

A note from Paul J. Reichenbach, Director of Camping and Israel Programs

Dear Susan,

On behalf of our 13 camps across North America and the 10,000 kids we welcome each summer, I want to thank you and the ACC for your passionate commitment to and partnership in our sacred mission. We all recognize that the next generation of deeply engaged young people will emanate from our camps and congregations together. The magical environment of camp inspires our children to joyously explore their Jewish identity in a warm and welcoming Jewish community, surrounded by role model counselors, Rabbis, Cantors and Educators. Our camps are most proud of our extraordinary musical creativity and tradition. Our Camps have become a wonderful environment for musical expression in song and in prayer. The personal involvement of Cantors at camp and year round has helped mentor and enable generations of youthful singers, musicians and composers.

And now the ACC has again stepped in to make the "dream" a camp a reality for scores of deserving kids. The scholarship dollars that ACC sponsored concerts have raised is a powerful demonstration of what is possible when thoughtful organizations who share the same values act intentionally. Our Movement's young people and our congregations will benefit as kids return home from camp filled with ruach and hungry to continue their Jewish journey.

Thank you and your colleagues for taking a leadership role in this meaningful endeavor. We will do all we can to be deserving partners in this important and impactful effort.

As I write this note on a chilly March day, I can imagine a warm summer evening where thousands of kids are gathered in chapels all over the continent..singing, praying together as they celebrate Shabbat and express pride in themselves and their Jewish identity.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Paul

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