

From: Nancy Ratzan
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 12:33 PM
Subject: From Strength to Strength

Dear Leaders,

One of the best predictors of whether a victim of domestic violence will be able to stay away from her abuser is her capacity for economic independence. NCJW believes that no one should have to choose between personal safety and food, housing, or other basic needs. Our next national campaign, under development by a task force of section and national leaders and staff, will address empowering women and families that have experienced domestic violence through strategies that enhance economic independence.

I would like to call your attention to a recent story submitted by the [NCJW Seattle Section](#) about a very special project they have been working on called *Shalom Bayit: Furnishing Peaceful Homes*. Seattle's section members address the often bleak home situations of domestic violence survivors who are trying to rebuild their lives and those of their children by providing them with gently used household items so they can set up their own home. If you want to read the full story about this inspiring program, please visit our website by clicking [here](#).

NCJW Seattle Section's dedication to women and families exemplifies the powerful union of NCJW issues and local action; the section raises awareness of domestic violence issues by collecting goods for *Shalom Bayit* while also providing direct action by empowering victims of domestic violence by helping them to set up a new home, and, thereby, a new and better life.

Each and every day, our sections work to honor the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah* (the duty of performing righteous acts) by engaging in important community service and social action projects that better the lives of our underserved neighbors. The story of Seattle's *Shalom Bayit* is just one of many that highlight NCJW's dedication to our common mission – using our collective strength to strengthen those who need it the most. As a former section president, I know how challenging, but also how fulfilling, working to pursue this mission successfully can be, and I thank you for your continued leadership with NCJW.

In the coming months, look for more news and information on the launch of the new NCJW campaign. In the meantime, if there is a project, person, or action that you would like to share with your fellow NCJW members from across the country, please visit www.ncjw.org, and tell us about it. Sharing our successes through stories will not only help us bond, it will fortify our capacity to deliver our mission.

Hazak, Hazah, V' nithazek – may we go from strength to strength by strengthening each other. I look forward to hearing from you!

Shalom,



Nancy Ratzan
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A faith in the future. A belief in action.

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**NCJW's website has been redesigned with you in mind.
Visit the new www.ncjw.org and take action today!**