

## Ten Yad L'Yad Sarah

By: Cheli Arussy

It all started when I was sitting, thinking of what kind of Chessed Project I wanted to do. I felt that everyone should be helped, not just the sick, not just the poor, not just children and not just adults, but everyone. This is how I came to the wonderful organization of Yad Sarah.

Yad Sarah is an amazing organization that helps everyone; they help the hungry, they help the poor, they help the sick and many other kinds of people. Yad Sarah is also an organization that helps people of all ages. This organization has many branches throughout Israel. They have many different services, including fitness centers for people with special needs, geriatric dental clinics, oxygen services and special equipments, toy libraries and enrichment centers for children with special needs and their families and much more.

Once I had my organization, the next question became, what to do? I decided to help both by raising money and volunteering. The raising money portion was done mainly in America. I raised money by selling bracelets that said "Ten Yad L'Yad Sarah" on them at school, and had friends sell them at their schools. In addition I donated some of my Bat Mitzvah gift money to Yad Sarah. When I went to Israel to do my second portion of my Chessed project and to continue my Bat Mitzvah, I was welcomed with a warm smile by everyone in Yad Sarah. In the morning, before my Bat Mitzvah celebration in Israel, I went to Yad Sarah with some of my family, including grandparents, uncles and cousins. We first had a tour and then got down to business. Our mission that day was to build walkers. We split up into a few groups and built the walkers. Along with volunteering, I couldn't forget to mention Yad Sarah in my Bat Mitzvah speech, so I spoke about Yad Sarah and how amazing of an organization it is.

Everything that I did was fun and I hope I helped, but I did not feel as if what I did was enough so I decided to return and volunteer again this past summer. I volunteered with my sister and we helped senior citizens with activities and physical therapy. I also decided to raise more money especially with the war that went on and after hearing about how many of their facilities were damaged in the north. I decided that I would probably be

more interested if I had fun doing it at the same time. That is how I came up with the idea of doing a play as a fundraiser. I love performing and so do a lot of my friends so we got a director, got permission from the school, chose a play, and held auditions. We all thought that a good idea for a play would be something that had to do with Israel or the Jewish nation, so we thought that maybe a good idea would be a holocaust play, preferably one in which the main characters end up in Israel. We found an amazing, original play, written by Barbara Wind and based on a book written by a holocaust survivor, Bracha Weisbarth. Bracha wrote a book about her experience in the holocaust, although she was only two in that time. The play is called "Young Partisan" and is a story of a group of partisans and how Bracha, or Shayna as she is called in the play, and her family became part of that group. My friends and I all loved the play and decided to do it so we got a cast and started practicing. The play will be in November and at the play, our high school Israel Action Committee will also be selling dinner and we will have a small boutique with student designed items (my sisters sell beaded jewelry to raise money for Yad Sarah). All of the money raised will be donated to Yad Sarah and other charity organizations based in Israel.

The Chessed project I did in sixth grade really changed my life. I loved volunteering and raising money, and most importantly, I feel like I really made a difference in someone's life. Hopefully this is just the beginning....