

Cake Wars YIOP children decorate for a purpose.

On Chanukah, we celebrate the miraculous victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks. The Maccabees waged war against the Greeks with the meager weapons they had: basic farming tools, sticks and stones. This year, Young Israel of Oak Park celebrated Chanukah with their own war — Cake Wars!

Based on the Food Network's *Cupcake Wars* competition, YIOP Youth Director Rachel Tinman created a version of Chanukah Cake Wars. Each team had to work together to plan, create and display their cake. Teams competed to symbolically decorate a Chanukah-themed cake.

Each team was provided a Chanukah theme in an envelope (history of the dreidle, halachot of a kosher menorah, lighting Chanukah candles, the Maccabees, the Chanukiah and the story of Yehudit).

Each team gave a 1-2 minute explanation of their cakes before voting began and a winner was determined.

Tinman worked with Rabbi Michael Cohen and board members Ezra Drissman and Ira Winer along with administrative assistant Julie Margolis, pastry chef of Quality Kosher Catering Elyse Cohen, and Bnei Akiva's Yonatan Edrei, Yosef Malca and Meir Ziberman on the fun interactive team-building event. *



Emma and Micha Zwick



Dalia and Tzipora Drissman get a helping hand from Gabi Drissman.



Maya Greenstein, Meir Ziberman, JJ Jacobs, Daniella Weil and Esther Kohn work on their cake.



Dalia and Tzipora Drissman are busy decorating their cake.



Elliot and Madeline Zwick



Aryeh Cohen, Ahuvah Cohen and Devorah Attali

Holiday Spirit: JFS Adopt A Family program spreads joy.

The conference rooms at Jewish Family Service were transformed into holiday central as thousands of gifts were delivered by generous donors who shopped for 788 individuals through JFS's Adopt a Family program. Piles of stuffed animals sat alongside boxes of toys and board games and shopping bags full of warm clothes. One appreciative recipient had this to say about the giver of her holiday gifts: "I call you family because only family buys for family." *



The Wineman family



Mara Moss and Jen Friedman



The Mall family



Roz Blanck and Betsy Heuer



Volunteer Pauline Michaels



Phoebe Hulén



Diane Isaacs and Jackie Bolick