



Lee Bierer's 3rd grade Religious School class at Temple Beth El performs a mock wedding with Rabbi Judy Schindler officiating. The groom, Eric Steinberg, and the bride, Jenna Collins, vowed to be friends under the chupah in the Sukkah.

## JNF Blue Box Project a Success

Imagine living in a country that has arid land, sparse water resources, and limited trees. This was the condition of the land the *chalutzim* (pioneers) found when they came to rebuild our homeland more than 100 years ago. However, through the work of Jewish National Fund, these conditions dramatically changed. Planting trees, developing reservoirs, and building roads are just some of the important projects that JNF has done to enhance the land of Israel.

Traditionally, funding for these projects has been collected in the "Blue Box," the JNF tzedakah box. This year Charlotte Jewish pre-schools and religious schools

were visited by Blue Bob Box and each child was given a blue tzedakah box of his or her own. Not long after the visit, the kids came back with their boxes full of tzedakah, and today we can announce that more than \$1,700 was raised to plant trees in Israel. This means that the kids in the Charlotte Jewish community can not only take pride in helping plant a tree in Israel, but something more like a small forest.

We would like to thank the Charlotte Jewish Preschool and the Jewish Preschool on Sardis,



Kids from the Jewish Preschool on Sardis with their blue boxes.

along with Temple Beth El's and Temple Israel's religious schools for partnering with JNF in this wonderful program. ☆

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## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

### JFS Responds to Community Need Children and Family Resource Center of Shalom Park Plans are Underway

In its ongoing efforts to respond to Charlotte's growing Jewish community, JFS is launching a Children and Family Resource Center.

The new Children and Family Resource Center will be designed to meet the needs of all of Charlotte's Jewish families. For parents, caregivers and educators who wish to learn more about childhood development, this multi-media Resource Center will house a large collection of books, periodicals and DVDs as well as host parenting workshops and a speaker series. Additionally, space has been set



Georgia Engelhardt and her mom Ellen investigate the JFS Children's Resource Center.

aside for a children's therapy area.

Ellen Engelhardt, Board Member of JFS, is spearheading this exciting effort. According to Ellen, "The Center is not simply about childhood development; it is about our Jewish community striving to be top-notch stewards of our children's future."

The Center, located within the JFS offices at Shalom Park, will

help parents find information on all kinds of subjects ranging from general parenting tips to specific topics such as how to advocate for a special needs child in the public school system. Parents and children will be invited to come to the Center, browse the selection of books, magazines, pamphlets, and other media, and either sit and read them there, or check them out.

Jewish Family Services staff will be available to the parents should they need assistance with the resources. JFS Clinician Karen Majercsik specializes in Children and Family Therapy and will serve as the Center's staff person. Suggestions will always be welcome for additional materials or topics.

If you are interested in participating in the development phase of this project, please contact Ellen Engelhardt at [ebe@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ebe@carolina.rr.com). ☆

## JFS VolunTEEN

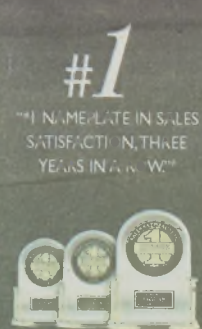
On April 23, around 20 Jewish Teens from our community participated in CommUnity in Action Day which was lead by the LJCC, Hands on Charlotte, YMCA and The Islamic Center of Charlotte. These teens also participated as part of The VolunTEEN Program for Jewish Family Services. These students worked all day cleaning and volunteering at the Summit

House, cleaning and organizing their supply rooms and outside storage. After cleaning we all discussed our commonalities as teens living in Charlotte and how we can make this world a better place. Not all the teens that participated were Jewish and through this experience, everyone realized that regardless of religion, giving back is a very important part of life. ☆



Zachary Maniloff, Andrew Fishkin, Ryan Balick, Dayna Katz, Erin Goldstein and Sam Erlich

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