

Megilat Ester, the story of Ester, sets the traditions for the Holiday of Purim: “Umishloah manot ish l'reyehu Umatanot la'evyonim”, “And sending parcels, each man to his friend, and gifts to the poor.”

Based on this, the tradition is to give assorted, ready to eat food items (minimally two kinds), and to give charity.

In this vein, many Jewish institutions, such as schools and synagogues, arrange for mishloach manot as a fundraising project on Purim. They assemble food baskets, and sometimes deliver them. These baskets also often include enjoyable, but non-food items. They request a set donation in return for each basket.

Sometimes, these packages are from one person or family to another, while other times these packages or baskets are paid for and sent by many community members.

By assembling Purim baskets in return for donations to NACOEJ, you can fulfill both the mitzvah of mishloach manot and matanot l'evyonim.