



# Update . . .

April 2011

5771 Nisan



*Purim party for at-risk kids in Israel on 18 March 2011*

## **I have in me strength to succeed.**

My name is Chaim Talmid and I am 9 years old. I want to thank you for sponsoring the Purim party at our school. It was a lot of fun to eat all that pizza, get toys, and the most fun part was the magician. Of all his tricks I still don't know how he knew what numbers we were thinking in our heads.

One night when I was 5 years old, my parents got into a big argument. The police came and took my father away. I didn't see him for many months and missed him very much. Before that night, our Shabbats were very happy. Afterwards, our house was empty.

The worst part was listening to my mother cry every night in her bedroom. She did not know I could hear her crying,

but it scared me. Nobody would tell me why the police took my father and why my mother was so sad. All of the adults were hiding something and I became angry.

One day I came home from kindergarten and my mother told me she was taking me to see my father. I was so happy - I dressed up and drew a picture for him. We took a bus to a visitation center to see my father. We had to go through a lot of security to go to the room where my father waited. Instead of having my mother with us, there was another women sitting in the room taking notes.

The hardest part was seeing how much older my father became. He looked more like he should be my grandfather. Still, he smiled and hugged me and gave me a toy train. For the next six months I met my

father at that visitation center once a week for an hour. Every week I wanted him to take me out for ice cream or play in the park like we used to, but we played games in that room instead.

At the end of our last visit, I clutched him for a long time and begged him to take me home to live with him. I thought I could hold onto him forever, but I fell asleep. When I woke up, the security guard was pulling me away and brought me to my mother. She took me home and I never saw my father again. My mother says he moved away.

It has been a very hard life and I got into a lot of fights at school. I didn't trust my teachers, so they moved me to a new school a few weeks before the Purim party. The new principal's name is Itzhak and he is really funny. My new teacher is very nice to me. Whenever I get upset, she lets me go see the school's counselor.

Parties like the one in our school at Purim give me some hope that I can overcome so many difficulties in my life. The sign on the wall read, "I have in me strength to succeed". That means a lot to me. Maybe I will grow up and become a magician who does magic shows that make sad children happy.

**Chaim Talmid** is a fictitious boy whose profile the Love for Israel Relief Fund compiled from numerous interactions with children, parents, teachers, and child welfare professionals. The purpose of Chaim's story is to objectively show how adult problems all-too-often impact our children in Israel. No matter which adults are to blame, the affect on Chaim is the same. Oftentimes the most natural and least restrictive environment is the best solution for Israeli children like Chaim. Our goal with such profiles is to educate child welfare professionals in Israel about the harmful affect restrictive and unnatural environments have on our children.

**Special events**, like weddings and bar mitzvahs, happen year round for hundreds of at-risk kids and needy young adults in Israel. Donations designated "special events" will be set aside for such use.

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**On behalf** of the Israelis you help - Todah Robah!

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