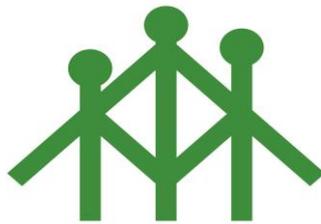


**NEVE HANNA
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Chanukah 5781-2020

Dear Friends,

We are all still in the same boat, pretty much dealing with the same restrictions in every sphere of our lives. Nevertheless, the situation differs from country to country. In our last newsletter, around *Rosh HaShana*, we reported that NEVE HANNA experienced the first months of the pandemic as a kind of large family, since we retreated from almost any public life. We came out of the first lockdown strengthened as a community. Despite all the worries, the mental stress, the adjustments to a different reality and a daily life branded by the virus, our 80 children residing at NEVE HANNA and our 40 daycare-center-children experienced **joyful summer camp weeks**.



Following the spring lockdown: back to therapeutic horseback riding as well as fun barbeque evenings, this time each family group on its own

We were hardly back at school when Israel returned to the news headlines. This time, Israel was not an example how to handle the pandemic, but how not to ease restriction. With the harsh situation in all parts of the country, Covid also came closer to NEVE HANNA. Thanks to an incredibly careful and circumspect management of contacts and work arrangements, the virus reached us only on the outer circles, so to say, not affecting the entire community. Although we have reached a stage of the pandemic where we need to keep our family groups separate from each other, **nonetheless we have a strong sense of solidarity and communal life**. We are supporting not only our children, but also reaching out to their parents and families, while trying to keep best care of all our team members and volunteers: 6 Israelis serving a year before the army, 3 serving National Service as well, 2 IDF soldiers and 6 young adults from Germany.

At NEVE HANNA during the ***Tishre* holidays, Rabbi Liron Levy-Rosensaft** wrote: "The Corona- virus brings quite a lot of challenges, though also new opportunities. Bottom line, it brings a new kind of creativity and opens up a door to new learning experiences. With respect to this, I would like to share the highly exciting and very special and even unique festive celebration NEVE HANNA had for *Simchat Torah*. We decided to hold our celebration on *Isru Chag*, the following day, in order to enjoy playing instruments and dance to joyful music."



Rabbi Liron continued to report: "We rearranged our synagogue to have a facsimile of a *Bima*, that each family could gather around, giving every individual the chance to actively participate. The children prepared posters with names of the five books of the Torah and with the *Parashat HaShavua* as well as other festive decoration items. Each family had a pre-set time to gather in the synagogue and enjoy learning all about the Torah and this special and unique holiday. At the end of this exciting experience we, as part of *Minhag Am Yisrael*, danced around with the Torah – each round dedicated to a different blessing." We are eagerly anticipating having future celebrations with the **new Sephardic Torah Scroll** being written for the children at NEVE HANNA, yet another **project from our American Friends** and could still use your support.



In the last couple of weeks NEVE HANNA had to adjust almost weekly to certain changes. To help the children better deal with the situation, we continue our **extended therapy program** and emphasize all outdoor activities. **Sports, games and play** are not only important to keep our physical health, but also strengthen our mental health. The children look forward to challenges and fun games. In the next weeks, we plan to build a kind of Ninja Parkour with more sports trainers' present. Besides that, **schooling** is, like almost everywhere in the world, a big concern. It is of most concern at NEVE HANNA not only because a good education is at the heart of the mission of the children's home, but also since all our children started off with huge educational gaps. Due to this and many other reasons, **internet based learning** is even more difficult for them than for many other children also struggling with this subject. Therefore, NEVE HANNA has increased face to face home schooling.

NEVE HANNA can be proud to see success regarding the education of our children. Eight former children are now regular staff members and six of them took on academic studies. A new achievement – we never had so many former children advancing to higher education. A major contribution to this field of utmost importance to NEVE HANNA will be the very special new project the American Friends launched lately: **a library for the children to explore the wonderful world of reading**. We look forward to an exciting opening planned for World Book Day on April 23 and **thank all our AMERICAN FRIENDS supporting this exceptional project** enhancing the study experience of our children for many years to come.



With the best wishes for an inspiring Chanukah. May the light spread even more sense of solidarity while we must keep social distance! We extend our best wishes to you and your families for good health! Hag Urim Sameach!

David (Dudu) Weger, President

Itzik Bohadana, Director

Chaim Appel, Board