

NEFESH HACHAYIM

... for every living soul

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NEFESH HACHAYIM
Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit
organization, recognized by
the Internal Revenue
Service. Our Federal Tax ID
number is 56-2664197.

MISSION STATEMENT



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Background

On November 19, 2006 Josh & Rachel Itzkowitz celebrated the birth of their eighth child, Nessa. Having been diagnosed with **Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS)** at a routine 20 week ultrasound, her future was uncertain. A complex and severe congenital heart defect, HLHS renders newborns devoid of the entire left ventricle, as well as both mitral and aortic valves. Survival without surgical repair is near impossible – indeed, even the current three-stage surgical option offers a 70% chance of survival, with long term prognosis still unclear.



Grateful for the positive results and miraculous recovery of their daughter, Josh & Rachel felt compelled to return the kindness they had received, and were determined to offer aid and comfort to others in their situation. To that end, they formed Nefesh HaChayim, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping medically challenged children and their families.



Thankfully, Nessa continues to flourish, and her life is treasured each day. We hope that our experiences will continue to influence our desire to assist those who face similar medical challenges, and to ease the burdens they encounter.

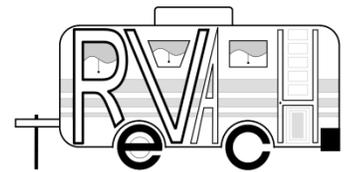
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Programming

Having personally spent many a Shabbat at our daughter's bedside, we learned firsthand of the lack of privacy available in a hospital. Sleeping on chairs, eating whenever time allows and seldom being able to venture outdoors take a serious toll on one's emotional state. We resolved to change that.

Our current focus is the *ReVach Project*. As the Hebrew translation implies, we hope to provide respite through the use of a mobile recreational vehicle, or RV, as a haven for those who find themselves essentially homeless during their prolonged stay in a hospital or long term care facility with a child. Offering all of the amenities of home which are taken for granted outside of a health care institution, the *ReVach Project* will transform the experience and allow for necessary rejuvenation so that all available energies may be utilized where they are most needed – the emotional support and advocacy of children.



The RV has been retrofitted with a propane powered generator which will power the unit for up to 72 hours, should the need arise, such as over a three-day Chag. Much care was taken to minimize noise and other distractions, and every possible comfort was considered in furnishing the space. We will transport anywhere within reasonable distance to allow the driver to return home for Shabbat.

Services are provided completely free of charge, and while priority will be to children, we will, when available, bring the RV to anyone who wishes to spend Shabbat with their loved one, age of patient notwithstanding.

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Operating Budget

Our staff of dedicated volunteers allows us to operate without added expenses. No salaries are paid, ensuring that all donations go directly to the operating costs and maintenance of the RV. These costs are detailed below.

ReVach Project

Yearly Budget for *Mobile Respite Center*

RV	Annual Fixed	Per Use	Per Use - Annualized	Total
Travel Trailer	\$25,000.00			\$25,000.00
Retrofit	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
Total	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Transport	Annual Fixed	Per Use	Per Use - Annualized	Total
Insurance	\$7,200.00			\$7,200.00
Gas / Tolls		\$50.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total	\$7,200.00	\$50.00	\$3,000.00	\$10,200.00
Use	Annual Fixed	Per Use	Per Use - Annualized	Total
Propane		\$110.00	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00
Cleaning		\$100.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Total	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$12,600.00	\$12,600.00
Office	Annual Fixed	Per Use	Per Use - Annualized	Total
Telephone	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
Photocopying/Printing	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
Postage	\$2,000.00			\$2,000.00
Advertising	\$15,000.00			\$15,000.00
Total	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Refreshments	Annual Fixed	Per Use	Per Use - Annualized	Total
Food		\$75.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Linens		\$25.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Total	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Total Expenses	Annual Fixed	Per Use	Per Use - Annualized	TOTAL
	\$72,200.00	\$360.00	\$21,600.00	\$93,800.00

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Photographs



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Fundraising

Nefesh HaChayim is unable to meet our goals without financial help from dedicated individuals and groups who support our efforts. We are well aware of the current economic crisis, as we have met with difficulty in raising funds to date. Our resolve, however, was strong, and we strongly believed in our cause.

To that end, monies were borrowed to purchase and retrofit our first RV, which has recently begun use, with an overwhelmingly positive response. We are now in the process of seeking funding to repay the loans, as well as continue to provide services to those in need.

We have had several successful fundraising events, including blood drives, pre-Passover car washes and cleaning, and family camping trips. While response was positive, the income produced was far below our current operating costs.

Our next phase will reach out to corporate sponsors, visionary benefactors, and religious institutions who wish to embrace our desire to help others. Dedications are available on many sponsorship levels, and our unique recognition program will ensure that all partners are credited appropriately.

We hope that you will join us in this exciting new venture, and may we soon see the day when our efforts will no longer be needed.

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Dedicatory Opportunities

Nefesh HaChaim is pleased to introduce a unique concept in dedicatory recognition: **Perpetual Dedication**. Our RV has been equipped with a digital display which will incorporate all dedications on every sponsorship level. Utilizing a slideshow program, every donor's dedication in honor of a friend or relative, or in memory of a loved one, will be added to the existing slideshow. In this way, recipients of the ReVach Project will have the opportunity to express their gratitude to those who provided the means for them to truly enjoy Shabbat.

Each sponsorship level will be indicated on the display, with higher levels having longer display time.

GIFT	SPONSORSHIP	SPONSORSHIP LEVEL
360	One Use	Shabbat
720	(2) Uses	Chag
1,800	(5) Uses	Bronze
3,600	(10) Uses	Silver
7,200	(20) Uses	Gold
18,000	One Year	Platinum
36,000	New RV	Benefactor

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The Future

There is no limit to the amount of people we can help. Since our service is mobile, we will be able to provide much needed respite to as many families as the need demands. With your help, no longer will the decision to support a child, other family member or loved one, require the abandonment of the true meaning of Shabbat, a day which was given to us as a gift by G-d, to rest and enjoy in peace.

May G-d bless you for your kindness, and in the merit of supporting this noble cause, may you and all of your loved ones never need our services.

Sincerely,



Josh Itzkowitz

Director of Development

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Testimonials

"I just read about your wonderful work in The (New Jersey) Jewish Voice. Having recently spent two weeks in Cornell Hospital with my husband, I was very interested in your mobile unit."

"Hot food, warm bed and privacy – We cannot thank you enough."

"What a great Chesed!"

"After being in the hospital for three and a half months, with no place to stay for Shabbos, we were informed about your program. It was an absolute lifesaver! We had a comfortable bed to sleep in, while still being close to our baby. Thank you so much for your help."

"Fantastic idea – someone should have done this a long time ago."

"I just heard about your RV, and I think it is wonderful. I will be sure to let people know about this valuable resource."

"We used your service last weekend, we had other children with us, and, thanks to you, we were able to have them with us over Shabbat. This would have been impossible in the hospital."

"I almost forgot what Shabbos feels like."

"Keep up the great work!"