



Tikva Children's Home Feeds Over 2000 Holocaust Elderly

In an initiative unique for its model of "giving back," Tikva Children's Home has launched a program that is helping the impoverished Holocaust survivors of Odessa, who number in the thousands, by enlisting the cooperation of the young residents and alumni of its children's homes.

In the last two months alone, our children have helped over 2000 of these survivors with food and essentials.

Tikva, which has worked with orphaned, abandoned, and at-risk children in Odessa since 1996, is overseeing this program that is addressing the critical needs of Odessa's 3000 Holocaust survivors who live below the poverty line.



"Beyond the dire shortage of food and adequate shelter," says Mr. Frankel, founding Chairman of Tikva, "Odessa's aged survivors suffer from a profound absence of human contact. We have no better resource than our young people, and these survivors have no greater resource than their stories. It's a very unique teaching opportunity."

The program is led by Refael Kruskal CEO of Tikva who said "prioritizing the needs of our Holocaust Survivors in their waning years is an affirmation to them that they are not forgotten and a precious opportunity for Tikva to connect and engage with 'Ud Mutzal Me'esh," embers saved from the fire of the Holocaust."

Stevie Sharp & Her Bat Mitzvah Wish

This is a heartfelt letter to the children of Tikva and especially the Frankel family from an amazing Bat Mitzvah here in the USA named Stevie Sharp stepping up to heal the world in her own way. We are honored to share her personal thoughts with you and thank her and the Sharp family for their long standing generosity.



Dear Tikva Children's Home and the Frankel Family,

Now that I'm officially a Jewish adult, I am so honored and humbled to be a part of the Tikva family. Stepping into womanhood was a little scary for me at first, having a lot of responsibilities to meet, however there are so many exciting things that have happened already and that I have to look forward to. Out of the many things I was most excited to give back to those less fortunate than me. For my whole life I had the privilege of having a loving family who is there for me and will support me through everything, and I never really took the time to give back. The perfect way to feel like I have accomplished my goal of giving back is to donate to the kids of Tikva. Tikva is a great organization, providing food, shelter, clothing, education and health care to thousands of orphans and elderly in the Ukraine.

This organization is held dear to my heart knowing that my family in the past has worked with Tikva, and knowing that there are so many people in this world that still suffer daily hardships much as our ancestors did, and as the Israelites did. When donating my bat mitzvah money to Tikva it made me very happy to know that I made a difference in many children's lives. I thank you all so very much for letting me be a part of the Tikva community, and I hope to one day be able to visit the Ukraine and make an even bigger difference in the Jewish community!

All my love,
Stevie Sharp



UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It never ceases to amaze the people we address about the actual backgrounds of the children that we are fortunate enough to be able to save from deplorable conditions and rescue to the Tikva Children's Home. The stories are unfortunately endless but because of your caring and support - the endings lead to a far brighter future for these innocent children.



Our newest arrival at Tikva is just five months old and her name is Anya. This beautiful child is the youngest of three and her oldest brother Vasili has been thriving at Tikva for 9 of his young 10 year life. His mother was a young 16 year old who was incapable of handling the responsibilities of a young child. Overwhelmed, she abandoned Vasili at 5 months not to return to see him until well after his third birthday.

Shortly thereafter, another child was born named Galina and unfortunately the father of that child abandoned the family and the mother in her despair turned to a life of substance abuse. Turning Galina over to Tikva, we carefully examined the child and realizing she had contracted AIDS during her mother's pregnancy - we safeguarded her from the rest of the population of children and handle her with very special care given her condition.

The cycle of poverty and abandonment never broke for this young mother and after another failed relationship our Anya was born and placed in our care after 5 tumultuous months of life.

The next family story is that of Gavril who came to us at 6 months old and is now just over a year old and his sister Valya who is 2 years old and came to Tikva at 16 months old. Both children hail from a family of heavy alcohol dependency and mentally



unstable parents. The children lived in a slum with 8 other people and were totally neglected. Unsanitary conditions and extreme levels of food deprivation led both Gavril and Valya to

multiple hospital stays where they were under care for their rehabilitation. The hospital social services team contacted Tikva for assistance after these repeat hospital stays as a safe and loving place given the extreme circumstances that the two had endured. Their lives were in the balance and they wouldn't survive another physical breakdown. Weak and recovering from severe pneumonia, Tikva saw to their medical care and embraced them fully when released from the hospital. The developmental delay for both children is significant and heartbreaking but their progress is a testament to the work that we do at Tikva with your help.



It has been and continues to be our mission to rescue those children like Anya, Galina, Vasili, Valya and Gavril and give them the hope and encouragement to thrive and reach their full potential against all of the odds that have been dealt to them. All of this and more - thanks to supportive friends like you.

Thank you from all of us and from the children of Tikva!

Warm wishes,

Sylvia Spitalnick
Executive Director

**Contact me at 914-441-2165 or
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SAVE THE DATE
Tikva Children's Home NYC Gala
October 24, 2017

Join the party as we celebrate our children's success!



Bravo to Ed and Leah Frankel

for yet another wonderful evening in Jupiter at Admiral's Cove supporting our children and elderly community in Odessa. The evening was an overwhelming success and the 350 guests in attendance were entertained by comedian/actor Robert Klein as a finale to the night.

Tremendous thanks to Ed and Leah who over the years have been the very backbone of Tikva Children's Home. Their tireless passion for the abandoned and abused Jewish children of Odessa and the Jewish community there at large speaks to their compassion for humanity and their love of life. Mazel tov!

YOUNG LEADERSHIP

On April 6th, TiKVA hosted its second annual Miami Gala at White Hall in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida. This special evening opened with a beautiful violin and saxophone performance while the guests bid on our silent auction items and experiences, proceeds all benefiting Tikva. A festive dinner followed and was highlighted by a moving speech from the Mayor of the City of Aventura, Enid Weisman. Ran Oz of Coolam productions followed and introduced one of TiKVA's beneficiaries, Leah Laufer. Leah's life was saved by TiKVA 16 years ago, when she was just 11 years old. Leah is now living in New York with her husband and two young children. Leah's inspiring message reminded the guests that all of the children under TiKVA's care have an opportunity to thrive. Leah's heartwarming testimonial transformed the dynamic in the room, and our new supporters saw and felt the impact of the lifesaving work of TiKVA Children's Home firsthand!

The evening continued with a performance by renowned CIRQUE performers, Konstantine and Byamba, and closed with Temple Emanu-El's own Rabbi Philippe serenading the guests on his guitar. The guests left the event with a sense of hope, knowing that their contributions would positively impact TiKVA's children in need during the Pesach holiday ahead. We want to thank our sponsors for making this gala possible: Gerszberg Retail Group- Marcus & Millichap, Universal Fundraising Organization, Sunshine State Academy and Baron Tequila. We also want to thank our host committee and volunteers without whom this event would not have been possible. Together we are TiKVA, we are HOPE!

TiKVA's first ever Chicago fundraiser will take place in June! If you want to attend, support, or know someone else that wants to get involved please reach out to our **Director of Development Yanna Begelman** 917-517-7879 or TikvaYB@gmail.com.



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FROM ODESSA

My Dear Friends of Tikva Children's Home,

As we celebrate Spring and a time of renewal, I look back at the work we have done together during this past eventful year.

I see the hundreds of children we have saved, helped and taken from terrible conditions who have all benefited from your generosity and kindness.

Examples of how you have impacted our children's lives are abundant!

The Helen Doron English program in our kindergarten has shown tremendous success as the children start studying English from a tender age in an exceptionally advanced program.

We welcomed the Moshal Scholarship Program whereby they invited the Feurstein Group to assess children during high school and gave them guidance to approach the study of subjects which would be most suitable for them as individuals.

We have allotted extra resources for vocational studies for students who are less academically focused while ensuring they reach their highest potential in vocations suited to their interests.

Extracurricular studies were added to the curriculum which included a brand new music program & room with talented teachers for children who expressed interest in music and the arts. Wrestling and karate lessons were also among the many programs the children enjoyed this year.

Tikva also sent a group of 25 students to Israel in MASA programs, studying computer technology and programming enabling them to find technology jobs either in Israel or in Odessa.

Yet, there is much more we can do and I dread the thought of the unsaved child and forsaken boy or girl who we have not yet reached.

Thank you for being part of our Tikva family and for your continued support of our lifesaving work.

Refael Kruskal
CEO of Tikva



Donate at: www.tikvaodessa.org