



Beit Issie Shapiro

Changing the lives of people with disabilities

On the Willie & Celia Trump Campus

Circles

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BEIT ISSIE SHAPIRO'S MAGAZINE

35

years of change



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Celebrating Change

Dear Friends,

If I had to summarize the 35 years of social change at Beit Issie Shapiro, what would I focus on? Our innovative work that has been replicated in Israel and around the world? Our international impact that was highlighted when we chaired a panel on technology at the United Nations? Our incredibly successful 6th International Conference that we held in Tel Aviv, which saw 1,000 people from 23 countries? Or the new laws we got passed this last year in the Israeli parliament?

Our 6th International Conference on Disabilities saw 1,000 people from 23 countries come together in the name of 'Unity and Diversity in Action'.

The more I think about it, the more I realize that what really captures the spirit of our 35 years is what our families constantly tell us. They say that we are their family and their home for life – even if their kids are no longer at Beit Issie Shapiro. I would say that what captures the essence of the 35 years is the endless love, passion and belief that our staff have in children and adults with disabilities.

Recently, a woman, who is a top accountant, told me how depressed she was a year and a half ago, when she discovered that she had a child with cerebral palsy. All she saw was a big black hole from which she could not imagine ever escaping. A year after placing her daughter in Beit Issie Shapiro, she discovered, through us, her child's strengths. She is now considering integrating her daughter into a regular kindergarten. Her daughter keeps the family laughing all the time as she is, in fact, a very clever little girl. The mom is back at her top-notch job. She thought she would never be able to continue with her successful career: now she has discovered, with our help and support, that she in fact has a full and positive life ahead of her.

I hope this magazine will convey this spirit and passion combined with the professional excellence of our staff, friends and supporters. I personally would like to thank you for helping us to make a difference in so many lives. We have many more dreams and hope to continue to receive your support and backing for the many challenges that lie ahead of us.

May you and your families have a good and healthy New Year.

With warm regards,

Jean Judes
Executive Director



Shana Tova!
Thank you for helping us reach the sky this year!



If Jews and Arabs are given the opportunity to work together towards a common goal – facing the challenge of having a disability and providing services to and furthering the rights of people with disabilities – then their focus will be on what unites them rather than what divides them.

Disability is a universal concern that cuts across all cultures, uniting those affected by a common desire to provide the best care and quality of life for people with disabilities. Part of our work in changing attitudes involve building bridges between Jewish and Arab communities in the field of disabilities.

Earlier this year, we gathered 450 motivated, and caring young Jewish and Arab leaders for the Together / ביחד / برنامج معا Youth Leadership National Conference 2015. After a year of participating in our workshops on disabilities and volunteering for people with disabilities, they are now ambassadors in their schools to promote a society that is more just and fully accepting of people who are different. We are proud of and excited for our future leaders!

Especially youth.



“This was a great life lesson for me, and one that I couldn't receive anywhere else.”

Or Elimelech from the Ironi Hey High School in Haifa

“All the activities this year, including the conference, have been amazing. I am telling everyone about it all the time, especially my family and my friends who did not participate in the program.”

Dana Natur from the Achmadiyah High School in Haifa



Generously supported by U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) - from the American people

Beit Issie Shapiro Kids Where are they now?

Over the years, you have been our partners in countless stories of hope, happiness and triumph over obstacles. You have supported us and, more than anything, believed in the right and the ability of our children to live a life of dignity in an accepting society. As we mark Beit Issie Shapiro's 35th anniversary, the achievements of Dor, Keren, Clil Or and Tommy are also yours.



Dor Elran

"Beit Issie Shapiro supported and continues to support me all the way. The staff helped my parents to consider the possibility that I can be a part of mainstream society."

Dor came to us at the age of three, with motor disabilities. Today, at 19, he is a 12th grader in a typical school, preparing for his full matriculation exams, and is active in a youth movement.

Keren Shifman

"At Beit Issie Shapiro, Keren gained the confidence to become independent and to be fully integrated in the community"
Keren's mother says.

Keren came to us when she was one year old, after being diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Today, she is a 2nd grader, fully integrated in a typical school and she sings in the local choir.



Clil Or

"The earlier you understand that people with disabilities are just people like you, the more accepting of the 'other' you will be as an adult. I am a typical girl – it's just that I use a wheelchair instead of walking with my legs."

Clil was one year old when she came to us with a serious physical disability. Today, she is a 16-year-old high school student, an energetic social activist and member of her school's and city's student council.



Tommy Ringham

"The support system that Beit Issie Shapiro provides for the families is truly significant and surpasses all the other benefits they offer."
Tommy's mother says.

Tommy came to us at the age of two after a severe brain trauma. He attended Beit Issie for 10 years. During this time he learned to walk, swim, and communicate through gestures. Today he is 23 and attends a daytime framework appropriate for his needs.



Beit Issie Shapiro is at the forefront of designing, integrating and researching technology so that children with disabilities have every opportunity to maximize their potential. We vigorously engage in market education by enlisting startups to make their apps accessible for people with disabilities who comprise a global market of over 1 billion people.

Hackathons and Applicable Training



Beit Issie Shapiro reaches hundreds of app developers at tech HQs, such as Google's Tel Aviv campus, to teach them how to make their apps accessible for people with disabilities.

Award-Winning Apps



We have facilitated the development of several apps, including IssiePlay, which won Microsoft's "Innovate for Good" competition. This app features interactive games that are made accessible for children with disabilities.

Global Best Practice



Beit Issie Shapiro's expert technology team presents at many international fora. Apple value-added distributor in Israel, iDigital, selected us to represent Israel at Apple's Accessibility Summit in Berlin.



A3i

The World's First Accelerator Benefiting People with Disabilities

Run by Beit Issie Shapiro, with PresenTense and the Ruderman Family Foundation, A3i helps entrepreneurs launch innovative ventures – from concept to implementation – that dramatically improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Blog

Our online forum 'Tech iT Issie' is a dynamic hub for sharing our knowledge and experience in the use of technology for people with disabilities. We provide tips and insights from the field, review and recommend useful apps, share dilemmas and our successes, and incorporate industry news, upcoming events and conferences.

Beta Testing

We partner in initial research and testing for several products, including at least four of Forbes' 2015 list of *12 Israeli Technologies Changing the Lives of the Disabled*. One of those is 'Talkitt', an app allowing people with speech impairments to speak clearly.



6th International Conference on Disabilities

Under the auspices of the Trump Institute

In July 2015, 1,000 people from 23 countries converged on Tel Aviv for Beit Issie Shapiro's 6th International Conference on Disabilities – under the auspices of the Trump Institute for Continuing Education in Developmental Disabilities – the ONLY conference of its kind in Israel.

The event was a unique opportunity for academic, medical and community professionals, researchers, policy makers, service providers, people with disabilities, and family members to meet with colleagues from around the world and take part in the latest state-of-the-art knowledge, research and practice in the field of disabilities.

By coming together in such a global capacity, and sharing with and learning from each other, we can truly see how far we have come and work together to pave the path towards more much-needed change for the future.



What They Said

“It is clear that the efforts of Beit Issie Shapiro are crucially important in letting the world know that disabilities can be improved with loving care and technology, and the resulting innovations will help everybody.”

Prof. Michael Levitt, Nobel Prize winner

“The message I received from attending the Beit Issie Shapiro conference is that courage and creative thinking are important qualities in creating an inclusive society.”

Ben Richards, Director, inclusive thru design, Australia

“Among the outstanding successes of the conference was the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities as equal participants. Beit Issie Shapiro sent a message to the world that the rights of people with disabilities are vital to making the world a better place for all of us.”

Prof. Michael Stein, Executive Director, Harvard Law School Project on Disability

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Eytan

Change How You See See How You Change

This slogan from our friend and partner Rick Guidotti, founder of Positive Exposure, accompanied us throughout our International Conference on Disabilities. Rick celebrates the beauty of physical and intellectual differences through the art of photography and was one of our conference keynote speakers. Guidotti works with people with disabilities so as “not to see the diagnosis, but to see humanity and then beauty in that humanity.”

As part of a series of art and cultural events, including a film festival and talks in Tel Aviv bars, we hosted Guidotti's internationally-renowned photo exhibition in Israel, in which Beit Issie Shapiro's kids starred alongside Israeli celebrities with disabilities: Member of Knesset Karin Elharar and paralympians Pascal Berkowitz (rowing and hand-cycling) and Noam Gershoni (wheelchair tennis).

In this way, we also opened our mission to hundreds of thousands of Israelis, and raised awareness about children and adults with disabilities and their full inclusion into society.

MK Karin Elharar



Pascal Berkowitz



Erez



Avital



How do you make an international conference accessible to all?

Our conference participants saw a range of solutions, including:

- a special track designed by and for people with intellectual disabilities
- simultaneous sign language, from speech-to-sign AND signing-to-speech
- transportation, facilities and ease of movement for wheelchair users
- a PIONEERING translation project from English to simple, accessible language in Hebrew.

This is all thanks to the work of several organizations coming together. It proves that shared goals and collaboration yield great success...and accessibility.



Beit Issie Shapiro is a global leader in the field of disabilities with an ever-increasing scope of professional collaborations, consultation, training and knowledge-sharing with non-profit organizations, academic institutions, businesses, municipalities and governments all over the world. As an established and well-reputed actor within pivotal United Nations circles, we also leverage high-level partnerships to foster even greater global impact.

Leveraging Technology

We collaborate with professionals across the globe and promote technology as a means to increasing inclusion of people with disabilities within the community. In furthering the use of technology for recreation, we are active members of LUDI, an EU-funded multi-national research group that values and supports

initiatives in the area of 'inclusive play'. We also co-hosted a high-level technology panel at the United Nations, showcasing initiatives which illustrate the development of accessible technologies and how to adapt them for different disabilities. Panelists included representatives from Google, Apple and Sesame Enable.



Training and Consultation

One of the growing number of requests for consultation and training includes a new partnership with China. We are providing a Chinese entrepreneur with expertise and Israeli know-how in the field of disabilities, with a long-term plan to help his firm roll out autism rehabilitation centers across China.

International Rehabilitation Center

Our International Rehabilitation Center offers customized therapeutic treatments for children from all over the world, including Turkey, Russia and Bulgaria. They often come from places where people with disabilities are marginalized and lack services or basic information, and return home equipped with a road map for continuing treatment.

Research and Professional Collaborations

Beit Issie Shapiro's reputation for knowledge-sharing has grown, along with relationships with international organizations, NGOs and professionals in the field of disabilities. In Los Angeles, we have partnered with Children's Hospital Los Angeles and University of Southern California to replicate our research on the effectiveness of sensory-adapted dental environments for children with autism.

Exporting Models

As a pioneer and incubator of new solutions, our innovative models are sought out by people from all over the world. From Snoezelen multi-sensory environment in South Africa, to hydrotherapy in Uzbekistan, and Friendship Park in England, Beit Issie Shapiro provides consultation on local development of these models and training for staff.

Our Friends in the USA

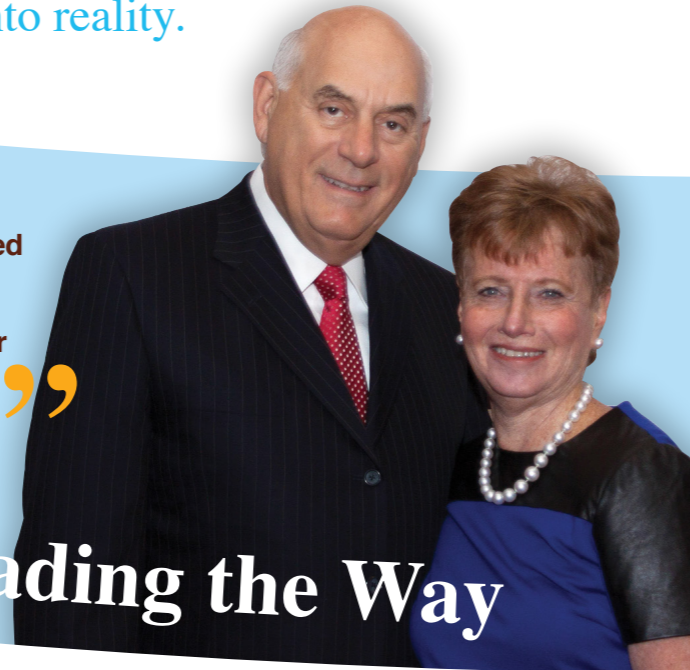
Thank you to our donors and supporters in New York, Miami and Los Angeles for turning dreams into reality.



Tamar wheeling towards independence

“ Thanks to Beit Issie Shapiro, children with disabilities and their families - whether impacted directly or indirectly - are in a better place today. And we are in a better place because of our involvement. ”

Jerry and Eileen Lieberman



The Liebermans Leading the Way

The newly-established Jerry and Eileen Lieberman Cerebral Palsy Center of Excellence is on its way to becoming a leading authority on CP in Israel and beyond.

The center ensures across-the-board implementation of all CP-related activities at Beit Issie Shapiro, including toilet training, iPads and assistive technologies, motorized wheelchairs, and curriculum to promote inclusion.

The center has also begun to document, as never before, our accumulated knowledge, expertise and methodologies so that our model can be shared and replicated by others, and reach tens of thousands of people with CP and related conditions in Israel.

We are tremendously inspired by Eileen and Jerry Lieberman, and deeply appreciate their incredible vision, passion and longstanding support.



Beit Issie Shapiro's Founding President Naomi Stuchiner reads with Tal

Caring for the Children

At Beit Issie Shapiro, families are not turned away because of a lack of resources. So we established the Beit Issie Shapiro Scholarship Fund in Honor of Naomi Stuchiner, celebrating her tremendous contribution to the field of disabilities. This fund will make sure that all families are provided with comprehensive services tailored to each individual child regardless of the family's financial status.



Jules Trump, Emily Grant, Ambassador Prosor, Stephanie Trump, Eugene Grant

Emily and Eugene Grant

Celebrating Our First Investors and a Lifetime of Support

American Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro's Humanitarian Award each year highlights and celebrates a remarkable supporter who has had a unique and innovative impact on the children and adults with disabilities that Beit Issie Shapiro serves directly, throughout Israel, and around the world.

This year, AFOBIS honors Beit Issie Shapiro's first investors and continuous supporters for 35 years: Emily and Eugene Grant.

Emily and Eugene Grant, through their commitment to Beit Issie Shapiro, have made a tremendous impact in the field of disabilities, helping to improve the lives of thousands of children in Israel and throughout the world. The Grants are Beit Issie Shapiro's first investors and have continuously supported the organization for 35 years.

In June, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Ron Prosor, hosted the Grants and - on behalf of the State of Israel - thanked them for their immense dedication and contribution to Israel and to Beit Issie Shapiro.

“ Beit Issie Shapiro is my idea of an organization that provides meaningful help to people with disabilities with love and affection. I am proud to be a supporter of this valuable organization. ”

Eugene Grant

Join us in New York on October 21 to celebrate the Grants and enjoy an evening of heart-warming tributes, testimonials and entertainment, for the benefit of Beit Issie Shapiro's children and adults with disabilities.

For more details: info@afobis.org

Our Friends Around the World

At the Israeli Ambassador's Residence in London

Together with Israeli Ambassador to the UK Daniel Taub, the UK Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro brought together members of the Jewish community to hear from keynote speaker Dr. Qanta Ahmed. Thank you to Investec Bank for their generous sponsorship of the event. Ahmed defies most of the usual stereotypes. She's a staunch defender of Israel, and also a deeply committed Muslim. On her first ever trip to Israel in 2013, Ahmed addressed the Beit Issie Shapiro community on the role of democracy in the protection of minorities.

Carol Bielski, Dr. Qanta Ahmed, Angela Harding, Laura Weller, Ambassador Daniel Taub, Zehava Taub, Jean Judes, Michael Hirsch



South Africa's Funniest Jew, in Israel

South African comedian Nik Rabinowitz flew into Israel for 24 hours to perform at a fundraiser for Beit Issie Shapiro, bringing laughter into the lives of people with disabilities, their families and other friends and supporters. Nik was a hit with the audience and the evening was a great success.

“ I have been looking forward to doing something in support of the children and families who benefit from the extraordinary services Beit Issie Shapiro provides. Comedy is most often about subverting the serious. That's the role comedy has to play in the inclusion of people with disabilities. ”

Nik Rabinowitz



Toronto Kicking for Kids

The 5th annual soccerthon, run by the Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro, was Toronto's first inclusive community event of its kind. Along with 16 adult teams in a round-robin marathon, the event featured an inclusive soccer activity for children with and without disabilities. The unique event involved a wide range of community partners, including DANI, Camp Breakaway, CAMP AIM and the Friendship Circles, Maccabi Canada and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Our thanks go to the main sponsor CIBC Children's Foundation, and to adult tournament sponsor Crowe Soberman.

Israel's Consul General to Toronto and Western Canada DJ Schneeweiss – who participated in Team Israel – said:

“On behalf of the government of Israel, it is a great pleasure to be able to endorse and value the work that Beit Issie Shapiro does for the benefit of our society. It is one of the jewels in our national crown, an organization which represents the absolute best of who we are, what we stand for and why we have a Jewish state.”

In the words of Gilad Epstein, CFOBIS Chair: “I am proud and humbled by the amazing show of community support. Beit Issie is a center of excellence out of Israel that is impacting lives of people with disabilities worldwide. As one of the few Israeli organization with a consultative status to the United Nations, Beit Issie is a role model, influencing policy and exporting knowledge to many countries worldwide, including Canada.”



Benji Maor, Consul General Schneeweiss, Gilad Epstein

Contact Us

Israel
Beit Issie Shapiro
Tel: 972-9-770 1222
E-mail: info@beitissie.org.il
www.beitissie.org.il/eng
Non-Profit: #58-007-185-0

American Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro
National/New York Office
Greater NY Development
Director: Bill Edelstein
Tel: 1 (212) 586-2464
E-mail: info@afobis.org
www.afobis.org
Registration: #13-3434-781

South East
Development Director: Sara Shames
c/o Michael-Ann Russell JCC
Tel: 1 (305) 933-0774
E-mail: florida@afobis.org

West Coast
Development Director: Laura Fuhrman
Tel: 1 (310) 462-7659
E-mail: laoffice@afobis.org

Canadian Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro
National Administrator: Jocelyn Emdon
Tel: 1 (289) 597-0500
E-mail: cfobis@rogers.com
Registration: #89056-1848-RR0001

South African Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro
c/o Ilan Ossin
Tel: 27 832837479
E-mail: safobis@gmail.com

Swedish Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro
c/o Fredslogen
Tel: 46 86507848
E-mail: tnetter@hotmail.com

United Kingdom Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro
Tel: 44 2079035017
E-mail: ukfobis@googlemail.com
Charity: #328303



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OCTOBER 15 ISRAEL Sorcerers Night: Israel's finest mentalists, magicians and illusionists

OCTOBER 21 NEW YORK Humanitarian Award: Celebration honoring Emily and Eugene Grant

OCTOBER 18 LONDON Annual Hebrew Order of David Bingo Night, supporting essential community causes
ISRAEL Dragons and Butterflies: how a man who reached rock-bottom rose up again

OCTOBER 28 MIAMI Major Donors Dinner, in recognition of their remarkable support

NOVEMBER 1 NEW YORK TCS New York City Marathon: Running for the children of Beit Issie Shapiro

NOVEMBER 8 LOS ANGELES West Coast Gala Dinner: Honoring Klara and Martin Shandling, and Prof. Ernest Katz

MARCH 2016 6-10 ISRAEL Global Changemaker Summit. Experience the best of Israel and learn how it is changing our world. **Join us**

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