



A LETTER RECEIVED: They never gave up "Our son was desperately unhappy. He did not fit in at school. He had learning issues but was highly intelligent. He had no close friends and was not comfortable in his own skin. Adolescence was a nightmare. He came off the derech, crashed and burned. We tried everything. Intervention. Counseling, threats. Emotional blackmail.

It was his sister who suggested The Boys Clubhouse. She had met someone who was being helped by them. We were worried he was too far gone to be helped - I am sure they did as well - but they took him in and helped him. They would not give up on him and they supported us to keep going. It was not a quick process but they would not let him slip away. Through The Boys Clubhouse our son went to Yeshiva in Israel and ten years on he is married with a great wife, three kids and is studying to be an architect. All this from a boy with no qualifications who had been totally school-phobic.

The Clubhouse gave him his self-respect. It gave him a structure and framework. They gave him their time and friendship. They were there at his first siyum and five years later at his wedding. Both in London and Israel they were there for him.

As parents we cannot sufficiently express our thanks to The Boys Clubhouse for all they did for our son and for us. They let him find himself and gave him back to us.

People can be very judgmental and hurtful rather than helpful to kids who come off the derech. The Clubhouse is a beacon of light in a very dark world. They never gave up. They deserve our support. They deserve yours."

With great thanks and sincere respect

Emily

'Have a Sandwich' Project: Thank you to our volunteer Simchi Jacobowitz and Kosher Kingdom for organising surplus sandwiches and baked goods to be brought to our centre for the boys to enjoy. Many of our clients are living alone and have to fend for themselves. These food opportunities ensure that no-one ever goes hungry and that boys can get a good start to their day!

Grants: Grants have been awarded by the Jewish Youth Fund, Jewish Childs Day for our under 18 activities. The Shores Charitable Trust and Places for People are supporting our business enterprise project. Interest by other funders has been taken in the work we are doing to address youth gambling addictions.

Website update: Our new look website has just been launched at www.theclubhouse.biz Please visit to find out more about the services we offer. You can also now donate online by following the links provided on the website.

Activities & Trips: With the Summer holidays behind us, things are back in full swing. The boys enjoyed a few day trips including a challenging 9 mile cycle ride around the lake in Grafham Waters and a full day out at Paintballing. There are plans for further activities such as go-karting and hiking. In addition, the boys from CBE will be taken away for a special 2 day break to a countryside location as a reward for their efforts all year round. Some of these boys have not enjoyed a holiday for many years and are really looking forward.



CBE: The boys working in the Ebay department are going from strength to strength. Their feedback currently stands over a whopping 2800 and is 99.9% positive! This is an amazing achievement and reflects the dedication and hard work shown by the boys and their volunteer mentors.

Extra products are being tested over the next few months to make room for more boys that are on standby to join this exciting project.

Fundraising Events: The highly anticipated Boys Clubhouse Gala Dinner took place in June. With thanks to the Metropolitan Police Museum and The Peel Centre, The MET's driving school was converted into a classy setting for a lovely evening. Some 300 people turned out for the event, which for some of the guests was their first exposure to the inner workings of the Boys Clubhouse. Guest of honour Craig Mackey QPM Deputy Commissioner of the Police praised the commitment of the staff and the work of The Boys Clubhouse and compared the transformation of the driving school garage to the lives that are

Employment: The Boys' Clubhouse has successfully found work placements for 4 boys this month. As part of our on-going drive to make sure all the boys are kept busy, we are constantly on the lookout for new opportunities for our boys.

A fantastic new initiative has been offered to us at Shirewarwick & Co where after an initial 90 day internship, graduates will be offered a 2 year training programme in trading in stocks and shares. This is a great opportunity for our boys to start thinking positively about their long term futures. Three of our clients have already passed their interview and been recruited.

Programmes: There are 4 main programmes that we run on a weekly basis and plans underway for a fifth.

Monday night learning at Bridge Lane Synagogue - where volunteers from the wider community come to learn with the boys followed by a shiur from different guest speakers whilst the boys enjoy some takeaway food.

Thursday night discussion at our HQ - this gives the younger boys a chance to discuss whatever is on their minds over cholent and kugel and is followed by pool.

Thursday late night shiur at Rabbi Nooky Chissick's home - is for the older boys and those returning from programs in Israel. This enables the older clients, some of whom have moved on with their lives, to maintain contact and receive guidance where needed.

Newly launched NA (Narcotics Anonymous) Meeting. This started alongside Drugline (Norwood) and takes place every Thursday night.

Plans are afoot for a **new programme for 14-15 year olds** who are still in school but are beginning to spiral downwards into drug abuse and alcohol. We plan to have one evening for them to use our drop in centre for recreational and educational activities.

