

FRIENDS OF NEVE MICHAEL in the news

Hanukkah 5786
December 2025



WHY DO WE EAT LATKES ON HANUKKAH?

Latkes are a traditional Hanukkah dish that symbolizes the miracle of the oil. We fry potato pancakes that are often served with sour cream and apple sauce. The word "latke" was first coined in the 15th century and is derived from the Greek word "elaion" meaning olive oil and the Slavic "oladka" for a little fried pancake. Frying in oil is to remind us of the Miracle of the oil burning for 8 days.



Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, seven precious children, ages 5 to 10, were brought to Neve Michael's doorstep by the Welfare Department. Each child arrives with a story, with fears no child should ever carry, and with a fragile hope for safety and love. As we welcome them into our family, our hearts open wider. Every shy smile and every small step forward reminds us of the profound mission we hold: to give every child a home filled with warmth, dignity, and new beginnings.

We are also grateful to share uplifting news. New floor bomb-shelters are now being built in Beit Moriah, ensuring that our beloved children and devoted staff have the constant protection they need during these uncertain times. Safety allows children to breathe, to sleep peacefully, and to simply be children, and for that, we are deeply thankful.

Looking ahead, we are embarking on another essential project: raising funds for a full renovation and the construction of a new classroom in our onsite Animal Therapy Center, a magical space that has not been renovated in over 27 years. This center has been a lifeline for countless children, helping them heal through the gentle, non-judgmental presence of animals. With your help, we hope to transform it into a modern therapeutic sanctuary worthy of the children who rely on it.

Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, every child at Neve Michael will receive a personalized gift this Hanukkah, a moment of joy, light, and belonging during a holiday that celebrates miracles both ancient and new. Hanukkah teaches us that even the smallest flame can push away great darkness. Here at Neve Michael, we witness that miracle every day in the resilience of our children and in the kindness of friends like you.

From all of us at Neve Michael, we wish you and your loved ones a warm, peaceful, and joy-filled Happy Hanukkah. May your homes be filled with light, hope, and blessings.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Hava

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Celebrating Sigd at Our Teen Girls' Crisis Center



The girls in our Teen Girls' Crisis Center gathered to celebrate Sigd, a cherished Ethiopian Jewish holiday that honors faith, unity, and the yearning for Jerusalem. Together, they learned about the holiday's rich traditions, shared stories, sang songs, and created beautiful moments of connection. For some, it was a chance to embrace their heritage with pride; for others, an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of a culture not their own. In this shared space of sisterhood, joy, and learning, the girls were reminded that belonging is a powerful source of healing.

Cheering for Goals

A few of our amazing children recently enjoyed an unforgettable evening at a live soccer game, a special reward for their outstanding academic achievements! Their excitement was contagious as they cheered from the stands, waved scarves, celebrated every goal, and soaked in the electric atmosphere. Beyond the thrill of the match, the outing served as a meaningful reminder that hard work is seen, appreciated, and celebrated. We are incredibly proud of them and honored to watch their confidence grow with each success.



Joy in the Everyday



For the children of Neve Michael, structure and routine are not just part of the day, they are the foundation that helps them feel safe, grounded, and truly cared for.

Many of our children arrive carrying heavy burdens and uncertainty, and the simple gift of knowing what to expect each morning can be deeply healing. A predictable rhythm, familiar faces, and gentle guidance help them begin to trust again, trust themselves, trust others, and trust that the world can, in fact, be a safe place.

The moments that brighten all of our hearts come from seeing them eagerly head to art, music, or sports therapy each week, full of curiosity and anticipation; watching shy smiles slowly turn into confident ones; witnessing the spark in their eyes when they discover a new talent or simply enjoy being kids, laughing, creating, and moving freely without fear.

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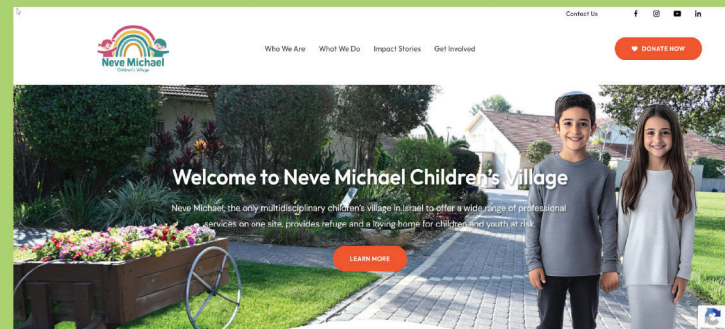


A Day of Wonder at the Zoo

Neve Michael's children enjoyed a magical day at the zoo, a chance to explore, discover, and simply be kids. Their faces lit up with wonder as they watched the animals up close, asked endless curious questions, and shared excited whispers with their friends. For many, it was a break from the worries they carry and a reminder that the world is full of beauty, joy, and new experiences waiting to be embraced. Moments like these help our children build confidence, connection, and happy memories that stay with them long after the day is over.



NEVE MICHAEL ONLINE GETS A NEW LOOK!



Check out the new look at www.nevemichael.com and learn about the many programs and benefits Neve Michael Children's Village provides.



חג חנוכה שמח



Friends of Neve Michael
wishes you and your families
A Happy Hanukkah!
May Your Candles Burn Bright!

The Board of Directors
Friends of Neve Michael

