

ORGANIZATIONS

New Frum Respite Home for Children With Special Needs

In our high tech world, it gets harder and harder to impress people with new gadgets, profound ideas and fresh concepts. But in Brooklyn, a low tech initiative has created a spectacular benchmark for hesed.

At the grand opening of HASC Center's Lev Tova, New York's only frum overnight respite home for children with special needs, there were parents, neighbors, volunteers, friends, and government officials who came to learn about this remarkable new service to our community. The opening featured clowns, cotton candy, face painting, and a carnival atmosphere, but the crowds in attendance didn't get to see the real story.

The real story behind the HASC Center took place just a few weeks ago, when a young boy named Chaim's parents had no options for the first Shabbat with their new twin sons. While Chaim's mother recovered from a difficult birth and made



preparations for a double brit, and visiting relatives, the level of excitement and activity in the household rose to a level that Chaim would not have been able to cope with. Lev Tova's expert staff made it possible for Chaim to celebrate Shabbat in a

safe and warm environment as they helped him adjust to the new situation he would find at home.

Lev Tova's living and dining rooms are spacious and welcoming. With six large bedrooms, up to eight children can be accommodated at a time. Lev Tova even provides a state of the art Snoezelen Room which offers a wide range of sensory experiences for the children to enjoy. Many parents commented on the range of features, all of which meet the highest standards of safety.

At the center's grand opening, both professionals and parents of children with special needs toured the home, spoke to the nurse, and met the staff.

As she reserved a place at Lev Tova for an upcoming Shabbat, one mother expressed her gratitude:

"Finally, there's a place to send our children for Shabbat where Shabbat is an adventure for them and a respite for us."□



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