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VA Thanks Local Jewish Federation for Sending Children of Veterans to Camp Shelanu

DURHAM, NC (November 5, 2013) –As veteran’s day is approaching, the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill is pleased to honor local veterans. This summer, the Levin Jewish Community Center partnered with the Durham VA to give children of veterans a camp experience at no cost. Ten children were offered a free week at the Levin JCC’s Camp Shelanu, thanks to scholarship funds raised by volunteers.

Ronni Miller, Chief of Voluntary Service at the Durham VA Medical Center, said about the partnership, “Summer camp can be very expensive especially for those military families on limited income. The JCC’s gift of a week worth’s of summer camp for some of our military children is a dream come true. A chance to interact with children from all areas, to learn friendship skills, and to have a time they will always remember.”

Ms. Miller helped to identify and refer military families who would be interested in the program. Campers ages 6-12 took part in traditional and Middle School camps, enjoying swimming, arts, sports, games, and field trips.

“The Jewish Federation is honored to give back to military families who give so much to our country and our community,” said Steven Schauder, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill. “We are grateful to our incredible donors who have allowed us to provide a meaningful summer camp experience for these children.”

Cassandra Proctor, the mother of two children who came to camp on a full scholarship, said “Darius and Tayler had a blast at Camp Shelanu! The scholarship was a wonderful opportunity as our family is living apart in different states due to military assignment. With the heavy burden of maintaining two households, having such a quality and wonderful camp to send our children to was an extreme Blessing to us! Your camp allowed our kids to spend at least one week with their father during the summer while he was on duty and for this and the wonderful memories and friendships my children have made, we are grateful!”

Scholarships for 2014 will open in January.

For further information, contact Madeline Seltman, Youth, Family, and Camp Director at Madeline.seltman@levinjcc.org or 919-354-4938.

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About the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill:

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill is to connect Jews in the local community, to help those in need both here and abroad, and to provide and support programs and services that enable current and future generations to lead more meaningful lives inspired by Jewish values. The Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

<http://www.shalomdch.org>

About Camp Shelanu and the Levin Jewish Community Center:

Camp Shelanu offers a traditional day camp experience as well as week-long specialty camps like Circus, Lego Engineering, Nature Arts 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 Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Federation, welcomes members and participants from all backgrounds.

<http://www.levinjcc.org>