



Update . . .

September 2013

5774 Tishrei



Over 100 orphans celebrate their bar mitzvah at the Western Wall.

New Year Exhortation for our Society

by R. David Weisskopf, chairman

The month of Tishrei marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year. It is a month when Israelis are called to deep soul-searching both on an individual level and as a society. Each year, the Love for Israel Relief Fund focuses this month's newsletter on an exhortation to improve child welfare.

A recent child abuse report is both disturbing and hopeful (<http://www.jpost.com/National-News/Child-abuse-rates-in-Israel-now-higher-than-in-US>). Since the establishment of Israel's family court system in 1995, child abuse nationwide has more than doubled. At the same time Israel's child poverty increased to the highest in the Organization for Economic

Cooperation & Development (OECD). This troubling data really needs to be a sincere wake-up call for our leadership.

There is also hope in this report. Child abuse in the United States dropped by 1/3 during the same period. In other words, there is an effective solution to child abuse in the United States which is also readily available to Israel. That strategy originated in Chicago where I consulted with the director of the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. Our strategy was so effective in Illinois that the director got promoted to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services while I emigrated to Israel.

As is often the case, the solution is surprisingly simple. The welfare system has simply taken concrete steps to ensure

children the right to “most natural and least restrictive environment” as opposed to using vague euphemisms such as “the child’s best interest” which can be easily manipulated distorted in ways that actually harm children and benefit corrupt bureaucrats. Relatedly, welfare systems which emphasize accountability and transparency on their part always perform superior to those that are cloaked in secrecy where clients’ rights were vague.

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.

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.

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 overhaul 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>

On behalf of the Israelis you help - Todah Robah!

Send checks to:
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