



# Olam Shalem – An Update on the Shalem Foundation's Activities

Issue No. 1, March 2015

Dear Friends and Partners,

As you may know, the Shalem Foundation was established in 1983 by The Federation of Local Authorities in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services and works to develop comprehensive services and resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the country.



I am excited to send you our newsletter, which will give you a taste of our "Olam-Shalem" - the rich and beautiful world of people with developmental disabilities, their families, professionals and the community. We are proud to initiate, develop, support and fund over 200 life-changing projects and services each year that create a better, more inclusive, accepting and open society in Israel, some of which are featured in this newsletter. We also invite you to stay up to date by visiting our internet site at: <http://www.kshalem.org.il> It is fitting that we send our first newsletter on the **eve of Passover**, the holiday that celebrates freedom and breaking boundaries. We will soon all sit together around the table, the wise one, the simple one, the evil one, and the one who does not know how to ask. I hope we too can be successful in creating connections between different types of people.

May the coming year bring brotherhood and friendship in a stronger, better society for all of us.

Yours,  
Riva

## Keren Shalem: helping make life complete

The Shalem Foundation recently celebrated thirty years of improving the quality of life for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities through working with local councils throughout Israel.

Enjoy this short video that summarizes the activities of the Foundation in 2014



## Inauguration of apartment complex for community living through the Shekel Association

To complement the growing trend of integrating people with developmental intellectual disabilities into mainstream society, a new model of communal housing has been initiated. Previously, people with disabilities who required nursing and other assistance lived in segregated homes or institutions far removed from everyday society. This model implements their right to be part of the greater community.



For more information [click here](#)

## The Shalem Foundation assists with building, renovating and equipping of institutions for those with intellectual disabilities in the community



## "It's so nice, to ride together on a bike" A joint bike ride in the city of Lod

Over 200 people participated in Lod's second annual "moving together" bike ride in November 2014. The journey was part of an awareness week for people with disabilities in Lod and included approximately two hundred riders, Jewish and Arab, religious and secular, with and without disabilities.

For more information [click here](#)

To watch a short film about the ride [click here](#)

## The Shalem Foundation took part in the planning and funding of this special event

## "Anchor for Life- Special Needs at Sea" project, Beit She'an

"Anchor for life- special needs at sea" is an educational marine program for young people with cognitive and developmental disabilities. The purpose of the initiative is to integrate these children with their peers through enriching social activities in the periphery of the country.

For more information [click here](#)

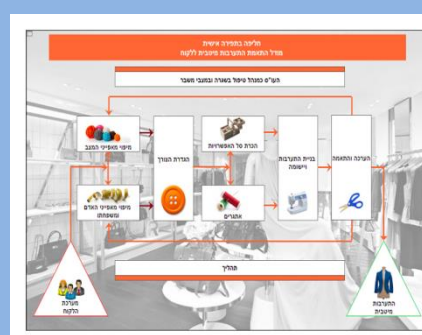
## The Shalem Foundation supports social initiatives in peripheral areas of the country that enable people with developmental intellectual disabilities to be integrated in social activities



## A new internet based tool that matches intervention programs to clients with developmental disabilities

The Shalem Foundation helped fund the development and maintenance of a unique and practical tool that helps social workers. The tool assembles and distributes all of the work processes of social workers for choosing suitable intervention programs in caring for children and adults with disabilities and their families.

For more information [click here](#)







### Simple Dreams- a new and touching play

Simple Dreams is a unique and touching play created and performed by actors with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Directed by Ido Wiess, this creative ensemble is the first of its kind in Beit She'an. It is accompanied by an informative program about unique communities within greater Israeli society.

For more information [click here](#)

To watch a short film about the play [click here](#)

### The Shalem Foundation supports the dramatic arts and theater productions of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities

### "A Special Family Playing" a film and instruction kit on the importance of playing for the sake of playing in families with children with special needs

A new toolkit and short film have been developed for families with children with disabilities. The goal of the instruction kit is to encourage these families to continue to lead a life full of fun and curiosity, and not to live merely to "fix" the disability. This will help the family maintain a healthy outlook and take pressure off both the children and parents.

For more information [click here](#)

To watch the movie with English subtitles [press here](#)

### The Shalem Foundation has a support channel of friendly initiatives that help families in the field of developmental intellectual disabilities



### "Intervention in families with a young child with developmental intellectual disabilities" course in Jerusalem

For many social workers, interacting with parents is one of the most important and significant challenges of their jobs. In 2014 we conducted a course in Jerusalem entitled "Intervention in families with a young child with developmental intellectual disabilities." This course gave a variety of professionals in the field an opportunity for joint learning and reinforcement of skills and techniques. The course was so successful that a follow-up practicum was requested by many participants, which will take place later this year.

For more information [click here](#)

### The Shalem Foundation operates unique training and instructional programs for professionals working in the field of developmental intellectual disabilities

### Characteristics and Implications of Intimate Relationships among Couples with Intellectual Disabilities Prof Shunit Reiter, University of Haifa

This unique study investigated the effects of intimate relationships compared to those of platonic friendships for people with intellectual disabilities. It found that these relationships have a positive effect on the quality of life and self-image of the couple. It additionally proposed that society abandon the question of "whether or not" to support this issue and to instead focus on "how" to safely encourage it.

For more information [click here](#)

To watch a short video about the study [click here](#)

### The Shalem Foundation supports innovative research in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.



### A Scenic Trip to the Woods during Operation Tzok Eitan

Incessant rocket sirens kept much of the country confined to bomb-shelters during Operation Tzok Eitan. Together with Lotem, the Shalem Foundation was able to bring a large group of people with disabilities from the south to a beautiful nature park up north for a day of relaxation.

For more information [click here](#)

To watch a short film about the trip [click here](#)

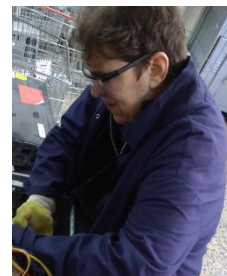


### Just like everyone else: interviews with our most precious partners.

Miri is a warm, caring individual who works at a rehabilitative work factory in Ra'anana. She smiles when she speaks of her family and volunteers in her free time.

[Click here](#) to meet Miri and hear about her life and experiences.

### Miri's World: Giving to the Community



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We post interesting articles and updates from the field.



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