

11th March 2010

**ACTIVITIES REPORT – REBECCA SIEFF CENTRE FOR THE FAMILY
BEIT HAKEREM AUGUST 2009/FEBRUARY 2010**

Six months have passed since our last activity report and we are in the midst of intensive activities at the center. The WIZO Secondary Vocational school is in the process of renewal and change since the new Director, Mrs. Michal Gottesman has taken over this position. As opposed to last year, the students are not doing work outside, but are receiving all their professional training at the school. This is in accordance with instructions from the Government, who obliges us to initiate new programs and to add new study trends for the students.



Also for the Day Care Center, we have started to consider future plans. The large number of children, who registered, over and above the capacity, resulted in not being able to accept many of these children. The management of the Family Centre and the Day care centre considered new ways and means how to open an additional classroom for the next school year and also enrichment programs for the benefit of the children and parents. Towards the forthcoming enrolment of the children for the next school year, we shall decide about opening a new (and tenth) class in the day care centre.

The Family Centre is holding extensive informal activities through the day. Hundreds of people come to the centre every day taking part in a variety of programs in diversified subjects. These new procedures have obliged us to improve our customer's services and to make relevant changes in the building.

The students of the school will be enjoying very shortly a new Activities Centre whose main activity will be workshops in wood, made possible by a donation from WIZO.uk. In addition a small storage room has been renovated and this will become a dining room for the students of the Cooking trend.

The children of the DCC are enjoying their new wall paintings, done by artists and volunteers, and we are looking forward to welcome the AVIV Challenge group from WIZO.uk to continue the wall painting project.

Three months ago the Professional Training Centre was reopened, and 20 students, including women from one parent families, are participating in a professional cosmetics course supervised by the Ministry of Welfare. We anticipate opening new courses in cosmetics and other fields very shortly.

Visitors to the Centre

The Centre has hosted many important guests this year. The wife of the Indian Chief of Staff, Mrs. Kirty Kapur visited the centre this year, accompanied by Mrs. Tova Ben-Dov, Chairperson of the World WIZO Executive and she was shown the great variety of services for the benefit of the needy society.

On the day commemorating the struggle against violence to women, we were honored with a visit to the centre by Prime Minister Nethanyahu, Minister Yitzhak Herzog, Minister of Welfare, Minister Limor Livnat, Minister of Culture and Knesset Member, Mrs. Zipi Hotobellie, who also serves as Chairperson of the committee of the Knesset regarding Women's Affairs. They expressed their support to WIZO on the important work being done in the centre. In addition, individuals and groups from all over the world came to the centre to learn about WIZO's activities being carried out there.

One of the most exciting visits were of the graduates of the mythological Baby's Home and their families. During long weeks we have been holding correspondence with the family of Hana Shprinza z'l, a baby who had been brought into the Baby's Home in 1948 and nothing was known about her thereafter. Due to the very details and specific records that were carried out in the Baby's Home, and guarded till this day, the family were able to receive the information that the baby had died, a short while after arriving into the Baby's Home.

We were also approached by a very famous media personage, 55 years old, who came personally to the centre and for the first time learned some facts about his life, and that his mother had passed away and was buried in Jerusalem. Such moving stories stimulate us to develop new services for the benefit of the community.

Update of the Day Care Centre

Half of the school year is behind us, and it was a very good and meaningful year. There are 268 very happy infants, toddler and children with satisfied parents and that is very important to us.

Human Resources

The new Deputy Director of the Day Care Centre, Adi Sasson-Kasantini began to work in March 2010, she has her MA degree in communications and this is of great benefit in advertising and marketing the centre. The Director of the centre, Levana Zabar, serves at the same time as supervisor of day care centres, on a part time basis. Adi, and the secretary Vered take over the work of Levana when she is out supervising, and they are doing this with much loyalty and professionalism. Limor Ben-Josef, the Educational Counselor had a baby girl (her name is Hillel) and we all wish her a hearty MAZAL TOV. We are also looking forward to welcome three new babies of our child carers in a few months.

Events and Exhibitions

- During last Hannuka we held a traditional exhibition of Hanuka Menoras. Tens of Menoras, prepared by the children and their parents were exhibited, bringing a festive atmosphere
- We celebrated Hannuka and the 'Family Day' with combined parties for the parents and children together in the classroom
- On 'Tu Bishvat' The New Year for Trees, we had an exhibition of a variety of trees, flowers and birds. The day care centre children went out to plant trees in Yovel Park (Davidson Park).
- The father of a little girl attending the centre, surprised everyone by donating 170 CD's with music from



Mozart. In a special event in the older children's classrooms, the children performed, dancing to the Music of Mozart.

Enrolment toward the next school year

We are preparing ourselves for the next year's enrolment. We have held an "open school day" for the parents, giving a talk about the centre, and a tour of the premises. 150 parents of potential DCC children attended the open school day.

New programs

As mentioned previously, we are working on opening an additional baby's classroom for the next school year. It must be emphasized that WIZO's good name, and the great reputation of the DCC is widespread, and we shall do our utmost to guard the quality and standard of our service. The new Baby's classroom will enjoy enrichment programs for babies, educational counseling, caring and looking after the babies by adding extra staff. This will require renovations and changes to be carried out in the Oren Hall on the entrance floor.

The monthly cost of one child is estimated at NIS 2,500 if the parents are not entitled to receive a reduction in price. A parent who is entitled to this reduction will pay less. We anticipate that the enrolment for the new classroom will be more than we can absorb, so immediately after Pesach we shall hold an acceptance committee, to discuss and decide each and every request, and the decision will be made according to the well know criteria of WIZO – a working mother, siblings, an important job i.e. Police officers, military, doctors etc. and the income of one parent families will be taken into consideration.

The Day Care centers playgrounds

Special attention is required to be given to the playground. The sand is dangerous for the children's health, containing a lot of bacteria etc. The new regulations for playgrounds including stone tiling and installation of rubber flooring around all the playground equipment. We hope to begin renovating the playgrounds in the near future.

Repainting walls of the DCC

The walls of one corridor in the DCC already proudly display paintings of the story of 'Eliezer and the carrot' (a well known Israeli story). In view of the

success of these story paintings of the corridor in the entrance, it was decided to continue with these paintings on the walls of the DCC.

On the 23rd December, 2009, a group of volunteers from "Orange Cell phones" donated their time and talents, and painted a wall painting of animals and fish.



In April 2010, a group of volunteers from WIZO.uk will visit and they will continue decorating the corridors and walls of the DCC.

Part of the work is being done by new immigrants from Russia, who work as guards at the Family Centre.

Course and Activities after school hours

The DCC is open till 16:00 hrs. Twice a week music courses, rythm and movement courses, and cooking courses are held. All the courses are full and are a great success. The cooking course was held for a duration of 3 months under the Chef of the Day Care Centre, Zachi Tapuchi, and was very successful. The children prepared pizzas, cookies, bread rolls, salads and all sorts of pastries and at the end of each session, the children took home the food they prepared and ate it for supper with their families. At the end of the course, each participant received a medal and a beautiful apron with WIZO printed on it.

The Festival of PURIM

On Wednesday, 24th February a Purim Carnival was held and the children came in fancy dress. They sang, danced and were happy. We asked the parents to prepare Purim Mishloach Manot (goodies & sweets in a package) for needy children and these were passed over to them collectively. The parents contributed most generously and willingly.

Spring is around the corner

These days the weather is beautiful, clear and warm and Spring is just around the corner. Pesach will be held at the end of the month, and the flowers are blooming all around us. We look forward to the visit of your WIZO AVIV members and to show you the wonderful activities that we are holding here.



WIZO Secondly Vocational School Update

On Thursday, 28th January 2010 we celebrated at the school the conclusion of the first half year. According to our tradition, this year we also celebrated this event at a special breakfast prepared by the students of the Cooking Trend. This first half year was full of activities, study programs and enrichment educational programs.



During November 2009, the school held a Sports Day. After this successful day, the school held a meeting with all the students, and distributed medals and certificates to the excellent students. During the same event students volunteered to give assistance to the School Executive.

"A different kind of lesson" – a unique program to involve the public in the educational system, makes contact between businessmen in different field and the students of the school. This program has been operating now for the second year in the school in collaboration with lawyers from the



Jerusalem District and is presented by Lawyers and Advocates from the Jerusalem District on different aspects of the law, and on restrictions placed on citizens in a democratic society. The students visit the court rooms in have a private meeting with the Judge. During last January a mock trial was held in the framework of this special lesson. The court case was tried like a real

trial, the lawyers (students) wore black cloaks and in a serious matter they presented the claim of the defendant.

The judges, who were also suitably attired, had just been appointed and had no prior knowledge of the "case". The lawyers interrogated the defendants, and the verdict given by the judges showed the students clear understanding of the laws and how to reach justice. The students and the staff were very happy to be involved in this special lesson and have learned a great deal from the program.



"Addicted for Life"

The students of the 11th and 12th grades participated in a special Cinema Day, and experienced "Addicted for Life" enabling the participants to be exposed to the damages of the use of drugs on the human body, on the character and the surroundings. The program deals with all the problems that youth are facing in their sensitive world. The program discusses: life, happiness, friendship, choices, achievements and failures.

Program:

1. Watching the film "Addicted for Life"
2. The first step: 3 dimensional viewing of the damaging effects of being addicted to drugs, mental and physical. 3 dimensional technology shows from near the process visible to the eye, what starts as an illusion of a solution, brings with it dependency and further search for thrills.

3. The second stop: "Black out" – the hall is dark, and you can hear 3 youngsters, going out to a party which has a bitter end. This is in total darkness.
4. The third stop: "your choice" each participants receives a sign which he chooses with his preference and stand.
5. The fourth stop: reaction chain – Mission Hall in this hall the students go out on a mission in the world and see the global affects that use of drugs brings and how the weak levels of society are taken advantage of.

Soldiers' Day

On the 12th January 2010 students of the 12th grade took parts in a bi-annual course of one day at the Recruitment Centre of Israeli Defence Forces. These students who will soon be joining the army, receive varied information about the different units, about the procedure of being absorbed into the army and about the great variety of positions available during their army service. The students met soldiers from the Logistic unit, Artillery Unit, Transportation unit and the Border Guards unit.

Prevention of Road Accidents

The students together with the Hadassah Hospital are working together on the prevention of road accidents. On the 5th January 2010 students of the 12th grade visited Hadassah Hospital within the framework of the program "Prevention/fighting against Road Accidents".

The program includes: combined lecture by a Surgeon, Orthopedic Doctor and a Social Worker, a tour of the trauma rooms took place as well as recovering after accidents and meeting with victims of road accidents. A conclusion lecture was held by "Or Yarok" (an Organization fighting road accidents).

Visiting Herzl Museum

The 10th grade students had a tour of the Herzl Museum. An sound and light presentation was shown – the first one illustrating Herzl's vision, the circumstances that led Herzl to work to establish the Zionist Movement.

The second one showed Herzl active in Zionist politics – the room decorated like the hall where the first Zionist congress was held in Basel, Switzerland, and showed Herzl's efforts to achieve international permission to establish a Jewish State.

The third one – Herzl's room – here the students learn of Herzl's tragic end, he passed away when he was only 44 years old. The students see a film showing the bringing of Herzl's bones to be buried in Israel.

The fourth one – The State of Israel - "If you will it, it is no dream" Herzl wrote in his dream about the independent Jewish State which at that time seems an impossibility.

Visiting the Palmach Museum

A sound and light museum depicting the Palmach - a volunteer army of youth in Israel which was the military force of the Hagana before the establishment of the State. On the background of a road in Tel Aviv, during the 1940's. the events and the atmosphere in Israel at the time were displayed, showing the rise of the Palmach, the enlistment in these forces and a description of the military actions against the British. The stories of the Holocaust survivors, despite the opposition of the British Authorities and the War of Independence in 1948. At the end of the sound light presentation, the students took part in a discussion.

Culinary Sculptures



Pupils of the Cooking Trend took part in a culinary sculpture workshop led by the Chef Raz Keidar, using vegetables and fruits.

