

Tri Center Project, July 2008

Evaluation Session- Parents

Leah Blank, Jerusalem- I'm very moved. I have been part of this project from the beginning and I'm very sad that it ends. It is so moving to meet the teens and see that they share so much in common even though they are from different countries. I'm pleased that the selection of the teens was so successful. Our goal was that they will become community leaders. And they will. It was exciting to meet the families of the teens and also to see the change during the project. I hope it will not be the end. In our neighborhood, thanks to the project, parents become more active on our local community center.

Claudia, Buenos Aires- I feel very proud to be part of this project. I know how much hard work was put into it. I'm sure we will stay in touch.

Michael, New York- This was a wonderful experience. We felt so welcomed and the hospitality was so warm. The Argentina families added a special spirit. We will stay friends for life.

Steve, Buenos Aires- Thanks to this visit we began to understand the great complexity of living in Jerusalem. We are thankful for the Israeli families who opened their homes for us. Understanding the point of view of other Jews from different countries is a beginning of a bridge. We don't know how we can reciprocate this warm hospitality.

Eitan, Jerusalem- My wife and I were quite anxious before the joint trip began and I thought that my daughter was exaggerating. But I became so attached. It will be very sad for me that Daniela, our guest, will leave. We were thrilled to have her. We became connected to her in a second. It had a strong influence on us.

Dawn, New York- This was my first visit to Israel and it is an incredible trip. It opened my mind to the complexities of the society: religion, ethnics etc. Now that the New York teens are going to college they can get involved in their colleges with Israel related programs. They will be able to transmit what they learned and know.

Daniel, Buenos Aires- There is an inner debate in the Jewish community of Buenos Aires these days about who is a Jew. (Clarification: The debate is about burial of intermarried Jews.) A program like this helps the Jewish spirit of the community come to life. Judaism is much more than just a religion- we have the same point of reference.

Galit, Jerusalem- We also have problems in Jerusalem. This project was a great introduction to the neighborhood we live in. It had a lot of impact on us. The community center can develop a follow up program for youngsters who travel to Latin America and can stop in Buenos Aires and visit the Jewish community. They can be hosted there but also give back in the form of lectures and other ways of volunteering.

Dina, Buenos Aires- I want to thank the warm hospitality and the special opportunity to be in Israel with my son and my community. I'm sure that it will affect him for the rest of his life. It is a dream comes true.

Raya, Jerusalem- It was a very successful visit, thought too short. In the future, should be longer.

Joan, New York- I wish we could spend more time with the host families in smaller groups. We enjoyed very much the informal time we spent together.

Diana, Buenos Aires- My daughter arrived a few days before and had no problem arranging the whole trip- the families hosted her, traveled with her. It shows how the connection is strong.

Mimi, Buenos Aires- It will be important to continue exchange program. For me it was very important to understand Israel and to learn about it through the eyes of community members.

Poli, Jerusalem- I feel like part of a big family. You are like family members who live far away and that I met for the first time.

Vicky, Buenos Aires- It is important to keep the connection alive. I suggest that we develop a camp exchange between the various scamps.

Rina Shkolnik, Executive Director, the Greater Five Towns JCC- This is a dream come true. We had a major challenge ahead of us but the investment was worthwhile. The real challenge is now the follow up.

Eli Ophir, Jewish Agency- It is important for us to assess the quality of the program. This climax is a proof of such a strong impact.