



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Madeline Seltman, Camp Director  
Camp Shelanu  
Levin Jewish Community Center  
919-354-4938  
camp@shalomdch.org

Aron Hall  
National Inclusion Project  
919-314-5540  
aronhall@inclusionproject.org

### THE NATIONAL INCLUSION PROJECT PARTNERS WITH THE LEVIN JCC FOR SPECIAL NEEDS INCLUSION AT CAMP SHELANU

**DURHAM, NC (March 4, 2014)** - The National Inclusion Project is partnering for the third year with Camp Shelanu at the Levin Jewish Community Center to implement *Let's ALL Play*—Inclusion in Recreational Programs. The partnership will allow children with disabilities to enjoy successful summer camp experiences in an inclusive setting, as well as inclusion in recreational programs year-round at the Levin JCC. As part of this initiative, the National Inclusion Project provides a program model, expertise, and an award of \$6,000.

In this third year of the partnership, Camp Shelanu will use this grant to provide training in the Let's All Play model to camp staff, to hire Inclusion staff, and to increase awareness of the program to all camp families. Camp Shelanu also provides scholarships to campers with special needs. Ninety to one hundred campers each week with and without special needs will be together for all camp activities, including swimming, art, sports, cooking, music, nature, and more. The JCC facility was designed with inclusion in mind and is fully accessible, including a ramp entry into both outdoor pools.

Last summer, this partnership allowed 52 campers with special needs to be part of the camp, with great success. One parent of a camper with developmental disabilities said, "My son who has special needs attended Camp Shelanu this summer as a rising first grader. We could not have asked for a better experience. 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 him to succeed, to grow, and to have fun."

The partnership not only impacted families with campers with special needs, but also the rest of our camp community. One parent of a typically developing child said, "My youngest daughter now has a special needs child in her class. Her teacher has told us that she goes out of her way and brings other students in to help include this special needs child. We as parents believe that she acts this way due to her experience and interactions with special needs individuals at Camp Shelanu."

Camp registration is now open. For information on scholarships, specialty camps or our inclusion program please visit [www.levinjcc.org/camp](http://www.levinjcc.org/camp), or contact Madeline Seltman, Camp Director at [madeline.seltman@levinjcc.org](mailto:madeline.seltman@levinjcc.org), or 919-354-4938.

###

**About the National Inclusion Project:** The National Inclusion Project was co-founded in 2003 by entertainer Clay Aiken, and works to bridge the gap between young people with disabilities and the world around them by opening doors for all children to be included together. Its Let's ALL Play program is a research-validated national model

funded by the Project that brings an inclusive recreational experience to children with disabilities by giving them the same experience as children without disabilities. Over the last three years, the Project has provided training, curriculum, and support to YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4H, CampFire USA, and other community organizations. In 2014, the Project is partnering with 92 recreational programs in 36 states. For more information on the National Inclusion Project and to help ensure no child sits on the sidelines visit their website at [www.inclusionproject.org](http://www.inclusionproject.org).

**About Camp Shelanu and the Levin JCC:** Camp Shelanu offers a traditional day camp experience as well as week-long specialty camps for campers age 5-13. It is a program of and is located at the Charlotte & Dick Levin Jewish Community Center on Cornwallis Road in Durham, a recreational facility offering fitness, swimming, youth and adult enrichment classes, and community events. The Levin JCC, which is part of the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill, welcomes members and participants from all backgrounds. For more information visit [www.levinjcc.org](http://www.levinjcc.org).