch Award Overview," available on FJMC website\*\*

### Section 4: Program overview

**Brief Summary** - Please explain your program in 2-3 sentences.

Each year, the BSBI Brotherhood teams with the local chapters of UNICO, the Masons and the Knights of Columbus for the Brotherhood in Action Community Breakfast. The Breakfast raises money to benefit one or more local children struggling with life-threatening disease, in the process fostering friendship and understanding among men of different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

**Detailed Summary** - Please answer the following questions. Be as detailed as possible.

- What were the goals of your program? Are there specific problems or challenges that it addresses?
- How does your program enhance the image of FJMC, your region, and your club?
- What is its value in building or strengthening your club?

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

- Who is your target audience? (i.e. congregation at large, chapter, community)?
- How does your program support FJMC's mission, Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life?
- Describe the source of your program and its unique aspects. Is this an original program or an adaptation or enhancement of a previous program (if so, which one)?
- Please attach planning and marketing materials, as well as budgetary planning so the program can be replicated by other clubs.

On Sunday, February 22, 2015, The Beth Sholom B'nai Israel Brotherhood, together with our partners in the local chapters of UNICO, the Masons and the Knights of Columbus, presented the Brotherhood in Action Community Breakfast at the Masonic Temple in Manchester, Connecticut.

The BSBI Brotherhood is the men's club of Beth Sholom B'nai Israel in Manchester. Participation in the Community Breakfast allows us an opportunity to raise funds for a local charitable purpose, while at the same time, interacting with and communicating with men from other social and religious groups. The goals of the program are to support children with life threatening diseases, while at the same time fostering understanding and a sense of community with our non-Jewish neighbors.

The Brotherhood in Action Community Breakfast has been held in this form since 1987 and has raised over \$100,000 in charitable contributions to help children with life threatening illnesses and their families. Our Community Breakfast is an offshoot of an State-wide effort started in 1964 when the leaders of fraternal organizations in Connecticut agreed that brotherhood had greater meaning with charitable action. The first Brotherhood in Action event in Manchester, Connecticut was held in 1967. With the formation of the BSBI Brotherhood as a chapter of the FJMC in 2006, we took over Jewish representation in this community effort.

Representatives of each of the organizations participate in a series of planning meetings leading up to the date of the event. The meetings begin in the Fall and continue monthly, and then with increasing frequency as the date of the event approaches. Individuals are assigned to solicit donations, to publicize the event, to organize the kitchen and wait staff, and to obtain the supplies needed for the breakfast. This year, the committee added a raffle and solicited donations for the raffle baskets.

Members of our men's club send a letter and tickets to each family in our schul, with a request that they consider donating the price of admission, \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, whether or not they are able to attend the breakfast itself. The BSBI volunteers then collect and account for that money as part of the overall fundraising effort. On the date of the event, BSBI Brotherhood members make up most of the wait staff serving breakfast while members of other organizations cook the food and manage the raffle.

The Community Breakfast is an outlet for members of our men's club to undertake volunteer and community service. It involves our club, and through our club, our congregation, in a positive event that encompasses the greater community. Our members come together to help plan the event,

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

and then to execute the event on the day of the breakfast, working together and building club and community spirit. We are able to pursue the mitzvot of visiting the sick and contributing to those less fortunate.

The beneficiaries of this year's event were Katrina Theriaque and Eliana Bernier.

Katrina is 7 years old and has a condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type 3 Severe, a progressive disease affecting her bones, connective tissue, bowels, hearing and eyes. She has also been diagnosed with Basilar Invagination (Brain Stem crowding) last year, which is a very serious condition that can lead to paralyzation and brain damage. Katrina has had many procedures with more to follow. On her Birthday in November, 2 year old Eliana was diagnosed with Bi-lateral Wilms' Tumor. Wilms' is a pediatric kidney cancer that typically presents itself on one kidney. Eliana's diagnosis showed that she had the tumor in both kidneys with growth extending into her ureter and bladder. Eliana visits the Connecticut Children's Medical Center twice a week for chemotherapy and follow up appointments. Eliana's medical treatment over an 18 week period includes chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery on her kidneys.

Both families are stretched to the limit in caring for their children, and the funds raised, although modest, are greatly needed and appreciated. The future of the children recognized is uncertain at best. The critical nature of this event is exemplified by the fact that one of the original beneficiaries identified for this year, Diego, passed away before the event took place. A donation was made to his family.

Breakfast consists of a choice of beverage (coffee, tea, water, orange juice, milk), a fruit cup, scrambled eggs, hash browns, a bagel and a muffin. In addition to food, this year's event featured a face painter and clown to entertain the beneficiaries and the other children (and adults) who attended, and a raffle of donated goods to raise additional funds.

Publicity for and information about the event was shared and can be found at the following locations:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Brotherhood-In-Action-of-Manchester-CT/170705373037603>

<http://brotherhoodinaction.blogspot.com/>

<http://patch.com/connecticut/manchester/brotherhood-action-community-breakfast-0#.VQWcvrXs0cc.email>

Journal Inquirer, January 20, 2015, p.5

Program Planning / Timeline - Please provide a timeline of the key tasks, participants, and responsibilities required in order to make this program work. This may be provided as an inserted

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

table or you may replace and insert as an embedded Excel spreadsheet. Please be as detailed as possible, so that other groups may replicate your success.

Each of the participating organizations designates representatives to act as members of the BIA organizing committee. The committee meetings begin in the Fall and continue monthly, and then with increasing frequency as the date of the event approaches. Individuals are assigned to solicit donations from their respective organizations, to publicize the event, to organize the kitchen and wait staff, and to obtain the supplies needed for the breakfast. This year, the committee added a raffle and solicited donations for the raffle baskets. BSBI representatives to the committee were Harold Meyer, Calvin Vinick, Spin Zucker and Alan Goldstein.

The Committee started by identifying a date for the event and potential beneficiaries of the Breakfast, with assistance from local aid organizations. A flyer was produced identifying the date and beneficiaries, and the Facebook page and Blogspot entry were updated to include that information. Local news organizations are advised of the plans. In December and January, committee members solicited ads to be included on a placement eventually provided to each person who attended the Breakfast. In January, members of our men's club sent a letter and tickets to each family in our shul, with a request that they consider donating the price of admission, \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, whether or not they are able to attend the breakfast itself. The BSBI committee members then collected and accounted for the responses to that solicitation as part of the overall fundraising effort. Leading up to the event, BSBI members were solicited to volunteer at the event. On the date of the event, BSBI Brotherhood members make up most of the wait staff serving breakfast while members of other organizations cook the food and manage the raffle. In the days leading up to the event, food and supplies are solicited and purchased. All volunteers help the day of the event, including with the clean up immediately afterward. Committee members are pleased to participate in the check presentation ceremony that takes place shortly after the event.

### Section 5: Certification

**I certify that my club has not won a Gold Torch Award for essentially the same program in a previous year.** (Previous silver and bronze winners in this category that submit an enhanced application only qualify to be considered for a Gold Torch award.)

Certification: Initials:   JGS  

### Section 6: Pictures

For all non-Shabbat programs, please attach photographs of your program.



## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application



BSBI Brotherhood organizers and volunteers Harold Meyer and Cal Vinick at registration



BSBI Brotherhood Volunteer Ken Wichman serving breakfast

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application



BSBI Brotherhood organizer and volunteer Spin Zucker arranging food



BSBI Brotherhood volunteer Phil Margolis taking food orders

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application



BSBI Brotherhood volunteers Jack Steigelfest and Ari Hartstein



Beneficiary Katrina Theriaque



## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application



Beneficiary Eliana Bernier (with mother and grandmother)



BSBI Brotherhood organizers Harold Meyer, Spin Zucker and Cal Vinick

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application



Check presentation to beneficiaries

### Section 7: Video

If possible, we ask that you please create a 3-5 minute video describing your program. Feel free to be creative in your submission, but try to include the following components:

- brief introduction, including name and goal of the program
- how did you encourage participation in the program
- how did you make the program meaningful to participants
- impact of the program to your club, synagogue and community

**DO NOT ATTACH VIDEO TO THIS APPLICATION.** Files are to be uploaded directly to YouTube, named in the following format:

“FJMC Torch Awards 2015\_ChapterName\_ProgramName\_#”

**Please review detailed instructions in the document “2015 Torch Award Overview.”**



## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

We prepared a PowerPoint presentation to further illustrate this program. It can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0xMElw2Mng>

That's a small l after the capital E. (or search FJMC 2015 torch award and it can be found.)

Spin Zucker participated in completing this Application and video. Spin can be reached at [spinzucker@aol.com](mailto:spinzucker@aol.com)