



# “HOT” NEWS SPRING/SUMMER 2013

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 2013**

In our fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, we distributed more than \$1,000,000 to 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 Natural Disasters** and expect to distribute the same or more this year. We have helped these people, all of whom without the help of *HOT* would continue to suffer. We did this with 100% of the money raised going to people that need 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. I can't highlight the most important projects because the decision as to what the most important projects are belongs to our donors. This edition I face an additional problem and that is how much I discuss the emergency work we did for the victims of Hurricane Sandy and the victims of the barrage of Hamas missiles launched into southern Israel last November. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that virtually 100% of what *HOT* does could be classified as Emergency Relief since none of the beneficiaries of *HOT* would be getting the help they desperately need but for the grants they get from *HOT*.

What I decided to do was to break this letter into two parts and put the work we did last November related specifically to helping Victims of Hurricane Sandy and Hamas Missiles on the back inside cover and its and the three preceding pages. I encourage new donors to read this entire letter before going to look at our first project on page 3.

### **FOR OUR NEW DONORS – How *HOT* Works**

Unlike other charities where 25, 30, 50 or in some cases as much as 60% 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. 48 projects in all. The donor referred to above seeds every project, every year. **THE PROJECTS CAN BE EXPANDED IF YOU WANT THEM EXPANDED.** Unlike other charities that tell you \$100 does this, or \$1,000 does that or \$10,000 does something else when all they are doing is giving you "illustrations," dollars given to *HOT* do not become fungible as ***HOT* DIRECTLY USES WHAT YOU GIVE IT FOR EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT IT TO BE USED FOR.**

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, in one case, in Guatemala.

Your 100% dollar goes where you want it to go, expands the project 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 have been overlooked or ignored by more traditional charities, and WHERE PEOPLE HAVE DESPERATE NEEDS.

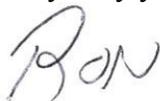
**FOR ALL DONORS - Highlights of our Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012**

Last year, 196 donors gave *HOT* \$1,070,000 and *HOT* paid out more than \$1,020,000 of grants (the last \$50,000 was paid out shortly after year-end). \$162,650 of these grants were matched by donors to our partners resulting in more than \$1,225,000 of help to the needy.

Last year we also had success in another part of our mission and that is fostering collaborative efforts between our partners. Thirteen of our partners did one or more projects with another of our 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.*

**Our largest program is our sandwich program that feeds thousands of Israeli schoolchildren every school day of the year.**

The program started in 2003 when *HOT* partnered with the elderly women volunteers from the Beit Frankforter Community Center, who were at that time preparing sandwiches for about 100 children. The Program was first expanded to 200, then 400, then 800, and in 2013 it has reached almost 8,600 sandwiches every school day. This incredible growth could not have been possible without the help of a former donor to *HOT* (see below) who still finances a huge portion of this program and without the help of **Leket, Israel**, formerly known as Table to Table, who in the second semester of the 2012/2013 school year was preparing and distributing more than 8,100 sandwiches every school day.

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 procedure 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. We go along for deliveries, and visit with the principals of recipient schools. To quote from a letter we received from one of the schools, **"...the food does not only meet physical needs, but also allows the students**



**to study under better conditions and, as a result, improves their academic achievement. I believe this will ultimately allow them to break the cycle of poverty and fulfill their dreams of a better future.”**



During the 2012/2013 schoolyear Leket distributed sandwiches to 115 schools in 37 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, tehina 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.

*HOT* is no longer supporting the Beit Frankforter program because Leket's bulk buying and use of donated and "gleaned" food permits it to supply meals at a much lower cost.

During the 2011/2012 schoolyear we "directly" paid more than \$132,000 for 1,300+ of the then almost 8,000 daily meals in the *Sandwich a Day Program for Every Child* Program. The others were paid for by (i) the former *HOT* donor and (ii) alternate funding obtained by Beit Frankforter, and (iii) other Leket donors. We increased our support to 1,350 sandwiches for the first half of the 2012/2013 school year 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 2012/2013 school year.



**We believe *HOT* will be able to continue our base commitment at \$135,000 (to pay for 1,350 sandwiches) from its undesignated funds for the 2013/2014 school year and hope we will receive at least \$65,000 in designated funds to permit us to continue feeding at least 2,000 school children starting in August. \$99 will feed a child for the entire school year, \$990 will feed ten children, and \$9,900 will feed a hundred children. Even if we raise this extra \$65,000 there will still be thousands of needy kids who will be stuck on a "waiting list."**

## *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 2012, Leket collected and distributed approximately 21,000,000 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 45,000 volunteers (yes, 45,000 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. Leket also runs a co-op that last year purchased \$3,400,000 of food for \$2,700,000 with the \$700,000 of savings being passed on, pro rata, to each participating NGO.



As Leket grows, the needs of these programs become bigger and bigger. In the last 12 months we made grants of more than \$75,000 to Leket (an automated produce sorting machine, a 17,000 cubic foot refrigeration unit that stores 220,000 pounds of food (bought with a challenge grant), hand held jacks, an automated produce sorting machine and packing crates). None of what we bought is particularly sexy but it provides the difference between thousands of people being fed and their being hungry.

### **Their current needs are:**

- **\$4,000 for an additional hand operated electric fork lift used by their truck drivers**
- **\$32,000 for 200 400 kg. (880 pound) crates (\$160 per) to be used in the fields**
- **approximately \$40,000 for a four wheel drive vehicle for its agricultural rescue program, AND**
- **depending on the day you read this, a lot more. Leket is constantly growing and feeding more people.**

Leket is one of the most efficient organizations I have ever dealt with. They are truly making a difference. They are getting three pages in the *HOT News*. Joe Gitler, their founder, has put together an amazing group of employees and a huge group of volunteers. **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. But children are the largest segment of our society experiencing hunger. Over 340,000 children in South Florida are living in poverty and experiencing hunger every day.



**Feeding South Florida's** (formerly the Daily Bread Food Bank) mission is to end hunger by providing immediate access to 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, would otherwise 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 \$7.00 that we pay for the food in the backpack sells for approximately \$35.00 in the supermarket. 5-to-1 leverage. We funded more than \$25,000 of food for backpacks in our last fiscal year and we have already funded the spring semester of the 2012/2013 school-year, but need our donors to designate gifts for us to fund for this coming fall's semester.

**You can insure that a child can have his backpack filled for the 2013/14 school-year by designating \$240.00 to this program. Ten children for \$2,800.00. Twenty-five for \$7,000.00. Fifty for \$14,000.00. And all one hundred for \$28,000.00.**

**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.**

### ***Dave's Kitchen In Hadera***

Dave Robinson's Kitchen is in the poor Givat Olga section of Hadera, Israel and was paid for by a grant from *HOT*. Dave makes 100 sandwiches a day, prepares and distributes 300 hot meals a week that include chicken, rice and or pasta (including 20 that he delivers to peoples' homes).



Dave had been getting excess food from catering halls and other commercial kitchens but as the recession has slowed down events and the commercial kitchens have become more efficient, more and more of his food has come from Leket (see page 5). Last year we gave more than \$12,000 to Dave's Kitchen and this year we are asking our donors to designate up to **\$15,000 to help *HOT* give incremental funding to Dave to help with his growing food needs.**

\* \* \* \*

### ***Feeding 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. The food packages include cereal, rice, soup mix, tuna, halva, tehina, canned fruit, mayonnaise, pickles, sugar, pasta, couscous, tea, corn and soap.



**Over the last year we spent over \$31,000 of undesignated funds and \$5,000 of designated funds on these packages and would like to receive \$15,000 in designated funds to increase this program.**

## *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 crisis assistance and job mentoring. They have had remarkable growth and in 2012 increased both the hot meals they serve and pantry bags distributed to 50,000 and 48,000 receptively. They work at providing solutions to hunger and poverty in assisting low-income families, the elderly and the homeless in becoming self-reliant.



Volunteers are a huge source of manpower in helping to make a difference. The Food Center has been in operation for 14 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.



Last year, *HOT* made \$43,000 in 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 833,000 pounds in 2011, to 1,427,000 pounds of food in 2012. This year we have already funded the last \$18,000 that was needed for BHH to purchase a second refrigerated truck.

**Their current wish is to expand their backpack program (similar to the program *HOT* funds for children in Little Haiti, see Page 6) for local children who are on the federally funded hot lunch program. They want to fill backpacks each week for these children in four more local schools. \$5.53 of purchases when added to donated food they receive gives them the ability to fill a backpack for the weekend. *HOT* has made a \$12,000 challenge grant to BHH for them to add another school to their program and we are asking our donors to make designations in multiples of \$210 (provides food every weekend during the 38 week school year) to add still another school. \$2,100 supplies weekend food for 10 children for the entire school year.**



### ***A Chicken a Week in Jerusalem***

Imagine a 90-year-old woman who has spent 75 years helping others. Although **Bracha Kapach** is slowing down due to health issues, she still maintains her weekly distribution of food to families in need. The families come from all over Jerusalem and are a cross section of Israeli society; all of whom have 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 are a source of protein that is sadly lacking from most of the recipients diets.



**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.**

\* \* \* \*

### ***Tova's Kitchen in Jerusalem***



**Tova's Kitchen** is located in the Bukharan quarter of Jerusalem. The kitchen is the size of a small shed. Tova used to cook every Wednesday for a group of elderly men who otherwise wouldn't be getting 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 every week so we are able to pay all her needs out of our

**"seed money." We keep this vignette in the *HOT* News as she epitomizes what *HOT* is all about.**

## The Poor:

- ***Hands on Tzedakah* Emergency Assistance Programs**
  - **Emergency Assistance in Boca Raton and Delray (page 10)**
  - **Homelessness in South Palm Beach County (p. 11)**
  - **Helping Impoverished Families in Northern Israel (p. 12)**
  - **Emergency Assistance in Boynton Beach (p. 13 top)**
  - **A Helping Hand to Russian Immigrants in Jerusalem (p. 13 bottom)**
- **Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala (p. 14)**

### ***Hands on Tzedakah* Emergency Assistance Programs**

#### ***Emergency Assistance in Boca Raton and Delray***



Individuals and families continue to face tremendous hardships due to the continued decline in economic security across all demographics. Seniors living on fixed incomes and families in crisis have trouble paying for their most basic needs. **The Financial Assistance Coordinator at Ruth 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.



**We would like our donors to designate \$30,000 to help fund specific cases, as they arise. *HOT* has funded as little as \$450 and as much as \$2,100 to meet the Emergency Needs of Families and Individuals whose cases have been referred to us for additional assistance. Think of the dramatic change of quality of life you can make by even small designations to this Fund.**

## ***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 do not have funds to help the graduate with a security deposit and first and or last month’s rent for new housing. In 2012, FP met a \$16,200 challenge grant from *HOT* and the combined \$32,400 is being used to subsidize these landlord requirements that someone “just starting over” doesn’t have “in the bank.”

Even when families have successfully completed its program, located work, and found housing life’s challenges keeps 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.

FP has no money in its budget to help “graduates” meet these kinds of expenses, and when it exhausts all its other sources of funds, *HOT* is there to stop these “graduates” from going back into the endless cycle of poverty. We only make grants when the breadwinner has found new employment and the dollars we give put the family back on their feet and all other sources have been exhausted. We have just made another \$10,000 grant to replenish the FP Emergency Aid Fund and



**We would like our donors to designate up to \$25,000 to FP specifying either (i) the Financial Aid Fund or (ii) the Rent/Security Assistance Fund. Similar to all of *HOT*’s emergency assistance grants, a few hundred dollars in aid can often completely change lives.**

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

A handicapped father confined to a wheelchair needing chemotherapy.

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 motivated fifteen year old with learning disabilities needing a computer to help him develop his analytical and motoric skills.

What do all these people have in common?

They all live in northern Israel and received assistance from the **Galila Emergency Assistance Trust** 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 families living in this area of Israel work but barely earn a living. 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 worked with Galila on many projects (see pages 22, 24 and 34) and is confident in their process. We feel secure that grants are only given to those whose needs are legitimate and severe, and where all other sources of funding have been exhausted.

We have just made an initial \$10,000 grant to this fund and **would like our donors to designate up to another \$20,000 for this year's emergency needs.**

## ***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. Last year we gave grants of almost \$12,000 to cover specific needs for families.

**Caridad's wish list continues to be funds for Emergency Assistance for families and grocery store food cards. Additionally, they are in need of disposable baby diapers, formula, baby food, cribs, strollers and a litany of items for older kids. We would like our donors to designate all or part of their contributions to this program with the goal of our raising an extra \$12,000 that would permit us to be able to respond to Caridad's increasing need for Emergency Aid.**

\* \* \* \*

## ***A Helping Hand to Russian Immigrants in Jerusalem***



Rabbi Jonathan Porath, formerly of the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and his associate Eleanora Shifrin formed **Neve Orot** to assist new Israelis from Russia with emergency needs. *HOT* is only contacted as a last resort after exhausting all possible means of support from the government agencies and private donors. Every few months we receive requests for aid to buy food, schoolbooks, diapers, and shoes. The reasons? Most often serious illness (diabetes, heart, liver, dialysis, cancer, etc.) being victims of terror, or even lack of child support. Sometimes we pay for part of a one-month bridge to cover expenses until someone starts receiving income from a new job. Knowing that Jonathan and Eleanora spend as much time as they do making sure they truly understand the situation before we are asked to make a grant gives us great comfort that we are spending our donors' funds effectively. Last year we gave \$8,000 in grants to help with specific needs of some of the people Neve Orot helps.

**We would like to raise an additional \$12,000 to help us fund specific emergencies that Jonathan and Eleanora identify.**

## *Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala*



**Mercado Global** (“MG”) is a non-profit organization that gives rural native women in Guatemala the tools and skills to support themselves and their families by training them to be successful artisans. MG goes an important step further by making the connection and forging partnerships with major US companies like Levis and Anthropologie who import the women’s wares and sells them in the US market. MG invests 100% of its profits from sales into the development of indigenous artisans through business and financial literacy, nutrition and leadership programs.

Prior to working with Mercado Global, 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. *HOT* was there when the communities



the Mercado Global women live in were ravaged by Tropical Storm Agatha. Over the last year our \$35,000 in grants (i) have expanded a loan program 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) bought “modern” computers for MG’s Guatemala office, (iii) paid for an instructor to teach the women a natural dye procedure that has led to more orders than can currently be filled and (iv) per diem expenses of a Case Western Medical Team that will teach the Artisan Communities the basics of 21<sup>st</sup> century medicine and the importance of basic sanitary procedures and nutrition.

There are many opportunities to help these women. We have carefully culled through their wish list and picked the ones which we believe can bring the highest returns:

**\$20,000 to fund work in progress inventory allowing acceptance of larger orders, and**

**\$9,486 for the basic costs to form co ops that would include 50 – 60 women in 4 different communities...the orders are there, Mercado’s infrastructure is in place, all that is needed is under \$200 a head to start these women on the road to self sufficiency.**

## Youth at Risk:

- **Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty - Jaffa/South Tel Aviv (pages 15- 16)**
- **Children Who are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 17)**
- **Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach (p. 18)**
- **Helping Children in the Lebanon-Border Town of Shlomi (p. 19)**
- **Helping Children in The Gaza-Border Town of Sderot (p. 20)**
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- **The Poor Immigrant Children of the Southern Israel Town of Be'er Sheva (p. 27)**
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters in Israel (p. 28)**

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

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



Their long-time 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. The Jaffa Institute 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.

We are very impressed with the work David is doing and are supporting several of the Institute's programs. Last year we gave them more than \$37,000 in grants to purchase computers, an industrial oven, and playground equipment, as well as funding an equine therapy program. This year we have already made grants in excess of \$33,000 to pay for (i) computers (\$4,300) and (ii) a playground (\$10,225) for a new special needs program, (iii) a refrigerator and freezer (\$3,662) at an apartment where a couple takes care of 9 at-risk children (and three of their own), (iv) \$1,037 for paint, brushes, thinner, rollers, ladders and two days of handyman time to work with volunteers painting a bunch of walls in a moadonit in an old building, and (v) \$13,500 for the 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.



**The playground we purchased for the special needs program is inside a fence in a very difficult neighborhood. The institute is running three separate programs within the building and would like to have 2 additional play areas. Because of the rocky terrain and some of the development disabilities of the children the Institute believes it is important for these playgrounds to have a rubbery substance under the equipment to prevent injuries. Each new playground will cost \$10,450. We would like one or more of our donors to designate their gifts for one or both (\$20,900) of these playgrounds.**

## ***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 you finally can squeeze in time to do schoolwork to not 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 identifies, recognizes, and supports the hidden population of children who care for ill, injured, elderly or disabled family members. It currently serves 567 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

In the last 12 months *HOT* made more than \$16,000 in grants to (i) provide blocks of respite, (ii) purchase computers and monitors for the kids, (iii) send children to a “24 hour camp” that combines respite, education and some time to be a “kid” and (iv) bought laptops for the staff to enter data while in the field.

**This year CYP is asking for:**

- **\$8,640 for 120 four hour blocks of respite care that will permit 10 children 4 hours “off” a month for them to “catch up” or simply have 4 hours to be just like other kids**
- **\$6,500 for 10 computers for caregivers who have none but need them for homework**
- **\$3,000 for home tutoring for 10 kids (\$60 per hour in blocks of 5 hours)**

**We can’t give these kids their childhood back, but we can make it a little easier for them.**

## ***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 -1 afterschool program (three-quarter 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 themselves and learning to respect themselves. MC is giving these kids a chance to escape what could be an endless cycle of poverty.

***HOT*** has given MC an initial grant to cover 26 weeks of a Math Tutor and 26 weeks of an additional Literacy Tutor and is asking our donors to consider designating:

**\$14,960 for 20 computers (\$748 each)**

**\$5,000 for a PSAT/SAT prep course for their Teen Program**

**\$2,600 for 26 weeks of an additional Literacy Tutor**

**\$2,600 for 26 weeks of a Math Tutor**



## ***Helping Children in the Lebanon-Border Town of Shlomi***

**Shlomi** is an Israeli town (7,500 residents) that sits in Israel, just a few hundred yards away from the Hezbollah terror outposts in Lebanon (see the picture of the zigzagging border between Israel and Lebanon, with the houses of Shlomi in the foreground).



The mayor and has done a terrific job in transforming this once very poor town (where a third of the residents receive some kind of public assistance) into as desirable as a town on the Lebanon border can become. Unfortunately even with the construction and other jobs of an expanding town, many of those in need have not elevated their income and still receive some form of public assistance.

Several years ago, immediately after the “Lebanon War” which featured a barrage of missiles sent by Hezbollah into northern Israeli towns like Shlomi, *HOT* gave the seed money that produced matching grants, to fund an emergency command center in a secure bunker. It is the envy of other border towns as its advanced computerized communication systems have been set up to coordinate all help to civilians during times of crisis.

Last year we made an \$8,500 grant to buy equipment and games to maximize the benefits of the children's clubhouse the municipality had renovated. The clubhouse is used as an afterschool center for 25 elementary school kids at risk (who come there straight from school and stay until 7:30pm).

**This year we are asking our donors to designate gifts to help a group of teenage girls who are spending too much time on the streets and are close to a life of drugs, crime or worse. They come from families that are destitute and have parents that can not – or do not – care enough to help them. We are asking our donors for \$17,500 for a half time social worker who will work with these teenage girls who are truly “youth at risk.”**

**Residents of Shlomi will also benefit from directed gifts to the Galila Emergency Assistance Trust (see page 12).**

## ***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 prosperous 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

people in 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 been supporting 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.

Over the last 12 months we have made more than \$40,000 in grants for children to go summer camp, for equipment for daycare centers, and shading tents that were placed over play areas where kids participate in special afterschool programs (until 7:30 pm). Additionally, we made a challenge grant to another organization that was met and permitted the purchasing of three industrial size freezers for Reut. In November when Hamas missiles kept the children inside for 8 days we paid for a coordinator for Reut’s Emergency Response Team. Most recently we made a grant to help with the renovation of an existing building that Reut is going to use as an Education Center for Sderot’s learning disabled children.



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

**\$25,000 for a general fund to help us fund critical requests made by Reut during the year, and**

**\$9,500 to purchase: cabinetry, a diaper table, 20 young-artists screens, children’s play wood garden bench and footrest, large doll’s bed, children’s podium, table, intercom system, air conditioning unit, summer blankets and other items for a new daycare center.**

## *Two Moadonits in The Northern Israel Town of Kiryat Bialik*



Last year we funded key elements of two moadonits in Kiryat Bialik, the only town in northern Israel that has welcomed the influx of 170 Ethiopian immigrant families arriving in Israel since the beginning of 2011. Most of these families are totally impoverished and many of their children need special attention. There are moadonits, located in two community centers, that provide the children (defined as “at-risk” by the social welfare team at the local municipality) with 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 professional 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 this program and participate in summer activities held at the center.

The general budget for this center is provided by the Ministry of Social Welfare but is limited to very basic items such as staff salary, additional caregivers, etc. The Municipality dips into its own (limited) budget to cover the costs of the facilities and related expenses. This results in a very limited budget earmarked for meals and enrichment activities. Last year we funded the \$32,000 shortages in food and enrichment in these two moadonits.



This year, the municipality has budgeted all of the operating expenses of both moadonits but one of them is in need of **desperate repairs. A list of 25 items ranging from PVC piping, to air conditioners to TV’s and computers. The total cost to fix everything is \$14,280 and we hope our donors will give designated gifts to make this “home away from home” more habitable.**

## ***Helping Teenage Ethiopian Girls at Risk in Kiryat Bialik***

Teenage girls are a subgroup of Youth at Risk that is especially vulnerable in the slum-like conditions that the new Ethiopian immigrants live in Kiryat Bialik (see page 21 of the *HOT News* facing this page). Their choices are few and the temptations are great.



Last August, the municipality 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 girls are halfway through this program and will be receiving a certificate that will be the key they need to employment.

**We believe it is critical to support programs like this for the teenage children of these new immigrants so that as many of “the next generation” as possible can escape what could otherwise be an endless cycle of poverty. And are therefore asking our donors for \$26,000 so similar programs can be set up for other teens.**

## *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. They are referred to the clubs by social workers, and if it were not for the clubs, these children would be removed from their homes and sent to institutions. Moadonits are in fact models of real homes and include 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 we 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. Four years ago *HOT* matched a designated gift from one of our generous donors and paid for the reconstruction and furnishing of this club in the poor Netanya neighborhood of Sela.

Over the last year we have made grants in excess of \$32,000 to (i) grade and renovate the club’s “backyard”; to build some outside games including a concrete ping pong table and soccer goal, and to build a huge overhead shade from the sun, (ii) purchased 10 computers and a digital projector for a school in a poor area where multiple children (predominately coming from poor Ethiopian immigrant families) were sharing the same computer during a computer class, and (iii) financed a specialized “Math Unit” that makes an entire classroom a “Mathematics Learning Center.” This is a unique project that helps the children understand the educational material through stimulating their senses.

This year we have made (i) a \$7,044 grant for 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 (ii) a \$7,200 grant, matching \$7,200 from TNF 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” located in a Community Center. The vast majority of these kids have no one at home to help them with their homework and without this program would be destined to fall behind other first and second graders. **We are asking our donors to designate amounts up to \$19,000 to renovate (including lighting) one of the rooms in the Community Center and equip it with computers, games, table and chairs, TV, DVD, etc. so it can be used as a teen room for kids who would otherwise be on the streets.**

### ***A Moadonit in the Northern Israel Town of Ma'alot***

**Galila** runs a myriad of programs throughout northern Israel (see pages 12, 19 and 34). They try to find the needs of the population that neither the government nor other organizations are filling in the Galilee region. Working with Galila and the municipality of Ma'a lot, we funded the refurbishment of a moadonit. Kids come to the moadonit right from school and stay until 7:30pm. They get two meals, help with their homework, a shower, their clothes washed and dried, and importantly both love and warmth (lacking at home) from the two housemothers. The moadonit program supplies quality time with adults that the kids are not getting at home. The kids grow up with their heads held up high, understanding more about their environment and how to overcome it.



Last year we made more than \$16,000 in grants to: (i) buy additional computers, (ii) pay for a computer instructor for the kids during the school year, and (iii) complete the refurbishing of the barebones clubroom kitchen in return for the municipality agreeing (a) that the building would be used as a moadonit for at least the next five years and (b) to provide scholarships for the kids to attend after-school workshops at the local community center. Additionally, we bought TVs, an air conditioning unit, beanbags and rugs for the moadonit.

**This year Galila has asked *HOT* for a \$7,600 grant for two groups to each go once a week to an arts and crafts program.**

## *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.



By promoting healthy life choices, enhancing self-efficacy and leadership skills, and by motivating participants to succeed in school, Fiver has seen 96% of its high school seniors graduate with 93% enrolling in college.

Over the last year, *HOT* has made \$17,500 in grants: funding (i) a program to support college visits for rising sophomores and juniors, (ii) a public speaking instructor, (iii) a platform tent and (iv) an additional bus 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 in their children's lives and allows them to experience the magic of Camp Fiver the way their kids do). By funding these programs, *HOT* has helped Fiver succeed in their mission to lead their kids out of what could have been 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 four of the grants *HOT* has made over the last year have been made with undesignated funds. This year *HOT* would like its donors to designate:**

**\$25,000 for construction of an additional sleeping cabin**

**\$10,000 for unbudgeted but necessary maintenance expenses**

**\$5,000 for new sheets and blankets for campers beds, and**

**\$5,000 to ensure that the college trip program can continue to take place for participating high school students, many of whom will be the first in their family to go to college.**

## ***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, based in downtown Jerusalem. Crossroads offers these 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 and did not receive the respect and support that each human being deserves. 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, Crossroads helps to ensure that these teens have the tools to turn their lives around.

In the last 12 months *HOT* has given Crossroads more than \$35,000 in grants to purchase the equipment to establish (i) a therapeutic music room, (ii) a computer room and (iii) a teen game room as well as (iv) a grant to fund an additional social worker

While *HOT* normally will not make up shortages in budgets last year we paid for an additional social worker because needs had grown faster than Crossroad's ability to raise funds. This year *HOT* is paying for half of that social worker as we believe Crossroads has to start putting that social worker in their operating budget. We are also funding a much needed "hotline" for troubled teens, late at night when loneliness and desperation peak. We are asking our donors to consider designating part of their gifts for:



**\$6,000 for a GED Course for 15 teens (@ \$400 per student)**

**\$2,500 for 100 "Crossroads Cares kits" (@\$25 per kit) which include toiletries, basic hygiene items, socks and underwear)**

**\$2,500 for a Crisis Fund to be used for the cost of psychological tests required to be placed in rehab, emergency cab fare and emergency overnight hostels**

**\$1,800 for psychological and educational evaluations (10 tests @ 180 per teen)**

## ***The Poor Immigrant Children of The Southern Israel Town of Be'er Sheva***

**Be'er Sheva**, a city in the southern part of Israel, has a large population of poor immigrants. These immigrants were “graduates” of Absorption Centers that the Israeli government runs to teach the Hebrew language and Israeli culture to new immigrants (most of whom come from the FSU and Ethiopia).



The new immigrants stay in the center for six months to two years and then have to leave to make it on their own. Many are not prepared. They are given minimal funds to acquire an apartment, which can only get them a small place in a “bad neighborhood.”

Unfortunately many of these immigrants do not learn sufficient Hebrew or have enough skills to instantly become productive members of the Israeli society. While many of these immigrants move to other parts of Israel a significant number stay close to the absorption centers near Be'er Sheva. The Fund for Needy Immigrants, a grassroots almost entirely volunteer organization, was formed in 1991 to help immigrants who are still struggling to integrate into their new homeland. They supply monthly food packages to more than 140 families, computers and schoolbooks, medicines and glasses, and supplementary education to almost 600 high school students. When we met with the Fund last August, we found out that they had lost their funding for hot meals for the 100 poorest of these 600 kids. The vast majority of these kids either leave for school without breakfast and/or have no hot meal for dinner. The supplementary education keeps them into school until 4:30 in the afternoon.



We paid the \$12,000 that was needed to feed the 25 poorest kids for the 2012/2013 school-year but we were unable to feed the other 75 and when we get to the beginning of the 2013/2014 school-year we will again take \$12,000 out of undesignated funds

**But the other 75 need to be fed as well. They need to be educated or they will continue the cycle of poverty. \$ 480 (\$3 x 4 days x 40 weeks) will pay for a hot meal for a child for the school-year, \$4,800 for 10 of them and \$36,000 for all 75 of them.**

**In addition there are always extra needs for these immigrants (earlier this year we paid for blankets) and I would like to see our donors designate up to \$15,000 for HOT to help as needs arise.**

## ***Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel***



**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Israel** continually recruits and trains new volunteer mentors so that lonely children from single-parent families will be assured of a big brother or sister. Their goal is not just to create matches but to have these pairs stay together for years and BBBS provides the necessary support to do so. The kids are ages 5 to 18 and the volunteers are from 18 to 60. Lots of time is spent on making the proper match. There is a police check, orientation and supervision for the first meeting. The volunteers want help in providing social experiences with the kids. *HOT* has made grants to subsidize activities, reimburse big brothers and big sisters for out of pocket expenses, and to fill a Personal Assistance Fund that helps some of the more destitute children go to After School Enrichment Programs and a few weeks of Summer Camp.

This past year, *HOT* made more than \$29,000 of grants that included a \$12,500 challenge grant for a Pilot Program in Tel Aviv that was matched and successful as well as \$9,775 to send 17 children to camp and \$5,000 for the Personal Assistance Fund.

*Fourteen year old Daniel comes from a middle class family with a mother who is very dedicated and loving, but who has little resources to provide Daniel with enrichment activities. Daniel's father is in touch with him but is very inconsistent and is constantly disappointing him. This past summer, Daniel's mother called BBBS's social worker to ask her if there was any way to help her send Daniel to summer camp. Thanks to *HOT's* grant, Daniel was able to attend a three week summer camp that allowed him to swim every day, play sports, interact with other kids his age, and experience a wide variety of recreational activities.*

***HOT* would like its donors to designate:**

- **\$25,000 for a Personal Assistance Fund for children from very poor homes (think of fourteen year old Daniel)**
- **\$12,500 to be used as a Matching Grant to open a satellite program in Beer Sheva**
- **\$5,000 for 10 children (\$500 per child) to go to camp for 3 weeks this coming summer**
- **\$5,000 for 10 children (\$500 per child) to attend a weekly extracurricular activity for the entire school year**
- **\$2,000 per trip for 25 pairs to go on a “Fun Day” (includes a bus)**
- **\$1,000 to purchase coupons to coffeehouses, restaurants, bowling alleys etc.**

## The Elderly:

- **Helping the Frail Elderly**
  - **Jerusalem (page 29)**
  - **New York (p. 30)**
  - **Boca Raton**
    - **Helping Seniors in Many Ways (p. 31)**
    - **Senior Assistance Program (p. 32)**
- **Holocaust Survivor Programs**
  - **South Palm Beach Country, Florida (p. 33)**
  - **Israel – Northern Galilee (p. 34)**

### *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 103, 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.



Last year, *HOT* gave Alice \$10,000 in grants for the Metaplim program, the ulpan and the “Basic Needs” program).

**We would like our donors to designate up to an additional \$7,000 to the Basic Needs program so that no senior should have to choose between food, dental care, prescriptions and prosthetics.**

## *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 distribution at holiday time.



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.

*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.

This year the elders served by Project Ezra had to contend with the ravages of Hurricane Sandy and it was horrible. They became virtual prisoners in their apartments (many with limited, or no, heat). Living on upper floors with limited or no elevator service. In downtown Manhattan the Project Ezra office was not usable for a week.

**We have been asked to set up a program where we would give \$40 monthly stipends to 20 seniors who do not have enough income to buy "even the basics" (see what we are doing in Florida – page 32). We are awaiting information concerning income levels to determine whether it is appropriate to make this \$9,600 grant.**

**Since all crises are different, and need different levels of funding it is hard to know what to ask for in designated funds, so we are asking donors to help us raise a \$20,000 fund that we will be able to use to make grants for "necessities as needed." We want to be able to buy things that will help these frail elders live out their lives with dignity, and to buy them "when they are needed."**

## *Helping Seniors in Many Ways*



**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 the spirit and foster continued good health.

In the last year we have made (i) a \$15,000 challenge grant that other donors to the Volen Center met that permits the offering of quality food to financially troubled seniors at 50% of cost, (ii) funded \$48,000 (\$28,800 to TVC and \$19,200 to Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service (RRJFS)) for a pilot program for a Nurse Practitioner who spends 3 days at TVC and 2 Days at the Weissman Center at RRJFS. She spends time with the elderly who have not seen their doctors as often as they should because of either co-pay or other issues. TVC and JFS have both told us this program is saving lives and that they expect to get long term funding from another source this spring, (iii) an \$8,000 grant to TVC to cover the basic cost of a build-out of a treatment room for this program, and (iv) have continued our funding of lunch for the monthly gatherings of Holocaust survivors, and children of survivors, that is hosted at the TVC as a collaborative effort of TVC and both the Alpert Jewish Family Service and RRJFS. These gatherings, which include both cultural and educational programs, are called “Eat and Schmooze” and provide a “day out” with some of the few people left who can relate to what they have lived through. The lunches we fund for this program have been a major catalyst in the more than 30% increase in attendance.

Additionally, we expect to be making a \$14,000 grant this May (which is necessary for TVC to receive a \$56,000 U.S. Government grant) to buy 2 vans that will supply a total of approximately 8,000 rides a year to bring homebound seniors to medical appointments, dialysis, chemotherapy, grocery shopping, and other places including to TVC activities.



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

- **\$17,000 to provide health and fitness programs.**
- **\$10,000 to complete renovations for their “Wellness Institute” (see Nurse Practitioner Program above)**
- **\$5,500 to upgrade computers in the “computer lab” so that seniors can Skype with their loved ones**

## *Helping the Frail Elderly – Boca Raton*

### SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This woman is not holding a lottery ticket, but she does feel that she has won the lottery. She is one of 361 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. 361 seniors who have income of less than \$1,200 a month, 131 of whom have income under \$600 per month, and **26 of whom have income of less than \$300 a month.**



How do they live? They either live in 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, they receive only a fraction of what others receive.

How do they eat? Many get food stamps and all are clients of Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS) and receive semi monthly food packages.

Now in addition to the food in the bag there is (once a month) a \$50, \$30 and \$10 gift cards from either Target or Walmart (the store is determined by its proximity to the client's home).

Last year one of the women on this program wanted to know if she could use her gift card for peroxide, or an emery board, or a blouse, or for a new toothbrush or for aspirin and this year *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.*

This program originated when a new donor heard there were seniors with great needs living around his very affluent community. Last year he gave \$20,000 to start this program and *HOT* matched his gift out of undesignated funds. This year, when he doubled his gift, *HOT* also increased its commitment and the program is now at a run rate of \$81,000 a year. **There are other seniors in unbelievable poverty and we want to support more of them and give those that we already support additional help.**

**Listen to Elaine (her voice is on our website). She shouldn't have to pick between buying tweezers or an emery board and food.**

**WE CANNOT PERMIT HER TO HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A CHOICE.**

**These seniors NEED YOUR HELP. Whether it is \$20,000 or \$3,610 or \$361 we need to give out more gift cards. We need to give them the help and the dignity they deserve. We need designated gifts to increase this program.**

## ***Survivor Assistance Program – Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services***

Almost 2,000 of the 5,100 Holocaust survivors in Florida live at or near the poverty level. The goal of the **Ruth 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 becoming frailer 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 Council 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 \$20,000 challenge grant 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.

**We would like our donors to designate gifts 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 survivor’s 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. Please make designated gifts in multiples of \$648 or \$2,808.**

## ***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 349 “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 NECCESITIES as Galila’s meager budget permits. Additionally, twice a year (Passover and Rosh Hashanah), Galila has been distributing vouchers redeemable for food

and clothing at local stores. Each Passover and this Rosh Hashanah for the last two years *HOT* supplemented what Galila raised for this program to insure that each survivor received 360 NIS (\$97 at the Feb 22, 2013 conversion rate of 3.71 NIS to the US dollar) of vouchers. Adding these supplements to grants *HOT* gives grants to Galila for them to buy shoes and other necessities, last year we made more than \$32,000 of grants to help this group of almost forgotten Survivors.

**We are asking our donors to designate (i) all or part of another \$15,050 (Galila raises approximately 200 NIS and *HOT* adds approximately 160 NIS) so that we can fund *HOT*’s share of this coming Rosh Hashanah’s vouchers and (ii) dollars in multiples of \$3,175 (the approximate target dollars needed to fully help the average annual needs of a survivor Galila helps).**



## Compassionate Care:

- **Humans Helping Animals Help Humans in Israel (page 35)**
- **Camp Sunshine for Critically Ill Children & their Families (p. 36)**
- **Mental Health and Mental Wellness in Boynton Beach (p. 37)**
- **A Social Worker in an Israeli Hospital Who Sees it All (p. 38)**

### *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.

Last year we gave grants of more than \$11,000 to cover (i) the costs of camp for some of the kids he helps, and (ii) to partially finance one of his programs. So far this year we have made almost \$30,000 in grants predominantly to fund two Parent Child Therapy Groups to help families deal with the trauma of the

thousands of missiles unleashed by Hamas in the south of Israel in November of 2012 (see page 49).

**We could ask our donors for support of specific programs but the programs cannot exist without his “therapists,” and to keep them he needs to feed them and pay their vet bills. While traditionally *HOT* will not cover overhead, the dogs and cats are not overhead but are the key participants in the programs. He is facing the possibility of not being able to care for all of his “therapists” and we encourage our donors to designate \$10,800 to feed and pay vet care (\$1,200 for each of nine “therapists”).**

**Additionally we would like to continue the Post Traumatic Stress programs referred to above and add other programs and hope our donors will designate funds to help us continue to help these Victims of Terror.**

## ***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 so rare, 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 more than \$125,000 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. Our other grants have also been for transportation as we want to make sure that as many families as possible have an opportunity to attend the 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 \$37,500 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 Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS)** and the **Caridad Center** (formerly known as the Migrant Association of South Florida). *HOT* funded a half-time bi-lingual 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 over 505 office visits, helping 93 adults and 13 children. It has become apparent that the rapidly worsening economy 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/or put *HOT* in a position to take the strain off Caridad's budget.**

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



We have relationships with hospital social workers that work in the main hospitals in Jerusalem. Our agents, the social workers, 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 we would like our donors to designate another \$12,500 that we will segregate from *HOT's* other funds and use it for needs that arise.**

## Special Needs:

- **Special Needs Children’s Camps**
  - **Camp Kavod – Florida (page 39)**
  - **Camp Shutaf – Israel (p. 40)**
- **Best Buddies in Martin County (p. 41 top)**
- **Special Needs Training for Very Special High School Students in Martin County (p. 41 bottom)**
- **Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey (p. 42 top)**
- **Special Needs Children in Netnaya (p. 42 bottom)**

### *Camp Kavod – Florida*

**Camp Kavod** Summer Camp, Fit & Fun Sports Program and Project RIDE are all part of the Levis Jewish Community Center’s Special Needs Department that provides children and teens with special needs (ages 4-22) with a high quality and well rounded camp program during summer and holiday breaks. *HOT*’s first grant to Camp Kavod provided the initial funds to purchase digital cameras and printers to launch a middle and high school



Digital Photography program. *HOT* has continued this funding which has enabled this program to successfully continue for three years, tremendously benefiting and enhancing campers’ fine motor skills and creativity and funded a dance for middle and high school students to assist in promoting greater social and recreational opportunities; a yoga program to help these special campers “relax”; 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. Additionally, *HOT* funded a Sensitivity Training Program for over 100 teens who mentor children and teens with special needs in the Fit & Fun Sports Program and Project RIDE



(Recreation, Independence, Development and Equipment) bicycle program where children and teens with special needs receive a customized tricycle on loan until the child outgrows it. Last year *HOT* funded \$8,000 of “extras.” This year we have already given \$5,000 in grants to Camp Kavod to fund (i) a Yoga Program and (ii) an Adapted Art Program. Additionally we have given a grant of \$4,500 to buy 5 Project RIDE adapted bicycles.

**We would like our donors to designate funds adding to make camp extra special for these “special children” and further support Project Ride, and ask you to designate:**

- **\$6,000 for a program to practice social and communication skills and learning money management skills in a community settings**
- **\$2,250 for five Project RIDE adapted bicycles (\$450 each)**
- **\$2,000 for a Drama and Theater Program**
- **\$1,000 for a Teen Dance**

## ***Camp Shutaf – Israel***



**Shutaf**, which means “partner” in Hebrew, is a Jerusalem-based program for children and teens with special needs that is committed to a new kind of inclusion-based programming. 75% children with special needs and 25% typically developing children. Camper groups are of mixed ages, abilities and disabilities and come from all backgrounds. It is this inclusion that fosters a change in attitude towards the special needs population. Shutaf camps operate during Chanukah, Passover and summer vacations and

serves more than 120 teenagers and younger children. Additionally, they have an after school program that meets on Thursday afternoons. *HOT* has been a Shutaf sponsor since 2007, giving scholarships to families that could not otherwise afford sending their children to summer camp. We expanded our help to include scholarships for the Chanukah and then Passover holiday camps. Last year we gave more than \$27,000 in grants for scholarships and new programs.

**Shutaf would like to expand their programming and are asking our donors to designate gifts to help with the following programs:**

- **\$4,700 for Outdoor Adventures– monthly hiking and nature outings for 25 children involved in the after-school program**
- **\$8,800 for a year round course to help these kids develop the kind of “street smarts” that are necessary for them to safely have a degree of independence**
- **\$11,550 for a year round Young Teen Workshop to develop their social skills. The teens will learn how to plan and prepare a budget, shop for ingredients and prepare a meal (see picture at right), applying the basic math skills involved in budgeting, measuring, etc.**
- **Up to \$12,000 for scholarships for kids whose parents cannot afford to send their children to Camp 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 25 buddy pairs (50 members). **We would like our donors to designate \$6,000 to add some group activities to our \$3,000 annual commitment.**



\* \* \* \*

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



Eight 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. A total of 62 children now participate and are learning about "real life." The children open savings accounts through the program and save a portion of the money they earn that goes towards a year-end trip. Another class was added to the Dollar a Day program and we used undesignated funds of \$9,360 this year.

**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 this fall.**

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

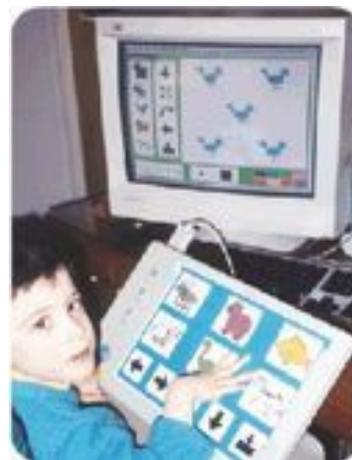
The **NJ Pediatric Patients Charitable Trust Fund** is dedicated to providing funding for the acquisition of recreational, educational, and/or adaptive equipment, home modifications and specialized services that will enrich the lives of the medically fragile / special needs children of Southern New Jersey. **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 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. Last year, we made more than \$11,000 in grants to NJPPCTF, 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***

We recently made a grant to the **Netanya Foundation** (see page 23) 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. 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. Some of the projects already funded are:



- Funding transportation for students on Spring and Winter Break work projects in New Orleans (hurricane victims) , Iowa (flood victims) as well as in poor towns in both Nicaragua and El Salvador.
- Child Abuse Prevention Program (college students through various campus ministries, working one on one with young children at-risk)
- Responding to Needs in the Ukraine (college student leaders traveled to the Ukraine to do community service)
- Community Living Renewal (college students work with the city and businesses to cleanup blighted neighborhoods)
- Leading up North (college students did short-term service projects in parts of Israel affected by the war with Hezbollah)
- Transportation and lodging for a college student to spend two months in Uganda assisting a local organization working against poverty, hunger and disease.
- Transportation and a small stipend for living for a recent graduate to spend 2 months volunteering as a physiotherapist in Jerusalem.
- Chartered a bus to take more than 40 students with HOT purchased supplies from Gainesville to New York City for “two days helping Victims of Sandy”--- clearing debris, sweeping, tearing down dry wall, tearing down decks, etc. (see pages 47 & 48 )
- We fund materials for an Annual Mitzvah Day and a Challah Hunger Program run by a group of college students

\* \* \* \*

Last year, **other than Hurricane Sandy Relief**, we gave \$11,000 in Community Service Grants.

**We would like our donors to designate \$25,000 to cover (i) the transportation and/or lodging costs of college students while traveling to help others during their breaks from school, and (ii) other projects students bring to us over the next 12 months. Supporting projects that help those in need AND teach the importance of helping others gets produces double value.**

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

- **Widowed In All But Name (page 44)**
- ***HOT* Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror & Natural Disasters (p. 44- 46)**
- **Hurricane Sandy and Eight Days of Missile Attacks in Southern Israel (p. 47 - 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 was recently formed and 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.

Last year we made more than \$11,000 in grants to fund weekly private therapy for four girls who are having a very hard time dealing with the trauma of their loss.

**We would like our donors to designate \$12,600 in multiples of \$600 (10 sessions @ \$60 per session) to pay for private therapy for 14 of the fiancées of earlier groups that are still having problems.**

\* \* \* \*

### *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 six 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 we 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. 13) 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 RRJFS (see p. 10) 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 Israeli's 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. ***HOT* has not forgotten Shlomi (see p. 19).**

**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 they 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. 20).***

**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 daily bused them 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. 20).***

**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, get 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 are continuing to help 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 bused 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 Page 49.

**In order to continue to IMMEDIATELY be there for victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters, we are asking our donors to designate \$500,000 into a fund that can be used in those first critical days.**

The last two pages have shown you what *HOT* has, over the years, done 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, has allowed it to help those in need at the beginning, when they needed the most help and there was almost no one else helping them. In October and November of 2012 we had two horrific disasters. *HOT* was immediately there. *HOT* supplied immediate help. Rather than do a special write up what we did for the *HOT News*, I think it will be more meaningful for you to see what we contemporaneously put on our website. 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 did, and when we did it, and consider helping us build up a fund to be available for the next disaster.

### *Responding to the Critical Needs of the Victims of Superstorm Sandy*

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. *HOT* has been there to help.

*HOT* has 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.

*HOT* is helping to bring electric power back to many who have lost it by providing new circuit breakers to replace damaged ones.

*HOT* has funded a bus and supplies for 48 student volunteers traveling from Florida to the New York/New Jersey area (and then back to Florida) to provide critical manpower for cleanup and rebuilding.

*HOT* has challenge grants outstanding to multiply the effectiveness of donors' dollars, maximizing their ability to help people who are lacking basic needs as a result of this horrific storm.

EVERY DOLLAR of your donation will go directly to helping the victims' current needs!



## ***Responding to the Critical Needs of the Residents of Southern Israel***

**NOVEMBER 23, 2012**

### **ASHKELON**

On Sunday, *HOT* started the week feeding 1,300 children, and by Wednesday the number went up to 3,600 (80 shelters x approximately 45 children per bomb shelter) children. Not much food. A piece of fruit and a sandwich with either a cheese spread or a chocolate spread and a bottle of water. But for some it was all they had during the day, and for others it was a necessary supplement. Imagine, these kids, mostly under 12, spent each day this week cooped up in bomb shelters. Many of these shelters had teenage volunteers disbursed from a bomb shelter that four years ago *HOT* refurbished as a Teen Center. Even if the Cease Fire holds, the schools are NOT going to be open on Thursday and *HOT* has agreed to feed any and all kids that come to the shelters. And if G-d forbid the Cease Fire is broken, *HOT* will continue to supply food to the shelters.

How could *HOT* act so quickly? Two reasons. First we have relationships on the ground and the moment needs show we evaluate them, contact our other partners (who we have vetted and have other projects with) on the ground, and determine the best way to handle the crisis. I originally thought the best way to handle this situation was to use Leket (they do our sandwich program) supply the food, but a dozen emails back and forth in the middle of our night showed that a combination of safety and easier logistics made the Ashkelon Foundation the better partner. Second, and completely necessary for rapid response, we have no bureaucracy and no committees. This allows us to **immediately help those in crisis**.

How much has this cost *HOT* so far? I don't have the exact numbers but the total, but similar to every project *HOT* does it will have ZERO overhead of the organization we partnered with. We paid for the fruit, the bread, the spreads and the bottles of water. Nothing else.

Additionally in Ashkelon, we have paid for transportation to get families out of harms 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). We will pay for the transportation to get all of these families who have spent the last few days in the middle of Israel back to their homes.

### **ASHDOD**

We have paid for 90 boys to go to Jaffa and spend day and night at the dormitory and go to school at the Jaffa Institute. As I write this the boys are spending another night (Wednesday) and depending on the stats of the truce will either go home late Thursday or on Friday morning. Why 90? That was the maximum doubling up, that the Jaffa Institute (see page 15) could hold. But they needed to feed them, needed cots, linens, etc. and that is what *HOT* paid for. No overhead.

## SDEROT

We are funding the cost of a part time “coordinator” who will work with emergency teams and residents. During this crisis she direct people into many of the city shelters including 6 that *HOT* refurbished in 2007. We are funding her for 3 months. Why so long? Because even if the missiles stop, the psychological scars are still going to be 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? There is lots of additional work to do. Lots of it. See what else we have done with Reut (the organization we are working with) in Sderot (see page 20 for more of what we are doing in Sderot).

## VARIOUS PARTS OF THE SOUTH

As soon as the roads are safe we are going to fund an Animal Therapy Program, for those who have been unable to cope with the stress of the constant bombardment (these last 8 days have 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 traumatic stress syndrome. We believe that various groups of “southerners” will get major benefit from these programs. (See page 35 to learn more about the “therapists.”) [Note – We had 2 such programs going on at the time this edition of the *HOT News* went to printer.]



***HOT* NEEDS YOUR HELP** to be financially prepared to act immediately when there are more disasters, like the ones we saw last fall. We need our donors to designate \$500,000 towards a fund that can be used in those first critical days.



Hands On  
**H.O.T.**  
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The charity where donors pay no overhead  
 and choose what their dollars are used for.



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