

Perach Matanel- Yeshivat Orot Shaul

Appendix

Comments from program's participants:

"During the year I met with Shoshana Suleiman and discovered a wonderful humble woman with a big heart and a good eye, in the weekly meetings with her she tells me about the life she had, about Iran, about the culture, about her family and children, and sometimes also current events or just about Persian foods, these meetings give me comfort, a kind of small break from the yeshiva, a warm place just like my grandmother's house with hot and delicious food and a feeling of home"

"So I met with Rafi Halfon during the year, an elderly man who was a Holocaust survivor in Libya, the meeting was very important to me and I really enjoyed meeting with him during the week, our conversations revolved around history, politics, questions, thoughts and just laughs. I felt that meeting such a person was a meaningful encounter and I don't know if such a thing could still be a possibility with Holocaust survivors, so it was really important for me and I enjoyed the experience very much."

"I was with Ilana and Alik Rosenwasser, we went to them every week. Walking a lot of times wasn't easy, it's intense to have a long conversation with people you don't know, but I've seen how every time the door opens their eyes widen and how their smile hardly leaves their face. I couldn't stop feeling from them every time we came even at the end of the year how much it meant to them, to share, to talk, to host. A feeling of vitality, Alik especially, with traumas from his military service, sitting in front of the TV all day and suddenly he talks and opens up and tells and takes pride in the things he did. I think that this program should be much broader next year, how an hour and a half a week of yeshiva students affects a person's life and gives him the expression that he lacks on a daily basis. In my opinion, next year it is really important to improve the marketing of the program, to emphasize that it is also possible to go with another friend, many people are arrested because of the embarrassment and fear of dealing alone with the elderly."

"Thank G-d over the past year I have had the privilege of visiting a nursing home several times for Shabbat receptions, Hanukkah parties, Purim, etc... There are no words that can describe the light and shine they have in their eyes when we enter there, every time they let us in with joy and enthusiasm. From the very first time we entered there you could feel a deep connection created by the smile, the flow and

the music. The Shabbat receptions with them were really a bright spot for me during the week, I was privileged while hearing stories and experiences as well as singing and rejoicing. I would like to say thank you for the warm and welcoming hospitality that made me forget that a year ago I didn't know them."

"I met Mimi Levy at the club, she needed help arranging the medication. I helped me and since then I have visited her several times, she told me about her life, about her immigration to Israel from Morocco in the Youth Aliyah, her brothers who were killed in wars and more. For the past two months Mimi has not been feeling well, I try to call her every week to ask how she is and hope to visit her again soon."

Hi Yotam, I thanked the guys very much but I want to say thank you again. You guys are a bunch of lovely guys!! It was a huge contribution to the club! I wouldn't have succeeded without them. And by the way, every Kabbalat Shabbat they ask about you, so I answer that I told you and you know that our door is always and always open to you, if you decide to come or if you want to surprise us on Thursdays at 11:00 or when you are available. Shabbat Shalom, the director of the nursing home

Pictures:

