

"OUR PLACE" NEEDS "OUR HELP"

A terrible tragedy is lurking in our neighborhood! "Our Place" has a budget of well over a million dollars, says its co-founder, Moish Binik. It was covered until now by a mixture of government funding, and private donations. The budget pays for Staff, Rent, Food, Professional Counseling, Substance Abuse Rehabilitation, Therapy, and Trips. There are over 750 additional boys and girls that attend each year. They are enrolled in Our Place for boys, Our Place II for girls or The Living Room programs. So you ask; what is "Our Place"?

Founded in 1998, Our Place employs a multi-faceted approach to counseling, rehabilitating and guiding troubled Jewish neshomas in their return to mainstream society. Our Place has operated under the radar since its inception 13 years ago when a few individuals came together opened their hearts and wallets to create a place where young adults going off the derech could find shelter, food, comfort and someone who cares about them.

"Most of these kids come from hemishe homes. They have come from every single yeshiva. At some point they strayed and we are giving them a second chance. We are the last stop before they physically leave the frum Jewish community. They come here to shmooze, have some food, to connect with someone who cares and just get some attention and warmth. They come here to be loved and not judged. They get it all here. The only way you can get to these boys is by loving them," Moish Binik says. "These are the sweetest kids in the world."

One location at a time has been closing its doors over the past year. The rest may all end soon as they have lost all their government funding and

owe their landlords, food vendors and professionals over \$200,000.

Recently, all therapy sessions have totally ceased, food has been cut off, and numerous of the already skeleton staff has been forced to get jobs elsewhere.

"I don't know if we can save Our Place" says Moish Binik, "We don't have the money to pay for it. How can we just give up on these precious neshomas?"

The main cause of this sudden drop in funding is due to the economic crisis gripping state and city government. Various city and state youth agencies provide up to 75 percent of Our Place's budget, with the remainder coming from private donations.

Asked why he chose to put his life into this organization, Mr. Binik replies simply.

"I tell the boys that come here, 'If I were your age I would be here (in Our Place) myself.'

Mr. Binik stays behind as the others gradually drift out; telling me about the activities Our Place has over the year. He tells of the Shabbatons, the trips to Israel, and the barbecues. Staff such as Rabbi Chaim Glanz, Yossie Yurowitz, Rafie Hassan, Sony Perlman, Rabbi Dovid Silverman, Menachem Poznaski and many others have been with the program for many years and made Our Place a part of their lives. They get emergency calls 24/7 from all over the nation and internationally from frantic parents asking them to help their child. Chaim Glanz has kept track of every one of the teens that has gone through the programs and is proud of a 70%+ success rate in bringing these troubled neshomas back as frum productive members of our society.



R' Chaim Glanz

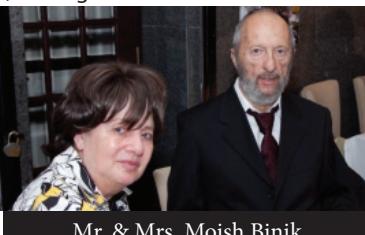
Harav Matisyahu Solomon, shlita, Mashgiach of Beis Medrash Gevoha of Lakewood, N.J., and Harav Yisroel Belsky, shlita, Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Vodaas, have both written strong letters of support for Our Place.

"Our Place successes have been amazing considering the heavy burden of failure these unfortunate boys have been bearing," wrote the Mashgiach. "By restoring their self-confidence and self-respect, the counselors and leaders have gotten many individuals to turn the corner and retrieve their birthright as ehrliche Yidden and even Bnei Torah."

Harav Yisroel Belsky attests that he has personally witnessed Our Place's success. "I have personally visited the boys' location," he writes, "and was deeply impressed by the caring and attention lavished on these 'our' struggling children."

The program is endorsed by the Novominsker Rebbe, Rav Shmuel Kaminsky and Rav Matisyahu Solomon and a host of the local neighborhood Rabbonim.

Unfortunately, there are still many people living within a few short blocks from our locations who have



Mr. & Mrs. Moish Binik

no idea of this tragic and very serious situation. As another yiddisher soul is lost due to lack of therapy or activities, this becomes the achrayus of

Klal Yisroel. Any information needed, please call R' Chaim Glanz @ 718 - 692-4058 or 917-771-5335.

We are in the process of organizing a major emergency meeting, neighborhood parlor meetings and fund raising events.

Your help is urgently needed to keep these vital programs open. Kindly make out your checks to Our Place and mail it to: Our Place 1815 Ave M Brooklyn NY 11230