



# HOT NEWS

## SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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



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## *HOT NEWS*

### Spring/Summer 2023

In June, *HOT* will be 20 years old. During those years *HOT* has raised over \$25,000,000 (over \$22,000,000 in cash and appreciated securities and over \$3,000,000 in goods, and free transportation (planes, helicopters, boats, ships, and trucks)). It has made grants to help 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. It has helped people who, without *HOT*, would have continued to suffer. 100% of the money we raise goes 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 annual programmatic gift to "seed" all of *HOT*'s programs.

This booklet describes all of *HOT*'s current programs and several of our larger disaster relief efforts. 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 describe 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 want to help. Yellow highlighting is used for strong emphasis and green highlighting is used to tell you how much we given to each partner and/or which of our grants they feel were most meaningful.

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 43, whether the emergency is a natural disaster, a war, or terrorism, *HOT* has used preexisting relationships, or fully vetted new ones, to efficiently help those in need within hours. In the last 12 months *HOT* has focused its relief effort on a horrendous Hurricane (Ian) that's path of destruction included the west coast of Florida and to help relocate victims of the inhumane Russian attack of Ukraine.

*HOT* raised a record \$1,962,384 in cash and securities in our fiscal year that ended June 30, 2022. In order to continue funding resettlement of Ukrainians and helping those suffering from continuing Inflation (which always hits the part of society that can least afford it the hardest) *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 often a large part 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, 37 projects in all. **The projects can be expanded if you want them expanded.** Unlike other charities that tell you gives you “illustrations “of what dollars you give them CAN do; dollars given to *HOT* are used for **EXACTLY what you want them 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.

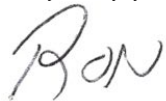
Your entire dollar goes where YOU want it to go, expanding the projects YOU choose; or if YOU prefer, to the geographic region or specific category you choose.

Simply put, *HOT* 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. And *HOT* does comprehensive and continuing due diligence (through its 20 years *HOT* has stopped funding more than 40 organizations it had given more than \$5,000,000 to, because they changed how they operated, changed management, changed focus, dissolved, etc)

Please read through the Table of Contents and pick the area or areas most meaningful to you. Since many of our projects could have been just as easily put in another section (Does feeding a poor senior belong in The Elderly or in 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 37 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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## *Summary of HOT's Programs*

*HOT* currently works with 36 partners on 37 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 funds specifically designated by our donors and/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. 26)
- 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. 16)
- 6 - Feeding the hungry in Sderot, Israel (p. 29)

### **HOT Fights Poverty**

We help both individuals and families who do not have:

- 1 - Basic furniture (cribs, beds, etc.) and appliances - Indigent Families of Border Patrolmen stationed in Jerusalem (p. 8)
- 2 - Social Welfare 911 Hotline in Israel (p. 10)
- 3 - Water tanks for drinking water in Kenya (p. 15)
- 4 - Beds for Kids - primarily South Florida, going national (p. 30)

### **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. 29)

### **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. 17-18 and 19-20)
- 2 - Underprivileged kids in Washington DC (p. 21)
- 3 - Underprivileged kids in New York City (p. 22)
- 4 - Children Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 26)
- 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 - New York City (p. 22)
- 2 - Jerusalem, Israel (pp. 23-24)
- 3 - Netanya, Israel (p. 25)
- 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. 48)

### **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 unique and critical camp programs and we give scholarships to needy kids through several of our other partners:

- 1 - Underprivileged Kids in DC (p. 21)
- 2 - Underprivileged Kids in New York City (p. 22)
- 3 - Youth-at-Risk in Netanya (p. 25)
- 4 - Kids in Delray Beach, Florida (p. 28)
- 5 - Kids in Sderot, Israel (p. 29)
- 6 - Throughout Israel (pp. 39-40)

### **Victims of War, Terror and Natural Disasters (pp. 43-50)**

8 pages describe how *HOT* on a real-time basis helped meet the crucial needs of many Victims:

(1) Over the last 8 years *HOT* has 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. The bottom of **page 44** tells the story of Hurricane Ian in 2022; **page 45** tells the story of the summer and fall 2017 storms; and **page 46** tells the story of the fall 2018 and 2019 horrible storms.

(2) *HOT* has helped Israelis (mostly in the South) cope with the many years of missiles fired at them by Hamas (**p. 47**) and then helped other Israelis (mostly in the North) deal with the reign of terror of Hezbollah's missiles. 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.

**(3) THE ONGOING WAR IN UKRAINE: Page 48 lists all of the work that we have already done to help victims of the war in Ukraine.**

**(4) The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused a new and more serious Natural Disaster that any of us have ever seen or could imagine. The work we have done is listed on pages 49 and 50.**

**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. 17-18). **Also, see the fence on page 18.**

**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. 19-20).

**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 Israel Border Patrolmen Stationed in Jerusalem (p. 8)
- Feeding the Poor, Job Training, and a Health Clinic in Boca Raton (p. 9)
- Social Welfare 911 Hotline in Israel (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)

### *A Chicken each Week in Jerusalem*

Nine-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! Since 2004, *HOT* has made grants of almost \$500,000 to ensure that families in need in Jerusalem had a chicken at least once a week.

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 49 of the 80 families in need.

*HOT* would like its donors to designate up to \$13,175 (\$425 per family per year) to get all 31 of these families off the waiting list.



## ***Helping Indigent Families of Israel Border Patrolmen Stationed in Jerusalem***



From 2004 to 2013, *HOT* supplied “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**. 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. **In the last 19 years *HOT* has spent more than \$1,250,000 on food, appliances, and furniture (more than \$125,000 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.**

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

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 and without *HOT*, these families would be living in squalor.** Our annual cost of this program grows every year. As far as its importance, it is for you, our donors, to decide. This year, we expect to be short as much as \$50,000 to supply these “necessities” 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, Job Training, and a Health Clinic 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.

**We have made almost \$250,000 of grants to BHH since 2009 and BHH believes the most meaningful grants we made through the years was our June 2020 \$10,000 “Protein Challenge” because BHH was worried about having enough food to meet increased community need in the beginning of the pandemic. They leveraged HOT’s \$10,000 to raise an additional \$13,303 from 101 donors and used the total of \$23,303 to purchase the needed protein for their clients’ pantry bags.**

Some of the larger grants *HOT* has made over the 11 years permitted BHH to purchase (1) a freezer, (2) a van, (3) a walk-in cooler, (4) a freight elevator (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**.



The wish list they gave includes:

- **\$4,288 to pay for 33 weeks of BHH backpacks (each contains 6 meals and 3 snacks) for 12 children @ \$357 per child**
- **\$5,370 for a Certified Professional Coder (CPC) Course and testing for the CPC Certification for 5 students (@ \$1,074 per student)**
- **Up to \$12,000 to help BHH deal with rampant food inflation (*HOT* will match donor designations up to a second \$12,000 from undesignated funds)**



### ***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 who receive about 120-150 calls per week. These operators listen patiently to callers, ascertain their needs, and provide a 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. These are some examples of their lifesaving help.

**We have made approximately \$100,000 of grants to SW 911 since February 2020 and SW 911 believes the most meaningful grants we made were our matching grants.** 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, SW 911's Wish List will include several multiples of the following:

- **\$2,720** to provide immediate emergency assistance to callers in need including baby formula, groceries, blankets, etc. **@ \$136 per household**
- **\$5,440** for household bills including electricity bills **@ \$272 per household**
- **\$6,790** for home appliances including cooktops, ovens, refrigerators, or washing machines **@ \$679 per household**

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 and help people with these basic needs and you will know how many families your dollars have helped.

## *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 **but the grant that HOT made that Mercado feels was the most meaningful was a fund to buy the supplies and provide a profit margin for the thousands of masks MG made at the beginning of the pandemic. These masks were sent to hospitals creating a win-win-win.**



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

**The \$20,000+ of grants we have made to MG have had an immediate impact on the artisans and their families. Health, Schoolbooks, and Food – what could be more important???**

MG’s wish list includes:

- \$2,500 for a trainer to teach artisans the necessary arithmetic for measuring
- \$2,500 for English language classes to help artisans build English communication skills that are often necessary when conversing with buyers of Mercado’s production
- \$12,729 for a trainer and supplies to teach 25 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 young boy needing transportation to get to specialized treatments for his cancer

They are among the 123 families (including 11 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.



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 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. **Between the purchasing of furniture and appliances Galila does for Border Patrol Families (p. 8), Emergency Aid (see above), technical training (also above), and the help they give Survivors (p. 31), HOT has given Galila grants of more than \$2 million since 2011. Galila believes the most meaningful grants from HOT have been the grants for Survivors (p. 31).**

Galila is asking for:

- **\$17,429** for another professional retraining class at Erez Technical Training College
- **\$27,174** for the Emergency Fund

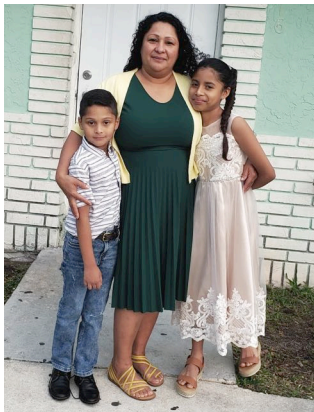
## *Boynton Beach*

Starting in 2004, *HOT* has made more than \$200,000 of grants to the Caridad Center to support and 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.



Over the years, *HOT* has made hundreds of thousands of dollars of grants, **many of them matching grants**, to Caridad which helped thousands of families. Families in need, families facing housing insecurity (giving them rent and utilities assistance, temporary shelter, and even construction supplies to repair safety problems in their homes.) Caridad has also provided healthy food options for hundreds of people with chronic diseases. By offering these healthier options to the families here at the Caridad Center, they 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 story sadly familiar within the immigrant community; A family split apart as the father of two children was deported to their home country. The mother lost her husband, a father figure for the children, and financial security. She was left with her two children to support, requiring her to work three jobs to make ends meet. It came to the point that she needed assistance to pay rent to keep a roof over her head along with her children. With the help of *HOT*, we were able to help pay a month's rent to prevent her from losing her home. Hopefully with this help, the mother will be able to achieve the security she strives for her children.*

**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 **\$35,000: \$10,000 of which would be used for scholarships, \$10,000 for food, and \$15,000** 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 and over the years, grants have totaled over \$200,000 to** train mentors to guide the former soldiers. 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. **AFA believes the most impactful of HOT’s grants are the grants for scholarships and for financial aid.**

The funds granted helped dozens of discharged soldiers with private lessons, assessments, tuition, emotional care, professional counseling, student stipends during exams periods, help with rent, equipment and more.

HOT has also given grants to build necessary infrastructure. Over the past 3 years AFA has enhanced all its activities, doubled the number of its beneficiaries, and diversified its programs. HOT’s funding has also permitted AFA to add new positions to the recruitment and alumni teams, permitting continuous growth. These grants permitted AFA to establish working strategies for internal and external operations, reach new target groups, and expediting its response time to incoming applications.



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

- **\$14,620** for support for veterans who have no family in Israel (“Lone Soldiers”)
- **\$24,200** for scholarships for 10 former soldiers **@ \$2,420** per scholarship
- **\$24,657** for an Alumni Response Coordinator
- **\$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. The schools Matanya's Hope currently work with have *HOT*-funded porridge through the end of this school year.

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. **We have made more**



**than \$70,000 worth of grants to MH since 2007 and MH believes the most meaningful grants *HOT* has made through the years were for the porridge programs and the rainwater tanks.**

\*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:

- **\$3,400** for two 10,000-liter rainwater tank in high-risk areas (**@ \$1,700 each**)
- **\$6,600** for food for 10 deeply impoverished university students at **\$660** (\$55 per month) **per student**

## ***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.

**We have made more than \$625,000 of grants to GNA since 2013 and GNA believes the most meaningful grants we made through the years were the extra grants during the Corona years 2020 and 2021 which permitted GNA to get matching grants.**

In addition to funding food purchases, *HOT* also funded two 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* currently gives GNA a base grant of 20,000 shekels a month (a rate of \$65,217 a year).



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.**

### **GNA’s wish list:**

- At **\$1,351** 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

## Youth at Risk:

- Trying to Break the Cycle of Poverty - Jaffa/South Tel Aviv (pages 17-18)
- A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help (p. 19-20)
- Helping Underprivileged Kids in Washington, DC (p. 21)
- Helping Underprivileged Kids In New York City (p. 22)
- A Safe Haven in Jerusalem for English Speaking Youth in Distress (p. 23-24)
- Giving Kids in Netanya a Chance (p. 25)
- Children Who Are Caregivers in Palm Beach County (p. 26)
- Teaching Leadership to Teens in Ashkelon, Israel (p. 27)
- Underprivileged and Educationally At-Risk Children in Delray Beach (p. 28)
- The Gaza-Border City of Sderot (p. 29)
- We Won't Rest Until Every Child Has a Bed (p. 30)

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



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

TJI was established in 1982 as a multi-service social welfare agency to assist the city of Jaffa's severely disadvantaged children and their families. Its mission, initially, was to provide educational, therapeutic, and social enrichment programs that assist children to develop positive attitudes and skills to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty in the impoverished communities of Jaffa, South Tel Aviv, and Bat Yam. Over time, TJI has expanded its mission to include special needs children, crisis residences for at-risk youth, feeding the poor, educational enrichment centers **providing the necessary tools to moms (many of them single) to initially enter, or get back into, the workforce** and helping Holocaust survivors. It currently operates more than 30 different programs and provides service and relief to over 4,000 Israelis. **We started working with TJI in September of 2011 and since then, HOT has made in excess of \$800,000 in grants to them.** TJI believes that the grants we have made to them for disadvantaged children to participate in summer camps have really stood out for their impact, as they provided these children with meaningful summers to look forward to, new friendships with children and healthy connections with counselors and teachers,





allowing them to enter the new school year with energy and optimism (in place of boredom and possibly risky situations during the hot days of summer).

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 than a school. This is the reality Israelis have to deal with every day.



TJI's wish list includes:

- \$9,511 to upgrade the playroom in the Parent - Child center including board games, building blocks, and educational toys
- \$23,775 to give 25 at-risk students a “JumpStart” who have been diagnosed with special needs and other learning issues @ \$951 a student

## *A Very Large Israeli Family Needing Help*



The 216 youngest children who currently live at Bet Elazraki (“BE”) are part of an **extended family of 612 children** (including 201 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: 612 children who came to Bet 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 BET 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 612 where there is only basic funding for 216. Similar to a typical family many of the other 396 “children” who have left home still need the help of their parents (Bet 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 612 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 Bet Elazraki escape the cycle of horror that was to have been their destiny.



Over the years, we have made more than \$800,000 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 and track each child's behavioral and academic 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 (xx) – 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. **While BE found it hard to choose the most important HOT grants, bringing these children up and giving them a chance in life would never be possible without grants for multiple types of therapy.**

Wish list items:

- \$2,174 for one year of orthodontic treatment for one child
- \$3,804 for pre-marital therapy for 8 young adults (4 couples) who have never seen a healthy marriage
- \$4,950 for 30 mattresses needed because of nocturnal bed wetting from both medical and psychological causes @ \$165 per
- \$8,540 for additional anxiety therapy for 14 children @ \$610 each
- \$19,022 for 2 kitchenettes required by the Israeli government @ 9,511 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**.

Eleven 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 to and from camp. **Five years ago, JI expanded its year-round programming to require participation in community service projects, offer workshops on the college admission process, and take students on field trips and college visits to expose their students to careers and areas of study they may not have known about or had access.** In the Fall of 2019, 10 JI graduates started college and, in the Fall of 2020, 8 graduates started college. Of 2021's 10 high school graduates, all 10 are attending a four-year college/university and 5 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 so JI continued its year-round programs and paid for online college prep courses. In Summer of 2021, several camps opened but between the required social distancing and parental fears, JI was not able to send many students to camp. This past summer, many camps were open but very few gave scholarships. Now, even with more camps open, JI has continued to morph away from camp and to helping students go to college to break the cycle of poverty.



**Since 2015, HOT has made grants of nearly \$125,000 to JI and they believe the most meaningful grants were those that helped JI transform into a college prep program, providing college tours for high school students and scholarships for needy college students.**

JI's Wish List for 2023 is \$22,000 in scholarships for 11 students (@ \$2,000 per student). College can be pretty tough to stay in school when you have to have one or two parttime jobs. **HOT** is taking \$11,000 out of undesignated funds and we hope our donors will match the \$1,000 for as many students that they can.

## *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.**

**HOT has made more than \$175,000 in grants to Camp Fiver since its first grant in 2008.**

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 \$25,000 cabin purchased in 2013 with the proceeds of a \$12,500 challenge grant HOT made which served as a catalyst for Fiver to raise an additional \$12,500 in matching donations. This cabin has been home to over 400 kids over the past ten years and will serve hundreds more in years to come. Fiver believes that this first Challenge Grant is the most meaningful grant HOT made** (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, 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:**

- **\$8,000** for a new generator for camp
- **\$15,000** for renovations to Camp Leadership housing

## *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 of more than \$350,000 since 2005** 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. Interestingly, when we asked Robbie (Crossroads’ director) what he thought was the most important grant we made, he responded: **“Sometimes it is the little things that can make all the difference in the**

**world. During one of our meetings, you asked Miki, the client participant who joined me, what was missing and what could make a real difference for kids at Crossroads. In posing this question, you also respectfully requested, “and don't look at Robbie for an answer :)”. Miki thought a while and then told you it would be amazing if there was a punching bag at Crossroads. Many kids at Crossroads need a healthy and appropriate way to vent and let out their frustration and anger. As a therapeutic resource, that punching bag got so much wear from use that it had to be replaced a couple of times. So, I'd have to say that this stand-up punching bag was the most meaningful grant.”**



We don't have room in this vignette to tell all the stories of the teens already "saved" by this program.



**Wish List:**

- **\$6,522** for food offerings for teens\*
- **\$8,967** to provide a course for clients to prepare for the GED exam
- **\$13,077** to expand the homework program (see viii above)
- **\$12,228** for psychiatric consults, prescribing and monitoring appropriate medication, reviewing selected cases to recommend the right clinical approach (15 hours a month for 6 months)

\*Many of their participants come from financially distressed backgrounds which impact food & meal availability. They would like to increase the availability of meals, snacks and nutritious food as part of their regular programs and activities. This not only supplements nutrition but promotes overall well-being and better health.

### ***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.

Since 2011, we have made almost \$500,000 of grants to TNF 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.



#### **A WISH, not a Wish List:**

TNF believes it is critical that it is expanded still again in Summer of 2023. HOT is going to contribute no less than \$50,000 from its undesignated funds and because this program may be dollar for dollar, the best investment we can make. Please consider designating part or all of your gift to HOT to this project.

## *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 2,150 youth caregivers and their families. It currently provides 487 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.**



Since 2006, *HOT* has made almost \$225,000 of grants to CYP and the one they feel was most meaningful was a recent grant for laptops/Chromebooks that allowed CYP to try to level the learning field for the Caregiving youth in some schools who weren't allowed by their principals to take home the laptops/Chromebooks they used in school. The visual that CYP described to us of children trying to

do homework on their mom's smartphone was heartbreaking and *HOT* quickly solved this problem for as many children as they could. Other grants included: (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.**

- \$6,650 for 19 laptops at \$350 each
- \$10,000 to replenish the *HOT* Emergency Assistance Fund
- \$14,800 for 200 four-hour blocks of respite care @ \$74 per block of respite care
- \$32,400 for 120 blocks of six-hours of tutoring @ \$270 per six-hour block



## *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.**

**Since 2008, *HOT* has made grants of almost \$600,000.**

This year, the city of Ashkelon is asking for:

- **\$4,000** to cover transportation and gifts for 4 groups of teens to visit Holocaust Survivors and other seniors **@ \$1,000 per group**
- **\$5,120** to add onto a program that pays youth at risk about \$8 an hour working at manual labor for the city with the payment made in coupons usable for school supplies and clothes for school **@ \$256 per student**

## ***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.



At MC, you see kids 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.** Since 2013 **HOT** has given almost \$275,000 in grants. MC believes that the summer grants from 2020 – 2022 were the most important grants as they funded one-on-one teaching for students who could not learn enough virtually to move forward in school. Additionally, **HOT** has 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.

### **Wish list:**

- **\$12,000** for college tours, transportation, and lodging for Teen Leadership students
- **\$21,060** to purchase nutritious afternoon meals for our High School teens and Middle School youth (3 days per week/\$3 per meal/ 90 students/26 weeks)
- **\$35,000** to upgrade our old van to a new 15-passenger van to transport students

## *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.

Since 2008, HOT has given over 100 grants, totaling more \$900,000, to Reut Sderot (“Reut”)- an organization that helps the young, families, and the elderly.

These grants have been given during times of war, in times of danger and during times of relative peace. While the grants we gave during periods of heavy missile fire were used for critical and immediate needs, Reut most remembers a grant we gave them in 2014, before the war with Hamas, that provided the funds for summer camp because, times were bad and they had a new CEO and without the grant, dozens of “Youth at Risk” would have spent the summer on the streets. But then camp ended, and the missiles came day after day after day and 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. And after less than 7 years of relative peace 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).

HOT has given grants (i) to renovate bomb shelters so they could ALSO be used for after-school programs. (ii) for food for the hungry (iii) to create and expanded programs in their Daycare Center for At-Risk Children (iv) to buy equipment for daycare centers and sun-protective tents that were placed over play areas where kids participate in special afterschool programs (v) **partnered with another organization to purchase three industrial size freezers**, (vi) for a coordinator for Reut’s Emergency Response Team (vii) for part of the renovation of an Education Center for learning-disabled children and so so much more. Helping people who when they first hear the siren have only **15 seconds to make it to a bomb shelter.**



### Current Wish List:

- **\$3,233** to train 58 Day Care staff members in therapeutic and educational responses to terror
- **\$11,120** for food & clothing vouchers for the poorest Sderot families 80 **@ \$139 each**
- **\$36,800** Emergency Fund for next “reign of terror”



## ***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.



sleep may be further magnified in high-risk adolescents.

Three *HOT* grantees: Caridad (p. 13); the Caregiving Youth Project (p. 26); JFS (p. 34); already collaborate with SDM and as time goes on hopefully others will. SDM provided 4,123 beds in 2022 and more than 14,000 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

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

**We have made almost \$125,000 in grants to SDM since August of 2019 and SDM believes the most meaningful grants we made through the years were our three \$25,000 “Back to School” challenge grants. In all, *HOT* has been responsible for more than 690 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.

## The Elderly:

- Holocaust Survivor Programs
  - Israel – Northern Galilee (page 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 295 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 295 survivors from all over Europe (51 of whom do, and 244 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. Galila believes, of the over \$2 million in grants we have given them (see p. 8 and p. 12), the help we give these Survivors are our most important grants.



- \$15,744 to fund the next semi-annual distribution of vouchers redeemable for food and clothing for 192 of the poorest seniors @ \$82 each

## *Survivors in Hod HaSharon, Israel*



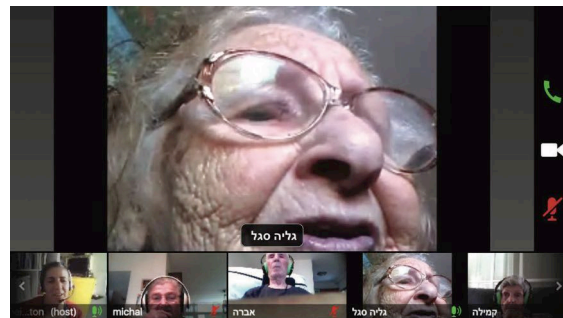
**CLICK** (Community Leadership and Innovation Centers for the Elderly) in Hod Hasharon operates five Day Centers for Independent Seniors, a Day Center for Disabled Elders, a Virtual Technology Center for the Homebound, a Social Support Center, a Vocational Center, a Multidisciplinary Community Leisure 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. **Since 2014, HOT has made grants of over \$200,000.**

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. Classes broadcasted include: meditation, music appreciation, group therapy, lectures and more all via the elder's television set. **CLICK feels HOT's grants that financed the virtual groups for homebound, isolated, and lonely seniors were HOT's most important grants.** 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. While it has resumed live programming many of its participants have elected to continue to attend virtually.**

CLICK's wish list includes:

- **\$2,717** for handicraft kits – occupational therapy and “something to do”
- **\$3,533** for sports equipment for senior centers including bands, balls, and weights
- **\$6,793** 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.

Since 2013, HOT has made grants of \$175,000 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, and (xii) **the grant that TVC believes was our most important grant was to hire a parttime person to fill out the forms for the State of Florida to fund to pay the overdue electric bills of scores of TVC clients who would have otherwise had their electric turned off.**



We would like our donors to consider:

- **\$20,000** to cover half of a staff member's salary to assist clients in filling out the forms necessary to get payments from the state to pay delinquent FPL bills that non-payment of, would cause an immediate shut off of their electricity
- **\$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



## *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 part of a group of 271 seniors who live in Palm Beach County who have almost no disposable income, are over 65, and now receive gift cards from HOT to help pay for the basic necessities of life. 262 of them have income between \$614 and \$1,348 a month and receive once a quarter, \$60 (\$240 a year) of Walmart gift cards. 9 have income between \$307 and \$613 a month and receive a \$40 gift card every month (\$480 a year).



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 receive semi-monthly food packages from Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services (JFS.)



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. **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. **Since 2004, HOT has given JFS almost \$1.5 million for seniors (including Survivors and families to buy food and give emergency assistance. We need more designated gifts to JFS to buy food and give more emergency aid.**

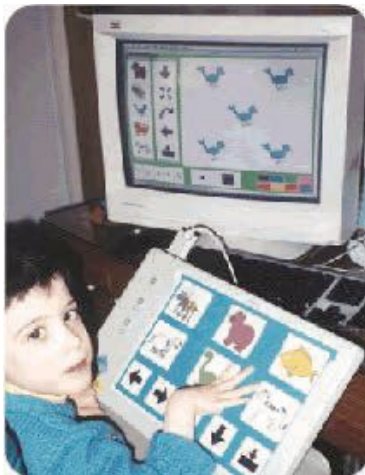
## Special Needs and Compassionate Care:

- 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)
- Widowed In All But Name (p. 42)

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



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



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. Since 2008, HOT has given NJPPCTF more than \$150,000 in grants. NJPPCTF was most appreciative of our 2020 grants because it was "COVID-TIME" and they were unable to hold any of their regular fundraising events.

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. They also run a post-high school gap year program and are looking to expand to create a “first of its kind” high school as well.



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. Since 2014, we have made more than \$125,000 in grants to MPOP. The grant that to them was the most meaningful is when in 2021 we completely funded camp when no other grants were available due to COVID.

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 2023 program.

**MPOP’s wish list includes:**

- \$10,870 for additional activities at this year’s summer camp
- \$35,424 to fund 12 groups for the year-long school program @ \$2,952 per group



## ***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. **Since 2005, we have made more than \$250,000 of grants responding to a myriad of important requests, but the bulk of our grants have been for transportation, as Camp Sunshine wants to make sure that as many families as possible have an opportunity to attend their incredible sessions.**

We have made grants 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.**

*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:

- **\$556** for car seats, booster seats, and infant seats
- **\$2,515** for Petzl Vertex Helmets, cable replacements, and new harnesses for the rock-climbing wall
- **\$4,257** for a 3-door replacement refrigerator
- **\$7,506** for lounge furniture including two sofas @ \$1,499 each, two chairs \$5,999 each, 4 bean bag seats for kids/teens @ \$79 each, one large ottoman @ \$1,299, four end tables @ \$175 each, four lamp tables @ \$59 each, and a bookshelf @ \$655



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

Avshalom Beni started a program that we call **“Humans Helping Animals Help Humans” (HHAHH)** 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.

**HOT has made in excess of \$400,000 of grants to HHAHH since 2008** funding among other things (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 and (v) **a Challenge Grant that was matched for a program helping parents and children dealing with cancer**, (vi) programs 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 that **HHAHH believes HOT’s most important grant was the one that enabled them to initiate a pioneering AAT Program for vulnerable children who were being relentlessly bullied in the inner city schools. The rescue/therapy animals had a profound impact in comforting both children and parents alike. They helped them to open up to each other and seek the protection they needed.**



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 2023 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 next school 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 \$9,240. Which program do you think is most important?**

### **Wish List:**

- While writing this edition of the *HOT News*, we considered all of Avshalom's programs and decided to give him \$9,240 from undesignated funds to fund one of the two groups he is requesting funding for of primary school children, in the city of Holon, who have been designated by schools and social services as children at risk, who are experiencing Continuous Traumatic Stress Disorder (CTSD) at home and in school. The children are jointly referred by schools and social services in Holon. 14-15 children per program in addition to individual parental counseling for each child's parents. 14 weekly sessions.
- As the animals get older, just like humans, their medical bills grow. Avshalom's estimate is that he will need another \$13,587 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. **Since 2009, HOT has made almost \$150,000 of grants to CK** funding 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 a teen dance with live music, dancing, a DJ, photobooth, refreshments, and giveaways for special needs teens who would never otherwise have a school dance. In many ways, CK believes this is the most meaningful grant we can give them.**
- **\$7,500 for a new game room with kid friendly furniture, sensory seating, foam floor tiles, a flat screen TV, and video games**
- **\$12,000 for one-on-one counselors (shadows) that will permit less-developed children to participate in programs where their needs would be too great to otherwise allow participation**



### ***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. **Since 2006, HOT has made almost \$200,000 in grants and according to Widowed In All But Name, the one they feel is most meaningful was during COVID when the government was not too stable and national budgets were not promptly approved, HOT did what was necessary to keep the therapists helping these WIDOWS.**

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. 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 Emergency Financial Needs of some of the girls who have never "recovered"**

**\$12,620 for scholarships for 10 fiancées to return to university @ \$1,262 each**

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

- Overview (pages 43-44)
- Hurricanes (bottom of p. 44-46)
- The 2014 Gaza War (p. 47)
- Ukraine (p. 48)
- Responding to Increased Needs During COVID Pandemic (p. 49)
- COVID Effect on Weaker Students (top of p. 50)
- 2021 Gaza War (bottom of p. 50)

**HOT's lack of bureaucracy and cadre of volunteers and partners makes it uniquely able to be a first responder. Over 20 years HOT has collected and distributed more than \$5,000,000 of goods and paid virtually nothing for transportation, using plane, helicopters, boats, trucks and private cars and other vehicles.**

Starting in 2004 with Hurricane Katrina and most recently in September of 2022 with Hurricane Ian HOT worked with “on the ground partners” in the areas worst hit by the storms. We have been first responders for the last 20 years for virtually every major Hurricane to hit the United States as well as Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Bahamas. Unlike the other projects in the *HOT News* where we publish a Wish List which we hope donors designate their gifts to over the months following receipt of this booklet, the need for hurricane relief comes with no warning. We immediately arrange for goods to be delivered to partners we already have, or new ones we quickly and carefully vet, in the area help is needed. We use cars, trucks, ships, helicopters and planes to deliver goods that we either purchased with our reserve funds or receive in kind from donors at collection points we establish. We are there in the beginning when things are most confusing and help from others is minimal. After this initial flourish of activity, we determine if others are duplicating our efforts and whether our help is still needed. More times than at that point, we carefully review with people on the ground what isn't being done and change what we are doing to fill that need. Sometimes we exclusively use our reserve funds, sometimes we have a special campaigning asking our donors to help and other times we do both. **HOT needs larger reserves so we can continue to be a true “first responder.”**

Starting in 2006 and continuing almost every year since we have worked with our partners in Israel providing relief from the missile attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah. Within hours of escalation, regardless of the time of day or night, we are on the phone with our Israeli partners arranging to fund food and water for bomb shelters, respite after weeks of constant sirens and explosions. Therapy for PTSD. Buying games and training teens to keep hundreds of young children playing games and other activities to minimize the affect of the constant sirens and explosions. In 2014 we funded the rewiring of more than a 100 bomb shelters. 43 grants to 10 of our partners. \$517,000 of grants over a 2 month period. There have been missiles every year but then in 2021 for 11 days in May Hamas was unrelenting. Again we were there everyday with immediate help. **HOT needs larger reserves so we can continue to be a true “first responder.”**

2020 brought a new problem- a Natural Disaster not seen since 1918/19. A Pandemic. COVID. At the beginning there was minimal scientific understanding of how it spread. There was no vaccine. The only thing we knew was the closer you got to somebody who was infected the higher the chance was that you would get infected. Masks, washing hands, separation by at least 6 feet and

more. In both the United States and Israel *HOT* became a first responder. Page 49 describes what we did to combat the spread of COVID and Pages 25 and 50 describe an innovative program we, with the Netanya Foundation, designed to help children who had trouble with virtual learning before they went back to live school destined to fail. The program has been tweaked and is now on the wish-list of the Netanya Foundation on page 25. ***HOT needs larger reserves so we can continue to be a true “first responder.”***

And in February of 2022 Terror came complete with kidnapping, torture, death and an attempt to destroy a country. Russia’s invasion of **UKRAINE** has brought Europe on the verge of war. Please see page 48 to see what *HOT* has done and is still doing.

\* \* \*

### ***2022 Hurricane Ian***

In 2022 most of the damage from **Hurricane Ian** was in western and northern Florida. The day after the storm *HOT* with almost 1,000 volunteers were packing supplies at a drop off point and/or delivering food and water to sites set up by partners for those in need to pick up. We sent (1) thousands of hot meals, (2) food staples (mostly canned) for college students and families, (3) temporary housing structures, (4) laundry and shower trucks, (5) kosher food for high holidays for those who required it, (6) more than 15,000 diapers and wipes, (7) clothing for children and adults, (8) shoes and socks for students, (9) relief trip, (10) furniture for families, (11) baby equipment-cribs, swings, and bouncy seats, (11) cleaning supplies, (12) generators and gasoline, (13) funded asbestos abatement for a community center to increase the space in the building that could be used as a shelter and (14) arranged and funded the bus and supplies for 35 college students to go to the disaster area and deliver supplies (all under the bus) and spend the day doing manual labor (clean up). Our work started as soon as the roads were passable and **the first \$100,000 of funding came from Jewish Federtaion of South Palm Beach County**, The Federation has always been there to insure we have funding permitting us to be a first responder to Victime of War, Terror and Natural Disaster. **By the time we finished our work we supplied more than \$750,000 of supplies.**



### ***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 almost 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. We would never been able to help all the people we did without the early fundraising: \$100,000 from members of St. Andrews Country Club, \$65,000 from the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and \$50,000 from members of B'nai Torah Congregation

Our 2017 Hurricane Relief efforts started with Harvey with \$40,000 of purchases we made in Dallas, because the roads in Louisiana were closed. 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. Then, as we were about to send several more trucks loaded with supplies to Houston, Irma arrived in Florida, 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 — 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. A school with 640 students before the storm had only 600 still living 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 other than the clothes on their back or what few possessions they brought with them when they were ordered into the shelters. The next morning, they 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 *HOT* got each of them 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. 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.

## ***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, one of *HOT*'s directors and our North America and Caribbean Disaster Relief Coordinator, 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.

## *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. 29), 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 15 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. 27), 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.**



## *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.

Last year we 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 Ukrainian 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 4 trillion (that could by war’s-end be 6-8 trillion) dollars. Huge devastation but it doesn’t come close to the human toll. These Ukrainians 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.

### ***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 Israel Border Patrolmen Stationed in Jerusalem** (p. 8) to purchase tablet computers and to provide connectivity to children isolated at home
- **Amit LaDerech** (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. 19-20) to provide additional staff and programming for 219 at-risk youth living in group home, isolated due to coronavirus
- **Crossroads** (pp. 23-24) to assist at-risk teens in Jerusalem with food and rent money due to coronavirus-related job losses
- **Netanya Foundation** (p. 25) to provide food to elderly residents without any family
- **Ashkelon Foundation** (p. 27) 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. 29) 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

### ***COVID Effect on Weaker Students***

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.



July 2021, 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.

### ***2021 Gaza War***

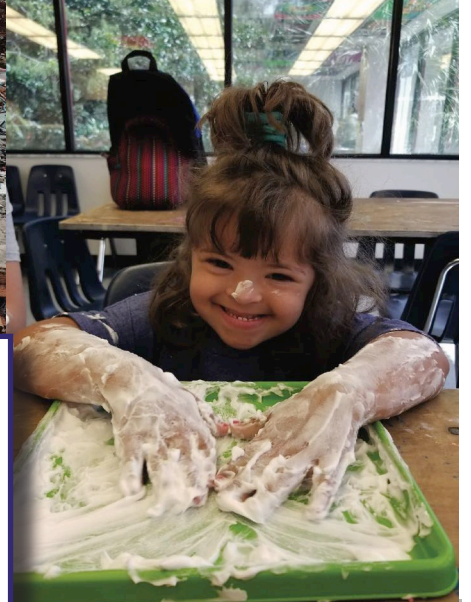


2021 Gaza War--Look at the sixth-floor apartment on the left. It is the apartment that a 5-year-old Israeli boy, in Sderot Israel, lived in until May of 2021. His apartment was hit by one of the 4,360 missiles that were indiscriminately fired into Israel from Gaza.

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. 27), 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.







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





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



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