



HIGHLIGHTS OF YEDEI CHESSED



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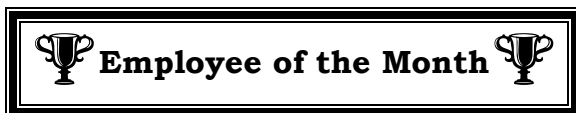
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11th Annual Weekend Retreat

On Shabbos, Parshas Vayigash, Yedei Chesed held its eleventh annual Magic Moments Weekend Retreat at the Berkeley Carteret Oceanfront Hotel in Asbury Park, New Jersey. The program, geared for the children with one on one volunteers, allowed the parents a chance to relax, participate in the lectures and time to share valued experiences with other parents in similar situations. From the feedback we are receiving, we're glad to see that much chizuk was gained from all the speakers, as well as one parent from the other. The joyful & lively dancing which took place on Motzei Shabbos truly was an uplifting sight! One of the highlights of this year's retreat was the children's carnival which took place on Sunday morning. There were booths, prizes, cotton candy, popcorn and don't forget the clown who gave everyone balloons! In short, all who attended, thoroughly enjoyed every "Moment of Magic"!

Tapes of Dr. Lerner's speech are available at Yedei Chesed's office. If you would like to come pick up a copy, please call 425-0887 ext. 0.



Mrs. Alice Sirote, FSS (Family Support Services) Coordinator, was Employee of the Month for November. Her warmth, devotion and true caring for all her clients shines through in everything she does. Her diligence and ability to meet deadlines make her a valued employee of Yedei Chesed.

For the month of December, Mrs. Bassie Meghnagi, a service coordinator was chosen. This honor reflects her outstanding work as a service coordinator and as the program director of the new social skills training group. Her excellent advocacy skills and creativity coupled with her being on top of every situation is worthy of recognition.



WORKPOINT

Where Work Is The Point

The Workpoint evening programs are now going full swing with programs every Wednesday night. We already had two learning "chavrusah" nights. The learning program took place at Ohr Somayach. Some students from Ohr Somayach volunteered to learn with the bachurim attending the Workpoint program. This arrangement worked out beautifully. Workpoint's next chavrusah night is scheduled for January 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call Mr. Eliezer Schwadron at ext. 248.



Teenagers Perform at the Nursing Home

The girls' teen group at Magic Moments Sunday Respite Program put on a beautiful Chanukah performance at the nursing home. The girls' parents were invited to attend and all the hard work they put into practicing their songs showed! It was an amazing success! They truly enhanced the residents' Chanukah and the administration of the nursing home is hoping that they will visit them again soon!





Magic Moments Bakes Chanukah Cookies

Wow! What fun! The children at Magic Moment's Sunday Respite Program had a great time baking Chanukah shaped sugar cookies on a Chanukah tablecloth. When the cookies were done, the children took them home. They also brought home the recipe of the cookies so their mothers can make them too!



🎵 Chanukah Party 🎵

A pizza party, was one special Chanukah treat for the children attending the Magic Moments After School Program. They enjoyed a delicious supper of pizza and french fries. Everyone loved the food and had a good time!



Points of Interest:



The young men living in the group homes on Albert Drive and College Road got together for a Chanukah Party. Mr. Weinberger came with a 4-man band and put on a smashing concert. Yisroel Williger enhanced the event by singing beautiful Chanukah songs. Everyone went home with a Chanukah gift and the party was enjoyed by all.



Our Girls' Sibling Support Groups are once again meeting on a regular basis. The two groups, divided by age meet once a month. Group 1 is for girls in the 2nd - 5th grades and group 2 is for girls in the 6th - 8th grades.

In December, group 1 met in the Yedei Chesed offices for a delicious pizza lunch. The girls also did a picture frame project and gained a lot from discussing different feelings they experience and productive ways of dealing with those feelings. Group 2 went on an outing to New City Lanes to Bowl. The girls had a great time bowling and then went to Jerusalem Pizza for ice cream where the girls were able to sit down and connect. Both groups enjoyed meeting with other siblings of children with disabilities and are looking forward to the next group session.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining one of these groups, please contact Miss Ahuva Shandelman at ext. 287.



Spirit! Magazine has started the Spirit! Community Blogspot, where parents of Children with developmental disabilities can share experiences and get chizuk. The Spirit! Community can be accessed at www.spiritcommunity.blogspot.com.



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