



Update . . .

February 2015

5775 Adar



Orphans celebrate their Bar Mitzvah at the Wailing Wall

Kav HaChesed for Orphans

by Michaela Vaknin

Kav HaChesed is a Hebrew phrase for “Charity Line”. We are in contact with principals and teachers at schools where we distribute sandwiches to children who would otherwise go hungry, as well as other schools serving underprivileged populations.

They refer children to us who would otherwise not have the opportunity to celebrate their *Bar Mitzvah* – a very special and emotional day when Jewish children come of age and take on obligations to keep the Torah commandments.

The children travel to the *Kotel* – the Wailing Wall. At a festive ceremony, each child is given a pair of *tefillin*, a *tallit*, and a

prayer book followed by a festive ceremony led by a professional cantor.

Afterwards, the youth, together with their families and teachers, are treated to a tour of the *Kotel* tunnels and the Museum of Generations where they learn about Jewish history from the time of the Destruction of the Second Temple until today. From the museum, the entire *Bar Mitzvah* party is taken by bus to a beautiful hall where they are served a festive meal.

When the buses arrive at the hall, yeshiva students escort the *Bar Mitzvah* youth into the hall with music and dancing. A disc jockey is there with a whole array of music for the guests to dance to, and each *Bar*

Mitzvah youth receives a present. Afterwards, each is sent a personal disc of *Bar Mitzvah* pictures.

It takes 43 people, including regional coordinators, teachers and school administrators throughout the country, to make this event into a reality. We hire two buses to transport the children from Ramla, Lod, Rosh Haayin, Tsfat, Ashkelon, to the *Kotel* in Jerusalem. Children from other areas are transported by private cars.

We invite you to help *Kav HaChesed* provide a proper *Bar Mitzvah* for these 75 youth who have no other options for celebrating their *Bar Mitzvah*. Every \$500 sponsors a *Bar Mitzvah* youth complete with a new *tefillin*, *tallit*, prayer book, suit, and celebration. We hope that you will be interested in assisting our organization with this unique project that fulfills a very real need. Every donation to this *Bar Mitzvah* project, whether big or small, will be greatly appreciated.

Delivering hope is an ongoing project that delivers aid to needy children in Israel. Expenses for the delivery vehicle are \$500 per month. This allows us to pick up and deliver up to \$100,000 in aid per delivery. You can also sponsor deliveries for one month or more with a sponsor sign on the delivery vehicle for deliveries during that month. Donations designated “delivering hope” will be applied to operational costs of the delivery vehicle.

Send checks to:

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

Michaela Vaknin volunteers her time with *Kav HaChesed* to help raise awareness about the poorest of the poor among Israeli children. Whether she is feeding hungry school children or delivering aid to lone soldiers, Michaela's heart radiates to the lives she touches. She lives in Jerusalem with her husband, two children . . . and one on the way!

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.

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.

You can donate online at:

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

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