

The Excitement of Performing Tzedakah

By Becca Weiner

This year at The Charlotte Jewish Preschool, our students experienced the excitement of performing tzedakah from Rosh Hashanah through Shavuot. In honor of Shavuot, the holiday in which we remember receiving the Ten Commandments, we have listed our ten most meaningful tzedakah experiences for the school year:

1. Save a Child's Heart (SACH) – In Judaica class, our students decorated tzedakah boxes with hearts, which they took home and filled with money over several months. Our students brought them back to school so that the money collected could be donated to SACH. SACH is an Israel-based organization which provides funding to perform life-saving heart surgery for children from all around the world. Our students loved that their tzedakah was being used to help sick kids.

2. Sukkot Food Drive – In September, students learned about the fall harvest holiday, Sukkot. We talked about gathering fruits and vegetables for Sukkot and students learned that not everyone can provide food for themselves. Students learned about Jewish Family Services and the food pantry for people in need to get food for their families. Students brought in canned food and other necessities as requested by JFS so they could stock the pantry.

3. Leukemia Lymphoma Society (LLS) – Continuing with our tradition of donating tzedakah to charities and organizations that benefit children and families, we pledged the money collected at our April Shabbat programs to LLS. We donated our money through our 3s teacher, Lisa Nagel, who is running for LLS Woman of the Year by raising funds for the organization. Each dollar donated goes toward finding a cure for blood cancers.

4. Spay Neuter Charlotte – In January, students learned about the Jewish value *tzar ba'alei chaim*, taking care of animals. We brought in a therapy dog for students to pet and they learned the proper way to treat animals. After that experience, we conducted a tzedakah project for Spay Neuter Charlotte. Students brought in towels and blankets for the animals that are treated there. Our kids loved being able to take care of animals after learning the proper way.

5. Our Sister Schools – At the beginning of each year we reach out to our sister schools, Huntingtowne Farms Elementary and Sterling Elementary, to see what they need. In the fall, they requested school supplies, so our students brought in so many that our hallways were lined with school supplies, from index cards to erasers and everything in between. As the months got colder, we conducted a coat drive to donate to the elementary schools to help keep their students warm in the winter.

6. Chanukah Toy Drive – Our annual Chanukah toy drive is a truly authentic experience for our students, because they frequently choose toys that they then donate to tzedakah. Students learn the power of giving and that not every child gets everything they want. Our preschool parents had their students drop off toys for other children, and our students were thrilled by helping other kids.

7. Levine Sklut Judaic Library – Our students and families love going to the library where there are always fun educational programs going on. Our students go to the library several times a month with their classes and hear a fun story from Miss Debby. That's why we contribute tzedakah to LSJL.

8. Passover Food Drive – In Judaica, students learn about the foods we are allowed

to eat and are not permitted to eat during Passover. So, when JFS needs Passover food for their food pantry, this is a great opportunity for our students to bring in kosher for Passover foods. It provides an excellent learning opportunity plus the performing a mitzvah.

9. Shabbat – Each Friday at Shabbat our students bring tzedakah to put into our tzedakah can. One student from each class is chosen to deposit the tzedakah. Frequently, the students celebrating their birth-



day are selected for the honor. Students love actively participating in donating tzedakah on a weekly basis.

10. Our Summer Projects – Tzedakah does not stop when school does. In the summer we add up the money collected at Shabbat to make donations to various charities and organizations that benefit children, families, and education. Last summer we were able to make donations to A Child's Place, Freedom School, and Shalom Bayit.

For more information about having your child Learn, Grow, and Connect with us, please contact Alyson Kalik, CJP registrar, at 704-944-6776 or akalik@shalomcharlotte.org. Half day enrollment for the 2013/2014 school year for children ages 1-5 is currently underway. ☆

Community News

JCC Donations

OASIS SENIOR ADULT PROGRAM FUND

In memory of Ida Berman from Evelyn Berger

In memory of Robin Leavitt's father from Evelyn Berger

In honor of Bruce Wand's birthday from Thelma Wand

In honor of Anita and Leonard Hollander's anniversary from Roz and Irving Baldwin

DAVID SILVERMAN MEMORIAL FUND

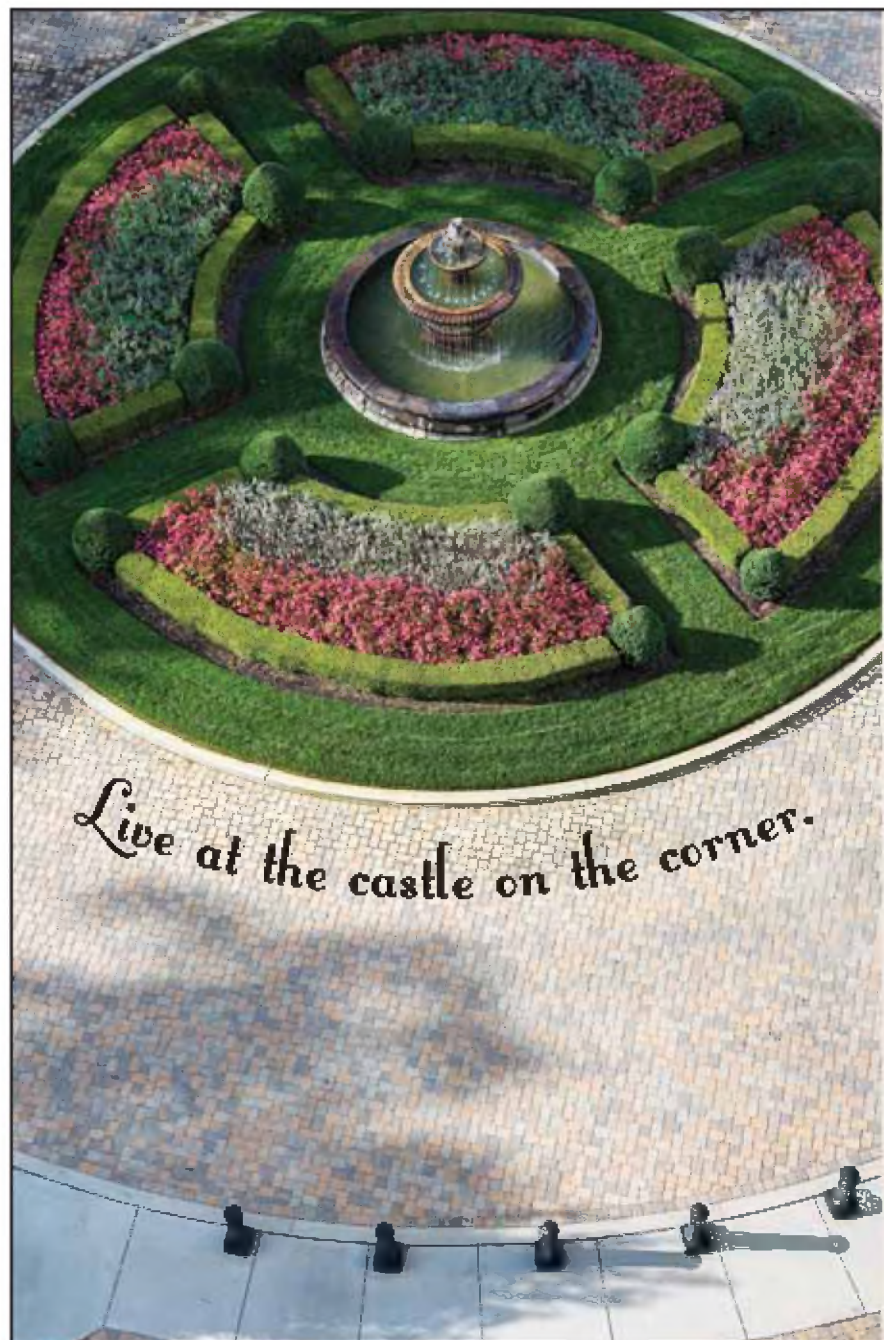
In memory of Ida Berman from Mattye and Marc Silverman

BUTTERFLY PROJECT FUND

In honor of Larry Schwartz's new grandson from Chantal and Ilya Rubin, David and Debra Van Glish

In honor of the upcoming marriages of Barbara and Jerry Levin's grandsons and in honor of Stan Greenspon and Roz Greenspon's new granddaughter from Suly and Richard Chenkin

In honor of Jill Newman's birthday from Barbara and Don Bernstein, Margi Goldstein, Patty and Bill Gorelick, Adrienne and Harvey Gossett, Roz Greenspon, Carolyn and Stuart Hennes, Barbara and Jerry Levin, Sandra and Leon Levine, Paula Musler, Vera Mendel, Harriet and Mark Perlin, Ollie and Sam Polk, Dale and Larry Polsky, Anita and Marvin Shapiro, Judi and Leonard Strause ☆



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