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Yad B'Yad joins children and adult mentors

Adult volunteers and the children they mentor played miniature golf and video games, went on rides and enjoyed a pizza lunch at the Yad B'Yad program end-of-school party at Celebration Station in Clearwater last month.

The party was one of several outings this past year for Yad B'Yad — Hebrew for hand to hand. A program of the Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services (GCJFS), it is dedicated to matching Jewish children from single family homes with Jewish adult mentors.

"Any child age six to 16 from a single parent family can participate," said program director Deena Silver. "We are looking for volunteers to be friends and mentors and role models."

Silver said that siblings of youngsters enrolled in the program are invited to activities so that they, too, may feel included.

The program currently is seeking both children and volunteer mentors. "September is our busiest time," said Silver, "so now is a good time to find a match."

Currently some seven children are waiting for a



Stefani Vonharten is awaiting a match for her daughter Sarah, seen together at Yad B'Yad's end of school year outing.

match, she said, but that number changes constantly.

For information on Yad B'Yad, call GCJFS at (727) 479-1818.

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J Street: Probe settlement funders

WASHINGTON (JTA) — J Street has called for an investigation into American charities that fund Israeli settlement activity.

J Street, the self-proclaimed political home for "pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans," called on the U.S. Treasury Department to look into whether organizations named in a July 6 *New York Times* report have broken the law. The report identified more than 40 U.S. organizations that have collected more than \$200 million in tax-deductible gifts for schools, synagogues and recreation centers in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem.

The groups support Jewish settlements in the West Bank and receive tax breaks from the U.S. Treasury. Some are seen as illegal by the Israeli government.

"Ongoing settlement construction is diminishing the chances of a two-state solution and endangering Israel's very future as a Jewish, democratic home," J Street director Jeremy Ben-Ami said in a statement.

The *New York Times* report revealed a connection between one of the organizations and Kahane Chai, a banned Israeli political party that was deemed a terrorist organization by the United States in 1994.

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