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Bar mitzvah project helps children in need receive Hanukkah gifts

By **Sergio Carmona**
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Avi Diamond of Cooper City took his passion for board games and helped children in need receive Hanukkah presents for his bar mitzvah project.

Avi, 13, and his family collected, sorted and organized almost 300 board games that were donated to different organizations. The majority of the games went to supporting the families of the Dorit & Ben J. Genet Cupboard, Goodman Jewish Family Services of Broward County's kosher food pantry. Others went to Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital, Jewish Adoption and Family Care Options and Dec My Room.

The Diamond family, along with their friends, gathered at the Cupboard in Davie to wrap and label games such as Connect Four, SORRY! and Mancala, among many others. The games were then distributed to families of the pantry right before Hanukkah. The pantry also gifted \$25 Target gift cards to each of the families along with handmade cards created by local teens.

Avi, whose bar mitzvah is on Feb. 12, 2022, said, "I think the kids that got the board games were super excited that they actually got a Hanukkah present."

"I'm glad that I got to share my love of board games with others," he continued.

Michelle Diamond, Avi's mother, said, "The inspiration behind the mitzvah project started with Avi's love of games."

"Since Hanukkah is right after Thanksgiving this year, we thought it would be a great opportunity while families were receiving their Thanksgiving baskets from the Cupboard, they would also receive something that extended on that family time besides a meal," she continued.

Diamond noted, "We're amazed by the Cupboard."

"We are so impressed by what they do here and so we wanted to just extend that."

Ross Adel, the Cupboard's operations director, said, "An amazing young man like Avi and his family taking part in this opportunity ensures that every child at the Dorit & Ben J. Genet Cupboard had the opportunity to go home with a gift for the holidays."

Visit jfsbroward.org/services/cupboard/ for more information on the pantry.



The Diamond family gathered at the Cupboard, Goodman JFS' kosher food pantry, to wrap and label board games. The games were distributed to families of the Cupboard just in time for Hanukkah. **ED DIAMOND/COURTESY**

