



## NEVE HANNA CHILDREN'S HOME

In the Name of Hanna Kaphan

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Children and staff of NEVE HANNA in action,



supported by Heddy and Michael Belman, by visiting ex-Israeli volunteers now serving the army



and by the AEPi fraternity members from Beer Sheva

Channukka 5790 – December 2019

Dear Friends,

As we informed (most) of you in an e-mail around *Rosh HaShana*, we postponed our Fall newsletter to the end of 2019, because we wanted to be able to report about some very exciting activity held at NEVE HANNA and for which we could welcome very special guests; guests from the United States or and other places outside Israel.

But first, let us tell you about the activity itself. Our **Youth Welfare Club (Sachi, the acronym for Sayeret Chesed Yechudit)** organizes food packages for families in need before the high Jewish holidays. The 13 teenagers of our *Sachi* branch manage everything connected to this activity, the money and food donations (private people, supermarkets and other food companies), make all the necessary arrangements so all of the children of NEVE HANNA together with the staff come together to arrange the packages containing basic needs as well as special food items for the holidays.

NEVE HANNA, as an institution for children in need, wants to set an example of ***Tikun Olam***. We want to show our children that everybody can engage in acts of kindness for other people less fortunate. Since our children arrive at NEVE HANNA from challenging family backgrounds, the motto of our *Sachi* program is: 120 children pack packages for 120 families in need, helping more than 600 Israelis to have a delightful holiday celebration. We want our children, who are in general at the receiving end of kindness, to experience how wonderful it feels to give.

This year the package packing activity enjoyed special guests, creating an even more extraordinary chain of involvement and giving. We were joined by **Heddy and Michael Belman** from the Board of the American Friends of NEVE HANNA, as well as five Israeli students from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva, who are members of the well-known **American student fraternity AEPi**.

## AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE HANNA

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In the future, we hope to expand our cooperation with AEPi, a fraternity that has existed for over 100 years. AEPi strives to develop leadership within the Jewish community of which **Tzedaka** is an important aspect and therefore a perfect match for NEVE HANNA in general and our *Sachi* activities specifically.

The *Sachi* program is only one special activity that has taken place at NEVE HANNA. There were many more programs we will tell you about in the future, however we would like to use the remaining space to tell you about another very special aspect having a huge impact on NEVE HANNA and its day-to-day-life.

We have had in recent years a **generational change in the leadership** of NEVE HANNA – with the appointment of Itzik Bohadana as the director and Dudu Weger, our long-time director becoming the President. Many of you know that already for many years we have our former children Ricky and Meni working at NEVE HANNA. Ricky has worked as a house mother at NEVE HANNA since 2000, while Meni joined the staff of our bakery, Yeladudes, in 2009. In addition to Ricky and Meni, Tomer, who is since his release from the army in 2006 in charge of the music room and teaches drums at NEVE HANNA, as well as quite a few more former children of NEVE HANNA joining the staff, some of whom are married themselves.

Most of **our alumni work with the children currently residing at NEVE HANNA**, whom they can understand very well, since they had been in the same situation regarding family background and growing up from a young age at NEVE HANNA. This understanding enables them to relate completely with the children of NEVE HANNA. For the children it means they have role models right in the middle of the foster family group they can look up to.

Our alumni, who have joined the NAVA HANNA staff, all have very similar stories. Most arrived at NEVE HANNA between the ages of 4 and 10 years old and stayed with us until they finished high school, mostly followed by an army service. Some spent time after the army outside of NEVE HANNA, while others returned and joined the staff immediately. All of our alumni staff members have expressed a real appreciation for what they received at NEVE HANNA. How NEVE HANNA saved them from their dysfunctional parental families. They all have very special memories of birthdays, trips and tours, the Bar/Bat Mitzva as well as persons working at NEVE HANNA, who believed in them and took care to give them the space and the skills to grow, to excel and to spread their wings.

**Janet and Irwin Tobin, the presidents of the American Friends of NEVE HANNA**, came over while staying in Israel in order to meet these new staff members and get themselves a detailed insight. NEVE HANNA feels blessed to count on them as well as our dedicated staff members, together contributing to make NEVE HANNA an exceptional community.

Cordially and with the best wishes for you and your family,

David (Dudu) Weger  
President

Itzik Bohadana  
Director

Rachel (Rali) Löwenthal  
Chaim Appel  
Members of the Board



From left to right: Dany, Avi, Yossi, Ricky, Janet Tobin, Ortal, Irwin, Meni and Sergay