



HOT NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

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



HOT NEWS

Spring /Summer 2014

HOT is about helping the **Poor, 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 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.

Each time I write this letter, I am torn between writing it more for first time readers or more for continuing donors. Historically I have attempted to resolve this conundrum by briefly going through what makes *HOT* unique and highlighting some of our new projects. In the last edition of the *HOT News* I emphasized our initiatives in Helping People Help Themselves by using the color red to show the projects where *HOT* is helping people gain, or regain, their financial independence. Yes, we still 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. This edition will continue using the color red to designate those critical programs, but we are adding a new color, and that is the color blue, which will designate grants 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. You will see opportunities to help individuals, and in many cases, entire families, to escape the endless cycle of poverty.

I encourage new donors to read this entire letter before looking at the Table of Contents on the second page of this letter, or at our first project on page 3.

FOR OUR NEW DONORS – How *HOT* Works

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 people you want to help and how you want to help them. Seven categories to pick from. 45 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 it to be used for.**

We do not pay ANY of the overhead of ANY organization we partner with.
We support sectarian and non-sectarian projects.
We 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 only 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.

FOR ALL DONORS - Highlights of our Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013

Last year 184 donors gave *HOT* \$1,090,000 (an average of \$5,924 per donor) and *HOT* gave out more than \$1,115,000 in grants.

We were successful in fostering collaborative efforts between our partners with 14 of them doing one or more projects with other *HOT* partners.

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

Very truly yours,



Ronald L. Gallatin
Chairman and CEO

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The Hungry:

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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 the Program to 500 sandwiches and then started a partnership with **Leket Israel**, who in the semester ending in June 2013 distributed the bread and fillings for almost 8,400 sandwiches every school day. Today, we fund only Leket.

The children who need our sandwiches are from low-income families, from families where one parent is sick, is unemployed, or is 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. *Hands On Tzedakah* meets with the men and women who make the sandwiches and pack the lunches. Last June we visited with principals of two recipient schools. They discussed the “myth” that Israel pays for every schoolchild to have a hot lunch (or for that matter any food) every day. Many of the principals are forced to choose between feeding the children, losing a teacher or cutting another expense necessary to educate the children. Other principals have that decision made for them. While it appears counterintuitive, poor areas that are in poor cities get a bigger budget to cover food than poor areas that are in relatively wealthier cities. However we may be appalled by such a procedure, it does not

change the fact that there are tens of thousands of Israeli children who are not getting the basic nourishment necessary to concentrate on schoolwork.



During the 2012/2013 school-year Leket distributed sandwiches to 128 schools in 41 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. The roll is often accompanied by a fruit or vegetable that comes through Leket's gleaning program (see page 5) and yogurts and milk that Leket receives as contributions due to their short shelf life.

During the first semester of the 2012/2013 school year we "directly" paid for 1,350 sandwiches and then through the generosity of several of our donors we were able to increase our support to almost 2,000 sandwiches for the last half of the school year. The other 7,000 of the almost 9,000 daily meals in the *Sandwich a Day Program for Every Child* Program were paid for by (i) a former *HOT* donor who we introduced to Leket and (ii) alternate funding obtained by Beit Frankforter, and (iii) other Leket donors.



This school year, 2014/2014 Leket has gone to the municipalities where the schools are located and have required them to contribute to the cost of the sandwiches. On average this year the municipalities contributed 15% and next year it is hoped that will increase to 25% of the cost per sandwich. This contribution has more than offset the cost of the weakness of the dollar versus the shekel (somewhat mirroring the dollar's weakness against the euro). permitting *HOT's* cost of each sandwich to actually go down rather than up. *HOT's* basic annual commitment of \$135,000 now pays for more than 1,600 sandwiches. At current costs \$88 will feed a child for the entire school year, \$880 will feed ten children, and \$8,800 will feed a hundred children. Even with this reduced cost, as a result of the municipalities paying part of the cost, there is a **HUGE WAITING LIST and *HOT* hopes its donors will designate up to \$88,000 to feed 1,000 additional hungry children.**

Rescuing Food In Israel

In addition to the Sandwich Program, **Leket** (pages 3 and 4) rescues food (from corporate cafeterias, hotels, restaurants and banquet halls) and distributes it (often late at night) to the poor, and 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).



In 2013, Leket collected and distributed almost 26,000,000 pounds of food to more than 180 charities and food banks in Israel. They now have warehouses strategically placed where they can refrigerate and quickly distribute (i) the fruits and vegetables their more than 50,000 volunteers (yes, 50,000) including a lot of visitors to Israel who work for a morning or afternoon pick, (ii) rescued prepared food, and (iii) short dated packaged food and dairy products contributed to them by stores and manufacturers. Leket also runs programs helping hundreds of NGO's to better understand nutrition and better handle the food that Leket gives them.



As Leket grows, the needs of these programs become bigger and bigger. Over the last 18 months we have made more than \$100,000 in grants to Leket to purchase a tractor, a forklift, an automated produce sorting machine, hand held jacks, packing crates, a 4x4 for the fields and miscellaneous equipment to help the Israeli Soup Kitchens and Food Banks that Leket serves. None of what we bought is particularly sexy but it provides the difference between thousands of people being fed and their being hungry.



All of our past grants and the current needs below have gone through a vigorous analysis to satisfy *HOT* that the increased production resulting from our grants is a multiple of the grant.

Leket's current needs are:

- **\$34,000 for 200 heavy duty packing crates (\$170 per crate)**
- **\$4,600 for a Truck and crate washing machine**
- **\$4,250 for an automatic industrial floor cleaner to ensure the warehouse floor and the walk in refrigerated units are clean and sanitary**

A gift designated to Leket will result in more Israelis being fed. It is that simple.

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, almost 1,000,000 people in South Florida would be going to to sleep each night hungry, but for the help of organizations like **Feeding South Florida (FSF)**. Almost 300,000 children in South Florida are living in poverty and experiencing hunger every day.

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 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 \$6.00 that we pay for the food in the backpack sells for approximately \$37.00 in the supermarket. 6-to-1 leverage.** We funded more than \$25,000 of food for backpacks in our last fiscal year and we have already funded the fall semester of the 2013/2014 school-year and part of the spring semester, but need our donors to designate gifts for us to fund this coming fall's semester.

You can insure that a child can have his backpack filled for the 2014/15 school-year by designating \$240.00 to this program. Ten children for \$2,400.00. Twenty-five for \$6,000.00. Fifty for \$12,000.00. And all one hundred for \$24,000.00.

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 and tropical storms that have hit the island. These backpacks full of food not only insure nourishing weekends of food for the kids here, but in some cases frees up money for their parents to help relatives in Haiti who are still suffering from the affects of nature.

FSF has similar backpack programs for 1,400 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 8.

A Chicken a Week in Jerusalem

In the last edition of the *HOT News* we wrote about a 92-year-old woman who had spent 77 years helping others.

We wrote that **Bracha Kapach** was slowing down due to health issues, but still maintained her 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. *Hands On Tzedakah* bought her a freezer and has supplied approximately 40 chickens a week every week (with an additional chicken or two for the holidays) for the last eight years. These chickens were a source of protein that is sadly lacking from most of the recipients' diets. Sadly, Bracha Kapach died a few months ago, but her work is continuing. Her grandchildren learned the importance of helping others and in 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



One chicken weighs about 4 pounds and costs around \$9.00. And while *HOT* will continue to supply the chickens it has in the past (more that \$15,000 worth last year), the list of hungry, malnourished families continues to grow.

\$468 buys a chicken a week for a new family and *HOT* would like its donors to designate \$23,400 so 50 more families will start receiving chickens.

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Tova's Kitchen in Jerusalem



Tova's Kitchen was located in the Bukharan quarter of Jerusalem. The kitchen was the size of a small shed. Tova used to cook every Wednesday for a group of elderly men who otherwise wouldn't have gotten a hot meat meal. And, when she cooked, poor people in the neighborhood stopped by to get a plastic "doggie bag" to go of the same chicken, rice and vegetables. Unfortunately she is no longer physically able to cook, but we keep this vignette in the *HOT News* as she epitomizes what *HOT* is all about.

Feeding the Poor in Boca Raton

Boca Helping Hands is a volunteer-driven organization 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 mentoring.** They have had remarkable growth and in 2013 increased both the hot meals they serve and pantry bags distributed to 53,000 and 66,000 respectively. They work at providing solutions to hunger and poverty in assisting low-income families, the elderly and the homeless. **In**



2013 BHH had 4 classes in a pilot program training participants for jobs in the catering industry and 70% of the “graduates” are now employed. Volunteers are a huge source of manpower in helping to make a difference. The Food Center has been in operation for 16 years and is open 6 days a week. Over the years, *HOT* purchased a freezer for the Food Center, heavy-duty pots and pans and commercial kitchen utensils, a hand truck and meat slicer, a new air conditioner unit for the kitchen, a forklift and a freight elevator.



Most recently *HOT* has made grants to enable BHH to purchase (i) a new van, (ii) 16 portable coolers which allowed BHH to initiate a program of delivering meals to home bound shut-ins on a daily basis, (iii) new tires for a box truck, (iv) a Walk-In Cooler that was necessary to store perishables and was key in BHH being able to increase its recovered food from 323,000 pounds in 2010, to 1,809,000 pounds of food in 2013, (v) a second refrigerated truck, (vi) a Hydraulic Scissors Dock Lift that was installed as we were writing this edition of the *HOT* News and (vii) **we have made challenge grants that organizations have met that have resulted in additional schools receiving filled backpacks every week that provide weekend food for children who are on the federally funded hot lunch program** (similar to the program *HOT* funds for children in Little Haiti, see page 6).



Their current wish list includes:

- **\$21,000 in multiples of \$105 to expand their backpack program. They want to fill backpacks each week for children in four more local schools. \$5.53 of purchases gives them the ability to fill a backpack for the weekend. \$210 provides food for every weekend during the 38-week school year and *HOT* will use your designated funds to keep making challenge grants to BHH**
- **\$5,015 for 17 computer monitors**

A Group of Volunteers Feeding the Hungry in Israel



Shachen Tov – in English, **Good Neighbor Association (GNA)** – was started by a group of students at Hebrew University in Jerusalem 14 years ago. It feeds more than 1,000 families every week and performs a host of other social service functions ranging from tutoring and running a text book library for children, to friendly visiting for elders and running a “coffee shop” (in an area that includes poor refugees from the FSU and Ethiopia) for the poor. 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 its recognition that while the elderly and the handicapped must be helped for life, families that include one or more healthy parents should not receive continuous aid. In fact, families with one or more healthy parents are told up front that they will be getting food for a maximum of one year.

Since they are a 100% volunteer organization we don't have to worry about anything we give them going for anything but direct aid and with the needs in Israel as great as they are there is no amount of money we could give them that would even put a dent into the needs of the people they serve, or could serve. This year HOT has already sent GNF \$20,000 in grants to be used to pay for food. The “wish list” below represents the amount of additional food purchases they would like to make over the next year that would let them feed an additional approximately 450 people:

- **\$43,200 to feed 45 additional needy families in Jerusalem (\$960 per family)**
- **\$40,320 to feed 42 additional needy families at GNA branches in Tiberias and the Lebanon Border town of Kiryat Shmona (\$960 per family)**
- **\$27,984 to buy extra food for Passover for 424 needy families (\$66 per family)**
- **\$22,400 to add 56 elderly and handicapped to their GNA's Hot Meal Program (\$400 per individual)**

Additionally, they are requesting:

- **\$20,000 for additional programming for the elderly and handicapped**
- **\$13,000 (\$3,500 for equipment and \$9,500 for supplies and snacks) to run an afternoon/early evening tutoring class**
- **\$8,500 to run an additional evening free coffee shop**

Helping Indigent Families of the Jerusalem Border Patrol

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** (the men and women who guard Israel’s borders and prevent terrorist infiltrations) who have no relatives in Israel and/or have been identified by the Army welfare officer as being in severe financial distress. All the food is bought at wholesale or below. All the packages are prepared by volunteers. All the transportation and delivery is carried out by the Border Patrol. Last year the food packages, which were purchased with \$37,000 in grants from *HOT*, included cereal, rice, soup mix, tuna, halva, tahini, canned fruit, mayonnaise, pickles, sugar, pasta, couscous, tea, corn and soap.



Additionally, last year we learned that there are families of the JBP that live 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. We **CANNOT** let the families of those risking their lives to keep Israel safe live in such deplorable circumstances.

We would like our donors to designate up to \$45,000 for us to expand our help to the families of these daily heroes: \$25,000 for us to put more in the food boxes and/or to add additional families to the monthly food distribution, and \$20,000 to buy cribs, beds, appliances and to repair toilets, sinks and other problems in the apartments of the destitute families of the BP.

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Dave’s Kitchen In Hadera

Dave’s Kitchen is in the poor Givat Olga section of Hadera, Israel and was paid for by a grant from *HOT*. Dave prepares and distributes 200 hot meals a week that that include chicken, rice and or pasta (including 10 that he delivers to peoples’ homes).

Dave had been getting excess food from catering halls and other commercial kitchens, but as these kitchens have become more efficient, more and more of his food has had to come from Leket (see page 5). Last year we gave almost \$12,000 to Dave’s Kitchen and this year we are asking our donors to designate up to **another \$12,000 to help *HOT* give incremental funding to Dave to help with his growing food needs.**



Youth at Risk:

- **Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty - Jaffa/South Tel Aviv (pages 11-12)**
- **Helping Children in the Northern Israel Town of Kiryat Bialik (p. 13)**
- **Helping Teenage Ethiopian Girls at Risk in Northern Israel (p. 14)**
- **A Camping Experience for Underprivileged Children in Washington, DC (p. 15)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids In New York City (p. 16)**
- **A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help (p. 17-18)**
- **A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress (p. 19)**
- **Children Who are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 20)**
- **Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach (p. 21)**
- **Helping Children in the Border Town of Sderot (p. 22)**
- **Helping the Children of Russian Immigrants in Netanya (p. 23)**
- **Giving Kids in Netanya A Chance (p. 24)**

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 12th grade.



Their long-time Executive Director, Dr. David Portowicz, is an impressive individual, whose sincerity about helping children break the cycle of poverty shows in his passionate way of speaking. TJI has set up residential programs in Israel for these kids, to keep them in school and within the system. They offer a complete holistic approach from food to tutoring to counseling, and work closely with the Israeli Ministry of Welfare.

TJI was established in 1982 and has expanded its mission to include feeding the poor, and most recently to **providing the necessary tools to the moms (and there are many single moms) to get back to, or into, the workforce.**

We are very impressed with the work David is doing and are supporting several of the Institute's programs. Over the last two years we have made more than \$125,000 in grants to purchase computers, an industrial oven, playground equipment, and funded an equine therapy program. We have also given a grant to pay for furniture and equipment needed for an after school program for disadvantaged teenage girls at-risk of "dropping out" where they will get a hot meal, academic assistance, and both one-on-one and group therapy.



In addition to our funding to give these girls the chance to get back on track we have bought computers for TJI's "Welfare to Wellbeing" program where unemployed young single moms and women that have had to return to the work force are taught the skills needed to get the type of job that can move them off the welfare rolls.

TJI's wish list includes:

- \$12,000 for an industrial freezer needed for a TJI food program.
- \$20,450 for two playgrounds (\$10,225 each)
- \$22,000 to renovate a center serving 35 young children
- \$30,000 for 50 computers in one of TJI's Educational Centers (the fully loaded computers cost \$1,200 each but they have a donor who will match *HOT's* \$30,000)
- \$50,400 (including a Job Placement Coordinator, Social Worker, Administrative Assistant, Positive Thinking Workshop Instructor, stipends to the participants, etc.) to run a four-month additional Welfare to Wellbeing Program that could result in getting 12 women off the welfare rolls. Imagine, at a one shot cost of \$4,200 a woman and in some cases, a woman and her 2 or 3 children would no longer have to be fed, clothed, etc., etc.



One might question why we put the Wellbeing Project in the Youth at Risk Section of the *HOT News*; the simple answer is that all our original projects with TJI belonged in this section and **if we don't get these mothers into the work force their children will continue to be "Youth at Risk."**

Helping Children in the Northern Israel Town of Kiryat Bialik



Over the last two years we have made more than \$60,000 in grants funding part of the refurbishment, added equipment, and a portion of the food in three moadonits (clubs) in Kiryat Bialik, the only town in northern Israel that has welcomed the influx of 170 Ethiopian immigrant families arriving in Israel since 2011. Most of these families are totally impoverished, and many of their children need special attention. These moadonits, two in Community Centers and one in a Bomb Shelter, provide the children (defined as “very high at-risk” by the social welfare team at the local municipality) after-school assistance with their educational needs. As they come from particularly dysfunctional and, in some cases, abusive families, the moadonits act as “homes away from home” for the children providing them a nutritious meal and integrating them with other “at risk” children. This is all done under the sensitive and professional direction and supervision of the social welfare department of the Kiryat Bialik municipality.

The staff is made up of caregivers and volunteers working with these kids in conjunction with the social workers and psychologists from the municipality who provide these fragile children with care and love. During the summer holidays these kids remain in the program and participate in summer activities held at the center.

We have been asked by the municipality to refurbish a fourth moadonit and need our donors to designate \$13,500 for the kitchen equipment, computer games, sofas, chairs, tables and shelves.



This year we partnered with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach supplementing a Galila grant that partially funded an After School Enrichment Program for 5th and 6th graders. These children, who would otherwise be on the streets and falling further behind their Israeli born classmates, are given a hot lunch and spend the afternoon in enrichment classes taught by selected teachers and counselors. We are very concerned that budget shortfalls may cause the municipality to only fund this special program for the younger grades and are concerned that the “older” (5th and 6th grade) children will not get the help they need to fully integrate into Israeli society.



We are asking our donors to designate up to \$35,000 to make sure these kids get the help they need.

Helping Teenage Immigrant Girls at Risk in Northern Israel

Teenage girls are a sub-group of Youth at Risk that are especially vulnerable, particularly those living in the slum-like conditions that the new Ethiopian and other immigrants live in Kiryat Bialik (see page 13 of the *HOT News* facing this page). Their choices are few and the temptations are great.



Two years ago, the municipality of Kyriat Bialik asked us for \$13,000 to fund a program to teach twenty 15-18 year old girls the skills necessary for a career in beauty care and cosmetics. The classes were to include self-motivation, image, working in a team and empowerment – key components for personal success. Three hours after our meeting with the municipality I spoke with one of *HOT's* donors who immediately committed for half of this program leaving \$6,500 for it to become a reality. **He pointed out that the cost was \$650 per girl and**

that if even a few of them had the course of their lives changed by the program that it was money well spent.

The first program had mixed success with the Ethiopian girls so it was expanded to include teenage immigrant girls from other countries and a total of **10 of these girls received a certificate that will be the key they need to employment.** Last year the same donor designated a portion of his gift to set up another class, which included a mixture of Ethiopian, Russian and other immigrant girls. Galila (who also works with us on projects on pages 13 and 34) believes that we should run the next programs in other towns in the north and expand the population to all “at risk” girls whether they come from Ethiopia, Russia or are native-born Israelis (sabras).



The donor who made these programs possible, my close friend, Stewart Harris, died last year after years of bravely fighting the impossible odds against leukemia. Stewart believed it is (I refuse to use the past tense here) critical to support programs like this to insure as many of “the next generation” as possible can escape what could otherwise be an endless cycle of poverty. We are asking our donors for \$26,000 so similar programs can be set up for other teens in other parts of the north. Stewart believed that saving one person is truly saving the world. I hope our donors will designate gifts to expand this program that he felt was so important. *HOT* will continue supporting programs that will train the young to become self sufficient and escape what otherwise would be the endless cycle of poverty.

A Camping Experience for Underprivileged Children in Washington, DC

The goal of **Just Imagine (JI)** is “to expose children who attend urban schools in Washington, DC to new environments.” The main vehicle to “broaden their horizons” is to send students to sleep-away camp in the summer. Abby and Rick (the principals) are teaching and educational professionals in the K-6th grade/8th grade DC schools and after-school programs which have been the source of the students selected to go to camp. Abby and Rick (A&R) are the heart and soul of JI, and literally perform all tasks related to the recruitment of the students, and the students' related travel and camp experience. They are incredibly dedicated to the students, and the opportunity Just Imagine provides.



In 2011, A&R selected two students to attend summer camp. The camp reduced the tuition from \$5,000 per camper to \$500, and A&R raised \$1,650 from family and friends to pay the reduced tuition, and cover transportation costs, clothing, bedding, and toiletries for the campers. In 2012, they formally organized Just Imagine, selected 13 to attend summer camp, obtained substantially reduced or free camp tuitions from two new camps, and raised under \$5,000, again from family and friends. The criteria employed to select students are: (1) great effort in a Title 1 D.C. school; (2) good character and (3) positive relationships with peers and teachers. They are able to make this assessment based upon their own observations in the school and consultations with the school's faculty.

A&R meet with families to discuss the camping opportunity and anticipated benefits, serve as mentors and counselors to the students and families, take the students to medical facilities to get the required shots for camp, and drive the students to and from the camps. In 2011 when they drove the two students to camp and discovered the students had no camp clothing or gear (“they brought what they had, which wasn't much”), they started reviewing in advance what the students had in the way of clothing and gear, and then took the students shopping to make certain their students arrived with the items recommended by the camps.

Each student camp applicant signs a “Camper Contract” which sets forth expectations for the school year leading up to the summer.

JI sent 15 kids to camp for the summer in 2013 and this year they are hoping to send 20. HOT has committed to what is anticipated to be up to a \$7,600 shortfall should they recruit all 20. We are not asking our donors to support JI at this time but A&R are recruiting other teachers to work with them and, if they can commit to target a bigger population of students for 2015, we will ask for designations for next summer.

Helping Underprivileged Kids in New York City

Since 2000, **Camp Fiver**, in New York, has become 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 serves children from age 8 to 18.



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 96% of its high school seniors graduate with 93% enrolling in college. **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) busses 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) and (v) a new \$30,000 cabin where Camp Fiver's other donors met a \$15,000 *HOT* Challenge Grant. **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.**

Says one Fiver alumna, "Fiver has been the father figure we never had, the older sister we always wished for, the reason we are not in jail, the reason we are in college, the reason we had the courage to travel overseas and serve our country, most importantly the reason we are alive. They gave us the power to be aware, believe, and promote change."

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

- \$4,000 to hire a social worker for the summer
- \$5,000 for an industrial dishwasher
- \$6,000 to use for stipends for a pilot summer internship program for local, upstate, teens.



A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help

The 245 children who live at **Bet 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. 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 in the rooms the kids share. There was always one extra bed in the room. Yehuda smiled and told us that the reason for the extra bed was that he wanted the children to be able 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 normally. There are Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, there are weddings.

I asked Yehuda to give me a typical story of a child who lives at Bet Elazraki:

Lior, 16, is one of the children living at Bet Elazraki Children's Home. Even in elementary school Lior did not find himself in the school system; he hardly ever sat in class, spending the days outside, and when he did decide to go in he did not stay there for more than 5 minutes. No subject or teacher could get his attention. The school had given up on him and at a certain point did not even attempt to educate or discipline him. At home he associated himself with a bad group of kids. The future was pretty grim for him. Lior came to Bet Elazraki a couple of years ago and immediately entered our after school tutorial program. He was given a personal tutor. Before we could start working on Grammar, Math and Science we needed to work on Lior's basic learning skills. We needed to teach him what to bring to class, how to sit in a classroom, how to address his teachers and classmates, the basics! We had to teach Lior what it means to open a book and complete an assignment. The process was slow and frustrating at times, especially for Lior. We were in daily contact with his teacher at school and she gave and received follow up reports constantly. Slowly but surely Lior realized that we are here to help, that he can succeed. Today, Lior attends the 10th grade, as a regular student. He goes to class, does his homework and there are no special problems with him. Attending school regularly and turning into a normal productive student has also done wonders to his self-esteem. Lior has definitely changed. He finds studying interesting and aspires for more achievements and we will continue to be there for him and to present to him more challenges. Lior will be going to university and make a future for himself.

Over the last two years, we have given BE more than \$140,000 in grants to (i) renovate a storage room for parent/child therapy, (ii) add on a room for intake therapy, (iii) purchase iPads, (iv) replace air conditioners, (v) buy Chanukah gifts, (vi) partially fund an Anxiety Therapy Program, (vii) buy miscellaneous gardening tools, (viii) pay for repairs, (ix) have 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 coordinator's to keep better track of each child's progress and (x) much much more.

This year, we are asking our donors to designate



- **\$2,265 for 3 big screen TV's (\$755 per TV)**
- **\$4,100 for swimming lessons**
- **\$5,350 for a trip to Haifa (cost of 5 large buses and food)**
- **\$5,980 for 10 air conditioners (\$598 per air conditioner)**
- **\$8,570 for a trip to Mt. Hermon (cost of 5 large buses, food and entry fees)**
- **\$9,675 for swing sets, play houses and other playground equipment for the Babies Home and Emergency Intervention Center**
- **\$17,500 for a part time on staff psychologist (remember there are more than 200 kids at Bet Elazraki and each of them has come with individual problems)**
- **\$19,808 to furnish 4 bedrooms rooms each with 3 beds, 3 desks (and chairs) and 3 wardrobes (\$4,952 per room)**

AS YOU CAN SEE THERE ARE MANY DIVERSE NEEDS AT BEIT ELAZRAKI. THE COMMON DENOMINATOR IS THAT THEY ARE ALL NEEDED FOR THERE TO BE NORMALCY IN THESE KIDS' LIVES.

PLEASE GIVE AS MUCH AS YOU FEEL YOU CAN GIVE TO BUY "EXTRAS" TO PERMIT THESE CHILDREN TO HAVE AS NORMAL A LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress



Crossroads Jerusalem is an outreach center and comprehensive social service provider for hundreds of at-risk English speaking teens in downtown Jerusalem. It offers teens at-risk an alternative to the “streets” and the high-risk behaviors they are exposed to. They are often homeless, struggling with addictions and have been the unfortunate recipient of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. They face a harsh reality of street violence, abuse, and many severe adjustment challenges in integrating to life in Israel. In many cases they come from broken families. Crossroads staff of social workers goes out to the streets at night to find teens in trouble, and provides immediate assistance. Through crisis intervention, therapy, educational assistance, advocacy, and a supportive therapeutic community built around the Crossroads drop-in center, it helps to give the teens the tools

to turn their lives around. In 2013 Crossroads “met” 960 new teens on “the street”. Currently more than a hundred teens are “regulars” in Crossroads programs where they learn about themselves, to deal with their problems, to trust, and “chill out.”

HOT has given Crossroads 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 Cafe.

As Crossroads has grown *HOT* has have been with them. We have reviewed all their new programs and year after year we have seeded them. Crossroads has shown fiscal discipline and knowing that *HOT will* help with capital needs and **seed new programs, they have fulfilled their commitment to us and gone to others and raised funds to continue the successful programs we seeded.**



We are asking our donors to consider designating:

- **\$40,500 for an innovative “intern to learn” program that includes \$21,500 of stipends for the participants**
- **\$8,000 for a new Video Editing Program to give the teens a program that both keeps them off the streets and builds a skill they can use in future employment**
- **\$7,875 for a GED Course for 15 teens (@ \$525 per student)**
- **\$1,800 for psychological and educational evaluations (10 tests @ 180 per teen)**

Children Who Are Caregivers in Palm Beach County

Can you imagine a sixth or ninth 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 come home to be a “primary care giver.” And when they finally can squeeze in time to do schoolwork not to have a computer? Not to be able to use the school library or stay for special help if needed?



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, recognizes, and supports the hidden population of children who care for ill, injured, elderly or disabled family members. It currently serves almost 600 youth caregivers by providing in-school skills building and therapeutic support groups, out of school educational and recreational (respite) activities, family evaluation home visits, an overnight camp, health education and stress management classes and most importantly, the opportunity for youth caregivers to connect with other kids dealing with the same issues.



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.

HOT has made grants to (i) provide blocks of respite, (ii) purchase computers and monitors for the kids, (iii) send children to a camp that combines respite, education and some time to be a “kid”, (iv) buy laptops for the staff to enter data while in the field, (v) purchase computers for the CYP office and (vi) purchase video equipment to record the “stories” of these young Caregivers.

This year CYP is asking for:

- **\$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.**
- **\$7,150 for 11 computers for caregivers who have none but need them for homework**
- **\$9,000 for home tutoring for 30 kids (\$60 per hour in blocks of 5 hours)**

We can’t give these kids their childhood back, but we can try and at least give them a break and a chance for a future.

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 half of them are “left back” at one time or another in 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. Success is easily measured by the fact that on average 96% of the participants in their program have been promoted to the next grade every year. Also, while less than 30% of the local population is expected to go to college, based on the change in the grades, study habits and attitudes of the participants in their nascent Teen Program, MC expects as many as 90% of their teens to go to either college or a trade school.

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.**

HOT has given MC grants for a Security System, Water Cooler, an AED, a Math Tutor and an additional Literacy Tutor, but MC still needs:

- \$14,960 for 20 computers (\$748 each)
- \$5,000 for a PSAT/SAT prep course for their Teen Program
- \$5,000 for bus transportation for summer field trips
- \$3,900 for 26 weeks of an additional Literacy Tutor
- \$3,900 for 26 weeks of a Math Tutor



We can help these kids now or we can watch them fail and be a burden to themselves and to society.

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 in the last 12 years. 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 they could be used by afterschool programs. 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 created and expanded programs in their Daycare Center for At Risk Children, Early Childhood Daycare Center, and Community Center.

We have supported Sderot even when it was not in the news. Why? Because the brave people who live there constantly feel the effects of the more than 12,000 rockets. The fear of whether a rocket will hit their home today and kill them and their children does not go away because of a one day, one week, or one month gap since the last rocket.



Recently we have 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 have paid for a coordinator for Reut’s Emergency Response Team. We also made a grant to help with the renovation of an existing building that Reut is now using as an Education Center for Sderot’s learning disabled children. I finalized this page on March 11, 2014, a day on which 60 missiles were fired at Sderot from Gaza. The next day there were none. Imagine getting up in the morning and not knowing if it was going to be the day your house was going to be destroyed. These kids need our help.

We are asking for the following donor designations:

- **\$13,678 to replace unsafe outdoor play equipment outside a renovated bomb shelter day care center**
- **\$20,000 for camp scholarships to insure that no child of this poor town, regularly a target for Hamas missiles, is forced to spend the entire summer on the streets**
- **\$30,000 to give \$200 gift cards to the 150 poorest families in Sderot**

Helping the Children of Russian Immigrants in Netanya

Shearim Netanya (SN) is a small non-profit organization run by a man dedicated to helping Russian immigrants of all ages in Netanya. During the school year they operate a small day care center with breakfast and lunch for children ages 2 to 5 and also run afternoon activities for school age children considered youth at risk. Every tenth child in Israel is a new immigrant. A third come from single parent families and live below the poverty level.



Immigrant populations don't always integrate as quickly and as successfully as society would like. Programming for the Russian adults is easy: they love culture, music, shows, learning Hebrew, going on trips to see and learn about Israel, and more. SN arranges all of this for the adults but the children have different needs that SN tries to fill with activities and a loving environment.



We have seen the difference *HOT* makes with extras for the program like tables and chairs, musical instruments and educational toys. Last year we funded a camp program that would have been defunct without our intervention and this year we funded a kindergarten-tutoring program. **We would like our donors to consider designations of up to \$35,000 to SN that will permit *HOT* to fund needs during the year, add programming, and help with camp this summer.**



Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance

The **Netanya Foundation (TNF)** raises money for projects the city is unable 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, and it substitutes for the weaknesses of the children’s real homes. The moadonit has a “housemother” who cooks dinner for them in the tiny club kitchen, educational counselors, and “big sisters.” By coming here, 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. In the moadonit *HOT* renovated there is a special program for each child that includes therapy with his/her parents and family. They arrive at the club directly from school at 1:00 pm and stay until 6:00 pm when they return home only to shower and sleep. The club operates all year round.



Over the last two years we have made grants of almost \$100,000 for such major products as (i) renovating a room (including lighting) in a Community Center and equipping it with computers, games, table and chairs, TV, DVD, etc. so it can be used for adults in the morning, young children after school, and teens at night and (ii) modifying an old classroom into a specialized “Math Unit” that makes an entire classroom a “Mathematics Learning Center” (this unique project that helps the children understand the educational material through stimulating their senses has been a total success against all metrics), as well as other important purchases such as (iii) computers, (iv) projectors, (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) **matching a TNF grant to supply a hot meal (probably the only one the kids get each day) to 30 underprivileged children, who spend four days a week from 12:45 – 4:00, (with an extra hour twice a week for computer instruction) in a “Learning Center.”** The vast majority of these kids have no one at home to help them with their homework and without the Center would be destined to fall behind as early as first grade. We have also funded more than \$10,000 of computers for a Senior Center.

TNF has asked us to consider 3 projects in an old Community Center:

- \$13,000 to renovate and equip a room for seniors
 - \$43,000 for a completely new kitchen feeding 10 – 18 year old children
 - \$86,000 to repair and renovate the large basement bomb shelter used as a youth club
- The dollars are big, but the benefits are huge. If *HOT* receives appreciable designations towards any of these projects we will try and use undesignated funds or a challenge grant to make the project a reality.**

The Elderly:

- **Helping the Frail Elderly**
 - **Jerusalem (page 25)**
 - **New York (p. 26)**
 - **Boca Raton**
 - **Senior Assistance Program (p. 27-28)**
 - **Helping Seniors in Many Ways (p. 29)**
- **Holocaust Survivor Programs**
 - **Israel – Northern Galilee (p. 30)**
 - **South Palm Beach Country, Florida (p. 31)**

Helping the Frail Elderly – Jerusalem

In 1989, the privately owned, formerly posh **Diplomat Hotel** in Jerusalem was appropriated by the Absorption Ministry for Soviet immigrants. It quickly became “a five-star slum” and a miserable place to live for the 50% of the residents who were old and infirmed. Today it is categorized as “sheltered housing” and included among 90% of the residents who are between 65 and 104, are a growing group that cannot go out alone to shop or go to the doctor.



A dedicated volunteer, named Alice, started a “Metaplim” program which pays for home care and assistance to the residents who need help with transportation to doctors and other errands and 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 more than \$10,000 in grants for the Metaplim program and the “Basic Needs” program.

We would like our donors to designate up to \$10,000 to the Diplomat Programs (\$7,000 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 30 elderly shut-ins).

Helping the Frail Elderly - New York

Project Ezra serves the frail elderly on New York's Lower East Side. Over 400 of the elderly suffer from economic, physical and/or psychological difficulties and are being helped by services provided through Project Ezra. 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, last year *HOT* set up a program where it funds \$30 monthly stipends to 25 seniors who do not have enough income to buy "even the basics" (this program is similar to what we are doing in Florida – page 27).

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 donors to help us raise two \$15,000 funds. One Fund will be used to make grants for "emergency needs" and the other fund to be used to expand our monthly stipends to other seniors who, on an ongoing basis, cannot even afford the basics. If you designate to Project Ezra please tell us which of these important funds you want us to use your gift for.

Helping the Frail Elderly – Boca Raton

SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

This woman is not holding a lottery ticket, but she does feel that she has won the lottery. She is one of 269 elders 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, mostly over 75, who have outlived whatever money they had. 269 seniors who have income of less than \$1,200 a month, 74 of whom have income under \$600 per month, and **18 of whom have income of less than \$300 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 income in their, or their spouses, earning years, and 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 in addition to the food there are (once a month) \$50, \$30 or \$10 of gift cards from either Target or Wal-Mart (the store is determined by its proximity to the client's home) in the bag.

What do they use the cards for?

Mrs. L called to tell 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 was using a bar of soap.

Mrs. P. told the volunteer who brought her a bag of food and the gift card told her that, "If it weren't for the Walgreens cards I wouldn't be able to buy the little things I need from day to day. A nail file, deodorant, socks for when it gets cold out, tissues, toilet paper, because of the wonderful little card, I feel that I am no longer poor."



JFS has just made a major outreach putting social workers in many of the local synagogues and expects to come to *HOT* with many more seniors in need. **We must be ready for them.**

These seniors will NEED YOUR HELP. Whether you can give \$120 or \$1,200 or \$12,000 we need your help to give out more gift cards. We need to give these poor seniors the help they need and the dignity they deserve.

In addition to the cards, *HOT* also made a grant of almost \$30,000 to JFS that was the 20% needed for the a Federal Department of Transportation grant of almost \$120,000 (FDOT will give 80% but only if the other 20% has already been committed) for JFS to buy two buses to provide transportation to the programming at the Weisman Senior Center in Delray Beach. *HOT* gave a similar leveraged grant to The Volen Center (see page 29). *HOT* expects to make similar grants over the next two years as the population becomes more frail and additional seniors need transportation and would like our donors to designate up to \$30,000 to be used to buy another \$150,000 of FDOT subsidized vans or buses.

HOT also has started a new program piggybacking on a new JFS Program which provides for subsidized homecare for frail seniors. When *HOT* reviewed the new 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. ***HOT* would like its donors to designate up to \$20,800 in multiples of \$208 to help support this new program**



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 2 years we have made more than \$100,000 of grants, including **(i) a challenge grant 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 at TVC and 2 Days 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 grant that was matched 4 times over by the US government to purchase 2 vans**, (v) computers and (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 RRJFS.

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

- **\$6,000 for stipends to cover expenses of quality social-work interns that spend 30 hours a week doing home assessments, providing individual and group counseling, support groups and coordinate home care**
- **\$7,000 to fund an Art Studio class for 20 - 25 “talented” seniors**
- **\$10,000 to establish an Emergency Fund for Seniors who have to choose between the basics of life: food, medicine, rent and utilities**
- **\$17,000 to provide a health and fitness programs**



Survivor Assistance Program- Israel Northern Galilee

Galila 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 help are 345 “Holocaust and Ghetto Survivors,” almost all who came from the FSU. These Survivors are attempting to live on meager



pensions and meager supplementary support 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 Galila’s budget permits. Additionally, twice a year (Passover and Rosh Hashanah) starting in 2011, *HOT* has supplemented what Galila raised to insure

that each survivor received 360 NIS (\$104 at the March 11, 2014 conversion rate) of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing at local stores. Last year we funded Passover, but Galila was able to find other funders for Rosh Hashanah. This is the kind of relationship we have with Galila, they only ask if they can’t find another source. This year they have raised only 86,250 NIS for Passover and *HOT* has just wired them 37,950 NIS (\$10,908) to cover the shortage.

Last year we 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 the language barrier (still for many), 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 in to the work force.

We are asking our donors to designate:

- (i) Up to \$40,000 to be used for either the Rosh Hashanah vouchers or other “direct help to these Survivors”, and**
- (ii) Up to \$25,000 to permit Galila to hire the professionals to work with volunteers to fix non-working stoves, windows which permit rain to come in, and all the other problems you can envision living in aged apartments owned by slumlords.**



Survivor Assistance Program – South Florida

Almost 2,000 of the almost 5,000 Holocaust survivors in 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 more frail and require more services. These survivors are outliving all projections. The same “**will-to-live**” that 65 or 70 years ago kept them going is still there. Each year it gets harder and harder to fill all of their needs because of a combination of (i) an increase in the survivors needing help, (ii) the amount of help they need (iii) uncertainty in the level and duration of grants from the Claims Conference and (iv) a possible reduction in funding from the State of Florida.



Two years ago *HOT* became the community catalyst to increasing the amounts that could be spent helping these poor souls by offering a challenge grant to the Community that was met, resulting in filling that year’s gap in funding. Unfortunately the gap has become larger and larger. Currently, the shortage of funds has created a gap of almost \$1,000,000 between what is needed to properly take care of the survivors in need and the funds coming in.

This year *HOT* became aware of (and immediately started to fund) survivors who had emergency needs that were not being met by anyone. The Claims Conference 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.”

Consider designating anything you can to a fund that will be used to supplement the Claims Conference funding by designating gifts in multiples of \$648 to help the last of the Survivors spend their last days in dignity. Personal aides cost \$13.50 an hour. An extra 4 hours (minimum shift) a week is \$54 a week or \$2,808 per survivor per year. Some survivors need this help extra help once a month (\$648 annual cost) and others once a week (\$2,808) and still others need this help more than 4 hours a week and/or up to \$28,000 for us to establish a fund to take care of emergency needs as they occur.

The Poor:

- ***Hands On Tzedakah* Emergency Assistance Programs**
 - Emergency Assistance in Boca Raton and Delray (page 32)
 - Homelessness in South Palm Beach County (p. 33)
 - Helping Impoverished Families in Northern Israel (p. 34)
 - Emergency Assistance in Boynton Beach (p. 35)
- Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala (p. 36)

***Hands On Tzedakah* Emergency Assistance Programs**

Emergency Assistance in Boca Raton and Delray

Many individuals and families continue to face tremendous economic hardships. Seniors living on fixed incomes and families in crisis 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 and the young and those with debilitating diseases.

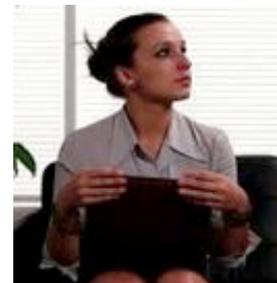


A young couple came to JFS asking for emergency financial assistance. He had been out of work 7 months and she was disabled. They had just gone through the last of their savings and he finally got a new job but would not be getting his first paycheck for three weeks. *HOT* matched JFS's funds and this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

A 30-year old severely hearing-impaired unemployed woman was laid off, lost her house and had to file for bankruptcy. The poor condition of her hearing aids made it impossible for her to get a job. Another matching grant by *HOT* bought her new hearing aids and she immediately found a new job.

These are but two of scores of JFS cases that *HOT* has funded.

We would like our donors to designate \$24,000 to help fund specific cases, as they arise. *HOT* has funded as little as \$450 and as much as \$2,100 to meet the emergencies of families and individuals in need. 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 life altering.



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 (FP)** is the only shelter in the southern part of Palm Beach County.

FP targets homeless families with young 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. A staff member of Family Promise is there to assist the adults in the family to find permanent housing and, if needed, employment.

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 a constant concern.

HOT has set up 3 funds at FP. One to help with security deposits and other landlord requirements, **(this fund was set up by FP’s other donors responding to a HOT Challenge Grant)**, the second to meet Emergency needs that 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, 2013 more than 40 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 and the **third a fund to pay for the training or retraining of the family breadwinner (often a single mom).**



We would like our donors to designate up to \$50,000 to FP: \$15,000 for the Financial Aid Fund, \$15,000 for the Rent/Security Assistance Fund and \$20,000 for the Job Training (or Retraining) Fund.

Helping Impoverished Families in Northern Israel

A three year old girl in nursery school who has a hearing deficiency.
A mother and her four children, all victims of domestic abuse.
A mentally challenged elder living on a pension in a unit with broken windows.
An unemployed father, a son, a kidney transplant and a three hour bus ride to get to dialysis.
A cancer patient under treatment who needs a wig.
A child of a single parent family who needs glasses.

What do all these people have in common?

They all live in northern Israel and received assistance from the **Galila Emergency Assistance Trust (GETA)** 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 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.



Many individuals living in this area of Israel work but barely earn a living. Life in the border town of Shlomi is particularly hard because of the memory of, and fear of, Hezbollah attacks. Employment opportunities are few, salary levels are low, and 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.

HOT has met with the mayor of Shlomi and the municipality's head of social services. We have seen first hand the problems in the town and has set up a special fund to be used exclusively for the resident's of Shlomi. Similar to *HOT*'s other Emergency Funds, grants are only made if all other sources of funding have been exhausted. The Shlomi social workers that are working with the families in need make recommendations to the head of their department who culls the list that goes to Galila who, with the volunteer committee of responsible citizens, further culls the list which is then sent to *HOT* for final review and approval. **It is clear the needs of families in this part of Israel will go far beyond what *HOT* can allocate out of its undesignated funds, and we are hoping our donors will designate up to \$50,000 for us to help the families of Shlomi and other towns in northern Israel.**



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 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.*

Two years ago we started giving scholarships to students carefully vetted by Caridad. The results have been outstanding – continuing studies, becoming nurses – 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 and 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 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.

Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala

Mercado Global (“MG”) is succeeding in its mission of helping people help themselves. It supplies education and the opportunity to escape poverty of a level none of us can possibly imagine.

MG gives rural native women in Guatemala the tools and skills to support themselves and their families by training them to be successful artisans. MG forms, and arranges sales for co-ops where the artisans receive their pay (multiples of what they would otherwise be making) based on their personal 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 hacky sacks (small balls filled with plastic beads) for approximately 25 cents each, which barely covered the costs for materials needed to produce each sack. 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 hacky sacks. The women used the additional income to buy shoes, school materials and more nutritious food for their children. Our recent grants include (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, (ii) buying “modern” computers for MG’s Guatemala office, (iii) paying for an instructor to teach the women a natural dye procedure that has led to more orders than can currently be filled and (iv) paying per diem expenses of a Case Western Medical Team that taught the Artisan Communities the basics of 21st century medicine and the importance of basic sanitary procedures and nutrition.

Mercado Global is the single best example of how *HOT* helps people help themselves.

MG’s Current Wish List includes:

- **\$2,000 for 2 new computers for the MG staff to run Community Education Programs and monitor production**
- **\$5,610 for scholarships for staff members to take weekend classes in basic literacy, English, and Basic Business Administration**
- **\$13,477 to train 54 artisans in advanced skills using (i) a back-strap loom and (ii) advanced IKAT and dye technologies**
- **\$15,173 for a trainer who would work with the co-ops on community based financial literacy and business administration.**

Compassionate Care:

- **A Social Worker in an Israeli Hospital Who Sees it All (page 37)**
- **Camp Sunshine for Critically Ill Children & Their Families (p. 38)**
- **Mental Health and Mental Wellness in Boynton Beach (p. 39)**
- **Humans Helping Animals Help Humans in Israel (p. 40)**

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 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. It goes on and on. I have put this vignette in *Compassionate Care* and that is what it is. We need to help people with catastrophic problems. We cannot make them well, but we can make their life a little but easier and/or stop them from having to choose food or medicine.

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. **Last year we sent \$12,500 to the Social Worker Department at Shaare Tzedek hospital in Jerusalem and she distributed an average of \$245 to 51 of the most needy patients. We have reviewed the needs and it is clear that most of the individuals received between a quarter and a half of what they really needed. We would like our donors to designate up to \$20,000 so that we can meet the needs of more families that suffer from both serious medical problems and poverty.**

Camp Sunshine for Critically Ill Children & 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 48 states and 22 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 almost \$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.** We have recently made a grant to replace beds and mattresses, 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 the sick meet siblings of the sick. We are only asked to provide transportation for the families that without our help would never get to benefit from Camp Sunshine. **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.***



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 gong through.

Mental Health & Mental Wellness in Boynton Beach

Nine years ago, *Hands On Tzedakah* formed an important and highly successful partnership with **Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS)** and the **Caridad Center**. *HOT* funded a half-time bilingual licensed clinical social worker who spends three days a week at the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach. While Caridad provided free medical and dental care to a large population of migrant farm workers, laborers and the working poor of Palm Beach County, they could only offer intermittent mental health care. The clinician provides mental health assessment and counseling, educates volunteers, and other Center staff about mental health issues and how to identify those issues in the patients they serve.



Last year, the clinician had handled 629 office visits, helping 126 adults and 17 children. The widening gap between the haves and the have-nots has taken a toll on the people the clinician sees. There is more serious depression, anxiety and stress.

Bringing these two organizations together to work in tandem fulfills *HOT*'s mission of both supporting essential life sustaining programs and collaborating with agencies that dedicate themselves to helping others. A case study:

A family with 5 children arrived at Caridad requesting help in dealing with anxiety and depression in response to a family crisis that was going to alter their lives. The children entered the therapist's office sobbing, the younger boy had panic attacks and insomnia, and his academic performance was declining significantly. The parents did not know how to help their children cope. The children had done well in school, and the father is employed but had no mental health coverage. Both parents had experienced traumatic events and serious poverty in their country of origin and found their set of coping mechanisms couldn't help their family weather a crisis. The therapist offered family therapy focused on processing the feelings, and the children had the opportunity to express their fears about losing their mother. They worked at establishing a realistic life plan around the impending loss, but the children's anxiety exacerbated, and school counselors became involved since their academic performance went from good to poor. The therapist assisted in providing coping skills, parenting skills, and emotional support to the father and his younger children. During the six months of therapy and family support, things slowly resolved themselves. The oldest child is now in the process of applying to medical school, and the other children regained their emotional stability.

Three years ago *HOT* cut its funding to \$17,000 (half of the cost of the time the therapist spends at Caridad). We are concerned that budgetary constraints at Caridad could make it impossible for them to pay for the other half of the funding and are asking our donors to designate up to \$35,000 to either help the strain in *HOT*'s budget (we have not received any designations for this program for several years) and put *HOT* in a position to take the strain off Caridad's budget.

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 ADD and ADHD kids, schizophrenics, Holocaust survivors, fathers who want to reconnect with their kids and family, and more.



The picture here is of Yonatan and Frankie. Frankie was rescued as a puppy after being badly beaten by a street gang. Avshalom turned him into a great therapy dog. In the past we have funded (i) the costs of camp for some of the kids he helps (ii) several of his programs including one where he in one year addressed the issues of a group of gifted students and then in the following year used these students as “teaching assistants” to help kids with problems who were not as “gifted,” and, in a break with our normal grant rules, we paid for food and veterinarian fees (see the reason in bold print below). We funded 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 (see page 50).

Some of our donors have recognized that there can be no programs without the “therapists” and have made designations to help feed them and pay their vet bills. We encourage our donors to designate up to \$15,400 to feed and pay for vet care (\$1,400 for each of nine “therapists” and \$2,800 for Begal-D, the dog below (who is HHAHH’s tenth “therapist”) who is making a girl with PTSD feel safe).

Avshalom also needs subsidies for several of his programs (the Israeli government pays part of his costs). While writing the *HOT News* we wired \$9,100 to Avshalom to pay for a Parent/Child Nurturing Group, but even after that there is still a shortage of approximately \$54,600, \$9,100 for each of six programs. The unfunded programs include:

- 4 Parent child nurturing groups (one father/child, one mother/child and the other 3 both parents/child)**
- 1 program for Holocaust Survivors**
- 1 program for Children at Risk**



Special Needs:

- **Special Needs Children’s Camps**
 - **Camp Kavod – Florida (page 41)**
 - **Shutaf – Helping Special Needs Children in Israel (p. 42)**
- **Best Buddies in Martin County (p. 43 top)**
- **Special Needs Training for Very Special High School Students in Martin County (p. 43 bottom)**
- **Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey (p. 44 top)**
- **Special Needs Children in Netanya (p. 44 bottom)**

Camp Kavod – Florida

Camp Kavod Summer and School Holiday Break Camps, is part of the Levis Jewish Community Center’s Special Needs Department that provides children ages 4-22 with a high



quality and well rounded camp program during summer and holiday breaks. *HOT’s* grants to Camp Kavod have funded (i) the purchase of digital cameras and printers to launch a middle and high school Digital Photography program, (ii) an annual dance for middle and high school students to assist in promoting greater social and recreational opportunities, (iii) a yoga program to help these special campers “relax,” (iv) a new “Fun in the Sunshine” adapted art program that included supplies and equipment to enhance fine and gross motor skills for new Pre-K campers, (v) a Sensitivity Training Program for over 100 teens who mentor children and teens with special needs in the Fit & Fun Sports Program, and most recently **HOT partnered with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and its Foundation, to meet the \$30,000 shortfall in necessary scholarship money for the 2014 summer camp. On hearing that without our help there would be Special Needs Children unable to participate in the camp program, it took our two organizations less than 90 minutes to decide to partner.**



We would like our donors to designate funds to make camp extra special for these “special children, teens and young adults,” and ask you to designate:

- **\$5,000 for field trips for winter and spring camps during 8 vacation days**
- **\$2,500 for therapeutic yoga**
- **\$2,500 for HeART, a therapeutic art program**
- **\$1,000 for a Fit and Fun Sports Volunteer Buddy Training Program**
- **\$1,000 for the Camp Kavod teen dance**
- **And any part of what is anticipated to be as much as a \$50,000 shortfall of scholarship funds that is necessary to ensure that kids will not be left out of this fall’s Chanukah Camp and the 2015 Passover and Summer Camps.**

Shutaf – Helping Special Needs Children in Israel



Shutaf, which means “partner” in Hebrew, provides year-round inclusive programs for children and teens with special needs in Jerusalem. Shutaf’s reverse-inclusion model (75% children with disabilities and 25% without) creates social success in an accepting environment for all participants. Inclusion programs like Shutaf inspire and educate, helping to change attitudes about people with disabilities. Shutaf which operates vacation day camps during the August and Passover

vacations as well as year round after-school youth groups, started with 10 children in 2007 and, in 2014, serves more than 150 children and young adults, ages 6 to 21.

HOT has been a Shutaf sponsor since 2007, giving scholarships to families that could not otherwise afford participation. **Last year *HOT* gave Shutaf more than \$35,000 and so far this year *HOT* has given Shutaf \$17,600 which their other donors matched as part of a *HOT* Challenge Grant.**

Shutaf parents are finding it harder and harder to afford camp fees and, at the same time, Shutaf would like to expand their programming. Please consider designating:

- **\$2,300 to cover instruments and a teacher for a basic music program**
- **\$13,400 to continue a program called “Shutaf Café” which will offer young adults over 21 with disabilities, who are aging out of Shutaf, a social program of vocational and independent living skills to prepare them for successful adulthood**
- **\$16,000 for a Young Leadership Program focusing on sex education, self defense, first aid, hobbies, the democratic process (voting and being a responsible citizen) and volunteering in the community**
- **Up to \$30,000 for scholarships for kids whose parents cannot afford to send their children to Shutaf’s programs.**



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 27 buddy pairs (54 members). **We would like our donors to designate \$6,000 to add some group activities to our \$3,300 annual commitment.**



* * * *

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



Nine 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 pays the students nominal wages based on their performance and diligence. This program has grown every year and now a total of 88 children are 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.

We would like to add additional classes to the program. An average class has 20 students and therefore \$3,600 (20 students x 180 days x \$1 a school day) would permit us to add another class.

Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey

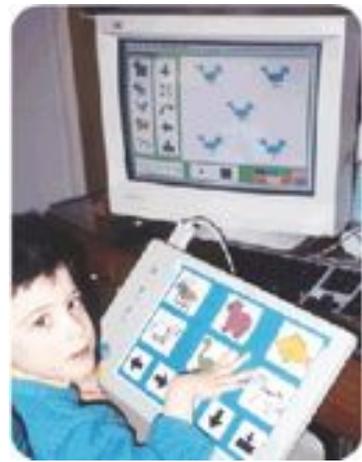
The **NJ Pediatric Patients Charitable Trust Fund** is dedicated to providing funding for the acquisition of recreational, educational, and/or adaptive equipment, home modifications and specialized services that will enrich the lives of the medically fragile / special needs children of Southern New Jersey. **HOT** has made grants benefiting more than 50 children by providing swing sets, treadmills, baby monitoring systems, iPads and special computers. The children's disabilities range from a brain tumor, to Down's 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 two years we have made almost \$24,000 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 \$24,000 in multiples of \$1,200 to help as many of the children as possible.

* * * *

Special Needs Children in Netanya

Last year we made a grant to the **Netanya Foundation** (see page 24) to purchase a special "crane" to be used for lifting and moving children in a school for 80 children 6 – 21 with medium and severe retardation and/or severe physical disabilities. Two classrooms needed these cranes to move children (all who otherwise spend the entire day in wheelchairs) from one part of the room to another. **HOT** purchased one crane and is asking its donors to designate \$7,000 to purchase the second one.



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 the ongoing lesson to the college kids 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:

- **\$1,500 for incremental supplies to expand a Challah for Hunger Program**
- **\$2,000 to augment an Annual Mitzvah Day run by college students**
- **\$2,500 for a Seniors Prom” and other Tzedakah Programs**
- **\$25,000 to subsidize the costs of sending 40 - 50 students on a week or longer “Alternative Break” programs, foregoing their vacation time to help others**
- **\$25,000 for other projects students bring to us over the next 12 months**

The Many Victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters:

- **Widowed In All But Name (page 46)**
- ***HOT* Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror & Natural Disasters (p. 46-50)**

Widowed In All But Name

In 1997, a young woman's fiancée, while serving in the Israel Defense Force, was killed, 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 to Support the Fiancées of Fallen Soldiers of the Israel Defense Force**. 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. The group counseling lasts for one year.



Since 2003, *HOT* has provided the funding for 5 such groups. Group 20 was formed to take care of the "same as widows" of ten soldiers who died in training accidents, auto accidents or sadly, by committing suicide. Group 21 includes 8 "same as widows" whose "not quite yet spouses" were penitentiary guards in the bus that caught fire as they went up Mt. Carmel to evacuate prisoners during the devastating 2010 fire. There is no Group 22 yet (and we pray there never will be) BUT we still make grants to fund weekly private therapy for four of the girls who are having the hardest time dealing with the trauma of their loss and would like our donors to consider:

Designating up to \$21,840 in multiples of \$1,560 (26 sessions @ \$60 per session) to pay for private therapy (every other week) for 14 of the fiancées of earlier groups that still need help.

* * * *

HOT Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror and Natural Disasters

Every year the world faces multiple Man Made and Natural Disasters. Larger, more bureaucratic organizations often reach out to their donors soliciting dollars for Emergency Aid, but it often takes many months for that help to reach the people who so desperately need it. **Why? Because large organizations become victims of their infrastructure. On the next four pages you will see how *HOT* accomplishes what the large organizations cannot.**

HOT's nimbleness permits us to help people when they need it and because of our constant vetting of our partner agencies, who are on the "front lines," we are often able to

IMMEDIATELY disperse funds and know that they will INSTANTLY go to help the people in desperate need. In most cases *HOT* discontinues its help within a week to 10 days for that is generally when the first of the money from the behemoth charities starts to reach those in need.

HOT does NOT respond to all disasters. Why? Because unless *HOT* has a partner on the ground, or in the case of Katrina and Sandy where we quickly and thoroughly vetted agencies to work with, *HOT* will not get involved. *HOT* will NOT blindly transfer money to agencies that it has not researched and are confident every dollar will go to help those in need.

We are often sending money hours before it is spent and, therefore, cannot wait to contact our donors to ask them for help. When we do this the money comes from left over amounts (after seeding the “regular projects”) from what our large donor gave us or from using undesignated contributions from other donors. **We would like you to consider directing part of what you give each year to a fund that *HOT* would be able to use to help those in need on Day 1 of a tragedy. Sadly, there will be other disasters and we are looking for designated contributions of any size that will help us build a fund of \$500,000 to permit us to always be able to respond quickly to needs. As in all designations, please be specific, tell us if you want your funds to go either to helping those dealing with Natural Disasters or to help Victims of Terror, or to both.**

Over the last seven years *HOT* has been there:

2005 – Hurricane Katrina – *HOT* sent 10 forty-foot trailers over the first 10 days, each containing what MEMA (the Mississippi agency that functioned as well as FEMA functioned poorly) volunteers told us was really needed such as bottled water, specific canned foods, disinfectants and other sanitary items. *HOT* galvanized an entire community to work with us.

2005 – Hurricane Wilma – The storm destroyed houses and made most roads impassable but *HOT* managed to get to the Caridad Center (see p. 35) the day after the storm. We were able to provide immediate assistance, by providing money for food, bus passes (for the few busses that were running), and lodging for the families whose homes were destroyed by the storm. Additionally, *HOT* purchased large amounts of food which it brought to JFS (see p. 32) and participated in the apartment-by-apartment delivery of the food to homebound elders.

2006 – Israel’s War with Hezbollah – Within hours after the vicious rocket attacks on the north of Israel, hundreds of thousands of Israelis fled to the center of the country exhausting its housing, supplies and social service infrastructure. The next day we got emails from many of our “partners” telling us what they needed to meet the needs of what was the equivalent of an instant refugee population. We were able to make immediate dollar and shekel transfers to partners that we had confidence in and who quickly mobilized to expand their programming. Subsequent to the war, ***HOT* gave the seed money that produced matching grants to fund an Emergency Command Center in a secure bunker that’s advanced computerized communications system has been set up to coordinate all help to civilians during times of crisis.**

2007 – Rocket Attacks on Sderot – By May the rocket fire from Gaza was so intense that thousands of residents fled and those remaining were afraid to send their children to school

and afraid of where their kids would play after school. *HOT*, with the help of a new donor, refurbished six bomb shelters into dual use shelters so that they could be used for teen centers and after school care. ***HOT has not forgotten Sderot (see p. 22).***

2008/2009 – Towards the end of 2008, **Hamas** fired more missiles into southern Israel and the Israelis responded with a major operation into Gaza. Until a cease-fire, Hamas was relentless in firing missiles. To ensure the safety of the children of Sderot (and the surrounds), the government bused them daily to areas in the middle of the country for school. Since these children were away from home from dawn to dusk it was imperative to make sure they had a lunch. We contacted one of our long time donors and they matched our funds, permitting us to feed many of these kids. ***HOT has not forgotten Sderot (see p. 22).***

2010 – The Haitian Earthquake displaced a higher percentage of the population of a country than any Natural Disaster in our lifetimes. Not having a fully vetted partner, *HOT* left it to the larger organizations to supply relief BUT we found a way to do our part by working with Feeding South Florida and supplying weekend food for the poorest children living in the “Little Haiti” section of Miami. What we are doing ensures these kids, many of whose families have relatives in Haiti who are still suffering, have food on days that they are not fed by the Federal Hot Meal Program. **The suffering in Haiti is continuing, as is our support for “Little Haiti” (see p. 6).**

2011 – While we were in Israel, **Hamas** was **AGAIN** shooting rockets into southern Israel, including Sderot. A few weeks later there was another cease-fire. How long would the “new cease-fire” last? We didn’t know then, but as mentioned above we continue helping the people whose homes face rocket fire at every moment.

2012 (Spring) – We got the answer to the question we asked in 2011. While editing the Spring 2012 issue of the *HOT News* southern Israel was again attacked with missiles and again *HOT* responded in less than 24 hours to arrange for (i) 270 kids (210 of them from 3 to 5 years old) to be bussed away from their homes in Sderot to spend a day safe in central Israel and (ii) buy art supplies and games for the time the kids would have to be in shelters. Unfortunately, the day after we went to print the Israeli government decided it was too dangerous to send the younger children through the areas **Hamas** was targeting. The kids spent that day in the shelters and we sent more art supplies and games to keep them busy.

2012 (Summer) – We arrived in Israel on a Friday for continuing due diligence on old projects and for initial site visits for proposed new projects. Two days later, on Sunday, missiles and mortars into the south, and more than a dozen Egyptian soldiers killed by Bedouins stealing equipment for a raid into Israel. Monday was quiet. Tuesday we went to Sderot and Wednesday to Be’er Sheva. Will it ever end? Obviously not then, as 8 days in November of 2012 proved (see p. 50).

The last two pages have shown you what *HOT* did from 2005 through the summer of 2012 to help people affected by the ravages of Natural Disasters and War and Terror. *HOT's* nimbleness, utilization of on-the-ground organizations it was already working with and its ability to quickly vet new organizations, allowed it to help those in need at the beginning of their crisis. This is the time when people need the most help, and the time when almost no one else is helping them. In October and November of 2012 we had two horrific disasters. *HOT* was immediately there. *HOT* supplied immediate help.

On October 29, 2012, Hurricane – or “Superstorm” – Sandy made landfall in New Jersey. The destruction caused by this storm – from its winds, rains, and storm surges – was beyond comprehension, particularly in coastal areas that had never experienced such a devastating storm. Residents in these areas found themselves with critical needs and *HOT* was there to help them. We partnered with multiple organizations to: bring truckloads of food, clothing, hygiene products and other basic necessities to areas hit hard in New



Jersey, Staten Island, Brooklyn and Long Island; 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 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.**





On November 11, 2012 the first of what would be more than 1,500 rockets were fired from Gaza at various targets in southern Israel and in a couple of cases at targets in Tel Aviv. By the time the “Cease Fire” was declared on November 21, *HOT* (i) was supplying water and food for sandwiches for more than 3,500 young children in 80 bomb shelters in Ashkelon; (ii) had paid for transportation to get Ashkelon families out of harm’s way (including a single mom with three children including one on the autistic spectrum

and a family of four that included a wheelchair-bound father and committed to bring them back after the cease fire); (iii) committed to pay for 95 boys to go to Jaffa and spend day and night at the dormitory and go to school at the Jaffa Institute. Why 95? That was the maximum, doubling up, that The Jaffa Institute (see pages 11-12) could hold. But they needed to feed them, needed cots, linens, etc. and that is what *HOT* paid for; (iv) funded a part time “coordinator” in Sderot who worked with emergency teams and residents. During this crisis she directed people into many of the city shelters including 6 that *HOT* refurbished in 2007. We funded her for 3 months. Why so long? Because even when the missiles stopped, the psychological scars were still there. Imagine living through a bombardment of hundreds of missiles landing only a few feet from your house, or going back to school and passing blocks of bombed out buildings? Read page 22 to see what else we have done with Reut (the organization we are working with) in Sderot; and (v) as soon as the roads were safe funded an Animal Therapy Program, for those who have been unable to cope with the stress of the constant bombardment (this last attack has been the culmination of years and years of missiles). When you add the years of constant threat to the recent barrage, it is hard to understand how anyone can live in the south of Israel and not have Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome. (See page 40 to learn more about the “therapists.”)



***HOT* NEEDS YOUR HELP to be financially prepared to act immediately when there are more disasters, like the ones we saw in the Fall of 2012. 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.**



**Hands On
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Tzedakah**

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



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