

NEVE HANNA CHILDREN'S HOME

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE HANNA

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Dear Friends,

The NEVE HANNA children's home looks back on another unusual school year. As in the rest of the world, the Corona Virus changed our plans time and again. That didn't slow us down, but rather spurred us on. Our 120 girls and boys between the ages of 6 and 18 show us that we have come through this extraordinary time well. It is not only our children who ensure us of that, but also our young adults do. That includes NEVE HANNA children who are just taking their first steps in adult life at the age of maturity and get help from NEVE HANNA, but also former children who made these steps years ago and of whom eight are now part of the NEVE HANNA team, mainly working as house mothers and house fathers.

Other sources also confirm that we are doing fine. The Ministry of Social Affairs did not hold back their admiration, but declared NEVE HANNA to be one of the best functioning and one of the most innovative therapeutic homes in the country. **You too, dear friends of NEVE HANNA, are our incentive**, because your support enables us to continue regular activities under difficult conditions as well as to implement special projects. **For this and your steadfast friendship we thank you on behalf of the children of NEVE HANNA as well as in the name of the American Friends.**

Now it is time to look back and to give you a small taste of the latest activities:

- We facilitated the project of the American Friends **"Buy a Book – Build a Library"**. The construction work is done, the first couple hundred books purchased and further organization of the Library function continues.
- In December, when **American Friends co-presidents Janet and Irwin Tobin** will be back in Israel, we will have a festive inauguration.
- We intensified our **learning and remedial teaching programs** to compensate the Covid-19 fall out. Since our children start with a shortcoming that arises from their early years, despite the great success of these programs, we constantly have to emphasize and continue them. This is also the case with our **therapy programs**. We especially had to step-up animal assisted therapy, horseback riding, gardening and drama, which resulted in employing new staff members.



Alone or together, the result: certificates of excelling students

- NEVE HANNA is increasingly relying on **sports & active games**, which in Corona times are not only beneficial for physical, but also mental health. A real highlight was and is our new Ninja Parkour, which the children just love.
- Our enriching and challenging **leisure time activities** give our children and teenagers a sense of achievement at the individual level and promote team spirit and solidarity at the group level. NEVE HANNA organized a lot of fun activities, among them also bazaar-style events. Probably, most important was our fieldtrip to the North, right at the start of our summer camp. Thanks to donations, we were able to take all the children and teenagers along (this includes the daycare centers children), for an overnight stay, offering a fun day at a water park. The children still constantly talk about this trip.
- We continue the **Streetlight activities** to benefit families in need in Kiryat Gat and are happy to announce that we will expand the message of Giving, Good Deeds, Tzdaka and Tikun Olam in addition to each family group. It can be anything, from "adopting" Shoa survivors, helping an animal shelter or assisting an absorption center. By focusing on a positive aim, positive spirits will prevail over anything else.



- Of utmost importance to NEVE HANNA is the approach that we are obliged to care for the entire Israeli society. The events in spring displaying differences between Jewish and Arab citizens convinced us to intensify our **co-existence projects**, meaning we will absorb a few more children in our bilingual, Jewish-Bedouin daycare center "Path to Peace" and intensify the work along with their parents and siblings and we furthermore re-activated the joint bi-weekly Jewish-Arab teenager meetings between youth of NEVE HANNA and the close by town of Rahat.

Finally, we want to take you to the present time, since NEVE HANNA started to implement a special **project for its 30 teenage boys and girls**. They need intensive support in this phase of growing up in order to provide them with social skills and to help everyone to exhaust their personal potential, they participate in a program offered by the **non-profit association Ziv Neurim** in Ashdod. Professionally guided group activities on the beach and in the sea are offered around topics such as perseverance, mastering challenges and personal willpower. The youngsters discover new worlds by swimming and rowing, surfing and sailing.



With the best wishes especially for good health. Chag Chanukah Sameach!

David (Dudu) Weger, President

Itzik Bohadana, Director

Chaim Appel, Board