



November 25, 2008

Community center launches canned food drive

The holiday spirit of giving kicks into high gear after Thanksgiving as the Jewish Discovery Center (www.JDiscovery.com) launches its first "Yes You Can" canned food drive.

The canned food drive begins after Thanksgiving and continues through Monday, Dec. 29, which is the eighth day of Chanukah.

Contributions to "Yes You Can" will benefit the Lebanon Food Pantry and Jewish Family Service.

Rabbi Yosef Kalmanson, of the Jewish Discovery Center, said the canned food drive is especially important now due to the economic downturn.

"During this time of economic uncertainty, we are finding more families in need of basic staples," Kalmanson said. "We are receiving increased requests for food and assistance. Many families have cut back on discretionary spending, eliminating the 'extras' typically associated with this season of giving. Now is the best time to think of others less fortunate than us and make a difference through acts of kindness."

Drop off any canned good between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays at the Jewish Discovery Center, 7587 Central Parke Blvd. in Mason.

According to the rabbi, the donated cans first will be assembled to build a giant "Can Menorah."

Then the community is invited to the Jewish Discovery Center for a "Family Chanukah Experience" Wednesday, Dec. 24, to watch the first time a Can Menorah has ever been lit in the region.

The Family Chanukah Experience also will feature hands-on Chanukah projects for families including creating edible menorahs, Dreidel games, Chanukah experiential centers and a Greek dinner.

In the month leading up to Chanukah, The Jewish Discovery Center also will offer residents of Warren, Butler and northern Hamilton counties several other fun events, including a "Book and Chanukah Fair" presenting a full range of Chanukah gifts and accessories (Nov. 30-Dec. 5), and a pre-holiday "Adult Hebrew School" crash course covering the traditions and practical implications of Chanukah (Dec. 15).

To contribute to the "Yes We Can" canned food drive via check or credit card, visit the Jewish Discovery Center in person or donate online at JDiscovery.com/donate.

The eight-day Jewish holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins Sunday evening, Dec. 21 and continues through Monday, Dec. 29.

One of the most widely celebrated of Jewish holidays, Chanukah celebrates the Jewish victory over the religious persecution of the Syrian Greeks and a miracle that saw one day's supply of oil for the menorah in Jerusalem's Holy Temple last for eight full days.

The holiday is celebrated each night by lighting a menorah (an eight-branch candelabra), eating potato latkes (pancakes) and playing games of "dreidel."

For more information, call 234-0777 or e-mail info@JDiscovery.com.

To learn more about Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, or any of the programs, visit JDiscovery.com.
