Chiburim
CONNECTING 2 YOUR 1

The Quarterly Update

January 2016 Edition

Dear friends and supporters,

So much has happened in Chiburim these last three months!

We launched our "re-branding campaign", introducing our new logo and slogan and a vital new facebook page which has already generated over 2,000 "Likes". This helped bring us to 428 members in our data base! Please click to visit us on our facebook page, and don't forget to press "Like" :)

Thanks to one of our donors, Eudice Spitz who came up with the new slogan in Hebrew.

The next step in the campaign is renewing our website and turning it into a major marketing tool.

A spotlight on Yonina Visky Maoz – A personal story from a Chiburim member

Yonina was one of the first members to register in Chiburim. 37 years old, a widow with three children, Yonina was determined to open a new chapter in her life and turned to Chiburim as part of her overall efforts. We recently received the following letter from Yonina.

" Dear Chiburim staff, I would like to thank you for the personal and close up facilitation you provided in helping me search for my one and only.

Seven years ago I suddenly lost my husband and found myself left with two boys and a few weeks pregnant with a baby girl. It took me several years to gather myself and to decide it was time to move on. When I finally wanted to move ahead, I was suspicious of on- line dating sites and also from matchmakers who might think I was “damaged goods” or otherwise would not tell me the full truth about a potential match. A friend suggested I register with Chiburim. As soon as Margaret made the first contact, I immediately felt that your facilitation was something different. There is great value in the personal meetings with the facilitators. Margaret was great in contacting me on a regular basis, checking in for me via email and phone. There is no doubt in my mind that the way Chiburim operates is so much more pleasant and better than any other way! I have recommended Chiburim to many of my single friends. My story has a happy ending. Last May I started to date an amazing single guy and we got married in November!! I wish Chiburim good luck in its continued efforts.

Yonina Viski-Maoz

Update on our Volunteer Facilitators

Our amazing volunteer facilitators are hard at work all the time. At present, over 50 volunteers are active and meeting new Chiburim members. We are constantly upgrading our training model and making sure our volunteer facilitators are getting as much professional support as possible to ensure the quality of service our members are receiving. Chanukah was celebrated with an in-depth training session on "Being the Right Person" followed by candle lighting and the traditional singing and eating jelly doughnuts!

We also held our first seminar for veteran facilitators to train them to become mentors to new volunteers. Following the seminar, each mentor was awarded a certificate denoting their new status in Chiburim.

All of our volunteer facilitators are connected through regional WhatsApp groups, where they can share dilemmas, questions, and bring up potential candidates for matching ideas. To complete the network of support, we have established a closed Facebook group only for volunteer facilitators, which serves as a national platform for case studies, consulting, updating and sharing. The feedback we are getting from our volunteers demonstrates great satisfaction on their part.

News Bites….News Bites….News Bites….

A new board member to our board of directors! Rabbi Benji Levene has recently joined Chiburim as a board member. Rabbi Benji is a scion of one of Jerusalem's most illustrious families. After serving as advisor to the Chairman of the Aliya Department in the Jewish Agency for Israel, Rav Benji was invited in 1978 by Dr. Daniel Tropper to run seminars in Tzfat for the Gesher organization. He is now a Senior Vice-President at Gesher and is one of Israel's foremost educators and storytellers. Benji walks in the footsteps of his legendary grandfather, the Tzaddik of Jerusalem, Rabbi Aryeh Levin, known for his love and tolerance of all Jews.

New sponsorship! As we constantly seek new and additional supporters, we are extremely grateful to Bank Yahav for being one of our sponsors for 2016.

Bank Yahav

For further information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact our Executive Director Yael Shapira, yael@chiburim.co.il .

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support and am eager to hear your feedback and input.

Yours,

Judi Stern, Founder