

BULLETIN BOARD

HASC Center Recognition Week

HASC Center acknowledged their very dedicated staff during Staff Recognition Week. This is an annual event during which the dedicated staff of this premier agency recognizes the dedication, commitment and hard work of all its' employees. The kick-off for the week took place amidst a wonderful spirit and socialization at a catered reception for the entirety of the HASC Center agency. The assemblage was addressed by Samuel Kahn, Executive Director, Dr. Chaim Wakslak, Clinical Director and Abe Eisner, President of the Board of Directors. HASC Center was honored by the presence of several senior OPWDD representatives headed by Donna Limiti, Associate Commissioner who expressed her special admiration for the staff and the work that HASC Center does on behalf of those they

serve. Special awards were presented to the outstanding staff members who were selected by their peers for this recognition. Penina, one of the people who reside at a HASC Center residence addressed the audience from the perspective of what her years at HASC Center have meant to her.

HASC Center Recognition Week places value upon every staff member regardless of their position, title or responsibility. It is clear that the success, growth and advancement of every man, woman or child who either lives in a HASC Center residence or attends one the various program offerings is a consequence

of an integrated team effort, with everyone playing a vital role.

Staff Recognition Week, at HASC Center, is a time where the focus is upon expressing gratitude and appreciation for the hard work that often times goes unacknowledged or is taken for granted. On a daily basis, during this special week, staff will receive surprise treats placed at their desks, or at their place of work. A photographer taking the employee's picture, a caricaturist illustrating the employee and their special interest, hourly raffles, coupons for discounted merchandise and services all represent small tokens which reinforce the appreciation that HASC Center has for these hard working individuals. 📷



The Pirchei Seeach Choir:

Making Major Inroads in Community Integration

Integration of the special-needs community in mainstream society reached new heights this summer when ten young men with special needs performed in front of a 10,000 strong audience at the English Siyum Hashas which took place this summer in Yerushalayim.

The Pirchei Seeach Choir, a choir under the auspices of Seeach Sod, a pioneering special ed. organization in Israel, was honored to perform at the English Siyum HaShas on August 5th in the Binyanei Ha'muah auditorium. As the choir got on stage and began singing Carlbach's classic "Tov L'hodos", the crowd started singing, dancing and clapping along with avid enthusiasm.

Believe it or not, the main soloist in the choir is severely autistic. Avemel is not verbally responsive, yet he carries a tune beautifully and his melodic voice moves listeners from all walks of life. One member of the audience remarked, "The performance last night was nothing short of magnificent. The singing electrified the crowd. Everyone was clapping, singing, dancing... It was one of the most heartwarming sights I have ever seen."

A woman who watched the performance on a live hookup in the women's hall relayed the following message to the choir members: "Your singing was beautiful and very inspiring. The Seeach

Sod choir was one of the best parts of the Siyum HaShas for me! Thank you for being there and singing for everyone. I hope to see the choir at other events."

What an incredible achievement and merit to have special boys participate in the Siyum Hashas along with the rest of Klal Yisrael! Who could have imagined such an achievement, just three decades ago? Society has certainly come a long way in mainstreaming the special-needs community! 📷

