

Dear Sandra, Rita and the entire Temple Sholom Congregation,

When we think of Chanukah, we immediately think of miracles. At JAFCO, we experience hundreds of miracles each and every day... the smile of a six-month-old baby in our emergency shelter, the delicious smell of Shabbat dinner cooking, the beautiful sound of children's voices in Hebrew School and the emotional welcome home scene when one of our young adults comes home from college. These are all moments that should happen in the life of any child, but sadly these moments did not start until each child came to JAFCO. And the miracle for them is that at that very moment... their childhood began.

And then there is another miracle that only occurs once a year – and that is the miracle of Chanukah. Each night of Chanukah, the children gather at sundown and light an enormous electric menorah, where each candle represents this amazing community of donors who give them love and support. The youngest child is lifted carefully by one of the older children to light the first candle and together they sing the familiar blessing. They all race to their individual homes on the JAFCO campus, light their very own personal Menorah, enjoy some potato latkes and then open their presents (hoping it was something they wished for). Each night, they simply cannot believe their eyes as all of their eight Chanukah wishes come true because of another miracle... you. Year after year, you take care of these children as if they were your own and you provide them with memories that will last a lifetime.

We are truly in awe of your dedication and commitment to making Chanukah so special for our children. Thank you again, on behalf of the precious children and families of JAFCO whose lives have been touched by your generosity and love. Wishing you and your family a happy Chanukah and wonderful start to 2021. ❤️

With deep appreciation,

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...giving every child a place to belong