



*Embassy of the United States of America*

Tel Aviv, July 10, 2003

Aviezer Grauer, Advocate  
Chairman, Agudat Shai ("House on Wheels")  
2 Bloch Street  
Tel Aviv

Dear Aviezer,

On behalf of my husband and myself I would like to extend to you and to all those involved our best wishes and deep appreciation for the projects of Agudat Shai - House on Wheels.

Our home in Israel neighbors on your main facility in Herzliyah, which we have visited several times. We have also hosted participants of Agudat Shai programs in our home. Thus, I can speak of your organization with first hand knowledge.

Agudat Shai – House on Wheels is a volunteer organization established twenty-three years ago for the purpose of integrating the physically handicapped (especially those aged 10-30 suffering from cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy) as active and contributing members of the general community.

Approximately 260 volunteer companions regularly coach some 300 handicapped children and adults at four centers in Israel at weekends, classes, get-away vacations, as well as at job training and placement programs, each of which has its special social, educational and rehabilitation aspects.

I believe that your success in including handicapped students in each of your groups as counselors, as well as members of your executive committee who contribute to your decision making process, is an outstanding rehabilitative achievement and serves as a model for the successful integration of the handicapped into the organization serving them and into the greater community.

You have also succeeded over the years in drafting a wonderful staff of volunteer counselors, mostly university students, who come from all walks of Israeli life – religious and secular, kibbutz and city folk, frequently with differing if not conflicting outlooks. Their work in your organization brings them together for a common purpose. In these ways, your work sends a message of openness and tolerance, acceptance of the "other" and rejection of prejudices.

For all this you are to be congratulated. I am happy to be counted as a member of the Friends of Agudat Shai – House on Wheels Board of Trustees and to support your important work as best I can.

Sincerely,

  
Sheila Kurtzer

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**נספח 15:** מכתב הוקרה של הגב' שילה קרצר, אשת השגריר האמריקאי וחברת חבר  
הנאמנים של בית הגלגלים (10.7.2003). (אוסף פרטי)