Key Events in the History of Beth Am's Tzedek Work

1992

Launches partnership with

neighborhood public school, John Eager Howard Elementary (now Dorothy I. Height Elementary), where congregants volunteer to tutor, mentor, run book and food drives, coordinate outdoor education trips, lead after-school programs, and serve as teacher partners, reading buddies, and club leaders.The committee also makes annual gifts, including a freezer for the Judy Center food pantry, schools supplies for the school store, and scholarships for enrichment programs.

1999

Creates the Lakeside Neighbors Coalition (LNC) as a partnership between the Beth Am Social Action Committee and nearby residents. Undertakes regular beautification and socialfabric building projects in the blocks surrounding the synagogue.

2009

Establishes Mitzvah Day on December 25, when volunteers put together and deliver Christmas packages to 36 families in need, including holiday dinners, books, and more.

2017

Launches Environmental Team (formerly Shomrai Adama) to lead environmental projects at Beth Am, such as Tu B'Shevat Seder, spiritual nature walks, Tashlich hazardous waste collections, and a B'nai Mitzvah class kayak tour of the Harbor.

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1996-1997

Assists the Reservoir Hill Improvement Council (RHIC) in writing and submitting a grant application to the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative. RHIC receives \$150,000 over three years to fund the salary and benefits for a community organizer, its first paid staff person.

2001

In partnership with Episcopal Housing Corporation, successfully applies for support from Baltimore City and the Abell Foundation to rehabilitate two vacant houses, at 915 Chauncey Avenue and 939 Brooks Lane. Beth Am members purchase 915 Chauncey as a residence.

2013

Establishes In For Of, Inc. (IFO), a separate nonprofit of Beth Am and Reservoir Hill community members, to focus on relational justice through cultural and community activities, promoting Beth Am as a neighborhood meeting/event space, and facilitating social justice causes within Reservoir Hill.



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Hosts Beth Am's first "Party at with a DJ, food, ice cream increase turnout and build

the Polls" at the synagogue polling place on Election Day trucks, and kids' activities to neighborhood relationships.

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2021

Aids the Afghan community settling in Reservoir Hill with financial and legal support, tutoring, and driving lessons, as well as helping to advocate for better living conditions and set up small businesses.

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2024

Leverages a grant from the African-American Mayors Association to establish the Byron McKenney-Powell Free Community Market, a free weekly food pantry for neighborhood residents in Beth Am's courtyard, in memory of a young congregant with a passion for serving the community.

2020

At the onset of the Covid pandemic and the economic hardship that resulted, establishes with Baltimore City and other non-profits a free weekly food distribution at Beth Am that continues on Tuesday mornings.

2022

Combines the Social Action Committee, IFO, and the Environmental team to form Tzedek Beth Am (TzBA), a cohesive organization to oversee service, advocacy, and relational justice work at Beth Am.

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