

NEVE HANNA CHILDREN'S HOME

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE HANNA

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Dear Friends,

We are all experiencing these terrible times, bringing hardship, worries and sad news. At the same time, many of us witness an extraordinary sense of solidarity among family members, friends and communities. At NEVE HANNA, our children and teenagers, their families, our staff members and volunteers, had to deal with multiple challenges. Even though, we all stayed in good physical health, due to the uncertainty, there were issues of mental health, stress and restrictions as well as other issues which had to be solved around schooling our children on campus as well as the daycare children who had to stay at home, with their parents, during lockdown. Issues included mental and economic concerns of the families of all our children, taking care of our staff with their families as well as others in need in Kiryat Gat.

You all know what we are talking about, since we all are in the same situation, dealing with more or less the same challenges. The bottom line for Neve Hanna presently, is that we are still going through a time of severe restrictions, totally isolated from the community.

We lead a daily life as one big family: 80 children and a 24/7 presence of staff. This strengthened our well-founded sense of community, helping us not only through these difficult times, but giving us strength to extend a helping hand to others in need; pretty much the same like you, our **American Friends**, who found the strength to help NEVE HANNA in these difficult times. We want to express our deepest gratitude for your friendship, help and solidarity!



Last June some foster family groups organized fun afternoons for all of NEVE HANNA.

As always there are many stories to tell regarding the past months at Neve Hanna, we would like to start by taking you back, presenting the marvelous history of our bakery before we discuss current times with the bakery.

Most of you may know that well over two decades ago NEVE HANNA founded a bakery called *Yeladudes* (kidos). The idea behind such an enterprise was: At individual homes, the children lacked the most basic needs, sometimes even miss a warm meal every day. In general, at their parent's home there was no adult functioning as a role model, representing what it means to earn a living.

The children at NEVE HANNA have everything. We prepare them for adult life, which is introducing them to a secure framework of the world of work, productiveness, and independence. Therefore, *Yeladudes* is an educational project, introducing the children to work, in the afternoon

after school hours, to what it means to have a job: being on time, showing up in clean clothes, working with hand and head covering while touching food items, keeping up the individual as well as the team obligations. They are paid very well, of course and have money for their own spending, yet another educational aspect, since hard to earn, but quick to spend until they learn the art of saving. In addition, the bakery serves as a place for workshops and occupational therapy. It is the location of the project "Path to Bread" supported by the **American Friends** and others, to help improve the child-parent relationship by a common baking experience.



Besides the bakery, a high source of pride for our children, it also serves as a place for alumni to find temporary and permanent work. Meni, who grew up at NEVE HANNA, from a young age on, always liked to work with his hands. At 16 years old he began an education with our master baker who was from abroad. After he served in a combat unit, he wanted to marry the love of his life, but he needed a job. So quite a few years later, he started to work for Yeladudes while continuing his baker's education. Today, he is a happily married man with five children and is the chief baker at *Yeladudes*.

Yeladudes, rated among the best bakeries of Israel, producing nutritious whole wheat bread and pastries, is an independent business with a professional staff enduring physical work starting early in the morning. Thanks to donations we were able to afford the materials for new bakery equipment. Our renovation included a new visitor center, thanks to the help from our **American Friends**. To our regret, currently no visiting groups can enter NEVE HANNA, having a toll on our sales while also affecting another important role of our in-house bakery. Broken is a unique chain of giving, a value that NEVE HANNA conveys to the children. Volunteers can no longer buy our bread and pastries to donate to good causes.

Due to the hardship caused by the pandemic outfall, the teens took action asking for help. They contacted a well-known Israeli TV journalist to visit and promote our new internet sales shop. Menachem Horowitz followed suit and brought a special surprise, The Osem Food Company, which purchased a large amount of Yeladudes products to be donated to families in need in the South of Israel. Furthermore, they functioned as a matchmaker connecting us with other companies, so we can enlarge our enterprise "Yeladudes Products right up to your doorstep." Currently, the internet shop purchases must be made in Hebrew, but soon we plan to provide an English version. We hope you will be able to send our products to your friends and families in Israel. Please visit us at:

<https://www.yeladudes.org.il/>



With the best wishes for a good start into a sweet year bringing all of you and your families joy and happiness and above all good health!

David (Dudu) Weger
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Yitzik Bohadana
Director

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