

THE NEW CHIMES ISRAEL REHABILITATIVE DAYCARE CENTER IN ASHKELON



**A CAPITAL PROJECT TO GIVE
PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES A BETTER START IN LIFE**



CHIMES ISRAEL

Promoting and Integrating People with
Special Needs into the Community

Executive Office

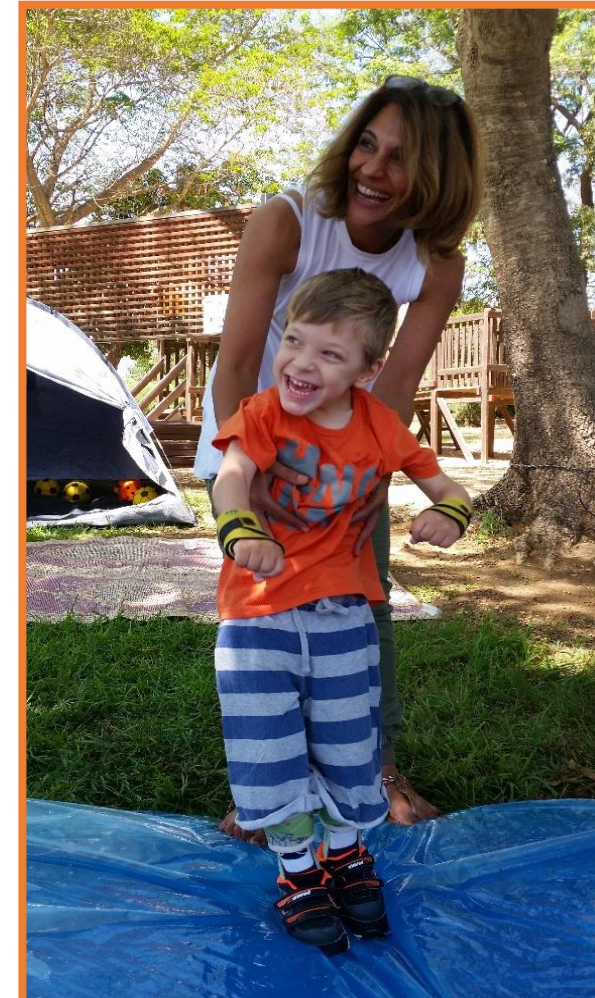
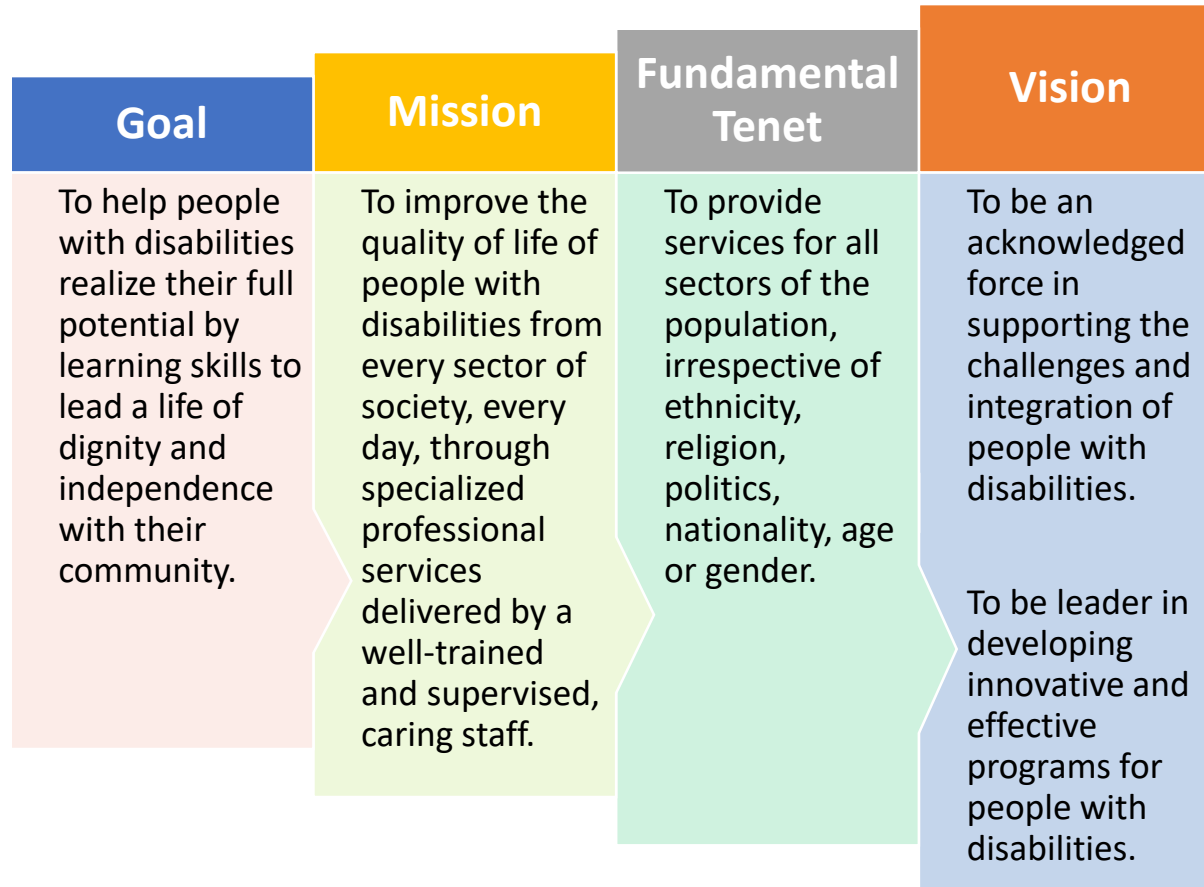
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About Chimes Israel

A Tireless Champion for the Rights of People with Disabilities



About Chimes Israel: Video

Please visit this link to see the video: <https://youtu.be/JitL7P2gjTc>



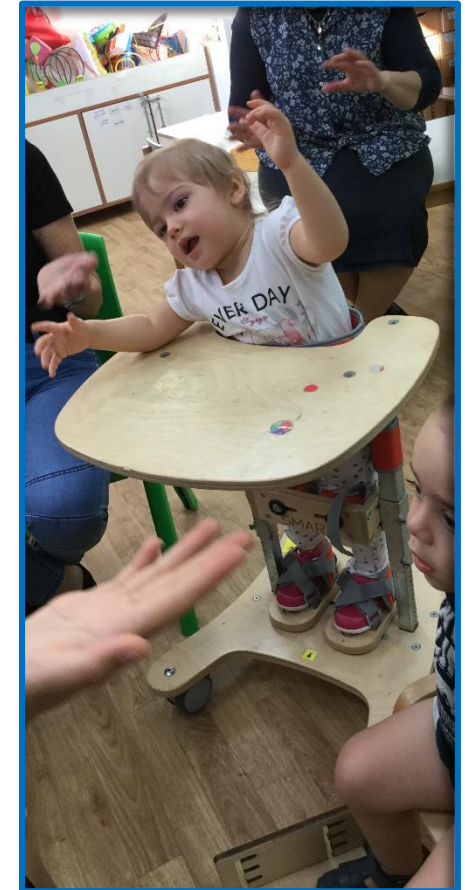
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Why Early Childhood Intervention is Critical

According to research, early intervention in special education can improve developmental trajectories for children with disabilities and improve outcomes regarding physical, oratory, cognitive, social, and emotional development. The neural circuits in the brain, the foundation for learning, behavior and health, are most adaptable during the first three years of life.

Over time, these connections become harder to change. The earlier intervention is implemented, the better a child's chances of achieving their full potential.

Classrooms with ten children or fewer, accompanied by skilled rehabilitation, paramedical and educational professionals and state-of-the-art equipment, offer the ideal environment to enable these children to master their disabilities.



Chimes Israel, An Early Childhood Pioneer in Israel



Chimes Israel was the first in Israel to offer families of children with disabilities everything they needed under one roof: diagnoses, therapy, daycare, education, and family counseling.

Before Chimes Israel, many parents of young children with developmental delays, autism, genetic diseases, and syndromes were overwhelmed and underequipped to manage their children's multi-faceted care. This involved constantly making and taking their children to endless social services meetings as well as specialist appointments and therapies.

When our managers saw how difficult this was for the parents, they set out to streamline the situation. They created a comprehensive solution for children ages six months to three years old, focusing on cognitive, motor and emotional habilitation and communication therapy.

We were also the first in Israel to introduce individualized habilitation plans (IHPs), where each child has their own individual plan of therapies and activities to reach their potential, determined in collaboration with their parents, professional, medical, and paramedical staff.

Chimes Israel's Early Childhood Services Today

The continuous success of Chimes Israel daycare centers has improved the quality of life for hundreds of toddlers and family members over the years.



About Disabilities in Israel

- Israeli Ministry of Health: 10 percent of children are diagnosed with significant developmental delays
- Over 200,000 children with disabilities in Israel
- In low socio-economic municipalities, the proportion of children with disabilities is 11% versus 7.7% of the total population of children
- The proportion of children with disabilities is higher in Arab municipalities vs. Jewish ones: 8.3% vs. 7.6%
- This is an underestimate due to the lack of an appropriate system for ID and diagnosis of certain disabilities in the Arab sector
- The number of children who need services is two to three times greater than those who receive services

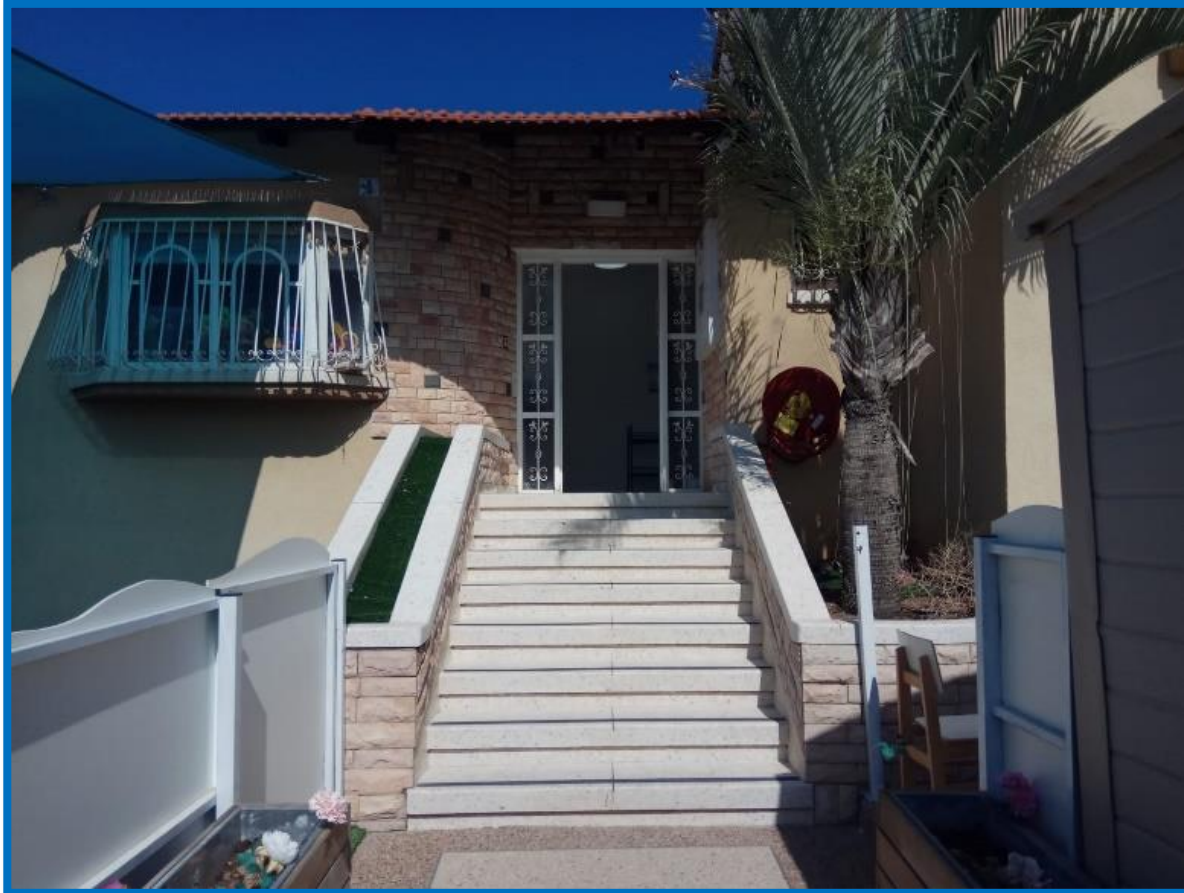
Chimes Daycare Centers

- Operates eight rehabilitative daycare centers containing 3-4 classrooms
- Centers located in Modi'in, Ramat Hasharon, Hod Hasharon, Ashkelon, Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Holon
- For babies and preschool children with developmental delays, physical disabilities and complex medical issues
- Serve over 200 infants and toddlers ages six months to three years
- Playgrounds are adapted to the children's developmental, gross motor, fine motor, social, communication, sensory and cognition needs
- The daily routine includes playtime, outdoor activities, birthday and holiday celebrations, music classes, and more

Daycare Center Services

- Developmental rehabilitation, paramedical and educational services
- Guidance, emotional support and training from paramedical staff to allow continuity of treatment at home
- Individualized habilitation plans determined in collaboration with parents, professional, medical and paramedical staff
- Assistance for the move to either mainstream or special education kindergarten
- Host support groups and workshops for children's parents, siblings and grandparents

The Need in Ashkelon

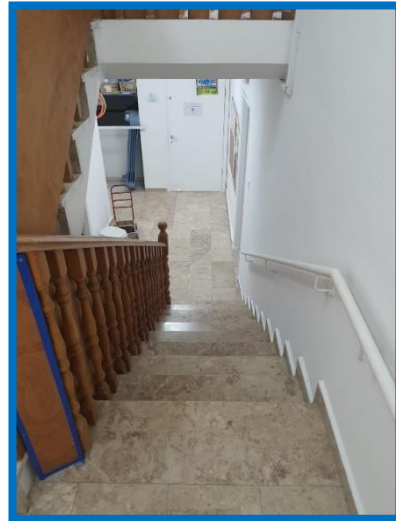
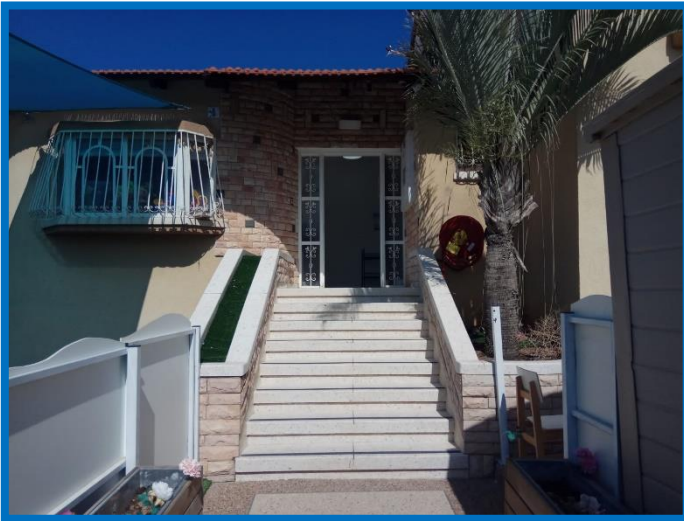
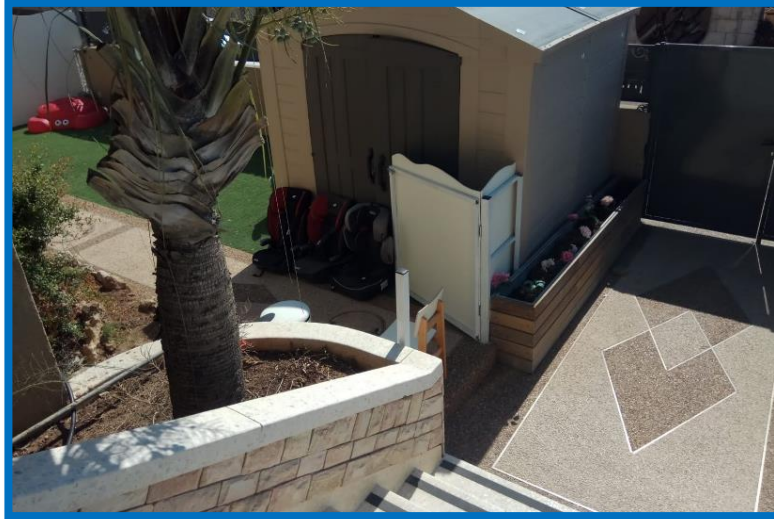


Chimes Israel's early childhood rehabilitative centers in Ashkelon operate in four residential homes repurposed as therapeutic daycares.

Due to the growing population in Ashkelon, the centers urgently need to expand. The classrooms are overpopulated and there are children waiting at home for special needs daycare placements.

There are also not enough rooms to accommodate the daily need for one-on-one therapies.

Chimes Israel in Ashkelon Current State: *The Buildings*



The four overcrowded, inadequately repurposed residential homes that serve a therapeutic daycares are stopgap solutions to meet the city's immediate needs.

They cannot be a permanent solution because they are full of small rooms with many stairs, which make it difficult for the children and their cumbersome equipment to be brought in and moved within the premises.

Chimes Israel in Ashkelon Current State: *The Classrooms*

The small classrooms now house twelve to fourteen children each. They are too small for the nearly 2 to 1 ratio of adult caregivers to children plus equipment such as walkers and wheelchairs.

As the children develop mobility skills, the small classrooms begin to seem even more crowded due to the lack of space for the children to move around in their mobility equipment.



Chimes in Ashkelon Current State: *External Therapy Rooms*

Due to the surge in young children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Ashkelon, we have added external (caravan/mobile home) therapy rooms.

Children with ASD require extensive one-on-one behavioral intervention, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and social skills training.

Because space is so tight in the repurposed homes, the new therapy rooms are caravans/mobile homes placed in the yards of the repurposed residential homes.



Chimes Israel in Ashkelon Current State: *The Equipment*



At all the Chimes Israel early childhood centers in Ashkelon, the equipment is mostly worn and outdated.



Chimes Israel in Ashkelon Current State: *Crawl Space Kitchen*

Because one of the Ashkelon centers needed the house's original kitchen for a diaper changing area, this kitchen is located in a cramped crawl space under the stairs. There the cook makes a full breakfast, lunch and snacks every day.



Ashkelon Under Rocket Fire

Located just 9.7 km (6 miles) north of Gaza, Ashkelon is perpetually one of the hardest hit Israeli cities ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Due to its proximity to Gaza, the people of Ashkelon had only 15 seconds to get to a shelter after hearing a siren to protect against an incoming rocket.

Due to its proximity to Gaza, the people of Ashkelon had only 15 seconds to get shelter after hearing a siren to protect against an incoming rocket. Despite the Iron Dome's success with 885 interceptions, two people in Ashkelon were killed and hundreds were injured.

Chimes Israel's two early childhood centers in Ashkelon, Shulamit and Shaked, are located in four residential homes that have been repurposed to serve as daycares. After the ceasefire, the Ashkelon municipal inspectorate went to the centers to assess damage. They discovered and cleared several rocket and Iron Dome fragments.



Iron dome casing and rocket fragments were found on Chimes Israel early childhood center playgrounds and walkways in Ashkelon



Our Children's Trauma During the Rocket Fire

Coping with the rocket fire and sheltering is traumatic for everyone, however, the Chimes families with young children dealt with increased emotional and physical hardships due to their children's disabilities. "The challenges of being closed-in for a long time in a protected space are intensified for toddlers with disabilities whose routines have been disrupted, said Vered Carsenti, a social worker and Chimes Israel's Vice President and Program Director. "Children are dependent on their parents for emotional assurance. When they see their parents' anxiety as they hustle everyone into the shelter, all confidence is undermined."

With no safe room in their apartment, the family of the Shaked center's three-year-old Roy, who has autism, was forced to shelter in his building's basement bomb shelter during the rocket fire. For this young child with autism, the overwhelming sensory stimulation of the booming rocket noise along with the neighbors' hysteria, triggered nonstop meltdowns with screaming, crying, and lashing out.

Another little Shaked center girl, Emily, lost the freedom to move around a room during the entire 11 days of Gazan hostility. Unable to walk without a standing walker, the family could not risk using it during the entire conflict. This is because it took more time to get in and out of the walker than the 15 seconds allotted to make it down to the shelter. Because the walker is also training her to walk independently, her progress at the center also suffered a setback.



Chimes Israel parent, Chen Shai (sitting with three of his children), speaks to Channel 12 news about life under rocket fire in Ashkelon

Chen Shai, father of four, including two children with disabilities, told *Channel 12* TV news in May 2021, "coping with this conflict has not been easy. It is about coming in and not panicking, because it's the first thing you want to do, but you can't do it." Regarding two-year-old Itamar with cerebral palsy who attends Shaked, Shai explained, "Itamar's therapy thing has been compromised as well. We're a few days into the operation and his progress is deteriorating."

A New Building for a Better Future for Ashkelon's Children

The Demand for Early Childhood Care in Ashkelon

Despite being a major target of Gaza rocket fire, Ashkelon is one of the fastest growing cities in Israel. Because of this, Chimes Israel has been hastily expanding its daycare and rehabilitative programs for children ages six months to three years to meet Ashkelon's ever-increasing demand to care for children with autism, developmental delays, genetic syndromes, and other disabilities.

Chimes Israel Facilities in Ashkelon

Chimes Israel's four overcrowded, inadequately repurposed residential homes that serve as daycares are full of small rooms and many stairs, which are extremely difficult to navigate for these special children and their cumbersome equipment. This is especially true in times of conflict, when the children must be transported to shelter within 15 seconds of a siren alert.

Solution: A State-of-the-Art Facility

With the understanding that early diagnosis and proper intervention is critical for achieving the most favorable outcomes in young children with disabilities, the Ashkelon municipality has granted Chimes Israel land to build and operate a new early childhood center, and plans have been drawn for a building that can accommodate 40 children.

A portion of the design, construction, and equipment will be paid by the National Insurance Institute, the Municipality, Shalem Fund, and private donations. The rest must be raised privately.

A Better Future for these Children

The new rehabilitative daycare center is primarily relying on private support from committed donors to become a reality.



The new center will enable Chimes Israel to provide high quality, professional services, treatment, education and support for hundreds of children in Ashkelon for years to come. The building will be fortified as a protective area, so the children will be safe and do not have to flee to shelter in times of emergency.

It will give young children with disabilities the start in life that they deserve to reach their potential. In turn, by using their own abilities and skills to lead lives of dignity, independence and community participation, they will have the potential to make the world a better place.

HOW TO HELP

You can help these children by donating to the building of the center and purchasing of the center's playground and therapeutic equipment.

Our appreciation of your support will be displayed on the wall plaques of this state-of-the-art, fortified daycare and rehabilitative center that will provide these children with the best possible start in life to master their disabilities.

Project Goal

The goal is to provide a better future for Ashkelon children with disabilities by establishing a fortified and properly equipped early childhood center that will enable our professionals to provide high quality, professional services, treatment, education and support for hundreds of young children for years to come.

For 40 children with disabilities

- Developmental delays
- Autism
- Complex medical issues and physical conditions

Safe, accessible playground

- For developing dexterity, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength



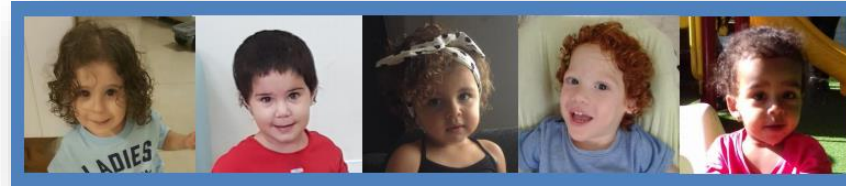
Therapy rooms

- Individualized developmental rehabilitation, paramedical and educational services
- Guidance and emotional support for all family members

Reinforced building

- Latest safety features
- Protects against rockets
- Provides peace of mind

Chimes Israel CEO: New Center to Be a Model for the Future



Chimes Israel's New Early Childhood Rehabilitative Daycare Center Will Serve As A Model For The Future

Since 1991, Chimes Israel, an Israeli not-for-profit, has become a leader in developing and providing innovative, evidence-based habilitation services and support for children, adults and seniors with disabilities and other barriers to independent living.

In partnership with the government of Israel, other entities and local municipalities, Chimes Israel has grown to serve over 1,400 individuals of all ages.

We provide early childhood, education, habilitation, employment and leisure services in 14 regions throughout Israel.

A fundamental tenet of our services is the belief that people with disabilities can thrive with necessary support.

Chimes Israel's role is to help people with disabilities achieve their greatest level of independence as members of their communities.

Chimes Israel is recognized nationally and internationally for its network of high quality, human-centric services. One of its hallmarks is the Chimes Rehabilitative Daycare Centers operated in cooperation with four different municipalities.

The eight existing locations currently serve over 220 children from ages six months to three years. Each of these centers combines a full range of professional resources under one roof to maximize the potential of children with developmental challenges. This model has demonstrated the success of comprehensive early intervention.

For over a decade, Chimes Israel has partnered with the Municipality of Ashkelon to provide disability developmental services for 60 toddlers in rented residential homes that have been modified for the purpose.

Despite the less-than-ideal physical facilities, these two programs have been hugely successful.

Based on anticipated population growth in Ashkelon and the expanded need for early intervention services, Chimes Israel has been asked to step up to fill the void by constructing a center to serve as a model for future services in the region and beyond.

The land for the building has been provided by the Municipality in a newly developed area.

It is anticipated that a portion of the cost of design and construction will be paid by the National Insurance Institute (Bituach Leumi) and the Ashkelon municipality.

The remaining funds to support this important initiative must be raised from committed supporters in Israel and abroad.

The material included as a part of this document provides a more detailed analysis of the need and the specifics of the project.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Zimmermann'.

Jorge Zimmermann
Executive Director

Ashkelon Social Services Deputy Director: Project is an Essential Link in the Chain of Services for those with Disabilities

Ashkelon is a large coastal city in southern Israel. It is situated some 50 miles south of Tel Aviv and 60 miles west of Jerusalem. It is well known for its long sprawling coastline. Today, there are some 153,000 people living in the city. The population is primarily composed of Israelis whose families came from North and South Africa and Arab speaking countries with a smattering of immigrations from North America and Britain. Following that, there has been immigration from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. Most recently, immigrants have arrived from The Ukraine and France.

Over the past 12 years, Ashkelon has suffered numerous rocket attacks from Gaza. Despite this, it is a thriving and developing city. The government allotted land in the northern part of the city for major housing development, with work already underway on new roads and infrastructure. During the next ten years, the city's population will rise to more than 280,000 people.

Ashkelon Social Services Department

The Ashkelon Social Services department provides a continuity of personal and community services for over 11,000 households from serving all ages. The social services department has a long and successful record working with NGOs in the joint operation of community services for people with a wide variety of physical and developmental challenges. The department is already preparing for the requirements of the projected population increase.

The Municipality of Ashkelon and Chimes Israel

In 2006, Chimes Israel won a Ministry of Social Services tender to establish and operate a regional day care center in Ashkelon for developmentally challenged children from ages six months to three years.

The centers are overseen by the Ministry of Social Services and supervised on a day-to-day basis by the Ashkelon social services department. The social services department provides transport for the children, and Chimes Israel provide professional travel escorts to and from the centers.

As there was no existing municipal building to house this program, Chimes Israel rented three houses on the private market. The houses were not designed for infants with developmental challenges. Chimes Israel renovated the buildings to make them more "accessible" for the needs of the children, but they are still inadequate for their needs.

The Project to Build a New Day Care Center

Naturally the dispersion of three buildings increases the operating costs substantially. In 2017, Chimes Israel and the social services department proposed the establishment of a new building for up to 50 children. The Municipality granted Chimes Israel land to build and operate this new nursery in the new "Agamim" neighborhood in the southern part of the city. A contract has been signed between Chimes Israel and the municipality that Chimes Israel will operate the program for 25 years after the completion of the building.

In addition to the support of the municipality of Ashkelon the project has the support of two government backed organizations: the national social security organization (The fund for the development of services for people with disabilities) and the "Shalem" foundation. The Ashkelon municipality and social services department views this project as an essential link in the chain of community social services for people with disabilities.

**David Wolfson, Deputy Director
Ashkelon Social Services Department**



Help Ashkelon's Children Reach Their Potential



With the understanding that early diagnosis and proper intervention is critical for achieving the most favorable outcomes in young children with disabilities, the Ashkelon municipality has granted Chimes Israel land to build and operate a new early childhood center, and plans have been drawn for a building that can accommodate 40 children.

You can help by donating to the building of the Chimes Israel's Ashkelon new early childhood center and purchasing of the center's playground and therapeutic equipment.

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**Project
Partners:**

