

Around The Five Towns

Zev's Bowlathon: Fighting For A Cure One Strike At A Time

May 18 was a drizzly Sunday with spotty showers and a low cloud cover. Yet, the inside of Maple Lanes Bowling Alley was filled with laughter, cheering, and the clatter of bowling pins. Over 100 people came together in an amazing show of generosity and support to help raise nearly \$25,000 for Zev Wolff.

Zev Eliezer ben Chaya Shaindel is a six-year-old boy from Woodmere with a

rare and aggressive form of cancer called neuroblastoma. In the past three years he has been through multiple surgeries, radiation, and chemotherapy in an effort to win the battle over his cancer.

"He just loves life." Helen Wolff, Zev's mother, remarked as Zev exchanged high fives with AY Mernick, his counselor from Camp Simcha.

"I knocked down four pins!" Zev held up four chubby fingers, his face lighting up as Meir Fried, one of the organizers of the event, began chanting his name.

Zev's Fund was created by Helen and Ranan Wolff as an independent organization to raise money for a number of research and drug development projects which will bring Zev and other kids with neuroblastoma closer to a cure. Its poignant and informative website at www.zevsfund.org keeps family and friends informed and provides donation information. Although currently under temporary maintenance while being updated, the website will be back up within the month.

The cost of clinical trials and medical research runs into the millions of dollars, and throughout the Five Towns numerous fundraising projects have been arranged over the year from concerts, to speeches, marathons, and bake sales. High schoolers, grown-ups, grandparents, and kids alike have all joined together in Zev's fight.

The Bowlathon began as a random idea after a counselor from Camp Simcha met Zev on a trip to Disney World and later read a letter his grandmother sent in to the local paper about Zev's Fund. "When I realized the boy in the article was the same one I sat next to on the plane ride I felt this incredible need to do something," said Chaya Goldstein.

A couple of e-mails later, that something turned into Zev's Bowlathon.

The program began with a buffet spread catered by Sub-Express and then led to hours of bowling, socializing, and good natured competition. Zev's favorite part of the evening? Definitely the T-shirts that were generously donated with his name stenciled across them.

"Can I keep it?" he begged in earnest.

The outpouring of support was remarkable with bowlers of all ages arriving with stacks of checks they'd collected and others requesting addressed envelopes to send in continued donations. An eight-year-old showed up at the check-in table and handed in three quarters, two dimes and a nickel. "It's for Zev." He said proudly. And that summed up the evening pretty well. It was for Zev.

Checks can be made out to Zev's Fund and sent to P.O. Box 58, Cedarhurst NY 11516.

Please continue to *daven* for Zev Eliezer ben Chaya Shaindel *l'refuah shelaimah*. ❖

Boro Park Nurses Receive Special Recognition From Gift Of Life

Nurses who are responsible for the cord blood recruitment program at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn and the Boro Park OBGYN office received special recognition by the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation on May 6 at the start of Nurses Appreciation Week. Officials of Gift of Life visited with the nurses to express their personal thanks to "the everyday heroes" who will be responsible for saving many lives, said Jay Feinberg, founder and executive director.

Cord blood remains in the umbilical cord and placenta following birth after the cord is cut. Although usually discarded, cord blood is an extremely valuable resource because it is rich in blood forming stem cells. After a baby's birth,

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Event organizers, Meir Fried, Chaya Goldstein, Tzviya Lubinsky and Penny Routberg along with Zev, his mother, Helen Wolff to his left, and his sister Elisheva.

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