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Jan. 11, 2008

Subject:

The Humble Kings

From August 12-18, the Humble Kings appeared at various military bases in the country.

This American band, on their own initiative, offered to come boost soldier morale in Israel. Approximately four months prior to the concerts their director, Mr. John Weiss, contacted me (the head of cultural activities at the time) through the IDF's spokesman's office and with its approval. He described the band, explaining that some members were Jewish and some had been in Israel a number of times, but that they all felt connected to the country and without exception wanted to contribute in the best possible way.

Following the Second Lebanon War they unanimously decided to help boost the morale of IDF soldiers, and to perform at a number of military bases. Convinced that they could contribute to the welfare of our soldiers, they took it upon themselves to raise the money for the trip and paid all the ancillary expenses out of their own pockets.

Those of us responsible for cultural activities were very excited by this offer and arranged a series of concerts at southern air force bases.

The bases were thrilled to host a show of this magnitude, particularly because the band was coming from abroad specifically to demonstrate its support for the IDF.

The tour began and every concert was jam-packed. To hear the soldiers tell it, it was a powerful performance, a professional and enjoyable show with considerable audience participation.

Judging by the positive feedback, it was an extraordinary and emotional experience. We hope there will be many more like it, for it greatly raised the morale of the soldiers.

The Humble Kings proved that with enough determination anything can be accomplished. Their motivation and dedication helped them to make a significant contribution to the soldiers at these bases. At the end of this very successful tour, I expressed my hope that the band would return to perform for the soldiers who hadn't yet seen their magnificent show. I sincerely hope that the Humble Kings will succeed in meeting this goal. The band deserves much commendation and our thanks for the work they've done for our soldiers.

Warmly,

Major Yariv Zadok

Administrative Officer