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'Super' fun

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To give special-needs children and adults a chance to socialize and participate in fun activities, and to give their parents a chance to relax, the Council for Jews With Special Needs held a "Family Fun Day" July 8 at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus in Scottsdale.



In step with the event's superhero theme, participants were able to decorate their own superhero cape, play "super" basketball and tick-tack-toe, knock down cardboard cutouts of cartoon villains in a round of bowling and create their own "Superhero Book of Me," says Becca Hornstein, CJSN executive director. In the book, they illustrated what their super-vehicle and super-house would look like, what their superpower would be, and, tying in the concept of tikkun olam, how they would help the world using their super abilities.

Jason Levy, second from left, participates in a line dance during the Council for Jews With Special Needs' "Family Fun Day," held July 8 at the Ina Levine Jewish Community Campus.

Photo courtesy of Becca Hornstein

Participants also had an opportunity to write letters to Israeli soldiers.

"Our goal was, by having the superhero theme, that they could honor some people who (are) superheroes," says Hornstein.

Local children's entertainer Persephone performed for the crowd of nearly 100 people and participants line-danced and joined in other musical activities.

The Arizona Jewish Business Alliance hosted a "quiet room" for parents, where they could read newspapers, grab a snack or socialize with other parents.

Students participating in the United Synagogue Youth on Wheels, Mission Mitzvah program were on hand to help guide the nearly 30 people with special needs through activities.

The July 8 event was the 14th or 15th Family Fun Day held by the council, estimates Hornstein, who says the council hopes to hold the event again next year.