



# HOT NEWS

## FALL 2016/WINTER 2017

THE POOR & THE HUNGRY • YOUTH AT RISK • THE ELDERLY  
COMPASSIONATE CARE • SPECIAL NEEDS • COMMUNITY SERVICE  
VICTIMS OF WAR, TERROR & NATURAL DISASTERS



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## ***HOT NEWS***

**Fall 2016 / Winter 2017**

*HOT* is about helping **The Poor and The Hungry, The Elderly, Youth at Risk, Individuals with Special Needs, and those that need Compassionate Care, or are Victims of War Terror or a Natural Disaster.** We have helped these people, all of whom without the help of *HOT* would have continued to suffer. We did this with 100% of the money we raised going to people that needed our help. No overhead of any kind is charged to any donor's gift other than one donor who pays for all of these expenses and makes a large enough programmatic gift to "seed" all of *HOT*'s programs.

This booklet describes all of *HOT*'s current programs. For ease of reading we use **red print to emphasize our initiatives where we Help People Help Themselves** - projects where *HOT* helps people gain or regain their financial independence. We feed and clothe the poor, but unless we teach them what is necessary for them to get a (new) job, they will continue in the never-ending cycle of poverty. We use **blue print, to designate grants we have already made or designations you can make, where our dollars are leveraged**, by having it matched with money raised by our partners. You will see opportunities to leverage YOUR gift to help the people you think have the greatest need. **We use yellow highlighting for strong emphasis.** You will see opportunities to help individuals, and in many cases, entire families, to escape the endless cycle of poverty.

In its year ended June 30, 2016, *HOT* raised \$1,168,000 from 172 donors. This is an increase of \$156,000 (15+%) over what *HOT* raised in its Regular Campaign during its year ended June 30, 2015, when it also raised \$517,000 from a Special Israel Emergency Campaign to finance its work during the Summer of 2014 Gaza War (see pages 55, 56 and 58). Sadly, as I write this letter, missiles are again landing in southern Israel, tunnels have been and are still probably being dug by Terrorist organizations on Israel's northern and southern borders, Syria is flexing its muscles on the Golan Heights, Iran is being Iran and terrorism is running rampant. If active war breaks out, *HOT* will again be there for the people of Israel.

### **To new readers - HOW DOES *HOT* WORK?**

Unlike other charities where 25, 30, 40 or in some cases as much as 50% of what you give goes to pay for the administrative and fund raising expenses of the charity, we have a donor who, in addition to a substantial annual programmatic gift (see below), pays 100% of all *HOT*'s expenses, resulting in **100% of your gift helping people who would otherwise continue to suffer.**

Unlike other charities where your gift goes into a "pot," *HOT* encourages you to pick which specific group of people you want to help and how you want to help them: six categories to pick from, 46 projects in all. The donor referred to above seeds every project, every year. **The projects can be expanded if you want them expanded.** Unlike other charities that tell you \$100 does this, or \$1,000 does that, or \$10,000 does something else when all they are doing is giving you "illustrations," dollars given to *HOT* do not become fungible as ***HOT* directly uses what you give it, for exactly what you want it to be used for.**

*HOT* does not pay ANY of the overhead of ANY organization we partner with.  
*HOT* supports sectarian and non-sectarian projects (but YOUR dollars go ONLY to where YOU tell us you want them to go...there is no fungibility of dollars at *HOT*).  
*HOT* support projects in the United States, in Israel, and one in Guatemala.

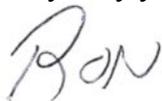
Your entire dollar goes where you want it to go, expanding the projects you choose or, if you prefer, the region or specific category you choose.

Simply put (i) *HOT* is efficient, (ii) its due diligence is comprehensive, and (iii) it funds critical projects that in many cases have been overlooked by more traditional charities and where, but for *HOT's* grant, people with desperate needs would not be helped.

Please read through the Table of Contents and pick the area or areas most meaningful to you. But since many of our projects could have been just as easily put in another section (Does feeding a poor senior belong in The Elderly? The Poor and the Hungry? Does feeding a child belong in Youth at Risk? The Poor and the Hungry?) you may need to read the entire *HOT News* to find YOUR project.

**Pages 3 to 6 contains a summary of our various activities that you may want to read before reading the in-depth description of all 46 of our projects. Starting on page 7, you will read about our partners and their wish lists of critical needs that YOU can DESIGNATE to help – letting YOU pick who YOU help and how YOU help them.**

Very truly yours,



Ronald L. Gallatin  
Chairman and CEO

**Table of Contents  
(Amount of Projects)**

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7 – 20	The Poor and The Hungry (13)	48 – 51	Compassionate Care (3)
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## Summary of *HOT*'s Programs

*HOT* currently works with 38 partners on 46 projects, helping thousands of people overcome hardships.

Many of these organizations transcend multiple areas in the way they help people. *HOT* endeavors to choose the most sensitive and efficient organizations to work with and then makes grants using either, or both of, funds specifically designated by our donors from undesignated funds, or contributions given to *HOT* without any designations, to fund their most critical projects.

We pay none of our partners' indirect or administrative expenses – we pay only the direct expenses of the program. And in all cases, if *HOT* did not make its grant, needy people would not get desperately needed help.

**This 4-page summary takes you through the breadth of what *HOT* does in a more detailed way than the Table of Contents on Page 2, but you will only feel *HOT*'s projects if you read the vignettes that describe them later in this booklet.**

### *HOT* Emergency Assistance Funds

One of the ways *HOT* addresses Poverty is through Emergency Aid to individuals and families where without *HOT*'s help they would be homeless, without electricity, with no refrigeration for their food, risk suffering dental disaster, and/or other horrors that befall people living from hand to mouth who have sudden, unexpected Emergency Needs.

We have 12 separate Financial Assistance Funds set up with 10 partner organizations. Each of our partners only submit cases that meet *HOT*'s requirements that they, at their own expense, (i) review the financial records of the applicant (ii) determine that the individual or family has enough ongoing income to cover their ongoing expenses, and (iii) verify that all other potential sources of funding for the emergency - family, governmental and NGO have been completely exhausted. Where possible, we require our partners to match what we give to leverage our donors' dollars.

### *HOT* Emergency Aid Funds:

- 1 - Families and Singles in Boca Raton (page 13)
- 2 - Families and Singles in Boca Raton/Delray Beach (page 15)
- 3 - Families, Singles and Seniors in the Northern Galilee, Israel (p. 16)
- 4 - Families, Singles and Seniors in Boynton Beach (p. 17)
- 5 - Formerly Homeless in South Palm Beach County (p. 18)
- 6 - Families of Children who are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 27)
- 7 - Frail Elderly in Jerusalem, Israel (p. 34)
- 8 - Seniors in New York City (p. 35)
- 9 - Seniors in Boca Raton – Fund A (p. 38)
- 10 - Seniors in Boca Raton – Fund B (p. 39)
- 11 - Survivors in Northern Israel (p. 41)
- 12 - Hospital Patients and their Families in Israel (p. 48)

### **HOT Continuing Financial Aid**

*HOT* provides Continuing Financial Aid to Seniors who have simply outlived their funds and do not get sufficient governmental aid to live with dignity. Many of the people we help in these programs are survivors of the Holocaust:

- 1 - Seniors in New York City (p. 35)
- 2 - Seniors in Boca Raton (p. 37)
- 3 - Holocaust Survivors in Northern Israel (p. 41)

### **HOT Feeds the Hungry in Different Ways**

There is hunger throughout the world and *HOT* is dedicated to fighting it.

- 1 - Weekly chickens for poor families in Jerusalem, Israel (p. 7)
- 2 - Indigent families of the Jerusalem, Israel, Border Patrol (p. 8)
- 3 - Weekend food for Children in Little Haiti in Miami (p. 9)
- 4 - Food for families in cities and towns in Israel (p. 10)
- 5 - Thousands of sandwiches for hungry schoolchildren in Israel (p. 11-12)
- 6 - Weekend food for Children in Boca Raton (p. 13)
- 7 - Daily service of hot meals and distribution of food in Boca Raton (p. 13)
- 8 - Harvesting the Fields for millions of pounds of produce in Israel (p. 14)
- 9 - Feeding the hungry with meals made from leftovers from tens of thousands of institutional meals in Israel (p. 14)
- 10 - Supplemental food packages in Southern Israel (p. 20)

### **HOT Fights Poverty**

We help both individuals and families who do not have:

- 1 - Basic furniture (cribs, beds, etc.) and appliances - Indigent Families of the Jerusalem, Israel, Border Patrol (p. 8)
- 2 - Funds for Security Deposits and first month's rent in South Palm Beach County (p. 18)
- 3 - Basic furniture (cribs, beds, clothes, etc.) - Families in southern Israel (p. 21)

### **HOT Gives Scholarships**

We believe the only way to stop the endless cycle of Poverty is through education.

- 1 - Migrant Workers and other Poor in Boynton Beach (p. 17)
- 2 - Formerly Homeless in South Palm Beach County (p. 18)
- 3 - Single Moms in Guatemala (p. 19)

### **HOT After School Programs for Immigrant Elementary School Children at Risk**

We have to help the young who have language and other cultural barriers and/or no support at home after school.

- 1 - Sderot, Israel (p. 26)
- 2 - Delray Beach (p. 28)
- 3 - Netanya, Israel – Netanya Foundation (p. 32)

### **Helping People Help Themselves**

*HOT* believes most poor people want to work, but they need training and they need confidence.

- 1 - Job Training and Mentoring in Boca Raton (p. 13)
- 2 - Job Training Fund in South Palm Beach County (p. 18)
- 3 - Twelve-folding income in Guatemala (p. 19)
- 4 - Single Moms in Northern Israel (p. 25)
- 5 - Teens on the verge of dropping out in Northern Israel (p. 25)

### **Tutoring**

Not all kids are born as smart as others, and many have environmental issues and need extra help if they are going to have any chance to move forward.

- 1 - Kids in Israel (p. 10)
- 2 - Children Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 27)
- 3 - Children of immigrants in Delray (p. 28)
- 4 - Underprivileged kids in Washington DC (p. 29)
- 5 - Teens in Israel (p. 32)

### **Keeping Teens out of Trouble**

Teens are at the age where they can choose the easy way (the streets), or the harder way (working towards the future). We have programs that help them work for the future:

- 1/2 - Jerusalem, Israel (p. 10 and p. 31)
- 3 - Delray Beach (p. 28)
- 4 - Netanya, Israel (p. 32)

### **Seniors**

In addition to Senior Financial Aid (p. 4) there are specific goods, subsidies and services that our funding provides to hundreds of needy seniors:

- 1 - Padded Wheelchairs – USA (p. 36)
- 2 - Subsidized Home Care in Boca Raton (p. 38)
- 3 - Activities to keep their minds active in Boca Raton (p. 39)
- 4 - Transportation, Boca Raton (p. 39)

### **Holocaust Survivors**

There are no words to describe the unspeakable horrors these survivors went through and what damage it did to their bodies and their minds.

- 1 - South Florida (p. 40)
- 2 - Northern Galilee, Israel (p. 41)
- 3 - Hod HaSharon, Israel (p. 42)

### **Therapy**

Whether for PTSD, schizophrenia caused by being in one of Hitler's Camps, or any of a series of alphabet psychiatric or psychological illnesses, *HOT* supports a wide array of therapy

- 1 - Southern Israel (p. 20)
- 2 - Netanya, Israel (p. 32)
- 3 - Throughout Israel – Animal Therapy (p. 47)

### **Special Needs Programs**

The parents of Special Needs Children have “special expenses,” sometimes starting as early as a few months after birth. *HOT* supports programs that work to help these children reach their maximum potential and/or give them some enjoyment

- 1 - New Jersey - Equipment (p. 43)
- 2 - Martin County, Florida – Best Buddies & Dollar A Day (p. 44)
- 3 - Boca Raton, Florida - Camp (p. 45)
- 4 - Boca Raton, Florida - School (p. 46)
- 5 - Throughout Israel – Animal Therapy (p. 47)

### **Summer Camps**

Summer is the time kids can get in the most trouble. We support two unique and critical camp programs (see 1 and 2 in the last section of this page) and we give scholarships to needy kids through several of our other partners:

- 1 - Underprivileged Kids in DC (p. 29)
- 2 - Underprivileged Kids in New York City (p. 30)
- 3 - Kids in Sderot, Israel (p. 34)
- 4 – Throughout Israel (p. 47)

### **Victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters (p. 52 -58)**

7 pages describe how *HOT* on a real time basis (1) helped Israelis (mostly in the South) cope with the many years of missiles fired at them by Hamas and other Israelis (mostly in the North) deal with the reign of terror of Hezbollah’s missiles, and (2) helped those in Mississippi, Florida, New York and then New Jersey deal with the ravages of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Wilma, and Super-Storm Sandy. This year, we are helping residents of Baton Rouge deal with devastating floods. *HOT* did not merely send money; it mobilized within hours and, working with trusted partners, orchestrated immediate help through all the missiles and through all the storms.

**Five of Our Most Important Programs Cannot be “Classified with other Programs” because of their uniqueness. Three of them require two pages to describe them.**

**1 and 2:** Camp Sunshine (p. 50-51) in Maine for children with life threatening diseases and their families. and Camp Sunrise (p. 52) in Israel for children with cancer and their siblings.

**3:** Bet Elazraki in Netanya, Israel, that is the home of more than 250 children who were placed by the court system because of their parents’ inability to take care of them (p. 23-24).

**4:** The Jaffa Institute in Jaffa/Tel Aviv which has expanded from a boarding school to also be a food bank and a training center for moms wanting to go back into the workforce. They have Special Needs Centers and and and and... (p. 21-22). **Also, see the fence on page 22.**

**5:** Community Service Projects where students help those in need and learn the importance of Community Service (p. 33).

**You have now read the summary – so much awaits you in the following pages. So many choices of how YOU can be the reason others aren’t going to have to suffer. Start with the five you just read about. Critical, critical programs. People who need YOUR help.**

## The Poor and The Hungry:

- **A Chicken each Week in Jerusalem (page 7)**
- **Helping Indigent Families of the Jerusalem Border Patrolmen (p. 8)**
- **Feeding the Children of Little Haiti (p. 9)**
- **A Group of Volunteers Feeding the Hungry in Israel (p. 10)**
- **A Sandwich a Day for Every Child in Israel (p. 11-12)**
- **Feeding the Poor, Health Clinic and Job Training in Boca Raton (p. 13)**
- **Leket – Israel’s National Food Bank (p. 14)**
- ***Hands On Tzedakah* Emergency Assistance Programs**
  - **Emergency Assistance in Boca Raton and Delray Beach (p. 15)**
  - **Helping Impoverished Families in Northern Israel (p. 16)**
  - **Emergency Assistance in Boynton Beach (p. 17)**
  - **Homelessness in South Palm Beach County (p. 18)**
- **Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala (p. 19)**
- **Helping Others in Israel – Shoulder to Shoulder (p. 20)**

### *A Chicken a Week in Jerusalem*

Four years ago a selfless 92-year-old woman who had spent 77 years helping others died.

For the last 45 years of her life Bracha Kapach maintained a weekly distribution of food to families in need. The families came from all over Jerusalem and were a cross section of Israeli society; all of whom had been referred to her by the municipal social welfare department. *HOT* bought her a freezer and has supplied approximately 40 chickens, each weighing approximately 4 pounds, a week every week (with an additional chicken or two for the holidays) for the last twelve years. These chickens were a source of protein that is sadly lacking from most of the recipients’ diets. Although Bracha Kapach died four years ago, her work is continuing. Her grandchildren learned the importance of helping others and as a living memorial to their grandmother they are continuing her work. *HOT* can think of no finer memorial to a woman who spent a lifetime of helping others.



**The list of hungry malnourished families continues to grow. \$468 buys a chicken a week for a new family. In May one of our donor families gave a designated gift honoring its 6 grandchildren taking 6 families off the waiting list. *HOT* would like other donors to designate \$23,592 so 44 more families can start receiving chickens.**

## ***Helping Indigent Families of the Jerusalem Border Patrolmen***

*HOT* supplies a monthly “basic food package” (with special supplements for the holidays) to 50 indigent families of patrolmen and 40 indigent single members of the **Jerusalem Border Patrol**. What is the Border Patrol? What do they do? They are the men and women who guard Israel’s borders and prevent terrorist infiltrations. **They are the popular “targets” for the Palestinian terrorists TO STAB, TO RUN OVER WITH CARS AND TRUCKS, AND TO SHOOT.** The unmarried patrolmen we feed during their few days off each month have no relatives in Israel and/or have been identified by their Army welfare officer as being in severe financial distress. All the food for this program is bought at wholesale, or below. Volunteers prepare all the packages. The Border Patrol carries out all the transportation and delivery.



In fiscal 2014, we found out from the Base Commander and the unit’s Welfare Officer, that there were families of Border Patrolmen who lived in apartments where **infants slept on beds** (they did not have cribs), **two and three children shared a bed or slept on the floor**, and/or lived in **apartments where the refrigerator or range didn’t work**. *HOT* purchased more than \$29,000 of cribs, beds and appliances for these families and in fiscal 2015 after a similar meeting we made a \$26,000 grant to buy similar basic necessities for needy families of patrolmen. **In our June 30, 2016 fiscal year we spent over \$90,000 and in the first weeks of our current (June 30, 2017) fiscal year we spent almost \$30,000 on these basic necessities of life** for the indigent families of these brave young and woman whose families would otherwise be living in deplorable poverty. With broken beds--- no operable refrigerators----no stoves---no washing machines---clothes hung on open racks or piled on the floor. **We can’t allow these families to live this way while their brother, sister, husband or wife risks his or her life every minute of every day. We can’t. We just can’t.**

Readers of the last fall’s edition of the *HOT News* read about our meeting a young patrolman 4 days after he had been knifed in the neck and heart. I confess I was, and am, unable to relay the emotions that went through our minds at his bedside. Such courage, such pride, cannot be put in words and certainty cannot be adequately conveyed on paper.

**Our best guess is that in the next few months we are going to be asked for another \$50,000 - \$70,000 of aid for cribs, beds, tables, ovens, sofas, refrigerators, washing machines and other appliances, repairing toilets, sinks and other problems in apartments.** We do not have the resources to keep meeting these continuing and critical needs without donor designations. **No one else is helping the families of these heroes in the way *HOT* is. If we don’t do it nobody will. We also need \$15,000 to expand our \$30,000 food package program to other needy families.**

**This is not a Wish List – this is a Necessity List. We can’t let the families of these brave young men and women live in squalor or go to sleep hungry. We just can’t.**

## ***Feeding the Children of Little Haiti***



Hunger does not discriminate – it affects people of all religions, and it affects children, senior citizens, the unemployed, the mentally and physically challenged, homeless people, the working poor and victims of natural disasters. 785,000 people (including 280,000 children) in South Florida would be going to sleep each night hungry, but for the help of organizations like **Feeding South Florida (FSF)**. Imagine, little kids going to sleep hungry.

FSF's mission is to end hunger by providing nutritious food, leading hunger and poverty advocacy efforts and transforming lives through innovative programming and education. In the past *HOT* has provided emergency support for FSF to make repairs and purchase equipment such as a portable forklift that permits them to pick up more food within the allotted time they are given at the loading docks of food chains. We have also bought backpacks and had them filled with food for the weekend for children living in the Little Haiti section of Miami. These children receive free breakfasts and lunches during the week through the public school lunch program but without the food in the backpacks, they would almost certainly receive very little to eat on the weekend.

FSF uses a combination of food that has been donated to them and food they purchase at super wholesale through a nation wide system. **The \$5.00 that we pay for the food in the backpack sells for approximately \$38.00 in the supermarket. Almost 8-to-1 leverage. We have funded food for the backpacks of 100 children since the earthquake inclusive of the Fall 2016 semester BUT we need donor designations to fund the Spring 2017 semester.**

**You can ensure that a child can have his backpack filled for the Spring 2017 semester by designating \$115 to this program. Ten children for \$1,150. Twenty-five for \$2,875. Fifty for \$5,750. And all one hundred for \$11,500. 2 breakfasts, 2 snacks, 2 lunches and 2 dinners all for a total cost of \$5. Do you have a child or a grandchild who might want to PARTNER WITH YOU and give up \$5 of their allowance to feed these kids?**

**Most of the children in this program have a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, cousin, aunt and/or uncle that live in Haiti and in various ways suffered from the ravages of the cataclysmic earthquake. These backpacks full of food not only ensure nourishing weekends of food for the kids here, but in some cases frees up money for their parents to help relatives in Haiti who, 6 years later, still suffer from the affects of the quake.**

FSF has similar backpack programs for 1,450 other children and **would like to expand to many many other hungry children but cannot do that without more help.**

Read about Boca Helping Hands' Backpack Program on page 13.

## ***Feeding the Hungry and Helping Troubled Teens in Israel***



**Shachen Tov** – in English, **Good Neighbor Association (GNA)** – was started by a group of students at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It feeds more than 1,000 families every week and performs other social service functions ranging from tutoring and running a textbook library for children, to friendly visiting for elders. Three things make this organization unique. The first is that it has no employees. **It is run 100% by volunteers.** Second is that while it was started by college students and continues to be predominantly a college student organization, many of its volunteers have finished college but still continue to volunteer. Third is that while the elderly and the disabled must be helped for life, families that include one or more healthy parent should not receive continuous aid. In fact, families with one or more healthy parent are told up front that they will be getting food for a maximum of one year.

In Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and in 11 other cities in Israel GNA is feeding the unemployed and the underemployed. People who without their help would go to sleep with empty stomachs. Additionally, GNA has taken volunteering to a new level by helping indigent people to develop self confidence, by encouraging them to give the only thing they have to offer – “time” – to help others.

We are continuing our 15,000 shekel a month grant for food (a rate of approximately \$47,000 a year) and this past summer we made a 60,000 shekel (approximately \$15,600) grant for furnishings and one year of program expenses for GNA to establish a multi room destination in Jerusalem where troubled teens have the option of coming in to talk out their problems in a relaxed “Coffee Shop” type setting with either social workers (paid by the city) or, with GNA volunteers not much older than themselves.



### **GNA’s wish list:**

- **\$31,350 to feed 50 more families of the hundreds on GNA’s Waiting List, @ \$627 per family**
- **\$7,800 for the second year of programming at the Coffee Shop discussed above or if they have operational funding for the first Coffee Shop then to be used to equip a second shop (only if free space and social worker support is supplied by the City)**

**HOT arranged a meeting between GNA and Leket (see pg. 14) which resulted in Leket delivering gleaned (FREE) produce to GNA which will be stored in refrigerators HOT is buying, and is distributing to the poor by GNA’s VOLUNTEERS. Additionally, GNA’s cost of purchased food will go down utilizing Leket’s bulk discount rate.**

## ***A Sandwich a Day for Every Child in Israel***

***in a country where one-third of the children live below the poverty line***

The program started in 2003 when *HOT* partnered with the elderly women volunteers from the Beit Frankforter (BF) Community Center, who were at that time preparing sandwiches for about 100 children. We expanded the BF Program to 500 sandwiches and then started a partnership with **Leket Israel**, who in the 2015/2016 school year distributed the bread and fillings for between 8,000 & 8,500 sandwiches every school day. Today, we fund only Leket.

The children who need our sandwiches are from low-income families, many from families where one parent is sick, is unemployed, or in prison. The children are a mixture of sabras (native Israelis), and new immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and South America. **For many, the sandwich is the only meal they have before dinner; for others it is lunch and/or a supplement to a completely inadequate diet.**



Every school has to go through a screening process to become part of the program. Leket makes periodic visits to the schools to check on how the project is running and to make sure that there is no abuse of the project and that the distribution of sandwiches to the children is handled with dignity. *HOT* meets with the men and women who make the sandwiches and pack the lunches and the principals of schools in the program.

Israel has a nationwide program that is “supposed to” feed all needy children a hot lunch, BUT it is only mandatory for younger children and even then, children who are in school all day. BUT for many Israeli children school ends at 1 PM and they only get food if the municipality, or in some cases the principal of the school, decides to allocate some of the shekels they receive from the Ministry of Education for food rather than for a teacher or two and/or other necessary parts of what is necessary to give quality education. This results in there being **tens of thousands of Israeli children who are not getting the basic nourishment necessary to concentrate on their schoolwork.**



Because the needs were greater than Leket or its donors could possibly fund, a few years ago Leket went to the municipalities and offered to supply food for the children only if the school either contributed 1/3 of its cost or found someone (e.g. local businessmen) to contribute 1/3 of the cost of what is necessary to feed the needy kids.

During the 2015/2016 school year Leket distributed between 8,000 and 8,500 sandwiches each school day to more than 100 schools in 34 cities, towns and villages in Israel. The project functions in different ways in different places. There are a number of cities where Leket only supplies the ingredients and partners with other organizations that handle making the sandwiches and supervising their distribution. Other schools receive the makings of the sandwiches and the school staff prepares the sandwiches. There are also schools where the children make the sandwiches. Tablecloths, gloves and small bags are provided for the making and packing of the sandwiches.



The children receive a large freshly baked roll filled with hummus, cheese, chocolate spread, tahini or tuna. **At times it is accompanied by a fruit or vegetable that comes through Leket's gleaning program (see page 14) and yogurts and milk that Leket receives as contributions due to their short shelf life. Neither *HOT* nor the municipality pay anything for what Leket gleans or gets as in-kind contributions.**

Through the years *HOT* has made more than \$2,000,000 of grants paying for more than 4,000,000 sandwiches for hungry children. Since the program began we have fed between 1,250 and 4,000 (depending on the designated giving of our donors) children every school day. **During the 2015/2016 school year, the weakness in the Israeli shekel permitted Leket's "cost" per bag to stay at approximately 51 cents. Assuming the cost rises minimally to 53 cents - using a 180-day school-year, we estimate the 2016/2017 school year to cost \$95.40 per student. This means *HOT* donors will have fed children for a whole school-year for \$63.60 (the other \$31.80 coming from, or raised by, the schools).**



**\$636.00 will feed ten additional children during the 2016/2017 school year, and \$6,360.00 will feed a hundred additional children.** There is a HUGE WAITING LIST and *HOT* hopes its donors will designate up to \$63,600 to feed 1,000 additional hungry children.

## ***Feeding the Poor, Health Clinic and Job Training in Boca Raton***



**Boca Helping Hands** is a volunteer-driven organization (only 9 staff members and more than 300 volunteers, several of whom are “full time” volunteers) whose mission is solving hunger and crisis situations for the most needy. **They run a soup kitchen, a food pantry and supply meals to the homebound. They also provide limited financial assistance and job training and mentoring.** They work at providing

solutions to hunger and poverty in assisting low-income families, the elderly and the homeless. **In 2015 BHH held classes training participants for jobs as Home Care Aides, Truck Drivers and in the Catering Industry. 75% of their “graduates” are now employed.** The Food Center is open 6 days a week and in addition to serving 1,300 hot meals each week, BHH also gives out 5,000 pantry bags (some of which are delivered directly to the homebound using Health Department approved coolers funded by *HOT*) each month.



Over the years, *HOT* has made major grants to enable BHH to purchase (1) a freezer for the Food Center, (2) a van, (3) a walk-in cooler see left, (4) a freight elevator see upper right (5) an air conditioner for the kitchen (6) a refrigerated truck, see below (7) a forklift, (8) a Hydraulic Scissors Dock, see below (9) computers for the job mentoring program We have also (10) set up an Emergency Aid Fund which, similar to *HOT's* other Financial Aid Funds, can only be used if all other sources of potential funding have been exhausted. And (11) **have made numerous successful challenge grants, filling backpacks with weekend food for hungry children.** (see similar project in Little Haiti, page 9) and (12) funded the purchase of an X-ray machine for their dental clinic.

**Their current wish list includes:**

- **\$15,776 in multiples of \$105.68 to fill additional backpacks for children in a local school that has 150 children in the program but no funding for next year. The full cost is \$6.01 per backpack or \$210.35 per child for the entire school year, but *HOT* donors only need give half as *HOT* will use your designated funds to keep making challenge grants. BHH will find us a partner to pay the other half. LEVERAGE.**
- **\$59,850 in multiples of \$3,325 to fund a class of 20 in a new CDL (commercial Driver's License training) program. Licensed truck drivers are in high demand. Expensive? Yes, BUT a very cheap price to change the life of an unemployed or underemployed head of a family. Why doesn't the math work? Because while typing this vignette we decided to send BHH \$6,650 to fund the first 2 students, so there are only 18 left to fund.**



## ***Leket – Israel’s National Food Bank***

In addition to its Sandwich Program (pages 11 and 12), **Leket** also “rescues” food from 300 large caterers, hotels, corporate cafeterias, and IDF bases and distributes it to community centers for the elderly, soup kitchens and schools for youth at risk. AND it utilizes thousands of volunteers who “glean” the fields (pick fruit and vegetables from farms where the owners fulfill their biblical obligation to donate part of their produce to people in need).



Leket also rescues excess food from more than 1,000 Israeli food producers. In 2015, it collected and distributed more than 35,000,000 pounds of food to more than 180 charities and food banks in Israel. They now have warehouses strategically located where they can refrigerate and quickly distribute (i) the fruits and vegetables picked by their more than 50,000 volunteers including visitors to Israel who work for a morning or afternoon, (ii) rescued prepared food, and (iii) short dated packaged food products contributed by stores and manufacturers. Leket also runs programs helping hundreds of NGO’s to better understand proper nutrition.



*HOT* has made grants to Leket to purchase a tractor, a forklift, an automated produce sorting machine, packing crates, a 4x4 for the fields, refrigeration

units, an automatic door to ensure constant temperature in refrigeration areas increasing the shelf life of produce, and much much more to help the Israeli Soup Kitchens and Food Banks that Leket serves. **All of these grants have gone through a vigorous analysis to satisfy *HOT* that the increased production resulting from our grants is a multiple of the grant. In June the Jewish Federation of SPBC and one of its donors accepted *HOT*’s challenge (Spring/Summer 2016 *HOT* News) and funded half the cost of a new refrigerated van that is now being used to bring meals from a Dan hotel, the Intel corporate cafeteria, Police Headquarters and Border Patrol cafeterias to a “Last Chance High School” and to a soup kitchen that feeds the poor, and delivers food to the homebound. The van delivers 7,300 meals a month valued at \$5 per meal or \$438,000 of meals year. *HOT*’s \$40,000 matched grant will produce an 11-1 return in just the vans first year of use.**

**Leket has other needs but another refrigerated van (around \$80,000 depending on the shekel dollar conversion rate) will permit Leket to bring similar amounts of meals from IDF bases to multiple locations where they will be distributed to the hungry - so again this year *HOT* is issuing a Challenge that, if matched, *HOT* will use \$40,000 of un-designated funds to buy another van. 11-1!! The leverage here is compelling.**



## ***Hands On Tzedakah Emergency Assistance Programs Emergency Assistance in Boca Raton and Delray Beach***

Many individuals and families continue to face tremendous economic hardships. They have trouble paying for their most basic needs. **The Financial Assistance Coordinator at Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS) comes to *HOT* with the most dire situations.** We discuss the case history and **only make a grant if we are satisfied (i) as to the legitimacy and reasonableness of the request and (ii) that all other sources of funding have been exhausted.**

*HOT* has provided funds for rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, child-care, medications, car repairs, clothing, school supplies and other essentials of life. We have supplied funds to help the old and infirm, the young and those with debilitating diseases.



**A young couple, facing eviction from their home, came to JFS asking for emergency financial assistance. He had been out of work 7 months and she was disabled. They had just gone through the last of their savings and he finally got a new job but would not be getting his first paycheck for three weeks. *HOT* matched JFS's funds and this couple was not evicted.**

**A couple in their late 50's, both on disability, were unable to work due to illness. Their air conditioning unit broke, they were unable to afford a new one and they were suffering in the Florida heat. *HOT* matched JFS's funds so that they were able to buy a new unit.**



**In the past two years *HOT* has made grants of \$19,228 to JFS that have been matched by JFS from other sources, creating a fund of \$38,456 that has been used to fund specific cases, as they arise. *HOT's* share of what was needed to meet the emergencies of families and individuals in need has been as little as \$347 and as much as \$2,100. There are more people with emergency needs than there is money to help them. We need to have sufficient funding to make sure JFS can buy necessary hearing-aids for quality of life, or pay the necessary dental work to prevent daily pain, or pay an electric bill that needs immediate payment or the electric will be turned off. We need funding for our half of all the emergency needs that people come to JFS seeking. We would like to see our donors designate up to \$25,000 for this fund.**

**Think of your gift being used to prevent a life, or lives, from being destroyed as the result of a one-time emergency need that you would fund in a second if you only knew about it. *HOT* will be your eyes and your ears. Your designated gift will be matched by JFS and will be life altering.**

## ***Helping Impoverished Families in Northern Israel***

Parents of a 9 month old baby girl with cancer needing to travel to a hospital for chemo.  
A woman raising her 2 grandchildren, living on a pension with broken kitchen appliances.  
A divorcee (was a battered wife) with 2 children needing beds for her new apartment.  
An elderly widower needing a hearing aid so he can communicate.  
His toes amputated from complications from diabetes and needing an orthopedic bed.  
99 years old—dialysis every 3 days—needing eyeglasses.

**What do all these people have in common?**

**They are among the 81 families that live in northern Israel and in the last 12 months received assistance from the Galila Emergency Assistance Trust (GEAT) that assists families and individuals in distress by providing one-time grants in order to help in moments of crisis and distress. The fund's volunteer committee reviews the requests that come from municipal social workers with focus on cases where a one-time grant can help a person get back on his/her feet. The fund mainly helps children from families in distress, single moms and the elderly. The funds are transferred to the entity or provider handling the case to ensure the grant is used for its intended purpose.**



The people we help are residents of the towns of Shlomi, Akko, Nahariya, Karmiel, Tzfat, Ma'alot and northern Galilee Kibbutzim and Moshavim.

Life in the northern Galilee is particularly hard because of the memory of, and fear of, Hezbollah attacks. Many individuals living in this area of Israel work, but barely earn a living. Employment opportunities are few, salary levels are low, and many parents are unable to assist their children with any extra expenditure - especially during a medical or other family crisis impacting one of their children or an elderly family member. That is when they urgently require one-time assistance in order to break out of a cycle of poverty in which they live.



Similar to *HOT*'s other Emergency Funds, grants are only made if all other sources of funding have been exhausted. Galila culls the list approved by the committee and sends it to *HOT* for final review and approval. **The needs of the families in this part of Israel go far beyond what *HOT* can allocate out of its undesignated funds. Fortunately, last year a very generous donor designated \$25,000 to allow *HOT* to approve more requests where often a few hundred dollars can change the lives of an individual or a family. This incremental funding ran out in August. **BUT** the needs keep growing. The list gets longer and longer and **WE** need to continue to help these people.**

## ***Emergency Assistance in Boynton Beach***

The mission of the **Caridad Center** is to upgrade the health, education and living standards for the children and families of agricultural workers, day laborers and the working poor. This includes being their “safety net” and providing subsidies in emergency situations. We have stopped evictions and power shut downs, paid for food, chemotherapy and other extraordinary medical assistance. **We have given scholarships for individual college courses to give the needy a chance to escape the otherwise**



**endless cycle of poverty.** Similar to all of *HOT*'s emergency assistance programs, we help only when all other sources have been exhausted.

*A young woman with five children, the youngest an infant, arrived at Caridad desperate for help. Her problems, though extreme, were not that different from so many who come to Caridad. With no husband, she was on the verge of eviction from their small trailer, she had no food, little clothing for the children, and no diapers or bottles for the baby. *HOT* provided half of the \$1,200 needed for shelter and basic needs that were critical to keeping this family off the streets. Caridad Center continues to work with this mother as she obtains an education to give her family a lasting and self-sufficient future.*

**Four years ago, we started giving scholarships to students carefully vetted by Caridad. The results have been outstanding – continuing studies, earning degrees in nursing, becoming productive members of society rather than continuing in what could be an endless cycle of poverty.**

Caridad's wish list continues to be funds for **Scholarships** and Emergency Assistance for families including grocery store food cards. We would like our donors to designate all or part of their contributions to this program with the goal of our raising an extra \$25,000: **\$12,500 of which would be used for scholarships** and \$12,500 that would help us respond to Caridad's continually growing need for Emergency Aid. Please let us know which Fund you want your contribution to be used for.

## *Homelessness in South Palm Beach County*



Is there homelessness in Palm Beach County? Yes, there are entire families living in cars, parks, and even the Tri-Rail stations. Single moms, infants, preschoolers, kindergarteners, third-graders sleeping on the back seat of cars, on benches or on the floor. Yet, incredible as it may seem, **Family Promise of South Palm Beach County (FP)** is the only shelter in the southern part of Palm Beach County.

FP targets homeless families with dependent children. Typically, half of their clients are children under age 6. In the morning, “guests” are picked up by a Family Promise van and taken to another site used as a Day Center. During the day “guests” can shower, care for pre-school children, and seek housing and employment. Public school children are bused from the Day Center to their public school each weekday morning. Family Promise is there to provide “wrap around” services to meet the needs of the family, from mental health to childcare, empowering the families with life skills so they can cope with the challenges they face.

FP takes care of the families until they “graduate” (get a job that offers them the ability to be independent), but they often do not have funds to help the graduate with a security deposit and first and or last month’s rent for new housing. Even when families have successfully completed its program, located work, and found housing they can afford, life’s challenges keep them in a tenuous situation. Unexpected expenses can create a domino effect that places the families at risk of losing jobs and homes. Car repairs, medical bills, decreased work hours, and car insurance are constant concerns.

*HOT* currently has 3 funds at FP. One fund is to help with security deposits and other landlord requirements (**this fund was set up after FP’s other donors responded to a *HOT* Challenge Grant**). **The second fund is to pay for the training or retraining of the family breadwinner (often a single mom). Education is truly the only real way to avoid the endless cycle of poverty.** And the third fund is to meet Emergency needs and can only be used when (i) the breadwinner has found new employment (ii) the dollars we give put the family back on their feet and (iii) FP has exhausted all other sources of funding. In our year ended June 30, 2016, 27 families received this critical aid. Similar to all of *HOT*’s emergency assistance grants, a few hundred dollars in aid can often completely change lives.



**We would like our donors to designate up to \$30,000 to FP: \$10,000 for the Financial Aid Fund, \$10,000 for the Rent/Security Assistance Fund, and \$10,000 for the Job Training (or Retraining) Fund.**

## *Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala*



**Mercado Global (“MG”) is succeeding in its mission of helping people help themselves. It supplies education, market access, and the opportunity to escape a level of poverty that none of us can possibly imagine. MG epitomizes *HOT*’s efforts to leverage its funds and teach people to help themselves.**

**MG gives rural native women in Guatemala the tools and skills to support themselves and their families by training them to be successful artisans and entrepreneurs. MG forms and arranges sales for artisan co-ops that sell to international companies such as J Crew and Levi Strauss; where the artisans receive their pay (multiples of what they would otherwise be making) based on their individual production. The co-ops’ “profits from sales” and contributions to MG are used to teach business and financial literacy, nutrition and leadership programs. The women use their increased “wages” to pay for books and school supplies for their children.**

Prior to working with MG, the primary source of employment for women in San Pablo, Guatemala was the production of crocheted hackey sacks (small balls filled with plastic beads) for approximately 25 cents each, which barely covered the costs for materials needed to produce each sack. 11 years ago, after completing a beaded jewelry course that *HOT* paid for, these women were able to produce beaded eyeglass necklaces for a major eyewear company in the U.S. Through this order, women earned 12 times more per day than they previously earned with the hackey sacks. The women used the additional income to buy shoes, school materials and more nutritious food for their children. Over the years we have made more than 50 grants including (i) funding loan programs where the women borrow money for advanced training and repay their loans with part of the incremental income they receive from the higher amounts they are paid for specialty items, **most of these loans that have been fully repaid and re-loaned leveraging our donor’s gifts** (ii) buying “modern” computers for MG’s Guatemala office, (iii) paying instructors to annually teach the women different skill sets in ceramics, sewing and weaving that permit them to produce and then expand the products they can produce and sell and (iv) paying for the ground transportation and supplies for a Case Western Medical Team that taught the Artisan Communities the basics of 21<sup>st</sup> century medicine and the importance of basic sanitary procedures and nutrition.

**Every grant we have made to MG has had an almost immediate impact on the artisans and their families. Schoolbooks and food – what could be more important???**

**MG’s current wish list includes:**

- **\$3,000 to continue per diem expenses of volunteer medical personnel**
- **\$7,650 for education on the importance of potable water and subsidizing the cost of filters**
- **\$9,490 for technical training for the weaving and sewing artisans for specialty orders**



## *Helping Others in Israel – Shoulder to Shoulder*



Shoulder to Shoulder (StS) is about standing “shoulder to shoulder” with families in need, and assisting the families in getting “out of need!” They choose families from the social service lists who want to improve their financial situation and become independent. They work with them for a year or two, helping them to reduce their expenses and increase their income. Though headquartered in Be’er Sheva, they work in cities throughout the country, particularly in the south.

Right before the 2014 Gaza War, we were about to give StS its first grant when everyone turned their attention to crisis management. So, instead of a grant for their regular programming, we utilized them in our efforts to help lessen the effects of the war on residents of southern Israel. The need of the families StS helped grew exponentially as husbands went back into the army and, because of the slowdown in economic activity, many of the underemployed became unemployed. We paid for food for people who were out of work during the war (mostly day laborers who worked as maids or in agriculture, and married moms who became single-moms for 2 months with no income coming in). We provided respite trips for residents of areas being shelled, including Be’er Sheva, Ofakim and Ashkelon.



After the war StS went back to its original mission of helping people escape the continuing cycle of poverty. The Israeli government, recognizing StS's mission has given them grants, but not enough to help all of the families StS is helping. Some of these families still have critical needs, such as food, clothing, and other basic necessities. Since the war *HOT* has given StS grants for food, clothing and PTSD therapy but the needs are continuing.

### StS’s wish list includes:

- **\$7,792 for basic clothes and shoes for 200 children @ \$38.96 per child.**
- **\$11,688 for professional courses (medical secretary, account manager, cosmetologists, etc.) for 30 single-moms @ \$389.60 per mom**
- **\$20,880 for after school activities for 100 children @ \$207.92 per child**
- **\$32,468 for beds, ovens and refrigerators for 50 families @ on average, \$649 per family**

## Youth at Risk:

- **Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty - Jaffa/South Tel Aviv (p. 21-22)**
- **A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help (p. 23-24)**
- **Helping Teenage Girls & Boys and Single Moms at Risk in Northern Israel (p. 25)**
- **Helping Children in the Border Town of Sderot (p. 26)**
- **Children Who Are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 27)**
- **Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach (p. 28)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids in Washington, DC (p. 29)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids In New York City (p. 30)**
- **A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress (p. 31)**
- **Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance (p. 32)**

### *Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty – Jaffa/South Tel Aviv*

**The Jaffa Institute (TJI)** was created to serve those children who grow up in the worst neighborhoods, particularly in South Tel Aviv and Jaffa. Approximately 50% of their target population lives below the poverty line. Some 30% regularly receive local welfare services. And the worst statistic of all: Over 50% of the children drop out of school before the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



Their long-time Executive Director, Dr. David Portowicz, is an impressive man, whose sincerity about helping children break the cycle of poverty shows in his passionate way of speaking.

TJI was established in 1982 as a private, non-profit, multi-service social agency to assist the city of Jaffa's severely disadvantaged children and their families. Its mission, initially, was to provide educational, therapeutic, and social enrichment programs that assist children to develop positive attitudes and skills to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty in the impoverished communities of Jaffa, South Tel Aviv, and Bat Yam. Over time TJI has expanded its mission to include special needs children, crisis residences for at-risk youth, feeding the poor, educational enrichment centers **providing the necessary tools to moms (many of them single) to initially enter or get back into the workforce** and helping Holocaust survivors. It currently operates more than 30 different programs and provides service and relief to over 4,000 Israelis.



We are very impressed with the work David is doing and are supporting several of the TJI's programs. Over the last three years, we have made more than \$150,000 in grants to purchase computers (**including \$30,000 where we met an expiring challenge grant and \$25,000 for use in a course teaching work skills to unemployed single Moms**), an industrial oven, playground equipment, an equine therapy program, furniture and equipment needed for an after school program for disadvantaged teenage girls at-risk of "dropping out", help for Holocaust survivors as well as grants for a portable chair lift, and incremental therapy for their programs where the participants get a hot meal, academic assistance, and both one-on-one and group therapy.

**During the Gaza War, *HOT* gave TJI \$46,500 towards recalling their teachers and other key personnel to reopen their dormitories to, at the peak, 230 Kids from Ashdod and other towns in the south. The kids had a balance of enrichment classes and camp like activities in the comparative safety of Tel Aviv.**



**TJI's very lengthy wish list includes:**

- \$2,818 for outdoor recreational equipment
- \$4,244 playground equipment for an afternoon enrichment program
- \$4,655 to construct a Gazebo for outdoor break time between classes for special needs children
- \$5,305 for an industrial dishwasher
- \$6,805 for 5 fully loaded computers @ \$1,361 per computer



**Unfortunately, half of our \$50,000 of our June 30, 2016 fiscal year grants to TJI had to be to fortify and increase the height of the perimeter fence around their Bet Shemesh school. How wonderful it would have been to have made this grant for one or more of the items on TJI's wish list, but the Palestinian terrorist who killed an innocent Israeli, a block away, last October, did not permit that. Look at the picture to the left... for sure it looks more like an Army base then a school. This is the reality Israelis have to deal with every day.**

## *A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help*



The 251 children who live at **Beit Elazraki** have been orphaned or come from troubled backgrounds where their parents may have been incarcerated or have drug or other serious issues. Some of the children have been beaten, abandoned and/or molested. Incredibly, almost all of their parents were treated in a similar manner by their parents. What a horrible legacy.

Yehuda Kohn, has found a way for each of the children to feel part of a family. Each child is given the love and respect necessary for them to grow to be happy productive adults. It is very easy to write this section because of what we saw the first time we were shown the bedrooms the kids share. We asked Yehuda why there was an extra bed in each room. He smiled and told us that the reason for the extra bed was that he wanted the children to be able to bring home a friend from school for the weekend. Yes, the dining room looked like a boarding school or camp, but the smiles and inner contentment that we saw showed us that these kids were getting a chance to grow up as normally as possible. There are birthday parties, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and weddings. There cannot be total normalcy because these children are not being brought up by their parents and living at home with their siblings, but the love and attention they get from the incredible staff is preparing them to grow to adulthood, have successful relationships, and finally break the cycle of personal horrors that they had with their parents, and many of their parents had with their parents.



Over the years, we have made more than \$400,000 in grants to BE. We can't list everything we have done but here are some of the things we have done:



(i) renovated a storage room for parent/child therapy, (ii) added on a room for intake therapy, (iii) purchased numerous computers and iPads, (iv) replaced air conditioners, (v) bought Chanukah gifts, (vi) funded critical Anxiety Therapy Program, (vii) bought miscellaneous gardening tools, (viii) paid for repairs, (ix) had a special app written that permits real time entries, that create a profile for each student, track behavioral and academic progress, that give therapists a heads up before meeting with each child and will help the coordinators to keep better track of each child's progress, (x) paid for additional regular therapy and animal assisted therapy, (xi) paid for tutoring (the kids come to BE "broken" and

it shows in their schoolwork), (xii) bought cameras for a photography program, (xiii) paid for a family therapy program (remember most of these kids have parents who had their children taken away from them by the court), (xiv) a marketing video to help them raise additional money, (xv) **partially funded (a successful *HOT* challenge grant) an animal assisted therapy program (see page 47)**, (xvi) renovated rec rooms, and paid for sneakers, birthday presents, outings and so much more – all that we could do to help Yehuda and his staff give these kids a chance to grow up and be happy. And NOT continue the cycle their families have followed for at least one generation before them.

**BE's current needs list includes:**

- \$920 of counseling for each graduate who is getting married (these kids know nothing of what is necessary from each party for a successful marriage)
- \$2,360 for new sneakers (kids' feet grow + wear and tear)
- \$3,500 a room for renovation of 15 very old bedrooms in the main house
- \$5,000 of extra therapy for each child (@ \$250 per child) when they arrive at BE (the time they are at their most vulnerable state) – 20 are expected to arrive in the next year
- \$5,000 for a program for 20 children who using Yehuda's words are about to "spread their wings" (using my words) "as they enter the dangerous teen years"
- \$6,663 for furniture and 2 computers for a "special needs" room
- \$13,158 for a professional choir director (some of the kids we heard have beautiful voices and the choir teaches them teamwork and gives them self respect – something they do not have when they get to BE)
- \$25,000\* for additional tutoring
- \$25,000\* for additional therapy

**\* I could have just as easily put \$50,000 or \$100,000 for either or both of tutoring and therapy, BUT gifts of any size designated for these critical needs will help children reach their potential as human beings.... Is anything more important?**

**The Wish list above is longer than any other in the *HOT News* and this is one of very few 2 page vignettes. Many donors ask me which need of our 46 projects is most important and which of their needs are most critical and I constantly say that is for you, the donor, to choose. We try hard to only help those who were dealt a bad hand, not those whose conscious choices have resulted in their need. The Israeli government gives Yehuda enough money to feed, clothe and give some basics for these kids. It is for YOU to decide what "extras" they get and whether those "extras" are really "extras" or the "basic needs" to give them a chance.**



## ***Helping Teenage Girls & Boys and Single Moms at Risk in Northern Israel***

**Teenage girls and boys from poor families** are a sub-group of Youth at Risk that are especially vulnerable, particularly those living in the slum-like conditions where many new Ethiopian and other immigrants live. Their choices are few and the temptations are great. This vignette is also about help for **Single Moms living in the North, because unemployment assures poverty for the mother which places her children “at risk”**



Three years ago we were called by Galila (see page 16) to finance a class to teach twenty 15-18 year old girls in Kyriat Bialik (KB) the skills necessary for a career in beauty care and cosmetics. The class was a success, and after that first success we financed three more courses aimed at teens – one more in cosmetics and hair dressing, one in cooking and the third, starting in October, will teach the teenagers cake decorating (a new profession in both Israel and the United States). The cooking and cake-decorating classes also include several “at-risk” boys. Not surprisingly the coordinator of the cooking class has reported that many participants in the class were able to get summer jobs and she is confident that a majority of the class will ultimately work full time in the catering field.

Two years ago Galila called to alert us to a project in Shlomi (on the Lebanon border) that was targeting unemployed or underemployed Single Moms. The Shlomi Social Welfare Department had arranged for a course to be held at a local college to include both a professional cosmetics course and a basic computer course. It too was a total success. **9 participants got jobs, 5 started their own businesses and the last 4 took advanced courses.** Last year Galila called us about the opportunity to replicate the Shlomi program in Kyriat Bialik and when **we called the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County (“Federation”) they agreed to partner with HOT to help the single Moms in KB.**



**The idea of giving kids in the ghetto a chance, and helping these single Moms, was endorsed and initially partially funded by my close friend Stewart Harris who, three years prior to his untimely death, was Chair of the Federation. HOT and the Federation dedicated the first “Help Single Moms Program” in honor of, and in memory of, Stewart, a true giant of a man.**

**We are asking our donors to designate:**

- **\$8,000 for another Professional Training Course for Teens, and**
- **\$12,000 for another Professional Training for Single Moms.**

**We must continue financing programs that train young Moms and teenagers to become self sufficient. It is the only way to stop an endless cycle of poverty.**

## *Helping Children in The Gaza-Border Town of Sderot*



**Sderot is a town (24,000 residents) on the Israeli border with the Gaza Strip**, within easy range of every rocket, mortar and missile fired by Hamas – over 12,000 from 2002 - 2016. Sderot was once a growing town, but with its proximity to the Gaza border, both industry and many of its wealthier citizens have moved to “safer” parts of Israel.

*HOT* has been working for many years with **Reut Sderot**, a one-stop, all-you-can-do *tzedakah* organization. *HOT* and its donors have paid for fixing up bomb shelters so after-school programs could use them. We have paid for food for the hungry (about 30% of the residents of Sderot are regulars at the social welfare office). We have paid for summer day camp for kids whose parents work, and otherwise would be left at home or on the streets. Over the years we have (i) created and expanded programs in their Daycare Center for At-Risk Children, Early Childhood Daycare Center, and Community Center and (ii) annually have given camp scholarships to insure that Reut’s camp program (which is subsidized by the City) includes as many children as possible. We have probably, overall, made more than a hundred separate grants to Reut over the last ten+ years.

Prior to the Summer of 2014 war, *HOT* made grants for children to go to summer camp, for equipment for daycare centers and shading tents that were placed over play areas where kids participate in special afterschool programs, and **partnered with another organization to purchase three industrial size freezers for Reut**. We paid for a coordinator for Reut’s Emergency Response Team. And paid for part of the renovation of an existing building that Reut uses as an Education Center for learning disabled children. But then came the summer. **Thousands of rockets aimed at, or over, Sderot**. When their flame was spotted on ignition the sirens started and gave the residents only **14 seconds to make it to the bomb shelter**. *HOT* was there, on the phone almost every day, making almost \$100,000 (see page 58) in grants to equip shelters and pay for food, games for kids, fire extinguishers, respite day and overnight trips, women’s programs, texting plans, animal assisted therapy, first aid training, and more and last year we reinforced gates and doors to buildings where Reut takes care of young children.



Some of the problems caused by 2014 have not gone away. Personal savings dissipated from not working (because of either days in the army, or simply because their jobs disappeared) have not been restored. **Reut is asking *HOT*’s donors for:**

- **\$2,026 to upgrade computer software at a library**
- **\$2,650 to buy 225 books for an Enrichment Center**
- **\$3,585 for Day Trips for girls at risk**
- **\$5,170 to buy equipment for a home for “at risk” girls**
- **\$5,471 for professional training for teachers in Day Care Centers**

## *Children Who Are Caregivers in Palm Beach County*

Can you imagine a sixth grader coming home from school and having to immediately take care of a family member? Not being able to go outside with his or her friends or study but coming home to be a “primary care giver.” And when they finally can squeeze in time to do schoolwork, not to have a computer?



More than 1.3 million children in the United States sacrifice their education, health and emotional growth to assume the role of family caregiver. **There are over 10,000 student-caregivers in Palm Beach County schools.**

The **Caregiving Youth Project (CYP)** identifies and supports this hidden population of children who care for ill, injured, elderly or disabled family members. It has served more than 1,100 youth caregivers by providing in-school therapeutic support groups, out of school educational and recreational (respite) activities, family evaluation home visits, and most importantly, the opportunity for youth caregivers to learn they are not alone by connecting them with other kids dealing with the same issues.



*HOT* has made grants to (i) purchase computers and monitors for the kids (The CYP participants report an increase in grades and state that they mostly use their computers and Internet to complete schoolwork that includes conducting research, typing projects and papers and maintaining communication with teachers. The kids and their families also use the computer to research medical information, pay bills, and secure

employment), (ii) provide blocks of respite, (iii) buy laptops for the staff to enter data while in the field, (iv) purchase computers for the CYP office (v) purchase video equipment to record the “stories” of these young Caregivers and (vi) set up a fund to handle emergencies of caregivers and their families. Similar to all of *HOT*’s Emergency Financial Aid Funds, we do not permit this fund to be used unless all other potential sources of funds have been exhausted and we believe this is a one-time problem. **Sadly, it is almost axiomatic that a family that cannot afford non-family caregivers cannot fund financial emergencies. In the last 18 months we helped 17 families with problems they might not have ever recovered from.**

**This year CYP is asking for:**

- \$1,800 for special M.A.C.Y. (Mentor a Caregiving Youth) activities
- \$10,000 to replenish the Emergency Financial Aid Fund (see vi above)
- \$10,800 for home tutoring for 40 kids (\$45 an hour in blocks of 6 hours)
- \$17,280 for 240 four hour blocks (\$72 per four-hour block) of respite care that will permit 20 children 4 hours “off” a month for them to “catch up” or simply have 4 hours to be just like other kids. These kids need some relief.

## ***Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach***



When we were babies we watched and mimicked our parents. We learned the meaning of what were initially merely sounds to us. We learned that those sounds together formed words that had meaning. We learned how to talk. We learned English. But what would have happened to us if the only language spoken in the house wasn't English? We started school, and we came home and if we didn't understand our homework, one of our parents could help. But what if there were no parents who could help? These are the real life problems faced by many children in Delray Beach. The population includes many Haitian and Latin American families where the principal, if not only, language spoken at home is Creole or Spanish. Their parents are generally either unemployed or under-employed. **The kids start school and more than 50% of them are "left back" during their first five years in school.**

The **Milagro Center (MC)** in Delray Beach runs a 52-week K-12 after-school program (full-day in the summer) to help children of families living below the federal poverty level. The program supplies the "language" and academic support missing at home.

**98% of the participants in their program have been promoted to the next grade every year.**

Also, while less than 50% of the local population will graduate high school and less than a third of them are expected to go to college, based on the change in grades, study habits and attitudes 100% of the seniors in MC's Teen Program are going to either college or a trade school this fall.



MC's formula for success is easy to understand. Just by walking into their Young Child Center you see kids who are doing their homework, participating in workshops, asking questions and "learning" from both professionals and volunteers. At their Teen Center we saw kids learning about "life." Learning to have confidence in – and to respect – themselves. **MC is giving these kids a chance to escape what could be an endless cycle of poverty. Because this group is critical for these teens, HOT has also given MC grants for a Security System, a Water Cooler, an AED, Math Tutors, additional Literacy Tutors, a Teen Center Van (matching grant), an academic tutor for the Teen Program and Summer Field Trip Transportation (matching grant) and a new roof (matching grant).**

MC's current needs are:

- \$5,100 for Literacy Tutors for the K- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade for the Spring 2017 Semester
- \$5,100 for a Math Tutors for kids in K-5 for the Spring 2017 Semester
- \$5,200 for Academic Tutor for the Teen Program for the Spring 2017 Semester
- \$5,850 for a musical instrument program at the Teen Center
- \$7,200 for ACT/SAT College Prep Course
- \$8,750 for 7 staff laptops – current ones are 6 years old with functionality issues

## *Helping Underprivileged Kids in Washington, DC*

For a child, summer should be a time full of laughter, exploration, sunshine, and the outdoors. For children from low-income families in Washington, DC, that carefree summer experience isn't always possible. **Just Imagine (JI)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which began in 2012 with the goal of giving city children the opportunity to get out of their environment for the summer by providing them with scholarships to sleep away camp. JI was able to provide 9 children with this experience in 2012.



Four years later, Just Imagine not only provides scholarships to sleep away camp, it prepares children for college by giving them access to SAT preparation, college tours, community service projects, and workshops on potential areas of study and career opportunities. Just Imagine negotiated more than \$300,000 in in-kind scholarship donations for the summer of 2016, which, together with \$14,000 of funding from *HOT* and \$14,000 from others provided 70 children with the opportunity to attend sleep away camps up and down the East Coast.



As a non-profit organization, Just Imagine relies on donations—both in-kind and monetary-- to cover the cost of transportation (car rentals, airfare, and gasoline) to and from camp and college tours, partial camp tuition costs, and camp supplies (sneakers, athletic clothing, sleeping bags, and toiletries). **This year, they are expanding their year-round programming to require participation in community service projects, and is offering workshops on the college admission process, and field trips to expose their students to careers and areas of study they may not have known about or had access.** This fall, they will also be taking a series of college tours in the DC/Virginia/Maryland area, and hope to travel to North Carolina to visit Duke, UNC, NC State, and North Carolina A&T. In the spring, they plan to visit colleges in the Atlanta area.

**JI's wish list for school year 2016-2017 and summer 2017:**

- **\$5,000 for SAT prep courses**
- **\$7,000 for college tours (including transportation and housing)**
- **\$14,000 for summer 2017 camp fees, clothing and transportation**



## *Helping Underprivileged Kids in New York City*



Since 2000, **Camp Fiver**, in New York, has been a lifeline for kids growing up in the inner city. Working year-round with a group of motivated educators and college students who inspire and care for the children, Fiver has helped and/or is continuing to help more than 550 children by making a 10-year commitment to their “campers” who start in the program when they are 8 years old.

Research has shown that in addition to the obvious (education), character and self-confidence are critical in an individual’s future success. Recognizing that children brought up in a bad (poor and often dangerous) environment often lack these qualities, Fiver’s programs include promoting healthy life choices, and enhancing self-efficacy and leadership skills. By motivating participants to succeed in school, Fiver has seen 99% of its high school seniors graduate with 90% enrolling in college. The program leads children who might well otherwise have to be faced with the bad choices of those living in an endless cycle of poverty, to make ethical and healthy life decisions. **We can help these children grow or we can let them continue in what would probably be an endless cycle of poverty and the need for a lifetime of assistance.**

Through the years *HOT* has funded (i) programs to support college visits for rising sophomores and juniors, (ii) public speaking instructors, (iii) a platform tent, (iv) buses and incremental camp expenses to get as many parents as possible to the Annual Parent Retreat (which keeps the parents engaged and involved in the program and allows them to experience the magic of Camp Fiver the way their kids do), **(v) a new \$30,000 cabin where Camp Fiver’s other donors met a \$15,000 *HOT* Challenge Grant, (vi) a \$10,000 *HOT* Challenge Grant to repair a dock injured in a storm that was met 6 times over, (vii) LED lights that had a 2-year payback in saved electricity costs** and (viii) purchased office equipment necessary to keep the Camp running efficiently. **By funding these programs, *HOT* has helped Fiver succeed in their mission to lead their kids out of what could otherwise be a never-ending cycle of poverty, drugs and crime.**

All grants *HOT* has made to Fiver have been made with undesignated funds. *HOT* would like its donors to designate all or part of:

- \$2,000 for a new Phone System
- \$4,200 for a new industrial ice machine
- \$7,900 to replace rotted wood and replace damaged handrails at the Health Center and several cabins



## ***A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress***



**Crossroads Jerusalem** (“Crossroads”) is the sole intervention program in Jerusalem that focuses on at-risk English speaking teens. The teens are often homeless, struggling with addictions and have been the unfortunate recipient of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. In many cases they are estranged from their parents and/or come from broken homes. On the streets these teens are exposed to high risk behaviors, violence and further abuse. Crossroads skilled social workers go out into the streets at night to find teens in need and bring them to the

safety of the Crossroads Clubhouse. Through crisis intervention, individual therapy, group therapy, educational assistance and intervention Crossroads provides the teens with hope, direction enabling them to lead healthier and more productive lives. In 2015, Crossroads “met” 1,137 new teens on “the street” and had over 4,000 visits to its Center and currently have 155 teens in weekly therapy where they learn about themselves, to deal with their problems, to trust, and “chill out.”

As Crossroads has grown *HOT* has made grants to purchase the equipment to establish (i) a much needed “hotline” for troubled teens late at night when loneliness and desperation peak, (ii) a therapeutic music room, (iii) a computer room, and (iv) a teen game room. We have also funded (v) an additional full-time social worker, and (vi) a part-time social worker to establish a Midnight Café (9-11 PM on Thursday nights), (vii) financed the expansion of an innovative Intern to Learn program for kids on the verge of dropping out. The internship serves as the transition to either full employment or back to school, and (viii) this year we are financing a Pilot Program to help teens in need find Crossroads through the Internet. Imagine the troubled teen going to his/her regular sites and contacting a helping hand rather than a predator.



Crossroads has continued to grow and while often hard to do, they have continued to do this with fiscal discipline.

**This year we are asking our donors to consider designating:**

- **\$424 for 4 flat screens @ \$106 per screen for existing computers**
- **\$1,576 for 2 iPads @ \$788 each**
- **\$14,703 for GED courses for 20 teens and test registration for 10 of the 24**

## *Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance*



**The Netanya Foundation (TNF)** raises money for projects the city is unable to fund or is only partially able to fund. We have found them to be a wonderful partner. Depending on the project, they supervise buying and/or construction. Our first project was the renovation of a moadonit, an after-school daycare club that is a substitute “home” for 15 children, each aged 6-10 years. The children who come to this club are high-risk from severely dysfunctional families and are primarily olim (immigrants to Israel) from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union. The children are referred to the clubs by social workers. The moadonit substitutes for the weaknesses of the children’s real homes. The children are in a protected, intimate environment where they receive much needed warmth, individual attention, help with their homework, enrichment activities, and a hot meal that is often their only meal of the day.

Over the last three years we have made grants of over \$150,000 to (i) renovate and equip a room in a Community Center used for adults in the morning, young children after school, and teens at night, (ii) modify an old classroom into a specialized “Math Unit” that made an entire classroom a “Mathematics Learning Center,” (iii) to buy computers, (iv) projectors, and (v) outside games (and paid to grade and renovate the backyard) of the moadonit discussed above (vi) furnishings and equipment for a room that will be used by parents and children where the courts do not allow unsupervised visits of a parent and child, and (vii) **twice matching a TNF grant to supply a hot meal to 30 underprivileged children, who spend four days a week from 12:45 – 4:00, in a “Learning Center,”** (viii) an industrial kitchen in a community center serving “kids” from 4 to 94, and (ix) **leveraged an \$18,300 grant six fold by agreeing to be the last dollars** to make a large project for a music room (in an afternoon center for very poor Ethiopian teens) plus equipment, plus teaching and other operating expenses for 2 years (the party offering the original challenge was toward the end of its challenge period and **but for HOT, the project would have died**), (x) the purchase of furniture and equipment for a classroom for high risk kids so they can get the special attention they need (city agreed to fund the teachers if *HOT* furnished the room), (xi) a ceiling crane to move disabled children within their classroom, (xii) funded a small Hebrew tutoring class for Ethiopians who had trouble learning Hebrew making it impossible for them to assimilate into Israeli society, (xiii) specialized equipment for a robotics lab in a high school, (xiv) a/c unit and furniture for a school library, and (xv) computers for a school with predominantly Ethiopian students.

### **TNF’s current wish-list includes:**

- **\$4,000.00 for food for the spring semester (*HOT* paid for the fall semester) of an afternoon tutoring and enrichment program for high school - at risk girls (TNF will pay for the programming if we fund the food).**
- **\$7,895.00 to match TNF’s \$7,895.00 to expand an existing elementary school afternoon program that focuses on tutoring, enrichment and guidance for children “at risk”**

***Student Community Service Projects:***  
*The Hands On Tzedakah Community Service Program*

The ***Hands On Tzedakah Community Service Program*** gives high school and college school students the opportunity to use their initiative to design and implement community service projects. *Hands On Tzedakah* provides the “start-up” money for the students’ projects, and when necessary, will assist monetarily in continuing to subsidize projects.



We have funded more than \$100,000 of “Alternative Breaks” where college students spent their winter or spring breaks from school doing manual labor repairing blight caused by natural disasters or sheer poverty. At different times during the years we have partially funded trips to (i) El Salvador- poverty, (ii) Mexico – poverty, (iii) Nicaragua – poverty, (iv) New Orleans (several times) – hurricane victims, (v) Iowa – flood victims, and (vi) Ukraine – poverty. We chartered a bus to take 44 students with supplies we purchased, from Gainesville to New York City for “two days helping Victims of Sandy” – clearing debris, sweeping, tearing down dry wall, tearing down decks, etc. Additionally, we subsidized two college students’ summer trips, one working as a volunteer physiotherapist in a Jerusalem hospital and the other spending two months working with a local organization working



against poverty, hunger and disease in Uganda. We have also funded a Child Abuse Prevention Program (college students through various campus ministries, working one on one with young children at-risk), and a Community Living Renewal (college students cleaning up blighted neighborhoods). **Our goal is that these experiences, in addition to serving the community today, will result in the students becoming caring and philanthropic members of society. I am typing in blue because it is without doubt the most leveraged of our programs. Not only do the needy get help, but also the ongoing lesson to the young adults doing the work produces young adults who have experienced what it is to help others. Now that is leverage.**

The items on the wish list for our Community Service Projects are:

- **\$30,000 to subsidize the costs of sending 50 - 60 students on “Alternative Break” programs, foregoing their vacation time to help others**
- **\$20,000 for other projects students bring to us over the next 12 months.**

## The Elderly:

- **Helping the Frail Elderly**
  - **Jerusalem (page 34)**
  - **New York**
    - **Project Ezra (p. 35)**
    - **Dignity and Comfortable Mobility – All Over the USA (p. 36)**
  - **Boca Raton**
    - **Senior Assistance Program (p. 37-38)**
    - **Helping Seniors in Many Ways (p. 39)**
- **Holocaust Survivor Programs**
  - **South Palm Beach Country, Florida (p. 40)**
  - **Israel – Northern Galilee (p. 41)**
  - **Israel – Hod HaSharon (p. 42)**

### *Helping the Frail Elderly – Jerusalem*

In 1989, the privately owned, formerly posh 520 room **Diplomat Hotel** in Jerusalem was appropriated by the Absorption Ministry for Soviet immigrants. It quickly became “a five-star slum” and today it is categorized as “sheltered housing” and included among the 2/3 of the residents who are between 75 and 101, are 50 frail elderly who cannot go out alone to shop or go to the doctor.



A dedicated volunteer, named Alice, started and runs 2 programs: (1) which pays for home care and assistance to the residents who need help with transportation to doctors and other errands and (2) a “Basic Needs” program that prevents seniors from having to choose between food, dental care, prescriptions and prosthetics.

In the last 12 months *HOT* gave \$6,000 in grants for the “Home-care and Transportation” program and \$6,000 for the “Basic Needs” program.

**We would like our donors to designate up to \$12,000 to double our support to the Diplomat Programs (\$9,000 to the Basic Needs program so that no senior should have to choose between food, dental care, prescriptions and prosthetics and \$3,000 for refreshments for a weekly social program that brings some enjoyment to the lives of 50 elderly shut-ins).**

## *Helping the Frail Elderly - New York*

### PROJECT EZRA

**Project Ezra (PE)** serves over 300 frail, isolated, and impoverished elderly Jews on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. They suffer from economic, physical and/or psychological difficulties and are being helped by services provided through PE. Some of their services include subsidizing food and medicine to those whose Social Security benefits are insufficient to last the entire month. Additionally, they sponsor group programs and outings, housekeeping services, volunteer home visits, transportation, a food pantry and food package distributions at holiday times.



Over the years, *HOT* has bought a woman a new bed that replaced one that she had been using for 67 years, and had springs popping out of it. We have bought tombstones so that five widows didn't have to look at only dirt when they went to the cemetery plot where their husbands of fifty and sixty years were buried, and we have paid for funerals.



**In addition to financing Emergency Needs, *HOT* also funds a program which now provides \$30 monthly stipends to 36 seniors who do not have enough income to buy “even the basics” (this program is similar to what we are doing in Florida – page 37).**

*HOT* also pays for more than 200 of these poor elderly to attend two festive holiday meals each year: for some of the attendees it is the only two times during the year they socialize with people they have known for years.

**We are asking our donors to designate:**

- **\$10,800 in increments of \$360 (12 months at \$30 per person) so we can give monthly supplements to 30 additional needy seniors.**
- **\$12,000 in any increment to give us more flexibility, when we get requests for Emergency Financial Aid.**

## ***Helping the Frail Elderly – All Over the USA***

### **DIGNITY AND COMFORTABLE MOBILITY**



Providing care for frail and infirmed seniors who are not ambulatory is extremely challenging. Spending almost the entire day in either a bed or a conventional wheel chair is both sad and depressing. The **Rose Art Foundation – Living with Dignity (LWD)** was formed to improve the “quality of life” for the non ambulatory by supplying specially built wheelchairs that look like a recliner chair on wheels

In 4 years LWD has bought and delivered chairs to nursing homes throughout the USA (in Florida, New York City, New Jersey, Michigan, Massachusetts, Rochester, Westchester, Washington DC, California and Maryland) and through 3 Nurse Visiting Services to those aging in place. These chairs make it easier for aides and caregivers, for which there always seems to be a shortage, to get their patients into a comfortable position. The chair lets them be more comfortable when sitting for meals, have physical therapy, nap or attend activities and while spending quality time visiting with their loved ones. The chair reduces their suffering and the humiliation of struggling to "transfer" from bed to wheelchair, wheelchair to chair, back to wheelchair. Not only do these chairs allow for patient comfort and time-saving for staff, it allows the elderly to function with dignity.

LWD has no overhead, no staff, no rent, and all the funds they receive goes towards the purchase of the recliners. Buying in bulk, LWD pays only \$375 per chair rather than the over \$900 retail price.

We have made \$27,750 in grants (**mostly challenge grants**) to LWD in the last two years and immediately after I finish editing this vignette ***HOT is going to make another challenge grant to LWD offering to match them dollar for dollar for any funds they receive from new donors, or increases made over the 2015 gift of donors (in both cases, limited to \$1,875 per family, between September 1 and December 31, 2016) up to \$9,375. The total of \$18,750 will buy 50 chairs. 50 more seniors who can live with more dignity and comfort.***

**We are also making a challenge to YOU, our donors. *HOT* will match from its undesignated funds, any designated gifts up to a maximum of \$1,875 per donor up to an aggregate of \$18,750. That means any donor who designates \$187.50 to this program will be responsible for a major change in quality of life of a senior.**

***\$909 retail, only \$187.50 through *HOT* – almost 5-to-1 leverage AND the knowledge you have helped a senior be more comfortable and retain his/her dignity.***

## *Helping the Frail Elderly – Boca Raton*

### ONGOING SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This woman was not sorting the spare change in her purse. She was counting every penny to determine which of the basic necessities of life she can buy, and which ones she would have to live without, that month.

**She had to decide between soap, detergent to wash her clothes or a lotion to soothe her eczema. She couldn't afford them all.**

She is one of 274 seniors who now receive a gift card from *HOT* to help pay for the basic necessities of life. She is part of a group of seniors who live in Palm Beach County who have almost no disposable income. Seniors, all whom are over 65, have outlived whatever money they had. 266 seniors who have income between \$614 and \$1,348 a month; and 8 who have income between \$307 and \$613 a month.



How do they live? They either live in HUD Section 8 housing or in condos bought as many as 40 years ago that have very low maintenance. Many of these seniors have no income other than Social Security and because many of them did not have large incomes in their, or their spouses earning years, they receive only a fraction of what others receive.

How do they eat? Many get food stamps and all are clients of Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS) and receive semi-monthly food packages. Now, for 266 of these seniors, in addition to the food, there is, once a quarter, \$60 (\$240 a year) of gift cards from either Target or Wal-Mart (the store is determined by its proximity to the client's home) in the bag. The 8 with the lowest income get \$40 of gift cards every month (\$480 a year).

What do they use the cards for?



***Millie** hadn't purchased a stitch of new clothing for years. The month she started receiving her Walmart cards she was able to buy shampoo, dish soap and detergent and had a little left over to buy a new blouse. She chose one with a pattern of roses. She said it reminded her of when she was a little girl and her mother would plant flowers in window boxes. She said the flowers brought sunshine into the house and her new blouse gave her a bit of sunshine*

***Betty** suffers from mild infections on her feet. Living on a limited social security she never had enough money to buy Epsom salt to soak her feet daily. Since Betty started receiving her Walgreens card, she has not had any flare-ups in over 8 months. Her walking and quality of life have dramatically improved*

***Mrs. L** called to tell us how excited she is that the gift card given to her allows her to buy shampoo so she can wash her hair several times per week- in the past she didn't have enough money to buy enough shampoo and when she ran out she used a bar of soap."*

## Subsidized Homecare

Early in 2014, *HOT* started a new program piggybacking on what was then a new JFS Program which provides for subsidized homecare for frail seniors. When *HOT* reviewed the new JFS program, it applauded JFS for this much needed help to frail seniors – but was concerned that even with the JFS subsidy, there would still be seniors who could not afford the small co-pays. So, *HOT* added a further subsidy which reduces the rate to \$1 per hour for the poorest of the seniors. In the last 12 months these subsidies permitted 4 hours a week of homecare for 22 indigent seniors. *HOT* would like its donors to designate up to \$20,800 in multiples of \$208 to help support this program.



## Emergency Financial Assistance Program



JFS keeps in constant contact with the Seniors who receive gift cards and subsidized home care and call *HOT* when any of these Seniors have Emergency Needs. Similar to the Financial Assistance Fund we created for those under 65 (see p. 15) here, too, *HOT* partners with JFS and last year we funded 50% of the cost of hearing aids, dental work, air conditioners and other critical needs. As with all of *HOT*'s emergency assistance programs, we help only when all other sources have been exhausted.

## Critical Support Requirements

**These 3 programs were originally funded 50% by a multi year designated gift, and 50% from *HOT*'s undesignated funds. Now that the multi year commitment has expired *HOT* needs the help of its donors to continue to provide the Ongoing Financial Assistance, the Homecare Subsidies and *HOT*'s share of the Emergency Financial Assistance.**

**JFS has agreed to use other funds to pay for the half social worker but the other ongoing costs of these 3 programs, which we would like to expand rather than contract, is in excess of \$100,000 a year. Please consider designating funds so we can continue, and hopefully expand, these critical programs.**

## *Helping the Frail Elderly – Boca Raton*

### HELPING SENIORS IN MANY WAYS IN BOCA RATON/DELRAY

**The Volen Center (TVC)**, offers a myriad of programs designed to bring health, fun, laughter and companionship into the lives of our senior citizens – all based on a preventative concept designed to nurture the mind, body, and spirit to foster continued good health.

During the last 3 years, we have made more than \$100,000 of grants, including (i) **two challenge grants that other donors to the Volen Center met that permitted the offering of quality food to financially troubled seniors at 50% of cost**, (ii) a pilot program for a



Nurse Practitioner who spent 3 days a week at TVC and 2 Days a week at Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service. (TVC and JFS have both told us this program is saving lives and they have both received alternate funding for this critical program that would not exist but for *HOT's* financing the “pilot”), (iii) a grant to TVC to cover the basic cost of a build-out of a treatment room for this program, (iv) **a challenge grant that was met by the Volen Board which when combined met the terms of a Federal 9-1 grant to purchase 4 vans, creating 19-1 leverage on *HOT's* grant**, (v) computers, (vi) a grant to meet the shortage from “sequestering” that would have otherwise resulted in local seniors being hungry, and (vii) funding of lunch for the monthly gatherings of Holocaust survivors, and children of survivors, that was hosted at the

TVC as a collaborative effort of TVC and both the Alpert Jewish Family Service and JFS. We have approved 35 grants totaling \$18,173 from a fund we set up at TVC to pay one time “emergency aid” (rent, electric, etc.) to seniors. Think of it, at an average grant of \$519 (\$356, when we count spouses) we changed the lives of 51 people who had varied problems ranging from getting their water and electricity turned back on, to a payment to a landlord to avoid eviction, to paying emergency medical and prescriptions. As in all of our emergency aid funds, nothing can be paid unless all other possibilities of aid have been exhausted.

**TVC has made the following requests that we would like our donors to consider:**

- **\$24,000 for 4 seniors with very early memory issues @ \$6,000 each to participate in a unique program that integrates these seniors in multiple programs with their slightly younger peers, to the benefit of all.**
- **\$20,000 for Emergency Financial Aid**



## *Survivor Assistance Program – South Florida*

Almost 1,250 of the almost 5,000 Holocaust survivors in Palm Beach County, Florida live at, or near, the poverty level. The goal of the **Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS) Holocaust Survivor Program** is to enable survivors to live out their lives in their own homes, safely and with dignity. Because of the horrors experienced at the hands of the Nazis, survivors do not fare well in congregate care facilities, such as nursing homes. JFS arranges for home health care, cleaning services, transportation to medical appointments and visits by a social worker and is committed to the concept of “aging in place” by enabling these survivors to maintain independent lives in the community for as long as possible.



**Survivors are frailer and require more services.** These survivors are outliving all projections. The same “**will-to-live**” that kept them alive 70+ years ago is still there.

*HOT* funds the emergency needs of survivors that are not being met by anyone else. The Claims Conference (a conduit of the German government that makes grants to agencies like JFS) limits emergency need funding to \$2,500 per year no matter how serious the need is. JFS has limited additional funds to fund these needs. **We cannot stand by and permit people**



**who lived through such horrors be unable to eat because of lack of dentures or be unable to hear for lack of a hearing aid. They cannot be asked to “wait until next year.”**

**Designation of any amount up to \$50,000 will permit us to establish a fund to take care of emergency needs as they occur.**

The Claims Conference also gives grants for homecare aides, but limits the amount each survivor can receive to no more than 40 hours a week. Think about it, a very frail survivor of unspeakable horrors getting help for 8 hours, five days a week. **Do people who endured Hitler have to stay in bed over the weekend? Do they have to wash their own floors?** Maybe they should be in a home, but that would be completely losing their independence and they cannot be asked to do that. **THEY CAN'T BE.** **Recognizing that we cannot permit frail survivors whose only crime was being Jewish to risk broken hips and other injuries, *HOT* made a short term Challenge Grant. We agreed to put \$30,000 into a fund to add hours of help to those who most need it IF JFS could get our grant matched twice over, once from the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, and once from individual donors. We gave them 2 weeks to get the match. Ten days later we got a call from JFS telling us that our leadership resulted in our \$30,000 being matched not twice, but thrice. The \$120,000 (our \$30,000 and a total of \$90,000 from the Federation and 3 individual donors) will provide critically important additional hours of help to individuals who have 70+ year old scars. BUT it is not enough, we need our donors to supplement the Claims Conference funding by designating gifts to help the last of the Survivors spend their last days in dignity. Personal aides cost \$18.50 an hour. An extra 4 hours (minimum shift) a week is \$75 a week or \$3,750 per survivor per year.**

### ***Survivor Assistance Program- Israel Northern Galilee***

**Galila** (pages 16 and 25) is a grassroots organization formed for the primary purpose of improving the daily lives of impoverished residents of the Galilee region of Israel, primarily in the towns that border Lebanon. Included in the people they now help are 137 Holocaust and Ghetto Survivors, who receive 360 shekels semi-annually (approximately \$93) of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing.



These survivors, most of whom came from the FSU, live on meager pensions and meager supplementary subsidies from government agencies. Galila attempts to make their final years more bearable by sending in people to help in their apartments, purchasing and distributing as much clothing, shoes, heaters, fans, glasses, hearing aids, and other day-to-day NECESSITIES as its budget permits.

Additionally, Galila administers an Emergency Financial Aid Fund that it uses to help more than 550 survivors from all over Europe (including the 137 who receive the “subsidy”).

*HOT* has also set up a fund to repair the apartments (many in four-story walk ups) where some of these survivors live in conditions that are deplorable for people who suffered for the “crime” of being Jewish. Unfortunately, many still have a language barrier. As is the case of many that arrived in the 90s from the FSU, their age, and their lack of needed skill sets has prevented them from melding into the work force.

**We have been using un-designated funds to help these people who have suffered so badly but we now NEED our donors to designate gifts to help these people who are a living testimony to the horrors of the Nazis:**

- (1) \$13,034 to be used for emergency financial aid to survivors**
- (2) \$12,856 to fund the semi annual distribution of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing**
- (3) \$15,604 to repair the worst of their apartments.**



## ***Survivors in Hod HaSharon, Israel***



**CLICK** (Community Leadership and Innovation Centers for the Elderly) in Hod Hasharon operates five Day Centers for Independent Seniors, a Day Center for Disabled Elders, a Virtual Technology Center for the Homebound, a Social Support Center, a Vocational Center, a Multidisciplinary Community Leisure Center and two days a week it operates a **Day Center for**

**Holocaust Survivors.** CLICK offers computer classes and social activities each of these days, and on one of the days it offers lectures, and on the other day a community theatre. 50 survivors and their spouses attend these activities that are held in a coffee shop type setting. In some cases, this is the only opportunity for the survivors to be with their friends and others who share the horrible memories of their past suffering forever embedded within them.

The average age of the survivors is 85 and traveling to the community center has become increasingly difficult over the years. *HOT* has funded the cost of a mini bus to provide roundtrip door to door service, twice a week, from the survivors' homes to the community center. Not surprisingly many of the survivors suffer from hearing and sight impairment and are unable to totally enjoy the lectures, watch movies and participate in the celebrations, so *HOT* purchased new equipment to enhance the sound and sight level of these activities.

CLICK reduces the loneliness and social isolation of the homebound Holocaust Survivors by sending volunteers into their homes to be involved in activities such as: conversation, crafts, reading a book, a newspaper or simply listening to music together.

While not predominantly for Survivors, we are intrigued by a new program CLICK has started and that is virtually bringing the homebound to CLICK programs. We have just funded the social worker implementing this new program.

### **CLICK's wish list for Holocaust Survivors includes:**

- \$322 for a storage cupboard in the Day Care Center for Survivors
- \$600 to purchase monthly craft kits for 10 homebound Survivors
- \$1,000 for presents and a cake at the table of each Survivor celebrating a birthday, and
- \$18,098 for the cost of transportation to the Day Care Center for Survivors

### **And for Seniors who are not Holocaust Survivors:**

- \$2,340 in multiples of \$234. to buy up to 10 iPads for the homebound to virtually come to lectures (see above)

## Special Needs:

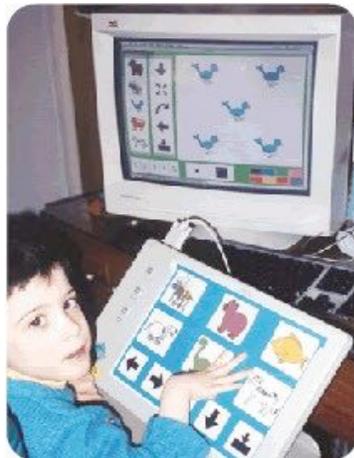
- **Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey (page 43)**
- **Special Needs Training for Very Special High School Students in Martin County (p. 44 top)**
- **Best Buddies in Martin County (p. 44 bottom)**
- **Camp Kavod – Florida (p. 45)**
- **Village Academy (p. 46)**
- **Humans Helping Animals Help Humans in Israel (p. 47)**

### *Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey*



The NJ Pediatric Patients Charitable Trust Fund is dedicated to providing funding for the acquisition of recreational, educational, and/or adaptive equipment, home modifications and specialized services that will enrich the lives of the medically fragile / special needs children of Southern

New Jersey. *HOT* has made grants benefiting more than 60 children by providing swing sets, treadmills, baby monitoring systems, iPads and special computers. The children's disabilities



range from a brain tumor, to Down Syndrome, to cerebral palsy to autism. The NJPPCTF policy is that no child receives more than \$1,200 in funding. There are no words to describe the happiness that these gifts bring to these children.



Over the last three years we have made more than \$30,000 in grants to NJPPCTF, from undesignated funds and *HOT* would like to help even more children and families in need, and is asking donors to designate gifts of \$12,000 in multiples of \$1,200 so we can help at least 10 extra children next year

## ***Special Needs Training for Very Special High School Students in Martin County***



Ten years ago, *HOT* began supplementing a job-training program in Martin County, Florida where 27 developmentally disabled high school seniors interned at local businesses. *HOT*'s grant paid the students nominal wages based on their performance and diligence. 67 children are now learning about "real life." The children open savings accounts through the program and save a portion of the money they earn towards a year-end trip. Some of these children will be able to use the lessons they learn about life to help them to some form of independent living when their parents are

no longer able to help them. **This year, in addition to the Dollar a Day program, we funded the purchase of 8 iPads that were not in the School District's budget that are being used to teach skills and independence. The Thank You note from the teacher brought tears to our eyes.**

We would like to add additional classes to the program. An average class has 15 students and therefore \$2,700 (15 students x 180 days x \$1 a school day) would permit us to offer to add another class. Additionally, as a result of budget constraints these "special kids" no longer go on school trips. Another organization has already pledged \$1,800 that would permit 3 class trips this coming year (\$600 per trip) and *HOT* would like its donors to consider matching that \$1,800 for 3 additional trips.

\* \* \* \*

## ***Best Buddies in Martin County***

The **Best Buddies** program matches students with developmental disabilities with students on a regular track. They become buddies in high school and spend time together socially with after school projects and fun including float building for Homecoming, movie nights, lunches, pool parties and picnics. *HOT* would like to continue sponsoring the chapter in Martin County, Florida that this year has 47 buddy pairs (94 members). **We would like our donors to designate \$2,350 to fund additional group activities.**



## ***Camp Kavod – Florida***

**Camp Kavod (CK)** Year-Round Camps are part of the Levis Jewish Community Center’s Special Needs Department that provides children ages 3-22 with a high quality and well-rounded camp program during winter, spring and summer school breaks. *HOT*’s grants have funded many supplies, equipment and program expenses, including: Digital cameras and printers for a camp teen photography program, funding for a teen dance during summer camp to promote greater social skills, a yoga program to help campers learn relaxation techniques, an adapted art program “HeART” for



supplies and equipment, **and in partnership with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County has over the last three years made grants to fund more than \$50,000**



**(\$100,000 with the match) for camp scholarships for families in great need. This funding ensured that no camper would be turned away from summer camp due to a family’s inability to pay camp fees.** Last fall, *HOT* provided funding to initiate a Saturday night “Parent’s Night Out” respite program for 4 hours, once per month, where children attended a structured recreational program as parents receive a well needed break from everyday responsibilities. *HOT* also

**provided matching funds for Camp Kavod to purchase a new communication system (walkie-talkies) that enables staff to communicate more effectively with one another, within a very large campus setting.**

**CK’s current wish list includes:**

- **\$4,000 for Specialty Activities e.g. petting zoo, pony rides, for the Winter and Spring Camps (\$2,000 for each of these one week camps)**
- **\$20,000 for partial scholarships for special needs children whose parents cannot afford to send them to Camp Kavod (\$2,500 for each of the Winter and Spring one-week camps, and \$5,000 for each of their three two-week Summer Camp sessions)**



## Village Academy

There are many “special needs” youngsters, teens and young adults who along with their families suffer the challenges of dealing with issues such as autism, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and dyslexia. The **Unicorn Children's Foundation and School's, Village Academy** (the “Academy”) in Boca Raton, Florida fills a void in the way students with developmental difficulties are educated – it works to maximize the potential of each student. It addresses the



needs of neurodiversity among its students by striving to create a setting of academic excellence as well as providing important vocational and social tools throughout the school day. It is committed to providing its students with the

opportunity to learn the skills necessary for independent living. Its program includes teaching practical, day to day activities that we all take for granted: managing money, cooking, housekeeping, employment and more.

*HOT* has made grants to purchase (i) the equipment necessary to begin a Culinary Arts Program that enables the participants to learn basic skills for themselves than may even lead to a job in the food industry, (ii) 5 SmartBoards (**including two paid for with matching funds**) that allow lessons to be taught in a more visual manner, (iii) laptops and iPads to assist students with Career/Education/Life skills training and (iv) musical instruments. Each time we visit the Academy we see our prior grants “in action” and we see children and young adults with limitations being taught skills and developing far beyond what could have been imagined before they were enrolled.

**In order to reach more young people with special needs meet these goals and maintain a standard of excellence for its students, the Academy is requesting:**

- **\$8,250 to set up a convenience store at the school to teach real life activities (a cash register with a scanner, vending machine with snacks, a refrigerated unit, a hot dog machine and a popcorn machine)**
- **\$10,819 for Robotics/Technology Kits and Training software for staff to a class of 21 students basic computer skills**
- **\$20,000 for 10 scholarships @ \$2,000 per student**
- **\$24,000 for eight more SmartBoards (@ \$6,000 per SmartBoard) – reduced to \$3,000 per SmartBoard as they have a match waiting for HOT's donors**



## ***Humans Helping Animals Help Humans in Israel***

Avshalom Beni started a program that we call “**Humans Helping Animals Help Humans**” where animals help humans deal with problems they are having trouble coping with. And while it is easy for cat and dog lovers to love this program, the project is really about people – all kinds of people. They work with: children and adults suffering from PTSD, schizophrenia, ADD, and ADHD; Holocaust survivors; fathers who want to reconnect with their kids and family, and more.

In the past we have funded (i) the costs of camp for some of the kids he helps; (ii) in a break with our normal grant rules, food and veterinarian fees (see the reason in bold black print below), (iii) a critical Parent Child Therapy Group that helped families in the south deal with the trauma of the thousands of missiles unleashed by Hamas in the south of Israel in November of 2012. In the aftermath of the 2014 Hamas War, we funded (iv) two programs in the south; this year have also **partially funded (v) a program for the kids at Beit Elazraki (see page 23) which, we have been told by the Beit Elazraki staff, has been incredibly helpful to many of their children; and most recently we made a (vi) Challenge Grant that was matched for a program helping parents and children dealing with cancer,** (vii) a program helping parents and siblings of autistic children and (vii) ***HOT* has just made a Challenge to Avshalom that if he can raise \$13,497, *HOT* will match it for a new program for special needs children age 3-5 in Be'er Sheva.**

During the 2014 Gaza War, in the south children (young and old) were screaming as they heard siren after siren and explosion after explosion. Avshalom drove to Ashkelon with a helper and a bunch of dogs and cats (his “therapists”) and did not leave until a bunch of kids were smiling and some laughing. The war is still NOT over for many of the children who lived through all the shelling and we are still funding a program using a staff of both 2 legged and 4 legged therapists.

**The four legged “therapist” in the picture (lower right) died this year, but not before he made this frightened (from the shrill of sirens) little girl feel protected.** Since there can be no programs without these “therapists”, many of our donors have made designations to help feed them and pay their vet bills. We encourage our donors to designate up to \$18,400 to feed and pay for vet care (\$2,300, on average, for each of eight “therapists”.



We would like our donors to consider supporting all or part of additional programs Avshalom would like to start or continue helping parents and kids through the horrors of PTSD, cancer or autism. Which group is more important? Which group needs this therapy the most? These decisions are what *HOT* is all about. It is for you, our donors, to make that decision. Each program costs approximately \$9,310. Please contact me if you would like to hear the specifics of each program he would like to start.

## Compassionate Care:

- **A Social Worker in an Israeli Hospital Who Sees It All (page 48)**
- **Camp Sunshine for Children With Life-Threatening Illnesses & Their Families (p. 49-50)**
- **Sunrise Day Camps for Children with Cancer & Their Siblings (p. 51)**

### *A Social Worker in an Israeli Hospital Who Sees It All*



We have a relationship with a social worker in one of the main hospitals in Jerusalem. She works with other social workers at the hospital to identify those in need, and *Hands On Tzedakah* is given the opportunity to make it easier for those who have fallen on the most difficult of times. We have purchased a laptop for a young girl from the Ukraine who, due to her illness, was placed in the isolation unit of the hospital. When she left the hospital the laptop was returned to the social worker who continues to loan it to other lonely people in the isolation unit. We have paid for Internet connectivity; and for private transportation for patients who live many miles away and bus transfers from the hospital they must continually visit for chemotherapy and dialysis; and “home testing sticks” for children with Juvenile Diabetes. Incidentals of a critical nature for a mother of two with sarcoma of the leg and a blind husband, a woman with a double mastectomy who has had the cancer metastasize in her bones. Our grants have been used for medicines not covered by insurance and for carfare for people who were dropped off at the ER without their wallets and had no way to get home, and so so much more. It goes on and on and on. **I have put this vignette in Compassionate Care because that is what this is.**

We never know when we will receive the next call or what we will be asked to help with, BUT as with all of *HOT's* grants the call only comes to us if all else has failed. In the last two years we have sent more than sent \$20,000 to the Social Worker Department at Shaare Tzedek hospital in Jerusalem which was distributed to almost 200 people and/or families. A review of the specific cases shows that she only helped people with real needs and that our funding was critical to the people helped BUT it is also clear that most of the individuals received less than half of what they really needed. And worse yet, people with similar problems were not helped because of insufficient funds. We would like our donors to designate up to \$12,000 so that we can meet the needs of more families that suffer from both serious medical problems and poverty.

## ***Camp Sunshine for Children With Life-Threatening Illnesses & Their Families***



**Camp Sunshine** in Maine is a retreat for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. It runs year-round and provides recreation and group support and focuses on alleviating the strain a critical illness takes not only on the ill child, but on other members of the immediate family. There are no fees to attend the camp, but the families must provide their own transportation. Because the camp's family focus is unique, families have traveled from all 50 states and 27 countries since the program was founded in 1984. Providing access to families is critical to making sure

they can benefit from this opportunity. Over the years we have made grants of more than \$150,000 to Camp Sunshine including **a successful \$20,000 challenge grant that resulted in the purchase of two new vans that transport families to Camp Sunshine from the local airports; to local hospitals from Camp Sunshine; and to treatment for medical emergencies that arise while families are attending the program.** Over the years we have made grants responding to a myriad of important requests, but the bulk of our grants have been for transportation, as we want to make sure that as many families as possible have an opportunity to attend these incredible sessions.



*We received a Thank You Letter from a young boy and a separate one from his mother. This young child knew he was dying. He had a sibling who was jealous of all the attention his mother was giving him. His brother met the brother of another child who had lost a sibling to the same debilitating disease. After learning how guilty the other boy felt when his brother died, the brother of the boy writing the letter "understood."*

**At Camp Sunshine, the sick meet with the only people in the world who can truly understand what they are going through.** Parents meet parents. Siblings of children with life-threatening illnesses meet siblings of other children with life-threatening illnesses. We have received many thank you letters through the years and the Executive Director of Camp Sunshine suggested that we might want to print another letter rather than printing this one year after year. I have decided to reprint this one because it says it all, but since the layout we have using two pages permits me to print one more.

*“My five-year old son was diagnosed with a rare and sometimes fatal blood disease when he was two years old. After four years of chemotherapy, surgeries, infections, and everything else that goes along with this nightmare, we are no closer to a cure than day one. However, you have given us a week to heal. Greg met great friends, fished, went boating, and forgot about clinic for a while. My three-year-old daughter had a chance to be number one, and my husband and I laughed and cried with other parents in similar situations...”*



*“As we face an uncertain future, we know that Camp Sunshine has made a huge difference in our lives, and we can only hope that it will always be here.”*

**No family should be deprived of Camp Sunshine because they cannot afford the cost of travel. We must significantly increase our grants for transportation costs for needy families and want our donors to designate \$45,000 in multiples of \$1,500 (the typical round trip for a family of four). The help we give Camp Sunshine is why *HOT* exists. Look at the child in the picture to the left. He is smiling. He is a happy child. He doesn't know. Think of what his parents are going through.**

And look at the faces on the right. A full family, all together but dealing daily with ramifications of a child, or sibling who requires more attention than his siblings. It hurts the whole family and the week at Camp Sunshine provides, fun, companionship and understanding ---- understanding of the different problems each member of the family must deal with.



**Camp Sunshine's wish list includes:**

- \$600 – PA System
- \$1,600 – 2 Stand Up Paddle Boards (2 @ \$800 each)
- \$2,500 – Treadmill
- \$5,500 – Shade Sail for picnic/bleacher area
- \$10,000 –Futons for living units (20 @ \$500 each)

**But the most important item on their Wish List is transportation.**

- \$45,000 – Transportation (in multiples of \$1,500)

## ***Sunrise Day Camps in Israel for Children with Cancer and Their Siblings***



The Sunrise Association, originally formed in the US, has a mission to bring a “piece of childhood” back to children stricken by cancer. *HOT* is supporting its two Israeli camps, one in Be’er Sheva and the other in Even Yehuda.

Similar to Camp Sunshine (see pages 49 and 50), Sunrise Israel permits both the sick child and his/her siblings the opportunity to experience a sense of normalcy and social opportunities together, but it does so while allowing them to go home each night to sleep in their own beds. Parents who have a child undergoing cancer treatments often find *all* of their children isolated because of the compromised immune system of the sick child. The financial strains on a family with a child with cancer often results in the sick child and his/her siblings being confined close to home with limited opportunities to do all the things children want to experience during the summer: playing outdoors, making new friends, and learning new summer time skills. For the children, Sunrise is a gift of smiles and laughter all summer long – and for the parents it is both respite and peace of mind

Camp is free but participation is limited to children who are within the first two years of their last treatment. Children are recommended to the program through their oncologists based on whether they are physically and psychologically healthy enough to enjoy the experience. But what about the kids who have gone to Sunrise for two years and are “termed out.” This is where *HOT* comes in. We made a \$11,250 grant to Sunrise-Israel for scholarships for 10 campers for summer 2016. These 10 children – who otherwise would not have been invited back because of the length of time they are past their treatment – still have a social-psychological need to attend Sunrise Israel.



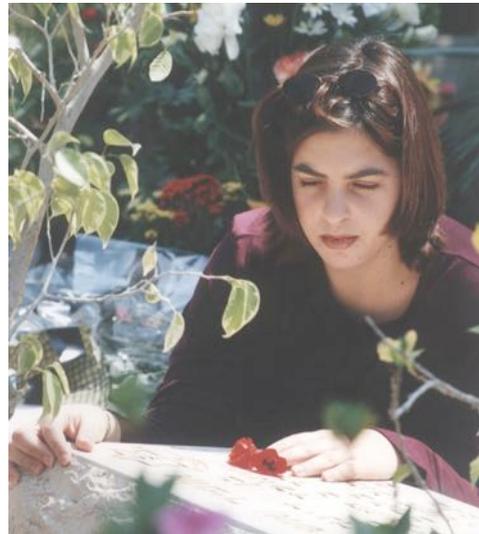
Sadly, there are many children whose physical and psychological weaknesses continue long after their chemotherapy and other treatments are completed. ***HOT* would like to see more of these children have a chance to go to camp next summer and would like to see its donors designate \$16,875 (in multiples of \$1,125) for 15 kids and their siblings to go to camp next summer.**

## The Many Victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters:

- **Widowed In All But Name (pages 52-53)**
- **Ashkelon (p. 54)**
- **2014 Gaza War (p. 55-56)**
- ***HOT* Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror & Natural Disasters – Prior Years (p. 57)**
- **2014 Israel Emergency Campaign (p. 58)**

### *Widowed In All But Name*

In 1997, a 23-year-old young woman's fiancée, while serving in the Israel Defense Force, was killed in action in Lebanon, 4 months before they were to be married. Her mother and her sister found a way to help her cope and rebuild her life by forming the **Organization for the Emotional Support of Fiancées of Fallen Soldiers of the Israel Defense Force (“Widowed in all but Name”)**. At that time, “Group 1,” a group of 10 fiancées whose loved ones were killed in action, began to meet for two hours per week with a professional therapist trained in bereavement. The group counseling lasts for approximately one year.



Support Groups 24 and 25 were formed in September 2014, immediately after what has been an inconsistent cease-fire on the Gaza border. The stories of the girls in these groups are painful with several of them having wedding dates planned for that fall, and one who suffered the loss of her fiancée just weeks before what was supposed to be the happiest day of her life. Both of these groups were funded by a donor to *HOT* who several years ago pledged that if, G-d forbid, there was ever the need for additional groups he insisted on paying for them. While the group therapy has ended, many of the girls have needed, and are still getting, private therapy. A different donor to *HOT* came forward during the war to fund 182 hours of private therapy.

The Israeli government has accepted some responsibility for helping these girls and the organization is able to get some reimbursement for therapy; BUT the reimbursement procedure is somewhat bizarre in that Widowed In All But Name can only get back a percentage of the direct therapy limited to its good faith estimate of therapy hours at the beginning of each year (yes, that's right, there was minimal reimbursement for 2014 Support Groups 24 and 25 expenses and for the private therapy because the organization didn't “anticipate” the 2014 Gaza War????). Additionally, expenses like transportation (all sessions are held in the same place and while small, Israel is not quite that tiny), scholarships and

emergency needs of the girls (some of the dead soldiers were reservists who were supporting their fiancées) and a small social component deemed necessary by the therapists, is not eligible for any reimbursement.

We have made grants to “**Widowed in all but Name**” to make sure they have no cash flow problems and are able to do whatever is necessary to help these girls get to some level of normalcy.

**Sadly, Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, Hezbollah and their “sponsors” have made it clear that there will be more fiancées that will not make it to their wedding day, and will need the love and companionship of others suffering through the same agony and therefore**

**I am asking our donors to make designations in multiples of \$1,560 (26 sessions @ \$60 per session) to pay for private therapy for 20 of the fiancées from earlier groups that still need help, and up to \$30,000 to help pay for transportation, scholarships, and emergency needs.**

**If the Israeli government changes their reimbursement procedures and there are no more wars then anything raised beyond what ends up needed for therapy will be used for financial aid and scholarships for the Fiancées or a new support group for the parents of these bereaved girls to help them better understand the problems their daughters are going through, and how to deal with them.**

## *Ashkelon*

In the Fall 2008 edition of the *HOT News* we titled a vignette *Ashkelon - Another Sderot?* We wrote this after a summer of Hamas missiles being fired at a town with hotels, a beautiful beach, and a port known as the Israeli Riviera. We renovated two bomb shelters, one of which was to house a training and leadership center (TLC) that was to be used to empower and develop young leadership who were to lead youth group branches located all over the city. It was to be a hub to make an important contribution to empowering teens and developing leadership skills. Our partner in this project was the **Ashkelon Foundation (“AF”)**.

During the last 8 years *HOT* has kept in touch with AF, done additional projects together, and developed a close trusting relationship. When Hamas started launching missiles at Ashkelon in the summer of 2014 we immediately called Sigal (our contact at AF) to see how *HOT* could help. Over the following 7 weeks, we spoke to each other as often as 3 times a day and often emailed more than 10 times a day. You can read the rest of what we did that summer on page 58. During the 2014 Hamas War, the food *HOT* bought to feed the up to 4,000 children a day, and the toys and supplies we bought to entertain the very young children, were routed to the public shelters by the teens, who disbursed them from the TLC shelter. These teenagers acted as surrogate parents playing with the young children and doing whatever else they could do to keep the younger kids from focusing on the sirens and explosions.



In October 2014 there was another chapter in this incredible story. *HOT* visited the TLC after the war, and met eight of the teens. We asked them “weren’t you afraid of the sirens and missiles.” And they answered: YES - during the first day they were, BUT starting on the second day they didn’t have time to be scared because it was their “job” to make sure the younger kids were calm. It took a moment to process these words coming from a 17-year-old, speaking for a group of 14 - 17 year olds, and when we processed these words **we told them that the people who called them the FUTURE of Israel were WRONG because they are the PRESENT of Israel.** It may have been their older brothers and sisters and in some cases fathers or mothers that fought in Gaza, or were stationed on the border, but these teens fought the war too. We hope you are proud of what they accomplished in the shelter *HOT* refurbished for them 8 years ago. **Our thanks to these young men and women and to all the Israeli mothers like Sigal who went to sleep every night worrying about their 18-year-old son on the Gaza border. In 2015 and 2016 Hamas has dug more tunnels, re armed itself with new missiles, and terrorism has become a daily occurrence in Israel. In June, a *HOT* Challenge Grant was met and we renovated the Command Center and its electrical system, and in July another *HOT* Challenge Grant was met and we renovated another bomb shelter. And now?????**

**The Foundation wants to offer Vocational Training to 21 year olds who were formerly Youth at Risk, participated in the Leadership Program, have finished their military service, and will not be going to college. The Program is expected to cost \$97,000 of which the participants would pay 1/3, the City 1/3 and *HOT* 1/3 (\$32,333).**

## *The 2014 Gaza War*



In June 2014, 62 rockets... missiles... were fired from Gaza into Israel. In the first week of July, another 170 were fired into Israel. By the time a “lasting” cease-fire had been reached late in the summer, approximately 3,900 rockets had been fired against Israeli towns and their residents. Throughout Hamas’ relentless attacks, we were working non-stop with our partners throughout Israel to provide critical in-the-moment assistance to the many victims of war and terror.

**From the moment the war began, *HOT*’s partners were at work. Our Emergency Fund became available without delay, and you – our donors – ensured that we would have enough to address many urgent, critical needs.**

Throughout the *HOT News* you have seen many instances where we worked with our Israeli partners to assist during the war.

For example, in Sderot, with continuous attacks being launched from literally “right next door” (Sderot is 8 miles from Gaza City, and less than 1 mile from the border with Gaza), running for shelter in 14 seconds many times a day was the alternative to living in the shelters. We helped to equip shelters with food and ensure that children being terrorized by these attacks would have “normal,” fun activities while taking shelter.



While helping our partners in Ashkelon (8 miles from the Gaza border), *HOT* donors were part of the most critical work we have done. **By paying to rewire over 100 shelters to bring them operational, we insured that many who would have otherwise been taking cover in stairwells during attacks could be protected in a reinforced shelter. This protected lives!**

When we refer to “partners” we are not just talking about organizations in these Southern Israel cities. Our partners are throughout the country, and *HOT* was able to be a catalyst for bringing many of them together... to offer respite for those relegated to the shelters... to increase the supply of food being sent into these areas... and much more.

These are just a few of the examples of the things we were able to do with \$517,000 sent by *HOT*'s donors to address the many needs that arose during the war. The full list is far more extensive. Many of you received emails during the war that gave incremental updates on the work we were doing. On page 58, we have summarized all the grants we made during the war.

***HOT* is unique – not just in what we were able to accomplish, but the way we were able to identify critical needs up front and ensure funds were available with zero delay. As with past crises, we were in contact with our partners as events unfolded, and were able to authorize immediate (i.e., that day) purchases. This comes from our lack of organizational “red-tape,” our direct relationships with those who know the immediate needs, and our generous donors who understand that we need to have the ability to respond immediately.**



Those who have followed *HOT* throughout the years (or who have read the *HOT News*) should recognize this model. In many other crisis situations, we were similarly there for the victims.

## *HOT Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror and Natural Disasters*

During the 2006 war with Hezbollah, *HOT* helped meet the immediate needs of a *de facto* refugee population as those near areas under attack fled to the center of Israel and helped to secure matching funds to open an Emergency Command Center in a secure bunker.

In the years since... in 2007... 2008... through 2014, we developed and deepened our relationships with partners in the South as they endured rocket attacks from Hamas. We have been there during each crisis, helping with food, shelter and respite. And when the attacks subsided, we were there to help victims deal with the emotional trauma that they had suffered.

Throughout all of this, we have also been there for victims of some horrible natural disasters.

In 2005, *HOT* worked with many in the community to provide trucks and supplies during the first 10 days following Hurricane Katrina. In the same year, we helped to provide food, bus passes and emergency lodging to victims of Hurricane Wilma.

In 2010, a devastating earthquake displaced a tremendous portion of the Haitian population. We worked directly with our partners to help the families (see page 9) of some of these victims in Miami's "Little Haiti."

And 3 years ago, Hurricane – or "Super Storm" – Sandy ravaged coastal areas in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island. We partnered with multiple organizations to: bring truckloads of food, clothing, hygiene products and other basic necessities to areas hit hard; brought electric power back to many who lost it by providing new circuit breakers to replace damaged ones; funded a bus and supplies for 44 student volunteers (see p. 33) to travel from Florida to New York (and then back to Florida) to provide critical manpower for cleanup and rebuilding and we made, **and had**

**challenge grants matched, which multiplied the effectiveness of our donors' dollars.**



And this year, 11 years after Hurricane Katrina, much of the same Gulf area has been hit by devastating floods, and *HOT* again found a way to promptly help those in need. No trucks this time – a *HOT* volunteer has a relationship with a church in Baton Rouge that gives us lists of what is critically needed. This time *HOT* eliminated trucking costs and used Amazon Prime to make deliveries directly to the distribution center. No wasted costs... sending only what was specifically needed – not like other well meaning organizations that send whatever they receive from their well meaning donors, whether needed or not. The process of recovery is going to be a slow one because houses in poor areas

have been under water and mold needs to be completely eliminated before they can be re-inhabited. In some cases, there is little or no help from government agencies if houses do not "fit within specifically designated boundaries." On the date this edition of the *HOT News* went to press, we were still sending aid, and we intend to continue helping those that are suffering, whether or not they live within the "designated boundaries."

***HOT* has used undesignated funds for all its emergency relief other than the 2014 Gaza War (during which we had an emergency campaign). *HOT* needs to be financially prepared to act immediately when there are more disasters. When you are making your decision of what to give to *HOT* this year and what to designate it to, think of all that we have done and how quickly we did it, and consider helping us build up a fund to be available for the next disaster. We would like our donors to designate \$500,000 towards a fund that can be used in those first critical days.**

## ***2014 Israel Emergency Campaign***

We raised \$517,000 in our Israel Emergency Campaign and made \$523,659 (1,885,171 NIS at an average exchange rate of 3.6 NIS to the dollar) of grants to our partners to help them deal with the problems brought on by the war.

836,481 NIS in Ashkelon (page 54) to:

- Rewire 102 bomb shelters, providing safety to more than 5,000 people
- Feed kids in public shelters for almost 4 weeks – some days as many as 4,000 kids
- Buy food vouchers for poor families
- Provide 4,800 Shabbat meals for families in public shelters
- Purchase toys and art supplies for children in shelters
- Provide single-day, overnight & multi-night respite for more than 1,000 people including 200 with various mental disabilities
- Repair air-conditioners in shelters

336,451 NIS in Sderot (page 26) to:

- Equip shelters
- Provide single day and overnight respite for more than 1,000 people, including 600 children
- Purchase food for shelters and food vouchers for poor families
- Conduct a one-day retreat for 38 daycare center employees
- Provide first-aid training for nursery school teachers
- Provide respite trips for families of the Emergency Response Team
- Conduct Women's Workshops
- Provide animal assisted therapy
- Provide an expanded one-day program for kindergarten age children
- Purchase a high volume "texting plan" to get information to residents of a particular neighborhood
- Purchase supplies for activities, and offer arts and craft and photography workshops in the shelters

160,500 NIS to The Jaffa Institute (pages 21-22) for housing, food, teachers and programs for 230 kids from the South

152,157 NIS for Animal Assisted Therapy (page 47) to help victims in the South deal with PTSD

120,000 NIS for both group and individual therapy for fiancées and (long-term) girlfriends of soldiers that died as a result of the war (pages 52-53)

90,278 NIS to buy an industrial freezer and two industrial refrigerators, allowing Leket (page 14) to add fresh produce to deliveries of food in the South; to purchase food in 6 cities in the South to stop merchants from going out of business; and to distribute discounted food vouchers in the South

86,964 NIS to Shoulder to Shoulder (page 20) to provide busing, special activities and a psychologist for children and their families for respite, providing food and school equipment vouchers in 3 Southern Israeli cities

62,100 NIS to Beit Elazraki (pages 23-24) for buses and activities for busloads of 50 kids a day **from the South**

23,940 NIS to bring 7 families with at least one child with mental and physical disabilities from Ashdod to Beit Kaye for a program run by Krembo Wings (arranged by Galila, see page 16)

16,300 NIS to Shearim Netanya for an additional counselor, bus transportation activities for children coming from the South.

# Hands On Tzedakah



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Tzedakah

The charity where donors pay no overhead  
and choose what their dollars are used for.



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