

LEMA'AN ACHAI - 5775 IN REVIEW



This Purim Lema'an Achai shot (and made!) a Buzzer Beater, and the winners are you - the generous supporters of Lema'an Achai- and our needy families. A 'Buzzer Beater' is the last second shot in a basketball game, which determines the outcome of the game. It is an especially exciting moment when it is made by the home team, as the crowd goes wild and returns home happy and elated. Just as I did on Purim Day to my Seuda,a few minutes before sunset.

Your generous support allowed us to distribute an additional round of Matanot L'evyonim, with very little time before sunset. I was assigned two families. And off I went. The recipients were gracious, tearful and most importantly - honest. They both went out of their way to let me know that they had already received earlier in the day. I explained that due to the overwhelming response, we were able to add some more joy to their Purim holiday, and beyond.

These two families will make it. Their being upfront and honest are core ingredients to seeing themselves through and out of crisis. I could not be more proud of our social workers and them.

A true buzzer beater to remember. See you at our next game, Kimche

As reported by a Lema'an Achai volunteer.

In the first-time category, Team Lema'an Achai participated in The Jerusalem Marathon. Thirty awesome runners raised money for our Smart Chesed Programs- we plan to double the team this year. March 18, 2016 is the date!

Our second Annual Bowl-A-Thon was tons of fun; hold Sunday November 29 (Chaf Tet B'November) for the 3rd one!

In December, we had our Third Annual Dinner, honoring our founder and Chairman, David Morris and community activist Rena Hollander.

Purim provided much happiness and relief to the hundreds of families who count on Lema'an Achai. They benefited from our Matanot Levyonim, which many of you generously contributed to. Our happiest moment came when a family returned the Matanot Levyonim, claiming that due to Lema'an Achai's remarkable help, they no longer need to be recipients of charity. continued on page 26



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Day after day, Meir Jaffe, our Citizens Rights Coordinator, helped families sift their way through the various government offices to guarantee that they receive the assistance they qualify for. Through these efforts, millions of NIS reached our families.

Faced with possible closure, we secured at the last minute a donation that kept the Moadonit program running. The Moadonit afternoon program for girls was established ten years ago to provide a transformative experience through connection and mentorship. 99% of our 'graduates' are no longer struck in the cycle of poverty.

Our community-wide Financial Seminars educated dozens of new and not-so-new couples with their budgeting.

All this while our highly qualified and seasoned social workers quietly and effectively helped hundreds of families to independence - financial independence and emotional independence. And so much more. Our team works tirelessly to help our families through and out of crisis. A hand-up, not a hand out!

None of this would be possible without our vast network of dedicated volunteers and the financial support of our friends from Ramat Bet Shemesh, Givat Sharett, and beyond.

Thank you for helping us transform the lives of your neighbors in need. Shana Tova!

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With the occurrence of several recent major incidents such as huge forest fires in the Beit Shemesh area and around Jerusalem, we receive real-time updates on the use of the Keren Yosef equipped mobile incident control center - "chapak" which coordinates the emergency services response to such situations. Senior local fire and rescue official, Natan Sultan, continually emphasizes the crucial role of the vehicle and its equipment and the difference it has made noting that it has helped to save lives and prevent much damage to property and the environment.

Over the years, thousands have participated in Keren Yosef organized CPR and first aid courses and this year, in addition to the regular courses, youngsters were given the chance to participate in special "babysitter courses", learning the essential basics from expert teachers and veteran KY volunteers Yehudis Schamroth and Reuven Harrow.

We thank the community for its ongoing support and involvement. We are working hard to establish Israel's first "Safety Center" in Beit Shemesh and several other new and exciting projects for the benefit of all residents of Beit Shemesh – and beyond - and are always delighted to have new volunteers on board.

Please visit our website – www.kerenyosef.com or phone 992-1982 for further details of our activities, to donate or to volunteer. And if you're a Facebook user, please don't forget to "like" us.

