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Six students to attend Dallas Jewish preschools, thanks to Helen E. Risch Preschool Scholarship Fund



10:05 AM Thu, Apr 23, 2009 | Permalink | Yahoo! Buzz
Sam Hodges/Reporter Bio | E-mail | News tips

Here's a press release with details, including the schools involved:

2009-2010 Helen E. Risch Preschool Scholarship Awards Presented

Six preschools identified for grants to promote additional enrollments

DALLAS--(April 22, 2009) Thanks to the Helen E. Risch Preschool Scholarship Fund at the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation, six local students will be able to attend Dallas Jewish preschools for the 2009-2010 academic year.

"We have to go back to the very first school experience, and commit to teaching Jewish preschool-aged children about Jewish values and traditions," said Helen E. Risch, a former school psychologist for whom the scholarship fund at the Foundation was established. "I wondered, 'how can we give more people the opportunity to do this?'

Preschool is a place for teaching children information and values. But it is also very important to remember the parental side to this equation. We want the parents to become comfortable with having their children in this type of setting."

Awards for 2009-2010 were given to:

- Temple Shalom Preschool
- Congregation Anshai Torah Preschool
- Temple Emanu-El Preschool
- Jewish Community Center (JCC) Taglit Preschool
- Congregation Beth Torah Preschool and Kindergarten
- Ann and Nate Levine Academy, a Solomon Schechter School

"It feels so wonderful to know that the importance of early childhood education in a Jewish preschool is now being realized," said Bonnie Rubenstein, Director of Early Childhood Education at Temple Shalom Preschool. "I hope it is just the beginning and that in the future more children will be able to begin their Jewish education in their early childhood years."

An anonymous 2008-2009 scholarship recipient spoke of the ways that her son's life has been enriched through the Jewish preschool experience.

"We were dedicated to providing our son a Jewish education, knowing that we were financially challenged and would need help wherever we went," she said. "My son has

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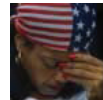
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since blossomed in every way - intellectually, emotionally and developmentally."

The Helen E. Risch Preschool Scholarship Endowment Fund was established to increase Jewish preschool enrollment, and to provide assistance to children who might

not otherwise have an opportunity for Jewish preschool education. Awards are need based, and school administrators apply on behalf of families. Since its inception in 2007, a total of \$30,000 has been distributed through the scholarship fund at the Foundation.

"There is a fear that if you isolate children in a Jewish setting, they won't be able to make

it in the outside world," said Risch. "To the contrary, I feel that they do better as a result

of a Jewish education, in that they become much more aware of who they are and their

place in the world."

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