SCHECK HILLEL STUDENTS BUILD HOMES, AND EMPOWER FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY

NATALIE ABRAMOWITZ SHares HER EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE

About two years ago, I began hearing about TECHO from a family friend. Every time she posted something on social media, my desire to participate grew stronger until I decided to take action. TECHO is an international organization that builds houses in impoverished communities. I felt the need to give back with the resources I have as a 16-year-old: my time, my work, and my passion.

I knew I couldn’t accomplish this alone, so I established alliances with both TECHO and the Costa Rican Jewish day school, Instituto Jaim Wulzman. As the founder of Schack Hillel’s TECHO Club, my peers and I raised over $15,000 in funds and prepared logistically for the two-day, two-home build.

While in Costa Rica, we experienced first hand the hardships that many people face day to day — no electricity, no water, extreme temperatures, and difficult living conditions. However, we also experienced the satisfaction of hard work, determination, and the ability to better someone’s life by providing a safe structure in which to live. We learned to put pilings in, to hammer, to saw, to frame, to hang windows and doors, and to install a roof. But most of all, we learned teamwork, perseverance, and perspective. All of these skills and feelings have now been instilled in us and have grown in unmeasurable yet impactful ways.

Our hope is that the TECHO Club will continue this effort annually and to share the wonderful experience with as many of our peers as possible.
Student Participants: Natalie Abramowitz, Mauricio Fuhrman, Ilan Koenig, Jenna Lieberman, Sofia Nessim, Jimmy Rosen, Elliot Sternberg
Faculty Chaperones: Rabbi Elie Ganz, Cristina Lopez

About TECHO – The mission of TECHO, a non-profit organization, is to bring together young volunteers and families living in poverty to transform slums into thriving communities across Latin America. TECHO is convinced that poverty can be permanently eradicated if society as a whole recognizes poverty as a priority and actively works towards overcoming it.