

Nefesh B'Nefesh

Live the dream

November 27, 2006

Dear Dr. Wachtel,

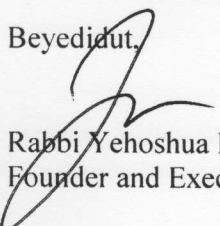
Since NBN's founding in 2002, we have had the privilege to be involved with more than 10,000 English-speaking Olim in their move to Israel. Among these remarkable individuals are a few hundred adolescents. While we devote considerable resources toward preparing all of our Olim for their lives in Israel, we give special attention and care to families with adolescents. We recognize that these families face unique challenges in their absorption experience.

Our work with Olim families continues once they arrive in Israel. We have seen that some adolescents, when faced with learning a new language, adapting to a new culture, developing new friendships, and struggling with new obligations in society (e.g., national service), turn to mental health professionals to assist them in their transition. When doing so, they must overcome the obstacles of finding a therapist who is English-speaking and sensitive to the immigrant experience, as well as affordable. There can be no question that a mental health clinic, geared toward the needs of Anglo Olim, would be a tremendous asset to English-speaking immigrant community.

We bless and embrace your endeavor, and hope to see it actualized in the near future.

With deep admiration and appreciation for all that you do,

Beyedidut.


Rabbi Yehoshua Fass
Founder and Executive Director, Nefesh B'Nefesh