

February 3, 2017 Agency News and Events

MY HERO BROTHER WAS A BIG HIT!

By: Julie Sherman



Filmmaker, Yonatan Nir

Even the Steelers-Patriots' AFC Championship match-up couldn't keep some 120 members of our community away on the 22nd of January, when the Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival and Jewish Family Service partnered to present the Israeli documentary, *My Hero Brother* at the JCC.

Directed and co-produced by Israeli filmmaker Yonatan Nir, *My Hero Brother* recounts a walking trek undertaken by eleven pairs of siblings - one of whom, in each pair, was born with Down syndrome - up a mountain in the Himalayas.

Nir was in attendance to introduce the picture, and remained afterwards to answer questions about the physical and emotional challenges of the journey for all of its participants. Highlighted in the film and discussion were the complicated dynamics between special needs adults and the siblings who grew up in their shadows, as well as the excursion's role in opening the eyes and hearts of the siblings to a new appreciation of their uniquely open-hearted brothers and sisters with Down syndrome.



Both the film and Yonatan Nir were received most enthusiastically, as was Norman Gras's delicious "hints of India" pre-screening reception. To read a heartfelt testimonial from an inspired community member click [here](#). The entire event was generously underwritten by Capital BlueCross, with proceeds going to the programs of Jewish Family Service.

To see more pictures of this amazing event, click [here](#).

LIBBY URIE HAS A HEART OF GOLD

Libby Urie is what you can call an equal opportunity philanthropist. Her generosity supports diverse populations and organizations throughout our community. Her philanthropic interests go from educating kids to helping people with financial hardship; from instilling important Jewish values to enabling people

of all faiths to find comfort from debilitating illness.

Libby was recently acknowledged in the January 20 issue of the [Community Review](#) for her gift to create a comfortable space for family members, staffers, volunteers and visitors at Vickie's Angels Foundation (VAF), a local nonprofit organization that helps families overcome financial burdens when a loved one is fighting cancer. Additionally, Libby has made a strong commitment to the Harrisburg Jewish community by establishing funds that support Jewish Family Service, Silver Academy and Chisuk Emuna.

Libby's passion for addressing the needs of those with limited financial resources in the Jewish community was realized when she established the Libby Urie Financial Assistance Fund at JFS. The fund, which is now housed at and managed by The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), offers essential resources and a helping hand to people struggling with short-term financial crises. Libby, through her support of the Financial Assistance Fund, exemplifies the strong value that our Jewish tradition places on giving generously and selflessly.

Libby's donation serves as a model for others who are interested in investing in the future of our Jewish community. We, at JFS, are proud to salute Libby Urie as a true hero of philanthropy.

Please consider following in Libby's footsteps by creating a fund in support of JFS. The community-wide Legacy Initiative is an excellent vehicle for lending this kind of support. Bequests and planned gifts designated for JFS services can be housed at a the Jewish Foundation of Central PA, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), or another foundation or financial institution of the donor's choice.



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