



# THE MICAH UPDATE

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## MESSAGE FROM MARK

OCTOBER 2010

10 years of Camp Micah have come to an end and the camp is almost full for 2011. So many wonderful things took place in Bridgton and Sebago this past summer and Camp Micah continues to be a place where we bring what is best in ourselves and accept each other for who we are. How great it is that after ten years that the Micah philosophy has only strengthened.

The Pool is closed, the lights are off and the bunks are cleaned and locked as the leaves are changing color and preparing for the long Maine winter. So many campers and counselors did so much to make this past summer great and we can't thank you all enough!

This newsletter is a wonderful update on just some of what went on this summer. Although a reminder for those of us who were at camp this summer, I hope by reading it our Alumni will be taken back to their time at Micah and that our parents will get a glimpse into what their children experienced. Of course, Avi is working hard on our 2010 yearbook which will be to our campers and staff in November. That will be the best reminder!

Mike, Jodi, Steve and I are already meeting with new families and speaking to staff about next summer. If you know of anyone interested in joining the Micah community in 2011, please have them contact us soon as space is limited and some age groups are already full for this coming camp season.

I hope to see many of our campers, staff, and Alumni in January at our 10<sup>th</sup> reunion! Best wishes to all for a safe, happy and healthy school year. We look forward to bringing many of us back together at Micah for 2011!

Mark

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# 10 YEAR CELEBRATION & ALUMNI DAY



*Zach and Dave return to sing the Micah Alma Mater that they wrote*

On August 8 this past summer, we opened our gates to about 50 alumni. The alumni and Micah in Israel campers were at camp as part of our 10 year celebration. During their visit

to camp, they had the chance to see the changes we've made over the years, catch up with old friends and remember all of the good times they had on the shores of Peabody Pond. The celebration started as we gathered in the chapel to dig up the time capsule from the first summer of camp and to bury the new one, which will hopefully be in a bit better shape when we dig it up years from now. Alumni were then welcomed to a lunch under the tent followed by time spent at the pool, lake and various other activity areas.



*Digging up the time capsule from the first summer of camp*



*Steve welcomes Danny and Kevin*

It was really fun to see everyone again, hear their stories and memories and find out what they are doing in life. It was also a great experience for many of the campers and staff to meet those from Micah's past and maybe hear a story or two they did not know. Everywhere you

went you would hear phrases like, "remember when we..." or "I can't believe how big they are!" Those who say, "you can never go home again," have obviously never been part of the Camp Micah family.



*Micah in Israel campers and staff reunite with old friends and counselors.*

While it was great to see all of the faces from the past, the celebration was only the beginning. After the alumni and Micah in Israel campers left, we had a giant birthday party for the current



*Fireworks light up camp!*

Micah campers and staff including a giant cake that Carl popped out or for a Color War fake break. We all watched old camp videos

and enjoyed a delicious ice cream sundae bar for dessert. Following dinner and the birthday party, we were treated to a professional fireworks display. The display was really amazing and it was evident that everyone sensed something else may happen...you guessed it, we broke COLOR WAR!



*Color War Break 2010*

Our 10 year celebration was one of those days that we will never forget and we would like to thank everyone who has been a part of making Micah's first 10 years such a success! Now on to the next 10!

## IMPORTANT INFO

- Registration for the summer of 2011 is now open to both new and returning families. Be sure to sign up for next summer quickly as space is filling fast!
- Mark your calendar for Visiting Day! First and Full Session families are invited to join us on Sunday, July 24, 2011.
- Be sure to become a fan of Camp Micah on Facebook by visiting the official Camp Micah Facebook page! While you're at it, go ahead and follow us on Twitter too: [www.twitter.com/campmicah](http://www.twitter.com/campmicah)



## MICAH IN ACTION...SOCIAL ACTION!

Several summers ago, we began choosing a charity or cause and asking our families to send certain items for us to donate in support. We have donated books to Camp Sunshine's new library and sent care packages to our soldiers overseas. When it came time to choose an organization for this summer, the choice was easy. One of our campers, Max Goldman, was diagnosed with leukemia earlier in the year and we knew instantly that we wanted to help others who were in his situation. We collected new hats from family and staff to donate to The Leukemia and Lymphoma society of Massachusetts. These hats were for children to wear as they went through their chemotherapy treatments. We also collected markers, crayons, toys and travel games to donate to the Children's Medical Fund of New York for children to use while staying in the hospital for treatment. We would like to thank all of the families and staff who so generously donated to such a worthwhile cause. Aside from collecting the hats and games our Mitzvah Makers (comprised of 10 Summit campers) spent the entire summer working with Leukemia Awareness. They did research, sold awareness bracelets and made Tzedakah boxes that were placed around camp. In total, our Mitzvah makers raised close to \$500 for this important cause.

On visiting day we welcomed Gift of Life to Micah. Gift of Life is Headquartered in Boca Raton, Florida and is one of the nation's public bone marrow, blood stem cell and umbilical cord blood registries. Through its life-saving work, Gift of Life is a world leader facilitating transplants for children and adults suffering from many life-threatening diseases, among them leukemia and lymphoma. Over the course of the day, Gift of Life staff and volunteers from Micah swabbed over 85 parents



*Ariel encourages parents and staff to register with the Gift of Life*

and counselors. They considered the day a huge success and we would like to thank all of you who registered as donors. For more information about Gift of Life you can visit their website at [www.giftoflife.org](http://www.giftoflife.org).

Tikun Olam is a large component of who we are at Micah. In addition to our work for leukemia, our campers also participated in a wide range of other social action projects. This year, we continued our work with the Bridgton Senior Center. Twice a week, a bunk would travel to the center to spend time with their residents. There they would play music and games and provide companionship to the residents. We once again made several blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus is an organization that provides blankets to children who have gone through traumas such as fire, natural disasters or homelessness. On Visiting Day we sold soup bowls that were made by the campers. We rose over \$370 that was donated to Community Kettle, a soup kitchen in Bridgton, ME.



*Alina helps raise money at Alex's Lemonade Stand*

Also on Visiting Day, we set up Alex's Lemonade stand. This stand was established in memory of a young girl who died of childhood cancer. The money raised is used for childhood cancer research. Thanks to our generous families we were able to donate close to \$400.

We would like to once again say thank you to Sondra Kaminsky who headed up our Social Action programming. Sondra worked hard so our campers and staff could be involved in such worthwhile projects, organizations and programming.

*While it is one thing to do these projects at camp, we know we have done our job when we hear about the social action projects many of our campers embark on at home. Many of our campers undertake these as part of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, while some just want to continue the work from the summer. If you would like to share a social action story with us, please send an email to [steve@campmicah.com](mailto:steve@campmicah.com).*

# MICAH AROUND THE WORLD

As always, we like to keep you up to date with what our campers and staff are doing to fill their time from the end of August until the gates of Micah swing open next June. This semester, Jeremy Moskowitz (our 2010 Prowler Unit Leader) is studying in Morocco. Below is a letter Jeremy sent, along with some pictures of his adventures. We can't wait to hear all about the trip when you get back, Jeremy. Have fun!

Gooooood Morning Camp Micah: It a beautiful day in downtown ~~Bridgton and Sebago!~~ **Morocco!!**

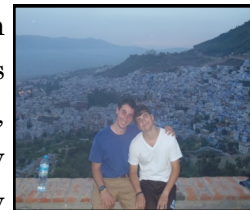
I am currently studying abroad in the capital of Morocco in the city of Rabat. While studying Arabic and Migrational Studies, I am living with a pious Muslim family in the "Medina" (the old, walled city). Interestingly enough, I am here with a fellow Micah friend Luke Pyenson (B-15 '05, huh!).



River in Rabat



So far my experience has been amazing. I came here during the middle of Ramadan, tried fasting (followed by eating ALL night - telling my host mother "no, I'm full" is harder than refusing food from a Jewish grandmother). I was even lucky enough to be invited to the U.S Ambassador's house for Rosh Hashanah dinner (he is one of the only Jewish Ambassadors in a Muslim Country). Travelling to Casablanca, Chefchaouen and all over this beautiful country, I am learning about a culture formed by French, Spanish, Arab, Muslim, Berber and Jewish societies. In fact, when I told my family that I was Jewish and would be observing the Jewish Holidays, they responded by saying that we are all God's people, no matter what religion we practice. "The importance lies in how we treat each other, after all, Jeremy, you are my brother now," responded my host brother in Arabic. It's a great "Micah Message" that we can learn all the way from Morocco.



Jeremy and Luke in Chefchaouen

Anyways, take care Camp Micah!

M'Slama,  
Jeremy

Are you a camper or counselor that is doing something interesting, traveling someplace exotic, or anything else? If so, we would love to include it in our next newsletter. Please send any updates to [steve@campmicah.com](mailto:steve@campmicah.com).

## NEWS AND NOTES...

- Mark your calendar for this year's reunion! The reunion will be held on January 8, 2010. Time and location are still being determined.
- Love Micah? Share it with your friends! Call the camp office to learn more about scheduling a Micah Mingle - a chance for Mark, Jodi or Mike to pay a visit to your home.

# CAMP NORTHBOUND



Camp Northbound 2010

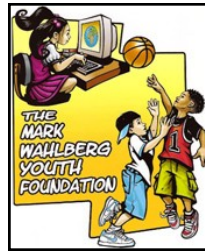
I'm sure it was hard to imagine 5 years down the road when Barry Tatelman, Mark Lipof, Scot Tatelman, The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and The Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester sat down to discuss the possibility of sending 150 inner-city youth to summer camp for a week. Would they like it, which kids do we send, how do we get them there? These were just some of the questions that were brought up. That was in 2006. Now, fast forward to 2010 and Camp Northbound has celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> summer inside the gates of Micah.

It was very special to see the excited look of the campers (and staff) when they got off the bus. Everyone was eagerly looking for their bunk and couldn't wait to dive right into all of the activities. It was also great to see so many familiar faces, some of whom have been here all five years. Those who were "veterans" quickly taught the first time campers what they needed to know... the cheers, where everything was, where to line-up for flag, etc. Much like Micah is to our campers and staff, Northbound has become their summer home, a week the club and the kids look forward to all year.

The week was full of activities including sports, arts and crafts, drama, the waterfront and the pool. In addition, there was a talent show, a dance, and a 1-day Color War. Color War broke at lunch on Friday with an "attack" on the dining hall. As soon as it started, the campers split into their teams (blue vs. green) and were eager to get started. Although it was extremely close, the blue team won for the second year in a row.

Whether it is waterskiing or seeing your first porcupine (the boys area had several), the Camp Northbound experience is all about firsts. The staff at Northbound encourage campers to try new things, things that you cannot do in the city...going on a hike, shooting a bow and arrow or sailing, just to mention a few.

We would like to thank all of the Micah staff who stayed and those who came just for the week. You all did a phenomenal job and the week would not have been nearly as successful without you. Special thanks go to Scott Crook and Rosalie Waxman, our head counselors for the week. These two were always on the go making sure everything went smoothly. We would also like to thank The Boys and Girls of Dorchester and their amazing staff. Camp Northbound would not be



possible without Jim Wahlberg and The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation. Thank you to Jim for his tireless effort in raising money to make sure this week happens each year.

Five years later it is safe to say that no, they don't like Camp Northbound...they LOVE it!

## MICAH TRIVIA!

Think you know everything about Micah? Challenge your friends to see who can correctly answer all of the questions in this newsletter!

1. Who played Belle and the Beast in this past summer's *Beauty and the Beast*?
2. Who broke first session Color War along with the CITs in 2010?
3. What were two of Rabbi Lipof's Shabbat sayings from this past summer?
4. Which two campers ate the gross concoction in this year's Micah Marathon?
5. Who emceed this year's final banquet?

## MAZEL TOV!

It is only fitting that on August 21, 2010 Avi Cohen and Sarah Simmerer said their "I dos" at Camp Micah. At the beginning of last summer, Avi was on one knee in front of the Health Center asking Sarah to be his wife. Jump ahead a little over a year and here we are celebrating their wedding. Camp is a special place for them and we were all glad that their life together could begin here, where they met.

Everything about the day was perfect. Sarah and Avi looked amazing and the ceremony was beautiful. Taking place in the outdoor chapel, it was officiated by Sarah's cousin, Adam Havel (you may remember that Adam proposed to his wife, Emily, on the top of Baldpate a few years ago and got married at Micah after camp in 2008). Sarah and Avi exchanged their own heartfelt vows that you could tell they spent a lot of time writing. When the ceremony ended, guests went to the dining hall for dinner and the reception. The dining hall was hardly recognizable and exquisitely decorated. After dinner, there was a lot of dancing that carried late into the evening.

One of the best parts about having the wedding at camp was that family and friends were treated to a weekend of activities that included a cookout, swimming in the lake, playing court sports or on our fields. Guests stayed in cabins and got a little taste of what "camp life" is like. It was very evident that a great time was had by all. Mazel Tov to Avi and Sarah Cohen from the entire Camp Micah family. We wish you a lifetime of health and happiness!

## INTRODUCING... THE COHENS!



*Avi and Sarah's Wedding on August 21*



## "H-A-DOUBLE P-Y..." MICAH BIRTHDAYS

**September:** Abi Alexander, Will Best, Kinga Biardzka, Tyler Brunstein-Ellenbogen, Jerry Burnell, Hannah Churwin, Michael Churwin, Avi Cohen, Ethan Cote, Samuel Cote, Scott Crook, Eli Dershwitz, Zoe Federman, Lily Feinberg, Lindsay Glick, David Goldberg, Edward Gould, Reid Grinspoon, Brett Halperin, Ali Kraft, Alex Larson, Nicole Layne, Rivka Lipschitz, Asher Lovesky, Samuel Marram, Jeremy Moskowitz, Jorge Ohlsson Enrich, Ophir Rahimi, Sally Rifkin, Julia Rothstein, Jessica Rubin, Andrew Sandler, Monica Siegel, Todd Singer, Ian Spector, Danny Teich, Alina Wadness, Chase Waxman, Max Wecker, Daniel Weinstein.

**October:** Scott Alexander, Matthew Arbesfeld, Craig Barter, Isabel Basow, Shira Ben-David, Tammy Blum, Harrison Braver, Melissa Byrnes, Wayne Cadman, Jay Clifford, Ali Cooper, Alana Despres, Allison Eaton, Emily Felber, Sarah Forst, Sam Gallimore, Benjamin Gaynor, Joshua Geller, Robert Gershowitz, Jennifer Gleason, David Glick, Kenny Goldberg, Dana Goldin, Joshua Guinness, Phoebe Hamori, Troy Joseph, Samson Kampler, Micah Katz-Zeiger, Joshua Kirson, Samantha Land, Nathan Landau, Kevin Lentsch, Stephanie Malis, Curtis Motulsky, Jordan Belle Panzier, Jay Rauch, Eliana Rich, Katie Rich, Jacob Schuster, Basia Schwartz, Emily Seltzer, Ari Shaller, Emily Siff, Richard Smith, Jacob Solomon, Gabe Stauber, Jackie Teperman, Ben Tinkham, Lexi Tuch, Dina Tyson, Jason Waldman, Samuel Waldman, Kendall Wallace, Rachel Wein, Michael Welsh.

**November:** Noah Adler, Max Allaire, Mark Borghesani, Emma Caplan, Richard Carter, Jared Cooper, Sarah Costantino, Ariel DiOrio, Isaiah Freedman, Noah Freeman, Rachel Gallimore, Lauri Gallimore, Benja Gordon, Lee Grinspoon, Joelle Gross, Will Huntress, Matthew Levitan, Joel Linkewer, Nate Macomber, Hannah Most, Matthew Rosenblum, Julia Ruskin, Jason Schwartz, Joshua Schwartz, Amanda Singer, Rachel Spiro, Elisabeth Stone, Evan Teperman, Michael Weinstein, Cassandra White, Olivia White, Isabel Wilker.