



# Update . . .

April 2012

5772 Nisan



*Reuven Babayan & his administration at the 2011 graduation.*

## **A School's Thank-You Letter**

*by Reuven Babayan, principal*

First of all, I want to thank the Love for Israel Relief Fund for helping support *Arazim* school's activities. It means a lot to our staff and students – who all make me proud.

*Arazim* means “Cedars” in Hebrew and we are a special education elementary school for students aged 6-12 with severe emotional and behavioral disorders as well as average to above-average intelligence. Our team includes a diversity of trained teachers, aids, psychologists, counselors, volunteers and non-profits like Love for Israel Relief Fund - all working tirelessly together in order to build a healthy, safe, nurturing and positive environment for our pupils.

Our pupils' behavioral disorders manifest in “acting out”; aggression

towards other children as well as adults and uncontrolled highly violent outbursts. Our pupils have great difficulty conducting themselves within behavioral and social boundaries; poor social skills, difficulty complying with authority figures, and juvenile delinquency.

Their emotional disorders include depression, low self-esteem, and fear of academic and social failure. In addition to behavioral and emotional disorders, other difficulties our students face are learning disabilities such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, ADD, ADHD, motor and speech disorders, elective mutism, tourette, and various psychiatric disorders.

Most of the students come from dysfunctional homes headed by low-income single mothers. They live in poverty-stricken

neighborhoods and are subjected to violence, crime and poor role models.

Our school strives to rehabilitate the pupils in order for them to be better-adjusted in society. Without the in-depth educational and therapeutic programming we provide to our students, some may go down the path of a criminal life, and disconnect from positive environments.

Not all of the valuable programs we offer are funded by the Ministry of Education. That is where our partners like the Love for Israel Relief Fund are so valuable to our students. We really appreciate all your support even during such hard economic times.

One such program is our annual over-night field trip, so as our younger and older pupils will be able to enjoy exploring the country and visit different land marks they would otherwise not have been able to experience.

The cost of these trips is \$5,500 including buses, housing, entrance fees to sites (boat ride on the Galilee, donkey rides etc.) meals and afternoon snacks for all students and chaperones.

We are asking for your help in contributing towards our efforts and continue to expose and involve, teach and include our pupils to different educational and social experiences. Thank you for any contribution you can offer to our cause.

We want you to know that we feel your love even from afar.

**Reuven Babayan** is the principal of Arazim School in Jerusalem. His door is always open to every single student whenever that student needs a compassionate ear – a management style which inspires his entire staff. The students at Arazim suffer from behavioral problems and serious emotional difficulties. Most students come from lower socio-economic levels of society and their families have serious economic difficulties. Arazim is one of the only schools in Jerusalem specializing in students with behavioral and emotional problems.

**Our Holiest** work is advocating on behalf of at-risk Israeli children. This not only saves lives, it also saves over 90% on taxes and donations. A growing number of our national leaders from across the social and political spectrum are responding positively to our exhortations on behalf of these little treasures from Heaven. Your support empowers us to give a voice to children who cannot speak out for themselves.

**The Family** Treatment Center we sponsor is now providing support for several families. The proposal is available online at: <http://love4israel.org/admin/pdf/Proposal.pdf>

**You can** donate online at: <http://love4israel.org/donate.html>

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

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Send checks to:

**Love for Israel Relief Fund**  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 190-610  
Washington, DC 20004