



# NEWS FROM JERUSALEM HILLS

MAY 29, 2017

## Memorial Days at the Children's Home School

The junior unit was responsible for the Holocaust Memorial Day and Memorial Day for Israel's Fallen ceremonies. In both ceremonies the boys and girls who performed the ceremony respected the occasion and performed with pride. The rest of the school's children sat in the audience quietly, listening in all seriousness throughout both ceremonies. In a moving ceremony about "Jewish Athletes in the Holocaust," the students told the heroic stories of swimmer Alfred Nakache, boxers Salamo Arouch and Victor "Young" Peretz and gymnast Ágnes Keleti. In addition, the choir performed the song "When the Heart Cries" and the dance group performed a powerful dance to the song "To See the Light".

The Memorial Day for Israel's fallen ceremony focused on the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War and the students talked about three war fronts and played the song "Ammunition Hill". In a moving performance, the school choirs sang the songs "Those Who Dreamed" and "Flowers in the Barrel". As part of the preparations for the ceremony the whole junior unit visited the Ammunition Hill Memorial Site.



## Passover at the Children's Home

The Passover holiday was full of fun activities for the "vacation group" children who stayed behind while their classmates went home. As with any vacation, we invest a lot of thought and effort in creating an embracing experience for all the "vacation group" children. One day the children visited the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo, Mini Israel (contribution of C Hotel Neve Ilan) and Ein Hemed. On another day the children went ice-skating in Holon thanks to a donation by Perion. Perion employees joined the children on the ice rink and together with they all overcame their fears. Perion hosted the group with warmth and love in their offices, where the children walked around and played.

An additional outing found the group bowling, thanks to the donation of HB Safety, together with HB safety representatives. Everyone had a great time bowling and watching a demonstration on operating firefighting equipment by Sagiv from HB. The children experimented with putting out fires using fire extinguishers and wearing firefighter outfits.



On Saturday the children visited the Aladdin Farm together with the "Orr" lodge and "Tzabar" lodge of B'nai Brith. Everyone really enjoyed the visit, the educational experience and seeing the B'nai Brith volunteers once again, who contributed the activity.

For several years, C Hotel in Neve Ilan has been contributing significantly to JHTC by providing Kosher for Passover food every day of the holiday thus saving the kitchen staff the process koshering the institution's kitchen for Passover. In addition, as in every vacation the children were invited to the hotel for a "fun" day in which they enjoyed the children's club playing computer games, watching movies, playing on a water slide, etc. and eating a delicious lunch in the hotel dining room. The children eagerly await this outing every vacation. Thank you very much to the C Hotel staff for everything, the infinite goodwill, attentiveness and responsiveness to all our requests.

### **Collaboration with Alon Elementary**

JHTC has a unique collaboration with nearby Alon elementary school. Every year the JHTC junior unit boys who celebrate their Bar Mitzvah go to the Alon School for a workshop with the 3rd graders. The first few years the boys taught one of the 3rd grade classes how to make soap. This year they taught the whole third grade how to decorate cupcakes, in three different sessions.

Seeing the wonderful success of the project, the Alon school social coordinator arranged to have the 6th graders at her school, as part of their



Bar/Bat Mitzvah project, come to JHTC for a joint activity with the elementary unit children. Every year the 6th grades come for an activity for Purim or Pesach. This year they created clowns from bags and then played together. The activity was a great success and the 6th graders got along beautifully with the JHTC children. They worked well together, showing great talent while discussing everyday stuff, as if they were long-time friends. These kinds of activities are truly important to our children, building their self-esteem and allowing them to spend time with normative children.

The amazing collaboration between the two schools has brought about another beautiful project. Every year, during the Pesach vacation, the teachers of the Alon elementary school come to volunteer at the Children's home for a day with our vacation group. These dedicated teachers, who would otherwise be on holiday, plan different activities for the children who cannot go home and must remain at the Children's Home.

In addition to the aforementioned projects, this year the 3rd graders from the Alon School made personalized Rosh Hashanah cards for each child at the Children's Home, and as in past years, each child at the Children's Home received a Mishloach Manot from a child at the Alon School for Purim.

We welcome the excellent relationship with the teachers and children at the Alon School and look forward to many more years of cooperation and mutual giving.



## From Our Care to Dog Training to the Army Special Forces



The boys at the Kemper Group Home receive additional treatment through alternative therapies to enable them to explore difficult emotions in an intuitive, non-verbal way. For these boys the therapies take place off campus providing a chance to take additional steps towards independence and reintegration into society. Our dog-training therapy program promotes direct experiencing through an integrated program of caring for and training the dogs. The use of non-verbal means helps develop emotional openness, ability for self-expression and acquiring social skills, all of which are most conducive to behavioral change.

Recently Roy (alias) a soldier and group home graduate came by the Home for a visit and brought his army appointed dog. Roy arrived at the Kemper Group Home at the age of 14, and had previously spent 4 years at the Jerusalem Hills Children's Home. As part of his treatment at the Group Home, Roy took part in alternative therapies. Roy specifically requested to join our dog training therapy group and was approved only after convincing the head of the Group Home that this is what would help him change his life for the better and would help with all the difficulties and frustrations that would arise during his stay at the Group Home. He faithfully attended the dog training therapy for three consecutive years and received several dog training certificates. The Kennel became his second home. Roy describes the kennel as a place that accepted him for who he was, without judging him or his past. Knowing that the staff and the dogs were truly happy to see him every time he came, Roy would visit the kennel on weekends and holidays. He finally found something that interested him and that he was good at.

Roy fought to enlist in the Israeli army and thanks to his extensive dog-training knowledge and certificates he is now serving in the respected Oketz Unit - the canine special forces unit. Roy is now on the giving side, he is a strong, able and capable soldier serving his country. He has also become an inseparable part of the dog kennel family.

## Focus on Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)

A Child in Crisis Needs Help. What kind of help and how it is given is the crucial difference between the child's recovering from the experience or being set back. Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) presents a crisis model designed to teach our staff how to help children learn constructive ways to handle crisis. The ability of the entire organization to respond effectively to children in crisis situations is critical in establishing not only a safe environment, but also one that promotes growth and development. The skills, knowledge, and professional judgment of staff members in responding to crises are critical factors in helping the children learn constructive and adaptive ways to deal with frustration, failure, anger, rejection, hurt, and depression.

The purpose of the TCI system is to provide a prevention and intervention model that will assist staff members in: Preventing crises from occurring, de-escalating potential crises, effectively managing acute crises, reducing potential and actual injury to children and staff, learning constructive ways to handle stressful situations, and developing a learning circle within the organization.

TCI was introduced to the JHTC about 14 years ago, fit in well with our therapeutic approach and presented intervention techniques that are clear and understandable to the staff. Through TCI training our caregivers learn about ways to recognize crises and difficulties among children. They learn the





baseline of the child and then know what is more difficult for him, what makes him break.

At the base of the concept is "You and I" when I is the caregiver and You is the child. The treatment is based on four questions the therapist asks himself when approaching a child in crisis:

1. What do I feel? What is happening to me?
2. What is happening to the child? What is he going through?
3. What in the surrounding environment affects the child?
4. What is the best course of action, considering the responses to the three previous questions?

The role of the caregiver is to help the child cope with the crisis emotionally, and act as the child's emotional regulator.

Because of the intensity of this type of intervention and the fact that it may often have a physical component, the direct caregivers of children at JHTC; Counselors, teachers and group coordinators must all be certified on the use of TCI during an initial 4 day TCI training program.

During the course the caregivers are taught the theoretical and practical material as well as being instructed on physical intervention techniques. In addition, each staff member must participate in yearly mandated updated training. Only a certified staff member may employ TCI techniques during a crisis.



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JHTC is committed to restoring to each at-risk boy and girl under our care their faith in themselves and their belief that the world is meant for them as well. The success of our highly personalized long term treatment program depends to a large extent on the generosity and support of our friends and supporters all over the world. Your support will make a real difference and a lasting impact

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