



NEWS FROM JERUSALEM HILLS

MARCH 20, 2017

Purim at the Children's Home

True to the custom to be joyous starting from the beginning of the month of Adar (the month of Purim), the Ofer group (our youngest children) began the month by parading around the school and offices, dressed in costumes, singing Purim songs and spreading the joy of the holiday that was soon to come.

The week of our Purim festivities was filled with activities. On Sunday there was a "make-up" happening and the children got made up for their costumes. On Tuesday after classes were over, everyone got dressed up in their costumes and had the traditional Purim parade, followed by performances by the different groups.

Next on the agenda the children visited the different unit cottages for games, competitions and activities. Every year each unit chooses a theme and for weeks the counselors, teachers and children plan and prepare the decorations and the prizes and turns each cottage into something magical and fantastical. The Eitan group turned their cottage into a Chinese restaurant and prepared and served dinner to all the other children in the Home.

The festivities continued on Wednesday when everyone ate breakfast together in the big dining hall. The junior unit set up a carnival for the other children with games and competitions and then everyone ate a BBQ lunch outside on the grass. The Purim festivities ended with a Disco party for the older children in the dining hall. The Home received many mishlochei manot thanks to the generosity of several generous schools and companies.



Purim at the Kemper Group Home

In the spirit of Purim the boys at the Kemper Group Home made mishlochei manot for the children at the Children's Home, using sweets and candies that they received as a donation. The decision to give these treats to the children at the Children's



Home was entirely the boy's, as some of them remember their days at the Children's Home and still feel connected to it. The boys came to the Children's Home to give out the mishloach manot personally. The boys also handed out mishlochei manot in the neighborhood, further developing their relationship with their neighbors and improving the boys' social interactions. Some of the neighbors were touched and excited to receive the mishlochei manot, the same neighbors who were concerned and wary when the Kemper Home moved into its current residence. The festivities continued at Kemper and included dressing up in elaborate costumes that the boys planned and prepared themselves, playing games and a great Purim party.

Bar Mitzvah Celebrations

Last month 8 boys celebrated their Bar Mitzvah at the Children's Home. The boys' families came for the moving celebration and everyone was beaming – the parents, the Bar Mitzvah boys and their siblings. In addition to the families, all the staff who had worked with the children since they entered the Children's Home came to celebrate with them. For one afternoon, the dining hall turned into a festival events hall with balloons adorning the ceiling, Bar Mitzvah posters for each boy and a specially decorated cake for each boy. The event was especially festive thanks to a wonderful collection of people who donated the catering, deserts, cakes and sweets- C Hotel Neve Ilan donated the tasty festive meal and Asparagus Catering and the Shifon Bakery donated the deserts. A wonderful group of 11 women from Rosh Hayan made specially decorated cakes for each child according to the child's specific requests, baked cakes and cookies and donated sweets and candies for the occasion.



The Children's Home acts as a home and a family for all the children under our care; as such we celebrate all their major life events while they are in our care, including Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. For most children this is their only Bar Mitzvah celebration, since most families don't have the means to provide a party for them, or because the children don't have a family to celebrate with. The staff at the Children's Home invests tremendous efforts, with a great amount of love, to ensure that each boy and girl looks forward to this day and experiences it as a unique and memorable occasion that is his or her own.

In Memoriam



Tal Fox Hersko, who was a clinical psychologist at JHTC, passed away in July 2016. Her family chose to perpetuate her work at JHTC by dedicating a treatment room in her memory. In a very moving ceremony with family, friends and colleagues, her loving husband unveiled the memorial plaque. After completing her position as clinical psychologist, Tal continued to train groups of caregivers at JHTC.

Tal was an incredible woman who formed special relations with all those around her and affected her surroundings. We at JHTC are grateful for the opportunity to honor her memory through the treatment room in her memory.

The SNOEZELEN Multi-sensory Room

In the ongoing effort to provide the children at the Children's Home with the best treatment available, a multi-sensory environment was established in a dedicated room thanks to a very generous donation in memory of Josef Dauber. The space is divided into two rooms which contain a specialized selection of sensory equipment and materials aimed at helping children adapt their responses to sensory stimulation and thereby advance education and therapy goals. The blend of sights, sounds, textures, aromas, and motion provide stimulation of the primary sensory systems and may be modified to meet each child's individual sensory needs.



A SNOEZELEN Multi-Sensory Environment is a safe, non-threatening environment which can bridge cognitive, perceptual and behavioral impairments, as well as other limiting conditions to provide a sense of empowerment. This wide range of sensory experiences - either passively or actively - enhances therapy, learning, and relaxation.

Isrotel Cramim Hotel and the JHTC Staff



After visiting here late last year, our neighbor the Isrotel Cramim hotel in Kiryat Anavim wanted to do something special for JHTC. Since the hotel does not provide facilities for children, they decided that instead of having the children over for a "fun day" at the hotel, they would do something to "recharge" the staff of the JHTC. They chose the direct staff – teachers and counselors and decided to do something special for them.



The hotel generously provided three special days. The staff of teachers came in two groups on two different occasions for teacher training workshops in which they worked on strengthening and deepening the knowledge of the teacher as a leader, as an impactor and as an advocator of the school's goals. The workshops were run by D.S. Ofek, a consulting and organizational development company. During the seminar the teachers were treated to breakfast and lunch courtesy of the hotel. The third day was a "spa day" for our staff of counselors and group coordinators. The activities included lunch at the hotel restaurant, a wine workshop and access to all of the hotel facilities including a Turkish bath, fitness rooms, saunas, indoor heated swimming pool, an outdoor pool and a Jacuzzi.



On Purim, while wonderful neighbors and friends sent many mishlochei manot for the children, Cramim Hotel remembered the staff and sent over a big basket filled with scrumptious delights for the adults. As the basket arrived on a day full of meetings almost every staff member had the opportunity to partake and all were delighted!

Thank you to the Cramim hotel for the generous contribution and for recognizing the hard work and dedication of our staff.