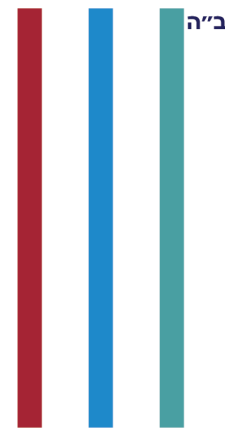




HINDA INSTITUTE



ב"ה

Chanukah 2020

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DEDICATED TO RE-ENTRY Razing Barriers • Raising Bars



The challenges are insurmountable for human beings who were formerly incarcerated and now are faced with: reentering society, finding a place to live and, on top of that, finding solid employment. It is hard to imagine the tremendous difficulties they have to deal with: employers unwilling to hire someone with a criminal record, the inability to reinstate a professional license, a severe lack of internet and computer skills due to restrictions during incarceration, a gap in their work experience, sometimes a lack

basic literacy skills and unfortunately and emotionally painful – a very deep seated ostracism from the community. Everyone wants them to succeed, but few are willing to give them the help and “breaks” they need. In spite of all of this, **our clients CAN and DO succeed in rebuilding their their lives for good with support.** Surpassing these unbelievable obstacles is the real key to lowering national recidivism rates and the Hinda Institute is dedicated to providing this support by expanding our services.

HOPING YOU HAD A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHANUKAH!



**Remember, your
year-end donation will
go a long way to keep
these programs running!**



Our Objectives Are To:

1 HELP HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE RE-ENTERING SOCIETY TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES.

We offer four routes of training and support:

- a) Finding a Job,
- b) Starting a Business,
- c) Re-training or Re-education and
- d) Assistance with Applications for Disability.

2 HELP HUMAN BEINGS WHO ARE RE-ENTERING ADAPT SOCIALLY AND MENTALLY.

This program offers courses in social skills and strategies for reintegration; social support and addiction support groups; coupled with spirituality and nonjudgmental compassionate mentors as required.

Our mission is simple: 0% recidivism, 100% acceptance.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe anticipated that “We will reach the time when there will be no prisons; only preventive education.” We need to begin now to reintegrate, educate and include everyone in society to build safer more compassionate communities – if not now when?

Are you an employer looking for skilled loyal Hinda certified employees? A business with used computers to donate? A volunteer teacher willing to tutor? A sponsor willing to donate to this cutting-edge needed program? If you have answered yes to any of the above, please contact us and join together to change someone's life for good.

3 PROVIDING BASIC LEGAL GUIDANCE.

The program uses a composite of learning approaches; ZOOM/webinars, online learning in technical skills, professional tutoring on the internet, Word and Excel as well as literacy support, mentorship, caseworkers and discussion forums. Additionally, these online courses will also be delivered nationally in correctional institutions using tablets.



CHANUKAH One Flask of Oil

We are continuing our Chanukah services within correctional institutions as usual despite COVID. After repeated calls, IDOC has graciously directed their institutions to accommodate the Jewish chaplains for the holidays. At the Hinda Institute, the usual is always miraculous, and this year even more so.

Our clients are suffering even more this year. People in prison have had no relief after more than 7 months of “Phase 1” COVID19 mitigations. Phone and video visits are limited to 15 minutes. There is inconsistent or nonexistent outdoor time and reduced access to showers, commissary, and in person visits. Some are confined to their rooms.

“REAL PEOPLE REAL STORIES A Job for Joab

I was released from prison early (due to COVID) after almost 9 years of incarceration. The prison did not have an exit strategy. I was dropped off at a coffee shop across the street. I had no ID, no health care, and no driver's license. Prior to incarceration, I was a technical support manager and had a wife, family, and community. All that was now gone. While I hadn't

technically hurt anyone, I was an offender. I had already resolved to change my life completely, but no one cared. I was fortunate to be able to live with my devoted parents, but it was almost impossible to find a job. I kept getting “ghosted” once the employers saw that I had a record. The Hinda Institute helped me to find employment within 4 months. They also provided mentorship and a caring support group for me and my mother. Our family has joined the Scheiman family for the holidays and were happy to find a

non-judgmental atmosphere where we could be accepted. My mother was also thrilled that I finally had a Bar Mitzvah. Life is good now, I am using faith, spirituality, and service of others to become a better person.



They feel alone, abandoned and scared and our visits are even more important. The prisons recognize that we are an essential service. We recognize that the spiritual welfare of our clients is our essential obligation. The Chanukah holiday packages that we deliver for our families outside are also essential. Despite COVID, we will deliver everything as usual.

On Chanukah, we learn that each light is an important step to fighting the darkness. All the flasks of oil were purposefully defiled by the Greek armies. After searching desperately, the Jews (the Maccabees) found only one pure flask of oil. The light from that tiny amount of oil miraculously remained lit on the menorah for 8 days.

Chanukah is all about the fight for religious liberties, the fight against assimilation, self-sacrifice and the importance of the few. At the Hinda Institute we continue that fight. For us, like the Maccabees on Chanukah, it is all about finding and lighting up that one soul.

As chaplains, we put in hours of time and travel for miles because

we believe that if you save one life, you save an entire world. During these challenging times of COVID-19, the only person allowed to visit prisoners is the chaplain. Many times hours are needed for negotiating - just to reach that one Jew. We are dedicated to finding and saving that one flask. Nobody is disposable; everybody is a human being created in the image of G-d. Everyone deserves compassion, a second chance and the opportunity to live a normal life. We must remember that one neglected flask was the miracle that lit up the menorah and the world.

Thank you to: Rivka for doing a weekly prison newsletter. Beth for leading our correspondence program. Rabbi Schneur for spearheading prison videos.



chaplain. I was the one who had nagged him incessantly that we can't abandon our clients. He had warned me – life is full of challenges. I got out and approached the halfway house. An aggressive woman came to the door. Over time I was to learn these individuals are the typical gatekeepers for halfway houses in the south side. I turned on the charm with a pasted reassuring smile.

My client came out and was overcome with joy to see me. Her joy was understandable as I had brought her some basic necessities which were like gold to her. After completing my delivery, I thought to myself - I need to do something Jewish - remember you are a Rebbetzin. "I want to teach you a prayer to lower your anxiety, a prayer about trust in G-d, it's called the SHMA," I said this feeling a bit awkward -- as who was I to teach someone who had gone through such suffering about faith? "Oh!, she replied, I know the SHMA". With that she said it perfectly. I felt tears suddenly well in my eyes. There it was – the Jewish spark ignited. I finally really understood what is meant by loving your fellow Jew no matter what. The Rebbe guides us. He was a visionary prison chaplain and I had a job to do.

Our clients include bobbies, college kids defending themselves and people in bar fights who are forced to plead guilty as part of negotiations. At Hinda, we are part of the solution. This month we found jobs for our clients reentering, provided financial support for housing, found lawyers and mental health institutions when necessary, and referred our clients to open minded collaborative agencies when needed. Step by step, Americans are opening their eyes to the realities of incarceration and we will realize the Rebbe's revolutionary vision: "We will reach the time when there will be no prisons; only preventive education."

FROM BUREAUCRAT TO ADVOCATE, THROUGH THE EYES OF A REBBETZIN

With trepidation, I drove through blocks of boarded up stores revealing the intimidating post-riot structural design of Chicago's south side. I arrived safely at a lonely half-way house. I had the feeling of being in some surreal movie. There was nothing around –just some empty fields, a large factory and an abandoned school building. Stay focused - I was about to meet a new Hinda Institute client who had been incarcerated for more than 20 years for a very serious offence and now was recently released.

Somewhat anxious by nature (perhaps because my parents are Holocaust survivors), I reminded myself that I am religious and need to have faith. I said the Shma (a Jewish prayer) quietly and put on my COVID mask. As I approached my destination, I gauged the distance back to the car. Where was my husband to remind me not to fear anything but G-d? The answer was my husband was in jail (wouldn't my parents be proud?) serving his role as a Hinda



THE HINDA INSTITUTE

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to help Rabbi Scheiman continue his service
to the isolated Jews in prison!**

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Address: _____

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☐ \$250 ☐ \$36

☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ _____

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Charge my credit card: ☐ one time ☐ monthly. (Visit HindaHelps.com to pay using PayPal) **PayPal™**

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