



## Message from The Director

I am proud to share with you – our donors, supporters and friends – our new name and logo, which we have introduced in honor of our **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. For the past two and half decades **The Haifa Center for Children with Learning Disabilities (Chi.L.D.)** has been committed to serving the ongoing and changing needs in the local community. As of this year, we will be called **"Arugot"** – I hope you like the new name. The concept in Hebrew means: flower beds and symbolizes growth, nurturing, and blossoming, within a defined framework. Our new name is both colorful and hopeful and epitomizes our work with children.

I share with you our many accomplishments, which would not have been possible without your help and support; you who believed in us and enabled so much to be done.

Thank you for partnering with  
**The Haifa Center for Chi.L.D. – Arugot.**

Yours sincerely,  
Jeremiah Lubasch, MD Founding Director

## Outreach Programs in the local community

to raise awareness on the importance of early intervention and the services available at our Center included:

- Workshops for staff and parents in local schools and kindergartens on the use of games and play to facilitate communication in therapy
- Evening for school principals from Haifa and the surroundings to hear their needs and present therapy options at our Center
- Evenings for parents of children at our Center including experiential workshops on what it feels like to be a child with developmental delays and the importance of emotional therapy

## A donor's story

The Cohen Family\* approached The Haifa Center with an unusual request – we want to "adopt" one of your families, and make a significant difference in the lives of children. We chose the M. Family – who due to financial difficulties was about to stop important treatments, and thanks to the generosity of the Cohen's – two children, and their parents are now benefiting from a range of treatments. The parents of Michal\* and Doron\* are in a second marriage, and besides their own personal issues, their children have developmental delays. Michal needs occupational and speech therapy, reading and math lessons. For a child with so many learning and developmental delays, emotional therapy is a must – totaling 5 weekly hours of treatment. Doron has similar needs. A neurologist and psychiatrist are part of the team. Their parents started participating in parental guidance sessions, which resulted in significant improvements in the children's achievements – both in school performance and social skills. After a period of growth, the parents ran out of funds to pay for so many treatments. So whilst they continued to give their children help, they had to forgo their own guidance, and immediately the children started to fall behind – in all areas. This is where the Cohen Family stepped in and began to cover costs of all treatments for one year, enabling an entire family to continue to receive crucial help that will open the doors to a successful future. We can only say thank you! to the Cohen's and offer our donors the opportunity to partner with us and reach out and help more families.

\*Names have been changed to ensure privacy

**"I'm only sorry my son didn't start learning in your kindergartens two years earlier!" – Shimi's mother**



NEWSLETTER 2015



## Together with

**OUR DONORS:** P.E.F. | Weinberg Foundation | Glencore | JCD | Ballas Trust | Tikun Olam | Baha'i | Keren Haifa | Haifa Chevre Kaddisha | Rotary | Keren Nefesh Kol Chai | Paul and May Arieli Fund | Rochlin Foundation

**OUR PARTNERS:** Haifa Municipality | Ministry of Education | Ministry of Economics | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Welfare | National Insurance | Inheritance Funds

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH:** Haifa University | Elwyn Israel | ELI | Rambam Hospital | Bnei Zion Hospital | Beit Issie Shapiro



The results of the past academic year in our special-ed kindergartens speak for themselves: **77%** of our graduates were mainstreamed in regular Grade 1 classes!

## Visitors to The Haifa Center for Chi.L.D. – Arugot

- **Erik and Jennifer Bittner**, Boston, representatives of Gatesways organization
- **Mr. Jalal Hatami and Mr. Gordon Picotte, Baha'i**, visited our new special-ed kindergartens and enjoyed a relaxing hour in the Snoezelen Room with Movement Therapist – Gail Suskin
- **Mr. Avi Vurtzman** – Deputy Minister of Education and **Mr. Shai Blumenthal** – Deputy Mayor visited our special-ed kindergartens and discussed the possibility of opening an additional kindergarten
- **Municipal officials** from Va'adat Hasama (Allocations Committee): Yael Nediv Savyon, Oranit Zagouri, Tami Chaskalowitz, Tereza Taylor, Osnat Levine



## Announcing Annual Purim Campaign

February 2015 – 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, while your friends will receive a festive card instead of the traditional Mishloah Manot.

NIS 50/\$18/£15 =

one Mishloah Manot = one card to friend/relative.  
The proceeds of this year's campaign go towards Scholarship Fund for Needy Children.



## Training of staff

We are committed to the highest professional standards. To this end, we upgrade methods and provide in-house training for staff members:

- Workshops by ELL therapists on how to identify and treat abuse victims
- Nord workshop: using **therapeutic cards** in treatment
- Aliza Karvan, Master Therapist, lectured on **"The Resistant Client"**

## In addition

- Pnina Berkowitz, Principal, participated in an international conference organized by **Ate"m Nefesh** and **The Jerusalem Crisis Center** on the topic of "The Jewish Community Confronts Violence and Abuse".
- Kindergarten staff took part in a learning series at **Sha'arei Tzedek Hospital**, Jerusalem run by the Pediatric Neurology Department on the topic of: "Brain Function: what is normal, abnormal, and interventions".

## Cooperative ventures

- **Haifa University** students do their practical work here.
- **Social Services of Haifa Municipality**: As part of a course to train women to become voluntary communal workers – our staff gave lectures to this group on the importance of early intervention, markers for learning and developmental problems, and the services available at our Center.
- **Community Center (Matnas) Haifa and Ministry of Economics**: We are working to open an after school program in our kindergartens for year 2015/16 to enable a longer learning day including a nutritious, hot lunch and activities. If this important venture takes off, the program will be funded by the Ministry of Economics and will be free of charge.



## Special Thanks To

- **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** for generously supporting our flagship LD Program
- **Jewish Child's Day** for renovating our playground
- **Mr. Zwi Stein** and his friends for ongoing support
- **Mr. Shimon Festenberg, Keren Nefesh Kol Chai** for scholarships for needy children
- **The Rodewald Family and Dr. Moshe Kramer** for generous help



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