

**WESTHAB, INC., WITH SUPPORT OF UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK,  
TO TAKE PART IN JEWISH SOCIAL ACTION MONTH**

Westhab partners with J-Teen Leadership of Westchester for a year of cultural learning and social change in Yonkers.

**Wednesday, February 6, 2013 (Yonkers, NY)** — [Jewish Social Action Month \(JSAM\)](#), a global initiative which transforms the Jewish month of *Cheshvan* from a month without Jewish holidays into a global month celebrating [volunteerism](#) and community building, took place last year from Oct. 17, 2012 - Nov. 14, 2012. With the support of UJA-Federation of New York, teenagers from the Elm Street Youth Center (ESYC) – Westhab’s out-of-school-time youth center located in the Nodine Hill neighborhood of southwest Yonkers – teamed up with teenagers from J-Teen Leadership in November, 2012 to spearhead several community-building projects in Nodine Hill.

J-Teen Leadership is dedicated to empowering and inspiring Jewish teens from all backgrounds with leadership training, core Jewish values and community service, so they can start contributing to the Jewish community and the world. Together, Westhab teens and J-teens have taken on several important community development projects in Nodine Hill, including building a community mural, creating a mini-park, participating in community clean-ups, and leading a day of recreational activities for children in the community. Teens get together each month to develop new ideas and to learn from and about the unique cultural backgrounds of one another.

“Westhab is grateful to the UJA-Federation of New York and to J-Teen Leadership, two groups who have been instrumental in aiding Westhab and the residents of Nodine Hill in accomplishing real community change,” said Westhab President & CEO Bob Miller. A culminating Day of Service will take place on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Nodine Hill, during which teens and community members will come together to complete this very special JSAM initiative.

By taking part in [Jewish Social Action Month](#), Westhab is joining 34 other UJA-Federation supported programs with participants from more than 100 other organizations in the New York area to help bridge the gap between people of diverse social and geographical backgrounds. Through these collaborations, participating organizations will deepen their working relationships and help make life better for thousands more individuals and families. For more information about Westhab, please contact John Parssinen at [John.Parssinen@westhab.org](mailto:John.Parssinen@westhab.org).

**About Westhab, Inc.:**

Over the last 30 years, Westhab has moved 6,000 homeless households to permanent housing; built or renovated **2,000** affordable housing units; placed 4,000 people receiving public assistance into employment; and delivered services to over 10,000 at-risk young people. We are the largest provider of housing and social services to the homeless in Westchester County, we own and/or manage 1,000 units of affordable housing, and we deliver a comprehensive range of services to help families and singles succeed in permanent housing and achieve self-sufficiency. For more information on how to donate or how to volunteer, please visit our website at [www.westhab.org](http://www.westhab.org).

**About UJA-Federation of New York:**

For more than 90 years, UJA-Federation has been a central force for communal planning and philanthropy in the [New York Jewish community](#). Through UJA-Federation, more than 60,000 donors pool their resources to help people in need, inspire a passion for Jewish life and learning, and strengthen Jewish communities around the world — to address the issues that matter to us most as Jews and as New Yorkers. Working with nearly 100 network beneficiary agencies, synagogues, and other Jewish organizations, our reach spans from New York to Israel to more than 60 other countries around the world, touching 4.5 million people each year. Because we do the most good when we do it together. For more information on how to donate or [how to volunteer](#), please visit our website at [www.ujafedny.org](http://www.ujafedny.org).

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