

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEDEI CHESED

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On Shabbos, Parshas Lech Lecha, the first of the two weekend retreats, scheduled for 2006, took place at The Lodge at Rock Hill Hotel. The hotel provided a homey and warm Shabbos atmosphere exclusively for Yedei Chessed.

The main speakers were Rabbi Yechiel Kaufman and Rabbi Aaron Dovid Gancz who through the divrei torah and life experiences shared provided tremendous chizzuk to the parents. Mrs. Sarah Sander, the author of *Down Syndrome Amongst Us*, led the mother's support group which was tremendously uplifting!

The pool was open on Motzei Shabbos with separate swimming hours for men and women. There was also lively dancing with music provided by a one-man band. Everyone left inspired and rejuvenated having had a wonderful time! Many thanks goes out to Mrs. Sarah Gargir who worked tirelessly to organize every little detail of this amazing weekend retreat!



On Thursday of Chol Hamoed Succos, Yedei Chessed hosted another exciting Family Magic event at Sportstime USA, in Elmsford, NY. Over four hundred children and parents of Yedei Chessed families had the opportunity to experience the rides, games and ball park in an environment created especially for them. Every child that participated was able to use their tokens to compete for tickets that were turned in for prizes at the end of the day. Yedei Chessed also provided fresh popcorn, popped on the spot and other light snacks. A

great time was had by all! Much thanks goes to Mrs. Chana Malka Geldzahler for putting this memorable experience together.



Connections is thrilled to begin the ABA based Sunday respite program on November 5, 2006. This program will be a continuation of our summer program for the junior division only. The program day will be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM each Sunday. Each child will have a one to one aide who will learn the child's program prior to the beginning of Sunday respite. The day will be highly structured with ABA sessions, snacks, lunch and special projects. The program will take place at 142 Adar Court and the facility will only be used for this program at that time. Transportation will be provided. If your child is not yet registered and you would like him/her to be, please contact Bassie Meghnagi at 425-0887 x273 as soon as possible.

We are also pleased to announce that in response to the request of a parent, we will be hosting a gemach of ABA supplies (manipulatives, etc.) We know that you spend a small fortune on supplies that you use for a few months and then move on. To ease the financial burden on families, Yedei Chessed will accept donations of ABA supplies and lend them out to all families that need. Donations will only be accepted if given freely and the family does not wish to have the materials returned, as we are all aware that pieces do get lost and battered. Please contact Bassie Meghnagi at 425-0887 x273 for more information or to make a donation of materials.



The Workpoint Day Hab program has been very busy with community service. Several local businesses have contacted us to help with their mailings, and both our men and woman's programs have been beyond efficient. Our woman's horticulture and flower arrangement program has taken off full blast within the agency, and plans are underway to expand into the community with our beautiful Shabbos adornments. Workpoint's supportive employment program has been very busy with more and more inquires from both potential employees and employers. The Rockland Journal News will be doing a piece on the ongoing exciting activities of Workpoint. Stay tuned.


For information on any any of our plans and programs, please contact Dr. Shmuel Abramson at 425-0887 #249.


Monthly Sibshops


The first sibling support group of the year began with a lot of excitement! All three groups had a wonderful time. The first group (1st to 5th grades) enjoyed a delicious pizza party and had fun decorating princess picture frames. They also had a surprise grab bag and the girls were able to "cash in" their 'talking tickets' for prizes! The two older groups (ages 6th to 8th grades and high school) went to Color Me Mine in Ridgewood, New Jersey where they were able to choose from different ceramics to paint. While painting, the girls spoke to one another, shared thoughts, feelings and personal stories. On the way home, they discussed different activities the girls are interested in doing at upcoming Sibshops. All the girls are eager to attend Sibshops in November!





Points of Interest:

 Mazel Tov to Mrs. Natalie Levine (ResHab Coordinator) and her daughter Sari! Sari Levine, one of our Day Hab Counselors, has become a Kallah! May this be the beginning of many more simchas in the family.

 Yedei Chesed would like to welcome some new employees who have joined our staff. **Mrs. Esther Rothbaum**, as the new Family Care Corodinator (Mrs. Shulamit Kind has become the new manager of the College Road group home), **Mrs. Esther Garber** as a Medicaid Service Coordinator, **Mrs. Devorah Arnstien**, as the coordinator of the Sunday Magic Moments Respite Program and **Miss Gitty Lauber**, as the coordinator of the Magic Moments After School Respite Program. We wish all of them Hatzloche on their new positions!

 Magic Moments Shabatons are in full swing! Every two weeks another group of consumers get together with one on one staffing for Shabbos. The children enjoy a wonderful program, while their parents get a much needed respite! To have your child join this program, please call Mrs. Geldzahler at ext. 270.

 Magic Moments After School and Sunday Respite Programs have expanded. The After School Program is now operating four times a week; Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday and Sunday Respite hours are 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in signing up for these programs, please contact Mrs. Geldzahler at ext. 270.

 Mrs. Glass and Mrs. Littman were invited to Breuer's High School in Monsey to speak about the special women living in the Thomas Court group home. At the school, they were presented with a beautiful quilt hand crafted by the girls especially for the residents at Thomas Court. The quilt will be used to decorate a wall in the group home.



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