

NEVE MICHAEL CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

in the news

Hanukkah 5784
December 2023



NEVE MICHAEL
Children's Village



HAPPY Hanukkah

A Hannukah Message from Neve Michael

As we gather to celebrate the Festival of Lights, Hannukah, here at Neve Michael, our hearts are filled with hope and warmth that we wish to share with all of you.

Hannukah is a time of miracles and a reminder that even in the darkest of times, the light of hope can shine through.

In the spirit of Hannukah, we want to extend our heartfelt prayers and wishes for the safe return of all our hostages. We hold them in our thoughts and hope that the light of Hannukah can bring comfort and strength to them and their families during this challenging time. We believe in the power of unity and collective prayers, and together, we can create miracles.

At Neve Michael, we teach our children the values of love, compassion, and unity, and we carry these principles in our hearts. During this holiday season, let us come together in unity and support one another, spreading light and hope to those in need.

May the menorah's flames inspire us to overcome adversity, and may the joy of Hannukah fill our hearts with resilience and faith. Together, we can make a difference and bring hope to those who need it most. Wishing you all a blessed Hannukah filled with light, love, and the miracle of hope.



Dear Friends,

I want to open a window into our world here at Neve Michael, a world filled with both challenges and unwavering hope. These times have proven to be a profound test of resilience for our community. Our 23 beloved graduates and numerous staff members have answered their nation's call, leaving to serve in these trying times. Some of these graduates have siblings who continue to reside with us at Neve Michael, and our dedicated professional staff is working tirelessly to help them navigate their fears and anguish.

The absence of our staff members and graduates has left an empty space in our hearts, and a profound sadness lingers. For many of our children, recent events have stirred deep emotions and rekindled memories of past traumas. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has resurfaced, bringing back haunting memories of the abuse they endured. We understand that we cannot shield the children from the news and current events. While our younger ones may struggle to comprehend the harsh reality, our older children are more aware. Every day, we work diligently to help them process these ongoing events.

We've experienced heartbreaking tragedy within our Neve Michael family, when our beloved nurse, Ora, received the devastating news that both her husband, and his father, had been burned alive by the Hamas. Neve Michael has rallied around her with an outpouring of love and compassion, especially from our children.

In the face of adversity, we remain unyielding, standing shoulder to shoulder as a family and as a community. We have weathered hardships before, and we will overcome these challenges with the same resilience and strength that have carried us throughout our history.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering emotional and financial support and for being a pillar of strength for Neve Michael's children.

With love and appreciation,

Hava



A Heartwarming Display of Love & Solidarity with Israel's Soldiers

The children of Neve Michael have transformed their campus into a heartwarming display of love and solidarity with Israel's soldiers. With creativity and enthusiasm, they have adorned their surroundings with beautifully crafted signs and decorations, sending a powerful message of support to the brave men and women who serve their nation.



Spreading Love and Support to Israel's Brave Soldiers

The children of Neve Michael have embarked on a heartwarming initiative, writing letters filled with support and love for the brave soldiers defending our country.

This gesture not only highlights their empathy and compassion, but also serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that can emerge even in the face of adversity. It is a touching demonstration of solidarity with those on the frontlines, reinforcing the bonds that connect us all during these challenging times.



Happy Hannukah



A Day of Respite and Unity for Evacuee Families

With all the challenges and uncertainties gripping the nation, a heartwarming day of respite and unity unfolded at Neve Michael. Evacuee families from Kibbutz Alumim in the south, and Kiryat Shmonah in the north, found solace and joy in this haven of support and compassion. A day filled with enriching workshops, captivating performances, insightful lectures, delectable food, and a sense of plain fun that resonated throughout.



Neve Michael's "Sulamot" orchestra graced the event, offering a spiritual and soulful experience through music. The power of art and harmony provided a healing balm to all who attended, reminding everyone of the strength that can be found in unity and shared moments of happiness.

The children of Neve Michael seized the opportunity to lend a helping hand to those who have endured immense trauma, bringing warmth and smiles to the faces of evacuee families. It was a day where compassion and resilience shone brightly, emphasizing the unbreakable bonds that unite us all in the face of adversity.



Baking Challah for Shabbat

One beautiful and heartwarming activity that Neve Michael's children recently engaged in was the tradition of baking challah. As they sought ways to pass the time and prepare for Shabbat, the children came together with enthusiasm and a sense of togetherness that is truly special.

In the warm and inviting kitchen, the children rolled up their sleeves, donned aprons, and started the process of mixing, kneading, and shaping the dough. The room was filled with the comforting aroma of freshly baked bread as they carefully crafted the challah, forming them into the traditional braided loaves that are a symbol of Shabbat.

While the challah dough was rising, the children took time to reflect on the significance of Shabbat and the importance of coming together as a community. The act of baking challah not only allowed them to pass the time with a creative and meaningful activity, but also deepened their connection to their heritage and traditions.

As they gathered around the table to enjoy the fruits of their labor, the children not only had a delicious batch of challah to savor but also a sense of accomplishment and unity that comes from sharing such a meaningful experience. It is moments like these that make Neve Michael a place of support, warmth, and love.



Neve Michael's Children: Balancing Stress and Building Resilience

Neve Michael's children have been actively engaged in activities aimed at reducing stress and promoting physical and mental well-being. One such enjoyable and beneficial activity was a session involving walking on short stilts. This unique and entertaining exercise not only provided them with a fun way to expend energy but also challenged their balance skills, offering a sense of accomplishment and relaxation.

As the children carefully navigated their steps on the stilts, they found themselves fully immersed in the activity, momentarily letting go of any worries or anxieties that may have been weighing on their minds. The physical activity allowed them to release pent-up tension, and the focus required to maintain balance provided a welcome distraction from daily concerns.

Beyond the physical benefits, these activities also fostered a sense of camaraderie among the children. They cheered each other on, offering support and encouragement, which further strengthened their bond as a close-knit community. These moments of shared laughter and achievement helped alleviate stress and provided the children with valuable coping tools that they can carry with them into their daily lives.

Neve Michael continues to be a place of support and resilience, where activities like stilt-walking serve as a reminder of the importance of nurturing both body and spirit.



The Sweet Aroma of Happiness

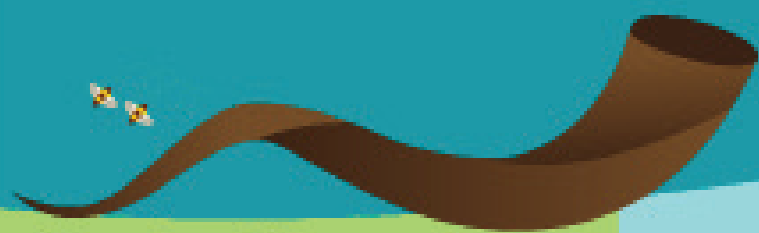


In the midst of challenging times, the simple act of baking cookies has proven to be a heartwarming and uplifting experience for the children of Neve Michael. It's amazing how the aroma of freshly baked cookies can fill a room with warmth, joy, and a sense of togetherness.

As the children gathered in the kitchen, there was an air of excitement and anticipation. Mixing the ingredients, shaping the dough, and watching the cookies transform in the oven, became a delightful journey of creativity and discovery. The act of baking, with its tactile nature and sensory pleasures, allowed the children to momentarily escape from the stresses of their daily lives.

It wasn't just about the cookies; it was about the shared experience. The laughter and conversations that flowed as they worked together in the kitchen created a sense of unity and belonging. Each child had a role to play, and together they created something delicious and comforting. When the cookies were finally ready, the children's faces lit up with delight. The simple pleasure of biting into a warm, homemade cookie brought happiness and a moment of respite from their worries.

It's these small, cherished moments of sweetness that remind us of the power of simple gestures and the resilience of the human spirit, even in challenging times.



Keep Reaching for the Sky

Yoni, a remarkable Neve Michael graduate, held a dream close to his heart – the dream of soaring through the sky. With unwavering determination and a shared commitment, we transformed this dream into a reality. Yoni's longing to fly high was met with open arms, and together, we made his aspirations come true.

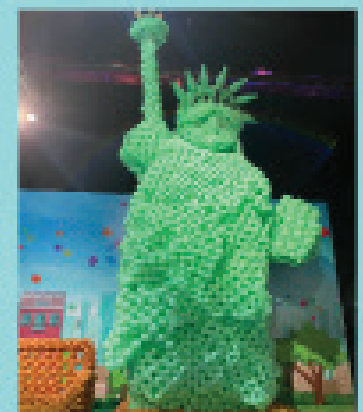
The moment he took to the sky, his face illuminated with a radiant smile, and his heart raced with the thrill of the unknown. The wind beneath his wings echoed the triumphant beat of his spirit. It was a moment of pure exhilaration, one that encapsulated the power of believing in dreams and making them a tangible truth.

As Yoni soared through the azure expanse, he carried with him not just his own dreams, but the dreams of everyone who had supported him along the way. His flight became a symbol of triumph over challenges, a beacon of hope that encourages us all to aim higher, push boundaries, and embrace the extraordinary.

In granting Yoni the gift of flight, we also gifted him the realization that his dreams were valid, attainable, and worth pursuing. As he continues to explore new horizons, we stand beside him, ready to support and celebrate every endeavor he undertakes. Yoni's journey has touched our hearts and ignited a spark of inspiration that will forever remind us to keep reaching for the skies.

Children Experience the Magical Balloon Story Exhibition

Thanks to Sharing Seats and to some of the generous parents of Kol HaNearim volunteers, 150 children at risk and 5 staff members from Neve Michael's Children Village along with 30 volunteers from the Kol HaNearim organization, had the incredible opportunity to attend the Balloon Story exhibition at Hanger 11 in Tel Aviv's port. Sharing Seats, a nonprofit organization, works diligently to provide event tickets to sick and underprivileged children and families.



The attendees were left in awe as they enjoyed the captivating worlds constructed from transparent balloons. They embarked on a journey from the tropical jungle to the feet of the Statue of Liberty in New York, and even visited the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The experience continued with a cosmic adventure alongside a 12-meter-long spaceship, a dive into the underwater world, and a fascinating encounter with a balloon octopus. Interactive areas added even more joy to the event.

The children of Neve Michael found joy and companionship in the presence of Kol Hanearim volunteers—enthusiastic young teens and adults who dedicate their summers to volunteering at children's homes. Their unwavering passion, infectious happiness, and boundless hope breathed new life into the hearts of Neve Michael's children.

Yechiam Sherlo, Director of the Family Homes at Neve Michael, expressed his amazement, stating, "This was a spectacular balloon exhibition that has never been seen before in Israel. It was truly beautiful and provided a wonderful and enjoyable experience that Neve Michael's children will never forget."

This special day created cherished memories that will be treasured for a lifetime.

