

## **Recreational Day for Arab Children and Their Families Hosted by the Mossawa Center**

The Mossawa Center and several community organizations have planned a recreational day for hundreds of Arab children in Israel to help them and their families cope with emotional distress caused by the recent war. The event will take place in several parks in the Triangle. The Mossawa Center created this event in response to the recent bombings and lack of initiative by the state to support the Arab victims of the war. The Center hopes that Arab families and children will find the day both fun and educational. This free, all-day event will feature as well as games, magicians, arts and crafts and other activities for families to enjoy together. The Center has created this event in order to give families – and especially children – who have experienced the pain of the recent war an opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves. Over six hundred people are expected to participate.

This Thursday, August 17, thirteen buses will take families from Dir Elasad, Nazareth, Haifa, Mrar, Tarshiha, Majd Elkrom, Be'ene, Akko, Hseneya, Kamane, and Arab Nai'em to recreation centers in Wadi Ara (Triangle). These villages and cities of Northern Israel sustained shelling throughout war and have also endured many civilian casualties. The Mossawa Center hopes that leaving the situation in the North, even if only for one day, will give these families a break from the stress and pain they have suffered in their hometowns. 18 of the 41 civilian casualties in Israel were Arab citizens, about 44 percent of the total civilian casualties.

Because of lack of funding and initiative for civilian support from the state of Israel, the Mossawa Center has found it imperative to step forward and provide this type of activity to Arab citizens.

The Mossawa Center, in cooperation with Altufola association, Women Against Violence and other private and public institutions will contribute the transportation and educational programs; the recreation centers have donated their services and facilities free of charge.

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