

Pillow Case Project to Benefit Traumatized Israeli Children

A small group of Jewish women called the MAVINS meet monthly for a little bit of socializing and Torah study. At our January meeting, we each expressed our profound sadness over the crisis that Israel is facing, and how it affects the Israeli children who are traumatized by the thousands of rockets falling within their cities. We have come up with a community-wide project that we hope you will allow and encourage your children to participate in.

We want to provide Israeli children with a hands-on tangible item that would let them know that the Jewish children in Charlotte care about them and wish them well. We wanted the object to be significant and meaningful and something that they could wrap their arms, and heart, around. We decided to collect pillow cases to distribute to Israeli children. How comforting to lay your head down at night and know that someone else is thinking about you.

The object of this project is for your child(ren) to decorate a plain solid or light-colored pillow case with permanent fabric color markers/crayons. Your children can use their creativity in decorating the pillow case(s) and can also write a message directly on the pillow case to an Israeli child. If your child cannot yet write, they, too, can participate by perhaps painting a heart and tracing their hands on the pillow case and you could write a note dictated from them and pin in on

the outside of the case.

We are asking you to donate the pillow case(s) and have your child(ren) decorate them at home. Please deliver your decorated pillow case(s) to the offices of Temple Beth El and Temple Israel Religious Schools, Charlotte Jewish Day School, Preschool on Sardis, Charlotte Jewish Preschool, or the Consolidated Hebrew High School no later than March 10. The pillow cases will be boxed up and shipped to our sister city, Hadera,

for distribution to the traumatized children living in harm's way.

Our goal is to collect 300 decorated pillow cases. That's a lofty goal but with your help, we can do this.

For more information, contact: Randy Sperling at 704-287-2899 or RSSPERLING@bellsouth.net or Lorrie Klemmons at 704-846-6790 or LKINCHAR@yahoo.com. ☆

Youth Visions

Stand with Israel: A BBYO Program

By MBA Sopher, Bryan Perlmutter

With Israel just finishing battling Hamas in the Gaza strip, and with our homeland in a crisis, Charlotte BBYO was determined to make sure everyone became aware of what was happening in Israel. The four BBYO chapters in Charlotte: Mickey Barak Aberman, Hank Greenberg, Chai Chaverim, and Ohavim got together to plan a program centered around Israel. The program was held on Tuesday, January 27 and approximately 85 teens attended.

The program started off with the leaders of each chapter lighting a candle and reading a story about someone in the holocaust. This set the tone for the program as everyone remembered one of the saddest times in our past. This was also extra special because it was Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Next Hagar Shahak, who is from Israel, and now works in the Charlotte Jewish community, spoke about the situation in Israel. She was able to give the teen's important background information about the conflict and the history of Israel. We then watched a slide show to give us more information about this situation occurring and to get us to start thinking more in depth of what is going on and what we can do to help.

We then broke up into six smaller groups where we were given articles to read and political cartoons to examine. In these groups we discussed the information we had acquired from the speaker and share our opinions of the conflict in Israel with our peers.

After the group discussion we wrote our feelings and thoughts about Israel on a peace quilt that is a replica of Israeli flag made of cloth. After writing on the flag we enjoyed some traditional Israeli food and hung out with our peers and further discussed the program.

Overall, the program was a success. Over 85 teens from all four BBYO chapters in Charlotte left the JCC with a further understanding of the current conflict Israel is facing, a fun time with their friends, and a full stomach. ☆



Lily Hennes and Kim Gould show off their square for the peace quilt.

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The Critical Need Response Fund

was launched in December to address hardships faced by residents of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County because of the economic crisis. Grants will be awarded by a task force of citizen volunteers to assist those in need of shelter, clothes, food and warmth during the winter months.

Thank You

to Sandra and Leon Levine and The Leon Levine Foundation
for their generosity in making a \$1 million gift to the fund

and to the volunteers serving on the **Critical Need Reponse Task Force:**

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Diego Anselmo

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Please make donations to the Critical Need Response Fund at Foundation For The Carolinas online at www.ffc.org or call 704.973.4588

100 percent of the fund will be used to make grants to local nonprofits with documented increases in caseloads over the winter months.

The fund is a partnership program of:

