



May 2017

Dear Christian Friends,

We never dreamed it would turn out this way! When we approached CFOIC Heartland last year, we told you about our youth here in Etz Ephraim. There is a segment of our youngsters who have become marginalized... set apart... some by circumstance and some by choice. We decided that drama therapy would be a wonderful tool to allow these young boys and girls to work through their stress, tell their story, or even act out, in the safe confines of a stage.

Our first project was an abridged version of the play, "**The Survivor**", for our official, community-wide ceremony for Holocaust Remembrance Day. The kids did everything. They adapted the script, and did everything necessary for the staging and scenery, lighting, props, and makeup. The children—our children—got up on stage that night and were transformed, from introverted troubled adolescents to confident expressive youth. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience and the glowing reviews made our teenagers glow too. They held themselves tall, accepting the compliments and applause with pride and a newfound maturity.

It was a joy to behold. Thank you, our wonderful friends at CFOIC Heartland, who made this possible. This is only the beginning for us and for these budding actors. This is going to make all the difference in the world for them and you were a part of this. In gratitude and friendship,

Michal

Michal Tamam,
Community Director
Etz Ephraim

P.S. Here is a link to a video of the performance by our youth for our community on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Even though it is all in Hebrew without English subtitles, I think you'll be able to see how amazing these kids are. Thank you for believing in us and making an investment that has transformed our kids and changed their lives.

https://youtu.be/G1amKh_Gyp0