

## AHAVAS YISRAEL CHARITY FUND



How it all began....

Over thirty years ago, two individuals in Baltimore heard about a handful of families in Baltimore who didn't have food for Shabbos. These two men, Elozer Isbee z"l and ybl"c Rabbi Boruch Brull responded. Together with a few volunteers, they met on the Brull's back porch to assemble food boxes, and late Thursday evening these boxes were delivered. Their mission was simple: to help families discreetly while taking utmost care to preserve their dignity and confidentiality. Thus, Ahavas Yisrael was born.

The love which spurred these two men to act on behalf of their fellow Jews began to spread and to encompass other local families in need. Within a year of planting the initial seeds on a back porch, the Ahavas Yisrael Charity Fund grew exponentially, resulting in their first year's budget of \$15,000. Today, many hundreds of families right here in Baltimore are provided for by this special organization. According to its audited 2007 statement, distributions of over \$1.7 million were dispersed to Baltimore's needy individuals and families by Ahavas Yisrael, a registered 501c3 charity.

Ahavas Yisrael concerns itself with a wide range of the families' essential needs. They provide food to make sure no one goes hungry, help pay utilities to help keep them warm, provide clothing or financial aid, and ensure that Shabbos and Yom Tov are enjoyed by one and all. All of these are but some examples of Ahavas Yisrael's multi-faceted operation. Ahavas Yisrael also provides funds for rent shortfalls so that families don't have to endure the trauma of eviction; they help prevent utility cutoffs, and lend assistance for other emergency financial situations. Ahavas Yisrael volunteers have worked with clients for years to grant them the ultimate Chesed - putting those individuals back on their feet - by helping them find employment and offering helpful financial counseling.

Ahavas Yisrael mentors interact with both persons and families on a regular basis. Additionally, they network with other charitable agencies like JCS, Chai, JobLink, JCN Gevuras Yarden, Bikur Cholim and other Chesed organizations, to provide the most benefit to those in need. To this end, Ahavas Yisrael also welcomes the Mesila program whose goal it is to provide education on financial matters, and eagerly anticipates the advantages they will offer our community.

Despite the fact that Ahavas Yisrael's current budget and number of volunteers (currently at 100 plus!) have increased wildly beyond the initial vision of its founders thirty years ago, it retains the same high standard of Chesed, care, dignity and confidentiality. While we all need food to exist, Ahavas Yisrael organization is not solely limited to the delivery of groceries. Perhaps more significantly, what they essentially deliver is peace of mind and family harmony.

Helping neighbors in need, the *Aneyei Ha'ir*, is the predominant priority of the Mitzvah of Tzedakah. Because Ahavas Yisrael is an all volunteer group, it actually allows 98% of your donation to go directly to the needy. Your contribution is instrumental in helping Ahavas Yisrael continue fulfilling its mission. Your kindness and generosity literally puts food on people's tables and makes sure that they do not go to sleep hungry.

We recognize that the current financial situation is a dire one and unfortunately, families are increasingly finding themselves in situations of need. In these challenging times, caring for our friends and neighbors must take center stage. Loss of jobs, serious illness, and other traumatic financial situations are causing untold stress and hardship to many. It is Ahavas Yisrael's goal, with Hashem's help, to extend a helping hand, to persons and families who are struggling during this difficult period. Your donation can help us alleviate some of their pain and can make all the difference.

Lastly, if you become aware that someone is in need of a helping hand, please act immediately and notify Ahavas Yisrael or our Rabbonim. Decisions of policy are made by Rabbonim and respected, trustworthy Baalei Batim representing a cross-section of our community. We also welcome your suggestions and referrals about those who might need assistance and ask that you please be in touch with us when we can be of help.

### Ahavas Yisrael Committee

Rabbi Boruch Brull  
410-358-7975

Mrs. Aviva Isbee  
410-764-6020

Eli W. Schlossberg  
410-358-4464

Website: [www.ahavasvisrael.org](http://www.ahavasvisrael.org)

Email: [eli@ahavasvisrael.org](mailto:eli@ahavasvisrael.org)

