



# HOT NEWS

## FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

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



## ***HOT NEWS***

### **Fall 2019 / Winter 2020**

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

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

In our fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 we raised \$1,061,000 from more than 200 donors and distributed \$1,110,000.

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

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

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

*HOT* does not pay ANY of the overhead of ANY organization it partners with.

*HOT* supports sectarian and non-sectarian projects (but YOUR dollars go ONLY to where YOU tell us YOU want them to go...there is no fungibility of dollars at *HOT*).

*HOT* support projects in the United States, in Israel, one in Guatemala, one in the Former Soviet Union (FSU), and one in Kenya.

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

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

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

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

Very truly yours,



Ronald L. Gallatin  
Chairman and CEO

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(Number of Projects)**

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## Summary of *HOT*'s Programs

*HOT* currently works with 43 partners on 46 projects helping thousands of people overcome hardships.

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

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

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

### *HOT* Emergency Assistance Funds

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

We have 10 separate Financial Assistance Funds set up with 8 partner organizations. Each of our partners only submit cases that meet *HOT*'s requirements that they, at their own expense, (i) review the financial records of the applicant (ii) determine that the individual or family has enough ongoing income to cover their ongoing expenses, and (iii) verify that all other potential sources of funding for the emergency - family, governmental and NGO have been completely exhausted. **Where possible, we require our partners to match what we give to leverage our donors' dollars.**

### *HOT* Emergency Aid Funds:

- 1 - Families and Singles in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- 2 - Families and Singles in Boca Raton/Delray Beach (p. 13)
- 3 - Families, Singles and Seniors in the Northern Galilee, Israel (p. 14)
- 4 - Families, Singles and Seniors in Boynton Beach (p. 15)
- 5 - Families of Children who are Caregivers for a family member (p. 31)
- 6 - Frail Elderly in Jerusalem, Israel (p. 34)
- 7 - Seniors in New York City (p. 35)
- 8/9 - Seniors in Boca Raton (p. 37-38 and 39)
- 10 - Survivors in Northern Israel (p. 40)

### **HOT Continuing Financial Aid for Seniors**

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

- 1 - Seniors in New York City (p. 35)
- 2 - Seniors in Boca Raton (pages 37-38)
- 3 - Holocaust Survivors in Northern Israel (p. 43)

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

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

- 1 - Weekly chickens for poor families in Jerusalem, Israel (p. 7)
- 2 - Indigent families of Patrolmen stationed at the Jerusalem Barracks of the Israeli Border Patrol (p. 8)
- 3 - Weekend food for Children in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- 4 - Daily service of hot meals and distribution of food in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- 5 - Three Cent Meals in Kenya (p. 12)
- 6 - Food for families in cities and towns in Israel (p. 17)
- 7 - Feeding the hungry in Sderot, Israel (p. 18)

### **HOT Fights Poverty**

We help both individuals and families who do not have:

- 1 - Basic furniture (cribs, beds, etc.) and appliances - Indigent Families stationed at the Jerusalem Barracks of the Israeli Border Patrol (p. 8)
- 2 - Beds for Kids - primarily South Florida going national (p. 10)
- 3 - Water tanks for drinking water in Kenya (p. 12)
- 4 - Repairing Apartments and Families in Israel (p.16)

### **HOT Gives Scholarships**

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

- 1 - Giving Moms in Guatemala the opportunity to help themselves and their children (p. 11)
- 2 - Migrant Workers and other Poor in Boynton Beach (p. 15)

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

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

- 1 - Sderot, Israel (p. 18)
- 2 - Netanya, Israel (p. 24)
- 3 - Ma'alot, Israel (p. 25)
- 4 - Delray Beach (p. 26)

### **Helping People Learn the Joy of Helping Others**

We believe in using Community Service Projects to help those in need and teach the importance of community service.

- 1 - College students (p. 20)
- 2 - Post-college students (p. 21)
- 3 - Teens, tweens and younger (p. 22)

### **Helping People Help Themselves**

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

- 1 - Job Training and Mentoring in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- 2 - Mentoring former soldiers in Israel (p. 10)
- 3 - Six times what others are making in Guatemala (p. 11)

### **Tutoring**

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

- 1 - Kids in Israel (p. 17)
- 2 - Children Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 23)
- 3 - Children of immigrants in Delray Beach (p. 26)
- 4 - Underprivileged kids in Washington DC (p. 27)
- 5 - Underprivileged kids in New York City (p. 28)
- 6 - Teens in Israel (p. 30)

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

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

- 1 - Kids in Israel (p. 17)
- 2 - Delray Beach (p. 26)
- 3 - Ashkelon, Israel (p. 29)
- 4 - Jerusalem, Israel (p. 30)

### **Seniors**

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

- 1 - Padded Wheelchairs – USA (p. 34)
- 2 - Activities to keep their minds active in Boca Raton (p. 36)
- 3 - Subsidized Home Care in Boca Raton (p. 37-38)

### **Holocaust Survivors**

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

- 1 - Northern Galilee, Israel (p. 39)
- 2 - Hod HaSharon, Israel (p. 40)
- 3 - South Palm Beach County (p. 41)

### **Therapy**

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

- 1 - Homeless, abused, and/or no self-worth in Israel (p. 30)
- 2 - Throughout Israel – Animal Assisted Therapy (p. 46)
- 3 - Losing a loved one from War and/or Terror in Israel (p. 48-49)
- 4 - Healing the emotional wounds of Israeli Combat Veterans (p. 50)

### Special Needs Programs

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

- 1 - New Jersey – Equipment (p. 42)
- 2 - A special summer camp in Israel (p. 45)
- 3 - Throughout Israel – Animal Therapy (p. 46)
- 4 - Boca Raton – Camp (p. 47)

### Summer Camps

Summer is the time disadvantaged and vulnerable kids can get in the most trouble. We support a unique and critical camp programs and we give scholarships to needy kids through several of our other partners:

- 1 - Kids in Sderot, Israel (p. 18)
- 2 - Kids in Delray Beach, Florida (p. 26)
- 3 - Underprivileged Kids in DC (p. 27)
- 4 - Underprivileged Kids in New York City (p. 28)
- 5 - Throughout Israel (p. 46)

### Victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters (p. 49-58)

10 pages describe how *HOT* on a real-time basis (1) helped Israelis (mostly in the South) cope with the many years of missiles fired at them by Hamas (p. 51) and then helped other Israelis (mostly in the North) deal with the reign of terror of Hezbollah’s missiles, and (2) over the last 7 years helped those in Mississippi, Florida, Haiti, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Puerto Rico and Texas deal with horrific storms, that left death and massive destruction in their paths. Pages 53 and 54 tell the story of the summer and fall 2017 storms, and page 56 tells the story of the fall 2018 storms. These pages show that when there is a crisis, *HOT* does not merely send money; it mobilizes within hours and, working with trusted partners, orchestrates immediate help through all the missiles and through all the storms.

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

**1:** The Jaffa Institute in Jaffa/Tel Aviv has expanded from a boarding school to a food bank and a training center for Moms wanting to go back into the workforce. They have Special Needs Centers and, and, and, and... (p. 23-24). **Also, see the fence on page 24.**

**2:** Bet Elazraki in Netanya, Israel has been the home for more than 451 children who were placed by the court system because of their parents’ inability to take care of them (p. 25-26).

**3:** Camp Sunshine (pages 45-46) in Maine for children with life-threatening diseases.

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

## The Poor and The Hungry:

- **A Chicken each Week in Jerusalem (page 7)**
- **Helping Indigent Families of Patrolmen stationed at the Jerusalem Barracks of the Israeli Border Patrolmen (p. 8)**
- **Feeding the Poor, Health Clinic and Job Training in Boca Raton (p. 9)**
- **We Won't Rest Until Every Child Has a Bed (p. 10)**
- **Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala (p. 11)**
- **The Gaza-Border City of Sderot (p. 12)**
- ***Hands On Tzedakah* Emergency Assistance Programs**
  - **Boca Raton and Delray Beach (p. 13)**
  - **Northern Israel (p. 14)**
  - **Boynton Beach (p. 15)**
- **Helping Discharged IDF Soldiers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (p. 16)**
- **The Basics of All Needs in Kenya (p. 17)**
- **Volunteers Feeding the Hungry & Helping Troubled Teens in Israel (p. 18)**
- **Repairing Homes and Families in Israel (p. 19)**

### *A Chicken each Week in Jerusalem*

Six years ago, a selfless 90-year-old woman who had spent 77 years helping others died.

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



**The list of hungry malnourished families continues to grow. Over the last few years some of our donors have designated their gifts to take some families off the waiting list BUT most of those supplementary funds have been used, and we are now supplying weekly chickens to only 42 of the 80 families in need.**

***HOT* would like its donors to designate up to \$18,772 (in multiples of the \$494 it costs for chickens for one family) to get at least some of the 38 families off the waiting list.**

## ***Helping Indigent Families of Patrolmen stationed at the Jerusalem Barracks of the Israeli Border Patrol***

In 2014 *HOT* had, for almost 10 years, been supplying “basic food packages” or “gift cards to supermarkets” (with special supplements for the holidays) to 100 indigent families of patrolmen of the **Jerusalem Barracks of the Israeli Border Patrol**.



What is the Border Patrol? What do they do? They are the men and women who guard Israel’s borders and prevent terrorist infiltrations. **They are the popular “targets” for the Palestinian terrorists TO STAB, TO RUN OVER WITH CARS AND TRUCKS, AND TO SHOOT.**

In 2014, we learned from the Base Commander and the unit’s Welfare Officer that there were families of Border Patrolmen who lived in apartments where **infants slept on beds** (they did not have cribs); **two (sometimes three) children shared a bed or slept on the floor**; and/or lived in **apartments where the refrigerator or range didn’t work**. *HOT* immediately started funding the purchase, delivery, and installation of cribs, beds, and appliances for these families. **We have spent more than half a million dollars on food, appliances and furniture to help indigent families of these brave young men and women whose families would otherwise be living in deplorable poverty. We can’t allow these families to live this way while their brother, sister, husband or wife risks his or her life every minute of every day. We can’t. We just can’t!**

Readers of the Fall 2015/Winter 2016 edition of the *HOT News* read about our meeting a young patrolman 4 days after he had been knifed in the neck and heart. I confess I was, and am, unable to relay the emotions that went through our minds at his bedside. Such courage, such pride, cannot be put in words, and certainly cannot be adequately conveyed on paper. Sadly, our June 2017 visit to the Border Patrol had no such miracle. This time a young Patrolwoman was stabbed in the Old City of Jerusalem and while the medics got to her quickly, her wounds were so massive that she couldn’t be saved. An irony here is that her family was one we had helped just a few short years before.

The Border Patrol is now receiving food for the families of these brave young people from other sources, but ***HOT* is the only organization purchasing appliances and basic furnishings for these families.**

How much help will we be asked for this year? Who knows? Will the requests come from only the Jerusalem barracks or will it include other units in Israel? We don’t know, but what we do know is that **we may not have the resources to keep meeting these continuing and critical needs without donor designations**, AND if we don’t supply these basic requirements of life nobody else will. My best guess is we will need **at least \$75,000** of designated gifts to ensure that we have sufficient funding to meet the needs of all these families.

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

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



Boca Helping Hands is a volunteer-driven organization with only 16 staff members and more than 300 volunteers, whose mission is to provide food, medical and financial assistance to meet basic human needs as well as education, job training and guidance to create self-sufficiency. **Their goal is to help the neediest cross the bridge to independence.** They run a Food Center and Pantry Program, plus they supply meals to the homebound, provide job training, mentoring, and limited financial assistance. They work at

providing solutions to hunger and poverty in assisting low-income individuals, families and the elderly. In 2017 and 2018, BHH held classes training participants for jobs as Home Care Aides, Truck Drivers, IT Help Desk Technicians, and positions in the Hospitality Industry. Almost all of their “graduates” are now employed. The Food Center is open 6 days a week and in addition to serving 1,300 hot meals each week, BHH also gives out 6,000 pantry bags (some delivered directly to the homebound using coolers funded by *HOT*) each month.



Over the years, *HOT* has made major grants to enable BHH to purchase (1) a freezer, (2) a van, (3) a walk-in cooler see left, (4) a freight elevator see upper-right (5) an air conditioner for the kitchen (6) a refrigerated truck, see below (7) a forklift, (8) an electric straddle stacker, (9) a Hydraulic Scissors Dock, see below (10) computers for the job mentoring program. We have also (11) set up an Emergency Aid Fund which, similar to *HOT*'s other Financial Aid Funds, can only be used if all other sources of potential funding have been exhausted. (12) **has made numerous successful challenge**

**grants, filling backpacks with weekend food for hungry children,** (13) funded the purchase of a dental clinic x-ray machine, (14) **matched a challenge grant to resurface the cafeteria flooring,** (15) provided camp scholarships, and (16) funded job training.



**Their current wish list includes:**

- **BHH has 2019/2020 funding for 751 of the 972 children in their backpack program but needs \$65,637 in multiples of \$297.00 to fill 221 additional backpacks filled with a weekend worth of food for children who are in the federal hot lunch program. The full cost is \$9.00 per backpack or \$297.00 per child for the entire 33 weekends during the school year, but *HOT* donors only need to give half the cost as **BHH will find *HOT* a partner to pay the other half. YOUR \$148.50 will feed a child for a weekend for 33 weekends.****
- **\$6,800 to add to a \$10,000 grant from others for a Job Readiness Program**
- **\$20,000 in increments of \$1,000 for BHH to send 20 children of working parents to local summer camps**

## ***We Won't Rest Until Every Child Has A Bed***

**Improving the health and wellness of children and families literally overnight.**

Sweet Dream Makers (“SDM”) is a growing non-profit promoting and improving the health and well-being of children and families by providing beds, bedding, and essential furniture. Founded in response to an overwhelming community need to get children into a bed of their own, SDM delivers, at no cost, new beds to children and families sleeping on the floor, sharing beds, or sleeping in unsafe and/or unsanitary conditions. In addition, each child gets to choose their own bedding to go with their new bed, giving them ownership and a feeling of pride along with each good night’s rest.



From humble beginnings as a grassroots, social action program of Temple Beth El in Boca Raton, SDM has expanded to meet the needs of thousands of children and caregivers in Florida. Their signature program “A Bed of My Own”, matches each member of the household with the bed best suited to their needs. With a safe, clean and appropriate bed to sleep in each night, these families have made great strides in health and well-being outcomes, school performance, and ability to meet every day needs.

Three *HOT* grantees: JFS (page 13); Caridad (page 15); and the Caregiving Youth Project (page 31) already collaborate with SDM and as time goes on hopefully others will. To date SDM has provided 3,672 beds and that number increases daily. According to The American Association of Pediatrics, “sleep loss poses a serious risk to the physical and emotional health, academic success, and safety of our nation’s youth.” The prevalence and effects of insufficient sleep may be further magnified in high-risk adolescents.



SDM knows the power of a good night’s sleep thanks to the post-survey they administer.

- 85% have reported that their children’s quality of sleep has vastly improved
- Nearly 80% have reported better behavior, grades and homework habits

When I asked Suzanne, the founder of SDM, for a few words for this vignette, she smiled and said, “Together with our partners, we work towards the simple yet ambitious goal to improve the lives of children, one bed at a time!” After completing our due diligence which included calls to a series of people and organizations, we made our initial grant of \$11,733.50 (average price of \$234.67) for 50 new beds and bedding.

**SDM’s Wish List is very simple. They need funds to buy more beds and bedding. To encourage our donors to join the fight to make sure that SDM never has to say no to someone in need of a bed, *HOT* is offering to use undesignated funds to match the designations of our donors up to \$2,500 per donor family, up to a total of \$10,000. Think of it, every \$125 of what you give is matched and the combined \$250 will take a child off the floor and into a new bed. \$1,000 buys 8 beds and your \$2,500 will buy 20 beds.**

## *Job Training for the Poor in Guatemala*



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

**MG gives rural native women in Guatemala, a country where 75% of the indigenous population lives on under \$2 a day and 48% live on less than \$1.25 per day, the tools and skills to support themselves and their families by training them to be successful artisans and entrepreneurs. MG forms Artisan Co-ops and arranges sales to international companies such as J. Crew and Levi Strauss and the artisans receive pay based on their production. The co-ops’**

**“profits from sales” and contributions to MG are used to teach business and financial literacy, nutrition and leadership programs. The women use their increased “wages” which average \$14 per day (seven times what 75% of the indigenous population lives on) to buy shoes, books, school supplies, and nutritious food for their children.**

Over the last 14 years *HOT* has made more than 50 grants including (i) paying instructors to teach the women different skill sets in ceramics, sewing and weaving (ii) funding loan programs where the women borrow money to purchase sewing machines and repay their loans with part of the incremental income they receive from the increased production from the machine. **Most of these loans have been fully repaid and re-loaned, further leveraging our donor’s gifts,** (iii) paying for the ground transportation and supplies for a Case Western Reserve Medical Team that taught the Artisan Communities the importance of nutrition, sanitary procedures, clean drinking water, and the basics of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century medicine, and (iv) Emergency Assistance Program used for dire, one-time personal crises.



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

**MG’s current wish list includes:**

- **\$2,900 for a Pilot Program to bring all the Presidents of each co-op together monthly**
- **\$4,000 scholarships for 8 women (\$500 per woman) towards advanced degrees at local universities**
- **\$14,276 for equipment and training for artisans to participate in a large new order requiring use of the ikat dyeing technique**

## *The Gaza-Border City of Sderot*



Sderot is a city (24,000 residents) on the Israeli border with Gaza, within easy range of every rocket, mortar and missile fired by Hamas – more than 20,000 since 2001. Much of Sderot’s industry and many of its wealthier citizens have moved to “safer” parts of Israel. **Our work in Sderot includes Youth at Risk, the Poor and the Hungry, the Elderly and Victims of War and Terror.**

*HOT* has been working for many years with **Reut Sderot**, an organization that helps the young, families, and the elderly. *HOT* and its donors have paid for renovating bomb shelters so they could also be used for after-school programs. We have paid for food for the hungry (30% of the residents are clients of the social welfare office). We have paid for summer day camp for kids whose parents work and otherwise would be left at home or on the streets. Over the years we have (i) created and expanded programs in their Daycare Center for At-Risk Children, Early Childhood Daycare Center, and Community Center, furnished multiple facilities, and (ii) annually have given camp scholarships to ensure that Reut’s camp program (which is subsidized by the City) includes as many children as possible. Since 2006, *HOT* has made more than 100 separate grants to Reut.

Prior to the Summer of 2014 War, *HOT* made grants for children to go to summer camp, for equipment for daycare centers and sun-protective tents that were placed over play areas where kids participate in special afterschool programs and **partnered with another organization to purchase three industrial size freezers for Reut.** We paid for a coordinator for Reut’s Emergency Response Team and for part of the renovation of an existing building that Reut uses as an Education Center for learning-disabled children. But then came the summer. **Thousands of rockets aimed at, or over, Sderot.** When their flame was spotted on ignition the sirens started and gave the residents only **14 seconds to make it to a bomb shelter.** *HOT* was there, on the phone almost every day, making almost \$100,000 (see page 57) in grants to equip shelters and pay for food, games for kids, fire extinguishers, respite day and overnight trips, texting plans, animal assisted therapy, first aid training, reinforce gates and doors to buildings where Reut takes care of young children, and more. In the last 3 years, we’ve made \$267,000 in grants for food coupons, camp scholarships, reducing the horror of HAMAS missiles for the children, and more. **Missiles were still flying at, and over, Sderot when this edition of the *HOT News* went to the printer.**



### **Current Wish List:**

- **\$17,434 Equipment for three Early Childhood Day Care Centers**
- **\$28,248 Vouchers for food and clothing for the poorest and most needy families**
- **\$42,372 Emergency Fund for next “reign of terror”**

## ***HOT* Emergency Assistance Programs in Boca Raton and Delray Beach**

Many individuals and families have trouble paying for their most basic needs. **The Financial Assistance Coordinator at Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS) comes to *HOT* with their 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 so that JFS can buy hearing-aids to improve quality of life; pay for dental work necessary to prevent daily pain; pay an electric bill that needs immediate payment before **the lights go out**, has funded rent, mortgage payments, utility bills, child-care, medications, car repairs, clothing and school supplies. *HOT* has helped the young, the elderly, the infirmed, and those with debilitating diseases.



Michael needed a new wheelchair lift for his van. After years of replacing parts and making repairs on his 20-year old lift, he was in desperate need of a new one. The *HOT*/JFS Emergency Financial Assistance Program paid \$3,000 for the new wheelchair lift. Since receiving his new wheelchair lift, he has had major improvement in his mobility and quality of life.

Charles and John are brothers who live together in Delray Beach. Charles is developmentally disabled, and John has serious health issues. Their sole income is Social Security Disability which just covers their living expenses. When their air conditioning unit stopped working, they called their Church to find out if it could help them replace it. The church couldn't fund all that was needed and told them to reach out to JFS. Charles and John made an appointment for the next day. The *HOT*/JFS Emergency Financial Assistance Program added to what the church gave and paid for a new A/C unit.

From January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, ***HOT* made grants of \$16,723 to JFS that have been matched by JFS from other sources, permitting \$33,446 of emergency grants that has been used to fund specific cases. *HOT*'s share of what was needed to meet the emergencies of families and individuals in need has been as little as \$347 and as much as \$2,500. There are more people with emergency needs than there is money to help them. We need to have sufficient funding for our half of all the emergency needs that people come to JFS seeking. We would like to see our donors designate up to \$30,000 for this fund. Your gift will fund one-time emergency needs that you would fund in a second, if you only knew about them. *HOT* and JFS will be your eyes and your ears, and your designated gift to *HOT* will be matched by JFS and will be life altering.**



## *Northern Israel*

**What do all of the following people have in common?**

- A family with 3 special-needs kids who wet their beds and needed a washer and dryer
- A woman that left her abusive husband who needed beds for her 3 children
- A 70-year-old dialysis patient needing an electric bed
- A woman with a sick husband who needed vocational training in order to be the provider for her 5 children
- A 9-month-old baby girl with cancer needing to travel to a hospital for chemo
- A Holocaust survivor living with her special-needs son needing a washing machine
- A divorcee (was a battered wife) with 2 children needing beds for their new apartment
- A young boy needing transportation to get to specialized treatments for his cancer

They are among the **101 families (including 52 Holocaust Survivors – see page 40) that live in northern Israel that in 2018 received assistance from the Galila Emergency Assistance Trust (GEAT) that assists families and individuals in distress by providing one-time grants in order to help in moments of crisis and distress.** The fund's volunteer committee reviews the requests that come from municipal social workers who focus on cases where a one-time grant can help a person get back on their feet. The fund mainly helps children from families in distress, single moms and the elderly. **The funds are transferred to the entity or provider handling the case to ensure the grant is used for its intended purpose.** The people we help are residents of the towns of Shlomi, Akko, Nahariya, Karmiel, Tzfat, Ma'alot and northern Galilee Kibbutzim and Moshavim.



Life in the northern Galilee is particularly hard because of the memory and fear of Hezbollah attacks. Many individuals living in this area of Israel are employed, but barely earn a living. Employment opportunities are few, salary levels are low, and many parents are unable to assist their children with ANY needed extra expenditure.



Similar to *HOT's* other Emergency Funds, grants are only made if **all other sources of funding have been exhausted.** Galila culls the list approved by the committee and sends it to *HOT* for final review and approval. **Since the needs of the families in this part of Israel go far beyond what *HOT* can allocate out of its undesignated funds, *HOT* needs \$28,249 in designated gifts in order to approve additional requests where often a few hundred dollars can change the lives of an individual or a family.** The

**list gets longer and longer and these people need OUR help.**

## *Boynton Beach*

The mission of the **Caridad Center** is to upgrade the health, education and living standards of the children and families of agricultural workers, day laborers and the working poor. *HOT* helps Caridad's clients by providing emergency assistance and scholarships. We have stopped evictions and utility shut downs, and paid for food, chemotherapy and other extraordinary medical assistance. Similar to all of *HOT*'s emergency assistance programs, we only fund when all other sources have been exhausted. **In the last 18 months, we helped 26 families: 22 that would have been evicted or had their utilities shut down and 4 whose children received scholarships to be the first in their family to go to college.**



*A family of four lost their home and most belongings after it was ravished by hurricane Irma. FEMA did not cover the expense to make their home whole again from the damage. A relative was able to provide temporary shelter for six months. Caridad negotiated with a builder to do all the work for free, and HOT funded the materials at "builder's cost" to initiate the rebuilding process. Currently, they are back to living on their own, with just a few small parts of the house left to complete.*



*An elderly lady desperately called with an immediate need for a place to live. During the assessment it became clear that she was also in need of food. She was forced to immediately leave the house she was living in. She had to live in her car during the coldest temperature recorded in West Palm Beach history. **HOT provided Caridad Center half of the \$553.04 needed for immediate shelter.** She was promptly placed in safe housing. In addition, Caridad helped with food, clothing, and linkage to a Senior Services Center and continues to reach out to her to supply needed services.*



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

Caridad's wish list continues to be funds for **Scholarships** and Emergency Assistance for families including grocery store food cards. We would like our donors to designate all or part of their contributions to this program with the goal of our raising an extra **\$35,000**: **\$17,500** of which would be used for scholarships and **\$17,500** that would let us respond to Caridad's continually growing need for Emergency Aid.

## *Helping Discharged IDF Soldiers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds*

Every year, approximately 1,200 soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds are discharged from the IDF only to return to their “high-risk” environments, and have difficulties transitioning back to civilian life.



Many do not have a home to return to or family upon whom they can rely. They return to the social, emotional and financial challenges of their old lives. **Amit LaDerech (“A Friend Alongside”)** helps these former soldiers at a critical juncture in their lives.

A Friend Alongside integrates these former soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds into civilian life by strengthening their personal skills and abilities which helps them become contributing members of society. A Friend Alongside helps these former soldiers attain stable employment, higher education, confidence and self-realization by mentoring them, guiding them, and helping them with seminars and scholarships.

*HOT* made its first grant in June 2017 to finance the training of 15 additional mentors to guide the former soldiers. There is no cookie cutter way to successfully mentor former soldiers with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Each mentor is taught to recognize the uniqueness of the former soldier’s needs and are in touch with their mentees on a daily basis to help them gain the tools to integrate into civilian life.



Last year, A Friend Alongside determined that it would be more effective to work with the soldiers after their discharge if A Friend Alongside started mentoring them before going into the army and created a six-month Pre-Induction Program.

***HOT* would like to assist A Friend Alongside in their efforts. Please consider:**

- **\$6,215 for a Financial Aid Fund**
- **\$8,475 or any part for “soft landing kits” which include the basics of civilian life**
- **\$14,005 to match a grant they have for a program coordinator for the new Pre-Induction Program**
- **\$14,124 to increase the hours of a part time Alumni Manager who does follow up and assistance for all graduates of the program**

## *The Basics of All Basics in Kenya*



Africa? Not the easiest place to find a trusted partner, but we are excited that we have found **Matanya's Hope ("MH")**, a non-profit dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in Kenya. MH offers educational sponsorships for children in need and assists by donating items critical to their survival.

The US staff of MH is made up primarily of volunteers. Its Board is truly committed with each of its members sponsoring at least one child in school.

More than just helping to improve lives, **designations to MH can literally save lives.**

In parts of Kenya people trek for miles to collect water. During the droughts, water is extremely scarce. And at other times, the water is collected from dirty, disease-infested rivers. MH is working to change this situation. *HOT* has made 24 grants to MH to purchase 10,000-liter rainwater storage tanks (see picture of a tank on lower right of this page), each one configured to fit specific homes\*, orphanages, or schools it is to serve.

\*The homes are not houses – they are shacks made of dung and ash with tin sheeting, possibly some wood, and rarely stone.

**Incredible as it may seem, 3.3 cents (yes, 3.3 cents) a day can provide a hot meal for school children who otherwise would not have one. *HOT* has previously made challenge grants that have been met and resulted in thousands of additional children getting a hot bowl of porridge every school day.**

**We are asking our donors to consider designating gifts to help MH continue to improve and save lives in Kenya. MH needs:**

- **\$1,500** for a “Porridge Program” to feed 250 hungry children a hot meal every school day for a year – **YES THAT IS 3.3 CENTS PER CHILD, PER DAY!**
- **\$12,000** to provide food for 20 deeply impoverished university students at **\$600** (\$50 per month) **per student**
- **\$15,000** for ten 10,000-liter rainwater tanks in high risk areas **@ \$1,500 each**



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



**Shachen Tov** – in English, **Good Neighbor Association (GNA)** – was started 21 years ago next July by a group of students at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It feeds almost 1,000 families every week and performs other social service functions ranging from tutoring and running a textbook library for children, to friendly visiting for lonely elders. Three things make this organization unique: First, is that it has no employees. **It is run 100% by volunteers.** Second, is that while it was started by college students and continues to be predominantly a college student organization, many of its volunteers have finished college but still continue to volunteer. And third, it recognizes that while the elderly and the disabled must be helped for life, families that include one or more healthy parent should not receive continuous aid, and are told up front that they will be getting food for a maximum of one year.

In Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and 5 other cities in Israel, GNA is feeding the unemployed and the underemployed who, without their help, would go to sleep with empty stomachs. Additionally, GNA has taken volunteering to a new level by helping indigent people to develop self-confidence by encouraging them to give the only thing they have to offer – “time” to help others.

In addition to grants for food, *HOT* made a \$16,600 grant for furnishings and one year of program expenses for GNA to establish a multi-room destination in Jerusalem where troubled teens come in to talk out their problems in a relaxed “Coffee Shop” type setting with either social workers (paid by the City) or with GNA volunteers not much older than themselves. This project was so successful that they opened a second youth club and *HOT* made a \$7,150 grant to help them with their first year of operations and both of these programs continue to run successfully run with GNA finding other funding after the initial year of operation.



**We have increased our grant for food to 20,000 shekels a month (a rate of \$67,797 a year) through December 31, 2019 but that still leaves a shortage of approximately \$77,000 that GNA needs to raise to continue to feed the 2,600 people it currently feeds.**

**GNA has the volunteer manpower to distribute enough food to supply 250 additional family units with the supplemental food it needs to ensure parents, children, singles (including the elderly and infirm) have sufficient nutritional meals for a year.**

**They have ZERO overhead, dedicated volunteers and buy food at discounted prices.**

**GNA’s wish is to feed more people. On average \$793. How much does *HOT* want you to designate to GNA? As much as you can in multiples of \$793.**

## *Repairing Homes and Families in Israel*

The non-profit organization **Tenufa Bakehila (RHF)** works with Israel's neediest families providing urgent home repair to dilapidated homes and supplying professional guidance to overcome personal and family challenges. These struggling families are often in a spiraling path of emotional, medical, and financial deterioration. RHF's mission is to help repair the home and simultaneously assist with the family's struggles, empowering them to live happier.

RHF has a full-time staff of plumbers, electricians, painters, handymen, etc. This staff, and their relationships with suppliers, permits them to make the necessary renovations to make apartments in unimaginable condition habitable at a fraction of the cost that would be charged by outside contractors. Additionally, they have a social worker on staff who works with the family, or individual, whose apartment is being renovated.



A single mother of 3 young children has been a client of the welfare department for several years and unable to keep up with monthly bills. Her apartment was in horrible condition, with crumbling and peeling plaster, dangerous electrical sockets, broken doors in the shower and the bathroom, and a clogged drainage system. In addition, her kitchen cabinets and the countertop were deteriorating due to a leak in the walls. Now the apartment is safe, and with the RHF social worker's help, the mother is working on her other problems.

RHF assists approximately 380 families a year but gets annual requests for hundreds more.

### **RHF's wish list includes:**

- **\$16,820 in multiples of \$1,682 to buy the supplies to do an average repair**
- **\$30,988 for a second social worker to ensure each family they work with gets the attention they need**
- **\$33,804 for 3 small used work vehicles @ \$11,268 per car to replace cars constantly breaking down**



## Community Service Projects

- **The *HOT* Student Community Service Program (p. 20)**
- **Community Service Program in the FSU (p. 21)**
- **Using Change to Change the World (p. 22)**

The *HOT* Student Community Service Program gives college students the opportunity to use their initiative to design and implement community service projects. *HOT* provides the “start-up” money for the projects and in some cases continual financing to match “sweat equity.”

Additionally, we have funded more than \$125,000 of “Alternative Breaks” where college students at the Hillel chapters at the University of Florida (Gainesville) and at universities in Broward and Palm Beach counties spent their winter or spring breaks doing manual labor repairing blight caused by natural disasters or sheer poverty. We have partially funded trips to (i) El Salvador- poverty, (ii) Mexico – poverty, (iii) Nicaragua – poverty, (iv) New Orleans (several times) – hurricane victims, (v) Brooklyn, NY – poverty, (vi) Iowa – flood victims, (vii) Ukraine – poverty, and (viii) Guatemala – poverty. We chartered a bus to take 44 students (Jewish and non-Jewish) with supplies we purchased, from Gainesville to New York City for “two days helping Victims of Sandy” – clearing debris, sweeping, tearing down dry wall, tearing down decks, etc. Additionally, we subsidized two college students’ summer trips, one working as a volunteer physiotherapist in a Jerusalem hospital and the other spending two months working with a local organization working against poverty, hunger and disease in Uganda. We have also funded a Child Abuse Prevention Program (college students through various campus ministries, working one on one with young children at-risk), and a Community Living Renewal (college students cleaning up blighted neighborhoods). **Our goal is that these experiences, in addition to serving the community today, will result in the students becoming caring and philanthropic members of society. I am typing in blue because it is without doubt the most leveraged of our programs. Not only do the needy get help, but also the ongoing lesson to the young adults doing the work produces young adults experiencing what it is like to help others. Now that is leverage.**



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

- **\$25,000 to subsidize the costs of sending 50 - 60 students on “Alternative Break” programs, foregoing their vacation time to help others**
- **\$15,000 for other projects students bring to us during the next 6 months**

## *Community Service in the FSU*

*HOT* has always looked to partner with organizations that encourage community service. We think of this as the ultimate leverage – teaching people the importance of helping others while simultaneously giving help to the needy.

Two years ago, we found the right partner to work with in the former Soviet Union (FSU). *HOT* committed to a 3-year project that encourages scores of young people to understand the importance of helping those less fortunate. We are piggybacking on work done over the last 25 years in the FSU by our new partner, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).



For the past 17 years, JDC has successfully run a program (“Metsuda”) in the FSU training young people to give back to their communities. *HOT*'s 3-year grant is primarily used to fund 2 part-time coordinators, one located in Rostov-on-Don and the other in Krasnodar. The



coordinators are working with 76 graduates of the JDC program to identify local unmet community needs, to create work plans, activities, action groups, seminars and other events. Participants in the *HOT*/JDC program now drive to other parts of the country to give classes or seminars on their particular skill set. One of the participants travels to give a monthly Health and Wellness Seminar to teens. Another, a Sports Medicine physician travels to work with seniors. The program is all that *HOT* thought it would be with volunteers helping both

special-needs and at-risk children, and the elderly. And it is restoring traditions that had been lost during years of living under governments that did not encourage such practices. It is reversing years of isolation and making the population, young and old, realize they are not alone.

While *HOT*'s basic funding is to encourage volunteerism, several projects require programming costs and make up a wish list of:

- **\$4,538** for food, medicine, and other necessities for 18 seniors @ \$21 a month
- **\$5,540** for 1,385 hours of homecare (bathing, cooking, cleaning) @ \$4 an hour

## *Using Change to Change the World*

World of Change (“WOC”) is a new nonprofit with dual missions of helping the needy, while using change (YES, the Currency) to lower barriers and make giving accessible so that every child and adult can experience the joy and fulfillment inherent in helping others.

It’s such a simple concept that in only 2 years it has participation from tens of thousands of children at 52 schools and camps in 7 states. Their plan is to harness even a small portion of the \$10,000,000,000 (YES, 10 Billion Dollars) in loose change sitting idle in households across the US - empowering kids and communities to dream of and create wide-scale change.

**Last year *HOT* offered to match \$2,970 in change collected for WOC’s Housing Partner - Furniture Friends - toward the purchase of 30 beds for kids sleeping on floors, resulting in the purchase of 30 more beds. *HOT* also matched \$3,595 in change to renovate a bedroom at Beit Elazraki (see page 25-26) resulting in the renovation of a second bedroom.**



When WOC conceived the idea of teens using WOC coin jars and classroom change kits as tools through which to engage peers, friends, family members, and others *HOT* offered a grant of up to \$10,000 as a “Mitzvah Challenge”. We have already made a \$7,939.54 grant to match pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters of spare change with the combined \$15,879.08 helping a varied group of beneficiaries vetted by WOC.

**More recently**, *HOT* agreed to sponsor WOC’s new “Change Maker Award”, to be presented annually to that young change maker, among a group of many, who best exemplifies leadership that empowers and inspires other youth (and adults alike) to take action. This award provides the winner the opportunity to designate a \$2,500 grant from the over 100 Wish List items in the *HOT News*. The first winner chose Peace of Mind (see Page 52)

**WOC has donors who cover 100% of all WOC’s expenses, resulting in 100% of all change funding the programs offered by WOC’s nonprofit partners, in primarily six focus areas – Education, Food, Health, Housing, Animals & Nature, and Play (interactive, developmental, and recreational) encourages donors to pick which specific group of people they want to help, and uses what’s given to it for exactly what donors want it to be used for. Sound familiar?**

***HOT* met the founder of WOC while he was the CEO of Camp Sunshine (see pages 45-46) and when he left it was clear that wherever he went he would use his creative genius to help others in some new way. Well, he decided to copy *HOT*’s formula, attack a \$10B market, and create a new generation of people who care. We would like our donors to take a portion of what they give to *HOT* and designate it to a fund so we can keep challenging Matt and his donors of change, to keep collecting change, to make change.**

## Youth at Risk:

- **Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty - Jaffa/South Tel Aviv (p. 23-24)**
- **A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help (p. 25-26)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids in Washington, DC (p. 27)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids In New York City (p. 28)**
- **Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance (p. 29)**
- **A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress (p. 30)**
- **Children Who Are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 31)**
- **Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach (p. 32)**
- **Teaching Leadership to Teens in Ashkelon, Israel (p. 33)**

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



The **Jaffa Institute (TJI)** was created to serve those children who grow up in the worst Israeli neighborhoods, particularly in South Tel Aviv and Jaffa. Approximately 50% of their target population live 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.

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





We are very impressed with TJI's long-time Executive Director David Portowicz and his staff, and we are very comfortable supporting a wide array of TJI's programs. Over the last five years, we have made over \$300,000 in grants to purchase computers (including \$30,000 where we met an expiring challenge grant and \$25,000 for use in a course teaching work skills to unemployed single Moms), an industrial oven, playground equipment, speech therapy for special needs children, an equine therapy program, furniture and equipment needed for an

after-school program for disadvantaged teenage girls who are at risk of "dropping out," help for Holocaust survivors as well as grants for a portable chair lift, and incremental therapy for their programs where the participants get a hot meal, both one-on-one and group therapy, academic support in Hebrew, English, Mathematics, and other core subjects, and purchased a pallet truck, storage unit and refrigerators.

During the 2014 Gaza War, *HOT* gave TJI \$46,500 towards recalling their teachers and other key personnel to reopen their dormitories to 230 children from Ashdod and other towns in the south. The children had a balance of enrichment classes and camp like activities in the comparative safety of Tel Aviv.

TJI's very lengthy wish list for Youth at Risk includes:

- \$11,184 for 12 fully loaded computers @ \$932 per computer
- \$11,300 for replacement of lighting at 3 program sites
- \$19,960 for equine therapy for 40 students diagnosed with PTSD, ADD, and other disorders @ \$499 per student
- \$22,600 for Jump Start Program for At-Risk Youth in the summer between middle School and high school (20 students at \$1,130 per student)

For Seniors:

- \$8,900 for 50 Wifi Equipped Tablets and 1-year connectivity (for 50 seniors including Holocaust survivors) @ \$178 each

Unfortunately, half of our \$50,000 June 30, 2016 fiscal year grants to TJI had to be used to fortify and increase the height of the perimeter fence around their Bet Shemesh school. How wonderful it would have been to have made this grant for one or more of the items that have carried forward on TJI's wish list, but the Palestinian terrorist who killed an innocent Israeli, a block away, in October of 2015, did not permit that. Look at the picture to the right... for sure it looks more like an Army base then a school. This is the reality Israelis have to deal with every day.



## *A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help*



The 244 youngest children who currently live at Beit Elazraki (“BE”) are part of an **extended family of 544 children** who have been orphaned or came from troubled backgrounds where their parents may have been incarcerated or have drug or other serious issues. Some of the children were beaten, abandoned and/or molested. Incredibly, almost all of their parents were treated in a similar manner by their parents. What a horrible legacy: 544 children who came to Beit Elazraki broken.

Yehuda Kohn has found a way for each of the children to feel part of a family. Each child is given the love and respect necessary for them to grow to be happy productive adults. Yes, the bedrooms look like dorm rooms and the dining room looks like a boarding school or camp, but the smiles of inner contentment that we saw showed us that these kids were getting a chance to grow up as normally as possible. There are birthday parties, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and weddings. **Weddings?** Yes, weddings. At 18 most Israeli’s go into the army, but on many weekends, they go home. When they have 2 weeks leave they go home. What home? The home they grew up in. The only home that many of these children have ever known is BEIT ELAZRAKI. And after the army when the other soldiers go home, where are the soldiers that didn’t grow up with their parents and siblings supposed to go? **And when it is time to make life’s decisions and there are no parents to guide them? Yehuda and his staff are there for them.**



While the Israeli government gives Yehuda funding for food and lodging and some other basic necessities, they only give that for the care of the under 18-year-olds. A family of over 500 where there is only basic funding for 244 and no funding for almost 300 more??

Sadly, there cannot be total normalcy because these children are not being brought up by their parents and living at home with their siblings – but the love and attention they get from the incredible staff is preparing them to grow to adulthood, have successful relationships, and finally break the cycle of personal horrors that they had with their parents, and many of their parents had with their parents. The staff is there to help ALL 544 members of the family. **Generous donors have purchased nearby buildings so there is at least short-term housing for the older members of the family who are either in the IDF or in National Service.** What a waste it would be to have invested 10 or 15 years guiding the young ones through adolescence and not be there to guide them through those last steps to adulthood. There are so many things that need to be done to ensure that the children of Beit Elazraki escape the cycle of horror that was to have been their destiny.



Over the years, we have made more than \$500,000 in grants to BE. Among other things, we have: (i) converted and renovated a storage room for parent/child therapy, (ii) added on a room for intake therapy, (iii) purchased numerous computers and iPads, (iv) replaced air conditioners, (v) bought Chanukah gifts, (vi) funded Anxiety Therapy Programs, (vii) bought miscellaneous gardening tools,

(viii) paid for repairs, (ix) had a special app written that permits real-time entries that create a profile for each student, track behavioral and academic progress, that keeps track of each child's progress, (x) paid for regular and animal assisted therapy, (xi) paid for tutoring (the kids come to BE "broken" and it shows in their schoolwork), (xii) bought cameras for a photography program, (xiii) paid for a family therapy program (sadly, most of these kids have parents who had their children taken away from them by the court), (xiv) paid for a marketing video to help them raise additional money, (xv) **made a matching grant for an animal assisted therapy program (see page 48)**, (xvi) renovated rec-rooms, and paid for sneakers, birthday presents, outings, (xvii) driving lessons, (xviii) a new sound system, (xix) team building and much more – helping Yehuda and his staff give these kids a chance to grow up and be happy. And NOT continue the cycle their families have followed for at least one generation before them.

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

- **\$3,530 for 5 refrigerators (@ \$706 each) for children's recreation rooms**
- **\$5,500 for social expense spending @ \$275 for 20 graduates either in the IDF or doing National Service**
- **\$5,931 for therapy after the army, before getting married, and before having children for 3 graduates @ \$1,977 per graduate (there are 6 but BE already has a designated contribution for the first three)**
- **\$6,070 for 10 new computers @ \$607 each**
- **\$10,169 to renovate each one of 9 bedrooms all of which include a bed, desk, chair, small closet and a shared bathroom**
- **\$12,672 for a 65-inch TV screen and a cabinet with games for each of 4 bomb shelters @ \$3,168 per shelter**
- **\$16,384 replacing cabinets (\$3,672) and table and chairs (\$12,712) in a 10-year-old dining room**
- **\$18,080 for one year of orthodontic treatment for 8 children @ \$2,260 per child**
- **\$27,701 for additional tutoring (Needs are much greater)**
- **\$41,551 for additional therapy (Needs are much greater)**

**The Israeli government gives Yehuda enough money to feed, clothe and give some basics for these kids. It is for YOU to decide what "extras" (like camp, basketball or tutoring) they get and whether those "extras" are really "extras" or the "basic needs" to give them a chance.**

## *Helping Underprivileged Kids in Washington, DC*

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



Seven years later, Just Imagine not only provides scholarships to sleep away camp, it prepares children for college by giving them access to SAT preparation, college tours, and workshops on the college application process and life skills. Just Imagine negotiated more than \$400,000 of in-kind scholarship donations from 17 different sleepaway camps for the summer of **2018**,



which, together with **\$20,000 of funding from HOT and \$20,000 from others** provided **85 children** with the opportunity to attend sleep-away camps up and down the East Coast.

Just Imagine relies on donations—both in-kind and monetary-- to cover the cost of transportation (car rentals, airfare, and gasoline) to and from camp and college tours, partial camp tuition costs, and camp supplies (sneakers, athletic clothing, sleeping bags, and toiletries). **Three years ago, JI expanded its year-round programming to require participation in community service projects, and offered workshops on the college admission process, and field trips to expose their students to careers and areas of study they may not have known about or had access.** They have taken students on a series of college tours in the DC/Virginia/Maryland area, and traveled to North Carolina, Atlanta, and Louisiana. This year, for the first time, JI graduates are going to college. Of the eight graduates, six will be attending a four-year college/university and two will attend community college. One was valedictorian of his high school, one was a recipient of the Gates Scholarship, and five are first in their family to go to college.

**JI's wish list for school year 2019-2020 and summer 2020:**

- **\$6,000** for SAT prep courses
- **\$9,000** for additional college tours (including transportation and housing)
- **\$10,000** for summer 2020 camp fees, clothing and transportation



## *Helping Underprivileged Kids in New York City*



Since 2000, **Camp Fiver**, in New York, has been a lifeline for kids growing up in the inner city. Working year-round with a group of motivated educators and college students who inspire and care for the children, Fiver has helped and/or is continuing to help more than 1,400 children by making a 10-year commitment to their “campers” who start in the program when they are 8 years old.

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

Through the years *HOT* has funded (i) programs to support college visits for rising sophomores and juniors, (ii) public speaking instructors, (iii) a platform tent, (iv) buses and incremental camp expenses to get as many parents as possible to the Annual Parent Retreat (which keeps the parents engaged and involved in the program and allows them to experience the magic of Camp Fiver the way their kids do), (v) a new \$30,000 cabin where Camp Fiver’s other donors met a \$15,000 *HOT* Challenge Grant, (vi) a \$10,000 *HOT* Challenge Grant to repair a dock injured in a storm that was met 6 times over, (vii) LED lights that had a 2-year payback in saved electricity costs, (viii) purchased office equipment necessary to keep the Camp running efficiently, (ix) electrical wiring and conduits for seven cabins, (x) a new phone system, (xi) new beds and (xii) **matched another donor’s gift to buy a critically needed pick-up truck**, and (xiii) replaced an ice machine used for the entire camp of 400+ kids and 70+ staff. **As campers go to college rather than join gangs, it is clear that Fiver is succeeding in their mission to lead their kids out of what could otherwise be a never-ending cycle of poverty, drugs and crime.**



*HOT* would like its donors to designate all or part of the following:

- **\$5,000** to renovate the staff lounge
- **\$24,000** to resurface three driveways badly needing repair (**@ \$8,000** each)
- **\$25,000** for a boating dock and changing rooms
- **\$30,000** for a walk-in freezer and a building to house it

### ***Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance***

**The Netanya Foundation (TNF)** raises money for projects that the city of Netanya is unable to fund or is only able to partially fund. We have found them to be a wonderful partner. Depending upon 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, aged 6-10 years. The children who come to this club are high-risk from severely dysfunctional families and are primarily olim (immigrants to Israel) from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union. The children are referred to the clubs by social workers. The *moadonit* substitutes for the weaknesses of the children’s real homes. The children are given individual attention, help with their homework, enrichment activities, and a hot meal that is often their only meal of the day.

Over the last five years we have made grants of almost \$200,000 to (i) renovate and equip a room in a Community Center used for adults in the morning, young children after school, and teens at night, (ii) modify an old classroom into a specialized “Math Unit” that made an entire classroom a “Mathematics Learning Center,” to buy (iii) computers, (iv) projectors, and (v) outside games (and paid to grade and renovate the backyard) of the Moadonit discussed above (vi) furnishings and equipment for a room used by parents and children where the courts do not allow unsupervised visits of a parent and child, (vii) **twice matched a TNF grant to supply a hot meal to 30 underprivileged children, who spend four days a week from 12:45 – 4:00, in a “Learning Center,”** (viii) an industrial kitchen in a community center serving “kids” from 4 to 94, and (ix) **leveraged an \$18,300 grant six-fold by agreeing to be the last dollars** to make a large project for a music room (in an afternoon center for very poor Ethiopian teens) plus equipment, teaching and other operating expenses for 2 years, (x) the purchase of furniture and equipment for a classroom for high-risk kids so they can get the special attention they need (the city agreed to fund the teachers if *HOT* furnished the room), (xi) a ceiling crane to move disabled children within their classroom, (xii) funded a small Hebrew tutoring class for Ethiopians who had trouble learning Hebrew making it impossible for them to assimilate into Israeli society, (xiii) **buy specialized equipment for a robotics lab in a high school (see picture above)** (xiv) a/c unit and furniture for a school library, (xv) computers for a school with predominantly Ethiopian students (xv) book bags and school supplies for children of families on welfare, and much much more.



**TNF’s current, all-levered, wish-list includes:**

- **\$4,178 music lessons for special needs children**
- **\$8,757 to support a choir of mostly Ethiopian children (aged 6-16)**
- **\$14,124 for tutoring, enrichment, and guidance for children at risk from the Ethiopian community**
- **\$21,406 to furnish a Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Center**

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



**Crossroads Jerusalem (“Crossroads”)** is the sole intervention program in Jerusalem that focuses on at-risk English-speaking teens. The teens are often homeless, struggling with addictions and have been the unfortunate recipients of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. In many cases, they are estranged from their parents and/or come from broken homes. These teens are exposed to high-risk behaviors, violence and further abuse on the streets. Crossroads’ skilled social workers go out into the streets at night to find teens in need and bring them to the safety of the Crossroads Drop-in Center. Through crisis intervention, individual therapy, group therapy, educational assistance and intervention, Crossroads provides teens with hope, and direction to help them lead healthier and more productive lives. In 2018, Crossroads met 1,203 teens on “the street” and had 5,190 visits to its Center and currently have 118 teens in weekly therapy where they learn about themselves, to deal with their problems, develop trust, and “chill out.”

As Crossroads has grown *HOT* has made grants to purchase the equipment to establish (i) a much needed “hotline” for troubled teens late at night when loneliness and desperation peak, (ii) a therapeutic music room, (iii) a computer room, and (iv) a teen game room. We have also funded (v) an additional full-time social worker and (vi) a part-time social worker to establish a Midnight Café (9-11 PM on Thursday nights), and (vii)



financed the expansion of an innovative Intern to Learn program for kids on the verge of dropping out of school. The internship serves as the transition to either full employment or back to school, and (viii) last year we funded a successful Pilot Program to help teens in need find Crossroads through the Internet. Imagine the troubled teen going to his/her regular sites and contacting a helping hand rather than a predator. We don’t have room in this vignette to tell all the stories of the teens already “saved” by this program.

Crossroads has continued to grow and done it with with fiscal discipline.

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

- **\$5,372 for one half of the cost (Crossroads has committed to raise the other half) for 30 teens to take a 10-month course starting this Fall to enhance their testing skills and pay the fee for them to take, the GED (High School Equivalency Diploma) Exam**
- **\$7,400 to establish a CrossRoads Expressive Arts Theatrical Experience (CREATE) program to promote self-discovery, emotional health, healing and wellness**
- **\$17,500 for a homework program teaching self-discipline and self-confidence as well as subject-specific tutoring**

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

Can you imagine a sixth grader coming home from school and having to immediately take care of a family member? Not being able to go outside with his or her friends or study, but coming home to be a “primary caregiver?”

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



The **Caregiving Youth Project (CYP)** identifies and supports this hidden population of children who sacrifice their education, health, well-being, and childhood to provide care for ill, injured, elderly or disabled family members. During the past 13 years, the CYP has served more than 1,600 youth caregivers and their families. It currently provides 580 caregiving students with in-school therapeutic support groups, out of school educational and recreational (respite) activities, family evaluation home visits, and most importantly, the opportunity for youth caregivers **to learn they are not alone** by connecting them with other kids dealing with the same issues. **From 2015 to 2018, 97.7% of the 221 high school seniors that CYP worked with graduated high school, versus under 80% of high school seniors with the same ethnic diversity as the caregivers CYP works with. In 2019, 100% of the CYP high school seniors became graduates.**



*HOT* has made many grants to CYP to: (i) purchase computers and monitors for kids to complete schoolwork, research medical information, pay bills, and secure employment, (ii) provide blocks of respite time, (iii) buy laptops for the staff to enter data while in the field, (iv) purchase equipment for the CYP office, and (v) **set up a fund to handle emergencies of caregivers and their families.** Similar to all of *HOT's*

Emergency Financial Aid Funds, we do not permit this fund to be used unless all other potential sources of funds have been exhausted and we believe the need for aid is a one-time problem. **Sadly, it is almost axiomatic that a family that cannot afford non-family caregivers cannot fund financial emergencies. In the last two and a half years, we helped 54 families with problems they might not have ever recovered from.**

This year CYP is asking for:

- **\$7,200** for 18 laptops with Office @ **\$400 per laptop**
- **\$7,500** to replenish the HOT Emergency Assistance Fund
- **\$10,800** for 40 blocks of six-hours of tutoring @ **\$270 per six-hour block**
- **\$14,400** for 200 four-hour blocks of respite care @ **\$72 per four-hour block**

## ***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 underemployed. **The kids start school and more than 30% of them are “left back” during their first five years in school.**

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

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

Also, while less than 50% of the local population will graduate high school, this year 100% of the seniors in MC's Teen Program graduated and are going to either a college or a trade school this fall.



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

MC's current needs are:

- **\$8,000** for college counseling workshops and college tours (including transportation, accommodations, and food)
- **\$9,000** to replace security fencing enclosing the tween and teen centers
- **\$10,000** for a Financial Aid Fund to be administered similar to other *HOT* funds
- **\$19,500** to hire a Certified Reading Interventionalist to work with the most academically challenged elementary aged students
- **\$20,250** to provide daily nutritious meals and beverages to 75 middle school and high school students for Fall 2020 semester

## *Teaching Leadership to Teens in Ashkelon*

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



Through the years, we have funded several youth-at-risk projects in Ashkelon (**the city of Ashkelon found us a partner for many of them**), and when Hamas started launching missiles at Ashkelon in the summer of 2014, we immediately called Sigal (our contact in the city) to see how *HOT* could help. Over the following 7 weeks we spoke to each other as many as 3 times a day and often emailed more than 10 times a day. During the War, the food *HOT* bought to feed the up to 4,000 children a day, and the toys and supplies we bought to entertain the very young children, were taken to the public shelters by the teens, who disbursed them from the TLC shelter. The teens acted as surrogate parents playing with the young children and doing whatever they could do to keep them from focusing on the sirens and explosions. See page 57 to see what else *HOT* did during the war.

In October 2014 there was another chapter in this incredible story. *HOT* visited the TLC after the war and met eight of the teens. We asked them “weren’t you afraid of the sirens and missiles.” And they answered: YES - during the first day they were BUT starting on the second day they didn’t have time to be scared because it was their “job” to make sure the younger kids were calm. It took a moment to process these words coming from a 17-year-old, speaking for a group of 14 to 17-year-olds, and when we processed these words, **we told them that the people who called them the FUTURE of Israel were WRONG because they were the PRESENT of Israel.** It may have been their older brothers and sisters and in some cases fathers or mothers that fought in Gaza, or were stationed on the border, but these teens fought the war too. **Since 2014, Hamas has dug more tunnels, rearmed itself with new missiles, and the residents of Ashkelon go to sleep each night not knowing what the next day will bring.**



**This year, the city of Ashkelon is asking for:**

- **\$7,218 remaining cost for a camp program for 350 “at-risk” teens**
- **\$14,040 to renovate an underground bomb shelter to teach self-respect and leadership qualities to at-risk teens. The total cost is \$27,618 but Ashkelon has raised \$13,851 and needs only \$13,767 to be able to complete the renovation**
- **\$14,124 remaining cost for a work program for 100 “at-risk” teens**

## The Elderly:

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

### *Helping the Frail Elderly – Jerusalem*

In 1989, the privately owned, formerly posh, 520 room **Diplomat Hotel** in Jerusalem was appropriated by the Absorption Ministry for Soviet immigrants. It quickly became “a five-star slum” and, today, it is categorized as “sheltered housing.” 10 of its residents are in their 90s (one is 100) and 2/3 are over 75 including 50 frail elderly who cannot go out alone to shop or go to the doctor.



A dedicated volunteer named Alice started and runs 2 programs: one 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.

Through the years *HOT* has given more than \$200,000 in grants to support programs at the Diplomat. The hotel is on the property that the new US Embassy is supposed to be built on. It is only a matter of time before the Diplomat is demolished and its residents dispersed. The residents are scared, and their age has made their needs greater. Add the fact that another organization that had for years split with *HOT* some of the funding of Alice’s programs, but no longer does, and the need for our funding has become even greater.

***HOT* does not want to walk away from these people at the time of their greatest needs and is asking our donors to give any portion of \$25,000 we need to augment (1) the Transportation and Basic Needs Programs so that no senior should have to choose between food, dental care, prescriptions and a prosthetic and (2) homecare assistance.**

## *Helping the Frail Elderly - New York*

### PROJECT EZRA

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



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

In addition to financing Emergency Needs, *HOT* also funds a program which now provides \$30 monthly stipends to 34 seniors who do not have enough income to buy "even the basics" (this program is similar to what we are doing in Florida – pages 37 and 38).

We are asking our donors to designate:

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

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

### DIGNITY AND COMFORTABLE MOBILITY



The mission of the **Rose Art Foundation – Living with Dignity (LWD)** is to improve the “quality of life” for the non-ambulatory by supplying specially built wheelchairs that look like a recliner chair on wheels.

They supply padded wheelchairs to immobile patients who suffer from debilitating diseases, dementia, paralysis, stroke, or in some cases age-related infirmities who may be bound to wheelchairs or bedridden for the rest of their lives.

Providing care for frail and infirmed seniors who are not ambulatory is extremely challenging. Spending almost the entire day in either a bed or a conventional wheel chair is both sad and depressing.

In 5 years LWD has bought and delivered 682 chairs to nursing homes throughout the USA (in Florida, New York, California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and Washington DC) and to 3 Nurse Visiting Services for those aging in place. These chairs make it easier for aides and caregivers, for which there always seems to be a shortage, to get their patients into a comfortable position. The chair lets them be more comfortable when sitting for meals, physical therapy, napping or attending activities, and while spending quality time with their loved ones. The chair reduces their suffering and the humiliation of struggling to “transfer” from bed to wheelchair, wheelchair to chair, back to wheelchair, and back to bed. Not only do these chairs allow for patient comfort and time-saving for staff, they allow the elderly to function with dignity.

LWD has no staff, rent, or overhead, and all the funds they receive are used to purchase recliners. Buying in bulk, LWD pays only \$375 per chair versus the over \$900 retail price.

We have made more than \$80,000 in grants (**mostly challenge grants**) to LWD in the last 5 years **which was enough to buy 223 chairs but because most of our grants were Challenge Grants, we are responsible for improving the quality of life of more than 313 seniors.**

***HOT* wants to encourage its donors to help buy 100 more chairs so it will match from its undesignated funds, any designated gifts up to a maximum of \$1,875 per donor up to an aggregate of \$18,750. That means any donor who designates \$187.50 to this program will be responsible for a major change in the quality of life of a senior. **\$969 retail, only \$187.50 through *HOT* – more than 5-to-1 leverage AND the knowledge you have helped a senior be more comfortable and retain his/her dignity.****

## *Helping the Frail Elderly – Boca Raton*

### ONGOING SENIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The woman to the right was not sorting the spare change in her purse. She was counting every penny to determine which of the basic necessities of life she can buy, and which ones she would have to live without, that month. **She had to decide between soap and detergent to wash her clothes or a lotion to soothe her eczema. She couldn't afford them all.** She is one of 261 seniors who now receive a gift card from *HOT* to help pay for the basic necessities of life. She is part of a group of seniors who live in Palm Beach County who have almost no disposable income, are over 65, and have outlived whatever money they had. 251 seniors have income between \$614 and \$1,348 a month; 8 have income between \$307 and \$613 a month; and two have income below \$307 a month.



How do they live? They either live in HUD Section 8 housing or in condos bought as many as 45 years ago that have very low maintenance. Many of these seniors have no income other than Social Security and because many of them did not have large incomes in their, or their spouses' earning years, they receive only a fraction of what others receive.

How do they eat? Many get food stamps and all are clients of Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Service (JFS) who receive semi-monthly food packages. Now for 260 of these seniors, in addition to the food, there are, once a quarter, \$60 (\$240 a year) of gift cards from either Target or Wal-Mart (the store is determined by its proximity to the client's home) in the food package, 10 get \$40 of gift cards every month (\$480 a year). And two get a \$60 gift card every month (\$720 a year).

What do they use the cards for?



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

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

**Mrs. L** called to tell us how excited she was 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 money to buy enough shampoo** and when she ran out, she used a bar of soap.

### **Subsidized Homecare**

Early in 2014 *HOT* started a new program piggybacking on what was then a new JFS Program which provides for subsidized homecare for frail seniors. When *HOT* reviewed the new JFS program, it applauded JFS for this much-needed help to frail seniors – but was concerned that even with the JFS subsidy, there would still be seniors who could not afford even the small co-pays. So, *HOT* added a further subsidy which reduces the rate to \$1 per hour for the poorest of the seniors. In the last 12 months, these subsidies permitted 4 hours a week of homecare for 11 indigent seniors. ***HOT* would like its donors to designate up to \$10,400 in multiples of \$208 to help support this program.**



### **Emergency Financial Assistance Program**



Joseph lives alone in a rented room. He has profound hearing loss due to an untreated ear infection. His insurance would only cover a small part of the cost for hearing aids. *HOT* partnered with JFS to make it possible for Joseph to get his hearing aids and to enjoy life to the fullest.

Similar to the Financial Assistance Fund we created for those under 65 (see p. 13) here, too, *HOT* partners with JFS and in 2018, *HOT* and JFS partnered in \$25,916 of grants to 12 needy seniors whose many needs included hearing aids, dental care, wheelchair repair, air conditioners, and rent. As with all of *HOT*'s emergency assistance programs, we help only when all other sources have been exhausted.

### **Funding These Programs**

**We never know at the beginning of the year what the requirements will be to fund the needs of our seniors. As life expectancies increase and savings deplete, more of them require help and their needs become greater. We need to continue to help them and ask our donors to designate up to \$100,000 SO WE NEVER HAVE TO SAY NO.**

## *Helping the Frail Elderly – Boca Raton*

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

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

Through the years, *HOT* has made multiple grants to TVC, including (i) **three challenge grants that other donors to the Volen Center met that permitted the offering of quality food to financially troubled seniors at 50% of cost**, (ii) a successful pilot program using



Nurse Practitioners, (iii) a grant to TVC to cover the basic cost of a build-out of a treatment room for this program, (iv) **a challenge grant that was met by the Volen Board which when combined met the terms of a Federal 9-1 grant to purchase 4 vans, creating 19-1 leverage on *HOT's* grant**, (v) computers, (vi) a grant to meet the shortage from “sequestering” that would have otherwise resulted in seniors being hungry, (vii) funding 25 Life Enrichment Memberships for residents of both the Gould and Weinberg Houses, (viii) subsidizing the expansion of TVC’s computer literacy program, (ix) funding of lunch for the monthly gatherings of Holocaust survivors, and children of survivors, that was hosted at the TVC as a collaborative effort of TVC and both the Alpert Jewish Family Service and JFS, and (x) **the last dollars needed to**

**pay for a breakfast program for seniors who come to TVC without having had breakfast.** We have also approved 64 grants totaling \$22,625.60 from a fund we set up at TVC to pay one time “emergency aid” (rent, electric, etc.) to seniors. Think of it, at an average grant of \$354.37 (\$235.68) when we count spouses) we changed the lives of 96 people who had varied problems ranging from getting their water and electricity turned back on, to a payment to a landlord to avoid eviction, to paying emergency medical expenses and prescriptions. As in all of our emergency aid funds, nothing can be paid unless all other possibilities of aid have been exhausted.

We would like our donors to consider:

- **\$1,800** in multiples of \$60 for 30 Life Enrichment scholarships
- **\$3,000** to continue computer literacy program (see picture at right)
- **\$4,000** for exercise & nutrition program
- **\$4,002** to purchase 6 iPads (**@ \$667 per iPad**) for the Adult Daycare Center
- **\$10,000** to match a grant from another donor to provide breakfast meals for low income seniors



## *Survivor Assistance Program- Israel Northern Galilee*

**Galila** (also on page 14) is a grassroots organization formed for the 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 498 Holocaust and Ghetto Survivors. Galila gives the 294 poorest Survivors 350 shekels (approximately \$102) of vouchers semi-annually redeemable for food and clothing. *HOT* funds 115 of the 294 vouchers.



Most of the survivors came from the FSU, live on meager pensions and meager supplementary subsidies from government agencies. Galila attempts to make their final years more bearable by sending in people to help in their apartments,

distributing as much clothing, shoes, heaters, fans, glasses, hearing aids, and other day-to-day NECESSITIES as its budget permits. Additionally, Galila administers an Emergency Financial Aid Fund (see Page 14) that it uses to help the entire 498 survivors from all over Europe (including the 204 who don't receive the "subsidy.")

*HOT* has funded (i) emergency financial aid, (ii) semiannual distribution of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing, (iii) the purchase of clothes, shoes, and other necessities for these survivors, and (iv) has also funded repairs to apartments (many in four-story walk-ups) where some of these survivors live in conditions that are deplorable for people who suffered for the "crime" of being Jewish. Many of these survivors arrived from the FSU in the '90s, and are elderly, still have language barriers, and still don't have the proper skillsets to enable them to be a part of the Israeli workforce.

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

- (1) **\$11,200** to cover additional repairs of 20 decrepit apartments that exceed the \$2,233 maximum per apartment expenditure permitted by a grant from another donor
- (2) **\$11,695** to fund the next semi-annual distribution of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing
- (3) **\$14,124** to be used to purchase appliances for needy survivors



## *Survivors in Hod HaSharon, Israel*



**CLICK** (Community Leadership and Innovation Centers for the Elderly) in Hod Hasharon operates five Day Centers for Independent Seniors, a Day Center for Disabled Elders, a Virtual Technology Center for the Homebound, a Social Support Center, a Vocational Center, a Multidisciplinary Community Leisure Center, and two days a week it operates a **Day Center for Holocaust Survivors**. CLICK offers computer classes and social activities each of these days. On one of the days it offers lectures, and on the other day a community theatre. 44 survivors and their spouses attend these activities that are held in a coffee shop type setting. In some cases, this is the only opportunity for the survivors to be with their friends and others who share the horrible memories of their past suffering forever embedded within.

The average age of the survivors is almost 88, and traveling to the community center has become increasingly difficult for them over the years. *HOT* has funded the cost of a mini-bus to provide roundtrip door-to-door service, twice a week from the survivors' homes to the community center. Not surprisingly many of the survivors suffer from hearing and visual impairment and are unable to totally enjoy the lectures, watch movies and participate in the celebrations, so *HOT* purchased new equipment to enhance the sound and sight level of these activities.

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

While not predominantly for Survivors, we have partially funded a program that virtually broadcasts a range of CLICK's programs via the web to the homebound. Classes broadcasted include: meditation, music appreciation, group therapy, lectures and more all via the elder's television set. We have also funded many other grants to CLICK over the years and one of the most successful was hiring a social worker who implemented and runs a new virtual therapy group.



### **CLICK'S wish list includes:**

- **\$4,650 stipend for 10 Holocaust Survivors in the Vocational Center @ \$465 per Survivor**
- **\$9,403 (or any part of it) for transportation to the Holocaust Center twice a week for 50 survivors**

## ***Survivor Assistance Program – South Palm Beach County, Florida***

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



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

*HOT* funds the emergency needs of survivors that are not being met by anyone else. The Claims Conference (a conduit of the German government that makes grants to agencies like JFS) limits emergency need funding to \$2,500 per year no matter how serious the need is. JFS has limited funds to meet these needs. **We cannot stand by and permit people who lived through such horrors be unable to eat because of lack of dentures or be unable to hear for lack of a hearing aid. They cannot be asked to “wait until next year.”**

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

### **JFS Needs:**

- **\$24,000 will permit us to fund emergency needs as they occur**
- **\$38,480 for personal aides for 10 survivors @ \$18.50 an hour for 4 hours a week (\$3,848 per survivor per year)**

## Special Needs and Compassionate Care:

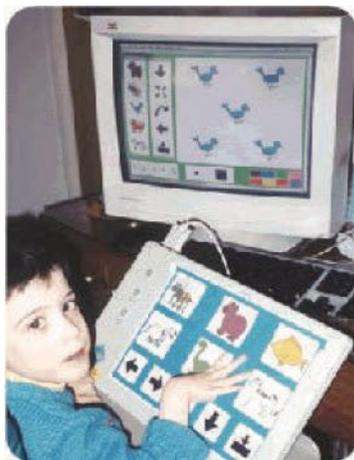
- **Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey (page 43)**
- **My Piece of the Puzzle – Israel (p. 44)**
- **Camp Sunshine for Children with Life-Threatening Illnesses and Their Families (p. 45-46)**
- **Camp Kavod – Florida (p. 47)**
- **Humans Helping Animals Help Humans in Israel (p. 48)**

### *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 75 children by providing swing sets, treadmills, baby monitoring systems, iPads and special computers. The children's disabilities



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



gifts bring to these children. Over the last five years we have made more than \$50,000 in grants to NJPPCTF from undesignated funds. *HOT* would like to help even more children and families in need and is asking donors to designate gifts of \$12,000 in multiples of \$1,200 so we can help at least 10 extra children next year.

## *My Piece of the Puzzle – Israel*

**My Piece of the Puzzle (MPOP)** was initially formed to run a free summer overnight camp in Israel using underprivileged “teens-at-risk” as junior counselors for “children with special-needs.” And expanded to work with all of the campers and junior counselors during the school year via regular meetings and activities.

MPOP believes that every child deserves the chance to feel successful and loved. The “special-needs children” span the autistic spectrum, some have Down syndrome, others have Fragile X syndrome. The goal is the same with each of the two populations, and that is to prepare them to function successfully in today’s society, while having fun.

The program is run by a carefully selected staff of volunteers, offers a wide range of activities such as swimming, zip lining, ropes course, sports, camping, and workshops in art, music, drama, cooking and dancing.



**Using “teens-at-risk” as junior counselors for “special-needs children” is another example of how *HOT* and its partners use leverage in their programs. The special-needs population always has staff on hand to help them. The “teens-at-risk” learn responsibility and the pleasure of helping the “special-needs children.” A true Win-Win!**

In July 2019, MPOP had 50 children (25 special-needs and 25 teens-at-risk) at camp. MPOP is currently running twice a month programs in 8 cities in Israel (16 schools). These programs pair off approximately 160 students from special-needs schools with approximately 80 students from at-risk schools. They hope to have half of these children in camp next summer.

This unique program with the “teens-at-risk” being empowered to move forward with their lives and hopefully escape what could otherwise be an endless cycle of poverty. In fact, if all goes as planned, some will come back as volunteer full counselors and be the staff that will make the further expansion of the programs possible. As for the “special-needs children,” their interaction with the “teens-at-risk” is also helping them move forward. They are still limited by whatever disability they have, many are learning that they can be part of a group that goes beyond other “special-needs children.” As for those that do not get the full benefit of the program they will, at least, have had a wonderful, fun experience.

**MPOP’s wish list includes:**

- **\$1,385 for Special Entertainment Programs at this summer’s camp**
- **\$11,080 to fund the cash requirements (much of the costs of camp are donated in kind) for the last 20 kids for camp @ \$554 per child**
- **\$16,950 overnight trip (meals, guiding, entrance fees, transportation, lodging etc. for 80 children and 40 staff)**

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



**Camp Sunshine** in Maine is a retreat for children with **life-threatening illnesses** and their families. It runs year-round and provides recreation and group support and focuses on alleviating the strain a critical illness takes not only on the ill child, but on other members of the immediate family. There are **no fees to attend** the camp, but the families must provide their own transportation. Because the camp's family focus is unique, families have traveled from all 50 states and 27 countries since the program was founded in 1984. Providing access to families is critical to making sure they can benefit from this opportunity. Over the years we have made grants of \$218,000 to Camp Sunshine including **a successful \$20,000 challenge grant that resulted in the purchase of two**

**new vans to transport families to Camp Sunshine from the local airports; to local hospitals from Camp Sunshine; and to treatment for medical emergencies that arise while families are attending the program.** Over the years we have made grants responding to a myriad of important requests, but the bulk of our grants have been for transportation, as we want to make sure that as many families as possible have an opportunity to attend these incredible sessions.



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

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



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

other parents in similar situations...”

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

No family should be deprived of Camp Sunshine because they cannot afford the cost of travel. We must significantly increase our grants for transportation costs for needy families and want our donors to designate \$60,000 in multiples of **\$1,500** (the typical round trip for a family of four). The help we give Camp Sunshine is why HOT exists. Look at the child in the picture to the right. He is having fun. But, when the week at camp ends, he and his family will go back to the reality of dealing with his illness.



Camp Sunshine’s Wish list includes:

- \$1,000 for recumbent bicycle in the family fitness room
- \$2,000 for one handicap accessible shower
- \$4,000 for two swimsuit water extractors in locker room for safety @ \$2,000 each
- \$75,000 for Transportation (in multiples of \$1,500)

**No suffering child or their family should ever not be able to go to Camp Sunshine because they can’t afford to get to camp. NEVER EVER.**

## *Camp Kavod – Florida*

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



“HeART” for supplies and equipment, and in partnership with the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County has



made grants to fund more than \$50,000 (\$100,000 with the match) for camp scholarships for families in great need. This funding ensured that no camper would be turned away from summer camp due to a family’s inability to pay camp fees. *HOT* has provided funding for a Saturday night “Parent’s Night Out” respite program for 4 hours, once per month, where children attended a structured recreational program as parents receive a well needed break from everyday responsibilities. *HOT* also provided matching funds for Camp Kavod to purchase a communication system (walkie-talkies) that enables staff to communicate more effectively with one another, within

a very large campus setting, and most recently made a \$5,000 challenge grant to start a shadow bank (see below) which was matched more than 4 times over.

CK’s current wish list includes:

- **\$1,000** for sports equipment for an Obstacle Course
- **\$2,500** for 5 iPads for a new Technology Lab
- **\$2,500** to charter a bus for a weekend with several stops including a theme park and other fun stuff
- **\$6,000** for Shadows that will permit less-developed children to participate in programs where their needs would be too great to otherwise allow participation
- **\$8,000** for scholarships for special needs children whose parents cannot afford to send them to Camp Kavod; 10 two-week sessions @ \$800 per session.



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

Avshalom Beni started a program that we call “Humans Helping Animals Help Humans” (HHAHH) where animals help humans deal with problems they are having trouble coping with. The human and the animal therapists work with parents and teachers and social workers. Together they help children whose families have been torn apart by traumatic divorce and separation, and/or who may be suffering life threatening bullying in schools and/or who may suffer from PTSD or untreated AD(H)D or have siblings with schizophrenia, severe autism, cancer and other chronic developmental disorders. Through their special AAI (Animal Assisted Intervention) programs, these children and their families find and receive the love and support they so desperately need.

In the past *HOT* has funded (i) the costs of camp for some of the kids he helps; (ii) food for the animals and veterinary care, (iii) a critical Parent Child Therapy Group that helped families in the south deal with the trauma of the thousands of missiles unleashed by Hamas in the south of Israel in November of 2012. In the aftermath of the 2014 Hamas War, we funded (iv) two PTSD programs in the south. **We have funded (v) a Challenge Grant that was matched for a program helping parents and children dealing with cancer, (vi) a program helping parents and siblings of autistic children, (vii) a Challenge Grant that Avshalom found another donor to meet for a special needs program for children age 3-5 in Be'er Sheva,** and (viii) an innovative program mixing bullies and the children they bully.

During the 2014 Gaza War, children in the south (young and old) were screaming as they heard siren after siren and explosion after explosion. Avshalom, who thinks more of the well-being of who he helps than his own safety, drove to Ashkelon with a helper and a bunch of dogs and cats (his “therapists”) and did not leave until a bunch of kids were smiling and laughing. In 2019 the war is still NOT over for many of the children who lived through all the shelling. **The four legged “therapist” in the picture to the left died more than 3 years ago, but not before he made this frightened (from the shrill of sirens) little girl feel protected.** We have other pictures, but this picture best explains Avshalom’s work.



Since there can be no programs without these **animal “co-therapists,”** many of our donors have made designations to help feed them and pay their vet bills.

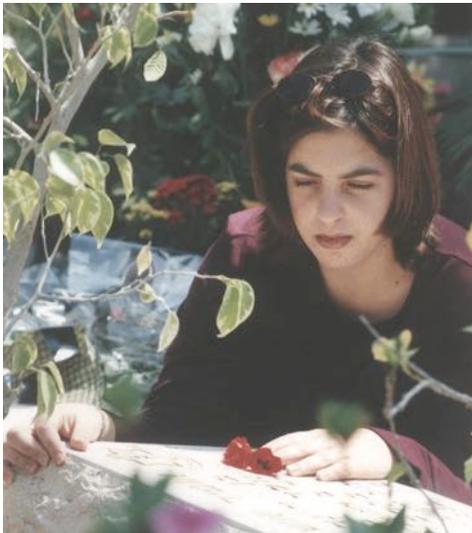
**We would like our donors to consider supporting all or part of additional programs Avshalom would like to start or continue that will help parents and kids through the terrible pain of traumatic divorce, PTSD, cancer, autism and sadistic bullying. While writing this vignette *HOT* wired funding for another Bullying Program. Each program currently costs \$9,508. Which program do you think is most important?**

As the animals get older, similar to humans their medical bills grow. Avshalom’s estimate is that he will need \$15,240 to cover increased recurring, and extraordinary, medical expenses of his co-therapists.

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

- **Widowed In All But Name (pages 49-50)**
- **Gaza War (p. 51)**
- **Peace of Mind for Combat Veterans (p. 52)**
- **2017 Hurricanes – Harvey, Irma and Maria (pages 53-54)**
- **Disaster Strikes Haiti AGAIN (p. 55)**
- **2018 Hurricanes (p. 56)**
- **2014 Israel Emergency Campaign (p. 57)**
- **HOT Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror & Natural Disasters – Prior Years (p. 58)**

### *Widowed In All But Name*



In 1997, a 22-year-old young woman's fiancée, while serving in the Israel Defense Force, was killed in action in Lebanon, 4 months before they were to be married. Her mother and her sister found a way to help her cope and rebuild her life by forming the **Organization for the Emotional Support of Fiancées of Fallen Soldiers of the Israel Defense Force** (“**Widowed in All But Name**”). At that time, “Group 1,” a group of 10 fiancées whose loved ones were killed in action, began to meet for two hours per week with a professional therapist trained in bereavement. The group counseling lasted for approximately one year.

Sadly, Widowed in All But Name has had to form 29 support groups. Almost 300 young Israelis who suffered the loss of their fiancés, some just weeks before what was supposed to be the happiest day of their lives. And when the one year of group therapy ended, many of the girls needed – and, in some cases, are still getting – private therapy.

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

were reservists who were supporting their fiancées) and a small social component deemed necessary by the therapists, is not eligible for any reimbursement.

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

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



**In early September, as the Fall 2019/Winter 2020 edition of the *HOT News* was going through final edits, there were anti-tank weapons shot from Lebanon, missiles fired from Gaza, and terrorism against Israeli civilians. The enemies of Israel have made it clear that their goal is for more fiancées to not go the chuppah with their fiancés. If you feel as we do about the importance of the mission of helping young people whose lives have been devastated by the loss of someone they thought would be a life partner, please consider designating part of your contribution to *HOT* to Widowed in All But Name and we will keep it in a fund to be used if Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, Hezbollah, Iran, Syria, or anyone else makes it necessary.**

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

## *The Gaza War*



In June 2014, 62 rockets... missiles... were fired from Gaza into Israel. In the first week of July, another 170 were fired into Israel. By the time a “lasting” cease-fire had been reached late in the summer, approximately 3,900 rockets had been fired against Israeli towns and their residents.

**Throughout Hamas’ relentless attacks, *HOT* and its partners jointly determined what needed to be IMMEDIATELY done, we triaged, we prioritized. Working without any red tape, we were able to IMMEDIATELY wire the needed funding to allow our partners to IMMEDIATELY purchase what was critically needed for the many victims of the war.**

Throughout the *HOT News* you have seen many instances where we worked with our Israeli partners to assist during the war. For example, in Sderot (see page 12), with continuous attacks being launched from literally “right next door” (Sderot is 8 miles from Gaza City, and less than 1 mile from the border with Gaza), running for shelter in 14 seconds many times a day was the alternative to living in the shelters. We helped to equip the shelters with food and ensured that children being terrorized by these attacks would have “normal,” fun activities while taking shelter.

While helping our partners in Ashkelon (see p. 33), 8 miles from the Gaza border, *HOT* donors were part of the most critical work we have ever done. **By paying to rewire over 100 shelters to bring them operational, we insured that many who would have otherwise been taking cover in stairwells during attacks could be protected in a reinforced shelter. This protected lives!**



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

These are just a few of the examples of the things we were able to do with \$517,000 sent by *HOT*’s donors to specifically address the many needs that arose during the war. The full list is far more extensive. Many of you received my Sunday night emails during the war that gave incremental updates on the work we were doing. On page 57, we summarized all the grants we made during the war.

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

## *Peace of Mind for Combat Veterans*

Every year, thousands of released Israeli combat soldiers face the difficult transition back into civilian life. Despite the well-known image of the resilient Israeli soldier, long-term effects of veterans' exposure to stress from combat are well documented. Veterans can suffer from a myriad of psychological difficulties such as difficulties in relationships, aggressiveness, sleep disturbances, substance abuse, depression and regret.



**Peace of Mind (POM)**, a program of “Metiv: The Israel Psychodrama Center,” is an intervention that, as one veteran put it, “helped me get rid of the heavy burden of questions that I have been dragging around since my service. I now have a feeling of release from this heavy weight, and I can now invest my energies in the various tasks of daily life.” Participants typically do not show pathological symptoms of post-traumatic stress yet are sorely in need of a place and time to process their combat experiences in a facilitated group

setting, allowing them to constructively confront what has been weighing them down and to live full and productive lives. Nearly two-thirds of participants have shown significant post-traumatic growth following their participation in the program. POM’s experience has shown that at 21 years of age most veterans are not ready to deal with some of the horrors they lived through and for many a full 10 years of civilian life (while still in the reserves) is necessary before they are ready to face their demons. Last year, HOT financed the therapy for such a group and how I wish there was sufficient room on this page to share with you the “personal hell” many of these veterans are still living through.

For some that are ready to deal with their issues in under 5 years after discharge there is a shorter program. Unfortunately, there are 286 (26 groups of 10-12) veterans who are on a waiting list to get this much needed help. The programs, two of which *HOT* has financed, are led by two therapists includes 20 hours of intense counseling during which participants learn about common reactions to extreme combat experiences, reflect on how they entered the battlefield, and usually for the first time discuss how they left the battlefield. All share his story with the group, which constitutes a particularly intense and emotional part of the intervention. Towards the end of this workshop the therapists lead discussions focusing on broader issues such as family and romantic relationships, career choices, and about how post-military civilian lives are impacted from combat experiences. A concluding one-day workshop is held three weeks later during which the workshop therapists help participants process insights and remaining questions from the first workshop and its implications and assess if any additional therapeutic needs are present. The therapists guide group discussions focusing on how new insights and lessons from the workshops can be used to deal with future challenges.

**HOT just made a \$8,452 grant to take one group of 12 off the waiting list and to provide for follow up one on one therapy that is typically needed by some in the group. We encourage our donors to designate gifts to take additional veterans off the waiting list.**

## *2017 Hurricanes – Harvey, Irma and Maria*

Harvey, Irma and Maria sound like peaceful enough names but they created havoc wherever they hit land. Keeping on top of 40 projects and coordinating relief efforts for all three of these storms stretched, but did not break, *HOT*. With the help of approximately 1,500 incredible volunteers and 50 other organizations that worked with us *HOT* sent more than \$1,800,000 of supplies to Houston, the Florida Keys and Puerto Rico (and other parts of Florida and the Caribbean). It is more than six months after these storms landed and *HOT* is still feeding hundreds of people in both the Florida Keys and in Puerto Rico.

*HOT* started its 2017 Hurricane Relief Effort with a challenge grant to the members of B'nai Torah Congregation who raised almost \$50,000; the Jewish Federation of SPBC added \$65,000; the members of St. Andrews Country Club more than \$100,000; and other individuals and organizations in the Boca Raton/Delray Beach community, and *HOT*'s regular donors another \$100,000+. Impressive, BUT these cash contributions were dwarfed by the supplies brought to our collection points. Almost \$1,500,000 of generators, canned food and a myriad of supplies responding to a specific list of what was needed. As these supplies were taken out of the bags and separated register receipts often fell out. \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500 and everything in between. Over 6 incredible weeks upwards of 10,000 anonymous people dropped off nonperishable food and supplies that were sorted, boxed and taped, and then put on pallets and shrink wrapped by volunteers coming from the Federation, B'nai Torah Congregation, Temple Beth El, Boca Raton Synagogue, Hebrew Day Schools, Churches, local nonsectarian organizations, and other people who heard what we were doing and came over and asked "what can I do to help..." Unlike anything we have ever seen, no more than 5% of what was brought was used clothing, and if it was it was used, it was truly "gently used." People went to Costco, Target, Walmart and so many other stores—picking items off the shelves and standing on long lines that often-included people buying from the same list they were buying from.



On the other side—the areas that were so ravaged by relentless wind and rain - we partnered with Rabbis, Priests, Police Departments, Fire Departments, Schools, Rotary Clubs, a Beer Company (critical and unbelievably helpful in the Keys), and many many social service organizations. We paid under \$7,000 for what could well have been \$175,000 of transportation. How? Through the incredible generosity of donors. Trucks, boats, helicopters, private planes, commercial planes and ships---whatever we needed there were people willing to help.

Our Houston (**Harvey**) efforts started with \$40,000 of purchases we made in Dallas, because the roads in Louisiana were closed, and the goods were sent in a donated truck overnight to Houston making its first stop at a Catholic Church and its next stop at a JCC. We continued with cases and cases of Gatorade and ear plugs for firemen working multiple shifts in oppressive heat and humidity. Then, as we were about to send several trucks loaded with supplies to Houston, Irma arrived, and incredibly, almost simultaneously, all our Houston contacts told us that they were receiving help from all over the country and we should help people in Florida.

**Irma** came — And, for the second straight year, Boca and Delray Beach came within a few degrees turn of a direct hit... but the Florida Keys were not so lucky. Other areas of Florida were affected and *HOT* sent hundreds of thousands of dollars of supplies to west and northwest



Florida, but the Florida Keys suffered unimaginable devastation. The picture of Big Pine Key to the left was taken in late October—almost 2 months after the storm hit. On the trip to the Keys when we took this picture we saw American Red Cross Tents, Pup Tents, and spoke to a child living with her uncle and aunt and cousins in a house that pre-storm had 4 occupants and now had 17 occupants. We met her at the Marathon Middle School/High School where of 640 students before the storm only 600 still lived in the Keys after the storm. Of the 600 remaining, 200 were

homeless (living in American Red Cross Tents, pup Tents, FEMA hotels or a friend or relatives' homes). Their homes were blown away or so devastated as to be uninhabitable. 97 of the 200 had nothing. What do we mean by nothing? We mean NOTHING. The clothes on their back or what few possessions they brought with them when they were ordered into the shelters and came out to find NOTHING. The school worked with us and got us the shoe, pant, shirt, skirt, underwear etc., sizes of all 97 and over a 3-week period *HOT* got all 97 full wardrobes in the exact model #s and colors they lost. Manufacturer's for no charge, job lotters at prices they couldn't have made money on and then an incredible group of women who took shopping lists for adoptees they would never see, and then *HOT* bought whatever was missing at "discounted" retail. There is no way to describe the look on the faces when these kids got bags that were in some cases as tall as they were and too heavy to lift. More than \$180,000 in supplies that *HOT* paid less than \$45,000. It is now March and we are still feeding hundreds of people in the Keys. Their disaster is far from over.

And then came **Maria** – Not the beautiful Maria in West Side Story – but a vicious storm turning off all the lights in Puerto Rico and destroying virtually all of the electric and telephone service. Donors immediately gave supplies and *HOT* found transport by private planes, commercial planes and ships. We got satellite phones down within days so people (with a 5-minute time limit) could call family in the US to tell them they were alive. We sent shipping containers of goods, we bought food and water in San Juan and had it trucked to areas where there is still no fresh water. As electric was restored to the Florida Keys, we shipped to Puerto Rico the generators we received from donors or we bought for the Keys, and had them each delivered with a large can of gasoline and gas cards to nearby operating gas stations.

There is not enough space in the *HOT News* to describe the work done by, or name, the approximately 1,500 volunteers that made all of this happen, but there was one volunteer, with an incredible book of contacts, who worked tirelessly, coordinated all parts of this effort, and without her there is no way *HOT* could have helped so many people. So, for the tens of thousands of people *HOT* helped, let me say THANK YOU to Summer Faerman!

## *Disaster Strikes Haiti AGAIN*



6 years after being hit with the devastating earthquake, Hurricane Matthew turned away from what would have been a direct hit to southeast Florida, and for a few hours stalled over southern Haiti. The southern part of this country of 11,000,000 people was again crippled. Poorly constructed houses and huts that again replaced similar structures (if you want to call them that) destroyed by the earthquake were swept away. Cholera ran rampant and the same people who suffered 6 years earlier were desperate for help.

But how could *HOT* help the Haitian people? *HOT* was concerned that any supplies we purchased or money we sent would end up with either “government officials,” or “middlemen” who control much of the commerce. We sought out the one partner who we could trust to make sure what we sent would ALL end up with those in need, the “Archdiocese of Miami.” Additionally, as *HOT* always tries to lever its grants, we also partnered with B’nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton. A Challenge Grant from *HOT* and a list of supplies read on the holiest night of the Jewish year, by the synagogue’s Rabbi, David Steinhardt resulted in *HOT*’s \$36,000 becoming \$72,000 AND on the Sunday following the



Rabbis reading the list \$200,000 of supplies were brought to the synagogue. Almost 1,000 (yes, almost 1,000) people came to the synagogue on Sunday. They brought everything on the list. We kept sending out for more pallets. We kept sending out for more shrink wrap. When added to what *HOT* bought with the \$72,000, there were a total of 72 pallets. \$36,000 leveraged to more than \$250,000.

**\$36,000 from *HOT* grew to over \$250,000.**

**More than 7-1 leverage.**

**But the leverage was actually far greater than 7-1 because the Archdiocese took responsibility for loading the 72 pallets on a ship, getting someone to ship for free, off-loading, trucking to a central warehouse and then trucking to 6 distribution points.**

## *2018 Hurricanes*

After the devastation of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017, *HOT* hoped there would be a calm 2018 Hurricane Season – but that was not to be. Florence came first and caused massive flood damage in North and South Carolina and Georgia, then came Michael with the Florida Panhandle getting a direct hit.

Florence left people trapped in shelters or their homes due to flooding and the picture on the right is one of scores we could have put here to show what receiving a direct hit from a storm like Michael can do.



*HOT*, partnering with another non-profit, Kindness Matters, worked with North Carolina state government officials and – even before the water started to recede – helped by providing food, water, and supplies so distribution sites could be up and running when roads became navigable. We also worked with the Craven County (NC) Commissioners to ensure that all students in the county received coats, gloves, and socks as the weather started to change as schools started to reopen.

Hurricane Michael provided different challenges. Wikipedia says, “Mexico Beach is a city in Bay County, Florida, United States. It is located 25 miles southeast of Panama City. The population was 1,072 at the 2010 census. The community was extensively damaged by Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018.” It sounds so small, but it was simply where the eye of this horrific storm first hit land. And the winds came ashore and kept going and battered the Gulf Coast of Florida and left people of all ages devastated.

In the days immediately following the horrific storm, *HOT* went to its traditional community partners and made three challenge grants, one to each of B’nai Torah Congregation, The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and Temple Beth El, creating an immediate pool of almost \$100,000. This allowed us to purchase and ship more than 100,800 servings of cereal and 115,200 assorted protein-loaded “pop-top” servings. And then we raised more funds, collected gifts-in-kind, and provided clothing, school supplies, shoes, water, hygiene products, water, beds, linens, gas cards and most importantly HOPE for people who had lost everything.

The hardest part of disaster relief is not the fund raising, buying or shipping, it is making sure what you send is both needed and given to the needy. Our Disaster Relief Coordinator, Summer Faerman (who we borrow from the B’nai Torah Congregation TLC Program) finds the right contacts, including police, fire and school officials, to make sure we get there as soon as humanly possible with the aid that is needed, and ensures it is being distributed to the right people.

## *2014 Israel Emergency Campaign*

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

836,481 NIS in Ashkelon (page 29) to:

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

336,451 NIS in Sderot (page 18) to:

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

160,500 NIS to The Jaffa Institute (pages 19-20) for housing, food, teachers and programs for 230 kids from the South

152,157 NIS for Animal Assisted Therapy (page 46) to help victims in the South deal with PTSD

120,000 NIS for both group and individual therapy for fiancées and (long-term) girlfriends of soldiers that died as a result of the war (pages 48-49)

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

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

62,100 NIS to Beit Elazraki (pages 21-22) for buses and activities for busloads of 50 kids a day **from the South**

23,940 NIS to bring 7 families with at least one child with mental and physical disabilities from Ashdod to Beit Kaye for a program run by Krembo Wings (arranged by Galila, see page 14)

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

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

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

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

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

In **2010**, a devastating earthquake displaced a tremendous portion of the Haitian population. We worked directly with one of our partners to help the families of some of these victims in Miami's "Little Haiti."—depending on them to get help to their families rather than sending money or supplies directly to Haiti where the help could be siphoned off by corrupt officials or other "profiteers." See page 55 to see what we did for the citizens of Haiti in 2016.



And in **2012**, Hurricane – or “Super Storm” – Sandy ravaged coastal areas in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island. We partnered with multiple organizations to: bring truckloads of food, clothing, hygiene products and other basic necessities to areas hit hard; brought electric power back to many who lost it by providing new circuit breakers to replace damaged ones; funded a bus and supplies for 44 student volunteers (see p. 20) to travel from Florida to New York (and then back to Florida) to provide critical manpower for cleanup and rebuilding and we made, **and had challenge grants matched, which multiplied the effectiveness of our donors' dollars.**



And in Fall **2016**, 11 years after Hurricane Katrina, much of the same Gulf area was hit by devastating floods, and *HOT* again found a way to promptly help those in need. No trucks this time – a *HOT* volunteer had a relationship with a church in Baton Rouge that gave us lists of what was critically needed. This time *HOT* eliminated trucking costs and used “Amazon Prime” to make deliveries directly to the distribution center. No wasted costs... sending only what was specifically needed – not like other well-meaning organizations that send whatever they receive from their well-meaning donors, whether needed or not. The process of recovery was slow because houses in poor areas were under water and mold needed to be completely eliminated before they could be re-inhabited. In some cases, there was little or no help from government agencies if houses did not “fit within specifically designated boundaries.” *HOT* helped those in need, whether they lived within or without “designated boundaries.” Then came Matthew (see page 55 ).

***HOT* has used undesignated funds for all its emergency relief other than the 2014 Gaza War and the 2016, 2017 and 2018 hurricanes (during which we had emergency campaigns). *HOT* needs to be financially prepared to act immediately when there are more disasters. When you are making your decision of what to give to *HOT* this year and what to designate it to, think of all that we have done and how quickly we did it, and consider helping us build up a fund to be available for the next disaster.**

**We would like our donors to designate \$500,000 towards a fund that can be used in those first critical days.**



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