



September 2014 / Elul 5775

My Very Dear Friends, Shalom

Rosh Hashanah is almost here... and the sound of the Shofar will hopefully replace alarm sirens – so we can stroll to Synagogue instead of dashing to shelters. Setting aside the background noises and the drama around us, we



*Parts that make up a whole —
mosaic of the Village Synagogue*

continue to focus on our goal, to reach out with *Village Way* know-how to more at-risk youth than ever before. Bottom line, the *Village Way* is about creating throughout the country more total environments, skillfully crafted to provide at-risk youth an experience of *wholeness* in the face of brokenness. As in Robin Williams' unforgettable line in *The Dead Poet's Society* – "**Seize the day!**" is indeed the key. There is so much to accomplish during the painfully short, fleeting days of adolescence when you're committed to transforming young lives.

Expanding throughout Israel: The inconceivable reality of young souls in this country left in the margins can only be mended if we break through all conventions in addressing their needs.

Our continuous partnership makes this extra mile possible. When educators internalize that education is more than following sets of techniques – it is actually an art form- then we know we did our job. These educators, armed with clarity of purpose, can then transform each village and school into an effective educational hub – Israel at its best in a nutshell.



*Tal Weintraub, Village Way instructor, in action
with recently joined at-risk youth educators*

over please

Alex, the young man in the picture, caught my eye as the film *Boyhood* made headlines. Like so many others under our care, his personal journey from brokenness to healing would have definitely qualified for a similar cinematic rendition. Yet this young man, who stands against the backdrop of the blue skies of southern Israel had to be raised and educated away from a home environment, at one of our sister villages, Kedma, which has endured shelling and rockets on a daily basis this summer. Unlike *Boyhood* star Mason, young Alex, has to build up enough character and strength to deal with matters of life and death by 18, and that's what we are here for.



Hands-on unity: the rift between the different sectors of Israeli society is a great source of concern to many of us. I believe that education – done right - should be the connecting glue. I'm profoundly happy to share with you that it is already happening, as the Village Way is sought after by secular and religious educators, Jewish, Arab or Druze, who follow the same blueprint and are committed to the same humane vision. Thus we are reaching more young souls, providing them with what it takes to become well-rounded, integrated adults in a changing world.

May knowing you are part of this be a source of blessing to you and your dear ones. Shanah Tovah in good health and spiritual fulfillment,

B'Ahava, Chaim Perin .