

MATANEL FOUNDATION

TESTIMONIES

Program: Vacation Group 365 – Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers

Year: 2023

Uri David, Director, The Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers

“The Vacation Group 365 was an initiative we started many years ago out of the need to provide a solution for children who stay in the Children’s Home all year round and have nowhere else to go. Many of these children simply do not have a home or a family they can go to, and others would not be in a stable and safe environment. Welcoming them back to the Jerusalem Hills campus after each vacation would be hard work for the staff and therapists and tough for their friends here too. Instead, we keep the children on campus with us to continue their therapeutic progress and provide them with activities that make them feel special and let them have the fun vacation they deserve, like any other child.”

Tzvika, Staff Member, The Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers

“I am grateful for the Vacation Group 365. It is just another way in which we show the children the love, attention, and care for their well-being that they sadly did not receive in their upbringing. When we bring exciting activities onto campus, and take them on excursions off-campus, they really feel the fun of vacation. You can see how happy they are and that joy flows into the rest of the school term. It’s wonderful to see.”

Daniel, 9 Years Old (For privacy purposes this is not his real name)

“I love it when we get to go off-campus for fun trips during vacation. I like that my teachers and counselors come with us so I feel safe but it’s also much more fun than being in school!”

Michal, 13 Years Old (For privacy purposes this is not her real name)

“I always have a lot of fun on vacation, even though I stay here and don’t go home. My brother is here with me too so we really feel like we have a fun holiday with our friends.”

Ori, 12 Years Old (For privacy purposes this is not his real name)

“I am jealous of my friends who go home to their parents and their siblings but I have fun during vacation at the Children’s Home. My teachers and counselors always make sure we’re having a good time and I especially like water sports so whenever we go to the pool or they bring fun water activities to campus, I know I’m going to have a good day.”