



National Council of Jewish Women
Essex County Section

Teaching Kids the Art of Giving: NCJW Holds Annual Family Mitzvah Event, Providing Infant Supplies to Needy Babies

Livingston, N.J., April 27, 2011—Sandy Bayer bought her granddaughter Alex a piggy bank three years ago, when Alex was 2.

But Sandy, a Livingston resident, couldn't have predicted at the time was that the bank would become the centerpiece of Alex's mission to save enough money to help donate crib mobiles for the Family Mitzvah Event of the National Council of Jewish Women. The five-and-a-half-year-old preschooler from Manhattan dedicated herself to collecting loose change she found lying around – between the couch cushions, on the kitchen counter, and on her father's night table – to fill that piggy bank until it could hold no more.

When she finished, it added up to \$98.50.

"Grandma, do you think the children will be happier now?" Alex asked.

Sandy and Alex were two of the more than 80 children and adults who volunteered to ensure a cozy "tuck-in" for infants in need, as the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section held its annual Family Mitzvah Event on March 27 and 28. (The Hebrew word "mitzvah" signifies a good deed). Hundreds of packages containing pajamas, pacifiers, diapers, books, and hand-knitted blankets were packed for delivery to children's Family Services, Clara Maas Hospital, Harmony House, and the Newark Beth Israel Nursery and NICU.

"As a relatively new member of NCJW, the whole experience was so extraordinary from beginning to end," said Sandy.

As for Alex, she's already looking forward to Family Mitzvah Event 2012.

"Next year I'm going to bring my little sister and she can come with her piggy bank and we'll have double!"

For more information on this and other NCJW programs, contact the organization at ncjw@ncjw.org or call 973-740-0588.

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Image attached: Mitzvah_SandyBayer_Alex

Cutline: Livingston resident Sandy Bayer and her five-year-old granddaughter, Alex, are two of more than 80 participants at the Family Mitzvah Event run by the National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section. Alex donated \$98.50 in coins from her piggy bank to help bring baby supplies to Essex County infants in need.