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## BYDS Alum Organizes Charitable Berry Walk

“Green” education—indeed these green blog entries—will continue to be all about giving, nurturing, cultivating, caring, and being out-doorsy, and so this is a new topic along those lines: BYDS alum Rachel Totz pulled off a significant community-wide event in support of the Berry children. Her “Berry Fun Walk” on a balmy Sunday afternoon on the Emery-Weiner playing fields pulled in families from all over. Children and parents from a number of schools participated in the leisurely walk-around on one of EWS football fields to the well-amplified accompaniment of Billboard top hits.



The idea behind the project came to Rachel soon after the tragedy hit the Berry family in early July. As soon as she came home from camp, she decided what her mitzvah project would be this coming school year--organize a community walk-a-thon in support of the Berry children. She joined forces with her bat

mitzvah partner Orly Golub, and the two went about seeking sponsorships, which was the more time-consuming and challenging part of the experience, Rachel admits. But her efforts yielded great success, as there were more than 500 registrations for the walk.



As a participant in the walk, I found the entire event to be very well organized—the registration tent was efficiently run, the police were well-situated out on streets ushering the traffic into a convenient parking area across the road from the fields, parking signs around the Emery-Weiner facility were plentiful and very helpful. There were even ice cream and drink vendors on hand to make the experience pleasurable for all the families.



Rachel was thrilled with the outcome, and as she stood by the DJ high in the booth, overlooking the field of walkers below, she remarked on the thrill of seeing everybody out there. Perhaps the most touching moment for Rachel was seeing a kid in a wheelchair who took part in the event. “That made it more worth it,” Rachel said.

