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News & Media

Boy uses bar mitzvah to help children in foster care

Port St. Lucie - More than 100 foster children will receive new pajamas this summer thanks to the generosity of one young man who used his bar mitzvah as an opportunity to help the less fortunate – and to honor his younger adopted sister.

Liam Jampol, 13, asked family and friends to bring new children's pajamas to his bar mitzvah, a rightof-passage for young men of the Jewish faith. The request came as part of a community service project Liam organized in preparation for his special day.

"It was his bar mitzvah project," said Liam's father, Dr. Michael Jampol. "It made sense for him to want to do something like this because his little sister was adopted from foster care, and he understands that children in foster care have so many needs."

The Jampol Family adopted their youngest child, Isabel, from Devereux Community Based Care's childwelfare system just before her third birthday. Dr. Jampol first met Isabel, now 5, when a local foster parent brought her to the St. Lucie County pediatrician for a well visit.

The pajama project was a natural fit for Liam, who – in keeping with Jewish tradition – read a passage from the Torah during his bar mitzvah. The passage he recited was about resting mind and body, Dr. Jampol said.

"This was such a generous contribution – and so important," said Rose Bailey, an adoptive mother and mentor for local foster parents. "More times than not, our children come with nothing; any extra helping hand is so much appreciated."

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Liam Jampol collected more than 100 pajamas for children in foster care

The Jampols brought the collected pajamas to Bailey, who will make them available through the Foster Closet, a resource set up earlier this year to help local foster and adoptive families.

For more information on becoming a foster parent, or to donate, please click here or call Devereux Community Based Care at (772) 873-7800.

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