

## RELIGION

## Jewish organizations to administer survey

Submitted to the Post

Jewish Senior Life and the Jewish Service of Rochester are administering an online survey to study Jewish poverty in the community, against the backdrop of a larger poverty initiative underway in Rochester until March 31.

"The purpose of this study is to better understand the very real poverty-related needs for supports and services within our Jewish community, for those of all ages," said Michael King, president and CEO of Jewish Senior Life. "Our goal is to understand the need for supports and services that might now be unrecognized and unmet."

Janet Sunkin, president and CEO of Jewish Family Service, agrees that Jewish poverty has not gathered as much attention as it needs.

"The unanticipatedly strong response to both the Brighton Food Cupboard and Brighton Your Wardrobe programs made it clear that there is more poverty within the Jewish community than has been acknowledged and addressed," Sunkin said.

It is confidential and anonymous to participate. To take the survey, visit [JewishHiddenReality.org](http://JewishHiddenReality.org).

For those without Internet access, call 585-461-0110 for help in finding another way to participate. Computer kiosks are



Michael King, president and CEO of Jewish Senior Life, said the purpose of an online survey to study Jewish poverty in the community is "to understand the need for supports and services that might now be unrecognized and unmet."

PHOTOS PROVIDED



Janet Sunkin, president and CEO of Jewish Family Service, said high interest in local charities "made it clear that there is more poverty within the Jewish community than has been acknowledged and addressed."

PHOTOS PROVIDED

available in the lobbies of the Jewish Home, 2021 S. Winton Road, Rochester, and the JCC, 1200 Edgewood Ave., Rochester.

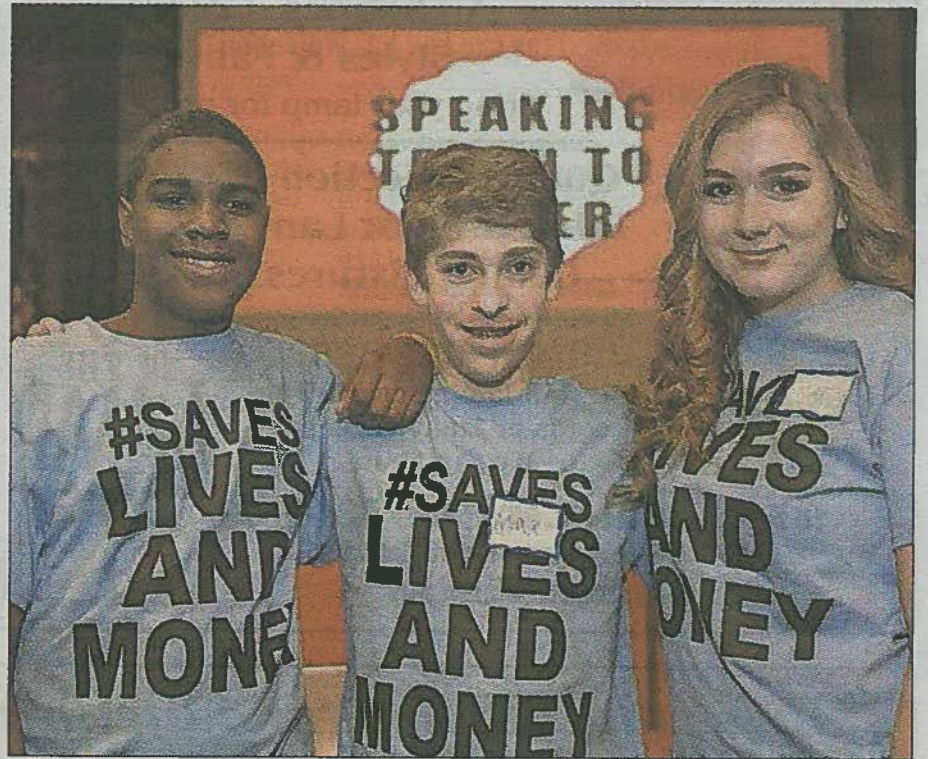
## GOVERNMENT

## Local youth advocates meet with lawmakers on tobacco

Submitted to the Post

Youth and tobacco control program contractors gathered at the New York State Capitol recently to educate lawmakers about the value of New York State Tobacco Control Programs.

These programs, many of which are funded by the state, have proven to help prevent youth tobacco use and aid people in quitting, saving lives and millions of state tax dollars. Representatives from Smoking and Health Action Coalition of Monroe County and Reality Check members are visiting with their lawmakers as well as participating in workshops and scheduled events to inform others about the important tobacco prevention work they are doing in their communities. "Mobilizing youth and showing them that they have a voice is crucial in tobacco policy work. Legislative Day is a great opportunity for this," said Joseph Potter, Reality Check youth coordinator, SHAC of Monroe County. Annual health care costs directly caused by smoking in New York state are \$10.39 billion, with the tax burden per



Student delegates from Reality Check, a youth action committee supporting tobacco control efforts, met with lawmakers to discuss policies related to tobacco. PHOTO PROVIDED

household from smoking-caused government expenditures totaling \$1,488. There are 28,200 deaths in the state each year due to tobacco use and thousands of individuals who are living with illnesses related to tobacco use. Although the current adult smoking rate is 14.4 percent in the state, those who make less than \$15,000

per year smoke at the rate of 26.8 percent, and those who are in poor mental health smoke at the much higher rate of 33.7 percent. In addition to educating the public and creating environments that are supportive of tobacco-free norms, tobacco control advocates partner with health systems across the state to ensure that all patients are

screened and treated for tobacco use and dependency. "It was really cool to travel to the New York State Capitol to attend a workshop hosted by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and to have a chance to network with Reality Check Members from different counties," said Katherine Flanigen, a Reality Check youth member from Pittsford.

## IN BRIEF

### Avanti Summit to be held in Rochester

The Avanti Summit, hosted by David Mammano, founder of Next

Step Education Group, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 4 at the Strathallan Rochester, 550 East Ave., Rochester.

The day's panel, "The Pleasures & Pitfalls of

Being an Entrepreneur," will feature panelists Mike Linehan, Arunas Chesonis, Kathleen Pringle, Rob Levin, Bruce Peters, Lauren Dixon, Richard A. Kaplan and Phil Saunders.

Tickets are \$195 per person, \$150 per person for a group of five or more and \$99 per person for a group of 10 or more. For tickets, visit [avanti-summit.eventbrite.com](http://avanti-summit.eventbrite.com).

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