

A photograph of four young men sitting on a sidewalk in front of a glass-walled building. From left to right: the first man has brown hair, wears sunglasses and a blue t-shirt with orange suspenders; the second man has dark hair and a goatee, wears a tie-dye t-shirt; the third man wears a purple baseball cap, reflective sunglasses, a red t-shirt with 'RISCH' and 'AMPI' visible, and orange suspenders; the fourth man wears a black baseball cap and a blue t-shirt. They are all smiling at the camera.

YACHAD ANNUAL REPORT

2018



YACHAD
BECAUSE EVERYONE
BELONGS



YACHAD INCLUSION PROGRAMS

SOCIAL RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

SHABBATONIM (WEEKEND RETREATS)

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SOCIAL SKILLS COURSES

IVDU SCHOOLS

DAY HAB ADULT SERVICES

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

TAGLIT BIRTHRIGHT TRIPS

NAIM (NORTH AMERICAN INCLUSION MONTH)

FAMILY SERVICES

EDUCATION CONFERENCES

YACHAD GIFTS

LETTER

Dear Friends of Yachad:

Thanks to your support, Yachad's 2018 programmatic year (September 2017-August 2018) was our biggest and best yet. It is impossible to describe in the few pages of this Annual Report the breadth of our social, educational, recreational and clinical programming (though we've tried). Even harder is to convey the impact of those programs on those with disabilities, their parents and siblings, our extraordinary volunteer advisors and the literally thousands of campers, employers, tour guides and others whose perspectives are forever changed by their exposure to the Yachad message of inclusion.

Still, we hope you will take a few minutes to read through this Annual Report and marvel at what we have been able to accomplish b'Yachad - together.

Here are some of the highlights of 2018:

- We opened our new Yachad Inclusion Center on Emek Refaim Street in Jerusalem
- We opened a new IVDU School in Long Island for Kindergartners
- Our IVDU basketball team played its first game
- We added Camp Stone to the roster of Yachad summer programs
- 46 schools and communities hosted inclusive Shabbatonim
- We ran 37 sensitivity training sessions across North America
- We employed over 150 professionals and teachers and had over 350 volunteer advisors
- Our budget exceeded \$18 million

We have kept the pedal to the metal in 2019, opening new facilities in New England and New Jersey. (But more about that in next year's report.)

Yachad turns 35 this year. With the help of Hashem, as our services have expanded, we have made great strides in making our communities more welcoming to individuals who have disabilities. But there is so much more to do.

Thank you for being our partners. When you donate to, or volunteer with Yachad you are making a statement that Everyone Belongs.

We welcome your feedback about this Annual Report, or anything else.



**DR. JEFFREY
LICHTMAN**
INTERNATIONAL
DIRECTOR



**MITCH
AEDER**
CHAIRMAN

SOCIAL RECREATIONAL

Yachad hosts **12 HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS** across North America

1,213 43% increase
INCLUSIVE WEEKDAY EVENTS
held internationally, including:



Paint Night



Cupcake Making



Bowling



Pizza Making

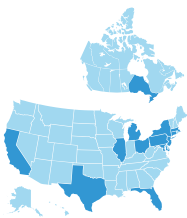


Karaoke



Superbowl Parties

SHABBATONIM (WEEKEND RETREATS)



Beverly Hills, CA
Long Beach, CA
Los Angeles, CA
Stamford, CT
Boca Raton, FL
Hollywood, FL
Chicago, IL
Skokie, IL

200
SHABBATONIM

46
CITIES

11
STATES

3
COUNTRIES

Raanana, Israel
Maale Adumim, Israel
Beit Shemesh, Israel
Jerusalem, Israel
Brookline, MA
Newton, MA
Sharon, MA
Waltham, MA
Baltimore, MD
Detroit, MI
East Brunswick, NJ
Edison, NJ
Englewood, NJ

Fair Lawn, NJ
Highland Park, NJ
Ocean Township, NJ
Paramus, NJ
Teaneck, NJ
West Orange, NJ
Flatbush, NY
Bronx, NY
Brooklyn, NY
Flushing, NY
Great Neck, NY
Jamaica Estates, NY
New Rochelle, NY

New York, NY
Staten Island, NY
Suffern, NY
Valley Stream, NY
West Hempstead, NY
White Plains, NY
Woodmere, NY
Beachwood, OH
Thornhill, ON
Toronto, ON
Providence, RI
Dallas, TX

ISRAEL

Yachad partnered with Camp Dror Boys and Camp Dror Girls to host Yachad's first Summer Camper programs in Israel.

Over **800 RUNNERS** participated in the **TEL AVIV COLOR RUN** and **250 RUNNERS** ran in the **JERUSALEM MARATHON** representing Team Yachad.

The **YACHAD ISRAEL INCLUSION CENTER** became a pop-up cafe for a night run by the vocational center members. Over **100 PEOPLE VISITED THE CAFE** and enjoyed a lavish dinner.

BIRTHRIGHT - Yachad is the go-to Birthright provider offering trips for people with disabilities. This year **55 PARTICIPANTS** connected with Israel through Yachad's Birthright trips. **SIX PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATED THEIR BAR/BAT MITZVAHS** on Yachad Birthright.



SUMMER

Together with mainstream Jewish camps, Yachad enables campers with disabilities to attend camp with extra support through a shadow in a typical bunk or by creating a Yachad bunk that participates in all camp activities. Adults with disabilities have the opportunity to work at camp through Yachad's Vocational Programs.



28 SUMMER PROGRAMS served 621 campers from 19 different states, 4 countries, and 130 different cities.

Yachad works with **17 PARTNER CAMPS** to provide inclusive summer programming.



Through our programs in mainstream Jewish camps Yachad has reached over **6,900 CAMPERS**.

93% of parents reported that their camper was **FULLY INCLUDED** in the camp community.



94% of parents reported that their child had a **GREAT SUMMER**.

88% of parents reported that they expect their child would **WANT TO RETURN NEXT YEAR**.



Yachad provided campers with **\$540,000 IN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT**.

YAD B'YAD

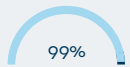
Yachad's inclusive traveling summer program in Israel for young adults with and without disabilities.

124 OF THE 128 PARTICIPANTS (97%!) from Yachad B'Yad 2018 have CONTINUED THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH YACHAD through reunions, school Yachad clubs, and local Yachad chapter events.

28 of this summer's 37 staff members were returning Yachad B'Yad participants

EDUCATION

Through The IVDU Schools' (2 high schools and 2 elementary schools) unique individualized life and vocational skills training together with curricula secular and Jewish studies students are prepared to integrate into the Jewish community and become contributing members of society.



22 IVDU Upper School students took the New York State **REGENTS EXAMS** and **99% PASSED**.

Through a partnership with Gallop NYC & Credit Suisse Fund, **20%** of elementary students received **EQUINE THERAPY**.



IVDU opened a **NEW CAMPUS** on Long Island, NY. Beginning with a kindergarten class the campus will grow each year to incorporate a new grade in the elementary division.

OUR WAY

PROGRAM FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Our Way hosted social and learning events for **400 PEOPLE** in the New York and Baltimore areas throughout the year including **THREE COMMUNITY SHABBATONIM**.



The hearing aid Gemach (free loan society) refurbished **75 SETS OF HEARING AIDS** and lent out 30.

600 SYNAGOGUES and schools on five continents used Yachad's **PURIM POWERPOINT** to ensure that those with hearing impairments could follow along and celebrate together.



ADULT & VOCATIONAL SERVICES

The **VOCATIONAL TRAINING** program at Yachad Gifts served **22 PARTICIPANTS** this year. Yachad Gifts employs 13 former members of the training program and eight graduates have secured employment in other companies.



The **OU COMMUNITY CENTER** in Brooklyn, NY provides hands on vocational skills training to individuals with disabilities. The Center served **40 JOB SEEKERS IN 2018**. Of these, 10 got jobs.

33% increase



YACHAD GIFTS took **1,962 ORDERS** this year resulting in **10,168 BASKETS SOLD**.

16% increase

Yachad serves as a resource to many of the agencies that offer vocational services for adults with disabilities. This year **100 DISABILITY PROFESSIONALS** from 35 agencies attended the annual **CONFERENCE FOR DISABILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS**.

CLINICAL & FAMILY SERVICES

Yachad works with individuals with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to cognitive, developmental, and physical challenges.



The Northeast Yachad Family Shabbatonim brought together **850 FAMILY MEMBERS** providing them with the information, networking, and support they need. This year for the first time there was directed programming for **SIBLINGS** in five unique age categories.

Yachad hosted **FIVE PARENT NIGHTS**. Through these programs Yachad provided **300 PARENTS** of children with disabilities with needed information on behavior plans, transitioning to adulthood, proactive solutions to outbursts and more.



Over **160** individuals receive formal **COUNSELING** through Yachad.

Yachad ran **11 SOCIAL SKILLS COURSES**.

35 Graduate level Social Work, Mental Health Counseling, and Psychology interns **VOLUNTEERED FOR 29,400 HOURS**. These interns ran support groups, provided counseling, served as job coaches, and supported the intake process.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

250 SYNAGOGUES across North America participated in **NORTH AMERICAN INCLUSION MONTH** by hosting an inclusive program, speaker, or scholar in residence.

50% increase



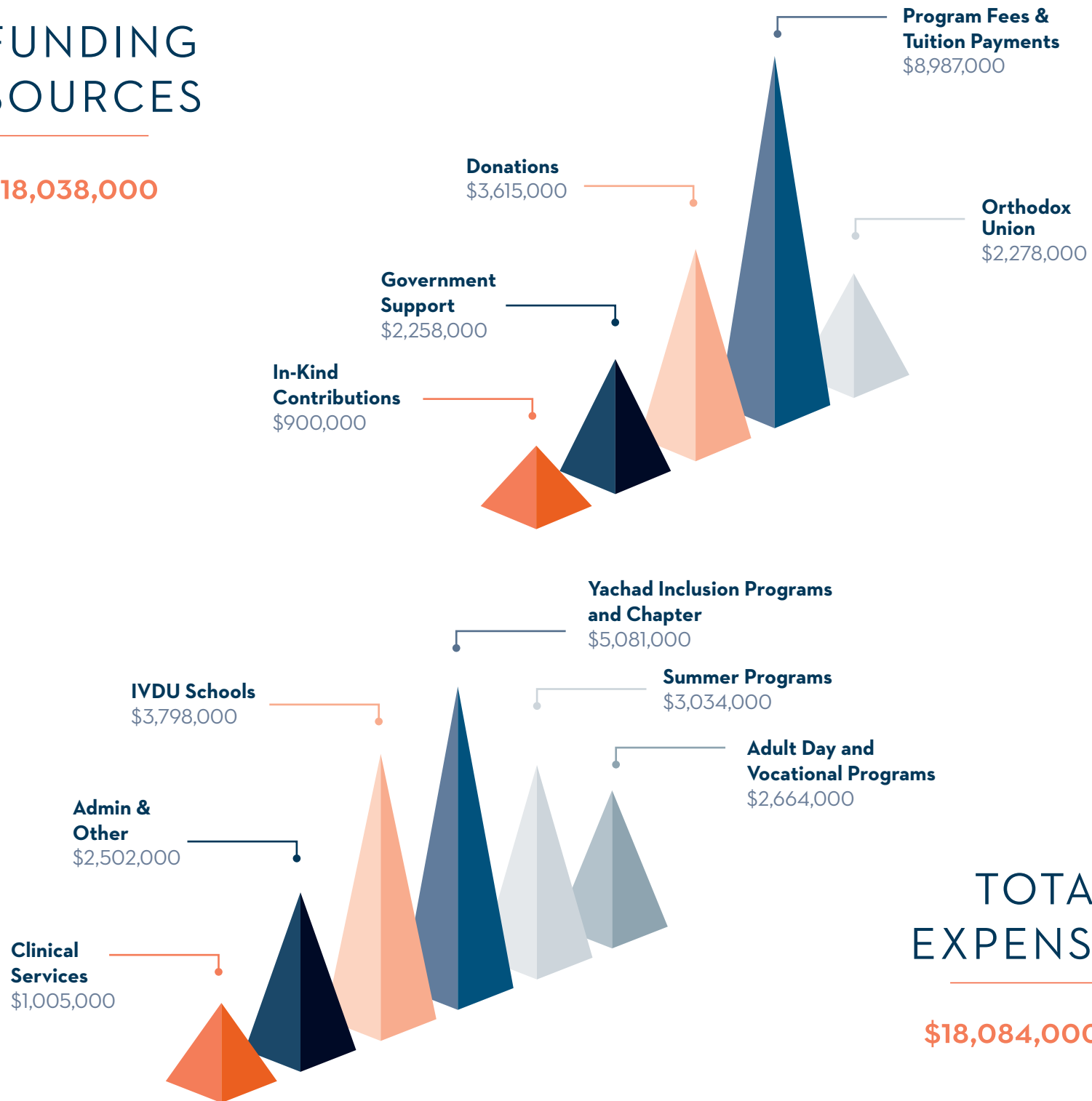
Yachad offered conferences in four cities that **TRAINED OVER 750 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS** in strategies for facilitating inclusion in a mainstream classroom, giving them the tools they need to support students with learning differences.

Yachad ran **37 SENSITIVITY TRAININGS** at schools across North America, allowing nearly **2,000 STUDENTS** to "walk in someone else's shoes."

1,041 PARTICIPANTS across 15 locations learned the importance of **PERSON FIRST LANGUAGE**

FUNDING SOURCES

\$18,038,000





BECOME A PARTNER

The OU Benefactor Circle

is our major donor recognition society; it celebrates those donors whose vision has fueled our ability to affect thousands through our many global programs.

ADM/ROI
Mitch & Lita Aeder
Ariela Balk in honor of the Mendel Balk
Yachad Adult Community Center
Lewis & Lauri Barbanel
Yale & Ann Baron
Mr. Harvey Bell
Max & Elana Berlin
Vivian & Daniel Chill
Combined Jewish Philanthropies
Mr. Sheldon J. David
Gershon & Aviva Distenfeld
Shimon & Chaya Eckstein

Robert Eisenberg
Rabbi Manfred & Liselotte Z"L
Gans Chessed Fund
Elliot P. & Deborah Gibber
Rabbi Sidney & Lisa Glenner
Kitty & Anwar Hoory Z"L
Jewish Federation In The Heart Of New Jersey
Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey
In Memory of Judy Lefkovits
Avi & Ravital Korn
Legacy Heritage Fund
Azi & Rachel Mandel
Mrs. Fegi Mauer

Gail & Binyamin Rieder
Ira & Debra Rosenberg
Eric & Gale Rothner
Ruderman Family Foundation
Stanley & Ethel Scher
Barry & Joy Sklar
Matt Teichman
UJA-Federation Of New York
Lillian Zeides Z"L

*We would like to thank
the many donors and
foundations that prefer to
remain anonymous*

Get involved and join the:

371

Runners who ran with Team Yachad this year in Miami and Jerusalem

1,007

Individuals and families who opened their homes to provide home hospitality for a Yachad Shabbaton

350+

College aged volunteers who staff Yachad shabbatons as advisors

98

Corporate Sponsors

524

People who spend their summer as staff on a Yachad Summer Program

1,962

Customers who purchased a basket from Yachad Gifts this year and supported the vocational training of individuals with disabilities

1,500+

People who attended a Yachad fundraising event this year

JEWISH UNION FOUNDATION

The Jewish Union Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. JUF offers a wide array of services that help individuals achieve greater independence and become better able to participate in the full spectrum of life.

LONG ISLAND

In early 2017, members of the Long Island Jewish community approached JUF with a request to start a Long Island-based adult day and vocational training program. In August 2017 JUF was proud to launch a program servicing 20 individuals. This program provides participants with the opportunity to work and volunteer in local establishments, interact with members of the community, develop social skills and increase independence.

SUNDAY PROGRAM

In the fall of 2017 JUF was asked by families in the Brooklyn community to take over an existing weekly recreational program. The goal is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities with social and recreational opportunities, as well as helping them build new friendships. The response to this program has been extremely positive, and participants and their families are excited for this program to continue.

The Jewish Union Foundation is an affiliate of Yachad

2016-2017
vs.
2017-2018
GROWTH

22%

GROWTH FROM
LAST YEAR IN **DAY
HABILITATION**
ENROLLMENT

23%

MORE
INDIVIDUALS
BECAME
EMPLOYED

33%

MORE INDIVIDUALS
ARE RECEIVING
**COMMUNITY
HABILITATION**
SERVICES
THROUGH JUF



JUF PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES:

ADULT DAY HABILITATION

programs in **Brooklyn, Long Island, and Manhattan** provide individualized support to adults with developmental disabilities to help each person reach their full potential. The program emphasizes social skills development, life skills training, community inclusion and vocational preparation. Staff works with each individual to assist them in becoming as independent as possible.

SUPPLEMENTAL DAY HABILITATION

programs take place on evenings and weekends in **Brooklyn and Long Island** and focuses on each person's goals and aspirations.

COMMUNITY HABILITATION

offers individualized staff support both in the home and in the community to facilitate community inclusion and independence. This service is available throughout **New York State**.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT

offers job readiness training, internships, job placement services and job coaching in the **Metro New York area**. Participants are able to practice their job skills in a concrete way by taking part in job-specific trainings in areas such as retail, office, restaurant and construction. This allows job seekers with little to no formal experience to apply for positions having already trained for the job, drastically increasing their likelihood of being hired as a paid employee.

SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT

supports for individuals who are currently employed in the **Metro New York area**. This includes services such as job coaching, communication with employers and the assistance necessary to help maintain employment.

PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

is a year long program that helps individuals discover

what kind of employment they are interested in and where they would be successful by trying out multiple work environments.

ACCESS-VR SERVICES

coordinates employment training for individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid services.

INDIVIDUALIZED LIVING ALTERNATIVES

establishes living arrangements for adults who require minimal support to live independently.

RESPIRE SERVICES

offers after school program for children with developmental disabilities.

SUNDAY PROGRAM

YACHAD GIFTS



"This day program has helped me to be independent and responsible. They've helped me get a job and work alone. And, be successful!"

Chana Brukman
Individual

"JUF brought specialized services that were a need in the Queens/Long Island community, such as vocational training and community inclusion. Emma is just so happy and the staff are incredible!"

Betsy Mandel
Parent

"The Sunday program has really changed my life in knowing that Jack is busy, productive and excited to attend each week."

Randy Didia
Parent

YACHAD GIFTS

In 2013, Yachad partnered with the Jewish Union Foundation to open Yachad Gifts. Yachad Gifts is a gift basket business that employs people with and without developmental disabilities. Yachad Gifts prepares gift baskets for all occasions such as holidays, corporate events and engagements. The individuals that work at Yachad Gifts hold various roles including stocking inventory, production, packaging, shipping, data entry, sales and customer service. Numerous individuals who have worked at Yachad Gifts have since moved on to other positions including in hair salons, pharmacies, and retail stores. Their training at Yachad Gifts was instrumental in their becoming employed.



"I really enjoy making baskets for the people that order them. My favorite baskets to make are the baby baskets and engagement baskets because it's an exciting time for the customer. I love my job."

Shira Danan
Employee

10,168

BASKETS SOLD
THIS YEAR

1,962

TOTAL NUMBER
OF ORDERS

22

VOCATIONAL
PARTICIPANTS
IN TRAINING

35,642

UNIQUE WEB HITS

16%

INCREASE IN SALES
FROM 2016-2017

13

INDIVIDUALS WITH
DISABILITIES EMPLOYED
BY YACHAD GIFTS
THIS YEAR



SUMMER

YACHAD INTEGRATION PROGRAMS

Fully integrate campers into a typical bunk together with a supportive “shadow” staff member to facilitate and promote meaningful socialization and inclusion.

CAMPER INTEGRATION PROGRAMS

create a unique bunkhouse of Yachad campers together with highly motivated and trained staff. Each day, on an individual or group basis, they participate in camp activities with mainstream bunks and campers.

VOCATIONAL INTEGRATION PROGRAMS

offer full-time work positions in both day camp and sleepaway camps. Participants are supervised by a job coach and are placed in a position suitable to their abilities and needs.

ISRAEL TRIPS

Birthright – A 10-day free trip to Israel for adults ages 18-26. Dedicated and experienced staff provide a true taste of Israel through tours, sightseeing, and activities. Birthright trips run in the winter and summer.

Yad B'Yad – Yachad's Inclusive Israel Experience. This four-week trip for high school students and young adults together with teens with special needs is a touring adventure. Participants form strong bonds of friendship and undergo personal growth as they experience the Jewish homeland, Israel, in a new and unparalleled way.

ADULT VACATION PROGRAM

A relaxing two-week vacation program for adults.

1,091

INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING STAFF)
**PARTICIPATE IN YACHAD'S
SUMMER DEPARTMENT**

17

PARTNER CAMPS IN WHICH
YACHAD SUMMER PROGRAMS
SERVE CAMPERS

“

"It was an experience I could have only dreamed my son would have, especially for his first time. He made friends, participated in activities he normally would say no to, and came home more mature. We were shocked!"

Mom from Brooklyn, NY

"My daughter was integrated beautifully into the camp, participating successfully in all activities and forming friendships, a couple of whom she is still in touch with. I am so thankful for this program!"

Mom from Queens, NY

"My daughter loved Getaway so much that she said 'I don't want to leave and go back home.'"

Mom from West Orange, NJ

"I loved watching inclusion happen. Just seeing people come out of their shells and feel accepted was incredible. I also loved hearing about how much the participants gained, and seeing them continue to promote inclusion after the summer."

Staff Member



IVDU



Marilyn David IVDU Upper Girls School performed a first ever **HS MUSICAL** for an audience of **200**.



Through a partnership with Gallop NYC & Credit Suisse Fund, **20%** of elementary students received **EQUINE THERAPY**.



80% of students in the High School are **TRAVEL-TRAINED**.



Students held **60 INTERNSHIPS** with **100%** of students holding at least one position.



Students had **MAINSTREAMING** opportunities for over **1,000 HOURS**.

Students received **SPEECH, OT AND PT** services for **3,705 HOURS**.

Students completed over **500 HOURS** of **SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING** this school year.



...of IVDU students utilize **assistive technology** to maximize their learning.

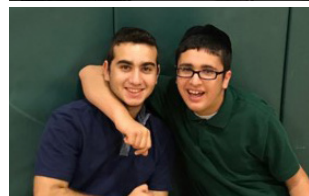
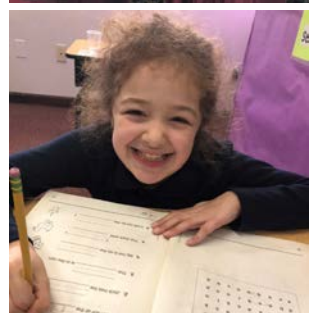
...of IVDU students benefited from **art and music therapy**.

...of Marilyn David IVDU Upper Boys School students received **enhanced reading instruction**.

...of students made progress in decoding with the use of the **Wilson Reading Program**.

...of Marilyn David IVDU Upper School students participated in a **Makers Challenge**.

...of Marilyn David IVDU Upper School students did **chessed activities** with mainstream HS students to help disadvantaged communities.



83%
growth over
the past
5 years

97

26% increase

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN IVDU SCHOOLS IN THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

8

STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM THE MARILYN DAVID IVDU UPPER SCHOOL THIS YEAR

22

HIGH SCHOOLERS TOOK **NEW YORK STATE REGENTS**

99%
passed

INFORMAL EDUCATION

Yachad's Informal Education Department creates opportunities for community members to develop their understanding of, and relationship with, disability inclusion. Experiential learning is used as a transformative tool in deepening participants' appreciation for all kinds of people and in promoting a more inclusive Jewish community. Programs include: sensitivity trainings, school clubs, educational panels/speakers, leadership training programs, and inclusive service learning missions.

YACHAD'S ANNUAL SERVICE LEARNING MISSION WITH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

gathered 30 students from Central High School and members of Yachad, joined together for an inclusive service learning mission in Falls Village, CT. Participants worked on construction projects with Habitat for Humanity, farmed at Isabella Freedman, worked with animals, and engaged in leadership sessions. Participants learned about volunteering with dignity and made meaningful friendships.



317 STUDENTS attended Yachad **LEADERSHIP SHABBATONIM.**



93.3% of participants felt more **COMFORTABLE WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** after the 8th Grade Leadership Shabbaton.



86% of participants said that they are likely to keep up their **FRIENDSHIPS WITH YACHAD MEMBERS** after the High School Leadership Shabbaton.



Educators attended **five NY Yachad Shabbatonim** to give **SESSIONS AT HOST SHULS.**



"Thank you so much for coming and giving us a little taste of what it would be like to have a disability. One of the things you showed us that really struck me hard was trying to draw a picture of a house while there were so many things going on around me; it made me realize how hard it must be for someone with attention challenges."

Batya Feman

"At first, I wasn't so sure about coming, but man did I make the right choice. Throughout the entire Shabbos I met so many new and nice people. Some highlights were the siblings panel and circle time. It was pretty awesome. Thanks!"

8th Grade Leadership Participant

Through Yachad
6,440 PEOPLE
experienced **INFORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**
in 47 places.



38 SENSITIVITY TO DISABILITIES training programs impacted **2,013 PEOPLE.**



1,041 STUDENTS learned about using **PERSON FIRST LANGUAGE.**





YACHAD ADVISORS

Yachad is fortunate to have engaged members and peers, top tier staff, and support from the community. But the secret sauce in Yachad's recipe for success are the advisors. Advisors are college aged men and women who volunteer time, energy, smiles, and endless dedication to the cause of inclusion, enabling its spread in communities across the entire world.

If time is money, then the advisors are among Yachad's most significant donors. This year alone over 350 advisors volunteered 35,910 hours. These unsung heroes of Yachad provide hands-on support to our Yachad members, supporting their participation on Shabbatonim, summer programs, trips and more. Simply put, Yachad could not happen without this amazing group of volunteers.

The Advisor Engagement team has been working diligently to expand the trainings, recognition, and appreciation opportunities to recognize these incredible volunteers. With 325 advisors attending these programs, Yachad is excited about finding new ways to thank our volunteers.



"It's an amazing feeling to watch & help the Yachad members accomplish goals that they have made for the summer. Seeing a wheelchair-bound member having an amazing trip day and laughing excitedly, all from going into a go-cart. These are moments I will never forget."

Lauren Schaum
Monsey, NY

"Being an advisor in Yachad is about conquering new environments and growing from every experience. As an advisor who is also a sibling of a Yachad member, I see the tremendous difference that Yachad makes in the happiness of life for someone with special needs."

Benzy Goldfinger
Cleveland, Ohio

"As an advisor, sometimes I feel as though I am enjoying myself more than the members themselves! We sing, dance, & laugh together as we would with anybody else. The title is 'advisor' but more importantly we're friends. Being a Yachad advisor, has not only taught me how to include everyone, but how to love every individual."

Orly Baniliv
Great Neck, NY

CHAPTERS

- 15** BALTIMORE
- 16** CHICAGO
- 17** CLEVELAND
- 18** DALLAS
- 19** DETROIT
- 20** LOS ANGELES
- 21** NEW ENGLAND
- 23** NEW JERSEY
- 25** NEW YORK
- 27** SOUTH FLORIDA
- 28** TORONTO
- 29** ISRAEL



BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE YACHAD PROMOTES THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION IN THE GREATER BALTIMORE JEWISH COMMUNITY with 8-10 inclusive events each month. Through its three divisions:

JIT (Juniors in Training) - ages 3-9

Juniors division - ages 10-15

Senior Yachad division - ages 16-35+

Baltimore Yachad has served and assisted over 120 families this year.

PROGRAMMING INCLUDES

Senior division Torah & Dinner

Junior division Parsha & Pizza

Inclusive monthly programs with two local middle and high schools and programming with two area colleges.

JIT Jump It - a monthly music and movement program.

Guys and Girls Nights Out

Relationship Building Course in partnership with the JCC.

Four Shabbatonim with local communities and NCSY.

SUPPORTING LOCAL EDUCATORS

Baltimore Yachad partnered with Shemesh, the Jewish Community Center, the Center for Jewish Education, and Sulam to offer its third annual Professional Development Conference for Educators featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ross Greene. There was a record 225 participants from 18 schools in attendance.

YACHAD SERVES THE WHOLE FAMILY

Yachad hosted an interactive, personal, and informative Parent Night with Dr. Ross Greene. Yachad was able to provide a vital resource for 80 parents of children and young adults with disabilities in the community.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

This summer Baltimore Yachad sent 27 participants, including 12 new participants on Yachad's summer programs. These participants attended 12 different summer programs including Getaway and Yad b'Yad travel programs, as well as camper and vocational programs at camps Nesher, Morasha, Mesorah, Moshava, Stone, Shoshanim, Lavi, Chaverim, and Kesher.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Baltimore Yachad partners with 38 community organizations including synagogues, elementary, middle and high schools, businesses, local nonprofit organizations, agencies of the Associated, the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC) and Hillel organizations at both Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland campuses.



"My favorite part about Yachad is playing with kids who are different than I am but finding something in common."

Eli, Junior Yachad peer

"I love seeing everyone interact with each other and just have a good time."

Sarit, HS Board member

"I had an awesome time on the Shabbaton! My favorite part was saying my own Dvar Torah!"

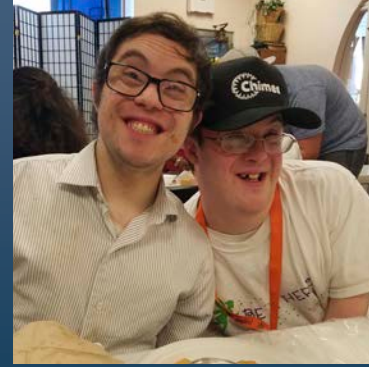
Meira, Junior Yachad member

"Yaakov had a really wonderful time at the Shabbaton and felt so good about it. He is still on a high and it is already two days later."

Mother of Yaakov,
Junior Yachad member

"Thanks so much for planning and orchestrating the Shabbaton! Yoni had such a great time and he thought it was the best one yet!"

Mother of Yoni,
Senior Yachad member



CHICAGO

Yachad is celebrating its 15TH year in Chicago and is the leading provider of inclusive programming in the Greater Chicagoland area. Our beginnings were humble, with only a few members, a handful of peers, and a few events. Today Yachad has a plethora of offerings for the entire community.

SHABBATONIM

Yachad is renowned throughout the greater Chicagoland area and nationally as a leader and innovator in inclusive Shabbaton programming. In 2017-18 Yachad hosted two Junior division Shabbatonim and four Senior and Rayim division Shabbatonim. Nearly 1,000 members, peers and community members joined for an inclusive Shabbat experience.

GO B'YACHAD

At the suggestion of teen leaders, Chicago Yachad started a new GO b'Yachad division. ("GO" is short for Girls Only.) There were three successful events this year making Yachad more accessible to members and peers who prefer single gender programming.

ANNUAL EVENING WITH THE STARS DINNER

A record 250 people attended Chicago Yachad's Evening with the Stars dinner honoring Mr. & Mrs. Efrem and Shuli Popel and Mr. & Dr. Shabsa and Susan Lis. The Popels were recognized for Efrem's 13 years of service to the Chicago chapter as its founding director; Mr. & Dr. Lis were recognized for their many years of support of Yachad's program. Their son, Michel is one of the original members of Chicago Yachad and is still an active member—participating in local programming, the Miami Marathon, national shabbatonim, summer programs and more.

DAY SERVICES AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

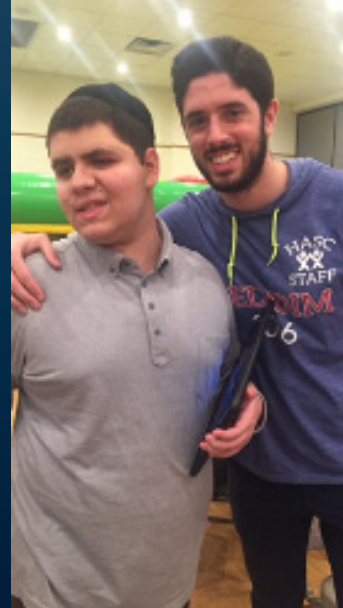
Yachad's newest offering in Chicagoland provides a critical piece that has been missing in the community. Through a partnership with Clearbrook, Yachad coordinates a top-quality day program for adults 22 and over. Through critical skill building in daily living, social skills, and life skills this five-day program begins to bridge the gap to employment. Additionally, in collaboration with local employers, Yachad offers job placement and coaching for nine of its participants.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Yachad continues to increase its partnerships including more than 10 synagogues, The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Jewish Children and Family Services (Encompass), Chicago Metro Hillel, NCSY, Bnei Akiva, Ida Crown Jewish Academy, Fasman Yeshiva High School, Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov, Migdal Oz, Keshet, Clearbrook, Libenu, Friendship Circle, and numerous others. Dedicated lay leaders further support Chicago Yachad's success, bringing invaluable expertise from diverse areas.

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS

Chicago Yachad's High School Leadership Board is renowned as a formative and unique experiential program. Each year, approximately one dozen teens lend their time and energy to planning events and serving as role models for mainstream peers as friends to the Yachad members. These leaders attend two shabbatonim designated just for teen leaders, one locally and the other joining together with the teen leadership of other Yachad Chapters.



CLEVELAND

This year has been one of significant transition for Cleveland Yachad. The year began with the loss of founder and longtime coordinator, Sarah Taub. Cleveland Yachad has been working to honor her memory and her impact. This was the inaugural year of the GO b'Yachad program, a monthly recreational club for young women, which has been named in Sarah's memory.

Cleveland Yachad continues to offer new and exciting therapeutic and recreational programs each week. Cleveland Yachad has experienced a year of unprecedented growth and now offers a fitness series, an inter-generational drama workshop, numerous community-wide initiatives and holiday celebrations, music, improv comedy, art therapy, and more. Attendance numbers for some programs come close to 50 per event. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support.

Cleveland Yachad also grew from one annual Shabbaton to hosting two full-scale Shabbatonim this year-reflective of the growing need. Especially exciting was that one of these was regional and the chapter welcomed 30 participants from Detroit Yachad.

Yachad serves the whole family. For the first time, based on a parent survey, Cleveland Yachad partnered with Friendship Circle to present a resource evening for parents and caregivers. The event has received positive feedback and Yachad plans to offer more of this type of program in the future.

Cleveland Yachad is exploring options and programming for younger participants and has begun in earnest forming a Junior Yachad division. We have created age appropriate programming unique to the 10-15 age group beginning with the 2018-2019 programmatic year.

Key to the success of Cleveland Yachad has been the High School Board members who volunteer their time and energy to develop and guide programming for the chapter. At the closing banquet, two new operating youth advisory boards were installed to help lead and manage the Sarah Taub GO b'Yachad and Junior Yachad programs.

Cleveland Yachad has been blessed with another year to continue Mrs. Taub's legacy, demonstrating and championing true inclusion in the community that she so tirelessly fought for over the past three decades.



"I have always been inspired by Cleveland Yachad and became more involved after my mother-in-law, [Cleveland Yachad founder, Sarah Taub] passed away. Every week, I feel the power of her inspiration emanating through all of the members and staff. Yachad is fun and exciting every week. I love Yachad because of what it stands for—inclusion and unity. Everyone belongs."

Miriam Taub



DALLAS

Dallas Yachad has blossomed and grown this year adding more activities and participants than ever.

The annual Sukkot Drum Circle has become a favorite event throughout the community and was the biggest this year. Yachad packed Congregation Tiferet Israel's sukkah with children, teens and adults, celebrating with songs and rhythms lead by Akiba Academy's Rabbi Meir Sabo and Linda Blasnick.

Dallas Yachad loves bowling and had an amazing turn out with old and new friends. High school teens planned and orchestrated this wonderful and exciting afternoon of socializing, bowling, and snacks!

Dallas Yachad continues to grow their collaborative relationship with Dallas' premier Jewish group home, Community Home for Adults. Bi-Monthly creative and fun programs are developed by high school teens from Yavneh Academy, Akiba Academy of Dallas, and Mesorah Girls High schools. Programs have included: challah baking, game nights, arts and crafts, basketball fun, holiday activities and even a bagel brunch organized by a 7TH grader.

Shabbatonim were bigger and better this year. For the first time Dallas Yachad teamed up with Dallas NCSY to host a

Shabbaton at Congregation Shaare Tefilla for over 25 high school students and Yachad participants, as well as some congregants that could not resist the fun. Thank you to Dallas Yachad co-presidents Eliana and Leib and to Dallas NCSY Rabbi Michel Lomner for coordinating this first-time collaborative Shabbaton. Past Yachad teen leaders, Ari Geller and Meir Epstein returned as advisors and ruach leaders for the weekend. This all-Dallas line up including; rabbinic guidance, Yachad member advisors, ruach leadership, and chaperones was a first for the Dallas community.

The weekend featured enthusiastic davening and a welcoming Oneg Shabbat at Rabbi Meir and Sarit Sabo's home. Saturday night participants attended the Yavneh High School state basketball playoff game cheering on the Yavneh Bulldogs and made Mishloach Manot bags to be distributed to families that support Yachad in Dallas.

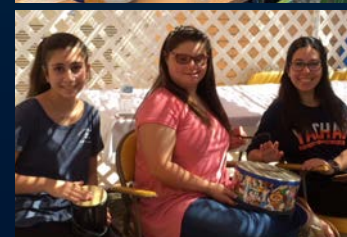
An annual tradition, Dallas Yachad hosted a booth with CHAI at the Dallas Kosher Chili Cook Off. The team started cooking early and by noon the tasting began. Yachad members Talor Milstein, Asher Kogut and Nate McCoy have been the chili chefs for several years, stirring and tasting the chili until it is just right! CHAI brought all of their residents out to help and promote. It was a fun day of chili tasting, dancing, and sharing the message of inclusion with over 4,000 people from across Dallas and Ft. Worth.

Dallas Yachad thanks the community for all the support and encouragement that continues to help our local chapter thrive and grow to reach its full potential. Working diligently to increase our outreach and in-reach, Dallas Yachad hopes to involve more teens and increase our opportunities for participation in the coming year.



MEET JAMIE

JAMIE, a young adult resident at Levy House, excitedly waits by the front door of her group home for her high school girlfriends to arrive on Dallas Yachad's challah baking night. She greets everyone with a smile and a hug and tells participants she has missed them and "when are you coming back?" She readily participates in all they planned and thoroughly enjoys having young adult women close to her age come to bake and play games at her home. As they pack up to leave she wants to know why they have to go so soon and she tells them "hurry to come back."



DETROIT

THE JEWISH YEAR WITH YACHAD

The programmatic year in Detroit Yachad got off to a celebratory start with a Pizza in the Hut sukkah party at the home of community volunteers, Jeff and Sue Lazar. Complete with a photo-booth, edible sukkah-making, a fire-pit, and live music (and, of course, lots of yummy food!), it was truly a memorable event and a great way to start off the year.

Other holiday events included the annual Chanukah and Purim parties as well as Detroit Yachad's signature Pre-Pesach Cooking Night. Exceeding all expectations, Yachad members and their peers chopped, baked, and ate their delicacies together in style. Hosted by Ethan and Yael Gross, and run by Detroit's famed chef Shoshana Braver, no detail was overlooked (down to customized Yachad aprons) to ensure that the evening was a smash-hit.

ARTS AND MOVEMENT

In addition to the culinary arts, Detroit Yachad offered members a full array of other creative and expressive outlets throughout the year, including Dance Night, Woodworking with advisor Shua Sperka, a "Yachad's Got Talent" talent show, and even Zentangle®!

Yachad kept everyone moving throughout the year as well, offering programs such as an open gym Get Moving event, a creative scavenger hunt at the mall, and an awesome event at AirTime Trampoline and Game Park

that literally got participants to "jump for joy" while getting an amazing workout at the same time.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

A huge thank you to Farber Hebrew Day School where the majority of Detroit Yachad's events take place for your ongoing support and friendship in continuing to open the doors to Detroit Yachad - providing not only great facilities, but fantastic programming and inclusion opportunities as well!

SHABBATONIM

Shabbatonim are always a highlight of the year, infusing fresh ruach and excitement into the chapter as we meet new people and reunite with old friends. For the first Shabbaton of the year, Detroit Yachad joined Central East NCSY's Detroit Winter Skibaton. What an amazing inclusive weekend for teens from across the region (including Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Detroit) to join with Yachad members in song and dance, tefillah and learning, friendship and fun!

Toward the end of the year, participants boarded buses and hit the road for Yachad's Regional Change the World Shabbaton in Cleveland, Ohio. The annual Cleveland Regional Shabbaton has become a tradition for Detroit Yachad members who look forward, year after year, to the unique games, songs, and rhythm that make Yachad shabbatonim across the world so unforgettable.



LOS ANGELES

SHABBATONIM

A notable Shabbaton this year was the Inclusion Shabbaton with B'Nei David-Judea of Beverlywood. An annual Shabbaton that the synagogue offers to its members in the memory of a B'Nei David member.

Yachad was also invited to bring inclusion to the Adas Torah congregation as they opened their doors to a newly remodeled shul. Yachad members, advisers and teens were welcomed by Rabbi Dovid Revah and his entire community.

In addition to Yachad's signature Shabbatonim, Los Angeles Yachad has pioneered what we call mini-Shabbatonim. On a mini-Shabbaton, we partner with a community or small group of a synagogue and become part of services, join for a Shabbat meal, and an oneg. This year Los Angeles Yachad coordinated a mini-Shabbaton with the teen minyan at Beth Jacob and partnered with Yula High Schools for several different Shabbat programs.

INCLUSION CLUB

Inclusion Club: Los Angeles Yachad has partnered with two schools, Yula Boys and Yula Girls, to create an Inclusion Club. The Inclusion Club is spear-headed by a student president who chooses the topics to be covered. The club meets at the school bi-monthly and touches on all different topics related to anti-bullying and acceptance of everyone. The curriculum is created by Yachad staff in conjunction with the student club president who is also a teen board member of Yachad Los Angeles.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Relationship and Pre-Vocational class: educational classes provided to participants with disabilities as part of a pilot grant received from the Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles "One-On-One" Sessions: goal-oriented sessions for members with special needs and local teens. Together with their parents, goals to be achieved were identified and Yachad staff created a "plan" to work with each member individually to meet the identified objectives.

For the first time ever, Los Angeles Yachad hosted two social work interns who helped shape the educational courses, therapeutic and clinical services as well as engaging in community outreach.

ONEGS WITH SCHOOLS

Yula Girls partnered with us as part of their grade specific shabbatons to create Onegs for LA Yachad members and their students.



"Yachad has taught me how to be selfless; on Shabbatonim I unplug for over 24 hours and plug into inclusion. I put my needs on hold to make sure my Yachad member is fully engrossed in the weekend's activities. I love Yachad for teaching me practical skills I use on a day-to-day basis!"

Joshua Dan, Advisor

"Thank you to LA Yachad for giving my daughter the chance to hang out with peers, do unique, fun activities, and take part in shabbat, and let's not forget how much fun she has!"

Lawrence Bedil, Parent of Yachad Member



NEW ENGLAND

New England Yachad continues to grow and thrive with an average of 30+ programs each month covering communities all across New England including Greater Boston, the North Shore and South Area/ Sharon, MetroWest, Metro North and Providence, RI.

This year saw the significant expansion of programs for older adults with autism and other developmental disabilities funded by the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation and Combined Jewish Philanthropies. New England Yachad also added a Link20 group, a national demonstration pilot project through support from the Ruderman Family Foundation, which built on Yachad's self-advocacy program to create an inclusive cohort of young adults that selected a topic, made a video, and used social media to educate the public.

Simultaneously, Yachad transitioned from one-time programming to hosting 10 different series. These series have created consistency, guaranteed weekly programming for members, and brings participants together each week which promotes the development of deeper relationships.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INDIVIDUALS SERVED: New England Yachad served over 340 individuals with disabilities. Over 6,800 people attended programs throughout the year, increasing awareness of inclusion in the Greater Boston community.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS: New England Yachad held over 400 programs and activities this year. These included inclusive Jewish communal celebrations for hundreds of people.

- Young Israel of Sharon/Yachad Rosh Hashana Barbecue
- Annual Sukkah Party
- Young Israel of Brookline/Yachad Chanukah Party
- Community Tu B'Shevat Seder hosted by Yachad, K'Sharim, and Shaarei Tefillah

- Reelabilities film with many partners at the Newton JCC
- Sold-out concert with Yaakov Shwekey at Young Israel of Brookline

SOCIAL AND SKILLS GROUPS: New England Yachad facilitated 11 on-going Inclusive social and skills groups.

FIVE SHABBATONIM:

- The Juniors division partnered with Young Israel of Sharon, and the Maimonides Kehillah
- The teen/young adult division collaborated with NCSY in Providence, RI at Beth Sholom
- The adult division partnered with Brandeis University and Beth El Atereth/Shaaarei Tefillah in Newton

FAMILY PROGRAMS: Family programs were held on Sundays each month across the region.



"Yachad gave me more confidence in myself. Now I am not nervous introducing myself to new people at Yachad events. I am even able to recite divrei Torah at Shabbatonim without stuttering."

Jonathan Spiller, Yachad member

"As leaders in the field of inclusion around the United States and in Israel, we are proud to support New England Yachad's incredible work right here in our home town. Yachad provides real opportunities for people with disabilities to live a fully integrated Jewish life while helping Jewish communities prioritize inclusion. Yachad's programs make a tremendous difference in the lives of their participants and are a model for bringing people from all walks of Jewish life together to celebrate our diverse abilities and to see the value in each person."

Sharon Shapiro, Trustee Ruderman Family Foundation



SCHOOL-BASED YACHAD CLUBS:

- Weekly Yachad Clubs at Maimonides and Gann Academy
- Bi-weekly elementary school club at Striar Hebrew Academy of Sharon (SHAS) for grades 3-5
- College Club at Brandeis University.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB: A highly successful inclusion club for young Jewish adults in Greater Boston hosted five outdoor adventures including hiking and adaptive kayaking, rock-climbing, and rowing. More than 85 people have joined us for at least one outdoor adventure.



DIVERSITY: New England Yachad reaches all parts of the Jewish community and across the strata of denominations serving Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and unaffiliated participants. For many, Yachad is their only, or primary, connection to the Jewish community. Participants range from age five through late 60s.

PEER PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS:

Through Yachad's inclusive model more than 240 middle/high school peers, 75 college peers and 90 young professionals were engaged as volunteers and peer participants.



FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES: Yachad supports the entire family. This year, social worker services included individual support, parent meetings, support for activities of daily living and referrals to community resources.

SUMMER: 23 New England Yachad participants attended Yachad Summer programs, and several high schoolers and college peers worked as staff or Yachad Fellows on these programs. New England Yachad also ran programs locally throughout the summer including a Summer Bowling League, Self-Advocacy program, Zumba classes, trips to Red Sox games, Duck Boats and kayaking, along with our weekly Pizza & Parsha.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Yachad strives to bring Inclusion to all aspects of the New England Jewish community. By partnering with Jewish and community organizations, we reach more people and bring the value of inclusion to a larger audience.

OUR PARTNERS

THE RUDERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION
 COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES
 THE NANCY LURIE MARKS FAMILY FOUNDATION
 CONGREGATION KEHILLATH ISRAEL | BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
 YOUNG ISRAEL OF SHARON | MAIMONIDES SCHOOL
 GANN ACADEMY | STRIAR HEBREW ACADEMY OF SHARON
 GATEWAYS: ACCESS TO JEWISH EDUCATION
 TEMPLE SHALOM OF NEWTON | SHAAREI TEFILLAH
 BETH EL ATARETH ISRAEL | YOUNG ISRAEL OF BROOKLINE
 TEMPLE REYIM | CONGREGATION MISHKAN TEFILA
 WASHINGTON SQUARE MINYAN | SHIRAT HAYAM
 TEMPLE EMUNAH | TEMPLE BETH ELOHIM
 CHABAD CENTERS ACROSS THE REGION
 JCC OF NORTH SHORE
 NORTH SHORE TEENS INITIATIVE (NSTI)
 ROFEH | NCSY | MAIMONIDES KEHILLAH
 JEWISH BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER
 JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES
 JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS OF GREATER BOSTON
 JEWISH FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES OF GREATER BOSTON
 ACCESS RECREATION BOSTON | PJ LIBRARY
 JEWISH ALLIANCE OF RHODE ISLAND
 CONGREGATION TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OF PROVIDENCE
 THE SPECIAL NEEDS PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE
 MADE UP OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES
 REELABILITIES
 MANY OTHER AREA SYNAGOGUES AND NON-PROFITS

NEW JERSEY

MENDEL BALK YACHAD COMMUNITY CENTER TRIPLES IN SIZE!

This past year the newly created Mendel Balk Yachad Center has seen tremendous growth in the number of members it is serving. Meeting four evenings a week, the Center offers a home away from home experience for ages eight and up with engaging social activities, a nutritious dinner, and door-to-door transportation home. When the Center launched its pilot program in February 2017, there were eight members. A year later it serves over 30 Yachad members and many local high school students joining the Center after school. Many of the students come from: Bruriah, Chabad of Tenafly, Heichal HaTorah, Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School, Manhattan Day School, MTA, RYNJ, SAR, Sinai Schools, TABC, and Yeshivat Frisch.

YACHAD VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH FIVE STAR CATERERS TO PROVIDE CULINARY TRAINING COURSE

Five Star Caterers offered a unique training opportunity for a group of Yachad participants. This year individuals participated in a food safety course, each gaining MG Food Safety certification. The Five Star training included learning about hygiene, presentation, communication, safety, cutting, cooking, baking, peeling, food prep, clean up, and knowledge of various kitchen tools. Participants also gained professional experience—performing jobs in the catering kitchen and in the warehouse such as dividing cookie dough, making meatballs, silverware counting and wrapping, and other tasks.



"Aside from the fact that Shira is thrilled to be going to Six Flags with Yachad on Chol Hamoed, it also gives us the opportunity to go biking with some of our other children. It is something they love to do and something Shira cannot do. Thank you so much for everything! Yachad is amazing!"

Mrs. Schwartz, Teaneck, NJ

"Yachad impacts not only Moshe, my 23 year old son who has cognitive impairment, but every member of our family. Yachad impacts every sphere of Moshe's life: social/recreational, spiritual, vocational, and life skills. No matter what kind of activity he is participating in, we have the comfort of knowing that Moshe is in safe, secure hands and he is happy. In fact, in the Yachad environment is when Moshe is most at peace and content with himself."

Leslie Rosenberg, Edison, NJ

"I feel like my best self when I am with Yachad. You should all get involved because it is one of the most positive environments to be in."

Atara Herrmann,
Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School Student,
Teaneck, NJ



NJ ANNUAL YACHAD GALA HOSTED OVER 400 GUESTS!

On November 18 2017, the Annual Yachad Gala Melava Malka paid tribute to members of our community who have made a tremendous impact on Inclusion and have helped Yachad grow significantly. Honorees included Ari & Deena Katz, Scott & Shira Sheps and Shlomo, Debbie and Avi Tsadok.

SIBSHOPS TRAINING

In January, NJ Yachad hosted a two-day national Sibshops facilitator training course in Teaneck for 15 Yachad staff from Boston, New York, New Jersey and Los Angeles.

Yachad and Sibshops are ideal partners: both organizations aim to meet the needs of children with special needs and their families in a supportive, welcoming atmosphere.

Don Meyer, director of the Sibling Support Project and founder of Sibshops, led the recent training course for Yachad.

“It was gratifying to see the interest from Yachad in the Sibshops model and the organization’s commitment to the well-being of the brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. Everyone benefits,” Meyer explained. “Siblings often have the longest and closest relationships of anyone in the family, so nurturing siblings of kids with special needs strengthens the whole family.”

SUNDAY SOCIAL

In response to the growing need for additional social groups, NJ Yachad launched a monthly Sunday Social Club. Sunday Social, coordinated by a social worker, provides activities to promote independence and friendship. Some of the activities this year have included trips to museums, luncheons at local restaurants, movies, and amusement parks. With the addition of Sunday Social, NJ Yachad now provides programs every day of the week!

LIST OF PROGRAMS/ SERVICES AT NJ YACHAD:

DAY HABILITATION
(Post-21 services)

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

**THE MENDEL BALK YACHAD
COMMUNITY CENTER**

PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

SIBSHOPS
Peer-to-Peer Support For
Brothers and Sisters

SUNDAY SOCIAL

SHABBATONIM

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

SUMMER PROGRAMS



NEW YORK

New York is proud to be Yachad's largest program, having run programs and events over the last 30+ years, benefiting the lives of hundreds of individuals with disabilities from within the broader Jewish community. New York Yachad's diverse services include, but are not limited to, weekend retreats and shabbatonim, counseling services for individuals and families, vocational training and job placement, summer camps for all ages, special needs schooling (IVDU), social skills development, high school and university leadership programming, Day Habilitation programs, and relationship building courses. In 2017-2018, Yachad continued to offer community based programming and services in Jewish communities in NY, including, Long Island/Queens, offering a school, day-hab and vocational program, program space and family support and community programming and support in Riverdale, Brooklyn and Manhattan.

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017-2018, New York Yachad ran many social recreational programs for all age groups of individuals with disabilities and their peers. The Junior, Senior, and Rayim divisions ran 30 Shabbatonim in different communities around the New York/New Jersey area, partnering with host communities and local

synagogues. The inclusive nature of the Yachad Shabbatonim allows Yachad members to interact with an appropriate peer group, including; middle school students, high school students, community members, and college campuses, all in an accessible environment.

In the past programmatic year, over 50 weeknight or weekend events took place in numerous communities around NY, including a bi-weekly Pizza and Parsha program, bowling and art classes, an inclusive Superbowl party, Jewish holiday events, baking classes, aerobics, and many other meaningful and inclusive programs uniting local students and community members with Yachad individuals.

Yachad Long Island continues to expand their programs to meet the growing Jewish community in that area. In addition to the local social recreational programming offered, a Sunday morning Torah 4 Teens learning program for children in special programs or public schools opened in November 2017, as well as a monthly parent support group facilitated by professionals in the special needs fields. New York Yachad continues to expand into Jewish communities providing services and support for families and individuals with disabilities, with new programs beginning in the fall of 2018 in Brooklyn, Riverdale and the Long Island communities.



"I love being a part of Yachad and the Yachad family. It helps me to be involved in Jewish events and grow in my Jewish identity."

JJ Goldstein, Senior Yachad member

"My personal highlight in Yachad has been learning about myself and realizing that people are capable of so much more than they think."

Atara Friedman, Yachad Advisor



NORTHEAST FAMILY SHABBATON

At the annual Northeast Family Shabbaton, Yachad welcomed over 850 participants, a majority of whom are family members of individuals with disabilities to the Crown Plaza in Stamford, Connecticut. This Friday through Sunday program offered families the opportunity to hear from experts in the disabilities field, network with other families and enjoy a restful weekend at which Yachad provided full programming for every age child, allowing parents the ability to attend all sessions and programs.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

In the summer of 2018, New York Yachad sent over 200 Yachad members on summer programs around the globe. New York Yachad members have participated in the many diverse summer experiences available, including fully inclusive bunks in mainstream camps, travel programs, shadow options, and vocational programs. Members of New York Yachad have attended Getaway and Yad b'Yad travel programs as well as camper and vocational programs at camps Nesher, Morasha, Moshava, Lavi, Chaverim, and Kesher. Yachad members who attend these camp programs share an

experience that is uniquely available to them through Yachad's partnership summer programming.

COLLEGE ADVISORS AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 2017-2018, there were 659 volunteer spots filled at NY Yachad Shabbatonim and events, with over 300 college students volunteering their time and passion to Yachad. New York Yachad offered several advisor trainings, awareness and recruitment events, featuring well-known Jewish speakers and teachers engaging potential volunteers for Yachad programming. With a weekly newsletter and updates, NY Yachad reaches over 700 college students with volunteer opportunities. NY Yachad continues to grow their volunteer base while forming a community of advisors, committed as both volunteers and advocates for Yachad members.

TEAM YACHAD

New York Yachad sent over 100 runners to participate as part of Team Yachad in the 2017 Miami Half Marathon and over 60 high school students, representing 10 local schools, traveled to Israel for the Jerusalem Marathon in March 2018.

"Once we arrived, we met many other parents and quickly became good friends. We needed a change of scenery with our family from the daily stresses of caring for Moshe. And we realized that every family we met had their own unique challenges – some more than others – and we could all gain from each other's approach and ideas."

Shmuel and Rivka, attendees on the Northeast Family Shabbaton

SOUTH FLORIDA

The 2017-2018 programming year was filled with exciting successes. The South Florida region has excelled in many areas with growing numbers of participants and expanded services to new cities. From challah bakes to pottery classes, Yachad members and their peers teamed up, and with their creativity, made unforgettable memories.

This year South Florida Yachad began a social seminar for members to help them develop their social skills. Through this seminar participants can ask questions and practice their social skills in a safe environment. This then enables each participant to better take advantage of the inclusive opportunities Yachad creates in the community.

In order to raise awareness and acceptance in the younger part of the community, Yachad began offering sensitivity trainings for middle school and high school students around South Florida. These trainings allow students to experience a small snapshot of what it is like to live with different challenges. Facilitated conversations

following these hands-on activities help students to better understand their peers with disabilities and interact with them in a meaningful way.

*OUR PARTICIPANTS
BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH COMMUNITY
MEMBERS AS
WELL AS RAISE
AWARENESS FOR
YACHAD'S MISSION.*

Bimonthly events this year have included many diverse activities such as a trip to a local water park, a scavenger hunt in Aventura Mall, cupcake decorating, bowling, arcade rooms, and much more. As a way of thanking the community and giving back, Yachad packed food for the needy on Purim.

Among all of the year's events the highlights of the programmatic year are clearly the shabbatonim. As Yachad travels through the South Florida communities, our participants build relationships with community members as well as raise awareness for Yachad's mission. From the energized circle time, to the sincere interactions between Yachad members and high schoolers, the shabbatonim

represent everything Yachad stands for.

South Florida Yachad looks forward to creating more unforgettable memories b'Yachad in 2018-2019.



TORONTO

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS:

Toronto hosted inclusive holiday events.

- A Sukkot party together with Bnei Akiva Youth featured an incredible dance party, live DJ and dinner in the sukkah.
- Over 80 youth participated in a Chanukah party with Bnei Brith Jolts Program which included a carnival and menorah lighting led by our member, Zachary Perlmutter.
- For Tu b'Shevat, we partnered with BAYT Youth to enjoy new fruits and a Zumba program.
- Together with DANI day program, members led their own Purim talent show, played games, listened to a live DJ and of course “noshed on hamantaschen”.
- Toronto Yachad visited a matzah factory and experienced a hands-on demonstration of how matzah is made.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

This year Toronto Yachad hosted a new Zumba program. 25 Yachad members, high school students, and advisors enjoyed learning different moves for different dance styles. This program was designed for everyone at all levels and abilities.

On Thursday nights Toronto Yachad held Life Skills Rotational Programs at the JCC. In cooking and baking Yachad members learned basic kitchen skills, the yoga class worked on flexibility, and the music class introduced participants to concepts like tone, pitch and rhythm.

SHABBATONIM:

Throughout the year Toronto Yachad organized three Shabbatonim in the largest Orthodox synagogues across the city. Yachad participants were active participants in the services from opening the Aron, to singing Adon Olam or

giving a dvar Torah. Shabbatonim are fun for participants and give much needed respite to their families.

Toronto Yachad also joined together with Clanton Park Shul for Seudah Shlishit and sang Zemirot together.

HIGHLIGHTS AND EVENTS:

- Toronto Yachad partnered with the NCSY Live2Give program to run three special events. This exclusive program included over 60 high school girls and created a warm and inclusive environment through a Grand Challah Bake, a Chanukah program, and a baking program.
- Over 130 women and girls enjoyed the 2nd Annual Women's Chopped Competition in support of Toronto Yachad.
- Over 200 educators from local schools attended Yachad's Toronto Educational Conference at the Prosserman JCC. The conference “Transforming Your School to Welcome ALL Learners” featured keynote speaker Dr. Robert Langston and varied workshops. The conference was sponsored in part by The Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation and the Koschitzky family.
- More than 130 people ran in the Goodlife Fitness Marathon 5K to support Yachad. In its fifth year, Team Yachad represented more than 75% of the overall 5K participants.
- For the fifth year a full bus of ladies went to the Stratford Festival in support of Toronto Yachad. The day included breakfast, lunch, and snacks to take home.

SUMMER

Toronto proudly hosts three of Yachad's 28 summer programs:

- Moshava Ba'ir Camper Integration Program.
- Moshava Ba'ir Vocational Integration Program.
- Moshava Ennismore Vocational Integration Program.



ISRAEL

Yachad Israel chapters are located throughout the country, including: Jerusalem, Beit Shemesh, Ra'anana, and Givat Shmuel.

Our diverse services include, but are not limited to, social programming for all age groups, counseling services for individuals and families, weekend retreats, parental support, vocational training and job placement, professional advocates and community outreach, summer camping experiences, trips for individuals with mobility and/or special learning needs, and social skill development.

PROGRAMMING

This year Yachad Israel hosted 10 community Shabbatonim and bi-monthly social events. In addition, the following groups meet weekly in Jerusalem:

Relationship Building Course

A Slice of Torah (a pizza and learning program)

Art, Zumba and Sports Classes

In Beit Shemesh programing was expanded to include weekly chugim (afternoon activities). Participants enjoyed bowling every other month, Pizza 4 Soldiers events and a year-end BBQ.

TRIPS

Yachad Israel participants have the opportunity to tour in Israel and Europe with days filled with social activities, educational programs, and fun. Day and overnight trips in Israel and the annual 5-day cruise to Greece and Cyprus allow the participants to take part in enriching learning programs while enjoying the experience of touring.

FAMILY SHABBATON

The third annual Yachad Israel Family Shabbaton hosted 300

people who gathered to receive support from professionals, network with other families and to learn about resources available to them. Special guests included the IDF Chief Cantor and five members of the IDF Rabbinical choir.

YACHAD GIFTS

Yachad Gifts offers an assortment of gift baskets for all occasions and provides vocational experiences for individuals with disabilities that are necessary to gain employment in a variety of different industries. Training includes: designing and purchasing, packaging, shipping, delivery, data entry, sales, and customer service.

TEAM YACHAD ISRAEL

This year 800 participants ran for inclusion in the Tel Aviv Color Run. But that was just a warm up! In March, 250 runners crossed the finish line of the Jerusalem Half-Marathon and 10K proudly wearing Yachad colors. Top runners/fundraisers were invited to join Yachad Israel for a 5-day inclusive cruise to Greece and Cyprus.

NEW THIS YEAR

Yachad Israel opened its Inclusion Center in Jerusalem. This new location hosts the new Vocational Center which is open every day throughout the week as well as Yachad Israel offices. The Inclusion Center became a Pop-Up Café for a night run by the Vocational Center members. Over 100 people visited the Café and enjoyed dishes prepared and served by Yachad members.

Summer of 2018 introduced the first Yachad partnership with Camp Dror (an OU-NCSY summer camp in Israel). Yachad participants and staff joined both Camp Dror Boys and Camp Dror Girls in creating summer memories that will last forever.



YACHAD COMMISSION

Mitchel Aeder, Chair
Queens, NY

William Auerbach
Chicago, IL

Lauri Barbanel
Lawrence, NY

Stan Gertz
Chicago, IL

Elliot Gibber
Elizabeth, NJ

Tzirl Goldman
Brooklyn, NY

Estie Kaminetsky
Woodmere, NY

Ira Kellman
New York, NY

Dr. Isaac Klein
Baltimore, MD

Aaron Malitzky
West Hempstead, NY

Miriam Pfeiffer
Teaneck, NJ

Rabbi Eli Rubin
Teaneck, NJ

Binyamin Rieder
Teaneck, NJ

Chaim Suss
Skokie, IL

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Dr. Jeffrey Lichtman
International Director

Kenneth M. Saibel, MSW
Associate Director

SENIOR STAFF

Dr. Joe Goldfarb
Director, Summer Programs

Jack Gourdji
*Executive Director,
Jewish Union Foundation
Executive Director, IVDU Schools*

Chani Herrmann, LMSW
Director, New Jersey Yachad

Dr. Tzivia Jofen
Director, National Department

Amanda Levy, LCSW
Supervisor of Social Work Services

Rebecca Schrag Mayer, MSW
Director of Informal Education

Deborah Rockoff
Director, National Programs

Rabbi Ahron Rosenthal
Director, New York Yachad

Becca Zebovitz, MPP
Assistant Director of Development

OU LEADERSHIP

Mark (Moishe) Bane
President

Howard Friedman
Chairman, Board of Directors

Allen Fagin
*Executive Vice President
Chief Professional Officer*

Arnold Gerson
*Chief Institutional
Advancement Officer*

Shlomo Schwartz
*Chief Financial Officer
Chief Administrative Officer*

Maury Litwack
Chief of Staff

Lenny Bessler
Chief Human Resources Officer

Craig M. Goldstein
Chief Marketing Officer

Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb
Executive Vice President, Emeritus

Rabbi Steven Weil
Managing Director

Rabbi Menachem Genack
*OU Kosher Rabbinic Administrator
Chief Executive Officer*

Rabbi Moshe Elefant
*OU Kosher Executive
Rabbinic Coordinator
Chief Operating Officer*

YACHAD CHAPTERS

BALTIMORE

Mira Labovitz
Coordinator
Baltimoreyachad@ou.org

CHICAGO

Elliot Cohen
Director
ChicagoYachad@ou.org
844.492.2423

CLEVELAND

Sara Cooperman
Coordinator
Clevelandyachad@ou.org
216.299.1004

DALLAS

Terri Rohan
Co-Coordinator
Dallasyachad@ou.org
214.663.1650

Miriam Geller
Co-Coordinator

DETROIT

Detroityachad@ou.org

FLORIDA

Matthew Weisbaum
Director
Floridayachad@ou.org
561.962.5459

ISRAEL

Yoel Stermen
Director
Yachadisrael@ou.org
02.560.9104

LOS ANGELES

Monica Kohan
Director
LosAngelesYachad@ou.org
310.229.9000 X206

NEW ENGLAND

Liz Offen
Director
NewEnglandYachad@ou.org
646.628.7003

NEW JERSEY

Chani Herrmann
Director
NJYachad@ou.org
201.833.1349

NEW YORK

Rabbi Ahron Rosenthal
Director
NYYachad@ou.org
212.613.8229

TORONTO

Devorah Marmer
Director
Torontoyachad@ou.org
416.986.1985



YACHAD

11 Broadway, 13TH Floor,
New York, NY 10004

📞 212.613.8229

🌐 yachad.org

ORTHODOX UNION
תורה ומצוות
Enhancing Jewish Life

YACHAD IS A PROGRAM OF
THE ORTHODOX UNION