



HIGHLIGHTS OF YEDEI CHESED



Vol. I, Issue 5

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Sibshops Carnival!

On Sunday, February 29th, Sibshops for girls hosted an exciting carnival at Yeshiva Spring Valley for the Monsey community. Over 100 children attended! The girls from the Sibshops did a marvelous job running the booths! Everyone had fun shooting the *Haman* soldiers with the water guns and walking on stilts. Whoever was able to hang *Haman* on the noose won a prize ticket. A casio keyboard was also raffled off as the Grand Prize. All who attended went home with a prize and a smile on their face.



Funding Approved for Additional FSS Programs

Rabbi Lauber recently visited with Commissioner Thomas Maul of the OMRDD, (the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities) in Albany. The Commissioner approved funding for a Social Skills Training Program and an At Home Respite Program. Both of these initiatives are exciting enhancements to our existing FSS department. Over the next few weeks, we will be finalizing the details and scheduling start dates. Anyone interested in more information can contact their service coordinator.



Employee of the Month

Mrs. Suky Stern, our ResHab Coordinator was the employee of the month for February. Her devotion to her clients, exceptional commitment to her job and her ability to work with so many varied staff people is something we all appreciate.

For the month of March, Mr. Leiby Goldenberg, one of the Direct Care Staff at our College Road Group Home was chosen. This honor reflects his outstanding dedication to his position and his taking the initiative in introducing creative strategies in ResHab work.



Purim Preparations at Magic Moments

On *Rosh Chodesh Adar*, a clown came to visit the children attending the Sunday Respite Program. The clown performed magic tricks and danced to music with the children. Wooden *gragers* were decorated by the teen group with fluorescent paint and colorful, glittering jewels. All the children also had a great time while trying to act like the different characters from the Purim story.



Trip To California

The young men living on 13 Albert Drive took a vacation from their work schedules and toured California last month. Their trip included sightseeing at the Palm Spring Desert and a hike through the Indian Canyon. They also reached new heights as they enjoyed a ride on a chairlift. Then they learned about the wonders of the ocean at Sea World. They came back rejuvenated and ready to go back to work.



Purim Mesibah

Everyone enjoyed some *Purim* fun at the Mesibah which took place on Sunday, Feb. 29th, on 13 Albert Drive. Mrs. Hubert, the housemother at Albert Drive, and the staff of both group homes did a wonderful job preparing this event. The residents of both homes and their families were invited to attend. Some *bachurim* from Albert Drive performed a play based on a story from the time of the *Baal Shem Tov*. All who attended were delighted to see the video presentation

of all the different places visited by the young men since 1998. The party left everyone in good spirits!



Points of Interest:



Thanks to the efforts of Assemblyman Ryan Karben, Yedei Chessed was able to secure a grant to help cover the ongoing expenses of Spirit! Magazine. You have our appreciation for your valued assistance.



Workpoint's Prevocational Program for men is starting this month. There are still some slots available for those who are interested to join. We are also forming groups for women. For more information please call Mr. Eliezer Schwadron at ext. 248.



The Miriam Foundation of Montreal is hosting a conference on teaching language and appropriate behavior to children and adults with developmental disabilities including autism. This conference is based on the ABA work of B.F. Skinner, Mark Sunberg, Jim Partington, and Vince Carbone and will be given by Dr. Patrick McGreevy. The conference will take place on May 10 & 11 and the fee is \$175.00. For more information, please contact Mrs. Adler at ext. 0 for an application.



Our Early Intervention Department offers counseling to parents, siblings and the child receiving services through EI. Issues that can be addressed are:

- Effects of the special needs child on siblings.
- Effects of the special needs child's frequent hospitalizations on the family.
- Juggling priorities.
- Feelings around having a special needs child.

For more information, please contact your service coordinator.



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