

LOCAL NEWS

Helping hands: Birmingham design firm marks 10th anniversary volunteering



DesignTeam Plus staff (from left): Thea Donahue, Jacob Bonacorsi, Mada Young, and Jo Alter spend the afternoon revisiting roots at Yad Ezra food pantry (courtesy of DesignTeam Plus)

By KATHY BLAKE | kblake@medianewsgroup.com | The Oakland Press
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Birmingham-based DesignTeam Plus celebrated their 10th anniversary by volunteering at Yad Ezra food pantry, where the firm originated. Team members had volunteered 10 years ago at Berkley-based Yad Ezra food pantry when the idea for the business sprouted.

"We've always prioritized volunteerism," said Shari Stein, co-owner of DesignTeam Plus in a press release.

"So when we thought about how to celebrate our 10th Anniversary, it made sense to go back to where we started and do what we love to do – giving back," Stein said.

As an instructor with Lawrence Technological University, Stein had brought her college and area high school students to the food pantry in 2010, to design an outdoor mural among other projects. Then, in 2012, Stein partnered with fellow LTU instructor and architect Harold Remlinger to create DesignTeam Plus and Team4Community, a service-focused subsidiary, according to the press release. Yad Ezra hired Team4Community to do preliminary planning for a new greenhouse, and DesignTeam Plus was awarded the greenhouse design project in 2015, with construction completed in spring 2016, according to the press release.

DesignTeam Plus employees recently celebrated the firm's 10th anniversary, working in the commercial-grade greenhouse that they designed, washing and bagging fresh vegetables for food pantry clients.

For more information, visit [designteamplus.com](https://www.designteamplus.com).