

# PLEASE BECOME A “FRIEND OF SYL”

## What's going on in Sderot

As of July 2014 **4,005** missiles have targeted Israel killing 28 people and injuring more than 1900 people. But their main effect is their creation of widespread psychological trauma and disruption of daily life among the Israeli populace. Nowhere is this more true than in Sderot which is the closest city to Gaza. Medical studies in Sderot, have documented a post-traumatic stress disorder incidence among young children of almost 50%, as well as high rates of depression. These bombings have been going on for 14 years. Many kids have never known peace in their town.

## What is SYL

This situation has led to an obvious decline of educational and leadership activity within the community due to these constant disruptions of their everyday life. The general consensus in the town was that not enough was being done to help them so they need to help themselves. This led in 2008 to the birth of SYL - Sderot Young Leaders Program - at the initiative of some local young people and some adult volunteers. Its objectives were to provide the local children with a youth club, training and personal development facilities to help develop a better future.

## Supporters

Over the past 6 years SYL has attracted help from a number of overseas "Friends" as well as Israeli technology companies. These friends include an association with the JLGB which offers the kids some well needed respite at their camps; "Open Hearts Open Homes" sponsored by the YJCC of Bergen County, New Jersey USA.

## Activities of SYL

The main areas of activities are:-

- A. Mentoring and Training program: The aim is to build confidence and leadership skills amongst the members. This is a 3 year program starting at the age of 13. This year over 30 young people have attended the 4 day workshop. There is also a community volunteering program where kids will help with old, physically and mentally handicapped people. Members do 1000 hours of volunteering each month.
- B. Computer Club: This year with help from Amdocs and The Oxford and St. George's Jewish Trust we have opened a new state of the art computer facility housed in the local school.
- C. Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme: SYL runs the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in Sderot. They provide training for Bronze, Silver and Gold awards on the same basis as the UK scheme. SYL has twice won an award from the British Ambassador in Israel for their work in this field



## Today

This year there will be around 130 kids in the SYL program

## Why do we need your help?

SYL is run entirely by the kids themselves and 100% of the money raised is used to provide these programs. We need money to maintain the program for the future and pay for experienced youth leaders as it expands. Next year we have a significant shortfall in our funding due to the large number of kids who want to join. We need an assured group of "Friends" who can help to spread the word about SYL and become part of the fundraising team.

## How can you help?

**Become a "Friend of SYL":** join the fundraising team.

**Make a donation :** Although SYL is not a UK based charity, we have been offered the donation handling facilities of the JLGB, a registered UK charity. This gives us the use of Gift Aid for UK tax payers' donations. To use the online facility please go to: [www.ilqb.org/SYL](http://www.ilqb.org/SYL).

Please contact Mrs. Beverly Aminzade for full details. Email [bev@aminzade.co.uk](mailto:bev@aminzade.co.uk); call: 07958 447099

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