



Welcome to the JULY 2019 edition of The Boys Clubhouse newsletter. There have been so many new developments over the last few months that we have barely had a chance to catch our breath, but let us give you a brief peak into some recent major achievements.

**DAILY LIFE AT OUR CENTRE:** The Drop in Centre is as busy as ever. On any given day there is always something going on. Whether it's jamming in the music studio or boys working on setting up their businesses or just some chilling in the games room. Some of our boys have now qualified as Krav Maga Instructors and teach groups of youngsters at the Centre in the evening.

**DINNER 1ST APRIL 2019:** Our bi-annual dinner was held in April this year and was an astounding success. Close to 500 attendees were treated to an inspirational evening where a recovering addict shared his emotional story and a video was shown tracking the life of one of our success stories – from a young vulnerable homeless child to a young man with bright future. The appeal on the night was also very successful and the guests were left with an indelible impression of how vital the work of the Boys Clubhouse really is.



**ISRAEL BRANCH:** We have had plenty of activity in The Cave, Jerusalem, it has truly lived up to its motto and purpose *A Home away from Home*. Boys coming from the London program to continue their life and find new opportunities in Israel have been visiting the cave to chill out, talk to our mentors and benefit from our programs. We have had boys joining Yeshivas, College, the work force and the closely affiliated Garin Machal pre Army program. We have acquired new equipment and expanded our facilities to a weights and punching bag work out corner, a computer corner, and a table tennis section. We also had our summer trip and hike down south, where we bathed in fresh springs in the raging hot desert followed by a delicious bbq and an inspiring camp fire.

**UPCOMING POLAND TRIP:** Finally, the long-awaited Poland Trip has been booked. From the 23<sup>rd</sup> until the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, we plan to take 30+ targeted clients to Poland with Golden Legacy Tours. The trip promises to be both inspirational and educational. With visits to Krakow, Warsaw and Lublin the boys will see firsthand what it meant to be Jewish in Poland before the War and with visits scheduled to the camps, they will learn what we lost as a nation. The trip is known to inspire Jewish pride into teenagers and many of the boys are taking off from their work commitments to join the trip as anticipation is high.

**E BAY UPDATE AND STATS:** With sales nearing close to a whopping 25,000, things have been busy in our CBE (Clubhouse Business Enterprise). Our personalized gift eBay Shop has expanded with personalised pillow covers. We now have 4 Boys working on the shop and looking to expand in the new year. Boys working on the Project see the need to access education and we thank Gateways for their long term support in providing education in this field to our boys.

**HORSE-RIDING WEEKLY:** Since the last update there has been progress in this department. We have now been running horse riding lessons weekly to many boys at The Boys Clubhouse for just over a year. Over 15 boys gave benefit from these sessions on a personal level. It has enabled them to grow in confidence in many areas and to take these skills out to their daily life struggle. Some have even gone for some equine therapy sessions and a couple of the boys have volunteered at the stables giving them a sense of fulfilment and tranquillity away from the busy London life feeling as if they are in the country side even though it is just in Mill Hill!! We thank The Jewish Childs Day for their support.



## **C** H A R I T Y F U N D R A I S E R - F O O T B A L L T O U R N A M E N T:

On the first Sunday in July, The Boys Clubhouse entered a team to compete in the yearly local football tournament that aims to raise money for Hatzola and other local charities.

Sponsored by Allbeck Accountancy Firm, the Boys Clubhouse Team



were made up of some of our talented teenagers and assisted by mentors and former clients. The team performed well in the early part, storming through the group stages and reached the quarter finals. Unfortunately the team were then hit with a serious injury to a key player during that game and were knocked out. But everyone had a good day out and the unity that was achieved amongst the boys was the biggest winner.

## **T** H U R S D A Y N I G H T W E E K L Y I N T E R A C T I V E D I S C U S S I O N:

Thursday night activities at the office have become a very sought after feature in the weekly schedule of these boys. There is a regular pool tournament as well as some fierce competition on the table tennis table and Fifa using the PS4. Many of the boys are relying on the food provided for the evening activities to give them some much needed sustenance. The relaxed atmosphere allows for a great opportunity to chat with the boys and catch up with those who are often not seen day to day. Some boys also use this opportunity to relax in the music studio singing along to their favorite music.

## **G** R A N T S:

Since January we have been successful in raising money from the Childrens Aid Committee, Jewish Childs Day and Jewish Youth Fund for our equine therapy programme. Other grants are all being addressed in the report and monitoring phase, prior to new applications being made. A recent mailshot for funding for our Israel projects has been posted. Much time has been spent on updating our policies and procedures and governance in readiness for or project expansion.

**A** W A R D: Ari Leaman, Head of services received Civic Award for outstanding service to the community. He received a special certificate as part of a ceremony at Hendon Town Hall. The Mayor of Barnet Councillor Reuben Thompstone said "These awards celebrate the contribution that these wonderful people have made to their community. It is enriching to live in a borough that contains such selfless and motivated citizens who work endlessly to make Barnet a better place for others"



## **M** O N D A Y N I G H T L E A R N I N G P R O G R A M M E:

The Monday Night Learning programme at Bridge Lane Shul continues to thrive. This programme has been a mainstay of the Boys Clubhouse since inception. We have welcomed four new faces recently and one of our regular attendees got married last week. We have added a new feature to this programme whereby we treat the boys to a bi-weekly activity after the learning. The lucky boys get to enjoy go-karting, paintballing or even a trip to TopGolf in Watford.

**S** U C C E S S S T O R I E S: As mentioned above, one of our regulars has just gotten married recently. Jack (not his real name) left school early after his parents got divorced and fell out of the system. With no real hope of a secure future he was referred to us. We began rebuilding his confidence with Krav Maga classes and integrated him into our ebay business teaching him the skills to cope in the corporate world. Today, he is extremely successful. He runs his own ebay business and is the sole UK representative for an American company selling toys.

## **C** L U B H O U S E T E A M B U I L D I N G A C T I V I T I E S:

We are working on a series of weekly team building activities for some of our clients who are unemployed and need some motivation. We began with a visit to Escape Rooms in Central London. Two groups of boys were locked into two identical rooms for an hour and had to use pure mental ability and work together as a team to work their way out. The boys had a fantastic day out and are looking forward to more trips like this.

