

## UJA-Federation of NY Distributes Knapsacks to the JCCRP & Local Residents

Knapsacks, backpacks, or whatever you choose to call them; these packs are a necessary commodity for the school year.

As part of a generous donation from the UJA-Federation of New York, the Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway Peninsula (JCCRP) received 130 beautiful knapsacks filled with supplies for elementary-age school children in need. With different youthful designs and colors, the brand new knapsacks were packed with grade-appropriate, quality school supplies and are bringing smiles to so many families in our community. For numerous children whose parents are facing financial difficulty, providing them with new school supplies from this generous donation from the UJA has made a sizeable impact on the beginning-of-the-school-year-rush. What typically can be a time of stress and financial strain has become less chaotic for the families who received knapsacks.

Thus far, we distributed these packs

to 100 children from 35 families. With sensitivity and discretion, the JCCRP selected families in need, based on special, specific criteria to assess their needs.

The UJA-Federation of New York's Tov B'Yachad division held a "Supplies for Success Backpack Assembly" at the Yeshiva of the South Shore, where a consortium of about a dozen local Orthodox synagogues and yeshivas (over 100 people in total) gathered to sort school supplies and assemble backpacks. At the end of the day, they filled hundreds of backpacks, of which 130 were given to the JCCRP.

The JCCRP continues to service the community thanks to the ongoing support of the UJA-Federation of New York. Thanks to this generous donation and to all of those who volunteered to pack the bags up, many school children and their parents can rest easy about this important detail that can be very helpful to a child's year in school.

*The JCCRP is a proud affiliate of Met Council and a beneficiary agency of*



*Akiva Meir and Shira Laya Krasnovsky, children of Nathan Krasnovsky, executive director of the JCCRP, help load the van with knapsacks to distribute to the community*

*UJA Federation of NY. The JCCRP provides a range of services for any clients who need assistance in social services or resource directing within the community. Please contact the JCCRP for further in-*

*formation; they are located at 1525 Central Avenue (entrance on Foam Place), Far Rockaway, NY, 11691— Call the JCCRP at (718) 327-7755—or visit them on the web at [www.jccrp.org](http://www.jccrp.org).*

## Yomim Noraim Thoughts: Rabbi Wallerstein Speaks At SKA

With only one day of school before *erev* Rosh Hashanah, the students of the Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls were given an incredible opportunity to heighten their awareness of the upcoming holy days. On Tuesday, September 3, the entire student body viewed a stirring video, produced by alumna Jordana Bienenfeld, with stark images of the "Nesana Tokef" prayer.

Noted speaker Rabbi Zechariah

Wallerstein then addressed the students with a powerful message for the new year. Focusing on a *mishna* in Pirkei Avos and using a colorful story as illustration, Rabbi Wallerstein kept his audience enthralled as he got his point across. Hashem gave us a soul, he said, and the soul doesn't want to be here; it wants to be with Hashem. The body doesn't want to take care of the soul – it wants material items. Only at the end of

life does the body realize that only the soul is going with him, not money, possessions, etc. The soul is always with you. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we stand before Hashem who sees how we treat the soul He gave us.

"We have been given these days to do teshuva," Rabbi Wallerstein urged the girls. "Let us use them the right way."

Returning to school, many girls

commented on how powerfully Rabbi Wallerstein's words had affected their *yom tov* davening. With this week's second annual "Inspirational Davening on the Beach" and a memorable Teshuva-thon with Mrs. Charlene Aminoff and the miraculous story of her daughter's survival, the students of SKA are sure to enter Yom Kippur with a truly meaningful focus on their *tefilos*.

