

School

CJDS Provides Hospitality Suite of Charlotte with Needed Supplies

We continually seek opportunities to engage the children in tzedakah, giving, caring, seeing that there is a world outside of their circle. The Hospitality Suite of Charlotte requested assistance with the basic staples needed at their house. CJDS agreed to hold a toilet paper drive. Our school bus transported our student council representatives to deliver the toilet paper. We received a lovely thank you from the organization:



CJDS students with their donations.

Mandy,

Thank you so much for bringing your delightful student council students by the house. They are special kids with a lot of spunk. We are so grateful that CJDS chose to collect toilet paper for Hospitality House of Charlotte - and boy did you all collect a mountain of it. Know that your collection drive will truly make a difference to HHOC families. We counted everything up and the students collected 440 rolls of toilet paper. With the house using approximately 55 rolls a week, that is enough toilet paper to last the house for two months. It is such a blessing to not have to worry about toilet paper for the next few months.

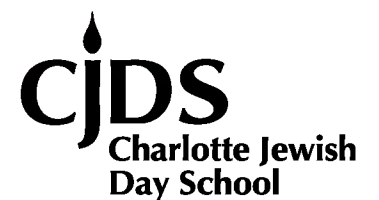
I attached a few of the pictures I took to this email. I forgot to give you my card, but just in case any of your students and their families are interested- here is the link on our website where people can sign

up to cook a meal: <http://www.hospitalityhouseofcharlotte.org/prepare-a-meal/>.

We look forward to partnering with Charlotte Jewish Day School in the future, and I hope you and your students have a wonderful summer.
Christine

Hi Christine,

That is exciting, I was close with my 500 roll guess. Thank you for spending time with our students and teaching them the importance the HHOC provides for families. I am hopeful the impact from it will encourage them to reach out to you over the summer with their families and spread the word about their experience there.



We are happy to be able to support the HHOC this year, and look forward to partnering with you next year as well as exploring other ways (like cooking), in addition to the toilet paper collection, that is helpful to the families.

All the best,
Mandy DiFilippo
Assistant Director
Charlotte Jewish Day School ✨

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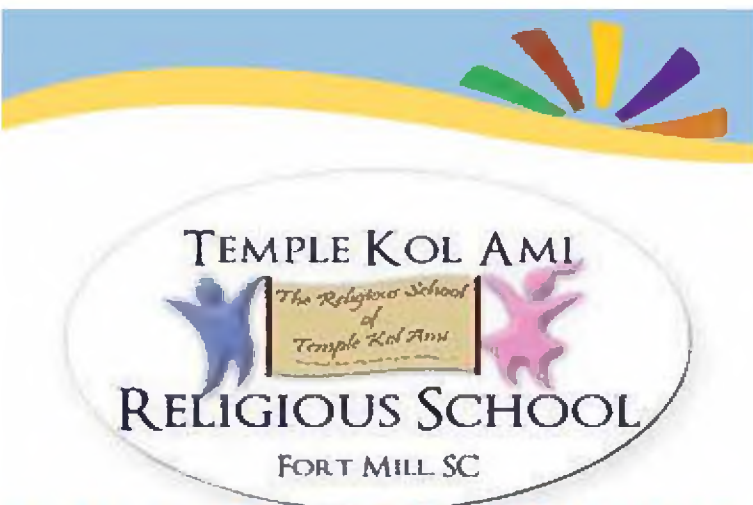
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My Journey Through CJP

By Amy Foster

When I first stepped through the doors of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, I immediately felt we belonged there. I wasn't quite sure how that could be, as I was raised a combination of Presbyterian and Episcopalian and knew very little of the Jewish faith or culture. What I didn't realize, however, was how much our lives would change and flourish due to our experience at CJP.

I haven't been a "practicing" Christian since early high school and am one of those who only goes to Christmas Eve service on occasion. When I became a mom, it was important to me to find a religious or spiritual foundation for my child. I began touring the churches of Charlotte. Most left me feeling empty, a couple were actually ok, but none really resonated with me and my beliefs.

I wasn't sure how things would be at a Jewish preschool, but again, it just felt right - and one thing I've learned over the years is to trust my gut. Once school started and I saw the curriculum, I realized I would have no way to communicate with my child about her new daily world (all I knew of Judaism was Hanukkah). And then I stumbled across the Melton School's Intro to Judaism course and immediately signed up for the year-long program. That class became the highlight of my week. I



The Foster family.

enjoyed the instructors as much as I did the content. One of them coined herself my "Jewish mom" - a term I embraced as much as she did.

I immediately got involved as the room parent for my daughter's One's class, which allowed me to get to know the teachers, kids, and the kids' parents very well. I loved it. Some of those parents have become my dearest friends over the years. I also started going to the school's Shabbat services as much as possible, which became a celebration for both of us. I realized that as much as I enjoyed watching my daughter participate in Shabbat, it also fed my soul (yes, the preschool Shabbat). I became very involved with the PTO -

going to all the meetings and helping out where I could.

The next year, I gave up room parenting to become a PTO board member. Although I missed being in the classroom, it was great to see a different angle of the school. It was during this role that I spent a great deal of time in the office getting to know the staff. They were always warm and inviting and it was apparent that they love and care for our children. While going through the "terrible twos," my daughter had a number of days where her tantrums disrupted the class. Where many would be frustrated by that, the staff always took her in and loved her through it.

During our third and fourth years at CJP, I enjoyed a different level of commitment and sat on the school's Board of Directors. Again, it wasn't the same as being

(Continued on page 19)



Charlotte Jewish Preschool

LEARN - GROW - CONNECT

SAVE THE DATE: Shabbaton weekend with Rabbi Bruce Aft Aug 26-28
Check the website for details. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, FREE and open to the public!