

בס"ד

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All information is strictly confidential.

Founded by the Mashgiach Harav Shlomo Wolbe z"l guided by Maran Harav
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Tzvi Finkel zt"l.**Va'ad
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gates reinforced to our students the importance of his work on behalf of the schools in our community."

**Yeshivas Bein Hazmanim
In Mercaz Torah
U'Tefillah**Mercaz Torah U'Tefillah is once again hosting an outstanding *yeshivas bein hazmanim* with several special speakers throughout Chol Hamoed. The shul, which is under the leadership of Rabbi Yissocher Dov Eichenstein, is located at 6500 Baythorne Road.*Minyanim* for *Shacharis* will be held at 6:15 a.m. (except on Sunday), 6:45 a.m., 7:15 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m., and 9:15 a.m.Morning *seider* will last until 12:00, and will be led by *Rebbeim* from local *yeshivos*, including Rabbi Simcha Cook, Rabbi Yaakov Frand, Rabbi Yosef Berkowitz, and Rabbi Avrohom Feldheim.Each morning of Chol Hamoed, there will be a *shiur* on *inyanei d'yoma* from a variety of guest speakers. Rabbi Dovid Rosenbaum, from Yeshivas Ner Yisroel, will speak on Monday; Harav Avrohom Schorr, from Yeshivas Toras Chaim in Yerushalayim, will speak on Tuesday; Harav Shraga Neuberger, from Yeshivas Ner Yisroel will speak on Wednesday; and Rabbi Chaim Cohen, from Beis Hamedrash and Mesivta of Baltimore, will speak on Thursday.**Baltimore Chesed League
Completes Second
Successful Season**Can competitive *chesed* create the next generation of *askanim*? That's precisely the question organizers of the Baltimore Chesed League sought to answer when initiating the league in 2017.Recently having completed its second season, after expanding to 13 teams, 78 boys and 26 coach/mentors, evidence is pointing strongly to the affirmative. The BCL has also been drawing interest from other communities as an innovative and fun way to engage Jewish boys in *chesed* but more importantly, to inculcate them with a spirit of "doing" that could carry over into their adult lives.Commissioner and founder, Mr. Dovi Ziffer, had the idea to create the BCL in early 2017. Reflects Mr. Ziffer, "Working with a group of talented community members, we found that while multiple programs existed to involve and engage girls in *chesed* activities, far fewer opportu-

nities existed for boys. The BCL was created to hopefully address that need in a meaningful and creative way.

"Reflecting on my own experiences growing up in a different community, I remember that many *chesed* or volunteer programs for boys seemed to lack direction and planning," said Mr. Ziffer."In creating the BCL, we wanted to find ways to engage our children in helping community organizations so that once they grow up, they will already be familiar with the organization's missions and roles, and be much more prepared to step in and help. But to really motivate our kids, we need to be realistic about what speaks to them and how to excite them. We knew there had to be an effective way to frame and present *chesed* experiences in a positive, fun light."

"Knowing that so many boys in our community already participate in local athletics and feel comfortable in a sports league format, we began to develop our vision of the BCL to include teams, a competitive, incentive-based framework, motivated coaches, uniforms, and more."

The league is run under the auspices of a local Baltimore shul, Suburban Orthodox Toras Chaim, and is open to boys between fifth- and eighth-grade. Participating boys are divided into teams, sponsored by local Jewish businesses, comprised of six players and coached/mentored by two purpose-driven coaches per team.

Rather than competing head to head, each team receives a weekly *chesed* assignment and aims to attain 20 points, which represents a "win." A team receives 15 points for successfully completing its designated team activity, while the remaining five points require individual team members to complete "smaller" *chesed* activities on their own time.Examples of the team activities include visiting local nursing homes, working to clean and organize the Bikur Cholim *gemach*, or collecting trash in a local Jewish cemetery. The smaller, individual activities might include helping to clean up from a shul *kiddush*, visiting an elderly neighbor on Shabbos afternoon, or shoveling the sidewalk of a neighbor.

If a team attains a "win," they become eligible for incentives provided by the league. Incentives for wins include team meals at local restaurants, a bowling outing, and an end-of-season barbecue.

Looking back on the season, aside from the outpouring of positive feedback from the partner organizations and league parents, as well as the feedback from the boys themselves, BCL committee member Mr. Zevi Daniel recounts many BCL moments where individuals, and