

FRIENDS OF NEVE MICHAEL

in the news

Rosh Hashana 5786
September 2025



Dear Friends,

There are more little footsteps echoing through the halls of Neve Michael, each belonging to a child who has lost the safety of home.

Three young siblings recently came to Neve Michael Children's Emergency Crisis Center. Their father is in prison for sexually abusing them. Their mother is lying in a hospital bed, too ill to care for them. They arrived with no suitcase, no toys - only each other. The oldest clutched the hands of the younger two, trying to be brave, trying to be the "grown-up," when in truth he is just a child himself.

Now, two tiny twins have arrived. Their mother is gravely ill, their home is unsafe, and there is no father to turn to. These very young children crossed our threshold having seen more pain in their short lives than most adults ever will. Here, they will finally be held, fed, and told that they are safe. It will take everything we have to give them that chance.

Everything is harder now. The war has cut us off from many visitors who brought comfort and joy. Many of our dedicated staff, our lifeline, have been called up for military service.

As you know, for the children who arrive at Neve Michael Children's Village, the journey begins in the shadows of trauma. They come from homes marked by abuse, neglect, violence, or abandonment, carrying the invisible wounds of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Nightmares, hypervigilance, and emotional outbursts are not simply "behavioral issues" here; they are the echoes of a painful past. Since October 7, Neve Michael promptly implemented additional, unbudgeted therapeutic services and tutoring sessions to address urgent needs and provide essential support.

The recent wars in Israel have made these wounds ache all over again. The sounds of sirens, the thud of distant explosions, and the separation from loved ones have triggered memories that our children work so hard to leave behind. For a child already scared by fear and instability, such moments reopen old injuries, making healing even harder. Yet, even in these dark times, there is light. We sincerely appreciate your steadfast support and trust in our mission. Your partnership enables us to create lasting changes in the lives of these extraordinary children.

Each day at Neve Michael, we face growing and heartbreaking challenges, additional children and younger children arriving, constant missile threats, and the deep trauma of children at risk. Through it all, your unwavering support has been a lifeline.

As we welcome the New Year, my heart is filled with gratitude for your unwavering support and kindness. Here at Neve Michael, we see every day how your generosity changes lives - giving our children safety, hope, and the chance to dream again.

Even amidst recent ongoing events, enduring life-threatening missiles from Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran and Houthis, we stand united, shoulder to shoulder as a family and as a beacon of resilience. We have faced hardships before and emerged stronger, guided by the same courage and determination that have defined the lives of Neve Michael's children at risk.

Rosh Hashana is a time of reflection and renewal, and thanks to you, we are entering this season with faith in brighter days ahead for every child in our care. May this year bring you and your loved ones good health, joy, and abundant blessings.

Together, let us continue to pray for the swift and safe return of all of our hostages and the protection of our brave soldiers.

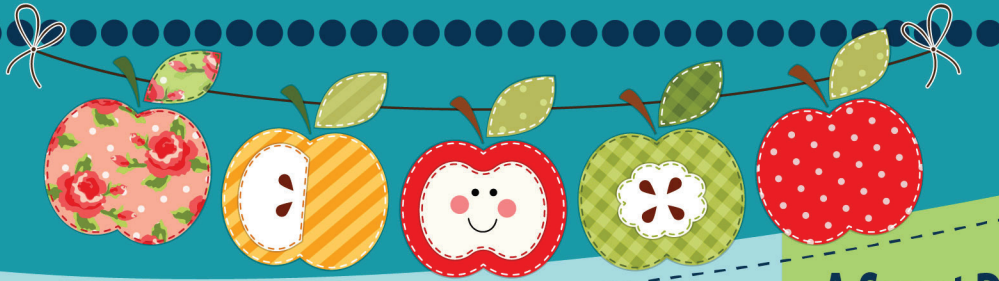
With heartfelt appreciation and warm wishes for a sweet and happy New Year,
Shana Tova,

Hava

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Rosh Hashanah
feasts traditionally
include round
challah bread
(studded with
raisins) and apples
dipped in honey, as
well as other foods
that symbolize our
wishes for
a sweet year.





A Warm Welcome & a Fresh Start at Neve Michael



It was a deeply moving day as our new students were embraced with warmth and kindness by their classmates at Neve Michael's onsite Special Education School. The love and excitement in the air reminded us why this place is so special.

We are honored to offer a nurturing, supportive environment

where every child feels seen, valued, and capable. Our school serves not only children from our Village, but also those from the wider community who have struggled to find their place in traditional classrooms. Here, they are given the tools and encouragement to thrive. As we begin this new chapter, we celebrate fresh starts, growing confidence, and a year filled with learning, hope, and endless possibilities.

A Sweet Day of Healing at the Vineyard



The children from Neve Michael's Crisis Center enjoyed a truly magical day this week at a local vineyard, surrounded by sunshine and laughter. They wandered through rows of vines, tasting sweet grapes and experiencing the simple joy of nature's beauty.

For many of these children, moments like this are rare treasures — a chance to escape their worries, breathe in fresh air, and feel safe and carefree. Days like this remind us that healing comes not only from therapy and structure, but also from joy, connection, and love.

Gliding Toward Joy

The joy of escaping the summer heat with a very special outing, taking the girls from our Teenage Girls Crisis Center ice-skating! Laughter and excitement filled the rink as the girls experienced a carefree afternoon, gliding on the ice and building confidence with every step. For many of them, this was a rare chance to simply be teenagers, enjoy friendship, and create happy memories in a safe and supportive environment.



Summer Fun



The summer camp at Neve Michael is made possible entirely through the generous support of our dear friends and partners. It provides our children with a season of joy, laughter, and unforgettable experiences they will treasure forever.

SHANA TOVA

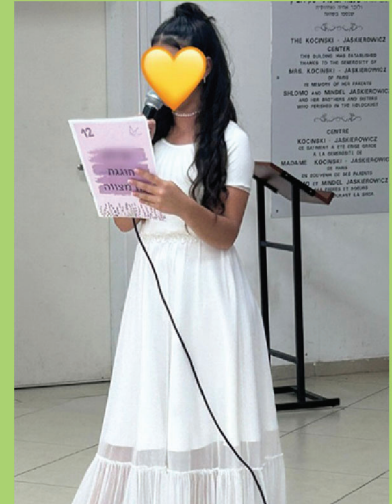
The Power of Music

At Neve Michael, music is more than melodies, it's a heartbeat of healing. In our Therapy Enrichment Center, it becomes a safe harbor where children can pour out emotions, discover their voices, and reclaim the simple joy of being a child.



A Bat Mitzvah of Hope

In the midst of our activity-filled summer, we were blessed to celebrate a deeply meaningful milestone, the Bat Mitzvah of a precious girl from our Children's Emergency Crisis Center. The children in this Center live under extraordinary circumstances, often unable to join the rest of Neve Michael's children due to safety and privacy needs. That is why moments like these are so rare and profoundly moving.



B'nei Mitzvah Celebration

On May 21st we celebrated 22 extraordinary children as they marked their B'nei Mitzvah with pride, joy, and a deep sense of belonging. Over the past year, they participated in a meaningful journey of growth, including six inspiring trips, one of the highlights being a hike up Masada.

The celebrations culminated in a beautiful ceremony filled with music, family, and festive cheer, followed by a final trip to Jerusalem. Each child received a thoughtful gift and, more importantly, carried home lasting memories and the feeling of being truly cherished. This project was made possible through the generous support of our dear friends, whose love and commitment ensured that each child experienced a Bar or Bat Mitzvah filled with meaning, joy, and dignity.



Neve Michael's Animal Therapy Center

As part of the Therapy Enrichment Center, Neve Michael's on-campus Animal Therapy provides a therapeutic and nurturing environment for children in our care, including those in our Crisis Centers. This dedicated healing space fosters emotional healing, trust-building, and resilience, supporting each child's journey toward recovery and well-being.



Safe Room Project

We are deeply grateful to everyone for their generous support of the Safe Room Project. Thanks to your help, construction is now underway. Together we are saving lives.

