



**LARGER THAN LIFE**  
Improving the Quality of Life  
of Israeli Children with Cancer



# Larger Than Life

Newsletter 2011

[www.largertthanlifeusa.org](http://www.largertthanlifeusa.org)



## BUILDING A COMMUNITY

### Our Mission

Larger than Life is a nonprofit organization that strives to help Israeli Children afflicted with cancer and their families cope with their treatment, fears and social isolation. Through special programs we design, including Dream Trips to Disney World, family activities, support groups and summer camps for toddlers and teens, we help them step away from their daily routine of procedures and uncertainty to a time of joy.

In its holistic approach, Larger than Life provides these children with the strength to fight their daily battles and win. We operate in hospitals all across Israel.

This year, our emphasis is on community involvement. We have contacted several hospitals in North America to help families of children who are receiving treatment here and to provide support on an ongoing basis. You are welcome to join our team!

On behalf of the children and board members, I wish you health and happiness.

Netta Nathaniel  
Executive Director

#### Board of Directors

Avi Cohen, Chairman  
Dr. Shulamit Katzman, Director  
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### Summer Camps



This year, for the first time, Larger than Life USA sponsored a special summer camp for children ages one month to five years old and their parents for a week in July. Thirty families enjoyed pure fun away from the harsh routines of hospitals and treatments. The program, staffed by volunteers and a devoted medical team, is designed to meet the children's needs and interests.

Another camp is run for more than 100 teenagers with cancer, who spend two weeks at overnight camp at Kibbutz Nahsholim in northern Israel. Most of the volunteers are themselves cancer survivors who wish to give hope and inspiration to other children by showing them they can fight back and win.



# GALA BENEFITS

## Giving in New York

This year's gala, held at the **Woodbury Jewish Center** was themed "The Giving Tree." **Vivi Nassim, Mirra Zara** and **Anna Bar Lavi** co-chaired the event. Our honoree **Shahin Khalili**, of blessed memory, the president of Beth Hadassah Synagogue in Great Neck, was introduced by **Albert Nassim**, an advisory board member. The elegant dinner provided the 550 guests an opportunity to meet **Koral Veeder** (age fifteen), who spoke about the difficult decision to lose a leg in order to win her battle with cancer, and touched the hearts of many.



Albert Nassim, Shain Khalili, Feb, 11



Avi Cohen, Dr. Shulamit Katzman



Netta Nathaniel



## A Night to Remember - Montreal



Irwin and Ariela Cotler

LTL Canada held its annual gala in **Montreal** with more than 300 guests from the Jewish community in attendance to help raise money for children battling cancer. **Ariela Cotler** was the keynote speaker, and **Avi Lev-Louis**, the Israeli Consul in Montreal, greeted the

guests. **Linda Balass**, who chaired the event with **Gilda Abdulezer** and **Sandra Mashaal** and an amazing committee, organized a cocktail hour.



Sandra Mashaal, Gilda Abdulezer, Danielle Mashaal, Linda Balass, Yael Shahin

## Valentine's Day - New Jersey

350 people celebrated Valentine's Day at a party at the **Palisadium**. We watched a touching film about parents of children with cancer who came to New York for treatment. The internationally known singer **Liel Kolet** performed with her band. The event was organized by devoted committee members, among them professional chefs who prepared all the food. The **Osem** and **Tnuva** companies donated their products, for which we are all very grateful. **Hagit Tayar** and **Ilanit Habot** were the tireless co-chairs of the event who supervised the live auction and raffles with humorous cheer.



Koral Veeder



Liel Kolet

## Celebrating Life - Miami



The theme "Celebration of Life" was reflected in the gala benefit at Beth Torah in **Miami, Florida**. The co-chairs were **Dana Yemin Schrager** and **Lea Shani**, who together with wonderful volunteers made the event. **Guy Bavli**, the M.C., invited **Natalie Cohen**, "Madame Mayhem," to open the

evening with the American and Israeli National Anthems. **Oren Ben Ezra** and the **Moskowitz Foundation** were honored for their continuous support for bringing groups of children on Dream Trips to Disney World. **Dr. Shulamit Katzman** was the keynote speaker. **Jonathan Dolgin**, **Ortal Rhmanian** and **Liron David** shared their stories and thanked everyone for their support. **Ilanit**, the renowned Israeli singer, entertained the 350 guests.



Miami Committee Member



Dana Yemin, Lea Shani



Moshe Yemin with the Children of Larger than Life

## Orlando Dream Trip

Twenty-seven Israeli children, ages ten to eighteen, joined the Dream Trip to **Orlando** in March. The group, accompanied by a medical team and volunteers, spent two magical weeks in Disney's magnificent parks. These children had a difficult year in which most of their time was spent in hospitals. The effectiveness and success of the trip are measured by the children's smiles and happiness. They received special gifts donated by sponsors from **Miami**, who welcome the children every year with warm hospitality.



## Mor Chalutz

(age 22), a cancer survivor, joined this trip as a volunteer



"Four years ago, at age eighteen, I was drafted into the army. A month later I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Three years ago, after the chemotherapy treatments ended, I came to Orlando on a dream trip with Larger than Life. I met amazing people whose only wish was to encourage and support the kids. The trip renewed

our strength and energy and distracted us from the painful everyday reality of hospital stays. The friends I met on the trip have become good friends to this day. When I returned, I was stronger and more hopeful. I started a job and enrolled in law school.

"Since my recovery, I understand the importance and value of my experience as one who beat the disease and that is why I decided to volunteer as a counselor at Larger than Life. My story gives other children hope. This year I had a wonderful opportunity to go on this trip as a counselor and help to lift the spirits of these children."

## Building a New Ward at Dana Hospital



The **Oncology Department at Dana Hospital in Tel Aviv** was rebuilt with the support of Larger than Life. The new department, currently on the

first floor, includes surgical suites and twenty rooms. Larger than Life Montreal financed the creation of a playroom and comfortable waiting rooms for children and their families. The cost of the renovation of the department: \$50,000.

## Recreational IV Bikes



Dozens of bikes with attached IV stands were donated to Oncology Departments in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan and Haifa. The bikes are fun and easy to use, and hospitalized children are happy to ride them. These bikes provide the children an opportunity to play while still receiving treatment instead of lying in their beds. Each donor has a plaque with his name on the bike. The children have organized a schedule, so that everyone has a turn to enjoy a ride.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Laptops for Oncology wards



Larger than Life donated twenty laptops to oncology wards in several hospitals to entertain and educate children undergoing treatments. The laptops provide a wonderful way to stay connected to friends and family, and to continue their studies.

## Shabbat Dinner with the Young Leadership



**Amir Shriki**, the head of the young leadership of LTL in **Manhattan**, organized a Shabbat dinner with **Matar Cohen** and **Tom Datny**, to raise funds to cover the expenses for fifteen-year-old **Koral** to travel from Israel to

New York. More than ninety young professionals attended this successful dinner. "During the dinner we read Koral's personal, heartfelt letter and were inspired by her optimistic spirit. It was rewarding to meet her in person once she arrived in the United States," Shriki said.

## Birthday Angels



As it is often difficult for children with cancer to leave home to celebrate life's milestones, Larger



than Life offers a program that brings the party to them! Complete with entertainment, balloons and birthday cake, we help create a joyful memory for the children, in the comfort of their own home, as they celebrate with friends and family.

## Unlimited Sky

Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** and Defense Minister **Ehud Barak** helped make a dream come true for **Alon Shaiman** and his friend **Jonathan Dolgin** (age twelve), two Israeli children with cancer who are supported by Larger than Life. The

boys accompanied Minister **Barak** on a military helicopter flight from Tel Aviv to Hatzetim, and also participated in an exciting ceremony awarding flight wings to graduates of the Air Force's latest flight class.



## "Give a Smile to a Child" in Collaboration with Ezra USA



**Ezra USA**, the youth movement for Russian speaking Jews in the United States, collaborated with LTL in the "Give a Smile to a Child" project. Ezra USA collected hundreds of new and used toys to send to children in

Israel who are fighting cancer.

## How can I help?

The time to act is now

Join the family of Larger Than Life and support our programs. Kindly visit our website to donate online and learn about events in your community, matching gifts, and honor/memorial donations.



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