YI OF TEANECK, NJ

There is a well-known Jewish proverb; "These three are the marks of a Jew - a tender heart, self-respect and charity". We witnessed a celebration of these principles at a Young Israel of Teaneck youth activity event on Feb. 6.

Susan Weinstock and Deena Segal volunteered, over a year ago, to organize a monthly activity for the children of the shul and the community. The "Stuff a Bear" event was attended by over fifty children. Stations were set up and the children, from the age of 3 and up started by stuffing a variety of animals. They each picked out a favorite animal for this occasion. Each child was also given a star, told to make a wish on it and to be placed

in the animal before sealing it. At the next station they colored and drew on a t-shirt made to fit the stuffed animal. After bathing it and giving it a good-bye kiss, with proper seriousness and enthusiasm, the animal was carefully placed in a charity box. The children were told that the animals will be given out to sick children in hospitals, both in the Teaneck area and in Israel. The last station of this assembly line was the Mitzvoh table where cake and snacks were served to celebrate the completion of this Mitzvoh event.

Daniel Rothner, founder of a local charity organization Areyvut, a non-profit organization that creates programs for Jewish Youth, explained to

the children that the stuffed animals will end up in the hands of little children who will love these presents and will appreciate the wonderful Mitzvoh act of the children of the Young Israel of Teaneck.

This event was a lot of fun and thanks to Areyvut it was elevated into a memorable and meaningful celebration. Learn more about Areyvut at:

Areyvut.org.

(Left) Daniel Rothner founder of Areyvut, (middle) Deena Segal and (left) Susan Weinstock

Kids at the Young Israel of Teaneck celebrating the beautiful Mitzvot they did!

Kids getting tattoos and stickers

Emily Segal (left) and Brianna Weinstock putting their bears in a box going to sick children