

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

Shalom,

I am pleased to send the newsletter of the association, reviewing the last month.

I will appreciate to get your feedback.

Happy and kosher Pesach Mendi

Operation Purim has been successfully completed!

Thousands of Purim baskets were distributed to children with special needs across Israel and brought them the holiday atmosphere. The baskets contained books, games, and lots of sweets, donated by dozens of companies in Israel.



At the top of the headlines – ChaiEl's Bar Mitzvah

The emotional Bar-Mitzvah celebration we organized for <u>ChaiEl Elimelech</u> from Tirat HaCarmel, went viral in the media and across the social networks, and touched millions of people. The Israeli news website YNET.CO.IL chose to run the story at the top of their news headlines.



A moving Purim Party for Scholarship Recipients

The students and special children in the "Aharon Scholarship" program, will not soon forget the exciting Purim party we organized for them in cooperation with the Rishon LeZion mayor's office several days before Purim.



Mother's Vacation at the Haifa Hostel

It has become a tradition: every couple of months we organize a Sabbath of quiet and relaxation for the mothers of special children. And the emotional responses leave no doubt as to the need for this project.



Bar-Mitzvah for three Autistic Children

This month we celebrated the Bar-Mitzvah for three youths with autism, who surprised everyone and cooperated beyond all expectations. For one of them it was necessary to give him a warm up of jumping and dancing before the "Aliya to the Torah".





מה עושים כשחתן בר המצווה האוטיסט מסרב לעלות לתורה?...

ערכתי היום בר מצווה בעיר יבנה לילד אוטיסט שקשה לתקשר איתו. לפני שהעליתי אותו לתורה ערכתי לו "חימום" קצר של קפיצות וריקודים על הבימה, ונראה שצורת התקשורת הזו עבדה - הוא הסכים אח״כ ללבוש את הטלית ולגשת לספר התורה.... נשמה מיוחדת!

Today I organized a Bar Mitzvah celebration in the city of Yavneh for an autistic child with whom it is very difficult to communicate. Before I called him up to the Torah, I did with him a kind of a "warm up" by jumping and dancing together with him on the synagogue platform. It looks like this kind of communication worked well - He then agreed to wear the Talit (prayer Shawl) and to approach the Torahscroll

A special soul

The Picture of the Month

Hapoel Eilat Basketball players *Afik Nissim* and *Regi Backner* came to visit their huge fan, Netanel Ochaion, a participant of "Special in Uniform" program at the Eilat Israel Navy base. They came together with all the other team players.







Special in uniform news

An IDF Swearing-In Ceremony – The first of its kind

On the Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem an IDF Swearing-In ceremony was conducted for 11 young soldiers with special needs of the "Special in Uniform" program. They serve at the Home Front Command base in Ramla. The reporter of Israel \underline{TV} <u>Channel-1</u> reported from there and let thousands of viewers share the touching event.



The Prime Minister is proud of "Special in Uniform"

This week we met Shai Levy in Eilat. He is a young man (19) with cerebral palsy who was conscripted as a volunteer into the IDF and serves at the headquarters of the "Red Sea Division" in the framework of "Special in Uniform".

We were very happy to meet him and to see first-hand the moral strength of the IDF, the only army in the world which integrates soldiers with special needs within its ranks.

My wife, Sarah, and I salute Shai and the other 320 male and female soldiers of "Special in Uniform", who are integrated in dozens of IDF bases from Eilat to the Golan Heights, thanks to the blessed cooperation of the "Yad LaYeled Hameyuchad" association, and the JNF-USA organization.

Shabbat Shalom and a happy Purim!



Benjamin Netanyahu - בנימין נתניהו 10 mins · Instagram · ✿

השבוע פגשנו באילת את שי לוי, צעיר בן 19 עם שיתוק מוחין, שהתגייס לשירות התנדבותי בצה״ל ומשרת במפקדת עוצבת אדום, במסגרת תוכנית ״גדולים במדים״.

שמחנו מאוד לפגוש אותו ולהכיר מקרוב את העוצמה המוסרית של צה״ל, הצבא היחידי בעולם שמשלב בשורותיו חיילים עם צרכים מיוחדים.

רעייתי שרה ואני מצדיעים לשי ולעוד 320 חיילים וחיילות ״גדולים במדים״ שמשולבים בעשרות בסיסי צה״ל, מאילת ועד רמת הגולן, תודות לשיתוף פעולה מבורך של עמותת יד לילד המיוחד וארגון JNF ארה״ב.



שבת שלום ופורים שמח!

An emotional Air Force Beret Ceremony at Tel Nof

A moving ceremony of receiving the IDF Air Force Beret took place at the Tel Nof air-base for soldiers in the new unit of <u>"Special in Uniform"</u>. This unit is sponsored by the Rotstein Inc. real estate company. I highly recommend you to watch the moving video clip of the event.



The Queen's New Wardrobe

All week long, Vera Ravitz (29), from Netivot, waits for Wednesday to come.

On Wednesdays, she goes to the IDF airbase at Hatzerim. There, she volunteers to serve like any regular soldier. Vera is participating in the project "Special in Uniform" of the "Yad LaYeled Hameyuchad", which is an initiative that integrates young people with special needs into the IDF.

Yesterday Vera was surprised to receive the Air Force military overall, tailored to her size, and with her name on it. In the picture above, we see Vera with her coach, A., a senior officer in the wing. It was he who arranged for her to get the same uniform as all other crew-members so that she can feel equal among equals.

When she came back to the "Maon Hashlosha" Hostel, where she lives, she could not stop telling everybody about the new uniform which she received. Miri Amar, the hostel director, told us: "The opportunity to go out of the hostel, and to be in another environment where there are soldiers, causes her a great deal of excitement.

Receiving the overall, is a very significant experience for her. All week she waits for the day on which she volunteers at the Air Force base. And the uniform she got was a highlight for her."



Light unto the Nations

The Israel Embassy in the USA is proud of the "Special in Uniform" program and its Swearing-In Ceremony on the Ammunition Hill.



Israel in the USA

2 hrs · @

Eleven soldiers with developmental disabilities, ranging from Down Syndrome to autism to cognitive delays, were eagerly sworn into the Israel Defense Forces yesterday to serve the country they love.

Mendi Belinitzky, CEO of Special in Uniform, believes David Ben-Gurion would have loved this initiative. "This is Israel," he said. "This is how the Torah teaches us to help each other, and it is the secret of the IDF."



11 developmentally disabled soldiers sworn into IDF

jpost.com

🖄 💟 😧 Special in Uniform, Pete Webb and 237



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