

THE MICAH UPDATE

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MESSAGE FROM MARK

OCTOBER 2012

Here it is...the Micah Fall Newsletter! All the news that's fit to print about the incredible Micah community. It seems like the summer ended so long ago. We are already in recruiting and preparation mode for the summer of 2013. We are hearing about mini Micah reunions each weekend including many Bar/Bat Mitzvah services and parties full of Micah campers coming to support and celebrate together. Actually, this summer and fall our community had so many special events happen that we have an entire page to share with you dedicated to wishing them a "Mazel Tov."

As we enter our 13th year, Camp Micah remains strong with a vibrant community doing a lot of good for the world. We call it Tikkuna-Matata! This summer the campers and staff participated in supporting so many worthy causes and all continue throughout the year to make our world a better place. Together we really do make a difference!

As the school year is now well under way, the high holy days have passed, and the leaves are quickly falling off the trees, we are busy recruiting for 2013. We already have families hosting "Micah Mingles" for us and we are looking to set up more. If you have two or more families interested in hearing about Micah for next summer, you can invite them to a gathering at your home where we come and tell them all about camp. Any camper enrolled from that meeting gets the host family \$1,000.00 off their child's tuition, up to \$3,000.00. We are always being told how amazing a Camp Micah summer is for children...please don't keep it a secret! Tell your friends and family about all that a Micah summer experience offers. Actually about 98% of all new campers come from someone already affiliated with Micah. Our happy campers and parents are our best ambassadors for the Micah community and we appreciate all of you.

Enjoy the newsletter and know that the 2012 yearbook will be at your door in November. We also look forward to reuniting with all who can join us at Jillian's in Boston on January, 13 2013. Make your plans now for a weekend of camp fun with friends and make sure to note that the reunion this year is on a Sunday. We look forward to seeing all who can attend.

Mark

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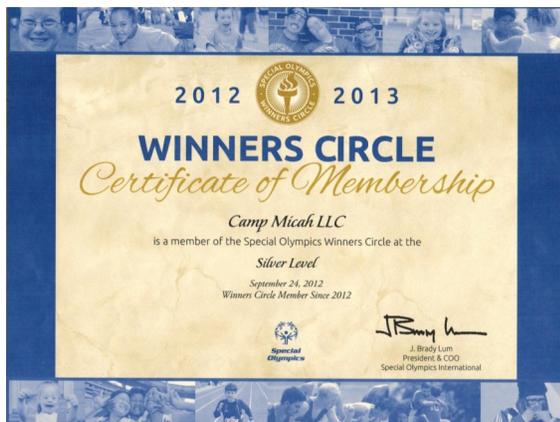
MICAH IN ACTION...SOCIAL ACTION!

Camp began with so many campers bringing in donations of hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for the local Bridgton schools. We filled several boxes with these items and brought them to the local school department to be distributed, especially as the weather gets colder in chilly Maine. So many local children do not have the clothing necessary to keep warm during recess or to wear home. We thank you for all your donations. Here is a recap of this past summer's social action activities.

A Message About the Special Olympics, from our Mitzvah Makers:

The Mitzvah Makers (a group of Summit campers), focused on the Special Olympics for our 2012 social action project. It was easy for the campers to personally relate to what this organization stood for since our campers enjoy participating so many sports. We researched this wonderful organization and learned how they focus on the children's abilities, not their disabilities. We learned how the Special Olympics hold events many times and places throughout the year involving more than sixty different sports.

We made signs and informational placards for the tables in the dining hall about what we learned. We presented a couple of skits to bring about awareness to the Camp Micah community. The Mitzvah Makers came up with a great idea to hold a couple of raffles. They put together some wonderful camper gift baskets each valuing close to \$100 dollars, filled with many different items. When campers came into the office you would find them looking at the gift baskets to see what goodies were inside.



The Mitzvah Makers encouraged campers to buy raffle tickets and forgo the juice or sport drinks they were going to buy; or to donate any spare change they may have had when they returned from trip day. Two raffles were picked on Visiting Day and one during second session. Our winners were: Harrison Braver, Jacob Solomita and Brad Silver. From the raffles alone, we raised more than \$700 for this worthy cause!

Bridgton Health Center

Imagine seeing campers playing Twister while residents at the local nursing home helped with the spinner and laughed as they watched the campers get tangled up. Or bowling, yes the residents bowled (even from wheelchairs) on teams with our campers. They even jointly chose names for their teams such as Dynamite and Lightening. Our campers also helped and cheered on the residents as they played Bingo.

Our campers continued to volunteer during their free time to bring some happiness to these residents of the local Senior Center. We visited twice a week, ending each visit with a sing along. We sang some familiar songs for the residents such as "You are My Sunshine" and "Que Sera Sera," as well as some favorites from camp including our Camp Micah song with hand motions. Watching the connections the campers made with the residents made each visit very special. The residents were always so excited when we came and each bunk asked to return another time.

Bridgton Community Center

The Bridgton Community Center offers free meals to families a few times each week, September through June. Lunch is served three times a week during the summer to school aged children who are provided free lunch during the school year. A community garden is planted, watered, and tended and the vegetables are given out to local families. There are activities for all ages through many support groups offered at the Community Center.

SOCIAL ACTION, CONTINUED

We sold our hand decorated soup bowls and trivets on Visiting Day to support this worthy organization. We also made soup mix kits and sold bracelets with the proceeds helping the local community center. Last year, we helped raise money for a new kitchen which was completed this past winter and is currently being used. The old kitchen space is now a walk in freezer. The center is now able to feed many more families in need in the local area thanks, in part, to the generous donations from the Micah community.

Project Linus

Project Linus is a non-profit organization that provides love, security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. There are hundreds of chapters across the United States making and distributing blankets. More than 4 million blankets have been distributed since 1995. We made 50 blankets this summer to be distributed through a local chapter in Maine. This brings the total of blankets Camp Micah has made and donated over the past few years to close to 400. Before we pack up the blankets, the campers are asked make a special wish for the children receiving these blankets. We are sure the children who receive these soft colorful blankets to keep as their very own, are happy to have them and feel

the love we felt as we made them.

Alex's Lemonade Stand

We learned about Alex's life and her goals. Alex was a child diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a type of childhood cancer. She wanted to help other sick children and she asked her parents, at age 4, to have a lemonade stand. Alex continued to have lemonade stands in her front yard raising more than \$1 million dollars to benefit childhood cancer research. Alex passed away at age 8 and her parents continued her goal by setting up the Alex's Lemonade Foundation. We raised close to \$300 on Visiting Day and we thank you for your help.

We also want to send our heartfelt thanks to all those campers who offered their time on Visiting Day to sell the lemonade, soup bowls, trivets, and raffle tickets. Choosing to participate in a mitzvah during camp is something that shows what our campers are truly made of!

Finally, we would like to thank Sondra Kaminsky for all of her hard work spearheading these amazing projects that our campers and staff take part in. Without all of her hard work and dedication many of these would not be possible.

CAMP NORTHBOUND RECAP



It's hard to believe that this was Camp Northbound's seventh summer at Micah. Camp Northbound is a partnership between The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, The Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester, and Camp Micah. Camp Northbound provides the opportunity for over 150 inner city youth to attend summer camp for one week. While at Camp Northbound, the campers are able to participate in all sorts of activities including the waterfront, climbing wall, sports, art, and yes, even Color War. This year, we

were fortunate that many of our Micah staff members stayed to run their activities, allowing us to have the entire camp open.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Wahlberg of The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and The Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester for all of their hard work in making this week possible. We would also like to thank all of the staff that worked for the week to ensure an enjoyable time for the campers.



We can't wait to see all of you next summer in the 04009!

LOTS OF ART HERE!

Each summer, Sue Woron, our Creative Arts Team Leader, and her staff submit some of our campers' artwork to the Gallery 302 Exhibit for local camps. This year, over 12 camps had submissions. Below is the list of ribbons awarded to Camp Micah campers. We are so proud of the hard work that each camper who submitted items put towards their projects. It just goes to show how dedicated our campers and art staff are. Great job guys and gals!

GALLERY 302 AWARDED THE FOLLOWING CAMPERS RIBBONS IN 2012

Davis Lutwack
3rd Place Ceramics
12 - 17 y.o. category

Jennifer Moscovitch
Hon. Mention Ceramics
12 - 17 y.o. category

Rebecca Blumenthal
Hon. Mention Drawing
12 - 17 y.o. category

Matt Gefen
2nd Place Drawing
12 - 17 y.o. category

Becca Gorman
Hon. Mention Drawing
12 - 17 y.o. category

Caroline Safran
3rd Place Ceramics
12 - 17 y.o. category

Joel Linkewer
1st Place Wire
12 - 17 y.o. category

Joel Linkewer
1st Place Drawing
12 - 17 y.o. category

Olivia White
2nd Place Drawing
6 - 11 y.o. category

Sloane Grinspoon
3rd Place Drawing
12 - 17 y.o. category

Jenny Lipof
1st Place Fiber Arts
12 - 17 y.o. category

Eliana Rich
2nd Place Photo
12-17 y.o. category

Izzy Shnayderman
1st Place Photo
12-17 y.o. category

Emma Roa
2nd Place Photo
12 - 17 y.o. category

Sarah Pactor
2nd Place Fiber Arts
12 - 17 y.o. category

Hannah Matteson
Hon. Mention Photo
6 - 11 y.o. category

Becca Gorman
3rd Place Photo
11 - 14 y.o. category

In other art news, we added knitting to our offerings back in the summer of 2011 and it was a rousing success. This summer, Jane Horan (a.k.a. Jane the Knitter) was back and better than ever! Our campers really loved making hats, scarves, and even an outfit for baby Ethan. Due to the popularity of Jane, we decided to bring in guest artist Sue Black, a weaver. Needless to say, our campers love her as well and it now looks as if Fiber Arts has really taken off at Micah. We really look forward to having both of them back next summer!



MAZEL TOV, MICAH!

Mazel tov to Assistant Director, **Steve Monge**, and Girls' Head Counselor, **Kate Monge**, on the birth of the newest Micah Mini...Ethan Gregory!

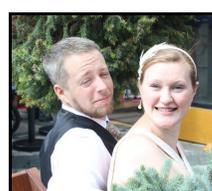
Beginning sometime in late July, I would go to sleep at night wondering, "is tonight the night?" Or, every time Kate would walk into my office I couldn't help but wonder if she was coming in to say, "time to go to the hospital!" After an amazing summer that saw no baby born, I headed back to Boston for some rest. On my first full day home, I decided to go see the much hyped Batman movie, since I was unable to see it during the summer. As I headed into the theater that all too familiar feeling came over me, could this be the night? Soon enough, I became engrossed in the movie and settled in to what was sure to be a relaxing night. Then it happened...the text message (yes I said text message): "I think you should come home." Racing out of the theater, I immediately called Kate who said, it was time! Running home, I was overcome with so many emotions that I barely remember sprinting up Beacon Street. Soon enough, we were packing up the car and heading to the hospital. For those of you that were worried, our amazing labor and delivery nurse, Melissa, filled me in on how the movie ends!

After about 9 hours in the hospital, on August 17 at 7:30 am, Ethan Gregory Monge came into this world weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and measuring 21 inches. Both Ethan and Kate did awesome. Kate and I could not be more thrilled to be parents and we can't wait for everyone to meet him this summer. In case anyone was worried, don't fret...Ethan is a huge sports fan already, just like his dad! As for whether or not he'll be a redhead, only time will tell! I guess our next step is to find a babysitter for this newest Micah Mini. Any takers?



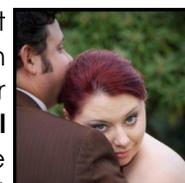
On September 2, former Micah Head Chef, **Jason Kriger**, married his longtime girlfriend, former Assistant Girls' Head Counselor, **Mary Arsenault**, at a beautiful outdoor ceremony in Milton, MA. After meeting at Micah in the founding summer of 2001, Jason and Mary began dating and moving towards a life together. There were many members of the Micah community in attendance, including Rabbi Lipof, who performed a wonderful ceremony that truly reflected who Jason and Mary are. After the wedding, everyone celebrated with some great food and danced the night away to some amazing music. From all of us in the Micah family, Mazel Tov to the original Micah Match! We wish the two of you a long and happy life together.

Jason and Mary were not the only former Micah staff members to marry over the summer, not even the only wedding in the Arsenault family! In June, **Annie Arsenault** (former Micah staff member in both Maine and Israel) married Jim Ryan.



On July 27, former Critter Girls Unit Leader, **Shannon Staples**, and former Hiking Coordinator, **Mikey Welsh**, married at Voodoo Donuts in Portland, Oregon. Mikey and Shannon met at Micah in the summer of 2009. Congratulations you two!

The latest members of the "we met at Micah" club were initiated less than two weeks ago. On October 11, former administrators **Scott Crook** and **Gretl Kresmer** (now known as the Krooksmers!) married in Arizona. Scott and Gretl have been dating since they met at camp in 2006. Their ceremony was officiated by none other than **Scott "Flick" Flickinger**! We wish you guys all the best.



Do you have big news or a lifecycle event you want to share with the Micah Community? Email Steve Monge (steve@campmicah.com) and be sure to send pictures!

MICAH ON THE ROAD

A few days after Camp Northbound ended, three Micah staff members set out on the adventure of a lifetime. Ali Mills, Abi Alexander, and Rob Watts piled into Ali's car to set out on a three month cross-country road trip. Below is an update on their adventures from Ali.

Greetings from the road to the Camp Micah Community!

Just a few short weeks ago, right when Camp Northbound ended, Rob, Abigail, and I began a journey across America. We began in Maine, and we are currently in San Francisco, CA. The last few weeks have been so fun, with many new experiences and adventures. Here are some highlights of the trip so far.



Our first major stop along the road was Niagara Falls. It was absolutely magnificent, and remains a highlight of the trip, even though it seems so long ago. The falls are so

commanding, and larger than I could have even imagined. After the falls, we headed to Chicago, where we just spent a couple of days shopping, eating hotdogs and pizza, and seeing the major sights in the city- the Bean, Navy Pier, and the Art Institute.

After Chicago, we spent some time in the middle of the country, eating tons of cheese in Wisconsin and shopping at the Mall of America, then driving into Canada for a couple nights. Even though Winnipeg isn't the most exciting city in the world, it was cool to get our passports stamped in Canada.

When we returned to the states, that's when the adventure really began. We drove through Montana and Wyoming, which were just beautiful, and then spent a few days camping in Yellowstone. Though we only saw



one bear, we saw tons of elk, buffalo, and deer just prancing along the roads. We also saw Old Faithful go off on our way out of Yellowstone, just before heading to Glacier National Park. Glacier was also unreal. The views are difficult to capture on film, and everywhere we looked it was just one gorgeous vista after another. Plus, the weather was perfect for hiking about in the beautiful scenery.

Our next big stop after seeing beautiful Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, was Seattle. We drank tons of coffee, and experienced the fish market first hand. We also saw the Space Needle, and went to the top of the Columbia Center, where we saw 360 degree views of the city and the water. Portland came next, where we really just walked around people watching and ate tons of good food.

On our way into California, we stopped at Crater Lake, the deepest lake in America, for another night of cold camping before heading into San Francisco. Our first day here, we drove over the Golden Gate Bridge, and then spent some time shopping in Chinatown, walking by Pier 39, and hiked up to the Coit Tower to experience more breathtaking views of the city.

Next, we plan to continue driving down the west coast, through LA and San Diego, before heading back to Atlanta via all the cool spots in the Southwest.





H-A-DOUBLE P-Y...YOUR BIRTHDAY'S HERE SO DON'T BE SHY!

September: Abigail Alexander, Sergei Alievsky, Eli Altschul, Marta Armenter, Santana Barreiro, Jonah Berg, Ze'eva Berman, Rebecca Blumenstein, Tyler Brunstein-Ellenbogen, Hannah Churwin, Mike Churwin, Ethan Cote, Samuel Cote, Zoe Federman, Lily Feinberg, Eric Fifer, Noah Gans, Lindsay Glick, Becca Gorman, Brett Halperin, Kenny Hillstrom, Ali Kraft, Isabella Laufer, Nicole Layne, Sam Marram, Aleksandra Nowak, Emily Ray, Sally Rifkin, Julia Rothstein, Aaron Rotter, Jessica Rubin, Andrew Sandler, Monica Siegel, Oliver Thorne, Alina Wadness, Chase Waxman, and Daniel Weinstein.

October: Lily Abrams, Philip Bard, Isabel Basow, Shira Ben-David, Harrison Braver, Melissa Byrnes, Wayne Cadman, Cameron Davis, Sam Gallimore, Josh Geller, Joseph Italiaander, Samson Kampler, Sam Land, Leah Lopes, Teresa Martinez-Laredo Lavin, Curtis Motulsky, Eliana Rich, Katie Rich, Eric Rosenblum, Jacob Schuster, Jacob Solomon, Jackie Teperman, Lexi Tuch, Dina Tyson, Jason Waldman, Samuel Waldman, Rachel Wein, and Michalina Wojcik.

November: Noah Adler, Max Allaire, Mark Borghesani, Emma Caplan, Elizabeth Cooley, Nathan Davidson, Yehonatan Fleischer, Isaiah Freedman, Laura Furman, Lauri Gallimore, Rachel Gallimore, Benjamin Gordon, Lee Grinspoon, Joelle Gross, Paige Herer, Michael Hume, William Huntress, Noah Kaplowitch, Louis-James Landry, Matthew Levitan, Joel Linkewer, Nathan Macomber, Charlie Margulies, Maya Metser, Maxwell Miller, Ali Mills, Hannah Most, Magdalena Myrcik, Matthew Rosenblum, Julia Ruskin, Mason Santos, Jason Schwartz, Harrison Sheinkopf, Jake Sofro, Jesse Spivak, Evan Teperman, Douglas Tulman, Robert Watts, Cassandra White, Olivia White, and Isabel Wilker.

facebook

Be sure to become a fan of Camp Micah on Facebook by visiting the official Camp Micah Facebook page!

twitter

While you're at it, follow us on Twitter: @Campmicah

tumblr

Have you checked out all the amazing images our campers took during their photography classes this past summer? Take a look at: www.campmicah.tumblr.com



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Mark your calendars for the Summer 2012 reunion! This year, our reunion will take place on Sunday, January 13, 2013 from 1 - 3pm at Jillian's in Boston (next to Fenway Park). More information will be sent to families soon. We hope to see everyone there!
- Camp is filling fast! Be sure to get your applications in to ensure your spot for the summer of 2013. Again this season, we are offering a financial credit to your family's 2013 tuition (up to \$3,000) for new campers that register for camp as a result of your family hosting a Micah Mingle. A Micah Mingle is when you have friends of yours and your children come to your house to meet Mark and/or some of our assistant directors to hear about the Camp Micah experience. If you're interested in hosting a Micah Mingle, contact the camp office for more information.
- Want to be mentioned in our next newsletter? Send updates on your own social action projects, lifecycle events, and other newsworthy items to steve@campmicah.com. Don't forget to include some pictures!