

tors. This year's honorees—Gloria and Harvey Kaylie, guests of honor; A.J. and Leah Schreiber, community leadership award; Hy Hetherington, corporate man of the year; Rachel and Jona Rechnitz, young leadership honorees; and The Bert Fried and Leon Hoffman Families, community partnership award in mental health—are passionate about Ohel's mission, tireless in their efforts on behalf of the community; and determined to bring Ohel's mission and vision to the broader community. The leadership of Ohel is grateful for the many corporate sponsors, friends, supporters, and partners who helped the agency recognize their commitment and make the dinner a most memorable one.

The gala fundraiser was attended by key political and government officials, including Senator Charles E. Schumer, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Comptroller John Liu, Congressman Anthony Weiner, NY State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, and Council Members David Weprin, and Nadler among others. Many spoke of their close association with Ohel and acknowledged its exemplary work. Many said, as well, that it was humbling to see a capacity crowd during such challenging financial times. Support for Ohel's critical contributions to our community was everywhere in evidence.

The crowd was especially moved by

Steven, who appeared in a video featured at the dinner and who joined the audience in person to describe how Ohel has enabled him to cope with bipolar disorder to become "the best person he can be." (visit www.Ohelfamily.org/dinnervideo to see the video). Likewise, dinner attendees will not forget the inspiring—and very musical—Bod family who shared their very personal story of their adult twins, one of whom lives with developmental disabilities. Ohel staff was proud that so many share their sentiments as expressed in, "Thanks to Ohel, we know we are not alone."

"Support for our work is as important—if not more important—now than it was when we first began 40 years ago," said Ohel president, Moishe Hellman, "On behalf of every life that has been elevated over the last 40 years, and every life we will elevate in the years to come, we want to express our profound pride and gratitude to our generous partners and friends." ♦

Simchas Purim For Everyone

This past Wednesday, a group of 25 Rambam sophomores, along with Rabbi Y. Friedman, Rabbi Brazil, and Rabbi Ritholtz, paid a visit to the residents at The Woodmere Rehabilitation Center for a pre-Purim delight. They were joined by a group of third-graders from Yeshiva Toras Chaim South Shore (with



Rambam Mesivta students and teachers dancing with Rabbi Abraham Morganstern and other residents at Woodmere Rehab before Purim.

Rabbi Florins). Accompanied by two guitars, a violin, keyboard, and bongos, the boys sang, danced, and created a special *ruach* among the residents. It was a mini-*chagigah* from the boys and the residents were clearly cheered by all the music, dancing, and good fun, as they clapped and sang along. The residents were deeply moved and touched by the spirit of caring the boys brought to their day; some even cried tears of joy and appreciation. As one resident put it,

"The boys brought the joyfulness of Purim into this building." Rambam Mesivta constantly encourages its students to put emphasis on *chesed* and being *mesameach* others, especially at times where everyone in *Klal Yisrael* is supposed to be in a state of "*marbim b'simcha*." The invaluable joy and happiness brought to these people will have an everlasting impression on the boys

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AROUND THE FIVE TOWNS

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and be cherished by the residents at The Woodmere Rehabilitation Center for a very long time.

As Rambam sophomore Josh Honig described it, "A Purim miracle—not only for the residents, but for us as well. It really made us feel great to share the *simchah* of Purim with them." ❖

Yeshiva Yesod Yosef Programs

K'lal Yisrael is facing a major financial crisis along with the rest of the world. It is compounded by the high costs of yeshiva tuition. After high school, many parents send their sons to Israel for a year or more. The costs per year (including plane fare, cell phones, tuition, room and board, spending money, etc.) can add up to over \$20,000 per year. When their children return home, parents can pay \$10,000 per year for yeshiva tuition and another \$30,000 to \$40,000 tuition for a degree in a private college. This is before the expensive costs of graduate school.

In addition, many young men want to get married and continue learning. In many cases they will be supported by their wives and parents for a number of years. Then after having a few children, the parents may no longer be able to support the family or it may be too difficult for the wives to work full time. The responsibility then falls on the young men. There can be a great financial hardship if they first have to get their undergraduate degree and then go on to graduate school.

Yeshiva Yesod Yosef has two serious

sedarim a day where a *talmid* can learn and take state certified exams on his learning to earn credits towards a degree from Excelsior College. The *rebbeim* have many years of experience in career counseling and preparing *talmidim* for life after yeshiva and *kollel*. The degree can be done in 1 1/2 years for a fraction of the cost of a private college. Then a *talmid* can go to Israel to learn knowing that he has a direction for his future *parnasah*. If he chooses, he can go on to graduate school.

Young men who have already learned in a yeshiva in Israel can join the yeshiva and get their degree before they get married. They can learn in *kollel* and know that any time they choose, they can pursue a career.

The yeshiva is very concerned for the financial success of young men learning in *kollel*. It offers married men a chance to join their program for free. All they would have to pay is the tuition to Excelsior College.

The experienced staff provides career counseling and life coaching to help *talmidim* acquire the appropriate life skills and Torah *hashkafas* to become true *bnei Torah* who are prepared for a job, marriage, and raising a family.

The *rosh yeshiva*, Rabbi Dovid Rhodes, was *rosh yeshiva* of the Yeshiva of Great Neck for over 15 years. He took three years off to start a thriving shul and *kiruv* center, The Midwest Torah Center, in South Bend, Indiana. Rabbi Rhodes has been involved in *chinuch* and personal and family counseling for over 30 years. He lived in *Eretz Yisrael*, where he taught in various yeshivas and *kiruv* centers. He received *semichah* from Harav Leib Bakst,

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