



# HOT NEWS FALL 2022/WINTER 2023

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



## ***HOT NEWS***

### **Fall 2022/Winter 2023**

*HOT* is about helping **The Poor and The Hungry, The Elderly, Youth at Risk, Individuals with Special Needs, those who need Compassionate Care, or are Victims of War Terror or a Natural Disaster.** We have helped these people who, without *HOT*, would have continued to suffer. We do this with 100% of the money we raise going to help people. No overhead of any kind is charged to any donor's gift other than one donor who pays for all 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 **red print is used 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. **Blue print is used 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. **Highlighting is used for strong emphasis.** You will see opportunities to help individuals, and in many cases entire families, to escape the endless cycle of poverty. As you will read starting on Page 42, whether the emergency is a natural disaster, a war, or terrorism, *HOT* has used preexisting relationships, or fully vetted new ones, to be efficiently helping those in need within hours. If there were logistical problems, which *HOT* couldn't immediately solve, we resolved them in the first few days. The inhumane Russian attack of Ukraine created additional issues and knowing what we can do and what we can't do, we concluded that only one of our traditional partners had "boots on the ground" and that was JDC. Working with their partner Sheba Hospital, they have been "First Responders" all through the world. At the time this edition of the *HOT News* went to press we have made grants to each of them and more than \$100,000 of grants to a half dozen of our Israeli partners helping them help the Ukrainians start a new life in Israel. The absorption of these people has been complicated by the fact that men of fighting age are not permitted to emigrate and therefore the absorption has been predominantly women, children and the elderly. Page 43 shows what we have done so far and what we need.

***HOT* raised a record \$1,962,384 in our fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022.** The horrors in Ukraine share the front pages of newspapers with INFLATION, which always hits the part of society that can least afford it the hardest. Whether the US Federal Reserve Bank succeeds in taming it without causing a major recession is an unknown. If it can't, *HOT* will need to break this new record again next year to even have a chance of helping all those in need.

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

Unlike other charities where 25, 33, or in some cases 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, 38 projects in all. **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. ***HOT* uses what you give for exactly what you want it to be used for.**

*HOT* does not pay ANY of the overhead of ANY organization it partners with. It supports both 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 and it supports projects in the United States, in Israel, one in Guatemala, and one in Kenya.

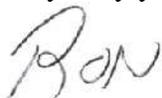
Your entire dollar goes where YOU want it to go, expanding the projects YOU choose; or if YOU prefer, to the geographic region or specific category you choose.

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 41 of our projects. Starting on page 7, you will read about our partners and their wish lists of critical needs that YOU can DESIGNATE to help – letting YOU pick who YOU help and how YOU help them.**

Very truly yours,



Ronald L. Gallatin  
Chairman and CEO

**Table of Contents  
(Number of Projects)**

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19 – 30	Youth at Risk (10)		

## Summary of *HOT*'s Programs

*HOT* currently works with 37 partners on 38 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* didn't 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 8 separate Financial Assistance Funds set up with 9 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. **Wherever 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, Singles and Seniors in the Northern Galilee, Israel (p. 12)
- 3 - Families, Singles and Seniors in Boynton Beach (p. 13)
- 4 - Discharged IDF Soldiers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (p. 14)
- 5 - Families of Children who are Caregivers for a family member (p. 27)
- 6 - Families in Delray Beach (p. 28)
- 7 - Survivors in Northern Israel (p. 31)
- 8 - Seniors in Boca Raton (p. 34)

### **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 Holocaust survivors:

- 1 - Holocaust Survivors in Northern Israel (p. 31)
- 2 - Seniors in Boca Raton (p. 34)

### **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 - Weekend food for Children in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- 3 - Daily service of hot meals and distribution of food in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- 4 - Meals for 4.4 cents in Kenya (p. 15)
- 5 - Food for families in cities and towns in Israel (p. 17)
- 6 - Feeding the hungry in Sderot, Israel (p. 30)

### **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. 15)
- 4 - Repairing Apartments and Families in Israel (p. 17)
- 5 - Social Welfare 911 Hotline in Israel (p. 18)

### **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 - Retraining for better jobs in the Northern Galilee (p. 12)**
- 3 - Migrant Workers and other Poor in Boynton Beach (p. 13)**
- 4 - Discharged soldiers of the IDF who came from disadvantaged homes (p. 14)**

### **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 educational support at home after school.

- 1 - Netanya, Israel (p. 25)
- 2 - Delray Beach (p. 28)
- 3 - Sderot, Israel (p. 30)

### **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 - Six times what others are making in Guatemala (p. 11)**
- 3 - Discharged soldiers of the IDF who came from disadvantaged homes in Israel (p. 14)**

### **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 (pp. 19-20 and 21-22)
- 2 - Underprivileged kids in Washington DC (p. 23)
- 3 - Underprivileged kids in New York City (p. 24)
- 4 - Children Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 27)
- 5 - Children of immigrants in Delray Beach (p. 28)

### **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 - Netanya, Israel (pp. 19-20)
- 2 - New York City, NY (p. 24)
- 3 - Jerusalem, Israel (p. 26)
- 4 - Delray Beach (p. 28)

### **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. 31)
- 2 - Hod HaSharon, Israel (p. 32)
- 3 - Boca Raton (p. 34)

### **Seniors**

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

- 1 - Activities to keep their minds active in Boca Raton (p. 33)
- 2 - Subsidized Home Care in Boca Raton (p. 34)

### **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 - Throughout Israel – Animal Assisted Therapy (pp. 39-40)
- 2 - Losing a loved one from War and/or Terror in Israel (p. 42)
- 3 - PTSD from Putin's war in Ukraine (p. 43)

### **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. 35)
- 2 - A special summer camp in Israel (p. 36)
- 3 - Throughout Israel – Animal Therapy (pp. 39-40)
- 4 - Boca Raton – Camp (p. 41)

### 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 - Underprivileged Kids in DC (p. 23)
- 2 - Underprivileged Kids in New York City (p. 24)
- 3 - Youth-at-Risk in Netanya (p. 25)
- 4 - Kids in Delray Beach, Florida (p. 28)
- 5 - Kids in Sderot, Israel (p. 30)
- 6 - Throughout Israel (p. 41)

### Victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters (pp. 42-50)

9 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. 44 and 50) and then helped other Israelis (mostly in the North) deal with the reign of terror of Hezbollah's missiles, and (2) over the last 8 years helped those in Mississippi, Florida, Haiti, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Puerto Rico deal with horrific storms, that left massive destruction and death in their paths. Pages 45 and 46 tell the story of the summer and fall 2017 storms, and page 47 tells the story of the fall 2018 and 2019 horrible 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.

**The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused a new and more serious Natural Disaster that any of us have ever seen or could imagine. As you go through pages 7-44 you will see numerous opportunities to help our partners help those in need because of this horrific illness. The work we have already done is listed on pages 49 and 50.**

**Page 43 lists all of the work that we have already done to help victims of the war in Ukraine.**

**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... (pp. 19-20). **Also, see the fence on page 20.**

**2:** Bet Elazraki in Netanya, Israel is currently the home for more than 216 children who were placed by the court system because of their parents' inability to take care of them (pp. 21-22).

**3:** Camp Sunshine (pages 37-38) 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 three 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)**
- **Hands On Tzedakah Emergency Assistance Programs**
  - **Northern Israel (p. 12)**
  - **Boynton Beach (p. 13)**
- **Helping Discharged IDF Soldiers from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (p. 14)**
- **The Basics of All Needs in Kenya (p. 15)**
- **Volunteers Feeding the Hungry & Helping Troubled Teens in Israel (p. 16)**
- **Repairing Homes and Families in Israel (p. 17)**
- **Social Welfare 911 Hotline in Israel (p. 18)**

### *A Chicken each Week in Jerusalem*

Eight-and-a-half 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. The work of Bracha Kapach 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 testament 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 families off the waiting list and we are now supplying weekly chickens to only 52 of the 75 families in need.

***HOT* would like its donors to designate up to \$10,764 (\$468 per family per year) to get all 23 of these families off the waiting list.**

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

In 2013, *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” of the Palestinian terrorists TO STAB, TO RUN OVER WITH CARS AND TRUCKS, AND TO SHOOT.**

In 2013, 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, range, and/or washing machine didn’t work**. On hearing this, *HOT* decided that it could not allow these families to live this way **while their child, sibling, or spouse risks their life every minute of every day** and immediately started funding the purchase, delivery, and installation of cribs, beds, and appliances for these families. **We have spent more than \$750,000** on food, appliances and furniture (almost \$114,000 in the last 12 months) to help indigent families of these brave young men and women whose families would otherwise be living in deplorable poverty.

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.**

The last request that *HOT* received was for 29 beds, 20 oven/stove tops, 11 refrigerators, 14 washing machines, 7 microwaves, 11 dining tables and chairs, and 17 wardrobes. It cost *HOT* almost \$70,000 to fund these purchases BUT if we don’t supply these basic requirements of life nobody else will. My best guess is we will need **as much as \$125,000** to ensure that we have sufficient funding to meet the needs of the families whose son, daughter, brother, or sister is risking their lives every day.

**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 23 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**. 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 through assisting low-

income individuals, families, and the elderly. BHH helps the unemployed and underemployed prepare for careers in the healthcare, information technology, construction, and transportation industries. BHH now offers job training in 11 career areas and offers 3 apprenticeship tracks. In 2021, 115 students graduated from their programs of which 86 individuals obtained employment through job training and job mentoring. The Food Center is open 6 days a week serving 1,500 hot meals a week and giving out 6,500 pantry bags (some delivered to the homebound using coolers funded by *HOT*) a 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, (16) funded job training and (17) have **made multiple challenge grants before and during the Coronavirus pandemic** to help BHH deal with the continuing increase in food costs.



The wish list they gave includes:

- **\$3,390 for tuition for 2 clients @ \$1,695 each to take a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) course**
- **\$4,356 to pay for 33 weeks of BHH backpacks (each contains 6 meals and 3 snacks) for 12 children @ \$363 per child**
- **Up to \$12,000 which *HOT* will match donor designations with undesignated funds to give up to \$24,000 to BHH to deal with rampant inflation that could result in BHH not able to buy all the food necessary to help the people who so desperately need it**

## ***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 rapidly 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 new beds to children and families sleeping on the floor, sharing beds, or sleeping in unsafe and/or unsanitary conditions. Children get to choose their own bedding for their new beds, giving them ownership and a feeling of pride along with each good night’s sleep.



Three *HOT* grantees: Caridad (p. 13); the Caregiving Youth Project (p. 27); JFS (page 34); already collaborate with SDM and as time goes on hopefully others will. SDM provided 2,884 beds in 2021 and more than 12,000 beds, since they began their work in 2017. 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 importance 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

Starting in August 2019 *HOT* made 6 grants to SDM of over \$86,000 including **two \$25,000 “Back to School” challenge grants**. *HOT* has been responsible for more than **560 children receiving new beds.**

**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 \$12,500. 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 averages \$15 per day (seven times what 75% of the indigenous population lives on) to buy shoes, school supplies, and nutritious food for their children.**

Over the last 15 years *HOT* has made more than 50 grants including (i) paying instructors to teach the women different skills 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 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 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???**

**“I saw the possibility of sending my daughters to school. This is what I always wanted”  
— MARÍA**

**MG’s wish list includes:**

- **\$2,500 for a trainer to teach artisans the necessary arithmetic for measuring**
- **\$4,800 for 6 new laptops @ \$800 per for use for staff in the field**
- **\$5,000 for a new accounting system to replace the obsolete system they currently use**
- **\$12,729 for a trainer and supplies to teach indigenous women artisans Ikat dyeing**

## *Northern Israel*

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

- A woman that left her abusive husband but needed beds for her 3 children
- A 9-month-old baby girl with cancer needing to travel to a hospital for chemo
- A 70-year-old dialysis patient needing an electric bed
- A Holocaust survivor living with her special-needs son needing a washing machine
- A family with 3 special-needs kids who wet their beds and needed a washer and dryer
- A young boy needing transportation to get to specialized treatments for his cancer

**They are among the 99 families (including 40 Holocaust Survivors – see p. 31) that live in northern Israel that in 2021 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 Shlomi, Akko, Nahariya, Karmiel, Tzfat, Ma'alot and Kibbutzim and Moshavim. In the last 3 years, we have made grants in excess of \$250,000.**



Life in the northern Galilee is particularly hard because of the memory of past and fear of future Hezbollah attacks. Many individuals living in this area of Israel are employed, but barely earn a living. Similar to the rest of the world, upward mobility comes from education. **A partnership among Erez Technical Training College, Galila, and HOT provides what is necessary to get higher paying jobs.**

*HOT* has also funded Galila's work with a group of women who grew up in the Hasidic world. These women have been deprived of any skills necessary to survive in a secular world.

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.

Galila is asking for:

- **\$13,081 for another professional retraining class at Erez Technical Training College**
- **\$14,535 for the Emergency Fund for both the pre-COVID poor and for the “new poor”**

## *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 shutdowns, 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 3 years, *HOT* made \$60,506 of grants, many of them matching grants, to Caridad to serve 42 families. Of these families in need, 31 families faced housing insecurity and received rent assistance, temporary shelter, and even construction supplies to repair safety problems in their homes; and 10 received assistance with utilities. Caridad has also provided healthy food options for 240 families with chronic diseases. By offering these healthier options to the families here at the Caridad Center, we can encourage a healthier lifestyle and break the poor eating habits within the underprivileged community.

The Caridad community is a microcosm of the problems facing low-income families. For years, we've been helping these families with emergencies that used up the money needed for rent, utilities, and all that you read in the previous paragraph. The world has changed. It has become more difficult for some and impossible for others. COVID and inflation have destroyed any possibility for people who were barely self-sufficient to pay for all of life's **NECESSITIES**. For them, it is only a question of what they don't pay for.



*A Caridad family started experiencing financial difficulty before the pandemic began. The mother is the caretaker of her children and the family began struggling to keep food on the table. With the help of HOT/Caridad Healthy Food Funds, we could provide healthy food options such as fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain bread, for the patient and their family. By providing healthy food options, the barriers that prevent a patient and client from being healthy are beginning to lift and, in hopes, create a new cycle of healthy living.*

**Ten years ago, we began giving scholarships to students carefully vetted by Caridad with many 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. We would like our donors to designate all or part of their contributions to this program with the goal of our raising an extra **\$60,000: \$20,000 of which would be used for scholarships** and **\$40,000** that would let us respond to Caridad's continually growing need for Emergency Assistance exacerbated by inflation.

## ***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” or “AFA”) helps these former soldiers at a critical juncture in their lives.

AFA 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. AFA 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. Not surprisingly, the young adults leaving military service during the last two years (COVID-19) have had to face a far greater risk of not succeeding than any of their predecessors. COVID-19 made getting a job almost impossible. Additionally, the inability to provide in-person mentoring has placed these army veterans at an even higher risk of not being able to integrate into civilian life.



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

- **\$14,620** for additional support for veterans who have no family in Israel (“Lone Soldiers”)
- **\$21,802** for scholarships for 10 former soldiers **@ \$2,180** per scholarship
- **\$32,128** to replenish the Financial Aid Fund

### *The Basics of All Basics in Kenya*



Africa? Not the easiest place to find a trusted partner, but we are excited that we 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.**

**Incredible as it may seem, 4.4 cents (yes, 4.4 cents, up 30% this year) a day can provide a hot meal for school children who otherwise might go 2-4 days without any food. *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.**

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 27 grants to MH to purchase 10,000-liter rainwater storage tanks (see picture to the right), 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.

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

- **\$3,600 for two 10,000-liter rainwater tank in high-risk areas (@ \$1,800 each)**
- **\$6,000 for food for 10 deeply impoverished university students at \$600 (\$50 per month) per student**
- **\$10,120 to help feed, support, and educate 46 orphans in a safe house for 3 months. \$880 per child per year to keep children off the streets.**
- **\$13,750 for 5 “Porridge Programs” to feed 1,250 hungry children (250 per program) a hot meal 5 days per week for a year – **YES - 4.4 CENTS PER CHILD, PER DAY!****

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



**Shachen Tov** – in English, **Good Neighbor Association (GNA)** – was started 22 years ago 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 working with Youth at Risk and relief of loneliness for isolated populations. Three things make this organization unique: First, is that it has no employees. **It is run 100% by volunteers, has zero overhead, and buys its food at discounted prices.** 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 calendar years from 2018 to 2021, *HOT* made more than \$250,000 of grants for food and more than \$25,000 to fund pilot programs where troubled teens in Jerusalem 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. GNA also operates Coffee Shops for old age homes and women’s shelters.



*HOT* was giving GNA 15,000 shekels a month pre-COVID and increased it temporarily to 20,000 shekels a month (a rate of \$69,767 a year). **In addition, during COVID, we gave a one-time grant of 100,000 shekels (at the time \$31,000) to match a similar amount from another GNA donor to feed some of the “new poor” and we matched a \$12,307 contribution from another GNA donor to buy a forklift.**

GNA has the volunteer manpower to distribute substantially more food to ensure parents, children, singles (including the elderly and infirm) have sufficient nutritional meals for a year. **GNA is run 100% by volunteers, has zero overhead, and buys its food at discounted prices.**

At **\$1,380** a person, GNA’s wish is very simple, **to feed as many people as possible. GNA has the volunteers to sort and pack, but needs to buy the food**

**\$2,180** to do minor repairs for 5 apartments @ \$436 per apartment

## *Repairing Homes and Rebuilding Lives in Israel*

**Tenufa Bakehila-Building Hope (TBBH) is Israel's only large scale, non-profit home repair organization.** Its services restore dignity and help Israel's weakest populations break the cycle of poverty. All its clients are families referred to it by municipal social services all of whom lack the funds for URGENT and NECESSARY repairs: e.g., fixing roof leaks, broken windows, non-functional kitchens and bathrooms, electricity and plumbing systems.



In addition, with the goal of helping its clients establish positive momentum, while its tradesmen work in the home, its on-staff social worker reaches out to connect each family member with available services in the areas of health, employment, education and welfare. **When living in sub-standard conditions it is almost impossible for families to address other challenges.** When living conditions are improved, families often find the motivation to begin moving forward. Most families have been living in despair, waiting for many years to receive the help that will get them out of their destitute situation.

TBBH provided small repair work for over 2,000 households during the first two years of COVID and bought their first-ever Emergency Repair-Mobile that served hundreds of quarantined elderly and were recognized by the President of the State of Israel and by the Ministry of Health for the help they were giving people during the pandemic.

Last year, TBBH launched a second **Emergency Repair-Mobile Vehicle partially funded by other donors to TBBH meeting a HOT Challenge Grant**, doubling the number of families served in Jerusalem, initiated a new partnership with the city of Tel Aviv, and expanded in the Negev, increasing the families helped by 40% in both Sderot and Netivot.

**TBBH has hundreds of families on its waiting list. Their wish is to increase the number of apartments they can renovate.**

- **30 apartments for Survivors for a total cost of \$60,000 @ approximately \$2,000 per apartment**
- **20 apartments for other Seniors and/or families for a total cost of \$40,000 @ approximately \$2,000 per apartment**

## ***Social Welfare 911 Hotline in Israel***

According to Israel's National Insurance Institute, as many as 20% of Israelis live below the poverty line. Many of the working poor live from paycheck to paycheck. One unfortunate event - like the loss of a job, an eviction notice, or a medical emergency - can push them into debt or even homelessness. Even a "small" event - like needing to buy a new refrigerator or bed - can wreak havoc on their lives. In addition, there are frail and vulnerable populations who feel marginalized and unheard. Too many people have no idea where to turn or how to access the assistance available to them.

Based in Jerusalem, the **Eckstein Fund's national emergency hotline (SW 911)** opened in 2019; it is currently manned by three trained and multilingual intake staff. They receive about 120-150 calls per week. These operators listen patiently to the callers, ascertain their need, and provide them with a direct connection to one of the more than 600 social service agencies or nonprofit organizations in their database, those that can best assist them directly.



In special cases, the team can arrange for direct assistance for the caller (after a thorough vetting of the situation) – covering an urgent electric bill right before a disconnect or delivering baby formula and food when nobody else can help. These are some of the examples of their lifesaving help.

**SW 911s wish list:** It is impossible to guess what the specific needs the people who will call SW 911 over the next six months will be, but based on the needs of callers in the past year, the average family that is being directly helped by SW 911 gets a grant of \$245 to pay for utility bills, rent, beds, refrigerators, food baskets, washing machines, medicine, etc.

**Other than food and medical treatment, what could be more important than a place to live, a bed to sleep on, and electricity? Pick the category that you think is most important, or help people with these basic needs in multiples of \$245 and you will know how many families your dollars have helped.**

## Youth at Risk:

- **Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty - Jaffa/South Tel Aviv (pages 19-20)**
- **A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help (p. 21-22)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids in Washington, DC (p. 23)**
- **Helping Underprivileged Kids In New York City (p. 24)**
- **Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance (p. 25)**
- **A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress (p. 26)**
- **Children Who Are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 27)**
- **Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach (p. 28)**
- **Teaching Leadership to Teens in Ashkelon, Israel (p. 29)**

### *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.



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.

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.



TJI’s wish list includes:

- \$5,922 for 6 new computers for The Jaffa School Center @ \$987 each
- \$29,070 for the equipment needed to outfit a cutting edge automotive shop to use maintenance and repair software for students learn a vocation. The program ranges from gas to hybrid & all electric and hydrogen powered vehicles.
- \$33,540 to give 20 at-risk students a “JumpStart” who have been diagnosed with special needs and other learning issues @ \$1,677 a student

## *A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help*



The 216 youngest children who currently live at Beit Elazraki (“BE”) are part of an **extended family of 595 children** (including 197 children of graduates) 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: 595 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, 6 this year and 80 overall. At 18 most Israelis 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 funding for food and lodging and some other necessities, they only give that for the care of the under 18-year-olds. A family of over 595 where there is only basic funding for 216. Similar to a typical family many of the other 379 “children” who have left home still need the help of their parents (Beit Elazraki).

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 595 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 \$600,000 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 pp. 39-40)**, (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. So much more that I could take you up to (xl) – 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.

**Wish list items:**

- **\$6,978 for one year of orthodontic treatment for 3 children @ \$2,326 per child**
- **\$13,080 for additional anxiety-relieving emotional therapy for 15 children @ \$872 each**
- **\$17,436 for 6 "parent days." Giving the children a safe opportunity to spend a supervised day with their biological parents @ \$2,906 per group of 10 children**
- **\$27,930 for repairs to 3 modular incremental apartments @ \$9,310 each**
- **\$30,522 for 3 kitchenettes required by the Israeli government @ \$10,174 each**



**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 "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**.

Nine years later, Just Imagine not only provides scholarships to sleepaway 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 **2019**,



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.

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). **Four 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 college tours. In the fall of 2019, 10 JI graduates started college, 8 started college in 2020, and 10 more last year. Of 2021's 10 high school graduates, all 10 are attending a four-year college/university and 5 of them are the first in their family to go to college.

2020 brought COVID with virtually no camps open and only a few offering camp scholarships. JI continued its year-round programs and paid for online college prep courses. Summer 2021, several camps opened but between the social distancing required at the camps and parental fears, JI was not able to send many students to camp. This summer, many camps were open but very few gave scholarships.



For Fall 2022, their main priorities are funding to take high school students on college trip tour and scholarships for needy college students.

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

- **\$15,000 for college tour visits transportation & lodging**
- **\$22,500 for scholarships for 15 students @ \$1,500 per student**

## *Helping Underprivileged Kids in New York City*



Since 2000, the Fiver Children’s Foundation, in New York, has been a lifeline for kids growing up in economically disadvantaged circumstances. Recognizing that children brought up in a bad (poor and often dangerous) environment, Fiver has helped and/or is continuing to help more than 1,600 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), good 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 100% of its Class of 2022 high school seniors graduate with 88% enrolling in college. 3 Fiver graduates now serve on its full-time staff and 2 on the Board of Directors, bringing the mission full circle. **The Fiver program leads its participants to make healthy and ethical life decisions rather than making bad choices which would result in their continuing the endless cycle of poverty.**

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,** (xiii) replaced an ice machine used for the entire camp of 400+ kids and 70+ staff, (xiv) technology updates for computers, and (xv) air conditioning units. **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.**



### Camp Fiver’s Wish List:

- **\$5,000** to replace damaged fencing for horseback riding program
- **\$10,000** for a new open air pavilion to protect campers from extreme weather
- **\$13,500** to purchase a generator to maintain water pressure, phones, and internet

## *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.

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, (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 (xvi) book bags and school supplies for children of families on welfare, and much, much more including **\$48,193 for a 13 day program in August 2021 where almost 300 students (21 groups of 14 students) took 3 academic classes a day which focused on improving student achievements, reducing academic gaps, and preparing for the next school year (see p. 50). The program was an incredible success. Children who might otherwise have been left back came to school even more prepared than had it been a normal (non-COVID) school year. This program was expanded by *HOT* and TNF during the summer of 2022.**



TNF's wish list includes:

- **\$23,256 for 400 school bags filled with supplies @ \$58 each for children of indigent families**
- **\$27,900 for furniture for 12 classrooms @ \$2,325 each used to teach Hebrew to Ukrainian immigrants (see p. 43)**

## *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 in 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. Following public health and safety protocols throughout the pandemic, Crossroads has remained open and actively engaged virtually and live at both our Center and on the streets. Through crisis intervention, individual therapy, group therapy, and educational assistance, Crossroads provides teens with hope, and direction to help them lead healthier and more productive lives. In 2021 Crossroads met 1,018 individuals on “the street” and had 2,513 visits to its Drop-In Center. Currently Crossroads has 201 teens in 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) an innovative homework program that will help young people to learn the discipline necessary for continuing education, and** (ix) 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.

### **Crossroad's current Wish List:**

- **\$6,994 to expand the homework program (see viii above)**
- **\$8,881 to continue Crossroad's services beyond age 22 if necessary**
- **\$9,593 to provide a course for clients to prepare for the GED exam**
- **\$13,081 for psychiatric consults, prescribing and monitoring appropriate medication, review selected cases to recommend the right clinical approach 15 hours a month for 6 months**
- **\$13,990 to ensure English speaking teens find Crossroads (see ix above)**

## *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 290,000 children in Florida and over 5,400,000 nationwide who sacrifice their education, health, and emotional growth to assume the role of family caregiver.



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 chronically ill, injured, elderly or disabled family members. Now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year of service, the CYP has served more than 2,000 youth caregivers and their families. It currently provides 501 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. The program services continue from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school with an average length in the program of 5.5 years. **During the last eight years, 98% of the 436 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.**



*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 56 families with problems they might not have ever recovered from.**

- **\$3,330 for 10 laptops at \$333 each**
- **\$10,000 to replenish the *HOT* Emergency Assistance Fund**
- **\$18,720 for 260 four-hour blocks of respite care @ \$72 per block of respite care**
- **\$27,000 for 100 blocks of six-hours of tutoring @ \$270 per six-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 34% 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, a New Roof (matching grants) and many other needs that space does not permit us listing. Last summer HOT gave a grant that permitted Milagro to give standardized Florida testing to determine which of their campers were not at grade level in English and Math, and added in a period or two of remedial help into their summer camp program.**

MC's current needs are:

- **\$10,000** for a Financial Aid Fund to be administered similar to other *HOT* funds
- **\$12,000** for 2 ceiling-mounted projectors and 2 retractable screens for academic sessions in both the Middle and High School Centers

## *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 groups 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 p. 44 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.” They said they were when the first heard them, but by 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 are the PRESENT of Israel.** It may have been their older brothers and sisters and in some cases fathers or mothers that fought in Gaza, or were stationed on the border, but these teens fought the war too. **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. To see the damage done in 2021, read p. 50.**

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

- **\$4,678 for workshops and motivational trips to train teens for leadership**
- **\$7,354 for gifts (snacks, pastries, flowers, birthday cakes) when teens visit lonely seniors**

## *The Gaza-Border City of Sderot*



Sderot is a city (30,000 residents) on the Israeli border with Gaza, within easy range of every rocket, mortar and missile fired by Hamas – more than 23,000 since 2001. Many of its wealthier citizens have moved to “safer” parts of Israel. Its industry initially plummeted but in recent years has grown as the low cost of housing increased labor pool. **Our work in Sderot includes Youth at Risk, the Poor and the Hungry, the Elderly and Victims of War and Terror.**

*HOT* has given over 100 grants since 2006 to **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 (i) food for the hungry (30% of the residents are clients of the social welfare office), (ii) summer day camp for kids whose parents work and otherwise would be left at home or on the streets, (iii) created and expanded programs in their Daycare Center for At-Risk Children, Early Childhood Daycare Center, and Community Center, furnished multiple facilities, and (iv) annually given camp scholarships to ensure that Reut’s camp program (which is subsidized by the City) includes as many children as possible.

Prior to the Summer of 2014 War, *HOT* made grants for children to go to summer camp, 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 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 **15 seconds to make it to a bomb shelter.** *HOT* was there, on the phone almost every day, making a total of almost \$100,000 (see p. 44) 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 have made in excess of \$250,000 in grants for food coupons, camp scholarships, reducing the horror of Hamas missiles for the children, and more. And then came May of 2021 (see p. 50 to read how *HOT*, again, dealt with the horrors of Hamas shooting 4,360 missiles in 11 days).



### **Current Wish List:**

- **\$8,323 to equip a rec room in a youth club for at-risk 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> graders**
- **\$9,880 Vouchers for food & clothing for 95 of the poorest families in Sderot @ \$104 each**
- **\$11,627 for kitchen equipment for a daycare center**
- **\$45,732 Emergency Fund for next “reign of terror”**

## The Elderly:

- **Holocaust Survivor Programs**
  - **Israel – Northern Galilee (p. 31)**
  - **Israel – Hod HaSharon (p. 32)**
- **Helping the Frail Elderly**
  - **Boca Raton**
    - **Helping Seniors in Many Ways (p. 33)**
    - **Senior Assistance Program (p. 34)**

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

**Galila** (also on p. 12) is a grassroots organization formed to improve 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 346 Holocaust and Ghetto Survivors.



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 p. 12) to help 346 survivors from all over Europe (99 of whom do, and 247 who don't receive reparations from the German government.)

*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 seniors, especially the ones who suffered at the hands of the Nazis but have been denied Survivor Status by the German government. We now NEED our donors to designate gifts to help these Survivors and other elderly.**

- **\$9,292 to fund the next semi-annual distribution of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing for 98 of the poorest seniors (including 40 Survivors) @ \$94 each**



## *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 Chi-Kong classes and social activities each of these days. On one of the days it offers lectures, and on the other day cross-generational activities. **30** 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 91, 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. 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 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.



**During the first 18 months of COVID, CLICK had only virtual programming. Although there is now a vaccine and medications to treat COVID, it has resumed live programming but many of its participants have elected to continue to attend virtually.**

CLICK's wish list includes:

- **\$3,780** for sports equipment at 4 senior centers **@ \$945 each**
- **\$7,352** for stipends for work done by low income Holocaust Survivors

## *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, (x) **the last dollars needed to pay**

**for a breakfast program for seniors who come to TVC without having had breakfast**, and (xi) emergency aid to TVC clients. This year, TVC found another source of funding to cover emergency needs and consistent with our policy (nothing can be paid unless all other possibilities of aid have been exhausted.) we suspended funding emergency needs. In the past, we approved 67 grants totaling \$24,076.95 (an average grant of \$359.35 or \$231.51 when we count spouses) from a fund we set up at TVC to pay one time “emergency aid” (rent, electric, etc.) to seniors.

**We would like our donors to consider:**

- **\$24,000 for 4 full-year scholarships (@ \$6,000 per senior) for seniors who have been newly diagnosed with Alzheimer’s diseases or age-related memory loss**
- **\$30,000 or any part thereof as a 10% match to a \$270,000 (90%) Federal grant for food**
- **\$50,000 as a 10% match to a \$450,000 (90%) Florida grant for homecare**
- **if TVC loses its new financial aid donor, or inflation, makes the grant inadequate, *HOT* will need to step in to meet the shortage**



## *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 261 seniors who live in Palm Beach County who have almost no disposable income, are over 65, and have outlived whatever money they had. 252 seniors have income between \$614 and \$1,348 a month and 9 have income between \$307 and \$613 a month.



How do they live? They either live in HUD Section 8 housing or in condos bought as many as 45 years ago that have very low maintenance. Many of these seniors have no income other than Social Security. 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. 252 of these seniors, in addition to the food, receive once a quarter, \$60 (\$240 a year) of Walmart gift cards in their food package and 9 get \$40 of gift cards every month (\$480 a year).

What do they use the cards for? *Millie hadn't purchased a stitch of new clothing for years.*



*The month she started receiving her Walmart cards she was able to buy shampoo, dish soap and detergent and had a little left over to buy a new blouse. She chose one with a pattern of roses. She said it reminded her of when she was a little girl and her mother would plant flowers in window boxes. She said the flowers brought sunshine into the house and her new blouse gave her a bit of sunshine.*

*HOT* also subsidizes approximately 100 hours a week of home care for the poorest seniors and provides Emergency Financial Assistance as needed (sometimes \$15,000 a year and sometimes \$40,000 a year) for seniors including Holocaust Survivors. On the day this edition of the *HOT News* went to the printer, inflation was almost 10%. **Please help us help these seniors who are the most vulnerable to inflation.** We never know what the annual requirements will be to fund the needs of our seniors. We generally give JFS approximately **\$100,000** a year **to help** more than **400 seniors** but as life expectancies increase and savings deplete, more of them require help and their needs become greater. **We never want to have to say no** to seniors needing gift cards, life watch monitors, emergency needs, more **hours of homecare or rent** assistance (something we know we have to address this year.) We don't know we will need. **\$100? \$1,000? \$1,800? \$5,000? \$10,000? More?**

## Special Needs and Compassionate Care:

- **Touch the Life of a Medically Fragile Child in New Jersey (page 35)**
- **My Piece of the Puzzle – Israel (p. 36)**
- **Camp Sunshine for Children with Life-Threatening Illnesses and Their Families (p. 37-38)**
- **Humans Helping Animals Help Humans in Israel (p. 39-40)**
- **Camp Kavod – Florida (p. 41)**

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



Jersey. *HOT* has made grants benefiting more than 75 children by providing adaptive swing sets, ramps, baby monitoring systems, iPads, special computers, adaptive playsets, adaptive tricycles, and augmentative communication systems. The children's disabilities range from a brain tumor, to Down Syndrome, to cerebral palsy to autism. The



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 special needs children of Southern New



Jersey. *HOT* has made grants benefiting more than 75 children by providing adaptive swing sets, ramps, baby monitoring systems, iPads, special computers, adaptive playsets, adaptive tricycles, and augmentative communication systems. The children's disabilities range from a brain tumor, to Down Syndrome, to cerebral palsy to autism. The NJPPCTF policy is that no more than \$1,200 is spent on one child.

There are no words to describe the happiness that these gifts bring to these children. Over the last five years, *HOT* has made more than \$75,000 in grants to NJPPCTF, all but \$10,000 of which has come from undesignated funds.

**NJPPCTF has asked *HOT* for \$24,000 (20 children x \$1,200) this year. *HOT* is sending them \$6,000 for 5 children and hopes its donors will fund the other 15 children @ \$1,200 per child.**

## *My Piece of the Puzzle – Israel*

**My Piece of the Puzzle (MPOP)** was initially formed to run a free summer camp in Israel to bring together teens at risk with special needs kids. It expanded a few years ago to include a year-long after-school program, again, mixing the two population groups. The program joins schools that are near each other which makes it easier for the kids to meet after school for their activities.



MPOP believes that every child deserves the chance to feel successful and be loved, something all too often lacking from their home life. The special needs kids span the autistic spectrum, some have Down Syndrome or Fragile X Syndrome. The goal is the same with each of the two population groups and to prepare them to function successfully in today's society, while having fun.

The programs are run by a carefully selected and trained staff of volunteers and offer all the activities that typically performing kids have.



**The joining of the two population groups is an example of how *HOT* and its partners use leverage in their programs. The special needs kids feel safe with the abundance of staff and campers, and the teens at risk feel appreciated while having their fun as well.**

MPOP ran one session of camp this past summer with over 100 kids (half special needs, half teens at risk) and hopes to run 10 groups of 14 kids each during the 2022/23 school year program.

**MPOP's wish list includes:**

- **\$31,440 to fund additional groups for the year-long school program @ \$3,144 per group**
- **\$7,123 for additional activities at this year's summer camp**



## ***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 over \$250,000 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.”*

**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.**

**The risk of the Coronavirus forced Camp Sunshine to suspend their weekly on-site camps in March of 2020. While the Coronavirus appears to be far from over, Camp Sunshine, with very stringent rules, is again operating on site camps.**

**Now that Camp Sunshine has reopened, their primary need is again transportation. Roundtrip travel expenses for families of 4 that include children with life threatening diseases are typically about \$1,500. Please designate as much as you can in multiples of \$1,500.**



**Additionally, the following items are on Camp Sunshine’s wish list:**

- **\$2,630 for two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) @ \$1,315 each**
- **\$1,999 for 10 highchairs @ \$199 each**

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

Avshalom Beni started a program that we call “**Humans Helping Animals Help Humans**” (**HHAAHH**) where rescue and therapy animals help humans deal with problems they are having trouble coping with. The human and the animal therapists work with parents, 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 treats; (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) programs (including one that we funded while editing this edition of the *HOT* News) 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 ages 4-6 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 his dogs and cats (his “therapists”) and did not leave until a bunch of kids were smiling and laughing. In 2022 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 4 years ago, but not before he made this frightened (from the shrill of sirens) little girl feel protected.** We have kept this picture in the *HOT* News since 2014 because it so vividly shows Avshalom’s work.

In May 2021, we funded an innovative program attempting to limit the amount of long-term PTSD that children in Ashkelon will carry with them from the barrage of missiles that rained down on Israel last May. The innovation is rather than it being a simple once a month or twice a month program, it ran daily for almost two weeks and Avshalom is picked the children that still needed therapy and met with them once a month over the last year. For more about this program and the horror of last May, please go to p. 50. Our relationship with the key people in Ashkelon and our relationship with Avshalom made this idea an easy one to turn into reality.



Avshalom and both his human and animal staff spent almost two weeks in Ashkelon, giving daily therapy sessions to the kids in dire emotional need. They used dogs and cats and birds to help bring out fears. This helped the kids to verbalize their emotions, discuss them, and how to move forward.



One particular moving moment was when we saw in a video clip showing the kids working with a gorgeous little green parakeet. Two boys were standing next to each other and were calling for the bird to come. The bird starts flying towards them - one boy stands erect and lets the bird land on his head. You see the fear on the face of the second boy as he is watching this bird, in perfect flight, head towards them. The boy ducks under the desk and hides from the incoming bird. Yes, what was happening was the boy's reaction to

a bird, but his mind took over and it brought back the memories of an incoming missile, and the need to take cover.

You can watch this video at <http://handsontzedakah.org/2021/08/hhahh-asheklon>.

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. Each program currently costs \$10,765. Which program do you think is most important?**

- **While writing this edition of the *HOT* News, we considered all of Avshalom's programs and decided to give him \$10,765 from undesignated funds for him to decide which of several alternative programs could best help Ukrainian children. These children have fathers who are either dead or not permitted to leave Ukraine. They are dealing with the horrors of having watched their friends and family maimed or murdered by Russian soldiers. We believe Avshalom's programs and animals can help to ease that pain that we cannot understand.**
- **As the animals get older, similar to humans, their medical bills grow. Avshalom's estimate is that he will need another \$16,311 to cover increased recurring, and extraordinary, medical expenses of his co-therapists.**

## *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 which was matched more than 4 times over.**

**CK’s current wish list includes:**

- **\$2,500 for the bus for the annual weekend trip to Orlando for young adults and adults with Special Needs. Funding the bus makes the other costs of the weekend affordable.**
- **\$2,500 for a Saturday respite program. The children play games, make crafts, and have lunch/dinner while their parents are getting much needed respite.**
- **\$7,500 for a new game room with kid friendly furniture, sensory seating, foam floor tiles, a flat screen TV, and video games**
- **\$9,000 for Shadows that will permit less-developed children to participate in programs where their needs would be too great to otherwise allow participation**

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

- **Widowed In All But Name** (page 42)
- **Ukraine** (p. 43)
- **The 2014 Gaza War** (p. 44)
- **2017 Hurricanes – Harvey, Irma and Maria** (p. 45-46)
- **2018 and 2019 Hurricanes** (p. 47)
- **HOT Emergency Fund for Victims of Terror & Natural Disasters – Prior Years** (p. 48)
- **Responding to Increased Needs During COVID Pandemic** (p. 49)
- **COVID Effect on Weaker Students / 2021 Gaza War** (p. 50)

### *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.

There have been 29 groups and hundreds of private therapy sessions helping over 400 young Israelis who suffered the loss of the love of their life. The Israeli government pays part of the budget but not all of the therapy, nor the small social component deemed necessary by the therapist, or even the modest expenses of the organization.

COVID has been particularly hard on these “widows with no ring” as they are referred to. One could say what does COVID have to do with memories of the past? The answer is the human mind does strange and unpredictable things. Losing their jobs as the Israeli economy shrunk created more time to think and to some going back to a time in their lives when they lived through the angst of losing a loved one. Again, they have the fear of the unknown that lays ahead. And while the long quarantines put a strain on all couples, it was significantly greater for couples that included women who previously faced the unknown.

**Widowed in All But Name's wish-list is:**

**\$10,000 for counseling for the girls whose nightmares have returned because of COVID**

**\$10,000 for Emergency Financial Needs of some of the girls whose experience resulted in their periodically needing Emergency Financial Aid**

**\$14,530 for scholarships for 10 fiancés to return to university @ \$1,453 each**

## *Ukraine*



What can I write about the crisis in Ukraine that you are not aware of? Who knows what more savagery will happen before you get to read this booklet?

The picture on the left is one of the thousands of apartment buildings destroyed by the Russians with the intent to kill, maim and demoralize the Ukrainian people. The one in the middle shows some of the millions of people leaving their homes (some destroyed, some living next to buildings destroyed and some just “getting out”). The third picture, in some ways the saddest of all, is a picture of a little girl who has heard and seen what the Russian bombs and missiles have done but doesn’t understand what is going on and why. This beautiful little girl may never see her father (men of fighting age are not allowed to emigrate) or her country ever again.

We are doing so many things to help Ukrainians adapt to life in Israel, and working with so many carefully vetted organizations that rather than ask you for this, or for that, *HOT* wants to let you see what we have already done and ask for your help to do more. If you see something that you specifically want to help us with tell us, or if you think of other ways you want to see them helped, let us know and we will see if it is doable.

So far we have made grants of over \$150,000 to pay for the following:

- 365 school bags filled with the basics needed at the beginning of the school year
- Summer Camp for 17 children in Be’er Sheva
- Animal Assisted Therapy (PTSD for both Ukranian and Israeli children)
- 250 Computer Tablets
- **Basic kitchen and bedding supplies for 40 families including a match by others**
- 65 feet of shelving for a storage room for clothing and baby supplies donated by Israelis
- 27 laptops for single-parent families now living in Northern Israel
- Children to attend a summer camp in Netanya that includes academic enrichment
- Appliances and basic furniture
- Weekly food packages for 20 families

Estimates of the combined infrastructure, factories, retail malls, houses of worship, housing and personal property damage is well over 2 trillion (that could by war’s-end be 5 trillion) dollars. Huge devastation but it doesn’t come close to the human toll. These Ukranians need our help. **Please add anything you can (\$100 or \$100,000) to what you are giving to help *HOT*’s other programs** to help these people who have lost so much from the terror they endured from the Russian despot.

## *The 2014 Gaza War*



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

**Throughout Hamas’ relentless attacks, *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 p. 30), 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. 29), 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 list is long - 43 separate grants to 10 of our partners.** Many of you received my Sunday night emails during the war that gave incremental updates on the work we were doing.

**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.**

## *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). Six months after these storms landed, *HOT* was 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 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. Manufacturers 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 for.

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!

## *2018 and 2019 Hurricanes*

After the devastation of **Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria** in 2017, *HOT* hoped there would be calm 2018 and 2019 Hurricane Seasons – but that was not to be. In 2018 **Florence** caused massive flood damage in the Carolinas and Georgia, leaving people trapped in shelters or their homes. *HOT* vetted and then partnered with Kindness Matters and worked with state and local government officials providing food, water, and supplies so distribution sites could be ready when roads became navigable. We made sure students received coats, gloves, and socks as the weather changed and schools reopened.

Then **Michael**, still in 2018, came ashore on Mexico Beach, 25 miles southeast of Panama City, Florida. After almost completely destroying every town and village in its path, Michael kept going and battered the Gulf Coast of Florida leaving people homeless and in shock. In the days immediately following this horrific storm, *HOT* found and vetted partners “on the ground” and issued 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 which we used to purchase and ship more than 100,000 servings of both cereal and assorted protein-loaded “pop-top” servings. We raised more funds and collected gifts-in-kind, and provided clothing, school supplies, shoes, water, beds, hygiene products, linens, gas cards and most importantly HOPE for people who had lost everything.



Then in 2019 **Dorian** left many in the Bahamas trapped in shelters or buildings and when they returned home, they found foundations, but their houses were gone. *HOT* partnered with local Florida businesses to serve as drop off locations for specifically requested items, so they could be shipped for FREE via Bahama Paradise Cruises, private boats and planes. *HOT* worked with multiple faith-based organizations in the Bahamas and Bahamian government officials, so aid could arrive to be forwarded to distribution sites. *HOT* also went to its traditional community partners as well as both traditional and new donors for in-kind and cash contributions to purchase the much-needed aid to the Bahamian people.

On arrival in port all of the goods we shipped were transferred to a 50,000 square foot secure warehouse given to us for FREE in Grand Bahama. Within days of the eye passing over Grand Bahama we sent these items to 26 distribution sites. As we raised more funds and collected more gifts-in-kind, we were able to provide hot prepared food to entire communities, building materials, clothing, school supplies, first aide, shoes, more water, hygiene products, beds, linens, and most importantly HOPE for people who had lost all hope.

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 gets to the needy. Summer Faerman, our Disaster Relief Coordinator, (whom we borrow from B’nai Torah Congregation TLC Program), finds the right contacts, including police, fire and school officials, to make sure we send what is actually needed and it gets to the people in need, as quickly as possible.

## *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."



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 to travel from Florida to New York (and then back to Florida) to provide critical manpower for cleanup and rebuilding and we **made challenge grants and had them 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.

***HOT* has used undesignated funds for all its emergency relief other than the 2014 Gaza War and the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 hurricanes and the 2020 Coronavirus (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. Who would have guessed it would be a war in Ukraine displacing millions of people?**

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

## *Responding to Increased Needs During COVID Pandemic*

In the face of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, *HOT* has coordinated with its strategic partners to identify urgent needs arising from this crisis. In the first 6 months of the pandemic, *HOT* had a special campaign, and both raised and made in excess of \$350,000 in grants to many of its partners. Beginning in September 2020, we simply asked our donors to increase what they would otherwise give to *HOT*, and we looked at the whole of the needs of partners and funded those needs to the best of our ability. Although there are now multiple vaccines being used throughout the world COVID-19 is not going away so soon and we will be funding the problems it causes by its being embedded in the budgets of virtually all our partners. From the beginning of the pandemic through March 2021 we gave COVID-specific grants to:

### In the United States:

- **Boca Helping Hands** (p. 9) to meet increased food bank demands
- **Milagro Center** (p. 28) for food, program supplies and computers (to enable remote learning), desks and chairs for children of impoverished families in Delray Beach, FL
- **Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services** (p. 34) making a successful challenge grant to increase food pantry distributions
- **Boca Raton Regional Hospital** for meals for essential healthcare workers
- **Homeless People** funded preparation and distribution of sandwiches in SPB County, FL

### In Israel:

- **Indigent Families of the Jerusalem Barracks of the Border Patrol** (p. 8) to purchase tablet computers and to provide connectivity to children isolated at home
- **Amit La Derech** (p. 14) to provide supplements covering food and rent to discharged “veterans” of the IDF who have returned to at-risk neighborhoods and have lost income due to the coronavirus
- **Bet Elazraki** (pp. 21-22) to provide additional staff and programming for 219 at-risk youth living in group home, isolated due to coronavirus
- **Netanya Foundation** (p. 25) to provide food to elderly residents without any family
- **Crossroads** (p. 26) to assist at-risk teens in Jerusalem with food and rent money due to coronavirus-related job losses
- **Ashkelon Foundation** (p. 29) for food, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and crafts supplies for children’s centers operating to enable healthcare and other essential workers in Ashkelon to go to work
- **Reut Sderot** (p. 30) to provide food vouchers to needy families in Sderot where needs have been exacerbated by the virus
- **CLICK** (p. 32) to provide activities for isolated seniors in Hod Hasharon

### Globally:

- **Mercado Global** (p. 11) to provide Guatemalan workers with the materials necessary to manufacture thousands of masks to be donated to hospitals within the United States
- **Matanya’s Hope** (p. 15) to provide college students in Kenya funds for rent and food

***HOT* is still working with its partners to meet critical needs arising from the pandemic.**

## ***COVID Effect on Weaker Students / 2021 Gaza War***

The last 30 months have been ugly. Almost 7 million people worldwide have died of COVID-19 and half a BILLION more have been infected – only time will tell the extent of their lasting physical problems. But COVID has also created collateral problems including economic and educational. Page 49 tells you what *HOT* has done to help victims of COVID in the early months of the pandemic (remember our lack of bureaucracy permits us to help people at the earliest possible time—we help people as the tragedies are unfolding and while larger charities are first scheduling meetings to decide if they should help and if so how).

A collateral effect of COVID was children going to school virtually. It affected all the children, but not equally. Children with learning disabilities or coming from homes where there was not an educated parent to help the students were affected most. The children who found it hard to concentrate are now expected to go to school in the next grade – ill-prepared because they learned very little in the grade they finished in the spring.



Last July we met with the Netanya Foundation (p. 25) and challenged them to set up an intensive program in July to help these “Youth at Risk.” They met our challenge and, working with the various agencies in Netanya, came up with an incredible program for 13 intensive days of learning. 13 days to give 300 carefully chosen children a chance they otherwise wouldn’t have. **A CHANCE NOT TO BE SO FAR BEHIND WHEN SCHOOL STARTS THAT THEY FAIL AND FALL INTO A NEVER-ENDING CYCLE OF POVERTY.**

\* \* \* \* \*



Look at the sixth-floor apartment on the left. It is the apartment that a 5-year-old Israeli boy, in Sderot Israel, lived in until last May. His apartment was hit by one of the 4,360 missiles that were indiscriminately fired into Israel from Gaza.

The unknown statistic is how many tens of thousands are now going to jump every time they hear an unfamiliar noise. What is such a fear called? PTSD. The ones most prone to get this disease which can cause as much damage to the mind as COVID can cause to the body, are children. Think of children hearing a siren, hearing it stop, hearing it start, hearing it stop, hearing it start AGAIN and AGAIN. And explosions sometimes 2 minutes apart, sometimes 5, sometimes 10, never knowing whether the next explosion will kill them.

Ashkelon (p. 29), another border city that *HOT* has a long-term relationship with was also hard hit by rocket fire last May. We worked with HHAHH (pp. 39-40) and creating an intense daily therapy program for young children chosen by the City as the ones most suffering from the fear of rocket fire that if not addressed now could stay with them for the rest of their lives.



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