

CHABAD'S CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

REMEMBERING CHERNOBYL: 26 YEARS AFTER THE DISASTER

26 Children Rescued for 26th Anniversary

Mazel Tov! CCOC's 97th rescue flight landed on Thursday, April 19, 2012 with 26 children on board. These 26 children were saved days before the 26th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, which remains the worst nuclear accident in history.



These precious children have been brought to Israel where they will receive the best medical treatment, education and care from the CCOC staff and local doctors.

Thank you to everyone who made flight 97 possible. May we continue together to make many miracles happen.

Dear Friends,

Update: Sergei Post-Surgery



I recently returned from a very emotional and uplifting trip to Israel, where I visited Sergei, the beautiful young boy who just underwent heart surgery. Sergei was diagnosed with Chernobyl Heart syndrome at birth, and with a lack of proper medical care, he progressively got worse. Unfortunately, Sergei's first surgery was unsuccessful, and he was kept in a medically-induced coma for two days. The doctors had to perform a second surgery, which thank G-d saved his life.

When we first visited Sergei in the hospital, he was barely breathing and on a ventilator. As you can see from these pictures, Sergei is now back in his dorm room; he is smiling and clapping once again.



Elaine Gold visits with Sergei post-surgery in Israel.

Sergei was never left alone. CCOC's incredible staff in Israel, led by Yossi Swerdlov, never left his side, making it known to him that CCOC is his family and that he is loved. Although he will require many more surgeries to repair the extensive damage to his heart, we are certain that Sergei will grow up and make us all proud.

Sergei's laughter brought tears to my eyes. It is because of your generosity, support and care that Sergei will now live a normal, productive life.

There are not enough words to express our appreciation... just his smile.

Esti Herman
Executive Director

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Reflecting on Passover 26 Years Ago



"I was pulling out of my driveway thinking about Passover and recalling my first one in Kfar Chabad when I saw my driveway had been blocked by a UPS truck. I think of that time of my life as my personal Exodus and recall it quite often, but here I was interrupted by a truck that I wasn't even expecting. How amazed I was when I opened the box and saw the matzah from my childhood; the very same type of box that I packed 21 years ago to be sent to someone outside of Israel.

Thank you for the matzah and mostly for the wonderful feeling that it brings to me every time I get it. Thank you and your wonderful team for recreating these miracles and Exoduses."

With warmest regards,
Simon Swerdlov (rescued on CCOC's first flight)

Bat Mitzvah Girl Raises Money for CCOC

Tess Carrier recently celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Los Angeles, California. As huge supporters and advocates of CCOC, Tess and her family thought of the idea of giving back to CCOC through her Bat Mitzvah.

Tess attended several of CCOC's Children at Heart events and walked away inspired to help the Chernobyl children. After much thought and planning, Tess decided to launch a chessed project at her Bat Mitzvah;



she pledged to donate a percentage of all of the Bat Mitzvah gifts she received to CCOC to help rescue and support the children. As a result of Tess' efforts, many children now have the medical care they need, and Tess has inspired so many others her age to become philanthropic and to get involved with organizations such as CCOC.

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What You've Missed: Catch Up on the Latest CCOC Events and Happenings

CCOC Supporters Enjoy Celebrity Experiences

Over the past few months, CCOC supporters have created memories to last a lifetime. Several Children at Heart auction winners completed their celebrity experiences, bringing smiles to everyone involved as well as to the Chernobyl children who were saved as a result.

Family members Linda Toibb, Charlotte Burnett and Melissa Kaye dined with Betty White at Leah Adler's restaurant, The



Betty White dined with CCOC supporters Linda Toibb, Charlotte Burnett and Melissa Kaye (not pictured) at Leah Adler's (pictured right) restaurant, The Milky Way, in Los Angeles. CCOC Board member and Leah's daughter, Nancy Spielberg, also joined them for a fun afternoon.

Milky Way, in Los Angeles, California. Joined by Leah's daughter and CCOC Board member Nancy Spielberg, the group had a fun and quite memorable time together.

In addition, three separate celebrity meals- took place in NYC: Larry King dined with Leila Larjani and guests, the Miles family enjoyed a wonderful dinner with Judges Judy and Jerry Sheindlin, and the Feldman family had brunch with Dakota Fanning.



Dakota Fanning and the Feldman family after enjoying a delicious Sunday brunch.

Teena, Stu, Rikki and Ellie Rubinfeld won an Eloise birthday party at a Children at Heart auction which they very generously used to host a birthday party for a child in need, making it a very special and memorable day for all of the girls.



The Rubinfeld family celebrated two girls' birthdays at the Eloise Store in NYC's Plaza Hotel.

Many thanks to everyone involved in these experiences and to those who participated in the Children at Heart auctions helping children's "dreams take flight"!

Pictured clockwise from top left: Master of Ceremonies Jon Voight, Yuri Foreman, Leyla Leidecker, Shimon Y. Katz, Nancy Spielberg, Sue Spielberg and Leah Adler with Paul Lubetsky and Thierry Chanau of Marina B.; Elle Fanning; Kirk Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michael Douglas; The ICONic Dance Group; Jay Schottenstein, Nancy Spielberg, Bob Book, Chippy Meta; Joshua and Devorah Chaitovsky; Auctioneer Bruce Beck with artist David Kracov; Esti Herman, Elaine Gold, Leah Adler.



Children at Heart Kirk Douglas Honored Celebrating 95th Birthday, 95 Rescue Missions

CCOC's Children at Heart Gala Dinner and Celebrity Fantasy Auction took place on Monday, November 21, 2011 at Chelsea Piers, Pier Sixty in NYC. Joined by Kirk Douglas (recipient of the Children at Heart Award), Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Elle Fanning (Children of the World Award) and others, this year's benefit gala was an incredible success. Honorees of the evening included Elaine Gold, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Joshua Chaitovsky with the New Leadership Award.



New Leadership Hosts Events, Paves the Way for a Successful, Fun Future

CCOC's New Leadership division for young professionals hosted its Fifth Annual Purim Benefit Bash at Amnesia NYC on Thursday, March 1st. The event attracted over 500 costumed guests who had the opportunity to learn about the ongoing effects of the Chernobyl disaster.

New Leadership has hosted a number of other fundraisers throughout the year including a Middle Eastern Rooftop Party where guests enjoyed Middle Eastern food, an open



bar and music by Avram Pengas, who performed throughout the night. The "Anything But Black and White Cruise" was also a tremendous success and quite a colorful evening.

Aside from these events, New Leadership has developed many creative means of fundraising and is committed to making these ideas a reality. Examples include the recent Super Bowl Pool and celebrating New Leadership members' birthdays with parties for charity.

Photos by Shayna Denburg, Shlomo Isaacson and Jakob Layman



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Ramaz Upper School Supports CCOC in Purim Fundraiser

The Ramaz Upper School hosted a Purim fundraiser benefitting CCOC. Led by Avihai Hackmon, Ruby Chertit and Zev Prince, the students raised over \$8,000 for CCOC by selling raffle tickets and chocolate photo lollipops donated by Tasty Image. Auction prizes included a makeup session and day of beauty, an autographed 30Rock DVD set, an autographed Eminem CD, an autographed robe from boxer Dmitriy Salita, and other autographed sports memorabilia.



Ramaz Upper School on Friday, February 24th for students to have the opportunity to create personalized chocolates with proceeds going to CCOC. For just \$3 per lollipop, these children had their pictures taken which were then printed on the chocolate. Simon also spoke to the students and shared his story about how CCOC saved his life.



Tasty Image, a chocolate printing company, is owned by Simon Swerdlow who was saved on CCOC's very first rescue mission. Simon is extremely grateful for all that CCOC did for him as a child, and he generously gives back to the organization by donating products from his company. Simon brought in his Tasty Image crew to the



the Ramaz Upper School for coordinating such a wonderful and successful Purim event!



In addition, the Ramaz Upper School hosted its annual Beit Café night on Monday, February 27th at which parents came to the school for a night of Israeli fun, food and fundraising— all benefitting CCOC. Parents learned about CCOC and were given the chance to purchase mishloach manot, also donated by Simon and Tasty Image. Thank you to the entire staff and student body of

the Ramaz Upper School for coordinating such a wonderful and successful Purim event!

CCOC Girls' Dormitory Gets New Rifkin Computer Lab

The recent addition of the Rifkin Family Computer Lab in the CCOC girls' dormitory has taken connectivity to a new level. Now more than ever before, the girls are able to virtually communicate with their family members back home.



Many of these girls have never had the opportunity to use computers before. Aside from reconnecting with their families, the girls are now able to participate in online learning courses

receive an additional online education.

The new computer lab features 10 high-tech computers, each fully equipped with the necessary programs and technology. The space also serves as an outlet for the girls during their free time and is a very welcoming and comfortable environment for them to relax.

On behalf of the CCOC girls, a very special thank you to Robert

Rifkin and family for donating the new computer lab in loving memory of their parents, Ruth and Ted Rifkin.



To contribute and save a child: call (888) 888-1999 or visit www.ccoc.net

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