



IMPACT

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NEWSLETTER





Dear Friends,

We were having a conversation recently about the many circles of reach that Chabad of The Woodlands has, but many of these circles do not intersect with other circles. There's Camp Gan Israel families, Shul attendees, Adult Education students, Hebrew School parents, Holiday participants and supporters from afar.

So we decided to start this periodic newsletter where community members can speak of how Chabad has touched them, from the various circles of our impact.

We hope that you will be gratified by the work we do in the community and be inspired to support and participate with Chabad of the Woodlands.

Thank you,

Rabbi Mendel + Leah Blecher



Giving

“At Chabad of The Woodlands, Rabbi Mendel and Leah Blecher have built a warm and vibrant Jewish community that has enriched my life immeasurably. I donate to Chabad of The Woodlands because I want to make sure that many others will also benefit from the gifts that I have received since I became a member of this fine temple.”

Jeremy Orgel, MD

“I contribute to Chabad because of the commitment to traditional Judaism that Rabbi and Leah have brought to our community. They serve our community tirelessly, providing much needed services to augment our spiritual needs. They do it lovingly, and truly care about our wellbeing.”

Ken Rosenbaum

Growing

“Before making my first appearance at Chabad in January of this year, I had spent 20 years in a gradual spiritual decline. I didn’t know how to reconcile being Jewish with being successful in the world. So, I began to rely increasingly on my intellect and less on Hashem. As my worldly success grew, so did my arrogance.

I was unwittingly starving my soul, and the subsequent anxiety and depression begotten of this spiritual affliction ensued. I couldn’t make sense of the psychiatric disturbances, especially since I thought I had it all... and this to a psych nurse practitioner! I threw the full arsenal of mental health treatment at this illness, but nothing was working.

I was starting to feel oppressed, and inexplicable anger began to consume me. My poor mother had recognized the spiritual affliction for years and prayed to Hashem. But my arrogance ignored her wisdom: “The world doesn’t work that way anymore, Ima!”

Finally, I had had enough. I was in such agony that non-existence seemed preferable to whatever this was. I turned to Hashem for the first time in twenty years and said, “I never ask you for anything. If you can hear me, please help me, because I have NOTHING left to treat this. If you heal me, I promise to do whatever it is that you bid of me.”

A good family friend and fellow Jew encouraged me to come to Chabad of the Woodlands, and I was thrilled to find a thriving Jewish community here that I never knew existed, and I’ve been here my whole life!

From the moment I walked into Chabad, my fears of being rejected were immediately put to rest, as everyone I met extended a warm Shalom. I had an excellent initial experience at Chabad during the Rabbi Laibl Wolf lecture, where I met the people who would become so integral to my journey. I couldn’t wait to come back! Leah invited me to shul that Shabbat, and I was so excited to be a part that I even beat the Minyan there lol.

The firm Jewish foundation that my parents laid for me all those years ago was being revived, as everything I encountered at Chabad was nostalgically familiar.

Without Chabad of the Woodlands, I wouldn’t be able to maintain that communal life that is so important for us as Jews. I enjoy all that Chabad has to offer and attend all events that I’m able to; from the holiday celebrations, JLI courses, Thursday Parsha class, Shul, and most recently, Shabbat dinners and Torah & Tea, with Leah and the ladies.

Kol hakavod to our very own Rabbi and Rabbanit Blecher. I am eternally grateful to Chabad for our warm Jewish community here in my very own hometown, and seek to give back, what I continue to gain.”

Nita Naim



Learning

“My boys loved going to The Gan at the Chabad of the Woodlands. This program is so much more than a daycare, as it is nurturing and enriching. The teachers are loving and kind. It feels more like a family. Leah does a great job of planning activities that are engaging and educational. The children learn life-skills like cooking and gardening, Jewish values, pre-reading and writing, and foundational math. My boys have developed an appreciation for songs in their music class, and have improved their coordination and balance in gymnastics. Over the past year, I have seen my boy’s confidence and independence grow. They have a strong bond with their Jewish heritage and are proud of their identity.”

Michelle Baum



Relocating

“.... We wanted to leave NY but didn’t know where we wanted to move to. The decision to leave NY was bitter-sweet. David had been an active member of Chabad of Old Brookville for over 20 years. Leaving our NY Chabad family wasn’t easy. We left with tremendous feelings of trepidation. As I wanted a warm climate. We looked to moving South. The obvious choice seemed to be Florida, but Florida didn’t speak to us. So we decided to visit Houston, specifically The Woodlands, on the recommendation of a friend. From the moment we arrived we were greeted by the warm community who made us feel welcome, and we soon found our new Chabad family. We enjoy the learning, the services and the communal meals, which have helped us integrate and meet our new friends. Our involvement with Chabad has allowed us to make friends and feel connected to our new home. We have a wonderful “Chevra” and feel fulfilled in a way that gives purpose to our lives.”

Lindy Charlaff