



Update . . .

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Children like these need safe and loving homes.

Beit Netanel - Responding to Israel's Youth Crisis

by Richard Weisskopf

350,000 Israeli children live at risk of abuse and neglect according to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Last year, over 2,400 of these precious little ones needed emergency room treatment due to abuse and neglect. For every bed in an adoptive or foster home in Israel, 16 children live in potentially life-threatening situations.

When the court system intervenes, caseworkers must place over 90% of the children in shelters and institutional care facilities. Many of the children are immigrants and have special needs. About 80% of these children would thrive in less restrictive environments such as adoptive or foster homes. There are currently 150 such licensed homes in the country - many lack special

training and diverse cultural backgrounds the children need. With such limited resources, Israel is in a youth crisis.

Israel desperately needs to develop a continuum of child welfare services that sufficiently meets the needs of the children in state custody. These children have absolutely no voice to advocate for themselves, and need caring people to speak up on their behalf. Many simply need safe and nurturing homes. They can thrive to their maximum abilities if given a fair chance.

Beit Netanel is a strategy to develop a network of safe homes in Israeli communities for at-risk children. The plan is to integrate as many children as possible into local communities. This

means we need qualified parents sensitive to the diverse cultural needs of the children. We will provide training and support for Israeli parents to care for these children in the homes. Our goal is for each child to prosper in the most natural and least restrictive environment possible.

Beit Netanel means “Home of a Gift from G-d” in Hebrew. Each child is a gift from Heaven. Whether a child is with us short term or long term, our goal is to treat each one like a treasure from Heaven. We shall build our entire infrastructure upon this understanding.

Each child is a unique individual with special needs. We help equip the parents to effectively advocate on behalf of the children and provide for each child’s special needs. Depending upon a child’s needs, we help parents access medical, therapeutic, educational, legal and other resources to help that child. This includes ongoing training for parents and 24-hour access to an on-call counselor.

In 2007 Beit Netanel needs to raise funds for our pilot program. We need to fund start-up training and licensing for our first parents and opening a network office. Beit

Netanel seeks partners to share in this vision. We ask you to consider a partnership with us to restore hope to at-risk Israeli children. Shalom from Jerusalem.

You can donate online at:

<http://www.love4israel.org/donate.html>

About me: The State of Illinois removed me from home at a young age due to child abuse.

Within the first three years, they placed me in 20 shelters, group homes, and orphanages



before finding a foster home for me. As an adult, I vowed to help the next generation of at-risk youth. After university, I worked in several capacities within the child welfare system. While serving as a licensed foster parent, I helped the director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to restructure the child welfare system to be less restrictive and more natural. The result - over 50% of the children kept in Illinois institutions could either live in safe foster homes or return to stable relatives.

Send checks to:

Love for Israel Relief Fund
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 445
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