



HINDA INSTITUTE

ב"ה

Fall 5783/2022

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THE NEW YEAR RENEW, GROW AND CHANGE

This year as you renew yourself during the high holidays, enjoy traditional dishes and connect with family and friends, take a moment to also think of the meaning of forgiveness, inclusion and love. Think the way G-d would – walk in the way G-d does everyday. G-d always provides us with the possibility of return and love.

The Hinda Institute services those Jewish souls who are isolated, the alienated families and children, the poor or just simply people who have absolutely nowhere to go for the holidays. We are inclusive, non-judgmental and provide a place for redemption for those changing their lives around. Maybe not as much as G-d would, but we are moving in the right direction. With your help, the Hinda Institute:

- ★ Provides meals and services for those reentering society and for the families who are the collateral damage of crime
- ★ Provides food packages, care, and most importantly, holiday connections with the help of Maot Chitim;
- ★ Visits those who are detained in correctional institutions with hope, love, High Holiday prayer books and services;
- ★ Offers hope, redemption and human spirituality to the downtrodden, the broken and the challenged. This year Rachmiel Drizin led a deeply reflective, mystical course on "Can I Right the Wrongs I have Caused?"



WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY SWEET NEW YEAR!



LAWYERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HINDA has initiated a new Lawyers' Advisory Committee that meets monthly and includes several local criminal defense, domestic relations and family lawyers. The goal of this volunteer committee is to discuss and consult with the Hinda Institute on legal issues concerning clients who include detainees and families. Our vision is to support our clients through finding new approaches, resources and providing alternative sentencing and mitigation. The committee is run through the kind and generous volunteer leadership of Chair Rahmiel Hayyim Drizin who recently retired after spending thirty years as an Assistant Cook County Public Defender.

Over the past six months, the committee is already having an impact. Our consultations have addressed subjects such as medical strife within prisons, child access and civil rights issues. One of the biggest financial and emotional stresses for our families is the court system which can drag on for months. Legal fees are very high, and many Americans can't afford full representation. Most Americans do not merit to get a jury trial. Over 90% chose to take plea bargains under the threats of longer sentences ("jury tax") in addition to avoid the stresses of horrible conditions in jail.

We want to thank our current volunteer lawyers who take time from their already booked caseloads to do a deed of kindness. **The committee is currently seeking attorneys who would be interested in participating in**

this important work and researching innovative approaches for our clients.

HINDA HERO TESTIMONIAL LEAH

I am very appreciative for all of the help and support I have received from the Hinda Institute in regards to my legal situation with my daughter. They were able to help me with the legal process by providing access to educated and knowledgeable professionals who guided me through each obstacle with an open heart and compassion.



THE CASE FOR CASEWORKERS

We would like to welcome our new caseworker Mariana. Mariana has had experience in reentry work with veterans, counseling and paralegal work. She will be helping us with casework, counseling, our addiction support groups and our education program. Hinda has now grown to include 7 part-time caseworkers who are reentry specialists. Our team includes a full spectrum of skills; now 2 with counseling expertise and 2 peer support specialists, an intern and 3 chaplains in the field. Our casework lead is Kyle (LCSW) who is an expert in trauma and has experience working with people impacted by violence. To further professionalize our staff, we are now working with Dr. Stephanie Kutzen, a professor at Jane Adams School of Social Work to develop our own Reentry Peer Support Specialist Certification.

Our casework impact has grown steadily. We service clients who often have nowhere else to go. This year we have initiated a new database which has evidenced a real difference in the lives of 202 clients which we serve.

IN HALF A YEAR:

- ✓ We have helped **20** people find permanent employment under very difficult conditions. (**83%** of our clients find jobs compared to **68%** nationally. Most are employed within a year. Job retention rate of **91%**.)
- ✓ We have helped **11** people survive their addiction crises.
- ✓ We have helped find housing and shelter for **20** clients under considerable challenges, preventing homelessness.
- ✓ We prevented **5** crises situations.
- ✓ Over **80** clients receive weekly counseling. Over **100** clients receive spiritual rabbinic counseling weekly.
- ✓ The Hinda Institute has provided staggering results in the realm of recidivism. Our pervasive, holistic and personal approach is responsible for our recidivism rate of less than **10%** compared to a national recidivism baseline rate of over **75%**.

ODE TO VOLUNTEERS

JOEL KEYSER

For over 2 years Joel Keyser has been a compassionate and skilled volunteer for the Hinda Institute. He helps with our tricky budgeting, creating miracles. A member of the Hinda Institute Board, Joel provides advice on human resources and structuring issues based on his years of expertise and experience. He is also a valued speaker in our courses.

Joel is the lead of our White-Collar support group, together with our admin Michael. This is one of the few white-collar support groups that exist in the US and has been instrumental in connecting us with other stakeholders in the field. On a monthly basis, the group brings in dynamic, charismatic speakers and deals with the unique issues that our highly educated and skilled clients face -- such as banking, licensing and rebuilding their lives for good, often under extreme censorship, poverty and post incarceration PTSD. We want to thank Joel for his continued compassion and devotion.

HINDA HERO

Counseling and Support Make the Difference



After Joe was finally released after years of incarceration, things became complicated. His prior plans for housing fell through, and Joe was unable to stay with his loving family who were waiting for him. He scrambled to find a stable place to stay, in addition to securing employment needed to pay for the rent.

For those new to this reality -- it is very difficult to find a job when your future employer knows you were just incarcerated. On top of that, Joe faced severe restrictions in terms of housing. His parole officer was putting pressure on him to have solid housing. Unfortunately the parole officer brought him in on a false report and Joe had to face aggressive questioning. He became anxious about possibly returning to a correctional institute. At the same time, Joe's father died after a long illness. This put further emotional pressure on Joe and his family. Unfortunately, Joe was not permitted to attend his father's funeral. The Hinda Institute stepped in immediately to assist Joe and his family.

Joe: "My caseworker Kyle was there for me the whole way and gave me the support I needed. He was somebody I could vent to. No one wanted to talk about the issues I now had to face. He helped me to deal with my anxiety and lack of self-esteem. If I didn't have anyone to talk to, I would have gone crazy. Kyle also hooked me up with employment options that helped with referrals, support and suggestions. He guided me on how to beef up my resume. Though he presented me with different ideas and possibilities, I had to make the decision to take his advice and push forward."

Fast forward one month later, Joe now has an apartment and just found a good job in the field he wanted. Joe is feeling better about his life and is even there to support his family through the loss of his father. As one caseworker noted, "It is important to remember that without our casework involvement, so many people stand to lose a support system that has been so instrumental in their life."



NEWS & SHMOOZE

Our caseworkers, facilitators and support group leaders have all completed the National Mental Health First Aid First Responder course. This will help us to identify and assist clients in crisis.

This quarter our family CARES advocacy group has presented "Families the Collateral Damage of Crime" a documentary video to the Chicago Board of Rabbis, the Etz Chaim Synagogue and will be presenting to social workers at REACH in Jewish day schools and UPWARDS, as well as the Prison Families Alliance. Winning minds one step at a time!

Our exciting calendar of reentry courses for the new year are up. Take a peek on our website - Hindahelps.com

Watch for our annual matching fund-raising campaign in November. For more information or to participate in the campaign, please contact Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS & DEVOTION.

"It is not our job to finish the task, but nor can we desist from it."
-Ethics of our Fathers

Make a differnecel!



Due to budget cuts by the state of Illinois, Rabbi Scheiman's chaplaincy is no longer reimbursed as it was in the past. Help us continue by making a tax-deductible donation securely on our website.



THE HINDA INSTITUTE

The HINDA Institute
9401 N Margail
Des Plaines, IL 60016



We now have the ability to charge your credit card on a one-time or monthly basis!



**Please accept my tax-deductible contribution
to help Rabbi Scheiman continue his service
to the isolated Jews in prison!**



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