

# SWEET DREAMS AND FUN PAJAMA PARTIES

## MJ Talks to Three Kids Who Are Making a Difference: Reuven, Eliana, and Chaya Dalya Berezovsky

Have you ever been sick? Most people have been sick, but not everyone has been in the hospital. If you or anyone you know was ever in the hospital overnight, you know that it can be unpleasant.

Reuven, Eliana, and Chaya Dalya Berezovsky know firsthand how challenging a hospital stay can be, since Chaya Dalya spent the first year of her life in and out of hospitals. Baruch Hashem, today she is fine, but the Berezovsky family decided to use their difficult experience to help other people. The family established an organization called Sweet Dreams for Kids, which donates brand-new pajamas to hospitals across the US. Reuven, eight and a half, Eliana, seven, and Chaya Dalya, six, who live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, told MJ a little bit about their activities

**MJ:** Hi kids! Can you tell us about Sweet Dreams for Kids? How did your family start this organization, and what does it do?

**Reuven:** When Chaya Dalya was in the hospital (when she was a baby), she had to be in hospital pajamas. They're not so comfortable, and when she got better, my mom decided to get comfortable pajamas for kids in the hospital.

**Eliana:** We want the kids in the hospital to be nice and cozy.

**MJ:** Sounds like a great idea. How do you get the pajamas? What do you do with them once you get them?

**Reuven:** We collect them from different people in different states. A lot of people (and schools and businesses) give us pajamas. We have a big room in our basement full of pajamas. Then we sort them and put stickers on them.

**Eliana:** My mom brings them to the hospital, and

sometimes we come along. It's very exciting when a shipment of pajamas goes out. We don't get to see the kids they go to, because they're very sick, but my mom sometimes does, and she tells us about it afterwards. They always stop crying when they get the new pajamas.

**MJ:** Do you bring pajamas only to hospitals in your area, or do you ship them to other areas, too?

**Reuven:** We usually bring them to the hospitals in our area, but when people call us from other states wanting to donate pajamas, my mom gets on the phone to find hospitals in that person's state so that they can deliver the pajamas to someplace nearby.

(Mrs. Berezovsky adds that they've donated to children's hospitals in Minnesota, Iowa, Texas, California, Washington, DC, and New York State. To date, over 2,300 pairs of pajamas have been donated to hospitals.)

**MJ:** Do you ever get to pick out the pajamas you give away?

**Reuven:** We don't really get to pick out the pajamas because people send them to us. But it's fun anyway to see what people have sent. When people call my mom, she

asks them to send pajamas in all different sizes, and my mom brings them to the hospital whenever they need it.

**Chaya Dalya:** The kids get to keep the pajamas after they leave the hospital. That way they'll remember that Hashem made them better when they were sick.

**MJ:** It's a big zchus to help so many sick children. What do you like best about your organization, guys?

**Reuven:** I like thinking about the kids feeling comfortable in their new pajamas. That might help them get better faster and come out of the hospital

sooner. Even if we don't see the people we're helping, we're still able to do the mitzvah of bikur cholim.

**Chaya Dalya:** I like making other kids happy.

**Eliana:** It makes me feel good to be helping other kids. We had a pajama party in our school, Torah Academy, and my mom came and read stories. All the kids (in the nursery and pre-K classes) came to school in their pajamas. That was fun.

**MJ:** What's your organization's goal?

**Reuven:** Our whole family wants to help other kids. We want to keep on collecting pajamas so that every kid who comes to the hospital will get a new pair.

**Eliana:** I want to try to give every hospital new pajamas! Our *bubby* also helps our organization. She's a very special person.

**Chaya Dalya:** I want to give pajamas to hospitals everywhere.

**MJ:** Do you have any other thoughts to share?

**Reuven:** It's important to thank Hashem every day. Even if you're feeling fine, there are other kids out there who are really sick and in the hospital. A person needs to thank Hashem that he's not sick like that.

**Eliana:** I like being able to help other people.

**Chaya Dalya:** We need to share what we have with other kids. Also, believe in miracles. My mommy tells me that all the time.

**MJ:** Sounds good! Thank you, guys, and keep up the good work! 🙏

Do you have a special or unusual experience to tell us about? Write us a brief outline of what you would like to say and how we can contact you. Of course, total anonymity will be assured and minor details of your story changed, if you so wish.



## Pajama Delivery

Reuven, Eliana, and Chaya Dalya don't usually go along with their mother to deliver the pajamas, but their mother says that the kids who receive the pajamas are always very grateful. She remembers going into a hospital room once and finding a little girl crying. The nurse introduced Mrs. Berezovsky as the "pajama lady." As soon as the little girl saw the new pajamas in Mrs. Berezovsky's hands, she stopped crying.

"I always hope the mitzvah we are doing will show people how easy it can be to help others," says Mrs. Berezovsky. "When I think of every child I have made smile, it truly touches my heart. The pajamas help each one feel like a regular kid, instead of a sick kid, at least for a little while.

"We are also so very grateful for Chaya Dalya, who turned six today [May 18]. Our work reminds us of how much we have to be grateful for, since not all stories have happy endings like ours does."