

# FRIENDS OF NEVE MICHAEL

# in the news

Rosh Hashana 5781  
September 2020



**NEVE MICHAEL**  
Children's Village  
A Home With A Heart



SHANA  
TOVA!

As Rosh Hashana approaches we wish to extend our best wishes to you, our kind supporters, and express our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of the Neve Michael Children's Village. Your compassion for our disadvantaged children, your sensitivity to their traumas, and your steady support and kindhearted gifts have greatly helped us in our ongoing efforts for children at risk. Thanks to your kindness, our children receive an education and therapeutic services, as well as the love and care of a family unit at Neve Michael.

Our Children's Village is working at full capacity as we have received many children this year. COVID-19 has especially affected the lives of the children who were able to go home for a visit. They encountered angry and tense environments that only increased their level of anxiety. Your thoughtful concern for the plight of our children is a source of inspiration for us as we continue with our life's work.

## End of Year Party for Neve Michael B'not Sherut

The Family Homes at Neve Michael, which provide our children all the warmth and care of normative family life, are greatly enhanced by B'not Sherut, young women from Sherut Leumi – the National Service.



These dedicated young women are always there for our children. They help with their basic needs, support them with an attentive ear, help them overcome growing pains, and act as big sisters in so many ways.

For all the wonderful things they do for our children, we recently arranged an end of year party to show our appreciation. The Neve Michael staff is indebted to our B'not Sherut for all the love they bring to our Village, and give to our boys and girls.

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## Dreams Do Come True

Your strong support has enabled our children and youth at risk to benefit from diverse programs. One such undertaking, the Dreams Do Come True project, helps Neve Michael graduates realize their personal aspirations at a critical time in their lives, right before they join the IDF or National Service.

One of our young women had a lifelong dream that one day she would rise above the confines of the real world and soar to great heights. We helped her realize her flying dream with a paragliding course off the coast of Hadera. The thrill on her face during and after her maiden flight, filled everyone's hearts with joy.

We also enabled a treasured experience for a high school graduate who dreamed about combining his love of the sea with fishing. He thoughtfully expressed his ambition as a "search through the ocean depths to raise his consciousness." Here's how we helped him realize his dream: A family that resides in the Children's Village took the young man out on a fishing boat trip; an experience he will never forget. Afterwards, Neve Michael purchased all the required fishing equipment and sent him to a beginner's fishing course. We made the dream real for him, and instilled him with the resolve to continue dreaming, and pursuing his dreams.



**We wish all of our friends and supporters a sweet and happy new year, and thank you for bringing hope and joy in the new year to The children at Neve Michael Children's Village.**



## Field Trip to the Carmel for Neve Michael's Graduates



Our young men and women graduates went on an exciting field trip in the Carmel region where they rode in jeeps, slept in tents, went hiking on breathtaking mountain trails and went out for dinner in a Haifa restaurant. Our graduates talked spiritedly about the mark they are leaving on the Children's Village and everything they are taking with them. They also told stories about all the good times they had, and shared laughs about some past blunders and embarrassing moments.

What a hearty bunch they are! Each one of them has made our Village a special place. We wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

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## Giving Back to the Community

In order to prepare Neve Michael's children for life outside of the Village, we find that it is very important to instill the value of giving back to the community. This is important for our children's individual development as human beings and to give them a feeling of self-worth that they, who have gone through horrible abusive experiences, can also help others in need. Giving is a soothing and healing experience, and one who gives gets back enormous amounts of love and affection in return.

For the past two years, Shifra and Hila, have been volunteering at the Levona kindergarten in Pardes Hana. For our girls, giving back to the community by caring for kindergarten children and helping out their mothers is a matter of commitment, yet it has turned into a labor of love and devotion. Listening to Dorit, the kindergarten teacher, shower our girls with warmth and gratitude saying, "May you always be among the givers," was especially moving.

Another opportunity for giving is achieved by Neve Michael boys and girls who lovingly visit holocaust survivors on a regular basis. For these elderly men and women who lived through the darkest time in our history, the sight of wide-eyed, thriving children comforts them, brightening up their dwindling days.

Recently, we attended a memorial ceremony for Gizla, a Holocaust survivor who passed away a year ago. Gizla's son and grandchildren from America attended the ceremony. They were moved by our children whom their mother and grandmother had spoken of and loved so much. May Gizla's memory be a blessing, for her family, and ours.



## Summer Camp



Twelve of our children went on a three-day camping trip to the Jordan River and participated in a summer day camp with special needs children. Our boys and girls took part in activities and cooperated in mixed groups, helping to inflate the joy these exceptional children were experiencing.



## Shana Tova!

The upcoming Rosh Hashana holiday is a reminder that while Jewish children everywhere can celebrate the New Year with their families, our children's sad family circumstances keep them from savoring that special holiday atmosphere in a warm and loving household.

While our family homes in the Village strive to create a true household for our children, our strongest hope is that our boys and girls will grow into healthy and independent young men and women. Then they will be able to sit around their own Rosh Hashana table with the families they create themselves.

As always, your valued support keeps that most cherished hope alive. Wishing you happiness, the best of health, and fulfillment in the New Year.

Love,  
Hava Levene

