



NEVE HANNA CHILDREN'S HOME

In the Name of Hanna Kaphan

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Dear Friends of NEVE HANNA,

We are once again happy and also proud to present to you the latest news from NEVE HANNA.

On the eve of the New Year we are looking forward to a new school year and the continuation of our well-established **therapeutic, remedial teaching and enrichment activities** for the 80 children residing at NEVE HANNA and the 45 children that attend our daycare centers.

This coming school year we plan on increasing the number of children that will participate in our **gardening therapy**, since it is an overwhelming success. By the time you get this letter, NEVE HANNA will have implemented two additional projects: **Qualifying Teenagers for Adulthood** and **Path to Bread**. We started both of these programs during the 2016/17 school-year on a trial basis in order to evaluate the program plans, timeline, feasibility, content and impact.

Qualifying Teenagers for Adulthood is a project that was developed to help teens who are in need of an intensive communication on a frequent basis to facilitate a supportive framework for dealing with question of growing up. Our program's goal is to provide the teens with the necessary tools and skills to enable them to live a healthy adult life once they leave NEVE HANNA. Within this framework we deal with subjects such as self-image, friendships and partnerships, drugs and addictions, sexuality, social media and privacy. We hold separate groups for girls and boys, dealing partly with different questions. They have regular meetings, where they will explore and discuss personal matters in total confidence. On certain subjects we will have expert lectures and visit projects outside of NEVE HANNA.

Our project **Path to Bread**, offers baking sessions in our in-house bakery Yeladudes for our children together with their parents in order to improve in a supervised manner their interaction and thereby their relationship, in the end helping the child to grow up in a healthier way.

We will be able to implement both projects on a larger scale this year thanks to the **American Friends** of NEVE HANNA, who we want to thank for the wonderful and steadfast support. **In the name of the children we are most grateful for YOUR sponsorship.**



Experimenting with dough – soon also with their parents



NEVE HANNA campus: beautiful gardens thanks to the children participating in gardening therapy



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One of the major enterprises undertaken this past year was the **renovation of two living groups for our children**. A project of this size has never been done by NEVE HANNA before. While we have many people to thank for helping make this project possible it could not have happened with a generous grant received from the State of Israel that covered 50% of the project. While the project has not been completed we have included two photos visualizing the scale of this project; both photos show the same family group!



Looking back on the 2016/2017 school year, there is no doubt that the **Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebration** was the highlight of our year. In June eight children celebrated their Bar/Bat Mitzvah; five boys and three girls. The theme of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program was "Circles of Belonging". During the year prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah the children met once a week for learning and active experiences about themselves, their community and *Am Yisrael*. For each circle they added relevant Jewish symbols and ideas and ways to practice their responsibility as adults. In addition, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah children made trips to different regions of the country, for example: Eilat swimming with dolphins; Tel Aviv-Yaffo: New and Old, Zionism and building the country; Holon – "Being different", tolerance and *Tikkun Olam* in form of a "Dialogue in the dark"-experience. In addition, our Bar/Bat Mitzvah class also had the opportunity to meet with a Bar/Bat Mitzvah class from the *Masorti* movement for youth with disabilities.

On a very special Thursday in June 2017, **our Rabbi Ms. Liron Levy** wrote: "We invited the children's families and other guests along with staff members from NEVE HANNA to the *Kotel*. We escorted the children to the egalitarian plaza – *Rechavat Israel* – like kings and queens with drums, singing and dancing and of course blowing the *Shofar*. We davened together *Shacharit*, led by the children. A *Torah*-reading service was conducted, while the Bar/Bat Mitzvah boys and girls went up to the *Torah* for the *Aliyot*. It was exciting and moving ... the children were fully prepared, and you could see how proud each family was!"

Rabbi Liron organizes more educational programs and activities at NEVE HANNA, so for example makes sure that the children of NEVE HANNA are involved with **NOAM youth movement** and the **Tali Educational Programs**. The children of NEVE HANNA need as much educational enrichment as possible, and Noam and Tali allow us to bring high quality games and activities to the children and the staff. Thanks to the **American Friends** for your contributions that allow the kids of NEVE HANNA to enjoy once a month tutoring staff, a musical activity for children and parents and the new Tali games for *Rosh HaShana* and *Channukka*."

Wishing you all: *L'Shana Tova U'Metuka!*

Dudu Weger
Director

Rachel (Rali) Loewenthal
Members of the Board

Chaim Appel
Members of the Board

