



כפר הילדים ברמיאל



# Kfar Hayeladim

## Karmiel



## Children's Village-Karmiel

About the Village; The Children's Village in Karmiel, was founded in 1978 and is the largest of the Training Projects for children founded by Racha Frier. It is situated in the northernmost part of Karmiel, a Development Town established in 1964. The village is in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, nestling in the Bet Hakerem valley between lower and upper Galilee. It is surrounded by Jewish and non-Jewish agricultural and community settlements which adds to the unique character of the area. The single-storey houses, surrounded by grass and flowers blend into the pastoral setting, conducive to the educational framework.



## Population of the Village

The Village caters for some 275 children and youth between the ages of 5-18. They are referred from all parts of the country mainly for socio-economic reasons. The majority came from distressed families i.e.; broken homes caused by divorce, violence, crime, drugs, sexual and/or physical abuse and difficult financial situations. They are all evaluated as to their ability to fit into a normal school framework and necessity of removing them from the community in which they have been living in order to give them this chance.



## The Educational System

Kfar Hayeladim (Children's Village), as in all Children's House training projects, works with a non-conventional training system. It employs the integration of a foster family and a normal school framework. There are 20 "Mishpachton" (nuclear family groups) and 3 houses for the more mature students. Each "Mishpachton" consists of 10 girls and boys of different ages from 5-15. The family group is run by a married couple residing in a "Mishpachton" with their own children and the 10 Village children. The couple's job is to conduct a normal, everyday lifestyle with an extended family which will act as a model for the children in their future lives. Most of the house mothers come from the field of education; their husbands from a multitude of professions.





## Formal & Informal Education

All the students attend regular schools in Karmiel and a high percentage finish their education with full matriculation certificates. After school, in the afternoons there are many activities, such as help with studies where necessary, supervised homework, music, art, handcrafts, sports, nature etc, all with an emphasis on interaction between the children. In addition there is a large animal corner (also open to the general public) where the children learn to care for the animals. Volunteers who come from abroad, such as Young Judea from the United States and the youth who come from Great Britain through the auspices of UJIA give valuable help and support in many of these after-school activities.



## Professional Staff

5 social workers, 4 psychologists and 50 hours of occupational therapy help the children to deal with their problems. The professional staff have to deal with a multitude of traumatic experiences suffered by the children, ranging from abandonment to severe traumatic situations encountered in their broken homes. Confrontation with these problems is handled on a one-to-one basis and also in group therapy.

## Host Families

Many of the children have no families of their own to visit during holidays (parents in prison, drug rehabilitation programs etc.) Therefore the Village finds families in the neighbouring vicinity who are willing and able to host these children on a regular basis.



## Mature Students' Houses

At the end of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade the teenagers move from the Mishpachton framework into a House where they live as an independent group. They are in constant contact with their Mishpachton where they grew up and they help the Village in many ways such as running activity group and helping the younger children. They study in the High Schools in Karmiel and most graduate with full Matriculation Certificates.



## Soldiers' Houses

All graduates of the Village are conscripted into the Armed Forces. Many of them are recognized as "Lonely Soldiers" by the Army as they have no homes to live in during their military service. To alleviate this situation 4 houses have been renovated and furnished in order to provide these soldiers with a "warm corner" to return to when on leave. Those who are continuing their academic studies within the army framework also live there.



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### **Friends of Village Committee**

A public charitable organization, The Friends of the Children's Village Committee, was set up in Karmiel. The organization raises funds to cover costs of projects etc. which the central training project cannot finance. The organization buys presents for the children for the holidays, helps in the upkeep of the zoo; buys books and musical instruments and raises money for further development. Some of the outstanding projects of the foundation were the building of a football field and a games club, both established by friends from Germany; and a basketball court, tennis courts and a playground from English contributors. The development of a Resource Centre has also been made possible with the help of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom. The organization is a registered Charity and contributions are Tax-deductible. If you are interested in being part of this important and rewarding Zionist project and knowing exactly where your money is going, we invite you to contribute to the Friends Of the Children's Village, where your contributions will be used for the most important and immediate needs of the children. Of course we will be more than happy to have you visit our Village so that you can see for yourself the importance of this project.

**Bank Account no. for contributions; 59764/89; Bank Leumi  
- Branch No. 961 - Account Holders; Friends of Kfar Hayeladim**

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