



NEWS FROM JERUSALEM HILLS

OCTOBER 17, 2017



MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR

שנה טובה ומבורכת



UNE BONNE ET HEUREUSE NOUVELLE ANNEE

THE CHILDREN AND STAFF

OF THE JERUSALEM HILLS THERAPEUTIC CENTERS

בשם הילדים והצוות של בית הילדים

LES ENFANTS ET L'EQUIPE DES CENTRES THERAPEUTIQUES LES COTEAUX DE JERUSALEM

Jerusalem Hills 1st Annual Fundraising Event

Jerusalem Hills' 1st annual fundraising event was a great success. Close to 250 people attended the event which took place in the Neve Ilan hotel. The reception was held on the hotel terrace with a beautiful backdrop of the surrounding mountains and included excellent food catered by the hotel and vintage wine donated by the Pelter Winery. A slideshow depicting everyday life at Jerusalem Hills ran alongside posters presenting some of the children's wishes and dreams for the new year. In addition, the guests could purchase handmade crafts prepared by the children.

While the guests were enjoying the reception the featured musical duo Guy and Yahel were doing last minute sound checks in the auditorium. They invited the children from our school choir, who were also there to perform, to join them for a chat about their history as boarding school graduates, their work and family lives.



The performances began with the JH school choir, who stood tall and proud in front of 250 guests and performed two songs magnificently. Following the choir, the JH chairman of the board greeted the audience and called Dr. Chezzie Cohen, former executive director and President Emeritus of Jerusalem Hills to speak. Dr. Cohen gave a short explanation about our efforts to rehabilitate the troubled children that come to Jerusalem Hills. Following Dr. Cohen's words, a graduate of the Children's Home took the stage. She spoke emphatically about her life and how the home saved her. She is currently working with children and studying psychology. She did not leave a dry eye in the room. With her powerful words and presentation she echoed Dr. Cohen's words: Jerusalem Hills simply saves children's lives.

Guy and Yahel were the last to take the stage. They are talented musicians whose voices blend in beautiful harmony and their performance was a wonderful and enjoyable ending to the evening.

The event was a great success thanks to the support of all the people who purchased regular and virtual tickets and made donations. Special thanks to C-Hotel Neve Ilan and Pelter Winery who sponsored the event, and to the residents of Neve Ilan for their help in organizing the event and to Guy and Yahel for donating their performance. All the proceeds from the event are directed towards activities for the "Vacation Group", children who must remain on campus when the other children go home for weekends and holidays.

A New Year Begins at the Children's Home



The school year began with the commencement ceremony including the tradition of attaching the children's wishes to the wish tree in the school entrance and sending some of those wishes off on balloons into the heavens. The ceremony was led by the Eitan group, children entering their fourth and final year at the home and with the choir singing a special song. The Eitan group chose to greet each of the other six groups with a special blessing in the spirit of the Rosh Hashana and distributed apples and a jar of honey to each.

During the course of the school year, one of our junior unit teachers runs a cake decorating workshop and the participants learn to decorate cakes, muffins and cookies using different techniques. This year, in honor of Rosh Hashanah, the children prepared New Year's greeting card made of chocolate, placed on a biscuit. These special greeting cards were sold at our fundraising event.

Summer Work Program – The Kemper Group Home

After school is out for the year, but before the boys go home for summer vacation, the Kemper staff finds work placements for those that are deemed capable. Carefully chosen and closely escorted by the Group Home staff, these placements allow the boys to acquire skills, learn something about relationships with customers and fellow workers, and get a taste of the satisfaction of earning their own wages. Three boys from the group Home, who are graduates of the Children's Home, returned to the Children's Home to work in the summer school. Two boys accompanied the various groups as counselors and fit in very well. There is great satisfaction in seeing graduates of the Children's Home returning to work at the Home as counselors. A third boy worked with Orit at the Children Home's laundry. Every summer Orit takes one of the boys who is in a particularly difficult situation to work with her and does it all with much patience and understanding.



Focus on Social Services

The Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers places great emphasis on working with the parents/family of each child in its care, for as long as the child remains at our facilities. Working with the family is an inseparable and integral part of the JHTC's unique treatment philosophy.

The relationship between the children and their parents is critical and valuable for the parents, children and our staff. However, this is a complex relationship. The parents are required to allow other people (at first total



strangers) to replace them in caring for their children, a transition that often leads the parents to perceive themselves as parenting "failures". These feelings of failed parenting many times lead to a loss of parental identity.

The aim of our family support program is to address the parents' needs directly, to help them come to terms with the placement of their child in a residential treatment setting, to develop tools that will help them cope with the grave and difficult issues in their own lives and to facilitate the rehabilitation of the parent-child relationship with the hope of reinstating as much as possible a functioning family environment. To this end each child's family is assigned an in-house social worker who meets for therapeutic sessions with each family/parent on the average of once per week.

The job of each unit's social worker is to help the parents deal with the pain of the crisis surrounding the removal of the child from the home, and involve the parents in the child's treatment on all levels (physical and emotional). This is a complicated process that requires much work at first, until they reach the point where the

parents learn to place their trust in the staff and the triangle of child, parents and staff is created. Over the years a unique connection is formed between the parents and the staff. The parents, after the initial major crisis and in light of the improvements they see in their children and in themselves, give the staff their consent to treat and care for their children. Sometimes the consent is only partial, while sometimes a special bond is formed between the parent and a staff member.

One of the highlights for each unit is parents' day, which takes place twice a year. The parents are invited to spend the day with their children, to work together and become deeply acquainted with the child and the process he is going through. This is done together with the entire inter-disciplinary staff that cares for the child throughout the year.

In preparation for parents' day, the staff chooses a topic relating to the parent-child relationship and connected to the different stages of development of the unit. Therefore in the first year the topics will be related more to getting to know the staff and children through art activities and games, and by the second and third year there is room to work with the parents and children in groups and common discourse. In addition, when thinking of the day's content an emphasis is put on activities that will empower the parents and children and strengthen the parents' feelings that they are important and significant figures in the children's lives, as well as emphasizing the children's strengths.

We are able to hold two parents' days per year in each unit for all 7 units thanks to the generous support of P.E.F Israel Endowment Funds.



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