



Update . . .

Sept/Oct 2012

5773 Tishrei/Cheshvan



Love for Israel Registered with the U.N.

by R. David Weisskopf, chairman

A highlight of our busiest summer ever was earning acceptance with the United Nations' Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNESA). Not only is this an acknowledgement of the Love for Israel Relief Fund's advocacy on behalf of Israeli orphans and at-risk children, but allows us to be more active and more effective on the international stage.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund was founded in 2006 when the chairman of the Knesset Social Welfare Lobby requested our help in addressing Israel's youth crisis. Since that time the Love for Israel Relief Fund has cooperated with various governmental and non-governmental bodies both domestically and internationally to address the youth crisis and try to avert a social welfare disaster

where needy Israeli children are the most vulnerable population.

Israel is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The OECD provides a litmus test of a country's social welfare performance for the United Nations, the Israeli Knesset and for private organizations including the Love for Israel Relief Fund. The Jerusalem Post announced on May 3, 2011 that Israel's child poverty ranked the highest in the OECD. This troubling data was a real wake-up call for us.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund expects Israel's child welfare system to rank #1 in OECD – nothing less will do for us. Call us biased, but we believe Israeli families are the best in the world and our OECD child welfare track record must reflect that.

Since May 2011, the Love for Israel Relief Fund has carefully sifted through the OECD data as well as data from several states within the United States. Our goal was to identify the secret to the successes of the highest ranking countries within the OECD and the highest-ranking states within the United States and suggest adapting these successes to Israeli society.

As is often the case, the solution was surprisingly simple. Every welfare system that took concrete steps to ensure children the right to “most natural and least restrictive environment” also performed superior to welfare systems that used vague euphemisms such as “the child’s best interest” which can be easily manipulated distorted into ways that actually harm children. Relatedly, welfare systems which emphasized accountability and transparency on their part performed superior to those that were cloaked in secrecy where clients’ rights were vague.

Our proposal to reform the Israeli child welfare system is not only in our children’s best interest, but will save taxpayers and donors up to 90% during these economic hard times. The Love for Israel Relief Fund’s acceptance into the UNESA system indicates the value of our research efforts on the international scene.

This month of Tishrei on the Jewish calendar marks the Jewish New Year and

high holy days. It is a time of in-depth soul-searching and serious accounting for our actions. We hope our nation’s decision-makers will take to heart our need to reform Israel’s child welfare system this year. May Israel rank #1 in the OECD next year – it is in our children’s best interest!

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>

Send checks to:

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