

Afikim

Empowering Children at Risk
with Potential
Ensuring the Excellence
of Israel's Next Generation

Let's Help Them

www.afikim.org

073-223-3000

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תכנית
אפיקים



Dear Friend,

I was introduced to the Afikim Family Enrichment Association through Moshe Lefkowitz, the director of the organization. Upon hearing of Afikim, I was intrigued by the idea of encouraging excellence amongst children at-risk through a long term process that provides both a diverse educational framework for the children and a positive empowerment program for their parents. I believe that investing in children and youth through social development, academics, and most importantly, by empowering their parents, is the way to strengthen our society as a whole. Providing appropriate tools to cope with our present, and direction for a productive future is the right way to create a core of excellence amongst our youth, particularly youth at-risk. These youth are our future! Providing sustenance makes a difference but giving tools and direction is education - and makes a difference that lasts a lifetime. I believe in educating towards a brighter future by offering equal opportunities to all. Afikim works hard to provide such opportunities to those in need. I am dedicated to helping in any way I can toward the success of this wonderful project.

Kobi Langlev
CEO, The Israeli Building Center Group
Member, Afikim Board of Directors



Israel

44 Jabotinsky Street
POB 4102 Jerusalem 91041
Phone: 972.73.223.3000
Fax: 972.2.563.0007
Email: office@afikim.org

USA

Care for Israel- Afikim
5308 13th Ave., Suite 102
Brooklyn, NY 11219
Phone: 718.633.2425 Toll Free
1.877.234.5120 Fax: 1.800.540.0274
Email: info@careforisrael.org

England

Friends of Afikim-UK
1 Island House 47-51
Portland Ave.
London N16 6HD,
Tel: 020-80902162

Switzerland

Weststr. 45
POB 8036 Zurich
swiss@afikim.org

Belgium

Belgium Friend of Afikim
c/o Sylvia Amiel
Sint Theresiastraat 16 2600
Bercham BELGIQUE
Tel. +32-03-449-80-12
elizabeth@afikim.org

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AFIKIM LEADERSHIP TRAINING

This summer the Afikim B'Kef summer program focused on leadership training. The program was designed to offer Afikim participants a chance to not only have fun but to also develop personal skills, leadership abilities, self confidence and respect.

In the framework of the leadership training program the children enjoyed games and seminars focusing on leadership in Israel's history, politics, military, etc. ...with trips to educational (and fun) sites like the IDF Air Force Museum, Mini-Israel, the Old City of Jerusalem, the Bank of Israel, in addition to trips to amusement parks, national parks, gymbores, swimming and other outdoor activities.

The daycamp ended with a fascinating trip to the Old City of Jerusalem which included a visit to the Temple Institute and summed up their month of leadership training. The program culminated with an end of the year party for parents and children during which both parents and children expressed their gratitude for a great year and a summer program that surpassed all expectations!



LETTER TO AFIKIM

Printed upon request of Afikim parent Elul 5770

To the staff of Afikim - teachers, directors-and, of course, dear supporters!

Love, joy and happiness - these are the gifts you are bestowing upon our children when they participate in Afikim. You have taken care to give them the confidence and tranquility they crave and to provide for all their needs including a warm and loving word, a relaxed atmosphere after an intense school day, and a warm nutritious meal.

You are the people who make our children forget the stress and fears that they experienced in the past.

Thanks to the Afikim day camp this summer, my daughter, for the first time in her life, was able to enjoy and experience many new and fun things that we, her parents cannot afford to give her. Every afternoon my daughter returned home glowing and full of excitement and I knew that you didn't skimp on any efforts to give our kids a wonderful summer experience.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you do for us and for all the children.

As you have made our lives more joyful may G-d reward you and bless you and your family with joy and happiness.

Best wishes for a happy, successful and fruitful new year.

H.C.

Mother of S.C., Student grade 4



HANEL MEMORIAL

On the 4 Av the children of Afikim remembered Giselle Hanel, may she rest in peace. Tova and her husband Shamai, both Holocaust survivors, dedicated their lives to helping Israeli children improve their lives and fulfill their potential. Afikim is grateful to them and the Hanel foundation for its ongoing support.



AFIKIM'S MISSION

Afikim is a network of afternoon centers for children-at-risk and their parents, offering enrichment programs that give them new hope and opportunities. Children, between third and eighth grades, attend Afikim centers for six years. They benefit from academic assistance, daily meals, and enrichment activities in a warm, nurturing environment. Their parents attend the Parental Empowerment Centers where they participate in workshops on effective parenting and communication, home and budget management, and vocational training. By focusing on the entire family unit, Afikim aims to empower the families with the skills and motivation to extricate themselves from the cycle of poverty and integrate into society.

BUSINESSES SUPPORT AFIKIM

Israel's leading network of shwarma restaurants, Hashamen, has joined Afikim's list of partners. In the busy summer months Hashamen will facilitate a fundraising campaign in all 15 of its branches for the benefit of Afikim children and families.



BNEI MITZVA BRING BEAUTY TO AFIKIM AND JERUSALEM

As Sara Merker, Arielle Kahana, Julie and Josh Hyman were preparing for their special day and their joint Bar/ Bat Mitzvah family trip to Israel they began a quest to find a chessed opportunity that would allow them and their family members to make a difference in the lives of children less fortunate than themselves. When hearing about Afikim's work with children at risk and their families they chose to make Afikim the beneficiary of their efforts.

In a collaborative effort, the Merker, Hyman and Kahana families generously donated funds to purchase gardening equipment, plants, paints and furniture and set off to beautify the grounds of the community center. In the summer heat, the family members, joined by Afikim participants, raked, hoed, planted and painted. Three hours later, no one could believe what had been achieved – a blossoming corner of beauty in one of Jerusalem's poorest neighborhoods. Now when children, and their parents, arrive for Afikim programming they are greeted by a beautiful garden and wall mural - a pleasant reminder of their friends abroad who cared enough to make a difference.



AFIKIM MOVES FORWARD

On September 1, Afikim will inaugurate the Afikim Bogrim (graduates) program in Kiryat Malachi and Jerusalem. With the start of the new academic year, over 50 youths, on-going participants of Afikim's Enrichment Centers, will be entering seventh and eighth grade at local junior high-schools where they will become vulnerable to new academic demands, stressful peer pressure. Although they have blossomed and developed under Afikim's care the last few years, these young adolescents still run the risk of exposure to criminal behavior and exploitation, both emotionally and sexually. In light of these concerns, the participants, and their parents, have expressed a need and a desire to participate in Afikim's unique graduate program focusing on nurturing self-esteem, responsibility and leadership skills.

We wish the best of luck to all the participants and staff.

AFIKIM CONTINUES TO EXPAND

In light of Afikim's success in opening a third branch of Afikim (in memory of Tova and Shamai Hanel) in Jerusalem for the coming school year. We welcome the new staff, parents and children to Afikim's ever growing family.