

TOVA has been a real support for teens of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway communities. Mrs. Andrea Borah and her staff of mentors are caring and sensitive to the needs of parents, children and the Yeshivos they service. Dr. Norman Blumenthal and Mr. Richard Altabe should be commended for creating a model program for other communities to follow.

~ Rabbi Berel Leiner
Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Yaakov

I've been involved with **TOVA** for about a year and frankly I don't know how I would have been able to cope without them. I never dreamed that I would be in the position of having an 'at-risk' teenager. The terrors a parent goes through are unimaginable. That's where **TOVA** stepped in. Andrea Borah, Richard Altabe and Avi Lipman have been mine and my sons' lifeline. I know they're at most a phone call away, for me or my son, and knowing I'm not alone has made all the difference.

~Tova Parent

Our son had already been asked to leave one Yeshiva High School and was on the verge of being expelled from a second. It seemed as though Yeshiva education was no longer going to be an option, particularly in view of the fact that our son had no interest in changing his problematic behaviors. **TOVA** stepped in and advocated on our son's behalf. They provided "Big Brother" counseling for him at school twice a week. Together with family efforts, school support and professional help, **TOVA** was able to make a difference in our son's life. Less than a year later, our son is back on track and succeeding in Yeshiva. His **TOVA** "Big Brother" continues to meet with him to help our son maintain the positive changes he has made in his life. The support provided by **TOVA** is a crucial part of what we hope will be one teenager's success story...and a success story for **TOVA** as well.

~Tova Parent

I have personally witnessed **TOVA** at work. **TOVA** provides the essential support needed to maintain and strengthen the Torah education of dozens of our community's teens. Its professional staff and "Big Brothers and Sister" (mentors) help us hold on to the precious Neshamos of kids who might otherwise be lost from the path of life - from the way of Torah. **TOVA** is therefore of inestimable value in the growth and development of the next generation of Klal Yisroel.

~Rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum
Young Israel of Lawrence - Cedarhurst

TOVA has really been a positive influence on me. It provides me with a feeling of security. I'm proud to be surrounded with such caring people.

~ TOVA Student

Terrific guidance by experienced people
Outpouring of help and love to those who need it
Vital mentors to assist today's young adults in the right *derech*
Ahavat Yisrael - acceptance of people who need to be accepted

~ TOVA Student

"Everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it." (attributed to Mark Twain 1876). We can paraphrase this statement: *Everyone talks about children who are not successful in school, but no one does anything about it.* This statement is true in many communities. But in our community, Far Rockaway and the Five Towns, it's different. Our community has broken ground in the field of education and has **ב"ה** undertaken the enormous task of dealing with children of all ages. Children who are not successful in the safe environment of school look beyond the confines of the schools for success and recognition. Besides the obvious, these children are at risk of the worst which our society has to offer. **TOVA**, which was organized collectively by all the high schools in our community, addresses these children while still in school to help them succeed. The need is great. The risks and rewards are great. Our success rate is **ב"ה** great. Regretfully, we are limited only by funds. Plainly said, the more money we raise, the more Yiddishe Neshomas we save. Boys and girls alike. We are counting on you!

~Rabbi Yaakov Reisman
Vaad Harabonim Far Rockaway

By supporting **TOVA** we affirm that the children of our yeshivos are the collective responsibility of the entire community. **TOVA** is there to insure that some of our children do not fall through the cracks of our yeshiva system. Not every child is capable of conforming to the demands of our "chinuch" structure. **TOVA** assists children, families and schools to keep our kids in our schools and away from public schools. **TOVA** transcends specific hashkafos and ideologies and works with all of our schools in advocating for all our kids.

~ Rabbi Hershel Billet
Young Israel of Woodmere

Thanks to **TOVA** my son is happy attending school once again. Eli, my son's mentor, is a wonderful role model and captures my son's attention for 2-3 hours a week in a very positive, fun, and Torahdik way.

~TOVA Parent

The **TOVA** mentor serves as the life preserver for our children in our community who are in danger of drowning. Through the cooperative effort of all the high school principals and all of our community rabbonim, the **TOVA** program has become the successful model for reaching at-risk adolescents.

~ Richard Altabe
Principal, Yeshiva Darchei Torah