

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, Inc. 2009 Report to Donors



Camp Ramah is 150 acres of magical space, tucked away in the heart of Wisconsin's Northwoods. Within this space, 500 campers and 200 staff members from throughout the Midwest and Israel unite each summer to form a very special Jewish community. Together, they experience the joy of overnight camp while leading vibrant Jewish lives.

For campers, Ramah is a second home.

It's also a place to learn new skills, gain independence, make lifetime friendships and become totally at ease as Jews.

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2009 Report to Donors

Table of Contents

Letter from the President	page 2
Milestone Capital Campaign	page 4
Annual Giving and Scholarships	page 9
Foundation Support	page 12
Corporate Gifts	page 12
Tikvah Programs	page 13
Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Endowment Corporation	page 14
Dedicated Facilities	page 22
Ramah Day Camp	page 24
Legacy Society	page 26
Looking Ahead	page 27

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This report details the essential role our donors play in supporting a vibrant, innovative and fun-filled Camp Ramah in Wisconsin experience. It must be emphasized that camper tuition fees cover only the basic operating costs of the camp. Tuition does not cover capital improvements, special events or programs led by visiting resource staff. Tuition does not cover winter development of new curriculum and project ideas. These programmatic additions are covered annually by the generous donors who support Camp Ramah in Wisconsin through gifts to:

- The Milestone Capital Campaign
- Annual Campaigns like the Friends of Ramah and the Kikar Society
- The Scholarship Fund
- Underwrite annual programming
- The Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Endowment Corporation
- The Legacy Campaign

Ramah Wisconsin currently charges \$1,000 less than most of our sister Ramah camps for the eight week experience. It's not that our costs are less. **The difference is due to your support.** A full 25% of the Camp Ramah in Wisconsin program is subsidized through your contributions. *Today Rabbah!*

The Milestone Capital Campaign

We thank our devoted camp alumni and friends for stepping forward and giving freely of their resources to help transform Camp Ramah in Wisconsin into a truly magnificent site. These projects, completed with funds raised through the Milestone Campaign, are serving the camp population and enhancing the Ramah experience. We are proud to announce that Milestone Campaign pledges now total over \$7 million towards a goal of \$7.5 million!

New staff housing *(right)*

The 18 rooms in this facility, completed in 2007, accommodate the visiting specialists and educators who reside at camp for one week or more every summer.



Tikvah Vocational Center *(left)*

This facility, completed in 2008, serves as the base for graduates of the Tikvah program, ages 18-20. Vocational participants learn to strengthen social and vocational skills and transition to a more independent living situation within the framework of a supportive Jewish community. This facility also houses senior staff members.

The Chadar Ochel Kitchen and Dining Complex

The largest capital project ever undertaken by Ramah Wisconsin was ready for the start of the 2009 season. The efficient and attractive facility, which includes a state-of-the-art kitchen, three dining halls and two bathrooms, was designed by Ramah alumnus architect George Sarfatty of Sarfatty Associates Ltd.



Excerpts of letters from scholarship recipients:

From campers:

I am thankful for the chance to go to an amazing camp where Jewish learning is fun. My favorite parts of camp are dancing on the kikar and drama. Thanks so much for the scholarship!

The gift that you gave me has changed my life forever. Ramah is such a wonderful and amazing place. Helping someone who otherwise couldn't experience camp is one of the best gifts you could possibly give. Thank you so much!

Thank you so much for the camp scholarship. Because of your generous contribution I've made friends with people from across the U.S. and Israel, and I've made friends that I will have for the rest of my life. Thank you!

Thank you for the scholarship. Because of you I am having the best summer ever.

Thank you for helping to send children like me to Camp Ramah this year. It was very considerate and generous of you. Because of you I was able to do all the fun activities at camp with my friends. Thanks again!

There are so many causes to donate to and yet, when you see everyone at camp so happy to be here you can be sure you made the right decision. Thank you so much for the scholarship to Camp Ramah!

Thank you for the scholarship to go to the wonderful camp that I love. I love it because you make Jewish learning fun and because I made friends that will last forever. Thank you!

From a parent:

Ramah has always been such an integral part of my children's lives and it would never have been possible without the scholarship support provided. Thank you!

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Endowment Corporation

A separate 501c3 corporation, professionally managed through the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, has been established to segregate and oversee the management of endowed funds. The Camp Ramah in Wisconsin Endowment Corporation currently has assets totaling over \$1.8 million. Each year an allocation, averaging 5% of assets is made to Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. The 2009 endowment allocation enhanced the camp experience in these ways:

Funds from **The Marty Abramson and Howie Stillman Memorial Endowment** were used to bring Shimrit Gigi to camp for her third summer as the Senior Coach-in-Residence and Athletic Director. Originally from Tel Aviv, Shimrit earned a BS in Marketing Management and International Business from Siena College. Her true claim to fame at camp is her basketball prowess: Shimrit is a professional basketball player and coach, and she currently plays for the Israel National team and And Ramat-Hasharon. Shimrit worked extensively with both campers and staff, focusing on improving basketball skills and leading physical training exercises.



Funds from **The Bach Family Counselor Endowment** helped bring Josh Pomeranz to camp as a Nivonim counselor. Josh was a Ramah camper for three summers and participated in Ramah Israel Seminar in 2005. From Glencoe, Illinois, Josh is currently a student at Boston University majoring in Economics. This was Josh's third summer on staff.

Funds from **The Rebecca Benson Cultural Arts Endowment** were used to bring Jordan Newmark to camp. Jordan, a professional dancer with the Leopold Dance Troupe in Chicago, worked with Machon campers this summer. The campers studied with educator Donna Rudolph, focusing on a verse in Exodus Chapter 19, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me." Jordan guided the campers in interpreting the text study to create a dance which was presented as part of the campwide Rikudiah Dance Festival.



Funds from **The David B. and Sophia M. Berger Israel Scholar-in-Residence Endowment** helped bring Tel Aviv native Dror Morag to camp to lead a number of Israel-themed programs. Dror earned a BA from Hebrew University in International Studies and Islamic Studies and an MA in Conflict Resolution from Tel Aviv University.

These additional endowments provided support for specific educational projects, for scholarships and for the development of new programs without the necessity of increasing tuition levels:

The Ted and Sonia Bloch Scholarship Endowment
The Chaim Foundation Scholarship Endowment
The S.W. Frankenthal Educational Chair
The Grossman Foundation Tikvah Endowment
The Saul and Esther Kleiman Scholarship Endowment Fund
The Mercaz Kopin Maintenance Endowment
The William R. Nelson Memorial Athletic Fund
The Sustaining Fund for Ohel Yitzhak
The Joseph M. Levine Memorial Scholarship Endowment
The Nivonim 1979 Scholarship Fund
The Nivonim 1980 Scholarship Fund
The Phillips Foundation Tikvah Endowment
The Dr. Irving H. and Betty F. Rozenfeld & Family Israel Seminar Scholarship Endowment
The Harry and Constance Silverstein Memorial Endowment Fund
The Rabbi David and Emily Soloff Educational Endowment Fund
The Sylvia Steinberg Memorial Scholarship Endowment
The Sara Stern Scholarship Endowment
The Tsrif Daled and Friends Scholarship Fund
The Bert B. Weinstein Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Zimble Family Scholarship Endowment

Dedicated Facilities

During the last fifteen years we have turned to our community of supporters and have raised nearly \$10 million through the ***Renew the Vision*** and ***Milestone Campaigns*** to implement long-range plans for site refurbishing and program development. Many of the facilities listed below were built or remodeled within this framework to meet the needs of our camp population.

ACTIVITY FACILITIES

The Morris Abbell Athletic Field
The Bernard Badzin Memorial Volleyball Court
The Ed and Rita Balk Tikvah Crafts Center
The Ted Bernhardt, Charles J. Meyer and H. Bernard Krulewitch Tennis Courts
The Rabbi Isaac Leon Bonder Memorial Synagogue (Ohel Yitzhak)
The Rabbi Burton I. Cohen Cultural Center (Mercaz Tarbut)
The Davidner/Karbank Family Activity Room
The Dworin Family Nature/Camping Center
The Stanley R. Gershuny Memorial Aron Kodesh in Ohel Yitzhak
The Ben J. Kanter Tennis Courts



Looking Ahead

Even with the tremendous support described in this report, Ramah Wisconsin faces fundraising challenges as we plan for the 2010 season and beyond. Our current top fundraising needs are:

The Milestone Campaign – additional support is needed to help us reach the campaign goal.

Scholarships - Each summer funds are needed over and above support received from synagogues and communities. Once again gifts to the Ramah Wisconsin Scholarship Endowment and Annual Scholarship Fund will be a significant factor in helping make the camp experience available to all who want to attend.

Tikvah Programs – to support the unique programming for Taste of Tikvah, Tikvah and the Tikvah Vocational programs.

Staff Training - Prior to camp, dozens of staff members participate in training workshops which enhance and supplement the training they receive throughout the summer. These workshops, supported through endowment funds and annual gifts, play a very important role in staff retention.

Parashat HaShavua Divrei Torah - Since 2000, the teachers of the Beit Midrash have written weekly Divrei Torah, sending them to Beit Midrash alumni via email. Over 400 people currently receive Ramah Wisconsin Divrei Torah every week. We seek support to continue this program of year-round Jewish learning facilitated by dynamic young educators. (Details at www.ramahwisconsin.com. Click on “Resources”)

Kikar Society – The Kikar Society supports cutting-edge programming and serves as a bridge to provide continued support for programs created through start-up grants. The funds are awarded on a competitive basis to staff members developing new programs for the 2010 season. This not only taps into the creativity of our staff members, but also significantly helps with staff retention.

To support any of these initiatives or for more information, contact Linda Hoffenberg, Director of Institutional Advancement at LHoffenberg@ramahwisconsin.com or at 312.606.9316 ext. 225.