

£360,000!

Chomesh L'Chinuch, together with Achisomoch, distributes major funds to 31 NW London schools

The North-West London "Chomesh L'Chinuch" Community Initiative distributed £255,000 to 31 local Jewish schools at its annual distribution event last Sunday. The money raised benefits over 8,086 pupils. This brings the total amount collected and distributed to local schools by Chomesh L'Chinuch to over £1,500,000.

This year's event was unique: for the first time, Chomesh L'Chinuch partnered with Achisomoch, the leading NW London Charity 'Bank', which likewise supports chinuch organisations, including NW London schools. As one of its bi-annual distributions, Achisomoch distributed £105,000 at this event, bringing the total amount distributed to NW London Schools at this event to £360,000.

Sunday's distribution was held at the Miriam Rachel Wohl Hall at Golders Green Beth Hamedrash and was attended by the Rabbonim and representatives of the kehillos which have adopted Chomesh L'Chinuch: Golders Green Beth Hamedrash, Hendon Adass, Beis Yisroel, Beis Shmuel, Edgware Adath and Beis Yissochor Dov. Also present were the governors, menahalim and delegates of the local Jewish schools.

Unfortunately, the local Mosdos Hachinuch continuously struggle to cover their significant annual budgets, and, especially now, they find themselves facing overwhelming challenges. Significant rises in inflation and energy costs have impacted schools in two ways: first, by increasing school costs, both for staff and expenses; and second, making it more difficult to collect fees from parents whose disposable income has significantly diminished. Schools are anticipating their shortfall to increase over the coming year by several million pounds. Schools need our help more than ever.

Chomesh L'Chinuch was set up as an innovative shul-based solution to this communal problem. Shul members are encouraged to prioritise and allocate one-fifth (a 'Chomesh') of their tzedoko distributions to the local schools attended by the children of their shul. Members are not expected to increase their already generous

tzedoko distributions, rather to allocate an appropriate percentage to local chinuch.

Dayan Dovid Dunner, Rov of Beis Hamedrash Beis Yisroel, opened the event with a clear and powerful message to the governors and school askonim in the audience, offering warm words of praise and encouragement for their significant contribution of their personal time for our communal institutions. Illustrating his message with pertinent anecdotes, and based on various halachic sources, he pointed out that the time they spend on facilitating Limud Torah is considered as if it was spent immersed in Torah study itself.

Mr Eli Katz, joint founder of Chomesh L'Chinuch, explained the background of the initiative and praised the unstinting dedication of the school Chairs and Governors. He provided detailed statistics regarding the financial challenges faced by local Jewish schools, highlighting the substantial shortfalls amongst our local primary and secondary schools with a current annual shortfall of over £9.8 Million.

"Based on our research, 60% of NW London Donors give much less than 10% of their overall tzedoko donations to our local schools; this demonstrates that the kehilla can fully fund the financial shortfall in our schools, but only if it correctly prioritises the chinuch of our children, the foundation of our kehilla," Mr Katz emphasised.

To help the schools with fee collections, especially for state aided voluntary contributions, Mr Katz highlighted several recent initiatives undertaken by local schools, which have seen significant improvements in parent's contributions, while compliant with relevant charity guidelines. "Sharing of best practices and smart initiatives between our schools is a worthwhile endeavour as it helps improve the financial position of our schools," said Mr Katz.

He reiterated the rallying cry to other shuls, urging school governors and shul committee members to engage with their local shul Rov, gabboim and askonim to encourage their shul to join the Chomesh L'Chinuch initiative to help it reach the initial goal of raising

£1m per annum.

This year, Chomesh L'Chinuch was privileged to be joined by Achisomoch who likewise distributed their grants to the local schools. Achisomoch Aid Company (AAC) gives all its 'profits' back into the community and much of it is donated to schools in NW London. This year these schools received from AAC £233K with £105K distributed at this event. Across the year, AAC has supported educational organisations across the UK to the tune of £850K, and in total over the past five years AAC has distributed nearly £4m.

Yitzchok Katz, Co-Founder and Chairman of Achisomoch, and guest speaker at the event, said, "We are delighted that millions of



Eli Katz

pounds have been donated by AAC to local schools over the last years. Our partnership with Chomesh L'Chinuch helps in a major way to reduce the critical shortfall in the funding of Jewish education. We also derive much satisfaction to hear from our clients the way in which AAC makes it so easy and efficient to donate to charity."

Mr Katz took the opportunity to announce an initiative especially for schools that will enable them to substantially increase the amount of Achisomoch grant money they receive. He added, "The recently enhanced AAC referral program (also known as split commission) has resulted in some charities earning over £10,000 pa from the initiative. This program is now available to all NW London schools."

Mr Emanuel Meyer, joint founder of Chomesh L'Chinuch, then oversaw the distribution of the grant cheques to each school. The Rabbonim of the CLC Shuls were honoured with presenting the cheques to the school delegates, on behalf of their shul

members who have generously donated to Chomesh L'Chinuch.

The School Governors attending the event were full of praise and gratitude for Chomesh L'Chinuch's initiative. They also pointed out how nearly every Jewish school in NW London and beyond, with its substantial Kodesh programme, has a significant financial shortfall. A first class and successful Kodesh curriculum for the chinuch of our children, necessitates fundraising from voluntary donations and the general community. In many schools these fundraising efforts are very challenging, and significant gaps remain.

Boruch Chaim Joseph, Governor, Pardes House Grammar School said, "Chomesh L'Chinuch has focused the



Hachoyer Yitzchok Katz

wider kehilla on supporting our Mosdos Hachinuch. At Pardes House Grammar School we are extremely grateful for the funds raised through the CLC initiative."

Mr Gary Swabel, Chairman of Trustees, Hasmonean High School, commented; "On behalf of the pupils of Hasmonean, its staff team and the board of governors I would like to thank Chomesh L'Chinuch for the tremendous work that it does in raising much-needed funds for our schools. They are essential in enabling Hasmonean to continue its work building the bedrock of Anglo-Jewry, ensuring the community's continuity for future generations."

Moishe Frenkel, Governor, Beis Yaakov Primary School, said, "BYPS would like to thank Chomesh L'Chinuch for the awareness it has raised for the importance of supporting our educational institutions. We are extremely grateful for the sizeable donation received through this initiative and we encourage the wider kehilla to sign up to CLC to ensure that our

mosdos can continue to grow and flourish."

Nosson Spitzer, Finance Governor, Menorah Grammar School, wrote: "Chomesh L'Chinuch is an initiative that the North West London kehilla can be extremely proud of. The financial difficulties our schools face daily are only increasing. Chomesh L'Chinuch helps alleviate those challenges, both with their financial aid and practical guidance and advice. We encourage the North West London communities who have not yet joined Chomesh L'Chinuch, to do so for the sake of our children's present and future"

Mr Moshe Reifer, Governor, Torah Vodaas Primary School said: "We remain most proud to belong to a kehilla that recognises

its communal responsibility to its schools. The founders of Chomesh L'Chinuch deserve the highest praise for their vision in establishing an initiative which has significantly benefited Torah Vodaas, amongst other schools. We are extremely grateful to all the donors in the respective Chomesh L'Chinuch shuls and wish the project much hatzlocho and growth in future years."

Mr Benzi Adler, Governor, Menorah High School for Girls commented: "Particularly in these trying times, the focus by Chomesh L'Chinuch on helping our local mosdos is particularly valued and appreciated. We therefore are grateful to the Chomesh L'Chinuch donors for a welcome financial boost in helping us to bridge our deficit and enables us to continue to provide vital support for our students and staff."

Any local kehilla looking to launch the Chomesh L'Chinuch initiative is encouraged to contact Chomesh L'Chinuch at info@chinuch20.org.

PHOTOS AVI YODA'IKEN

Rabbi Dovid Dunner



We, the NW London Schools, salute the members of Golders Green Beth Hamedrash, Hendon Adass, Beis Hamedrash Beis Yisroel, Beis Shmuel, Edgware Adath and Beis Yissochor Dov for being part of the Chomesh L'Chinuch initiative.



We thank Rabbi Greenberg, Rabbi Bixenspanner, Dayan Dunner, Rabbi Halpern, Rabbi Lieberman and Rabbi Hager together with the boards of these kehillahs.

These Kehillahs have made Chinuch a community priority and donated a total of £255,000 for our schools in 2022.

Members of these kehillahs have demonstrated their commitment to solving the financial plight of our local schools by donating some or all of their chomesh (20%) of their tzedokoh donations to their respective kehillah's Chomesh L'Chinuch funds. Launched by GGBH in 2015, Chomesh L'Chinuch held its seventh annual distribution on Sunday 6 November 2022 where £255,000 was distributed to over 30 NW London schools representing 8,086 pupils. **Over the past seven years, it has distributed over £1,500,000 to NW London schools.**

WE CALL ON ALL OTHER KEHILLOHS TO JOIN THIS INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE

A COMMUNAL SOLUTION TO A COMMUNAL CHALLENGE.



We also thank AAC for grants this year of £233,000, including over £100,000 distributed at this event. Over the past five years, AAC has supported our schools with over £1,100,000.

Ateres Beis Yaakov Primary School
 Beis Chinuch Girls School
 Beis Soroh Schneirer
 Beis Yaakov Grammar School
 Beis Yaakov Primary School
 Beit Shvidler Primary School
 Bnos Beis Yaakov

Beis Medrash Elyon
 Hasmonean High School Boys
 Hasmonean High School Girls
 Hasmonean Primary School
 Independent Jewish Day School
 Kisharon
 Menorah Foundation School

Menorah Grammar School
 Menorah High School for Girls
 Menorah Primary School
 Nancy Reuben Primary School
 Pardes House Grammar School
 Pardes House Primary School
 Peninim Girls Primary School

Sacks Morasha Primary School
 Shalom Noam Primary
 Shiras Devorah High School
 Talmud Torah Tiferes Shlomo
 Tashbar Primary School
 Tiferes High School
 Torah Temimah Primary School
 Torah Vodaas Primary School

For more details on Chomesh L'Chinuch visit www.chinuch20.org or be in contact via info@chinuch20.org

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