

**NEVE HANNA
CHILDREN'S HOME**

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**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
NEVE HANNA**

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Dear Friends,

We are delighted to once again keep you up-dated directly from NEVE HANNA. Some time has passed since we provided you with a full overview; we would like to start with some statistics.

Approaching our 50th anniversary, NEVE HANNA, a **loving and warm home to 116 children**, of which **75 reside at NEVE HANNA and 41 attend our daycare centers**. The children residing at NEVE HANNA – **29 boys and 35 girls** - live in six foster family groups and are 7 to 18 years old. A total of 19 children are between 7 and 10 years old, 28 children fall in the age groups of 11 and 13 years. Our teenagers in the age group from 14 to 17 account for 26 children and one teenager is 18 years old, graduating from school in a few months. Most of these children arrived at NEVE HANNA between 8 and 10 years old. Well over 60% of them came to us from a court order. This indicates the severe circumstances at the parental home. This does not mean that the parents necessarily lost guardianship. Such matters are quite dynamic, even with the children already residing at NEVE HANNA.

You probably know that we keep in contact with the parents. It does not matter what happened at home, for a child, a mother remains its mother and a father will always be its father. In some cases the contact is smooth, in other cases not so much. NEVE HANNA can send about **40 children for weekend visits to their parental home**. In the other cases, we constantly have to evaluate the status quo at the parental home, sometimes making a visit possible, sometimes not. In such cases, NEVE HANNA nevertheless tries to maintain the contact by arranging for supervised visits or parent-child activities at NEVE HANNA. In any case, no child is left behind at **NEVE HANNA during weekend home visits or holidays. They go up North to Rosh Pina, our summer house, together with staff members**.

Currently, **41 children attend our three daycare centers. One which is the "Path to Peace", our Joint Jewish-Bedouin daycare center** attended at present by 7 Muslim-Bedouin and 6 Jewish children. These 41 children – 20 boys and 21 girls – are between 6 and 11 years old and come to Neve Hanna during the week (Sunday to Thursday) after school and return home following supper at NEVE HANNA. We work with the parents in order to change the situation at home for the better. All daycare children are an integral part of our **therapy, remedial teaching and leisure time enrichment programs** as well as celebrations and trips.

Recently, the Israeli Social Welfare Ministry gave NH an outstanding review regarding the staff, educational and cultural programing and our facility. NEVE HANNA is a stable and reliable home with many staff members with a long working history and new staff members committed to staying with us for the long term. **Nine of our staff members grew up at NEVE HANNA**. They are so important because they know how to relate to the challenges facing the children.



There are other changes NEVE HANNA has to deal with. Currently we had to dismantle our playground due to safety issues. That affects the daily lives of our children very much. **The staff at NEVE HANNA is very creative when it comes down to outside game activities.** That is definitely wonderful to keep us active together, but it is not a substitute for a child playing alone or with mates in a playground, spending time and enjoying jumping, climbing, hiding, swinging and much more. Even though we have a sports field and a Ninja Parkour, the lack of a playground especially affects our younger children up to an age of 13 years.



In all our years, NEVE HANNA never has never been confronted with a project of this magnitude; a need to raise approximately \$219,000. We are happy to announce that since launching the Playground Campaign, we already secured over 25% from friends all around the world.

Special thanks go to the heart-warming initiative and compassionate commitment of **Miri, a young girl from the States**, who recently visited us with her family. **Miri decided to raise funds for the playground as her Bat-Mitzvah project.**

We count on YOU, our friends and donors in the States, that we will make it happen and build the playground together.



We also want to inform you about another change, in NEVE HANNA's daily life that YOU helped to implement: **the library**. More and more children come in almost weekly to bring back a book and to take a new one out. Recently we launched our English and Arabic book section, attracting the first teenagers of NEVE HANNA to try to master reading an English book and also including our Muslim-Bedouin children from the "Path to Peace". **We are most grateful to AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE HANNA that worked together on this project to make it successful. – Thanks!**



Each Monday it is time to get a new book from the library.

With the best wishes for the up-coming holiday season - Happy Purim and Happy Pesach!

David (Dudu) Weger
President

Itzik Bohadana
Director

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Chairman of the Board