

# Youth

## HDS students bring joy to others

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The month of Adar on the Jewish calendar is a time for joy and merriment. According to the Jewish tradition, "When Adar enters, the happiness is great." Hebrew Day School (HDS) students marked the beginning of the month of Adar by bringing joy to others. Dressed in Purim costumes, the students visited Glacier Hills Senior Living Community. The school's Klez Kids Band, under the

ed with a shine in his eye.

During the month of Adar, HDS students also took a field trip to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital to deliver stuffed animals they had collected and blankets that they had made out of colorful fleece. The animals were collected on a day at school designated as Rainbow Day, a day when the story of Noah is recounted. Special emphasis is given to the message of the



**HDS students Mira Kaufman, Arianna Seir, Brayan Zivan, Ahava Kopald, Bev Warshari, Zach Rochman, Gabe Rosenberg, and Benjamin Ramseyer-Gordon with residents of Glacier Hills**

direction of Debbie Gombert, played for the seniors. Band members, who are in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades, played cello, violin, trumpet, clarinet, or recorder. The students practice weekly after school throughout the year. Also performing for the seniors were 4<sup>th</sup> grade recorder ensembles that played Israeli folk songs. The instrumental music performances were followed by a choral music performance led by HDS music teacher Bev Warshai. The students sang Purim songs and other favorite tunes familiar to the seniors. Following the performance, the children participated in another joyous tradition of sharing hamantaschen with the seniors. The hamantaschen were baked by HDS second graders who organized a fundraising campaign to collect money for "Hamantaschen and Haiti."

"The seniors look forward to the children coming every year on Purim," says Reverend Ruthanne Bourlier of Glacier Hills. "They have tears in their eyes when the kids sing, and some even join in. There is no better way to bring them happiness. We are so grateful that the Hebrew Day School students include us in their holiday celebration," she added. "It was my 90th birthday on the day they came," said a Glacier resident. "They sang Happy Birthday in Hebrew," he added



rainbow—that we are partners with God in making our world a better place. The blankets were crafted as part of a lesson, led by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and parent volunteer Debbie Zivan, on the prayer asking God to heal the sick. The students are learning to be partners with God by reaching out to help those in need.

"The children of the Hebrew Day School in Ann Arbor are learning the values of helping others," say Diane Shember from the Mott Hospital Community Relations Department who greeted the children to accept the gifts. "Their donations of toys, animals, and blankets add so much comfort to the patients and their families as they go through a difficult time. Thank you Hebrew Day School for your continued support and kindness," added Shember. ■

For more information about the school, call 971-4633 or check the website at [www.hdsaa.org](http://www.hdsaa.org).