



FCFC PEOPLE

Interview with Channa Sargon

Channa Sargon is a native of Haifa, who has lived and taught in Toronto for many years. She has been actively involved in Jewish education in both Israel and Toronto.

Channa was instrumental in raising awareness for the Shabtai Levi Home (SLH) in Toronto. She developed and led a series of unique trips to Israel based on biblical and cultural learning that culminated in visits to SLH and inspirational meetings with the children, mothers and caregivers there. This led to an ongoing and deep relationship with Toronto's Jewish community.

The interview below is an edited version of a conversation between Channa and FCFC Executive Director, Deena Nathanson.

How did you first become involved with the Shabtai Levi Home?

I love learning and teaching Torah. Working with SLH lets me bring those lessons to life. Our sages say that the world was created due to the merit of our children. Doing my part to care for the vulnerable gives me the chance to participate in the mitzvah of *Tikkun Olam* - repairing the world. I try to do as I say.

Nitza Ben Dor, the former Director of SLH, is my oldest and closest friend. She is a very gifted, talented and dedicated social worker. When she took over at SLH, I had the opportunity to see her work and meet the children that she cared for. I learned that SLH is a home, where children are nurtured and loved, not an institution where their basic needs are met. I'm delighted to say that Nitza's vision guides the current SLH leaders, who are equally committed and devoted.

You were instrumental in bringing awareness of SLH to Toronto. What made you do it?

I became involved in SLH through my friend Nitza and realized that a bridge could be built between my students in Toronto's Jewish community and the little children. It was also an opportunity for us to be actively involved in caring for the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of one particular group of Israel's most vulnerable citizens.

The Shabtai Levi Home needs help and can't survive without a strong donor base. Thanks to the leadership and kindness of the Forever Chai Foundation of Canada's (FCFC) Directors and donors here in Toronto a great deal has been achieved: The FCFC Mother/Child Unit was established and the kids are able to have regular, every-day experiences like trips to the zoo, children's festivals and Chanukah parties.

PROJECT GIVEBACK

As part of the Ontario curriculum, many students in Grades 4 and 5 participate in Project Giveback. Each child chooses a charity to research and presents it to their classmates - usually with a poster and a speech.



Lacey presents her project

We're honoured that nine-year old Lacey chose FCFC for her project!

After a lot of hard work and preparation, Lacey stood up in front of her classmates and presented her project.

She outlined the needs of abused and neglected children and their mothers, and reported on the wonderful work that the teams at the Shabtai Levi Home and the Forever Chai Foundation do to support them.

Great job, Lacey!

INSPIRING KIDS: ECHOage Parties

Three children, Ryan, Shira and Jordan recently hosted ECHOage



Ryan celebrates by giving

Giving to charity is in itself rewarding, but seeing the pride in Ryan is fulfilling beyond words. I really believe that the ECHOage movement has made kids become better people, and that makes the world a better place!
Jodi, Ryan's Mom

By sharing their gifts with the kids at SLH, Ryan, Shira and Jordan

