

Dear Parents:

Understanding that a trip to Israel helps youth develop a strong Jewish identity and connection with the land of Israel, since 1995 IHC has been participating in a community-wide Israel trip incentive and savings program called SKIP (Send a Kid to Israel Partnership). Starting January 1, 2009, the SKIP program is ending and a new program beginning.

Those who participated in the SKIP program will still receive full benefits either under the original SKIP program or the new program, whichever provides the greater subsidy. The Bank of Indianapolis savings account belongs to the family and may be closed or used at the family's discretion.

IHC's program, *Passport to Israel*, will provide IHC's youth with a grant of \$100 per year (up to a maximum of \$900) for each year the child regularly attends Religious School. Students who complete the Confirmation program will be eligible for an additional \$200 subsidy. Complete details about the program are on the enclosed sheet.

Under the new program, parents will not be required to enroll their child or make regular contributions to a savings account. Direct grants will be available from both IHC and from the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis. The Federation is happy to answer questions about their program, *The Indianapolis Jewish Federation Israel Youth Grant Experience*.

If your child is going to Israel this summer, please contact me about accessing funds.

We are pleased to inform you about these changes and, most importantly, that both IHC and the Federation are committed to subsidizing Israel youth experiences. The new program should make it easier to take advantage of funding support while encouraging more students to participate in trips to Israel – our ultimate goal.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions after reading the *Passport to Israel* information.

L'shalom,
Marcia Goldstein
Director of Lifelong Learning