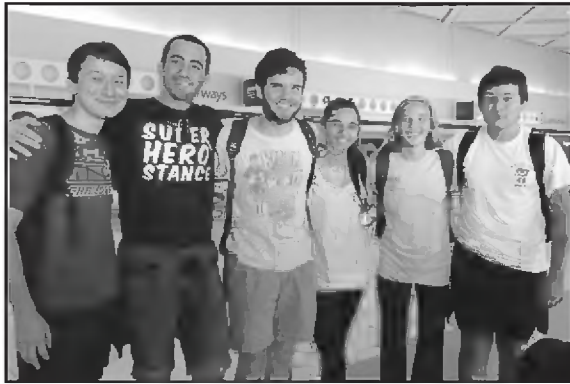


## JEWISH FEDERATION NEWS

# Partnership Together (P2G) Hadera-Charlotte Teen Leadership Exchange: Building Bridges, Changing Lives

The P2G Hadera-Charlotte Teen Leadership Exchange is a four-week program in both Charlotte and Israel – with both Americans and Israelis together – together they explore cultures, enhance Jewish identity, and change lives.

This summer Charlotte teens, Joey Kelso, Ari Rabinovich, David Rabinovich, Jessica Soto, and Katy Smith journeyed to Israel with our Community Shaliach, Dor Hollander, to meet with five teens from the Hadera region as well as teens from other American cities in our partnership including Richmond, VA, and Jacksonville, FL. Together they toured the Israel countryside, engaged in Tikkun Olam projects, learned about Israeli politics, culture,



and society, and enjoyed home hospitality.

In mid-July, the Charlotte teens welcomed five Hadera teens including three boys - Dolev Reuveny, Orr Petilion, Alon Freund, and two girls,

Rinat Aidelman and Noga Ben-Bassat and introduced them to the American way of life. Together they explored Charlotte's Jewish community and all the Queen city has to offer. They learned about cultural differences, tzedakah, and leadership.

The teens enjoyed activities with our Charlotte firefighters, hiking at Blowing Rock, Carowinds, team building at the White Water Center, and participating in various teen leadership and educational activities. Below are five personal accounts from this summer's teen exchange:

"I had an amazing experience with the Tikkun Olam program. It was my first time in Israel, and I had a warm welcome from my host Dolev, and his entire extended family. They said I was like their American son. The food was delicious and there was always plenty of it. We hung out like normal teenagers, shopping, going to movies, everything we do in Charlotte. Israel is small enough that we got to see just about everything, from Masada to

Jerusalem. I felt a renewed sense of my Judaism when I saw how it's observed in another country.

"Through it all, I became exceedingly close with all the people on the trip. When Dolev and the other Israelis came to Char-



lotte, we picked up where we left off. Dolev met my friends here, including a boy whose family originally came from Iran, just like Dolev. Even though my friend is Muslim and Dolev is Jewish, they became fast friends. This is one of the great things about America. The culture barrier didn't seem enough to separate teenagers from becoming friends. Dolev

knew little English but the common things between teenagers kept us all connected. My family took Dolev to Charlottesville, VA, and Washington, DC, on the final weekend. Dolev loved learning about Thomas Jefferson and seeing all the monuments in DC. He also liked shopping in Georgetown. The entire program provided an experience I will never forget, and I know Dolev agrees with me. Everyone made friends for life."

-Joey Kelso

"This summer, I took four weeks out of my busy schedule to participate in the Tikkun Olam exchange program. That was one of the best decisions of my life. Not only did I get to travel Israel for two weeks, I got to stay with an Israeli host family and truly experience Israeli culture. Swimming in the Dead Sea, watching the sunrise on Masada, and visiting many other sites in Israel were incredible. But, eating a Shabbat dinner with a family of over twenty people was an extraordinary experience that not everyone gets on their trip to Israel. I also got the chance to see America through the eyes of Israelis my age. I even visited places in Charlotte that I had never been to before.

If I could, I would do the whole trip again."

-Katy Smith

"Wow, just wow, people always come back from Israel and say "It was so amazing!" and "I can't wait to go there again!" Clichés that are not only true but fall short of the feelings and emotions that surge forward

(Continued on next page)

### SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY CANDLE LIGHTING FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Friday, September 5, 7:27 PM

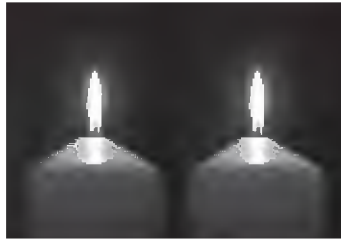
Friday, September 12, 7:17 PM

Friday, September 19, 7:07 PM

Wednesday, September 24, Rosh Hashanah Eve, 7:00 PM

Thursday, September 25, 2nd night Rosh Hashanah, after 7:54 PM

Friday, September 26, 6:57 PM



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Published monthly except July

An affiliate of:



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