

Camper considers counselor just one of the family

Families of sick children are also included in many activities

SIMCHA cont. from page 12.

Rothman points to when discussing highlights of his involvement with Chai Lifeline.

"I was really touched when I heard about a boy who called his counselor and told him that his father was diagnosed with cancer," explained Rothman. "The boy hadn't told anyone before calling his counselor who he referred to as being family."

Families of the sick children are also included in many activities of Chai Lifeline. One activity, which has helped a lot of parents cope with their struggles, is the Chai chat line.

This program lets parents talk to others who are in the same position of caring for a sick child.

"That was the best thing because it connected mothers across North America," said a mother who didn't want to be identified. "It's been very helpful and I'm so grateful for it."

This mother, whose son suffered from cancer was also glowing about another program from Chai Lifeline that allows certain sick kids the privilege of travelling to a desired destination such as Orlando, or even Israel.

"I always wanted to go to Israel with my children and never thought it would happen," said the mother. "He made some great friends and came back from Israel a changed person."

At least once a week, Rothman talks to the families and occasionally takes kids to hockey games or other events they would like to attend.



PHOTO: BANISH APPELBAUM



PHOTO: CHAI LIFELINE

Wheelchair-bound campers (left) enjoy a moment of friendship, while another camper works on a pottery project at Camp Simcha, a camp for Jewish kids with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses in Glen Spey, NY.

"The families are really happy to have their needs addressed and are always grateful," said Rothman. "I can't say enough about the volunteers who at a drop of a hat are ready to volunteer to put a smile on a child's face and just be there as a friend."

For more information on programs or to volunteer, call Rothman at 647-430-5933.

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