



Beit Daniella
Mental Health Rehab Center for Youth



Empower. Rehabilitate. Integrate.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Dear Friends,

In our world, darkness and light are intertwined. **In 2024, in spite and in response to the war and tragedy that beset and continues to beset our country, Beit Daniella rose.** In celebration of that resilience and of our festival of lights; we proudly present you with our 2024 Annual Report. None of this could have happened without your vital support and encouragement- a huge thank you to you, dear friends and partners!

A warm, happy and hope-filled Hanukkah to you and yours,

Sarah Malka and Hadassa

SOUTH BRANCH OPENS!



In September we actualized a dream that was born in the wake of October 7th, to open a branch of Beit Daniella in the South to help treat and rehabilitate youth who were severely affected by the trauma of October 7th and the ensuing Swords of Iron war. Although a September opening date was extremely ambitious, we were determined to give Southern youth who were evacuated, the opportunity to start the school year on a clean slate in order to mainstream them back into normative community life. With a star studded Southern staff at our lovely location in Moshav Shibolim near Netivot, Beit Daniella's students are slowly coming back... to themselves, to their lives... to life! *L'CHAIM!*

NOT JUST STUDENTS....



A student with beloved Zeeva

Beit Daniella is not only returning Southern youth to life, it is returning Southern adults to life too. Meet Shibolim's *Em Bayit* (housemother), Zeeva Ashuri. As a beloved *ganenet* (kindergarten teacher) of 34 years, Zeeva has legendary status amongst generations of Southerners. When the head of the municipal council of Sdot Negev to which Moshav Shibolim belongs, came to give his blessings to Beit Daniella's staff at the opening of our Shibolim branch; it was Zeeva - his childrens' *ganenet* throughout the years - who received the warmest embrace. Zeeva's humanity towards children is so great that in addition to raising her own children she fostered two more, including a Bedouin child. As a *ganenet* who worked in Kfar Azza, on the 7th of October it was her precious charges who were kidnapped (Avigayil Broda) and murdered (Rotem Kutz -murdered in bed along with her entire family). At the same time, not far away in neighboring Kibbutz Beerli, her son Neriya was battling terrorists.

How does a gentle soul cope with the horror and barbarism performed towards children? Zeeva refused to collect unemployment benefits and sit at home with her ghosts. Instead, she sought employment where she could use her human gifts to heal living children. ...and she found Beit Daniella. "Every time I manage to bring a smile to a student's face, to give them courage, or just get them to do mundane chores in the kitchen; I am filled with fulfillment. I realize that no matter how scary and challenging Beit Daniella's teens are and will be, I have found my place."

OUR MAGEN DAVID

This time last year, we were in the midst of a bomb shelter crowdfunding campaign, trying desperately to enable the return of our kids to their haven in Tzur Hadassah, to functioning in the wake of the trauma and tragedy of Oct. 7th. Thanks to your generosity we met our goal and our bomb shelter has provided us with protection in more ways than one. As our biggest indoor space, it has enabled us to host therapeutic groups, parents forums, visits from hospital delegations, staff meetings and it is our Zoom Room. On a spiritual level, we are protected through the spirit of a precious fighter and hero, David Schwartz for whom we named our shelter- Magen David- The Shield of David. We are



honored to be protected also by another hero, Yakir Hexter - David's dear friend with whom he lived and died - for whom our tent Ohel Yakir is named. It was David's father in law, Joseph Gitler, a Beit Daniella board member and supporter, who was instrumental in encouraging and supporting us in the building of our protected place.



OUR COMMUNITY

MAZAL TOV!! OUR FIRST BEIT DANIELLA COUPLE!

M.* came to Beit Daniella in his last year of High School, at the age of 17. He had not attended school in 3 years- all of his high school years he was barricaded at home, depressed and isolated. His parents brought him to a string of psychiatrists and psychologists, yet nothing moved him. With the gentle guidance of our staff, he opened up, learned social skills and for the first time, enjoyed a peer group of his own. The education staff worked with him to make up for lost time and he completed all of his high school matriculation exams at Beit Daniella! (Incidentally, on his own initiative, he produced a research paper together with his peers that he submitted to the Health Ministry, demonstrating the critical lack of mental health day services for youth...and the need for Beit Daniella!) M. went on to do National Service in a cyber firm and proved himself to be so invaluable that at the end of his Service, he was immediately hired as a full-fledged employee.



Multi-talented and hard driving, N. came to Beit Daniella at the age of 16, in danger due to suicidal thoughts and unable to function due to severe anxiety. While in Beit Daniella, N. drove harder for more self awareness, learning how to communicate her feelings to others. Her hard work paid off and she finished her matriculation exams with excellence and went on to do her National Service.

A close friend and Beit Daniella graduate who had overlapped with M. the year before, introduced M. to N. Their relationship blossomed, culminating in an engagement in November!! Mazal Tov! We are so proud and thrilled for our beautiful, young couple and we bless them with boundless joy and success. With their combined brainpower, values, determination, depth and self awareness, we are sure that this couple is going to make their mark on Israeli society!

WHAT IS IT LIKE FOR PARENTS? MEET DANA AND NIR, GEFEN'S PARENTS

Hi, my name is Dana and I work at an international commercial rating company. My husband Nir works as a credit manager in one of Israel's leading banks. We are the parents of Gefen, now 15 years old, who was diagnosed two years ago with clinical depression after a suicide attempt. We arrived at Beit Daniella lost, hopeless and helpless after a year of horrendous experiences within the mental health system in Israel. At Beit Daniella we were not judged nor blamed, we were seen and treated as full partners. They believed in us, they saw our anguish, listening and accompanying us throughout a six month process, both in group and individual settings. We left with a full toolbox, with good advice and with new behavior patterns. Above all, we left with hope - with the belief that there is a future - a solid, healthy future for our Gefen. We will forever remember what Beit Daniella did for us - not only for Gefen but for us as parents.



Photo for illustrative purposes only

JERUSALEM MARATHON 2024



170 runners ran in the 2024 Jerusalem Marathon and raised over 200,000 NIS towards the opening of our Southern Branch to treat, rehabilitate and strengthen our youth from the Gaza envelope. This time, even our dogs joined the effort and came to cheer us on!

SAVE THE DATE - JERUSALEM MARATHON 4.4.2025



Run with Beit Daniella in Jerusalem Marathon 2025!
Stay tuned for more details

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

BREAKING INTO THE MEDICAL SYSTEM: THE HEALTH FUNDS (KUPOT HOLIM)

Beit Daniella was founded as a private organization, not out of choice but out of lack of choice. Because there were no day facilities in the public sector within the community for teens who were incapable of attending school and in danger due to the state of their mental health. From the outset, in addition to saving teens' lives and returning them to their schools and communities, we set a goal to make Beit Daniella an integral part of the medical system in Israel. Thankfully, we are gradually succeeding.



A year and a half ago, we received Ministry of Health recognition as the first and only community mental health day program for youth. Since then we have been negotiating with each of Israel's four health funds to close contracts that would provide coverage for young patients to attend Beit Daniella. All beginnings are hard...especially for a new service to crack an entrenched bureaucracy. It has been a drawn-out, arduous and frankly maddening process but our hard work is paying off. This month our first patient from Kupat Holim Leumi, received a voucher for coverage. MAZAL TOV!!!

ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY

As part of our goal to make community youth mental health programs accessible within the public sector, Beit Daniella directors, Hadassa Jakobovits Pardes and Sarah Malka Eisen Kroopnick have taken an active role in lobbying the Knesset, participating and speaking at various Health and Education Committee Plenums. We are deeply grateful to the unstoppable Michal Voldiger, Member of Knesset and chairperson of the Mental Health Lobby in the Knesset, for championing Beit Daniella's cause and the cause of all Israeli citizens and their families who struggle with mental health conditions.



Beit Daniella founder, Hadassa Jakobovits Pardes at the Education Committee Plenum in the Knesset advocating for the amendment of Israeli law pertaining to the Educational rights of sick children to include and specify mental health day programs



Member of Knesset Michal Voldiger visits Beit Daniella in Tzur Hadassah (l. to r.) with Sarah Malka Eisen Kroopnick, Co-Director, Haim Yagen, Therapeutic Services Manager, Hadassa Jakobovits Pardes, Co-Director



Donate