

# Tzedakah V'Chesed Institutions Tzfat

## מוסדות צדקה וחסד צפת

In everlasting memory of the Chafetz Chaim • ע"ש מרן החפץ חיים זי"ע

בס"ד

Dear friends,

I'm writing to you with a heart full of faith, and with countless prayers and tears that I have poured out to HaShem. This hasn't been an easy letter for me to write. If it were possible, I'd be sitting with you in person, sharing all that has happened with the institution these past few months, and what is planned for the future. This war has made things quite challenging, much more so than in regular times.

As you know, our institution was founded 37 years ago in Tzfat. It has been a sanctuary for abandoned children, orphans, and homeless young souls who had no one else to care for them. This place, built on kindness and compassion, has changed thousands of lives. We've provided these children with everything they lacked and have given and still giving them the stability and safety they deserve.

My father, of blessed memory, founded this institution and dedicated himself to it even through his seven-year battle with illness. He passed away at 52, leaving behind a legacy that no one else could shoulder. After his passing, I took on the responsibility with all the courage I could summon. I've been managing the institution with no inheritance, no income, only a burning sense of mission.

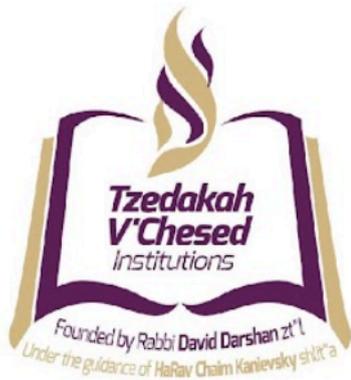
For the past years, I have led our institution, striving to give these children everything they need to flourish, all without taking any salary. We were blessed to have the guidance of Rabbi Kanievsky, who supported us with advice and encouragement until he too, passed. The journey has been challenging, especially given the hardships of our Tzfat community. This work is my pride and purpose.

At the end of the last school year, however, we faced an unprecedented financial crisis. Our loyal staff - those who cared for these children as if they were their own - went unpaid for three months. We held a meeting with them before the school year began, asking for their patience as we worked to raise the funds needed. But the strain was too much, and many felt they could not continue, informing us of their decision to leave. This not only disrupted the support our children depended on but also left a shadow hanging over our institution here in Tzfat.

He had people speaking ill of us and our holy work. Yet, good-hearted professionals and educators stepped in, offering support to keep us going. Although without a paid staff, we're in jeopardy. On top of this, unpaid salaries and pensions are a violation of labor laws, putting us at risk of government penalties amounting to hundreds of thousands of shekels. Some of our staff have even started legal action against us, demanding back pay and threatening to file dissolution requests against the institution.

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Despite all this, we have managed to continue to operate some of our activities, but with a reduced capacity. We currently operate a framework for young children and, G-d willing, hope to reopen our afternoon programs for older girls by Hanukkah. We've also started a new framework for boys from struggling families, taking it upon ourselves to support them.

We are in a real bind, with a desperate need for the resources to keep going.

Each month, we face loan repayments in addition to our operating costs. I know that your heart has always been with us, and you've given everything for these children. Your kindness, I have no doubt, is creating eternal merit for you and your loved ones both in this world and in the next.

I want to thank you, for your generosity, for your faith in our mission, and for standing with us every step of the way over all these many years. If we can only get over this hump, I am certain that Be'ezrat HaShem, we will be able to implement our rehabilitation plan and be back soon with even better and richer programs for many more children.

The vision and the future of the institution looks brighter than ever. If we could only manage to get out of our current funding predicament!

I would be happy to share with you more details of our future plans at your convenience.

You have always been here in our times of need and I hope that somehow, G-d will enable you to be instrumental in turning things around. May HaShem bless you with only good things, and may this year be one of great tidings for you and your family and Clal Yisroel!

With all my heart and gratitude,

Best Regards,  
**Rabbi Israel Darshan**  
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