



► **EXPANDING THERAPIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER:**

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Weinberg Foundation**, we were able to significantly increase hours of therapy in our Early Childhood Center. The positive results have been noted by parents and staff alike, and we will be continuing along the same lines this year.

► **VISITORS AT THE HAIFA CENTER**

- **Prof. Zvi Izikowitz** of the Faculty of Social Work, Haifa University and head of the Center of Social Research
- **Danny Pessler**, Principal of Leo Baeck Education Center and Haifa Rotary President
- **Jim Morgan and Michal Regunberg** – Haifa Boston Connection
- **Maskit Schochat** – School Principal - Schneider Children's Medical Center
- **Mr. Anthony Vance** – Deputy Secretary General - International Baha'i Community
- **Dr. Kramer** brought a delegation of supporters of Israel from Germany lead by Pastor Gerd Rodewald
- **Ini Lederer** with Dutch supporters of Israel who donated tulips to the Haifa Center
- **Rachel Ziv, Director** - Haifa Women's Crisis Shelter & **Hadas Dagan Blum, Director** – Haifa Shelter for Battered Women

• Tourists from overseas put us on their itinerary. You, too, are invited to visit and see our work from close up.

► **EVENTS AT CHI.L.D.**

• A work meeting between Haifa Center staff and teachers from local schools took place at our Center. In an atmosphere of team work, they brainstormed to find solutions for the problems of children receiving treatment here at our center.

- The 6th Annual Walk took place at Ramat HaNadiv, in Zichron Ya'akov, on October 25th, '10 trekking as far as Shuni, in Binyamina. Thank you to all our walkers for making this fundraiser a memorable event.
- Atem-Nefesh Israel International Conference in Jerusalem on January 26, '11: Two well attended workshops were presented by Haifa Center therapists.
- One day **Hot Line** open to the public on: "Warning Signals in Child Development".



► **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

- Dr. Zvi Stein and his friends from Vienna who have been helping The Haifa Center for the past 21 years.
- Hadassa and Stuart Palmer for organizing the 6th Annual Walk, and for so much more.....
- Zehava Litovsky for once again leading the Annual Walk.
- Giora Yahel, who volunteered to renovate the kindergarten. Thank you Chen Ifergan from Ru'ah Tova Organization for sending Giora here.

Condolences To the family on the tragic passing of Benny Hesse ob'm, dedicated director of the Haifa Chevra Kaddisha – may you be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion.

NEWSLETTER 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We have launched a new project, in conjunction with two Haifa shelters for battered women, for children forced to flee their homes. They come to shelters with their mothers and find a safe place in a strange city. Shelters welcome them with open arms. They are given an opportunity to stay in a supportive environment, while closing the door on a painful period of their lives. Their stay is a period of expectation, and preparation for their personal freedom. Here at the Haifa Center we try to help these brave children overcome their present difficulties. We have dedicated this edition of our newsletter to them, please listen to their plea! Sincerely,
Dr. Jeremiah Lubasch, MD

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

- **Our Donors:**
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- **Our Supporters:**
Haifa Municipality • Ministry of Education • Ministry of Welfare • Ministry of Industry, Trade & Labor • Ministry of Absorption • National Insurance • Inheritance Funds • Chinuch Ha'atzmai • Ma'ayan Hachinuch Hatorani



"I longed to tell someone all about it"

► THERAPY FOR CHILDREN AT HAIFA SHELTERS FOR BATTERED MOMS

In conjunction with The Haifa Women's Crisis Shelter and The Haifa Shelter for Battered Women, we launched the project. Shelters provide a haven for mothers and children suffering from domestic abuse. Children at shelters are at-risk for developing many problems – psychological, behavioral and social. The cycle of abuse sometimes leads to children becoming abusive adults or paradoxically choosing an abusive partner.

Many of the children at shelters suffer from learning disabilities, emotional problems and attention deficit. In order to ensure their safety, women are referred to shelters far from their hometowns. These children are not official residents of Haifa, and therefore not eligible for treatment at municipality learning centers. We, at the Haifa Center, are here for these children to provide the necessary therapies, enabling them to start a process of healing and start a new life.

The project includes: assessments and treatment plan for each child drawing from a range of therapies. In addition, special emphasis will be placed on parental guidance to empower mothers.



"I dreamed of us being one happy family"

"Why me???"

TREAT ABUSE TODAY, PREVENT ABUSE TOMORROW

► SHELTER DIRECTORS SHARE SOME EXPERIENCES WITH US

Rachel Ziv, Director of Haifa Women's Crisis Shelter:

"Children arrive at the shelter with a range of problems. In the few months that they spend with us, we try to help as much as possible, especially in the area of learning. They lose out on school work when moving from city to city. We offered a mother of four didactic help for her daughter, including an assessment. She was thrilled! Shortly after that, her eldest daughter who had been staying in a dormitory joined her here at the shelter. She too was offered help in her studies. The girls' mother jumped at the opportunity. She says if her daughters will be able to overcome learning difficulties, they have a chance of succeeding in life, maybe something will come of them... In her words – **"this is like magic"**. The girls have started going to the Haifa Center – they have met with the teacher and will soon be assessed professionally. A learning program to answer their needs will help them progress. Here at the shelter we hope that increased donations to this project will enable more of our children to receive treatment at the Haifa Center and go forward towards a brighter and better future!"

Message from Hadas Dagan Blum – Director of The Haifa Shelter for Battered Women:

Children arrive at the shelter, together with their mothers, after leaving behind them all that is familiar; they are often unsettled and confused. They have to adapt to new surroundings, a new school, and new friends. I want to thank the The Haifa Center for their generous offer to help with assessments, didactic reinforcement and emotional support. This help is very significant and will open doors to opportunities in the future, in spite of their difficult childhood.



"I only wanted to be normal"

ANNOUNCING ANNUAL PURIM CAMPAIGN – MARCH '11

Once again we invite you to participate in this campaign – honor your friends and relatives with a festive Purim card by donating NIS50/\$18/£15 for a Mishloach Manot. We will distribute a sweet package to a needy child in lieu of Mishloach Manot.

NIS50/\$18/£15 = one Mishloach Manot = one card to a friend/relative

The proceeds of this year's Purim Campaign will also go towards our latest project:

"Therapy for Children at Haifa Shelters for Battered Moms"



► NEW PROJECTS ON OUR AGENDA

- Trauma treatments for pediatric cancer survivors in our Snoezelen Room: based on the "snoezi" model at the Schneider Children's Medical Center – we plan to help children recovering from this devastating illness to overcome emotional problems and trauma. In addition, for those who have missed too much school work while undergoing oncology treatments, remedial didactic help will be provided.
- Home Visitation Project – in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Welfare a group of "home therapists" is being trained. Following requests from local community workers, we have launched a program to help families of children at our Center by providing parental guidance within the home as an approach to early intervention. Our aim is to provide families with coping skills before problems arise. This in turn will impact positively on children.