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There they were. Sitting all together, mom with toddler twins and grandparents, mashing up apples for applesauce. The young girls were gleeful and excited as the apples went through the grinder while grandma talked about latkes and how yummy it all tastes. Then the toddlers wanted to make Hanukkah cards so mom, grandma and grandpa were on the floor helping with stickers and stamps. Grandpa told them a little story about when he was a boy and that this was his favorite holiday. Sarah and her twins had come to the JCC this past Sunday to be at the Hanukkah Festival along with 2,000 other people!

As I walked through the morning program, created just for toddlers, I was stunned to see over 100 very young children all happy and engaged in holiday crafts and cooking. Sarah shared with me that this was a special moment for her. She's a single parent raising two toddlers and has been looking for a way to connect with her Jewish roots. She saw an online piece about the JCC's Hanukkah Festival and decided to take a chance and come by. She never expected to see so many young families and to immediately feel so at home. Every time she glanced over at her toddlers having such fun - sharing Hanukkah with their grandparents, playing with other children, singing the songs of her youth - she was filled with emotion and was so grateful to be at our JCC.

**Our Hanukkah Festival is provided free, completely free, so that people like Sarah can re-connect and find a community welcoming them with open arms.**

We rely on donations, from people like you, to keep our JCC strong. Our JCC is a gathering place where stories are shared, friends are made, lives are touched, community is built. It can't happen without donations. Thank you to those who have already given. **If you haven't yet, will you become our partner?**

*Giving is easy - online at [marinjcc.org/donate](http://marinjcc.org/donate) or at the JCC.  
Building community ....one partner at a time.*

Happy Hanukkah,

Judy Wolff-Bolton  
Executive Director

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