

## **My Thoughts on Camp TOV 2009**

**By Mitchell Liss, age 15, from Buffalo Grove**

I have always been interested in volunteering and this has so far been the best project I have ever done! The first day, I helped with S.C.A.R.C.E, which is a place that helps provide school and office supplies and makes super crayons for kids with special needs. The next day, I volunteered at the CJE SeniorLife Lieberman Center with providing entertainment and fun for the residents (my favorite project of the week). Then on Wednesday, I did the Northbrook Teams Challenge Course, which builds leadership and teamwork. After that, I went to the CARC where I entertained young adults with special needs and helped with face painting. Finally, on Friday I helped pack food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository in the morning and learned Krav Maga in the afternoon.

Camp TOV 2009 was a wonderful experience. Throughout the program, I became more aware of people who are not as fortunate as me. I would always like to continue to help them. I was able to learn so much in one week. Camp TOV was an entrance to the world of volunteering and support of those in need, and really shows that you can volunteer as well as have fun. Also, the counselors and junior counselors were so nice, and they had a well-planned week of activities and volunteering projects. It made me happy seeing those that I helped feel happy. Volunteering is one of my passions, and Camp TOV added on to my life.

### **What other teens said about Camp TOV 2009...**

"I never knew there were so many great organizations helping people and the environment."

"I did not think volunteering with the elderly would be fun but it turned out to be my favorite part of the week."

"I learned I can help anyone if I put my mind to it."

"At Camp TOV you can make friends, help people out and have fun all at the same time!"

"This was a fun summer activity!"

"It was great to be surrounded by Jewish teens around my age and give back."

*Camp TOV, offered each year in August, is a week long, fun, interactive service oriented program on wheels. Each day brings a new volunteer project and*

*service-learning experience focusing on: poverty, hunger, homelessness, environmental concerns, caring for the elderly, leadership skills and more. Seventh through tenth grade teens from throughout the city and suburbs of Chicago come together for what promises to be a memorable summer learning experience!*

*Camp TOV 2009 concluded on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Ninety-two teens participated in the program this summer. For more information on Camp TOV 2010, monthly volunteer opportunities or to receive promotional materials, please contact Brett Klugman at 312-357-4928 or [teens@juf.org](mailto:teens@juf.org).*