



The Summit Institute
Foster Care for Children and Youth at Risk
and Psychosocial Rehabilitation

2023

Summit Institute Annual Report



Yoni Bogot // Summit's CEO



Like the rest of the Israeli society, the October 7th Massacre caught the Summit Institute by complete surprise... [READ MORE](#)



Netta Siboni // Director of Foster Care Services



In reviewing the passing year, one cannot help but start with the harsh war that befell us on October 7th... [READ MORE](#)



Neri Sraya // Director of Therapeutic Rehabilitation



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**Eulogy for the Twins
// Shelly Osadon**



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**Conferences
and Partnerships**



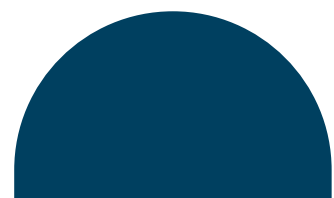
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Summit Institute's Values



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A Word from Summit's CEO // Yoni Bogot

Like the rest of the Israeli society, the October 7th massacre caught the Summit Institute by complete surprise. We were struck by immense shock and grief over the deaths of Liel and Yanai Hetzroni, our foster family from Kibbutz Be'eri. May their memory be blessed.

The foster care services in the south of the country suffered a tremendous blow – some of the foster families have been evacuated from their homes together with the children, or have evacuated on their own. The guides' team, some of whom live in the Gaza Envelope (Otef Aza) area near the fence, has suffered an unimaginable trauma. Some of the foster care guides were drafted for reservist military duty, and most of their husbands were called to serve. And so, we found ourselves with foster families scattered all over the country, with an incomplete, trauma stricken staff, and with foster kids who were repeatedly taken out of their homes and feeling an ongoing sense of instability.

We recognized the need, and by as early as the first week of the war we created an emergency help center for the South's foster families – we tended to about 300 children from around Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ofakim, Netivot and the Otef Aza area.

Foster Care Situation Room

We created a team of 30 therapists, which includes Summit's rehabilitation workers, the Jerusalem foster care workers, and staff that previously worked in the Institute.

Within a month and a half, we reached about 120 foster families from all over the country. We mapped the needs of families and children as a result of the war and trauma, and immediately began offering targeted emotional treatments to the foster care children and families.

Kibbutz Re'im

Thanks to our many years of experience in rehabilitation and trauma, we were approached in the month of November by Kibbutz Re'im, who was evacuated to a hotel in Eilat, which recommending that we be the ones to treat the members of the Kibbutz.

Within a week we set up a team to treat the Kibbutz families. The treatment includes creating a therapeutic surrounding for all of the Kibbutz members and family members who are suffering as a result of the events of October 7th.

Over the first month, we established a special clinic in the city of Eilat; and today, after the transition of the Kibbutz into two apartment buildings in Tel-Aviv, we treat about 40 members of the Kibbutz in a clinic that we established nearby.

After three months of therapy, we can state with confidence that the Summit Institute provides a unique and in-depth treatment to the Kibbutz members, and is helping them process the events of that dreadful Saturday and look toward the future with hope and optimism.

We believe that this project will continue its operation for at least another year.

The "Yahalom" Program

Another new initiative in Summit as a result of the war is the "Yahalom" Program.

On October 24th, we received the support of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Health to start treating battle-scarred soldiers who suffer mentally due to the fighting. The Summit Institute specializes in treating trauma and we will offer these soldiers specialized treatments.

In this program, we are intending to treat and rehabilitate about 35 soldiers. The goal of the program is to ease the fighters' suffering and help them return and assimilate within the community in the span of one year.

Some of the war-injured will share a special apartment and some will live in apartments of their own.

Organizational Changes During 2023

Management of Therapeutic Rehabilitation

Since August 23rd, Neri Sraya is the head of Summit's therapeutic rehabilitation. Neri is a clinical social worker who specializes in treating young people and in trauma treatment. Neri has worked in the IDF's trauma unit and also serves as a mental health officer in the IDF's "Shaldag" unit. Neri is replacing Danny Steinberg, who has been the head of rehabilitation for ten years and has advanced the entire network in an outstanding fashion.

Danny remains in the Institute's management as Summit's Head of Professional Services.

External Treatment Center

In June, we opened an external therapeutic center at Summit.

The center is intended for people who are beneficiaries in getting treatment and are not among the receivers of Summit's care. The center offers both private and group treatments. It employs a team of experienced, professional therapists who can assist in a number of difficulties and disorders. I am happy that more of Jerusalem's residents can enjoy a professional treatment at a reduced cost within the treatment center.

"The Summit House"

We continued to promote the Summit Institute's flagship project – "The Summit House".

During the year, all of the development work has finished – we prepared the public parking lot, we dug and straightened the court and erected its support walls.

In the next few weeks, we intend to start construction for the building.

"The Summit House" will include an occupational center, the teenager unit's community, a sports center, the Institute's offices, a therapeutic center for the foster care children, and an apartment for transition to independent living for the rehabilitated community.

Summit Friends Association

This year we bade farewell to Moshe Bar Siman Tov, who



has led Summit's Friend Circle and now returned to work in the government. We welcomed Ofer Yanai as the head of the Friend Circle. Together with Ofer, we held an exciting and impressive Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah event at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, joined by singer Hanan Ben Ari. Ofer and Summit's Friend Circle are helping us formulate a strategic plan and raise funds to complete the building.

Seminar

This year as well, we held our annual seminar, which we dedicated to therapeutic questions related to fatherhood. We thank: Dr. Ricky Pelah-Galil, Dr. Tom Hadani Nave, Dr. Guy Perel, Dr. Sharon Shitrit, and Michael Sidi, for their contribution to the Success of the seminar.

Family Day 2023

We commemorated the events of Family Day 2023 at the President's House, on the invitation of the President's wife – the First Lady, Michal Herzog. Following Summit's initiative, for the first time, all of the foster care organizations, along with the foster care families and

children, were invited to the President's House for a tribute evening to the foster care families. During the evening, the documentary film "A Waste of Space" ("Yeladim Al Tnai") was shown, which tells the story of three of Summit's foster care graduates. The event was honored in the presence of the Minister of Welfare and Social Affairs, Ya'akov Margi, the Mayor of Jerusalem, Moshe Lion, and directors and supervisors from the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs.

We are planning a festive jubilee event set to take place in Jerusalem on the 2th of June, so we will keep you posted.

I wish the whole of the Israeli society, the beneficiaries of the Institute's services, the amazing staff and the friends of the Institute, that we will know peace and tranquility from a place of true unity and shared values.

Yoni

יוני מרגי





A Word from the Director of Foster Care Services // Netta Siboni

In looking back at the past year, one cannot help but start with the harsh war that befell us on October 7th.

No doubt all of our lives have changed beyond recognition and so has our foster care service.

We lost a foster family and foster care children. We have a foster father who is still kidnapped, and Summit's foster services have absorbed new foster families who have taken in war-orphaned children. Needless to say, our staff women who reside in the Gaza Envelope areas have endured losses and were evacuated from their homes.

In those hellish days, we thought how to continue giving the maximum response to the foster children and families, and thanks to a swift recruitment, flexibility, and dedication from the team, we were able to succeed in our mission.

The Summit Institute established a foster care operations room.

The goal of the operations room was to reach those families who were evacuated by the country, the families who evacuated themselves, and the families who were exposed to the horrors and atrocities but remained in their homes. We wanted to meet with them face to face, to listen to their experiences and understand what they needed. Immediately, 25 male and female caretakers from Summit's foster care and rehabilitation units were recruited. And so, for months, the operations room met with about 120 families from all over the country. With some for a single meeting, and with others for more extended therapeutic interventions.

Simultaneously, the foster care guides closely accompanied the families, with telephone response lines being opened within the therapeutic centers and outside them.

Within the chaos, we managed to act quickly: first, to meet with the families, to help them evacuate and even to allow for 'days of respite' in hotels for families who seemed like they needed it. Our children and families received lovely donations from various citizens and institutions, donations which helped a lot with keeping spirits up. At the same time, we provided the team with targeted instructions concerning loss and bereavement and giving tools for resilience and dealing with trauma.

The Summit Institute is doing and will keep doing everything in its power to help the foster families and children in these difficult times.

The first months of the war greatly emphasized our organizational strength. The team had immediately enlisted to take care of the families' well being, even when the two spouses were drafted for reservist military duty and the children were left at home.

Despite the hardship of recent times, it is important to remember that during the last year we have also held several important and festive events in the foster care service.

In the heart of winter, we held a two day convention in the Dead Sea for families on the Completion of "departure within the foster care". We invited families to this convention to whom the subject was relevant this year. This was a time

for pausing, observing and learning, and also for resting and relaxing.

In the spring, as is customary, the senior highschoolers in the foster care program were invited to a concentrated preparatory workshop focused on ending their stay at a foster care, as well as for receiving tools for the next chapter of their lives.

The workshop is intended for emotionally processing the experiences of the foster care, for planning the next stage in life, and for acquainting themselves with the services and rights that they are entitled to as graduates of the foster care. The workshop included lectures and courses from such sources as military representatives, the "Yated" and "Nitzotz" programs, a seminar for proper financial conducting, and more.

To celebrate Family Day, the President wife, the First Lady, Michal Herzog, chose to honor and especially mark all of the foster care families and children. We were privileged to attend an honorable and very moving ceremony.

In the summer, we celebrated an exciting Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah for the foster care children. We had an eventful and value-filled day at the Western Wall, joined by the parents and by renowned artists. The event concluded in a heartwarming concert by singer Hanan Ben Ari, who chose to voluntarily share with us his time and talent. All this was made possible through the generous donation of the Friend Circle's chairman for the Summit Institute – Mr. Ofer Yanai.

Lastly, these days we received word that the Israeli Knesset had passed two groundbreaking law amendments in the world of foster care.

One amendment states that foster families who are taking care of a disabled child would be eligible for a Disabled Child Benefit from the National Insurance. Until now, there have been significant gaps with entitlements and amounts concerning the eligibility of biological parents to a child with disability, and the new law corrects this wrong.

Another amendment concerns the families of emergency foster homes, who could, from now on, give their consent to medical examination and treatment.

We are happy that the foster care service team has been a part of writing these law amendments and has been present in the drafting in the Knesset together with the families who were given a chance to sound their voice.

In the upcoming year, there are several challenges before us. We are facing a new tender from the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs for the continuation of operating the foster care service. We are certain that the vast experience we have accumulated along the years will stand in our favor.

I hope that we are heading for a better year,

Netta Siboni
Director of Foster Care Services



A Word from the Director of Therapeutic Rehabilitation/ Neri Sraya

The war that broke at the end of 2023 makes it difficult for us, understandably, to look back and remember anything that was there before it. It seems that this is our 2023, and so the mission with writing a yearly summary is both complicated and challenging.

During this year, the rehabilitation network has undergone many changes. The biggest of which is Danny Steinberg's finishing his role as the network's director, after 10 years in which he has developed, grown and furthered the scope of the various rehabilitative units. Danny ran the rehabilitation network with great investment and dedication. He left me with a momentous inheritance, and has passed the baton in a generous and warm way. I would like to thank him for that, and for his continued guidance and support as the Head of Psychology at Summit.

This change is not the only alteration in the rehabilitation network. In the Young-Adult Unit, Gilad Bar-Lev, who was the unit's vice president, has replaced his previous director, Rita, after about 10 years of her managing the unit. Gilad's entering the role has brought much needed stability after Rita's role had ended.

What's New in Summit

A new program has recently opened in the rehabilitation network – "Nitzan-Men." The program provides response for men who have experienced sexual abuse.

The Women's Program, which has been operating successfully for years, has highlighted the need to provide a response for the men as well, and significantly inspired the opening of that program.

To our delight, this initiative took shape, and nowadays the program operates a staff of caretakers and guides under the coordination of Yossef Silver, who had served until a few years ago as a psychologist at the Young-Adult Unit, and has returned to establish and open the program.

In addition, the Housing Assistance Unit has significantly increased its activity, and is now offering its care to 275 rehabilitated individuals in Jerusalem. Similarly, we have opened a new branch for the unit, in Gush Etzion, and it is growing constantly. We are pushing on and looking straight ahead, planning and thinking about the unit's continued growth and expansion to additional areas of activity.

Within the occupational unit, we have consistent two additional workshops in the assisted factory, one of gel nail polish, and one of ceramics. They join the existing workshops which continue to operate in a constant, high quality manner.

We have expanded the transitional occupation service, despite the difficulties during wartime. Today, besides the jobs within hotels, we have added roles at the Beit Kerem Shopping Center, and within the assisted living facility for the elderly, located there, as well as at another hotel in the city. The assisted occupation continues to grow and broaden

its activity.

The Sports and Recreational Center has relocated to its new residence, at the "Ma'ase Choshev" street, next to the assisted housing and "Nitzan-Men". With that, we have "conquered", in effect, the entirety of the second floor. The place has a studio for sports and stage arts, and even a furnished kitchen which has been installed for the cooking classes that will be opened this year.

The Adolescents Unit, which may have been the one most gravely affected from the war, has continued to operate extremely well under Gaya's management, who was recently appointed vice director of the unit. Additionally, the unit has gone through a structural change. A pre-community apartment was opened, to allow whomever needs it an adequate adjustment before entering the community, and in its place, the transition apartment was closed.

Besides the activity and changes within the units, the rehabilitation network has continued with its rich seminary program, including a long and broad list of topics, like: 'sexual trauma', Winnicott and his successors', 'comprehensive rehabilitation', 'treatment completions and departure', and an additional wide variety of courses which are offered to the units' caretakers and enrich their work.

Additionally, this year we held, as within every year, the main rehabilitation events, like: a seminar for the rehabilitation guides on the topic of 'personal exposure', family day for the institute's rehabilitated community, 'rehabilitation morning' and more.

I began with the war and I will finish with the war.

This difficult time has testified more than anything else to the resilience of the rehabilitation network. Despite the many challenges which stood in our path, the rehabilitation network has continued operating in its regular capacity, and even expanded its activities in some units.

Along with the stability, a professional and thorough work has been maintained, under the close management of professional and united teams. In places where there was need, a significant recruitment took place by directors and caretakers, past and present, in order to maintain the institute's rehabilitative-therapeutic continuum.

At this point, I would like to express my great appreciation to the rehabilitation directors and to the rehabilitation workers, as well as to the management of the Summit Institute, for their tremendous recruitment and dedication during this challenging time, and for helping the rehabilitation network continue and provide our patients with what they need.

May the next year be better than its last, full of doing good.

Neri Sraya
Director of Therapeutic Rehabilitation



2023 in Review



The Foster Care Network – A Home from the Very Start

We have supported **1431** jeopardized babies-at-risk and children and gave them caring and professional treatment.

We have successfully supported **992** foster care families from all parts of the Israeli society, in Jerusalem and the South of Israel.

Our **12** foster care families gave immediate emergency response and provided a home for **67** babies and children.

In **2023**, Summit has guided **223** special needs children and gave them adequate treatment.

Summit has placed **186** children in **137** new foster care families.



Summit's Treatment Centers – Care and Compassion

The centers have **72** treatment rooms.

Which house **82** caretakers.

Over the course of **2023** we provided **532** treatments.

The ages of children coming to the treatment centers range from **3-19**



Training

In **2023**, we offered our treatment teams on the topic of **"intervention during crisis"**.

The training was given by Efrat Peretz, a psychologist and guide in Be'er Sheva.

Additional training was in **dyadic treatment training**.

The training was given by psychologist Netta Ofer Ziv.

On top of these courses, teams receive ongoing instructions within the branches on the topics of **primary injuries, dealing with trauma, and sexual abuse**.

Treatment in a Time of Crisis – After the events of October 7th, we emphasized initial intervention during trauma, intervention during crisis and dealing with loss and grief.

Some of the caretakers began treating evacuated children and foster families, within treatment hotels.

They continue the treatments to this day.

Likewise, a specialized treatment offered for orphans absorbed by the Summit Institute.



Family Day 2023 at the President's House with the Summit Institute's graduates and foster families



Farewell event for exiting Friends Circle Chairman, Moshe Bar Siman Tov, with Chairman Ofer Yanai





The Summit Rehabilitative Network – Returning to Life

In **2023** we treated **1,533** mentally coping individuals who were successfully rehabilitated.

There are **225** team members working in Summit's rehabilitative network.

Rehabilitation is made possible by the professional units, who grant the spaces for treatment and integration.



The "Nitzan" Unit for Women who Experienced Sexual Abuse

We established the "Nitzan" unit for treating women who have gone through sexual abuse, in order to provide a unique, specialized response to the women who are dealing with various post traumatic symptoms that are present in their lives on a daily basis.

The Unit provides these women with a stable and well-defined structure, with clear boundaries, and a safe, supportive environment. Several of the women share an apartment and some in apartments which they rent within the community. The women in this program receive psychotherapy treatment twice a week, as well as guidance from professional guides, along with occupational guidance, a dietitian, taking part in classes, and more.

The intensive rehabilitation process includes both emotional and rehabilitative aspects. The length of the program is **3** years.

In **2023**, the "Nitzan" unit has given unique rehabilitative treatment to **31** female participants



A Therapeutic Community for Young Adults

The unit deals with psychological treatment and rehabilitation of individuals aged 18-23, who suffer mental and functional difficulties, who are motivated to undergo treatment and rehabilitation. In most cases, these are young people after psychiatric hospitalization who need a comprehensive treatment that includes lodging. The length of the treatment and rehabilitation is about 3 years.

The therapeutic-rehabilitative program is based on two stages. First, integrating within a unique therapeutic community among the same age group; and after that, going on to independence. The move to independence includes transferring to follow up apartments and receiving occupational training by the Summit Institute.

In the last year, **37** rehabilitated people went through treatment and rehabilitation in the unit.

Of which: **4** completed a full **3-3.5** years rehabilitative process

11 of the people in the unit have begun their rehabilitative process before **2023**



Ehud Banai in a private and moving end-of-the-year concert for the mental coping community



Singer and songwriter Hanan Ben Ari - Summit's darling, gave us a moving concert at a Bar Mitzvah event and visited one of the emergency foster care families



A special Tu B'Shvat packet in memory of the fallen of the "Haravot Barzel" war



The Summit foster care and rehabilitation teams went on a day of fruit picking to help the South's farmers



Offer Yanai, chairman of the Friends Circle at the Western Wall





Assisted Living

The Summit Institute's assisted living services are especially suitable for people who are willing and able to live in individual apartments within the community, and need guidance and assistance with developing the skills required for a more independent life.

The service is intended for people coping with mental difficulties who are discharged from psychiatric hospitalization, for those who are interested in living apart from their family, as well as for people who are within hostels and wish to move out and become independent.

In **2023**, we have treated **317** individuals and guided them in the course of assisted living services.



Occupational rehabilitation

The Summit Institute operates and manages a center for assisted occupation and a transitional assisted factory by the name of "Yetzir Kapa'im" (literally: "Handiwork"). The center and the factory are used to diagnose the ability for working and earning, for developing the needed skills for work, as well as for placement within a job and/or school, and for tracking of the entire rehabilitated community.

People arrive at the occupational center from Summit's rehabilitated community and from other places within Jerusalem.

The rehabilitated individuals who receive the occupational rehabilitation services, undergo a process that includes developing occupational skills. Likewise, they receive guidance with being assigned jobs and/or at schools, and support in favor of integrating and persisting within their chosen structure. We guide the rehabilitated individuals from the Summit community as well as from other places in Jerusalem.

In **2023**, we trained **266** coping individuals at the "Yetzir Kapa'im" assisted factory, and they were assigned within places of work.



Body and Mind – Summit's Sport, Health and Arts Center

We have founded the Summit Institute's sports center, for the health and enjoyment of the coping individuals who are undergoing rehabilitation.

The center offers a wide range of classes and sporting activities, and additionally classes from the realms of arts and stage, such as the Menchem Bar-On Fund's theater group, a choir, Poetry Slam, and more.

The center is open for all mentally coping people in Jerusalem.

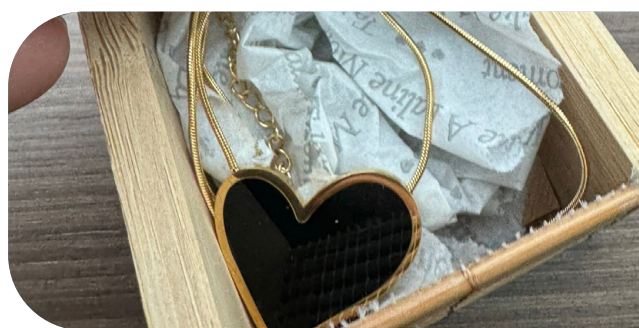
In **2023**, **850** people have participated in all of the sport Center's activities.



Our representative in reserve army duty - Osher Biton from the board of directors



Since October 7, women around the world are wearing the unity neckless which unites us as one heart ♥ the selling of the neckless was initiated by friends of Summit in Australia and all proceeds go towards the Summit Institute's foster care children and mental coping community



The administration team at a volunteering day in the "Yetzir Kapa'im" protected factory



"The friendship bench" in memory of Idan Avigail of blessed memory, who was killed at the "Guardian of the Walls" operation - was made and sold by the "Yetzir Kapa'im" protected factory





Some Figures

50

years of meaningful activity for rehabilitating mentally coping people and treating them using unique, groundbreaking methods.

2023

we marked **50** years for the founding of The Summit Institute.

For
21

years we have been running the foster care services in the Jerusalem and Southern regions.

In 2023, we treated about

600

individuals struggling with mental issues in Jerusalem, and provided them with guidance.

In 2023, we guided about **1,400** children who are placed in about **900** foster families.



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Eulogy for the Twins Liel and Yanai Hetzroni of Blessed Memory // Shelly Osadon



Shelly, the Hetzroni family's foster care guide on behalf of the Summit Institute, has written a eulogy for the twins Yanai and Liel, who were murdered on October 7th, whom she guided for the last two years:

"After we received the word of Liel's murder – I felt as if the story was 'all over', As if we have nothing to look forward to or anticipate any further information. I have written a few words about the family members, which they really were to me while working as a guide there.

Me? Be'eri? Anyone who knows me knows about my fear of military escalations and sirens. I live in Ofakim, am used to it, and still every year when we would go visit 'Darom Adom' in the Otef, I felt my heart trembling, fearing what might happen, while simultaneously marveling at all that red beauty. And suddenly, driving on my own to Be'eri every two weeks. Ironically, it was one of the homes where I felt the safest.

For the first time when I met Ayalos (Ayala, Liel's aunt), I got to know a remarkable woman, small in stature, but the size of her heart was apparent to everyone. Of red hair and smiling eyes.

She immediately opened her home, and since that day, on the table would always be waiting for me sliced fruit, dates, nuts and perhaps a few delicacies that Liel tried to create in the kitchen.

Ayala, Liel and Yanai's aunt, was active in important stages of my life, from changing apartments to the birth of my first born daughter. She was there to consult, offer a kind word and even fill my hands with a small gift.

Then I met Liel and Yanai. Twins who are nothing alike. Each one of them a world on its own, and from that day they made sure I knew it well. They changed my perspective and as they demanded that I acknowledge them as two separate, independent beings, I would never place them both in the same equation.

Liel – so smart and crafty. A beloved child who knows how to simultaneously handle and captivate everyone standing in front of her. Who is not embarrassed to ask questions, big questions, penetrating, accurate. Who wants to get to know the person standing before her, wants to get a full picture before she allows herself to trust me. I will not forget the first hug she gave me and the surprised look on Ayalos's face. That day I walked out of there thinking I have won a prize I didn't know I was searching for. Liel, who had trouble adapting to the different structures, but stood out within them. Just give her a role and she will carry it out to its fullest. She would love to guide and be a big sister to the Kibbutz kids and how they loved her and fell in line with her.

She who always introduced me as I was and was not the least bit ashamed of the reality of her life. She was proud

and channeled it well. I also got to know her friends who knew how to contain and read her. How talented she was. From one hobby to another. Singing, writing, creating. I got to receive a present from her, a beautiful coffee mug that has a special place in my cupboard and heart.

Nai-Nai- Yanai. A sensitive, smart child, who knows how to read the situation well. Is very connected to his family. He wanted to get better at school so badly, and learn English, and from one month to the next I saw how he was growing, getting older and improving. And in each of these time periods he would be filled with pride and asked to be acknowledged for his hard work. He always asked, even without words, to receive the love and attention he deserved. He would demand it quietly and receive so much of it. He loved sports and tending for his flowing hair. Each time with a different hairdo. A real Kibbutz member, who would stroll in Ayalos's mobility scooter and pick up all of his friends along for the ride.

Yanai and Liel started their first year in junior high – such a meaningful stage in the lives of every teenager and of a Kibbutz member. This was a Bar-Mitzvah year in which so many events take place in the Kibbutz and in general. A year in which they would have reached another developmental phase of their lives. A stage which they feared, were excited for and anticipated.

They both admired their Grandpa Evia, who was infallible to them – a real hero. The called and consulted with him about anything, from medicine, about which he is knowledgeable, to deliberating whether to order a Shawarma dish from Netivot.

I didn't get to fully know Grandpa Evia and our connection was not on a daily basis, but his presence was apparent in each step during my guidance. A loving, caring grandfather, who dedicated his all to raising his grandchildren. And most of all, a loving and devoted father to his daughter Shira, who could not raise her kids by herself. How much they have made her present in their lives. Not a day went by when they didn't visit and see her. "That's my mom". They would come visit her with friends as well.

Thank you for the privilege to guide you, to know you, to be angry, cheerful and excited with you. To be present in happy and also less happy situations. Thank you for getting to see you grow up, caring, dreaming, realizing.

**I will remember you forever.
Shelly**





Conferences and Partnerships

During 2023 we took part in a number of professional conferences.

Conferences and lectures led by Dr. Shimrit Engelsman

- We took part in the **9th conference of ICQM – the Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies** in Ben Gurion University. The conference's topic was "Proximity and Distance in the Qualitative Field". We presented a research conducted in cooperation with Dr. Nadav Perez Vaisvidovsky about the experiences of foster fathers in Israel. The research was held among foster fathers who are a part of to the Summit Institute.
- **The 9th scientific conference of the Israeli Organization for Group Guidance and Therapy**, took place at the Kibbutzim College in Tel Aviv, whose theme was: "Zoom Group Guidance for Foster Parents During their 1st Year of Foster Care".
- **The 3rd international conference by the Haruv Institute on the topic of "Preventing Child Abuse"** took place at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Conference featured a lecture by Avigail Gordon-Hacker and Dr. Engelsman, on "Grandparental Foster Care for Children who Suffered Maltreatment", attended by Yoni Bogot, Executive Director of the Summit Institute.
- By invitation of Dr. Ganit Goren, we gave a lecture to students at the Department of Social Work at Ben Gurion University, on the topic of **"The Foster Care Service"**.
- By invitation of Prof. Na'ama Atzaba-Poria, our partner in the therapeutic foster care project in the Be'er Sheva branch, we gave a lecture to Psychology MA. Students at Ben Gurion University, on the topic of **"Managing Foster Care for Preschoolers"**.
- On 16.05.23 the **Conference of Empathy** took place on the topic of "Dilemmas and Themes of Foster Parents when Working with Different Family Structures." In the conference, Dr. Engelsman and Reut Lerer, the director of the Be'er Sheva therapeutic center, gave a lecture about the **challenges of parental foster care**.



Additional Lectures and Conferences with Members of the Summit Institute

- During February 2023, the Tel Aviv University's School for Social Work held a conference on the topic of **"Relationships and Parenthood of Out-of-Home Placement Graduates: Personal Insights and Issues in Therapy and Service Shaping"**. In the Conference, a panel of out-of-home placement graduates was held, hosted by actor Yaakov Zada-Daniel, a graduate of the Nerdim-SOS Children's Village. Participants included Sasha Zipkin, a graduate of Summit's foster care. Oren Leibowitz, another graduate of Summit's foster care, attended as well and met up with Gal Gan-Or, who was his foster guide and social worker, guiding his foster family.
- In 6.5.23 the Askelon Academic College's School of Social Work held a conference titled **"Israeli Hope in the Academy"**, on the topic of "People with Disabilities in Israeli Society – Where do We Stand?" In the conference, representatives from Summit's Jerusalem and Be'er Sheva branches gave a lecture about: **"Guiding Disabled Children and Adults' Foster Care"**, in which they addressed the work of the foster care's guides.





The Summit Institute
Foster Care for Children and Youth at Risk
and Psychosocial Rehabilitation

The Summit Institute provides professional, comprehensive and thorough emotional treatment to populations with special needs, for their rehabilitation to a normative and healthy life, and for their integration in an active community life, and out of loyalty to the institute's values:

- **Human dignity**
- **Responsibility**
- **Commitment**
- **Excellence**
- **Personal growth and development**
- **Partnership**

