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Contact Information:

Shoshana Israel

sisrael@shalomdch.org

919-886-7076

ADOPTING SEA CREATURES RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Local JCC Rallies Community to Help Those in Need

DURHAM, North Carolina (August 19, 2013): Sixteen year old Durham resident, Sadie Rapp is painting a mural at the Levin Jewish Community Center and has already raised over \$26,000 for scholarships. In just a few short months Ms. Rapp has transformed a poolside snack bar into an underwater oasis as members of the community “adopt” sea creatures, which she then paints in. Ms. Rapp came up with the idea to connect art and philanthropy and uses the mural as a fundraising tool. The project supports the JCC Scholarship Fund, and donors adopt creatures ranging in size from hermit crabs (\$50) to water dragons (\$5,000).

“We are thrilled by the generosity of so many of our community members,” expressed Steve Schauder, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill. “Sadie is such an inspiration for us and her work has benefitted so many children and adults.”

One of the main pillars of the Jewish Federation, the umbrella organization of the JCC is to be welcoming and inclusive of all members of the community. As a direct result of this particular campaign 45 campers have attended Camp Shelanu this summer. Scholarships are allocated to individuals with financial needs, special needs, inclusion needs and children of veterans. For many campers this is the first time they have been able to attend summer camp.

“My son Atticus who has special needs attended Camp Shelanu this summer as a rising first grader, and we could not have asked for a better experience,” said Shelagh Kenney. “His success at camp this summer has been due largely to the incredible attention everyone at the JCC paid to ensuring his inclusion in every activity. The inclusion support services have given my husband and me a true sense of belonging to

the JCC community as we know that everyone at Camp Shelanu wanted Atticus to succeed, to grow, and to have fun.”

Partnering with the National Inclusion Project has meant that with these scholarships, the JCC can offer children with inclusion needs a discount on camp tuition, whereas in general children with special needs often have to pay higher costs.

The JCC Scholarship Fund is a year round project and there are still creatures waiting to be adopted. In addition to camp scholarships, there are also scholarships available for JCC memberships so that families in need can also enjoy the facilities.

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To learn more about the Adopt a Sea Creature project, for photographs, interviews or more information please contact Shoshana Israel at 919-886-7076 or email sisrael@shalomdch.org.

About the Levin Jewish Community Center:

The Levin Jewish Community Center was built by the vision and commitment of the local Jewish community. We celebrate Jewish values, culture and traditions while welcoming the community at large. The Levin JCC is part of the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill, a 501(c)3 not -profit organization.

<http://www.levinjcc.org>

<http://www.shalomdch.org>