



Newsletter 2013

Message From The Director

The Haifa Center has accomplished much in the past, and continues to serve the local community, adapting our projects as the needs change and develop. Our flagship program remains **treating children with learning disabilities**, providing a range of services which include: remedial didactic treatments and assessments, paramedical treatments such as occupational and speech therapies, and emotional therapies. We also address problems such as follow up care for recovering cancer patients. This includes trauma treatments in our newly renovated Snoezelen Room. This year we plan to establish support groups. We are here for those who need us - that is our mission. I thank you for your ongoing support of our organization.

Jeremiah Lubasch, MD
Founding Director



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SPECIAL THANKS TO...

- **Mr. Shimon Festenberg**, of **Keren Nefesh Kol Chai**, who continues to provide scholarships to needy pupils
- **Elana Meler** and **Judy Katz** of **Rotary Carmel** for back to school supplies for needy pupils
- **Smadar Bar'on** for her ongoing assistance and supervision in our Integrated Nursery
- **Mr. Motti Vagner** of **Israel Electric Co.** for once again donating new equipment for our Snoezelen Room
- The **Almani** and **Elgozi** families for their ongoing support
- **Dr. Moshe Kramer** for his ongoing assistance
- The **Rodewald** family for their generous help

Below is a translated letter, which we received from **Ms. Betty Boucris**, former **Yavneh Elementary School Principal**, after being informed that the school will be closed, due to new government policy to integrate all Ethiopian pupils in schools throughout Haifa. After 5 years of providing Ethiopian pupils with didactic and emotional therapies, we are now following "our" Yavneh pupils to their new schools, where our teachers and therapists provide help for 50 pupils. Schools receiving our services are: **Ulpanat Amit – Ironi Vav, Barkai, and Netiv Eliezer Carmel.**

Dear Dr. Lubasch,

Re: Thank you and appreciation

During the school year 2011/12 the pupils of Yavneh Elementary School were privileged to receive help from The Haifa Center staff.

The Haifa Center, in response to our request for help, provided our Ethiopian immigrant pupils with didactic and emotional help, over a period of 5 years. Children from all classes took part in this important program. The Haifa Center staff was professional, dedicated, and responsible and made a profound impact on our pupils. The emotional therapies for groups of children addressed many problems, and helped them adjust socially to Israeli society.

Words cannot adequately describe the significance of all these activities. And all that I have left to say is: Thank you. We appreciate all the resources that you invested, and hope that our pupils will continue to receive the help they need.

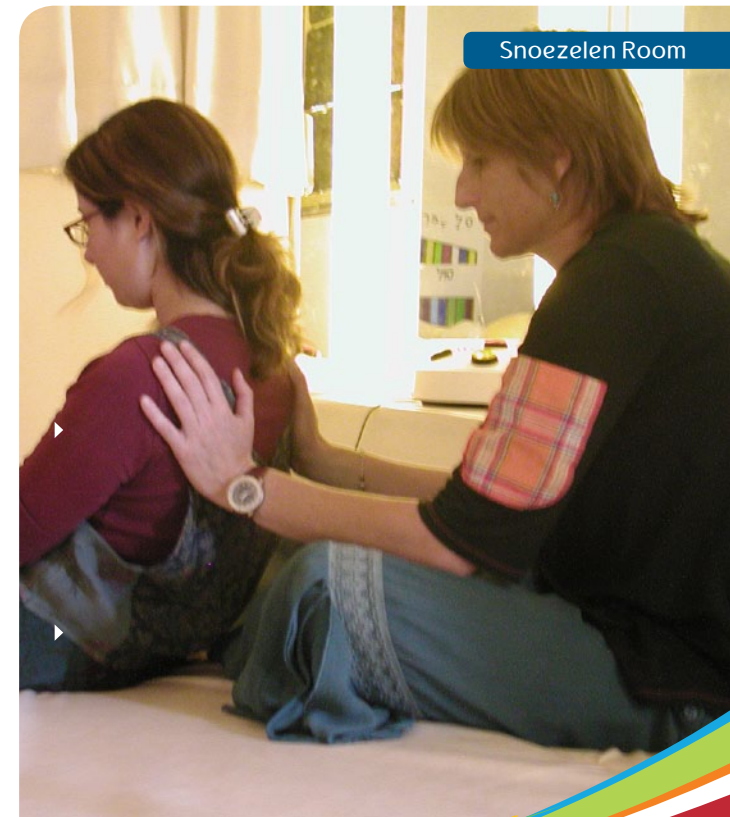
Sincerely,

Betty Boucris Rivka Partzovsky
Principal Counselor

ACTIVITIES AT THE HAIFA CENTER

The staff at the Haifa Center continues to improve methods and look for innovative ways to help pupils progress. A new approach, adopted by our **Occupational Therapy** staff, has been to include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in the Occupational Therapy (OT) treatments. Many children with developmental problems also suffer from emotional difficulties – some as a **result of** the developmental delay, and some **in addition** to the developmental delay. These problems can be addressed within the OT Room, by teaching the child important cognitive strategies. Parents also receive parental guidance, giving them valuable tools based on the CBT approach when following up treatment at home. Cooperation between Haifa Center staff and parents is an integral part of our work. In this way parents are empowered, and entire families benefit.

Parents feel comfortable to approach our staff members when dealing with issues within the family. Our multi-disciplinary staff is available to help solve problems. Pnina Berkowitz, Pedagogic Director, has an **open door policy** and guides her team to follow suit.



IMPORTANT GUESTS THROUGHOUT THE LAST YEAR INCLUDED

- Ilana Meler and Judy Katz from **Rotary Carmel**
- Mr. Danny Malei-Ron and Mr. Zohar Goren Aharon, **El'i - Child Protection Services**
- Debbie Gross, Director of **Crisis Center for Women - Jerusalem**
- Dr. Moshe Kramer and Mr. and Mrs. Gerd Rodewald



Course for Women in Community

A HAIFA CENTER SUCCESS STORY - A LOOK INSIDE

Avital S. is a sweet second grade pupil. Towards the end of the school year, before graduating first grade, Avital's class teacher noticed some learning and functional difficulties and referred her to the Haifa Center. After 3 months, her mother attended a meeting at school and her teacher reported: "Avital's improvement has been dramatic! She is focused on her studies, she does her homework, and her grades have improved. May Avital continue to be a source of pleasure to you!" The S. family is not indifferent to such announcements. They ordered a family sized pizza, dressed up in their holiday best, and celebrated the good news. Avital continues to receive treatment for a variety of difficulties at the Haifa Center, but her parents are encouraged and are sure that within time, she will overcome her problems.

Announcing Annual Purim Campaign

February '13 – you are once again invited to participate in our annual Purim Campaign: honor friends and relatives with a festive Purim card by donating NIS 50/\$18/£15 for a Mishloah Manot. We will distribute a sweet package to a needy child, in your name:

NIS 50/\$18/£15 = one Mishloah Manot
= one card to friend/relative

The proceeds of this year's Purim Campaign will go towards needy children in the local community and pediatric Oncology patients in local hospitals.

HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIAL FEATURES

- **Evening for new parents** was held at the Haifa Center with a full and informative program, including a hands on workshop to give parents the feel of what it's like to be learning disabled and a movie showing the challenges parents face.
- In our special ed kindergarten **gardening and nurturing plants** is an important part of the therapeutic design. This winter our children tended their garden, and planted vegetables in special patches. What can be more rewarding than to take home a salad, grown and picked by the children themselves?
- This year children in our kindergartens benefit from **emotional therapies** provided by MA therapy students as part of their training.
- Children in our Integrated Nursery enjoy a weekly hour of **movement to music**, including the babies section of the nursery.
- **An outreach program** for women in the community included a course on "Violence and Abuse Towards Women and Children" presented by Debbie Gross, Director of the Crisis Center for Women – Jerusalem, and her professional staff.



Farewell party - Alex Weiss

EVENTS AT CH.I.L.D.

- We bid **farewell to Mr. Alex Weiss** after 15 years of dedicated service to the Haifa Center. A farewell dinner in his honor was attended by the staff and members of his family. His significant contribution to our Center will be remembered for many years.
- Congratulations to **Hadassa Palmer on the occasion of her 70th birthday**, may you have many years of good health and happiness and continue with all your good work in the community. We celebrated the occasion at our nursery with a surprise party.
- We have launched a new co-operative venture with **El'i - Child Protection Services**: following work meetings and an in depth look at the needs in the community, El'i will start providing services at the Haifa Center.
- Haifa Center recently inaugurated a new, upgraded **Snoezelen Room**, (a multi sensory environment with both a white and black room) which will be used for emotional therapies and trauma treatments, including Cancer patients.
- A work meeting with social worker **Doron Agassi**, Director of "**Shalom Banayich**" an organization working with at-risk youth, took place in an effort to launch a co-operative venture.



Hadassa Palmer on her 70th birthday