



HIGHLIGHTS OF YEDEI CHESSED



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20 Robert Pitt Drive, Suite 214, Monsey, NY 10952
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On Motzei Shabbos, January 31st, approximately 90 families attended the first "Family Magic" extravaganza and Melava Malka at the Ohr Hachaim Hall. The evening began with dancing to the music played by a live band. Two singers, Lipa Schmeltzer and Shlomo Einhorn enhanced the affair with their beautiful singing. It was heartwarming to watch the fathers with their sons and the mothers with their daughters dancing together.

The children enjoyed pizza, doughnuts and nosh! They also had fun watching the popcorn pop in the machine. The volunteers sat with the children to make sure that everyone's needs were taken care of. Then, the Ballooner Rebbe sculpted balloons for the girls, while there was a Magic Show performed for the boys.

Rabbi Boruch Rabinowitz spoke both to the parents and siblings, at separate sessions, giving them chizuk to continue helping their child/sibling in need. Everyone gained from the support they received from each other. All in all, the event was one which will be remembered for a while.

Stay Tuned. Yedei Chesed is already planning for the next Family Magic event.



Bar Mitzvah Celebration

The College Road group home recently celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of one of the young men living there. The tables were artfully set and a sumptuous meal was served. The Bar Mitzvah boy did an excellent job delivering his speech which uplifted those who attended. After the meal, everyone danced joyfully to lebedige music. It truly was a beautiful affair. May we be zocheh to share many more simchas!



New Program at Workpoint

We are happy to announce the opening of the Yedei Chesed Pre-Vocational Program. At the Pre-Voc program, individuals with special needs will be taught the necessary skills needed to work consistently at a job.

To enroll in this program or for more information, please call: Mr. Eliezer Schwadron at 845-425-0887 ext. 248



Magic Moments Keeps Us Warm During The Cold Wintry Days

Although the past few Sundays were cold and snowy, the children at the Sunday Respite Program were warmed with fun! They practiced hand-eye coordination skills by lacing up mittens and coats made out of paper. They also had a great time "melting away" during the snowman game. You can play along with the children as they chant:

"Five little men all made of snow,
Five little snowmen, standing in a row,
Out came the *Shemesh*, it shined all day,
One little snowman melted away!"

Everyone actively participated in this game and loved to watch the snowman puppets disappear!



Philadelphia, Here We Come!

The residents living in the group home on College Road traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for an overnight trip. They toured this historical city and visited interesting museums. They also went to the Crayola factory and watched the manufacturing of crayons. Snow tubing was another highlight enjoyed by all! Not only did the guys have a great time, but they also learned many new things on this trip.



Gentle Teaching Training

Yedei Chesed has arranged for Ms. Allison Kelly, the Assistant Director of Residential Services at Jawonio, to train our staff in the group homes with the Gentle Teaching Program. This program helps staff learn alternative, gentle methods on how to respond to consumer behaviors. "Gentle Teaching" promotes understanding of a client's need to feel safe and secure in his/her home. Ms. Kelly is meeting with our staff on a weekly basis, helping them to implement this program in the group homes.





Our girls' sibling support groups met again on Sunday January 25, 2004. It was a lot of fun! The girls learned that even those little things they do is special and can make a difference in someone else's life.

They have plans to meet again on Sunday February 15. If you are interested in attending, please call Mrs. Lalouch at ext. 253 or Mrs. Zinshteyn at ext. 275.



Hotline for Travelers With Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Transportation now has a hotline for air travelers with disabilities. The hotline number is 1-800-778-4838 (voice) and 1-800-455-9880 (TTY). You can obtain assistance in resolving "real time" issues involving service animals, seating accommodations, enplaning, deplaning and connecting assistance, the stowage of personal equipment and other accommodations. To obtain a card with the hotline number on it, please call (845) 425-0887 ext. 0.

Points of Interest:



Mrs. Renee Rubinfeld, the director of Magic Moments After School Programs gave a workshop for the Board of Jewish Education on Sunday January 18. The workshop was on "Creative Teaching".



Dr. Michael Steinhardt, PSY.D. gave a series of 2 workshops to Yedei Chesed staff members on understanding neuropsychological evaluations and how it aides in diagnosing individuals with ADHD, TBI, Epilepsy, as well as other neuropsychological disorders. Dr. Steinhardt was invited to speak by CAPS, the Center for Applied Psychology which is a division of Bikur Cholim's Department of Clinical Services.



On Sunday, January 25, all the children attending Magic Moments Programs went to the "Uncle Moishy's" Concert. The music and singing was great and enjoyed by all!



The Mothers' Support Group for mothers' of children with Aspergers/Autism/PDD will be meeting on Tuesday February 10, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Yedei Chesed Conference Room at 20 Robert Pitt Drive, Suite 214. The topic to be discussed is "The Other Side of the Crisis" with a video presentation by Rabbi, Dr. Akiva Tatz.



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