

This week the athletes will be participating in a very special program called Lev I' Lev (Heart-to-Heart). We will have about 16 teams and three separate Mission Group participants visiting very meaningful and important non-profits in the greater Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa areas: places such as Shalva, Beit Halochem, Ilan Haifa and Israel Sports Center for the Disabled. We will also deliver gifts for the athletes to Benji's House in Ra'anana, a place where Lone Soldiers (those without family in Israel serving in the IDF) live and where they have warm meals and a lovely place to live on the weekends and on their time off from the Army. They were thrilled for our visit!

The Judo Team put on an exhibition at a Judo facility which was wonderful, and special programs have been scheduled by our Squash and Field Hockey teams as well. Marc Backal, MD completed an amazing project providing free eyeglasses to needy Arab and Jewish children and some of the children will attend a Maccabiah soccer game in Acco on July 16. Your kids were asked to bring gifts to these people appropriate to their special needs. We have learned over the years that both the givers and those who receive find the connection to be a blessing. Good things are being done by our Maccabiah athletes every day that we are here in Israel! We are so proud of them!