



The WIZO Impact

From the Office of the Chairperson of WORLD WIZO

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A NEWSLETTER CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND

Dear Chaverot,

I am excited to introduce **The WIZO Impact** to you.

This new monthly newsletter has been created under the auspices of my office and is generated by volunteers, just like you, whose shared love of Israel is evident in their pro-active endeavors for our beloved movement.

Since WIZO's inception in 1920, she has spread her wings around the world, encompassing chaverot and supporters who have put their trust in WIZO to steer their altruism in the best possible way for the greater good of Israel.

WIZO is the driving force that nurtures and teaches to ensure a positive future and to empower Israeli society. WIZO has delivered on her promise, and continues to do so with your full partnership, trust and support. The lives of so many of our care recipients have been positively impacted both personally and for the good of our beloved State of Israel.

And it is in no small part

due to you - our global sisterhood whose support for WIZO is an expression of your love for Eretz Israel - your spiritual home. You, compassionate women, whose hearts are full of love for Israel and for her people.

In our shared mission, distances and differences disappear as you in the Diaspora walk together with us, here in Israel.

You look upon us as sisters, and we are - and you look upon *Am Israel* as family. Not only in my position as Chairperson of World WIZO but also as me, Rivka - a Jewish woman, a mother, an Israeli, a Zionist, I value our warm and close relationship and know only too well the importance of maintaining and strengthening that link.

Together we are WIZO. By your volunteerism, activism and support for WIZO in your communities across the globe, you are raising the Israeli flag and proudly stating, *'I am a Zionist. I believe in the State of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish People. They are MY*

people and I care for them.'

Through this newsletter, I will bring news from our projects, inspiration, and information to serve you in your quest to friend-raise and fundraise for WIZO, and to strengthen your role as ambassadors for Israel.

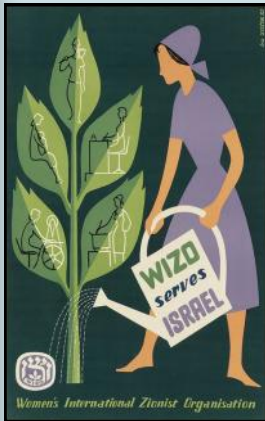
WIZO's success is the success of all of us. As she now enters her 97th year, we together, will continue to keep WIZO strong and capable in her mission to support the people of Israel - because we must.

As I write, Israeli judoka Yarden Gerbi wins a bronze medal at the Rio Olympics - Israel's first medal since 2008. A glorious moment for Israel. I wish for so many more.

Enjoy a beautiful and peaceful summer.

Fondly,

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson
World WIZO



“Let the men get on with it and we women will do the real work.”

Rebecca Sieff



The Essence of the **WIZO** Impact

The WIZO Impact is a multi-faceted phenomenon. From its inception, WIZO has touched the lives of millions, both here in Israel and abroad. Its roots have spread; seeded from generation to generation, from mother to daughter, from woman to woman.

The WIZO Impact transcends oceans in its outreach. Friendships, alliances and cooperatives have developed and mutated resulting in a movement of women, different in their culture, diverse in their nationalities yet all motivated by the same goals.

The WIZO Impact is the Zionism of the Jewish mother. The promise and the aspiration - the cause and result of, to protect, nurture, and educate her children, all the children.

The WIZO Impact is evidenced in volunteerism, in altruism, in activism. It is the union of like-minded women who stand together under the WIZO banner, who walk and work in tandem for the greater good of the people of the State of Israel.

The WIZO Impact begins and ends with people. From chaverot to chaverot to person to person, it is the outpouring of emotion and devotion to make a beneficial difference in the lives of the people of Israel.

The WIZO Impact is the difference. It is the result, the conclusion - the happy ending - which is evidenced in a stronger, more invested Israeli society. It is the child who is nurtured and encouraged, the youth who breaks free from a cycle of violence, the woman who finds her voice and learns to respect herself. It is that second chance, or third chance, at a better life that impacts on not just the people but also the wider community.

The WIZO Impact is the impact of positivity. By equipping the people with tools, Israeli society is more empowered to serve the nation and indeed the world in all spheres of innovation, medicine and technological prowess. It is the ethos of ‘yes, we can - and yes we will.’

The WIZO Impact is all that and more. It is something for which we can all be proud of, because the biggest impact of all is the part that we all play.

Make YOUR Impact. SHARE, SHARE, SHARE...

your WIZO passion by word of mouth, by sharing your enthusiasm, by social media. It's so easy.



Find me on Facebook: **Rivka Lazovsky** - follow link:
<https://www.facebook.com/rivka.lazovsky.9/?fref=ts>
 Please like my page and leave me a comment.

Impact Stories

DAY CARE CENTRES

In this section

*Daniel at Day
Care Centre*

Motivating Mo

Saving Shiran

Every day, in WIZO projects throughout Israel, new stories surface of the WIZO Impact, which changes lives for the better.

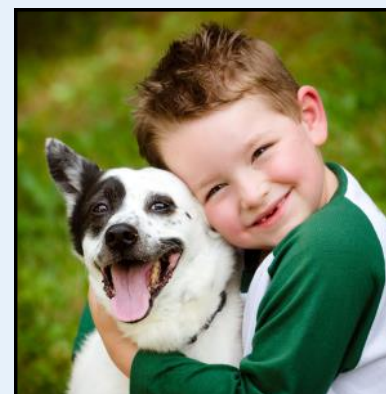
Each month, we will bring you just a few. There are so many more.

Meet Daniel (not his real name). Daniel's birth mother is a drug addict who works as a prostitute. She has no contact with her son. When Daniel was born, the Department of Social Services recommended that Daniel be put up for adoption, but his biological father fought for the right to raise him together with his new wife. Daniel's father is 63 years old, he has been in and out of prison and suffers from mental disorders. His wife is 57 and has been suffering from cancer for a number of years. During these times, Daniel's father has been known to seek out the services of prostitutes. The family was referred by the welfare services and Daniel was placed in WIZO's care by court order.

When he first came to a WIZO Care Centre, at the age of eighteen months, Daniel was sullen and tearful. He clung to the caregivers and refused to take part in daily activities. In the playground, he sat alone, lost in his childhood world and if one of his classmates tried to engage with him Daniel would lash out. When the other toddlers were singing and dancing in a circle, Daniel would run to the corner, face the wall and stand rigid with his fingers in his ears.

Patience, hugs and careful assessment by onsite child psychologists have had a positive effect on Daniel, and every step of the way his parents have been encouraged to participate in the necessary therapy to bring a smile to Daniel's face. His parents regularly attend WIZO parenting classes and there is a marked improvement in their handling of Daniel. Together with the care givers, Daniel's parents take a keen interest in Daniel's development and there is a new and healthy closeness in their relationship. Recently, they surprised Daniel with a puppy.

Today, Daniel is a typically boisterous three year old. One care giver described him as being the 'master of the playground' as he lines up his friends in groups to play on the climbing frame. He is very attentive at story time, he loves to draw pictures and always sings at the top of his voice. He is smiley and demonstrative - a far cry from the troubled toddler he once was. He talks incessantly about his dog and positively swells with pride when his father brings it when he collects Daniel from WIZO day care so Daniel can show it off to his class mates and care givers.



One of Daniel's care givers is an Ethiopian mother of four called Amouwah.

She is a graduate of WIZO's Orientation Program to work as a Child Care Provider. This is a unique and empowering program for Ethiopian women with little or no background in childcare. It affords unskilled women the opportunity to gain essential knowledge and skill in the field of early childcare and serves as an excellent foundation towards gaining certification to work as 'metaplot' (care givers). Amouwah says that the program has not only allowed her to enter the workplace in meaningful employment but has boosted her confidence and self-esteem within her own family unit.



Early Age Day Care

Parental Support

Warm Homes for
children at risk

Education

Vocational Training

Enrichment Courses

Youth Centres

Counselling

Welfare

Respite Care

Trauma Counselling

Community Care

Women's Shelters

Family Therapy

Women's Leadership

Citizens Advice

Legal Services to the
family

Golden Age Home

Motivating Mo

Mo (not his real name) arrived at the *Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family Vocational School* when he was **16 years old**. Mo's mother is an ex - drug addict who had become religious; his father is disabled and wheelchair-bound. He has an older brother who dropped out of school to put food on the family's table.

He was accompanied by his mother and older brother; Mo appeared thin and anxious and wore a baseball cap pulled low over his eyes. When questioned, he remained silent while his brother answered for him. Mo, who previously attended a Haredi school, was accepted into the 10th grade.

At first, he refused to remove his baseball cap and was non-communicative with staff and classmates. His level of education and social skills were lacking, but with patience and encouragement he gradually let down his guard and opened up to his teachers. Mo confided that his disabled and ailing father wakes him every morning at 4 am in order for Mo to wash and dress him before taking him to the synagogue. After opening the synagogue at 5 am and leaving his father there, Mo would return home to wake up his mother and older brother, which explained his lethargy.

In a house call that the staff made to Mo's home, they were horrified to find that the family lived in the store room of a shop owned by relatives of the family. Without kitchen or bathroom, Mo shared a bed with his brother in a small and squalid space clearly unsuitable for human dwelling.

Staff at the Rebecca Sieff Vocational School quickly mobilized to find home care support for Mo's father, and also secured a part-time job for Mo in the afternoons. During this time, Mo's self-confidence grew, and he took off his baseball cap, revealing new attentiveness and a new-found zest for life. He advanced in his studies. During a leadership course, Mo exhibited a new-found drive to promote both his class and himself, and the ability to lead effectively.

Mo graduated school successfully; he was enlisted into the army and got a permit to continue working to help to feed his family.

Today, Mo is happy, confident and progressing well in life. In partnership with his brother, he has taken on a mortgage, which has enabled his family to buy their very own apartment - a proper home.



Saving Shiran

Shiran had always been the model daughter. Getting good grades at school and helping her mother around the house, she was popular and pretty, always smiling. Home was a happy place for her and her elder brother who she adored. Dad had a good income; her mother worked part-time and was always there for her children. Life for the 14 year old Shiran was comfortable and charmed.

When her brother, a paratrooper in the IDF, was killed in active service two years, everything changed for Shiran. Her parents clung only to each other in their sorrow and she felt estranged, "it was as if I didn't exist anymore. As if I, too, had died - and yet they didn't grieve for me."

Shiran felt worthless, insignificant. The cozy chats she used to enjoy with her mother were replaced by arguments and insults as her schoolwork suffered. Eventually, she started to miss lessons, distancing herself from her school friends and spending more and more time in the company of an older man whom she had met in an internet chat room and who seemed to understand her. The vulnerable and innocent Shiran was totally captivated by his attention, ignorant of the fact that 'the man' was grooming her for prostitution. So totally beguiled was she that she allowed her mind to be controlled and her body to be abused by him. It was the only way she knew in which to deal with the heavy burden of grief she carried over her brother's death.



Shiran's parents were also desperate to help their daughter. The rift between them was so wide, with each blaming the other and yet neither focusing on the roots of the issue because they were ill-equipped to do so.

School counselors enlisted the help of WIZO's Department of Family Welfare, *Otzmah Tzeira* (Young Power) program, which includes intensive mentoring, counseling and support which is not always available within the family, empowering vulnerable young women to pick up the pieces of their lives. Shiran had suffered abuses at the hands of 'the man' that she dared not speak about. So low was her self-esteem that she felt worthless, a failure. She had lost all aspirations. **Hers was a broken life - a life that WIZO repaired through a life-enhancing, life-saving project of sympathetic counseling and gentle therapy.** Steadily, as her self-worth grew, so too did her relationship with her parents.

Shiran attends *Otzmah Tzeira* workshops at a local WIZO branch once a week. There, she is in the company of other young girls, all of whom are learning to take back control of their lives from outside negative influences with the help of a network of dedicated WIZO volunteers backed by professionals. Sessions involve dynamic empowerment, group discussions, seminars, psychodrama, field trips and activities in the community. Shiran is learning how to cope with her grief and she has been empowered with the tools to say no to abusive relationships. She is making healthy life choices. Her schoolwork is improving.

Shiran's parents are also grateful to WIZO. 'It was enough that we lost a son, and I feared that we had lost our daughter, too,' her mother said. 'But thanks to WIZO, I have her back where she belongs.'

WIZO could never bring back their son, a soldier killed in the service of the country, but through the *Otzmah Tzeira* program WIZO did save their daughter.

WIZO Newsround

In this section

**Emergency
Preparedness**

**End of School Year
Graduations**



We believe that each child that comes through the WIZO doors will join a community of children, families, care-givers and teachers engaged in the joy, work and wonders of childhood.



EARLY AGE

Emergency Preparedness

A stark reminder of the realities of living in Israel presented itself once again in July when a rocket fired from Gaza slammed into the Margaret

Thatcher Centre for the Benefit of the Children, Parents and Educational Staff in Sderot, also known as the Open House. This unique facility was thankfully closed at the time but the missile did cause extensive damage. The Open House aims to identify and treat children with health, developmental and environmental difficulties, as well as children and their families who are in a state of distress and anxiety due to the security situation, and to provide parents with advice, training and empowerment.

In light of the frailty of the security situation in Israel, **World WIZO's Early Age Division have produce a new emergency procedure guidebook** that deals with the basic principles of emergency care, wartime emergency-preparedness procedure, the expected behavior of children during crises, goals of the staff during emergencies, contact with parents, emergency procedure, and much more.

The guide book has been produced in collaboration with the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC). During Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012, ITC provided psychological support to 28 WIZO daycare centres and 500 workers in the south of Israel. During Operation Protective Edge in 2014, 500 parents participated in ITC discussions and meetings and 1,000 WIZO children received therapy workshops in 10 different daycare centres

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Chair of World WIZO, remarked, *"Due to the unique and unfortunate fact that Israel finds itself in repeated states of war and hostility, it is vital that WIZO daycare centres be at the front line of psychological and social support for the children it cares for and their families. I am proud that WIZO is cognizant and adaptive to the world around it and is constantly innovating in order to create the best possible environment for the children of Israel. We will continue to be there for Israeli society, both in bad times and good."*

The attack on the Open House happened on a Friday night. On the following Sunday morning, an end of school year party took place in parts of the centre that were not damaged. The children of Sderot along with their parents and staff enjoyed the celebrations. This is the typical WIZO response to terror.



WIZO Newsround

EDUCATION

End of the School Year Graduations

To witness the graduation ceremonies in WIZO schools and youth villages is to see the impact that WIZO has on young lives. It is an affirmation of 'a job well done' and the promise of a bright future for those who have benefitted from the dedication, expertise and diligence of the teaching staff. It is also a source of great pride for the sponsoring federations and esteemed donors whose continuing contributions allow WIZO to offer extra facilities and added value to the students.

For the 42 students that graduated from **WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village**, (sponsored by WIZO



Switzerland and WIZO USA), it is the culmination of years of turning obstacles and challenges into success and achievement, with the added WIZO values of care, Zionim, Tikkun Olam and volunteerism.

Canadian Hadassah WIZO Nahalal Youth Village is famous for its slogan 'Responsibility Generates Leadership.' When the class of 2016

graduated, there was not a dry eye in sight as graduates, many of whom were on the Na'ale program and had made aliyah from former Soviet countries, were joined by their parents who had flown in from their home countries, and their 'Nahalal parents' to share the joy of seeing their children graduate. The generosity of the sponsoring federation and the caring support of staff and volunteers had eased the absorption of these young 'olim chadashim' enabling them to start a new life with the qualifications and confidence to pursue their future dreams. Guests at the graduation enjoyed a wonderful ballet performance by Na'ale students that depicted their rich cultural heritage



'Reality exceeds the imagination' was the apt name given to the end of year celebration of the WIZOuk-sponsored

Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family Vocational School held at the Science Museum in Jerusalem, when 17 students graduated. This impressive event, indeed an exercise in reality exceeding the imagination, was the culmination of long months of effort by the students and staff, who prepared every part of the evening, from the costumes to the filming of the video clips.

At the emotional ceremony, the 17 students who received graduation certificates proved that with grit, determination (and a little WIZO magic) the sky really is the limit. The students who completed their formal studies and vocational studies in chef training, hairdressing, music and sound production will go out into the world with new-found confidence and high self-esteem, enlisting in the IDF to serve the State of Israel.

WIZO Hasbara



Rolene Marks

Executive Member
Public Diplomacy and Hasbara
portfolio

Chairperson's Office
World WIZO

Let's Talk 'Tachlis'

by Rolene Marks

"Chaverot, let's talk tachlis. Dugri. Or Turkey. Let's get to the meat and potatoes of the issues that challenge many of us as WIZO ambassadors for Israel."

We are all united by a special love for Israel and are dismayed when we passionately advocate and are met with hostility or apathy. We feel frustrated and often wish we had the right argument at the right time to express our disdain – or proudly articulate a fabulous point that can turn even the biggest Israel skeptic into a newly minted advocate.

Now I know many of you are thinking, why are you preaching to the converted? My answer is simple – if we do not keep engaging the congregation, they will not come back to church (or in this case, synagogue) right?

It is with this in mind, that WIZO are delighted to introduce you to a new campaign called "Talking Tachlis" where we will be speaking to leading experts in the field of public diplomacy and Israel advocacy, politicians and movers and shakers who will share their advice and top tips and tool to help you become a pro-active superhero.

All these interviews will be done in video format and will be shared on to the World WIZO Facebook page. You can post them to your social media pages and share them with your friends. We also invite you to join in the conversation by sending us any questions or suggestions for guests that you would like to see featured.

View the first episode featuring *HonestReporting* here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dXiPpAtXiY&feature=youtu.be>

Why is it so important for us to become advocates for Israel? At a time when words are the weapons of choice for attacks against Israel and our diaspora communities around the world, university campuses have become battlefields for Jewish students, many of whom feel threatened and marginalized. It has become an imperative for us as WIZO women - leaders in our communities - to set an example.

WIZO women have been leaders and pioneers in so many fields, often at times of great distress or challenges. We have been on the frontline, proudly waving the Israeli flag and representing the State of Israel at times that were particularly volatile. We were there for the UN Conference against Racism in 2001 or "Durban 1" as it has been called. We were there in Europe and New York and everywhere where in between.

We are there for the challenges – and for the good stuff. Our projects are a real jewel when it comes to speaking about the positive, life changing achievements of the Jewish State. One great example is the Olive Tree project, which highlights our diversity as a country and the way that women build bridges and create dialogue through art.



Tricia Schwitzer
Special Projects
World WIZO Executive



***“Just like any
Jewish mother, WIZO
treats her children as
equals but while doing
so she strives to
strengthen the weakest
and nurture the most
needy.”***

Tricia Schwitzer

Editor's Musings

Tricia Schwitzer

Farewell to another school year. WIZO's toddlers and children have exchanged warm hugs and kisses with their caregivers and teachers and as they did, they left impressions on each other's hearts. Now it's time for fun in the sun, to join the throngs of tourists on Israel's sparkling coastline or to enjoy picnics at Israel's lush green parks. Some may jet off with their parents to distant nations to explore and enjoy other cultures but we, here at WIZO, are mindful of those who don't have these luxuries, for whatever reason. We are there for those children, the youth, for whom their youth village is home and the care givers are the closest thing they have to parents - and indeed are closer than their parents.

WIZO never closes. Ours is a 24/7, 52 weeks of the year mission - and we cannot, dare not, ever forget the situation here in Israel just two summers ago, when the skies were ominously noisy and threatening with the ever-present piercing cry of the 'Tzeva Adom' incoming rocket alerts. WIZO mobilized to extend her safety net around a traumatized nation and in doing so, saved many lives.

Even our tourists did not escape this harrowing experience as the reach of radicalized terror extended towards Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Curiously, many of our visitors said that it brought them closer to Israel's reality. It is a reality that we wished did not exist but unfortunately forever looms. We were buoyed by a global WIZO presence of activism, of compassion, of support. You rose to the challenge as you always do and, ultimately, you will do again.

It is with **YOU** in mind that this newsletter was born. As a volunteer, fortunate enough to serve on the World WIZO Executive holding a portfolio for special projects in the Chairman's Office, I have collaborated with my chair Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, in the production of ***The WIZO Impact***. It is a labour of love for the movement I feel privileged to serve. In WIZO, I walk with and I work with heroines and I get paid in smiles.

Thank you for reading and sharing ***The WIZO Impact***. Every month, we will bring you more 'sparkles of light' emanating from our projects. We are ALL working **together** in the service of WIZO - serving Israeli society.

Feedback always welcome. Email to trishas@wizo.org