



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for trees, is a time of change in nature. According to Jewish sources, from Tu B'Shvat onwards the power of the rains diminishes and nature is influenced by the sun. Since most of the rain has fallen, once the sun is out - the fruit on trees begin to ripen.

At the Haifa Center we, too, are experiencing exciting changes: new programs have been inaugurated; existing ones have been expanded – enabling us to do more for our children. We look with pride upon "the ripening fruit" and thank you who have made so much possible.

Best wishes,
Dr. Jeremiah Lubasch, MD

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

► Our Donors:

Weinberg Foundation • Sobell Foundation • P.E.F. • Helen Bader • Keren Yemin • JCD • Ballas • Reuben Meyer • S.O.F.T. • Emouna Foundation • Keren Haifa • Rotary • Haifa Boston Connection • Tikun Olam • Baha'i • Silver • Levi Lassen • Haifa Chevre Kaddishe

► 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'i • Ma'ayan Hachinuch Hatorani

► NEW PROJECTS

1. Expansion of Therapy Program at the ECR Center includes significantly increasing hours of expressive and paramedical therapies, introducing a new approach – Dyadic Therapy (child and parent). In addition, special workshops to empower staff will enhance treatment.



2. Parental involvement is essential for successful treatment:

In order to encourage parental involvement workshops and seminars will be offered to parents. In addition, we emphasize co-operation between our staff and the teaching staff in schools. Meetings with teachers from local schools have been amazingly successful in the search for solutions.

3. Bridging Educational and Cultural Gaps for Ethiopian Pupils:

Thanks to a generous grant from the Sobell Foundation, we have been able to continue our work at the local Yavneh Elementary



School with 30 immigrant Ethiopian pupils. Purpose of the project: to help children overcome language and remedial difficulties; to enhance emotional well being through expressive therapies; and to help bridge cultural gaps enabling them to adapt to Israeli society.

► VISITORS AT THE HAIFA CENTER

This year we were honored by a number of visitors:

Foundation Representatives

- Michael Mohnblatt of the Sobell Foundation, who took an interest in our Ethiopian project
- Zach Harris of the Helen Bader Foundation



- Paul Isaac, P.E.F. Treasurer, included us on his itinerary while touring Israel.
- Kobi Brosh, Keren Haifa Director
- Nachum Lederer & Yoline Goldberg, Rotary representatives

Authorities

- Minister Rabbi Professor Daniel Hershkowitz, Minister of Science & Technology, took an in depth look at the Center.
- MK Rabbi Eliezer Menachem Mozes, accompanied by Rabbi Aryeh Blitenthal, U.T.J. municipality representative.



Academia

- Eti BenZiv of the Haifa University, head of MA Program for Organizational Consulting, approached us, requesting that her students do their practical work at the Haifa Center. Two of her students – No'a Shirin and Efrat Shabtai will assess our Center and provide us with their report, including suggestions for enhanced efficiency – a win-win arrangement for all involved.

Health Services

- Dr. Moshe Kramer – Skin Specialist
- Dr. Sigal Sapira – Community Family Doctor
- Dr. Avi Shapiro – Pediatric Psychiatrist
- Dr. Chana Abramowitz – Family Doctor

Haifa Organisations

- Eitan Adres - Director of Haifa Civil Society

► PROFESSIONAL SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND CONVENTIONS FOR HAIFA CENTER STAFF

- The staff participated in a one day seminar on the topic of "How to Understand and Cope with ADD/ADHD" at the Rambam Hospital Medical School.
- Dr. Nitai Melamed, psychotherapist, gave the staff a professional seminar on the topic of culturally sensitive treatments.

- **Moshe Asor**, qualified therapist, presented his techniques on **Biofeedback** and **Guided Imagery** and explained how his work connects to a range of expressive therapies.
- This year, the staff of our **Side-by-Side Nursery** is attending a 6 month training course, under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor.
- **Leadership Course** – Rachel Ehernfeld, Director of PR at the Haifa Center, is participating in a leadership course that offers a unique framework enabling participants to develop professional work skills. They will be part of a social network to enhance mutual support, solidarity between organizations and public awareness. The course is run by the Haifa Civil Society and Shatil, and is supported by the Haifa-Boston Connection.

▶ WORKSHOPS RUN BY THE HAIFA CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY

- In conjunction with **Nefesh Israel** and "**Shalom Banayich**" a seminar on the topic of "At-Risk Youth" was held for educators and key members of the local community.
- **Shulamit Suissa**, Ministry of Education inspector, visited with her team, who spent the day taking an in depth look at Trauma and Snoezelen Room treatment.
- The staff of special ed schools in the north participated in a workshop at the Haifa Center on the topic of "**Behavior Modification for PDD children**" run by Mr. Uri Cohen, educational specialist.
- **Open Day** at the Haifa Center for principals of special ed schools – coming from all over the country, including Snoezelen Room workshop and lectures.
- Rechasim Branch of **Ofakim Teacher's Seminary** was hosted at the Haifa Center and spent a day getting to know about our work.

We are upgrading our website, please visit us at www.haifacenter.org Send us your feedback to: info@haifacenter.org – Your opinion counts!

▶ IN CONJUNCTION WITH...

We continue to work with:

Elwyn Israel, Mercaz HaPa'ot, Nefesh Israel. Beit Issie Shapiro, Haifa Civil Society, Haifa University, Kupot Cholim, Lev Chash, Ezer Mizion, BeTerem, Israel Cancer Association and Crisis Center for Religious Women.

New cooperative ventures:

Einav Keshet, of **Yad Sarah**: parental guidance workshops for parents of children with ADD/ADHD.

Carmel Olefins, Ltd:

Shlomo Taylor, Community Involvement Director, visited and started a new partnership with us by sending a team of volunteers to renovate the ECR Center outdoor area. The building has taken on a new fresh look and parents are delighted with the improved conditions.



▶ EVENTS AT CHI.L.D.

▶ Open House Day – March, '09 – to celebrate 20th Anniversary

- we were honored by the participation of friends and supporters including members of the Haifa Municipality, Foundation representatives, Ministry of Education supervisors, Rabbis, parents, and members of the local community. Mr. Shai Blumenthal, Haifa Municipality representative, honored us with his presence. Workshops, lectures and a guided tour gave visitors a close-up view of services at our Center. A day to be remembered by all!

▶ **Purim Campaign – March, '09** - we distributed sweet packages to needy children in the Haifa area.

▶ **5th Annual Walk – May, '09** - took place at Ramat HaNadiv, Zichron Yaakov. In spite of strong winds, the crowd enjoyed the beautiful scenery and botanic gardens. A tour of the ecological center was a unique experience.

▶ End of Year Activities in the ECR Center – June, '09 -

- **Side-by-Side Nursery**: Parents were invited to an end of year Parents Day with exciting activities that gave them a hands-on feeling of what goes on during school hours.
- **Special ed Kindergarten**: End of year trip to "Chai Park" in Kiryat Motzkin.

- **Language Intensive Kindergarten**: Climax of the year – parents participated in a day of interactive workshops together with their children. Activities included: building a home for Mili, the cat, that they had become attached to in their Animal Assisted Therapy; and workshops with speech and occupational therapists. Highlight of the day was picking radishes they themselves had planted in the vegetable patch. The special atmosphere emphasized the importance of parental involvement.

▶ **10th Annual Nefesh Israel Conference – January, '10** - on the topic: "Grant Me The Strength & The Energy To Do My Work With Faith" (from the Rambam's prayer for doctors). Gail Suskin, movement therapist and trauma expert, presented a well attended workshop: "When Motion meets E-motion" which generated much interest.

▶ Announcing Purim Campaign – February, '10 - once again we

invite you to participate in this important campaign – honor your friends and relatives with a festive Purim card by donating NIS50/ \$15/ £10 for a Mishloach Manot. We will distribute a sweet package to a needy child in lieu of Mishloach Manot.

NIS50/ \$15/ £10 = one Mishloach Manot = one card to a friend/relative

▶ **Upcoming 6th Annual Walk – 12th May, '10** - Details will be forthcoming. Watch your email!

▶ THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

- **Stuart and Hadassa Palmer**: long time friends and supporters who organize Annual Walk and various fundraising events
- **Zehava Litovsky**: guide on Annual Walk, trips for children and staff
- **Yehuda and Diane Romm**: photography course for Ethiopian pupils, gardening in Language Kindergarten, and help with website
- **Renovation Team from Carmel Olefins Ltd**: renovations and development of ECR outdoor area
- **Laya Zryl**: retired Director of PR Dpt. at the Haifa Center continues to provide professional counseling, writing and translating services
- **Sari Manola and Ivet Shulz**, wall paintings in the Language Intensive Kindergarten

If you have a hobby or special interest, and want to donate of your time, please contact us to initiate a volunteer project.

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▶ MILESTONES

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| 1989
• The Idea is Born | 1990
• Spreading the Word
• Cornerstone 22 Bezael St. | 1991
• Our second building – 4 Herzog Street | 1992
• Speech Therapy and Art Therapy | 1996
• Music Therapy | 1999
• Today's building - 16 Arlosoroff Street | 2000
• Snoezelen Room
• Rehabilitative Day Care Center | 2001
• Family Counseling
• William Trump Award | 2003
• Special-ed Kindergarten | 2004
• Gardening Therapy
• Mo'adonit | 2005
• Seminars and workshops | 2006
• Treating PTSD
• Animal Assisted Therapy
• Social Skills | 2007
• Ethiopian pupils at Chi.L.D.
• Ma on Shachar | 2008
• Language Intensive Kindergarten
• Prize for "Outstanding Contribution Education"
• "Snoezelen Symposium - Germany" | 2009
• 20th Anniversary Open Day
• Expanding project for At-Risk Ethiopian Pupils
• ECR Expansion |
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