

AIM Healthnet Center

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The Administrator of the Fund for Awarding
The Leonore and Larry Zusman-JDC Prize
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To Whom It May Concern:

Since making aliya from the United States almost 25 years ago, I have worked as a medical doctor treating young men and women from *chutz la'aretz* who spend a year after high school graduation studying in Israel. My work has made me acutely aware of the many issues adolescents confront as they develop into adulthood. Knowing of Dr. Wachtel's experience with troubled youth prior to his making *aliya* six years ago, I agreed to serve as a consulting board member when he founded Kav L'Noar in September 2004.

Dr. Wachtel's major goal for Kav L'Noar was to help improve the lives and functioning of Anglo immigrants and their at-risk teenagers, ages 11-18. His research of the existing infrastructure of services available in Israel highlighted the fact that the social welfare system has not responded to the unique adjustment needs of these teenagers and their families. Kav L'Noar was established to fill this void in service delivery.

Over the past four years, I have had the opportunity to both consult with Dr. Wachtel and his staff on issues that required medical intervention and, more recently, to visit the new Center for Families and Young Adults which he created in July 2007. In all of our interactions, I always felt a strong commitment to providing the KLN client or family with the best in service delivery. The new Center in the heart of Jerusalem has enabled Kav L'Noar to become a 'full service agency' offering a family clinic for psychological counseling, parenting workshops, workshops for teens and public education programs in addition to the mentoring program, telephone consultations and referral services which were previously offered.

I have also had the pleasure of attending several of the public lectures sponsored by Kav L'Noar which catered to both its family clients and to members of the education and mental health community of greater Jerusalem. Some of the topics addressed included Raising Healthy Children in an Unhealthy World, A Parent's Dilemma: Conflict-Free Parenting?, Helping Adolescents Cope with Stress and Trauma: Implications for Parents and Educators, and Today's Adolescents: Have they Changed? All of these programs were well-planned and well attended.

I feel Dr. Wachtel has created and carefully nurtured an organization of committed and caring professionals who provide families with comprehensive and culturally-sensitive services in English. Their goal is to reduce the stress on the family, to be supportive and to help empower them to successfully stand on their own as a working family unit.

Without question, the services that Kav L'Noar has provided directly to almost 300 families in the last four year and via telephone consultations to several hundred more, has significantly impacted a more successful integration of these families within Israeli society. The funding of all of Kav L'Noar's activities and services has required Dr. Wachtel to travel abroad several times each year soliciting support from private donors. He continues to make strong effort to get funding from government agencies and foundations, a task that is very slow and very challenging.

I feel honored to submit this letter on behalf of Dr. Wachtel who has given tirelessly of his time and effort to bring greater stability into the lives of both veteran and new *olim* families. I believe that he is a well-deserving candidate to receive the Leonore and Larry Zusman-JDC Prize for Recognition of Social Services Excellence in Israel in the category of New Immigrant Absorption/Assistance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Lazar Fruchter, MD
Medical Director