



Spotlights

Special congratulations are in order to the Kibbutzim College of Education and the Institute for the joint efforts that have been made to help with sports days and activities for blind workers at rehabilitative facilities all over the country. Sports education students at the Kibbutzim College of Education initiated the activities, and they were guided by the sports department of the Institute. Over 120 blind and visually handicapped participants from all over the country enjoyed tandem bicycle riding, track and field sports and dancing.

According to Shabtai Deutsch, director of the Institute's Department of Community Services, a pilot program for a children's sports day will also be held at the Institute sports center over the Passover vacation. "We hope to host at least 100 visually handicapped children from ages 8-12, introducing them to new sports activities and opportunities."

A municipal conference for children with disabilities was recently held at Jerusalem's Hyatt Hotel, and arts and crafts as well as jewelry made in the Institute's art department was sold to participants. Not only were the items tasteful and beautifully created, but they were also successful as a fund raising project.

Many ongoing projects with the Israel Defense Forces are continuing at the Institute. Soldiers from a base that works with volunteers from the Institute were invited to Chanukah activities at the JIB, and on Tu B'Shvat, it was the turn of the students to be hosted at an IDF base for a tree-planting ceremony.



Karen tries on gas mask at Institute drill



Director's Corner

As the threat of a war with Iraq looms in the Middle East, the Jewish Institute for the Blind is very busy planning for every eventuality. Security of the students as well as staff members is our top priority, and in case of an Iraqi attack, the Institute must be prepared. We have invested quite a bit to prepare the shelters of the Institute with filtered air so gas masks are not necessary once inside the large two-story shelter in the Sports Center. Our facilities can hold the entire population of the Institute, and they are well supplied with food, water, toilet facilities, phone lines, first aid and mattresses as well as games and activities for the children. All of the staff members know the roles they will be required to play in case of an alert, and the Institute is leaving nothing to chance. The Israel Defense Forces Home Front have issued explicit instructions for emergency procedures, and we are closely adhering to their regulations and suggestions. Staff and students have participated in drills on several occasions, and it requires a lot of manpower to shepherd the pupils quietly and confidently to the shelters as quickly as possible.

The Jewish people have known many trials and tribulations in our rich history, and we are confident that with the help of God, we will also be able to overcome the present situation. We are certain that you join us in the wish for a true and lasting peace. May you and your family have a wonderful Passover festival.

Chaim Reshelbach,
Director