

Story:

**CHW Hadassim Children and Youth Village
Therapeutic Centre**

Lior* was 13 years old when he was brought to CHW Hadassim Children and Youth Village by the Welfare Authorities. Lior's teacher noticed he was arriving to school exhausted, without food, and in dirty clothes. Following an investigation, it was discovered that Lior's parents were extremely neglectful; ignoring him and leaving him alone nearly every evening.

In Israel, a third of children who are removed from their homes are a result of harmful neglect. Lior was one of these cases.

At CHW Hadassim, Lior lived in a Family Unit in order to get the care that he desperately needed. He arrived at CHW Hadassim as a quiet and introverted boy; he was not used to getting attention or being looked after. Lior suffered from anxiety and had major gaps in his education.

With the support of his house-mothers, the staff, his teachers, social workers, and the psychologists at the Therapeutic Centre, Lior received the highest quality of care, and was able to begin healing. He lived in a safe and loving home, with clean clothes, and warm food. Lior underwent therapeutic treatment in order to assist him in overcoming the severe neglect he had experienced.

After a year at CHW Hadassim, the social workers felt Lior was stable enough to be in contact with his parents. Through the Therapeutic Centre and with the support of the social workers and psychologists, Lior and his parents had weekly meetings. Lior's parents understood that while they were unable to look after their child, they wanted to remain in his life; together they underwent counseling, and then moved on to family therapy with Lior.

Lior lived at CHW Hadassim for six years until he graduated with honours; having closed and surpassed the educational gap he arrived with. Today, Lior is serving in the Israel Defense Forces. He continues to be in contact with his parents. When he has time off from the army, he returns to live at CHW Hadassim, which he still thinks of as home.

It is because of the Therapeutic Centre that Lior and his family were able to achieve a healthy relationship. The Therapeutic Centre ensures children are in a safe environment and provides therapy to both children and their families in order to prevent and treat those in need.

****Names changed for confidentiality***