

# RABBI LEIB HEBER

5664 PHILLIPS AVENUE - PITTSBURGH, PA. 15217



PHONE: (412) 421-1757

SERVICES WHICH WE PERFORM FOR THE MORE THAN 300 "EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS" OF THE JEWISH FAITH WHO ARE RESIDENTS IN THE FOURTEEN STATE INSTITUTIONS WHICH I SERVE AS CHAPLAIN.

Ninety percent of these unfortunate children and adults have no relatives. They are mentally retarded, mentally ill, deserted, lonely and forgotten—both by relatives and the community alike. Our function is to make the community aware of its responsibilities toward these "forgotten children of G-D."

For the past several years this has been accomplished through community-wide projects which we initiated, such as Sunday Breakfasts in synagogues and temples throughout the area where these "forgotten children" are guests.

In March 1974, thirty-two residents were Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Beth Shalom Congregation. In April 1975, we had an "Exceptional Day" for 162 Jewish residents of the Western Pennsylvania Region at Rodef Shalom Temple. We had an "Exceptional Day"—a major project—for all of the Jewish residents of the various institutions who were able to come. It was a full day of activities, beginning in the morning with a religious service at Poale Zedeck Synagogue, followed by a Dinner at the William Penn Hotel. Many important persons participated in this event, We were delighted with the response. Many of our guests (the "exceptional citizens") were in wheelchairs....several were brought in their beds!

It is in this way that we try to bring the plight of these unfortunate Jewish human beings to those of us in the community. I'm certain these projects which we initiated had great impact on all who attended, while giving the "exceptional citizens" an opportunity to realize their Jewish heritage as well.

These people often have no one. They need to feel that someone in the world cares about and for them. It is imperative that we continue to bring a message of hope to Jewish residents of all State Institutions. We must teach them self-understanding and give them guidance. They need love, they need recognition. And this we try to bring to them.

My six-day work schedule is as follows:

Sunday: Polk Center

Monday: Torrance Center.....Ebensburg Center....Cresson Center.....  
Altoona Center. (I spend approximately two hours in each place)

Tuesday: Allegheny Valley Jr.....Allegheny Valley Sr.....Highland Center.....  
Marcy Center. (Again, approximately two hours in each place.)

CHAPLAIN AT

cont.

ALLEGHENY VALLEY JR. SCHOOL  
ALLEGHENY VALLEY SR. SCHOOL  
ALTOONA CENTER  
CRESSON STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
DIXMONT STATE HOSPITAL  
EBENSBURG STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
HIGHLAND CENTER

MARCY HABILITATION CENTRE  
POLK STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
ROBINSON DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL  
WARREN STATE HOSPITAL  
WESTERN STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION at HUNTINGDON

WARREN STATE HOSPITAL

Wednesday: Polk Center (second time).....Warren Center

Thursday: Dixmont Center.....Huntingdon Correctional Institution.....  
Kane Hospital.

Friday: Robinson Center.....Western Center

We conduct a religious service and serve a kosher luncheon at each place. We pray together, sing together, eat together, and we try to teach them Hebrew and Jewish History. As an example, it might interest you to know that we were able to teach eleven "children" to read Hebrew—even though they aren't able to read English too well! Twenty-eight "children" know some Jewish History which we have taught them.

In each institution we have special holiday dinners five times a year: Passover, Shavuot, before Yom Kippur, Hanukkah and Purim. For Pesach, I might add, we purchase 900 pounds of matzos, maccaroons, kosher salami for 300 residents—enough for the eight days.

As we stated before, many of these "exceptional children" have no close relatives who care. When we are with them, we try to show them that someone cares. Even buying them an ice cream cone or a cold drink on a hot day is an important event in their lives. Over the past year we have spent approximately \$25.00 to \$35.00 of our own money each week for these items: We simply cannot see them looking longingly at others eating cones, candy etc.

Were it not for the help of the Federation, we realize we wouldn't be able to continue this important work. But—we cannot fail these people: They are "our own!"

You will find a Financial Statement for 1976 enclosed. You can see for yourself how well (and I hope, wisely) the money was spent—the work is so important!

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## STATEMENT - 1976

### EXPENSES: For 14 Institutions - 312 Residents.

300 Sandwiches @ 20¢ . . . . . \$60.00 (forty-eight weeks).....\$2,880.00  
Fruit and cookies each week. . \$35.00 ( " " " ).... 1,680.00  
Ice cream, drinks, other small items. . \$26.00 (48 weeks)..... 1,352.00  
Dinners (see in the letter)  
At fourteen institutions - 312 residents.  
Passover. . . . . \$585.00  
Shavuot . . . . . 362.00  
Before Yom Kippur. . 487.00  
Hanukkah..... . . 442.00  
Purim. . . . . 396.00 ..... 2,272.00  
Pesach: 900 lbs. matzos, 300 lbs. maccaroons, 300 lbs  
salami, other Kosher items..... 978.00  
Other expenses during the year, Printing, Advertising, etc.... 519.00  
Secretary. . . . . \$20.00 wk. .... 1,080.00  
Drivers to help..... 625.00  
**\$11,386.00**

### INCOME

\*\* United Jewish Federation. . . . . \$2,000.00  
Auxiliaries, Congregations, and  
private donations.. . . . . 2,637.00 ..... 4,637.00  
Taken from my own pocket. . . . . \$ 6,749.00

#### CHAPLAIN AT

ALLEGHENY VALLEY JR. SCHOOL  
ALLEGHENY VALLEY SR. SCHOOL  
ALTOONA CENTER  
CRESSON STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
DIXMONT STATE HOSPITAL  
EBENSBURG STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
HIGHLAND CENTER

MARCY HABILITATION CENTRE  
POLK STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
ROBINSON DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL  
WARREN STATE HOSPITAL  
WESTERN STATE SCHOOL and HOSPITAL  
STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION at HUNTINGDON

OFFICE  
BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION  
5915 Beacon Street  
Phone (412) 421-2288

WARREN STATE HOSPITAL

\*\* Year 1977 we had a raise from the Federation \$2500.00 and more income from the Special Day.