

## They TRI-ed ... and Succeeded

On June 2, 175 children arrived at the Sandra and Leon Levine Jewish Community Center toting swimsuits, bikes, and running shoes to participate in the 2nd Annual LJCC Kids Triathlon benefiting Pediatric Rehabilitative Services at the Levine Children's Hospital (LCH). Several hours later, they left with medals hanging around their necks and big smiles on their faces.

Leon Levine spoke to all attending and started the event ("Let the race begin!"), in which nine children from the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program (ASAP) at LCH participated alongside able-bodied children, ages five through 14. Some swam with assistance, used hand cycles, or leg braces, but all participants had a wonderful time as spectators held up signs and cheered in encouragement. The message resonating throughout the day was that the children all were participating together to TRI for a Cause.

After a child suffers a significant injury or illness, he or she often needs inpatient rehabilitation services to regain strength and functional skills necessary to return home or to school. LCH provides the region's only comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services for children and adolescents who have experienced a debilitating illness or injury. With a continuity of care that is unparalleled, LCH offers high level outpatient services once a patient is released by offering the opportunity to participate in ASAP, which

is a part of Carolina's Rehabilitation. This program, open to anyone in the community, is designed to challenge youth (and adults) with physical disabilities to develop skills that will lead to and enhance an active and productive lifestyle – one without barriers.

Participating in the Kids Triathlon is a dream come true for many of the ASAP children. It is also something relished by the able-bodied kids. As one parent said: "My three children, ages 5, 8, and 10, really enjoyed showing their stuff at the triathlon. Not only were they able to race and then play around with all of their friends, they were able to watch the children using adaptive devices in action and get a better understanding of why the triathlon exists."

This year's event was followed by festivities including a DJ, face-painting, and bounce houses, as well as treats donated by Earthfare, Healthy Vending and What's Water Ice. The families stayed and mingled with one another while their children continued their afternoon of fun. As another parent said: "This was [our son's] second year participating, and it went from a great event last year, to an even better event this year. It was run really well and felt very smooth. The kids had a blast, and enjoyed helping a great cause, too. It was a wonderful event for our community, and we look forward to participating again next year."

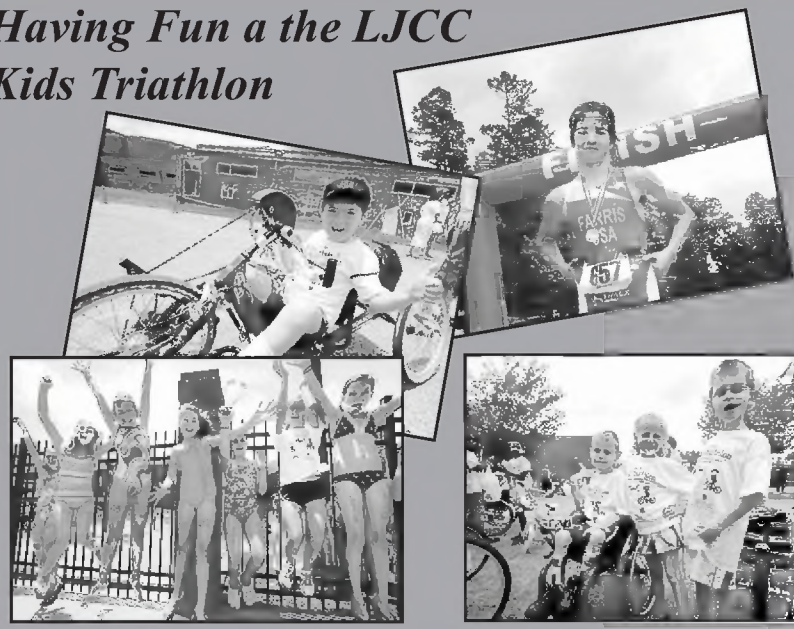
In addition to training for the event, participants pounded the

pavement to ask friends and relatives to support their individual fundraising efforts. The incentive: a three-night stay with park-hopper passes at Disney World, courtesy of Mann Travels and Disney. Congratulations to Holden O'Brien who individually raised more than \$2,600 and will soon be traveling to Florida. The second and third place fundraisers, Sam Goldstein and Eli Lan, will receive gift cards to Dick's Sporting Goods.

With the help of individual fundraisers and sponsors, including a \$10,000 Challenge Grant from the Leon Levine Foundation, the event raised \$39,000 which will go directly to the LCH inpatient rehabilitation and ASAP programs. A big thank you to all the sponsors who made this possible: The Leon Levine Foundation, Dale and Larry Polsky, PRECOR, Skechers, Bayada Home Health Care, McGuire-Woods LLP, Varji & Varji Salon and Spa, Mann Travels, Action Plus Ideas, Binders Art Supplies, Coca Cola Bottling Company, Dick's Sporting Goods, Earthfare, Inside Out Sports, Promo Threads, St. John Photography, TCBY, What's Water Ice, and Your Event Source (Y.E.S.).

Save the date for the 3rd Annual Kids Triathlon: June 1, 2014. ☆

## Having Fun at the LJCC Kids Triathlon

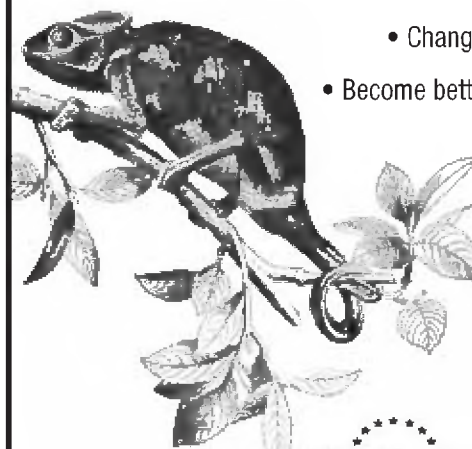


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## NC Teens Clean Up After Hurricane Sandy

(Continued from page 3)

do service? Or worse, what if it just wasn't meaningful? On the first night of the summit, we invited the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) to speak to us. Four ordinary-enough looking women came to sit on a panel about the effects of Hurricane Sandy. These four women shared their incredible stories, which ranged from heartbreaking



Ben Schulman and Roni Rose

accounts of the destruction Sandy caused in their lives to inspiring stories of sacrifice and volunteerism. They explained to us the chaos the hurricane survivors endured, how newly homeless or family-less people just wanted some electricity, a pair of

shoes, a little food. Seemingly small things. If sneakers were big, were so important to the people who had lost just about everything, surely, knew everyone in the room, a combined 1,080 hours beautification, of building flood-proof sustainable gardens, of making sustainable

greenhouses out of recycled water bottles was a big thing. We weren't doing busy work. It was not just about looking pretty or petty convenience. It was about healing. And so the next day when my service group went to weed and mulch a street corner, we did

so enthusiastically because we weren't just gardening, we were healing. ☆

## NC Holocaust Commission Receives Challenge Grant from Greenspon Foundation

(Continued from previous page)

of financial support. The additional \$20,000, if raised, will enable the Council to provide more teacher workshops around the state and pay the cost of substitute teachers in the schools, making it possible for more teachers to attend the workshops.

Please consider donating to the cause of Holocaust education in North Carolina. Mail your tax-de-

ductible donation to the North Carolina Holocaust Foundation, 5704 Crooked Stick Trail, Raleigh, NC 27612. The Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Please visit the Council's website, [www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust\\_council](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust_council). (At this time, donations cannot be made online.) ☆

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