**The Hope - #2 - Fighting for Justice**

**Bema’aglei Tzdeek - “Circles of Justice**

**Bema’aglei Tzdeek’s Approach**

Bema’aglei Tzdeek (Circles of Justice) attempts to re-envision the "Jewish State," by integrating the values of Tzdeek, justice, into the social discourse, legislation, and daily life of Israel. Bema’aglei Tzdeek focuses on initiatives that pursue Tzdeek, justice, as opposed to Chesed, kindness. For example, if two individuals – one wheelchair-bound and one able-bodied – approach an inaccessible building and the latter lifts the former so that he can get inside, that is an act of Chesed - a sacred and special act without which the person could not get in the door. If, the two individuals work together to ensure that the building is accessible, so that the wheelchair-bound person does not need to rely on the kindness of someone else and can enter the building by herself – that is an act of Tzdeek.

Bema’aglei Tzdeek runs many initiatives and programs across Israel in their pursuit of a just Israel. They include:

1. The Tav Chevrati, the Social Seal, a certificate granted free of charge to restaurants that are accessible to people with disabilities and treat their workers ethically.
2. "Employment Watchdogs," a project that empowers high school students to advocate on behalf of custodial workers working in their schools.
3. Biannual, large-scale conferences tied to specific dates in the Jewish calendar.
4. Ongoing educational programs incorporating Jewish text study, an in-depth understanding of current socioeconomic issues in Israeli society, and practical social activism.

**Inspired? Here’s how you can get involved.**

There are many ways for inside and outside Israel to be a part of this work. Visitors to Israel can frequent Tav Chevrati restaurants. There are over 350 restaurants across Israel with Tav certification; you can visit Bema’aglei Tzdeek’s website before your trip and plan accordingly. When you frequent the restaurants, make sure to let them know you’re there because of the Tav! If you are going to be in Israel for at least 6 weeks you can also do an internship at Bema’aglei Tzdeek. Tax deductible donations can also be made on the website. Finally, anyone across the world can apply Bema’aglei Tzdeek values and techniques, such as their employment watchdog program, to their own Jewish community. For more information on all of these opportunities, visit the Bema’aglei Tzdeek website: http://www.mtzdeek.org.il/english/default_en.asp