



OUR PAST



OUR PRESENT

90 YEARS YOUTH ALIYAH CHILD RESCUE

UPdate Summer 2023

Note from our CEO

Dear Friends

During Pesach, some of our trustees and I had the privilege of taking a group of wonderful supporters to visit Neve Hadassah and Aloney Yitzchak Youth Villages. There, we met some of the children who have left Ukraine as a result of the war. It was striking to see the difference between the most recent arrivals and those who have benefitted from several months in the Youth Villages. The Village Way, an established framework for educating and caring for at risk children, really does work! Many of these young refugees already have a clear vision for their futures, with dreams of success and of building a life in Israel.

Our charity began 90 years ago, caring for children escaping Nazi Germany. Today, parents are still sending their children to Israel, in the hopes of giving them a more secure future. Our work is clearly not done.

I know it feels like a long way off, but please let me know if you'd like to join us for the day next Pesach. We would love to show you the profound impact that your donations make. Meanwhile, join us at one of our upcoming events, below, and enjoy reading this newsletter and know that you are making a difference.

Have a great summer!

Daliah Mehdi
Chief Executive

YOUTH ALIYAH CHILD RESCUE

HARTSBOURNE LADIES CHARITY GOLF DAY

DATE	TICKET	VENUE
MONDAY 7TH AUGUST 2023	£100 PER PERSON	HARTSBOURNE COUNTRY CLUB

For more information, please contact:
Lorraine Robinson: elmammouk@hotmail.com
07768 175 083
Jess Lawrence: jessicalawrence@youthaliyah.org.uk
07736 318 686
handicap required

CHARITY NO: 1072915

YOUTH ALIYAH CHILD RESCUE PRESENTS OUR INAUGURAL POKER NIGHT

£1000 CASH PRIZE

Thursday 7th September 2023
North London Location
6.30pm - Drinks amongst classic cars
7pm - Poker starts

BUY IN: £75

For more info: jessica@youthaliyah.org.uk | 020 8371 1580

Village catch-UPS

Yemin Orde

Connections for Today and Tomorrow

Yemin Orde begins preparing its students for adult life years before they are ready to graduate. A number of ongoing exciting programs connect our youth with Israeli companies around the country, exposing them to wide circles of Israeli society, and creating a network of mentors and potential future employers.



11th grade students in the communication track are matched with the marketing team at an international health insurance company. Together, they manage the Yemin Orde Eco-farm Instagram page as they learn about social media and marketing.

The Aluf Hadiburim public speaking program pairs our youth with lawyers from a prestigious Tel Aviv firm. The competition opens with the youth visiting the law firm offices and learning from the lawyers how powerful speech can be. They work with mentors to prepare a speech on a chosen topic and then work on their presentation skills, techniques and tools to build self-confidence for speaking in front of a crowd, on body language, developing their own presentation style and how to present an argument. The lawyers come to Yemin Orde to judge the competition, giving each youth positive feedback and ideas for improving their delivery.

To encourage and enable our youth to improve academically, a group of 10th graders travels to Caesarea once a week to meet with tutors/mentors in a hi-tech company. Here, they work on English and maths while engaging in conversation with different members of the team.

12th graders meet with professionals in different fields to encourage them to begin planning their futures as well as starting to build their networks. This year's professionals have included the head of Ben Gurion Airport security, a team from an investment firm, members of a law firm, a group of real estate managers, and hi-tech engineers from Microsoft.

Aloney Yitzchak



Everybody Wins!

We secured a grant from Ebenezer Aid to allow Aloney Yitzchak students to continue their beloved volunteer programme.

Working within a budget, teams of students proposed volunteering projects, which were then voted on. They chose to spend time visiting a senior centre, providing companionship to Holocaust survivors, helping children with additional needs, and cleaning up local beaches and nature trails.

A perennial favourite is the medical clowning programme. This is not just about visiting the sick in hospitals. Students are trained in empathetic listening and learn the power of a warm smile and focused attention. As they immerse themselves in making others feel better, students themselves

experience remarkable growth in their self-confidence, maturity and compassion.

Another group volunteered to pick grapefruit with Leket, Israel's national food bank. The harvested fruit was distributed to Israelis in need, regardless of age, background, or religion. Many of our students' families are also recipients of food from Leket.

Coming from unimaginably challenging backgrounds, our students often arrive with low self-esteem, feeling that they have nothing to offer the world. Through these volunteering programmes, they are able to see themselves in a new light, recognising the positive impact that they can have on their communities around them. That's what we call a win-win!

A Home Forever at Talpiot

Talpiot Youth Village, located in Hadera, is home to 200 of Israel's most vulnerable children, aged 5 to 18, and provides services to hundreds more through a network of community-based programmes.

Operating under the auspices of the Welfare Ministry, the children of Talpiot come from backgrounds of severe economic deprivation, physical danger, psychological distress or neglect. While some are eventually able to return to rehabilitated families, many find themselves alone after graduation, still needing the support of the Youth Village until they can live independently.

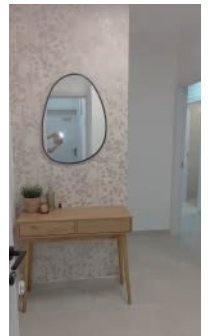
In June, Talpiot Youth Village proudly opened its housing for graduates in need. This four-bedroom home accommodates up to eight graduates of Talpiot Youth Village at a time, with two beds in each bedroom and a shared living space and kitchen. Each bed also has a pull-out mattress, allowing the home to accommodate up to 16 graduates when demand is high. The Graduates House will be used by those waiting to begin their military or national service, soldiers on leave, and those who have recently completed their service

and need a temporary home.

The opening ceremony was attended by 50 excited people, including graduates, current students, staff, partner organisations, and the architect, who generously donated his services. Talpiot's message to students and graduates was clearly conveyed throughout the event; "We are your anchor for life, and we are here to support you at every stage of your journey."

The graduates themselves were astounded, asking, "No really - how much does it cost to stay here per night? I absolutely love this place." Their gratitude was evident, as was their comfort in the knowledge that they will always have a home at Talpiot Youth Village.

We extend a special thank you to our friends at the Locker Foundation, whose generous donation paid to fully furnish this warm and welcoming home.



Neve Hadassah



A Hive of Activity

Neve Hadassah Youth Village has provided a safe haven for more than 25 refugee children forced to leave Ukraine because of the war. Some were accompanied by their families, but others came alone, their parents unable to leave their country but wanting their children to be safe. Welcomed by experienced staff, as well as Russian-speaking students, they are receiving an enormous amount of support and are settling in to their new home in Israel. Enthusiastically embracing the myriad of services offered by Neve Hadassah, they are already engaged in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including arts, music, IT, athletics and... bee keeping!

Nature plays an important role in daily life at Neve Hadassah. There is a well-established agriculture programme that the students participate in. They grow fruits and vegetables, as well as herbs and house plants, all of which are sold at local markets.



Besides the physical benefits of farming, the students also learn how to market what they produce.

Three years ago, the Youth Village planted a kosher vineyard, with the goal of crafting



their own wine. This year, Neve Hadassah joyously celebrated the first harvest of grapes and used them to produce their very own wine, aptly named "Achdut", meaning "unity".

As in all of our Youth Villages, different children respond to different therapies. Four years ago, Neve Hadassah implemented an innovative new option for their children;



therapeutic gardening. Each participant is given a small plot of land, which they can use to plant anything they like. Some choose to grow flowers that they had in a garden they had to leave behind. Some choose to grow a food that comforts them. Others create a calm and peaceful refuge for themselves. All of these activities are done with a trained therapist, who can help them to talk about the feelings behind their gardening.

For the fifth consecutive year, Neve Hadassah has received the prestigious Beautiful Land of Israel Award in recognition of the Youth Village's outstanding appearance and meticulous maintenance. This has further strengthened the students' pride in their home, encouraging them to further invest in, and reap the benefits of agriculture.

Over the summer, Neve Hadassah will host a summer camp that brings together religious and secular children. Their shared experiences at camp will create a bridge between two worlds that will last a lifetime.



T.O.M.



Building Connections with Families

A third of TOM's students have made Aliyah from Ethiopia. When they first arrive, the families are housed in absorption centres, taking a few years before moving to permanent housing. Despite waiting years to make Aliyah, many parents encounter severe challenges adapting to a new country, including learning a new language and a very different culture. An additional difficulty is understanding the concept of their children going to a residential school, something they have not encountered in Ethiopia.

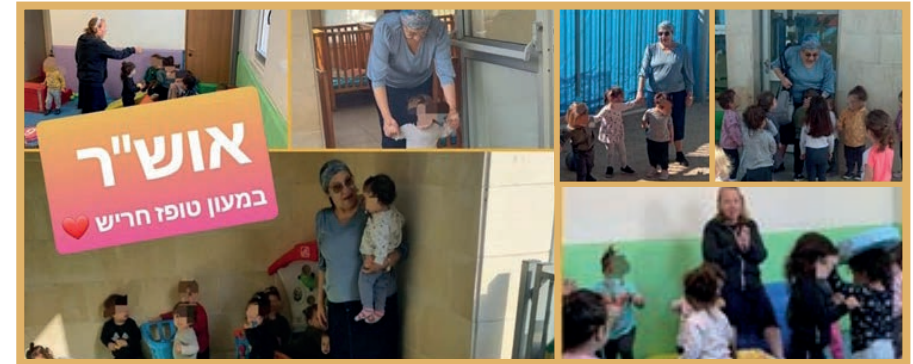
TOM has developed an extensive programme, led by its social workers, to help strengthen the connections between families, students, and the Youth Village. Starting with meetings at the absorption centres, staff from TOM introduce parents to life at the Youth Village. This leads to a series of visits to TOM, culminating in a Parents Shabbat where parents enjoy a magical experience with their children and the

staff who care for them. Village Director, Rabbi Noam Sassi, explains that the goal is to create a natural connection between parents and staff. This results in the parents feeling a stronger bond with their children as well as a greater investment in their educational and personal progress.

During the recent military operation, Shield and Arrow, TOM opened its doors to parents who had to evacuate their homes in the absorption centre in the south of Israel. These parents naturally felt at home and seamlessly integrated into the community, a testament to the strong bonds forged between the Youth Village and its extended family throughout the year.



Village Way



An Entire City Embraces the Village Way

Village Way educators are currently nearing the end of their third year working with municipal and educational leaders of Harish. This newly established city has decided to base all its educational offerings, in its 19 schools and 134 kindergartens, on the model of the Village Way, naming it "the Harish Way". The influence of Village Way can be felt in initiatives all around this growing city, with its diverse, complex population mix.

A Focus on Happiness

In March, the Topaz Daycare Centre was chosen by the municipality's Department of Education and Village Way Educational Initiatives as a pioneer for Project Osher, a Hebrew word meaning "happiness" whose Hebrew letters stand for "trust

and connection" ("Emun v'Keshet") and "multigenerational belonging" ("Shayahut Rav-Dori").

For this unique project, the centre's educational staff will add several senior citizens who live in Harish, and will serve as "grandparents" to the children who attend the centre.

Notes Mirit Vahabi Levy, Director of the Topaz Daycare Centre, "This multigenerational connection in our centre is mutually beneficial for all of us. We will enjoy the love and warm embrace of these grandmothers, and they will receive unconditional love, feelings of belonging, and a sense of meaning and purpose that only children know how to give."

IsraElite Women's Mechina



IsraElite Women's Pre-Army Leadership Programme (Mechina)

The tenth cohort of IsraElite has just completed an incredible year of growth as this motivated group of young women learn about themselves, find their strengths and their individual and collective voices and evolve into tomorrow's leaders. Each cohort chooses a name for themselves at the beginning of the year. This group chose the name Yahav, which means hope or expectation and desire. Having the opportunity to be a part of IsraElite gives each of these young women hope and expectations for a better future.

This year we celebrated a decade of the IsraElite Mechina with an exciting event. Many of the graduates came to the event enjoying reunions with their friends and meeting with the current participants. The graduates of the first nine cohorts served, or are still serving, in significant positions in the IDF. They

are self-confident young women, very different from the timid, marginalized high school graduates who began the program. Many have already advanced to various academic and professional studies and are at the beginning of their careers. At the event, we awarded scholarships to 20 graduates studying in vocational or higher academic programs in diverse fields.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics 2018 data, only 10% of Israeli women from low socio-economic communities hold an academic degree. We are proud to report that 38% of our graduates who have completed their IDF service are studying or have completed a bachelor's degree. These graduates are the first in their families to study in higher education. They have received support and guidance from our graduate program coordinator, who has helped them plan their futures and map out the steps to reach their goal, as well as helping them solve problems they encountered along the way.

Men's Mechina



Yemin Orde Men's Pre-Army Leadership Program (Mechina)

The Yemin Orde Young Men's Leadership Program was established in 2000 and is recognized nationwide as a top program of its kind. Every year, approximately 60 young men from around the country—mostly immigrants or children of immigrants from Ethiopia or the Former Soviet Union—come to the northern town of Hatzor Haglilit for a transformative experience, receiving a unique blend of education, volunteer experiences, physical outdoor training, and emotional support to fill the gaps of what has been missing in their lives.

On arrival, the young men were assigned to groups of 10 participants, known as "Introspection Groups", where each group was accompanied by a staff

member who personally guided each youth. Throughout the year, regular meetings were held, where they were encouraged to talk about themselves and their lives. These sessions facilitated a personal, emotional journey that focused on looking beyond the army and concentrated on how to use the period of mandatory service as a springboard for a stronger future.

"What we created here is a protective space where they have the ability, the place, the staff, and the tools that we provide to help them transform. We provide preparation for the military, of course, but what makes us really unique is that we also provide emotional preparation - for the army and for the civilian life that follows," explains Ori, the program's Director of Education.

Six ways to step up for at risk children in Israel

1

Donate

by phone or on our website at
www.youthaliyah.org.uk/donate

2

Join

a Youth Aliyah Child Rescue committee

3

Visit

one of our Youth Villages when you are next in Israel

4

Remember

Youth Aliyah Child Rescue in your will

5

Fundraise for us

You can choose how you want to help -
we'll support you all the way

6

Follow us

on social media, and join our mailing list

www.youthaliyah.org.uk

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Charity No: 1077913