



HIGHLIGHTS OF YEDEI CHESSED



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Great News for Teen Girls!

The program that you have all been waiting for has started! The Magic Moments Sunday Respite Program has added a new division for teen girls between the ages of 13 and 18. Penina Schechter is the counselor of the teen group. She prepares different activities for the girls which include; arts & crafts, board games and a trip once a month. Eight girls have already joined this program. If you know of anyone who can benefit from joining this group, please contact Mrs. Renee Rubinfeld at ext. 303 and leave a message.



Rosh Chodesh Party

The young men living in the group homes on Albert Drive and College Road enjoyed a Rosh Chodesh party for Rosh Chodesh Kislev. Rabbi Avi Frank entertained the boys with an interesting story and Mr. Ari Steinberg, the residence manager, played music on his keyboard.

Some of the boys have started to build wooden menorahs for Chanukah. It will be fun to light menorahs that they have crafted themselves!



Workpoint Employers Receive Certificate of Appreciation

At the Bikur Cholim/Yedei Chesed's Annual Dinner, held November 16, 2003, employers working with our Workpoint Program were recognized for their efforts. They each received a 'Certificate of Appreciation' reflecting our respect and admiration. It is gratifying to know how much can be achieved when people in the community work together to help others.

The following is a list of Businesses working with Workpoint:

Five Star Judaica	Peace Through Play
Bubba'a Bagels	Rose Classics
Eli's Bagels	The Grapevine
Golden Taste	Wesley Kosher
Main Street Travel	Zishe's Bakery

Workpoint helped 2 people find jobs this month. One of the two is Akiva * who works at a bagel shop. He assists his boss in many different ways. Akiva keeps the refrigerator stocked with items, maintains the cleanliness of the shop and packages food items. His boss says that Akiva is contributing to the success of his business!

*name changed for confidentiality.



No Need To Be Stuck Without A ResHab Worker Anymore

If your Reshab worker calls you to let you know that she can't make it, call Mrs. Chana Zinshteyn at ext. 275. She will cover for your ResHab worker whenever she is available.



Employee of the Month

Yedei Chesed would like to congratulate our Employees of the Month! This new program is our way of showing recognition to employees who do an outstanding job! **Mrs. Sarah Altman**, Step Forward Service Coordinator was 'Employee of the Month' in November, and **Mrs. Sarah Rosenthal**, Medicaid Service Coordinator is the 'Employee of the Month' for December. Please join us in applauding these two individuals on a job well done!



Mrs. Robin Goldstein, CSW Shares Her Feelings On Counseling

Mrs. Goldstein remembers that even as a little girl, she always felt that she had the innate ability to understand the way children think. This is what made her choose social work as her profession. Mrs. Goldstein has had extensive training in her field. She has a B.A from Vassar College and an M.S.W from NYU Graduate School of Social Work. Her warmth and kind heart, coupled with this special gift of understanding others, makes her the great therapist she is.

"The most important trait for a successful social worker," Mrs. Goldstein says, "is a strong will to help others." When a client comes to see her, she automatically puts herself in their shoes and tries to think what would make her act or feel the way that person is acting or feeling. In this way, she can find the source of the problem and help those involved solve it.

Mrs. Robin Goldstein heads the counseling department at Yedei Chesed. This department counsels not only children with disabilities, but also their parents and siblings. Yedei Chesed's counseling department currently provides services to over 50 clients.

Our sibling support group will be meeting regularly again. To sign up for this group, please call Mrs. Merav Lalouch at extension 253.



Teen Boys Enjoy Their After School Program

Chaim * enjoys every minute of the program and wouldn't miss it for anything. His mother had a rough time convincing him to go to the doctor, when the appointment coincided with the program.

*name changed for confidentiality.

All the boys learned a lot this month during the many outings they took. They baked challos at Bagels 'N More, explored the Palisades mall and enjoyed each other's company at Sports World. Every Thursday, the boys help out at Tomchei Shabbos, by packaging food to distribute to needy families of the community.

Currently, there are 7 boys, aged 11-15 attending this program and 4 more are on the waitlist. Mr. Klein, the program coordinator is looking to hire more staff to help him accommodate more boys to the program. If you or someone you know, would like to join its staff or join the program, please contact Mr. Klein at ext. 304.



When Can "All Work And No Play" Hinder Your Child's Development

On November 4, 2003, Mrs. Robin Goldstein, CSW presented to the Mothers' Support Group the benefits of play therapy. Play therapy provides a window into your child's world and gives parents an awareness of issues with which their children are dealing. Play therapy is a method that can be used to overcome trauma and fears, physical or emotional in nature. Parents become more aware of ways children act that may signal a problem. The crisis can then be resolved with therapy or by developing effective parenting skills.

The meeting was well attended. The mothers left with a better understanding of play therapy and how their child can gain from it.

Points of Interest:



The Mothers' Support Group for mothers of children with Aspergers, Autism and P.D.D. met on Tuesday, December 2nd. The topic discussed was "Seeing the Rainbow in the Spectrum. "



The Fathers' Support Group was scheduled to meet on Motzei Shabbos, December 6, but due to the snowstorm it was postponed. The group will meet on Motzei Shabbos, January 3rd, weather permitting.



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