

# New program offers after-school activities to sick kids

**Carolyn Blackman**  
Staff Reporter

Chai Lifeline's Shining Star programs gives children who are sick or have special needs a chance to feel part of the crowd.

Offered once a week at the Prosserman JCC, the program offers kids ages four to 12, and their siblings, the opportunity to take part in activities together.

Rabbi Mordechai Rothman, director of Chai Lifeline Canada – an organization that provides emotional and financial support to families battling life-threatening and chronic pediatric illness – said the idea for the program came about when he saw the children at summer camp and realized how happy they were there.

"I wanted them to have the same fun at an afternoon program. They watch their siblings take part in activities, but there was really no place for them to go, so we created a program for them."

It also gives parents the opportunity to have a dinner at home, he said, "and let them regroup – their kids get door-to-door transportation – in order to be the best parents they can be. The benefits of the program are two-fold."

The program started in September – the Prosserman JCC donates the space – as a pilot with about 15 kids, "but we have seen positive results. The kids are having fun and making friends. We feel we're giving them something every week."



**Children take part in Chai Lifeline's Shining Star program activities.**

Activities are tailored to everyone, he said, so "even those in wheelchairs can take part."

He said that some participants who are older than the others come in to help out, "so they are also taking advantage of what we have to offer."

Rabbi Rothman said that it is a privilege for him to be part of Chai Lifeline. "This job is amazing for me. I go to work every day and feel good about what we do. I get to see the good side of people, I see a smile on a child's face, and I see parents' relief. There is nothing more powerful."

For information on Chai Lifeline Shining Stars, call 647-430-5933.

## Protect Your Table

### Made-To-Measure Table Pads

Prevents scratches, burns & spills

Free in-home service • Factory Direct Pricing

**DOVER PAD**

Now available  
in Calgary

Montreal: (514) 420-6030

Canada: (800) 354-4445

[www.doverpad.ca](http://www.doverpad.ca)

QUALITY SINCE 1950

\*Select model pads are exempt from this special given their already low, low pricing!

20%\* Off!

PASSOVER  
EXTRAVAGANZA

Sale ends March 19th