



Howard Pomerantz

Supporting Our *Youth*

by Debbie Nyman

Sidelined with a serious illness over fifteen years ago, Howard Pomerantz had plenty of time to re-evaluate his life and reflect on the “big picture.” As a busy attorney and father of two young sons, he realized he was spending too much time at work and not enough time with his family and community. These reflections shared in his hospital room with Rabbi Sam Kieffer of Weston’s Bnai Aviv, led Howard to become involved with the synagogue’s Youth Commission.

“It made sense to me since my older son Steven was already in the youth group and the importance of healthy friendships for kids struck a personal chord with me,” recalled Howard. “When I was a teenager, I lost a schoolmate who went through a difficult phase in his life and he didn’t have a safe haven to go to and I realized when I was older how our Youth Groups gave teenagers a wonderful outlet, and once I saw the value of what our Youth Commissions was accomplishing, I made it a priority in my life.”

Howard’s sons Steven and Jason were involved with the youth programs. Steven was greatly influenced by the Youth Director at the time; David Lindenbaum who died tragically in a car accident at the age of twenty two. In 1996, after his death, the David Lindenbaum Youth Scholarship was established in his memory keeping his legacy alive, making funds available to the children of B’nai Aviv who are active in the youth groups.

“Since the fund’s inception, over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars has been awarded to deserving children,” Howard explained. “Scholarships are based on both need and merit and are designed to encourage and help kids attend USY and Kadima conventions, the March of the Living, High School in Israel and other programs. Our USY chapter has been recognized for having the largest membership increase of all chapters in the Southeast. We are fortunate to have a fantastic Youth Director, Todd Morchelies, who is both loved and respected by the children.”

Howard was honored this past month at the annual Youth Banquet, the first time the committee has chosen an honoree for the event. Howard has contributed countless hours as a Youth Commission member, staying on the committee long after his sons Steven and Jason graduated from the youth program. Steven is now twenty six years old and Jason is twenty three.

The honor was particularly moving for Howard, as he was able to enjoy the event in the company of his eighty five year old mother and son Jason who was able to fly in for the banquet. “The surprise video with my old photos brought tears to my mother’s eyes.”

Howard has been a resident of Weston since 1989, and was one of the founding members of B’nai Aviv. As Rabbi Kieffer describes, “In his quiet and sensitive way, Howard has been a rock of support to B’nai Aviv youth. He truly deserves this honor as he is first-class in every fiber of his being.” **LM**