



Krembo Wings

A Youth Movement for Children with Special Needs

Midterm Report for Krembo Wings Jaffa Branch

Submitted to Fondation Dora

Branch Overview

Thanks to the generous grant from the Dora Fondation, we were excited to open Krembo Wings 47th branch in Jaffa. Our motto is *Together, Creating a Meaningful Place for Everyone* – and that means not only for children with disabilities, but for children of every background. By establishing and operating a branch in the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Jaffa, we bring our empowering social activities to a troubled community and strengthen its youth by teaching them the values of working together, despite all their differences, towards inclusion and acceptance of individuals of all abilities and backgrounds in their community. Our Jaffa branch is a reflection of the city's diverse population. the branch's members are a mix of Arab-Israelis, Ethiopian-Israelis, Russian-Israelis, immigrants and Israeli-born, religious and secular. That is part of the branch's beauty, and also difficulty.



Our Jaffa branch, which opened for activities on January 12th 2016, provides life-changing extracurricular activities to 51 Jewish and Arab children and youth: 15 members with disabilities, 30 volunteer youth counselors, some of whom are at risk, and 6 “leading team” members. This is a typical size for all of our new branches which usually start small, and in the second year grow substantially. Once the branch is known in the community, more and more youth approach us to be counselors, and more parents with children with disabilities understand that our activities are designed exactly for them and are more willing to let their children take part.



The Jaffa branch has a “leading team” made up of 6 older counselors (aged 16-18) who run, design and facilitate the weekly activities and act as liaisons with the parents and members with disabilities. All members of the leading team are local youth from schools in the city. Our leading team is composed of two Arab members and four Jewish members, one of which is Ethiopia-Israeli. We are thrilled by the diversity of the team, and believe that it is very important in a multi-

cultural branch that works with children and youth from mixed neighborhoods. Through the in- depth training and joint work towards opening the branch, they learned how to lead and run the branch and work in cooperation – thus empowering themselves and one another.



The branch has an adult coordinator, Ruth. Ruth just completed her B.A in Psychology, and has been working with youth for the past three years. She is responsible for supervising branch activities, assisting the leading team to fulfill their roles, and guiding the leading team members and youth counselors.

Branch Activities

The opening activity was filled with much excitement. Our members with disabilities got to know their counselors in greater depth (they had house visits in the weeks prior to the first activity, so this was the second time they had met). All branch members learned the Krembo Wings songs and cheers. The opening activities were aimed at getting to know each other - each member with disabilities, with the help of his/her counselors filled out "ID cards" with their names and schools and likes and dislikes etc. They played a specially adapted game of tag and had a lot of fun together.



Our branch runs afternoon activities each week on Tuesdays for three hours. Our weekly branch sessions include group games, arts and crafts, music and other activities aimed at encouraging social interaction and cooperation. Many of the members with disabilities at the Jaffa branch are very active, so many of the activities are dynamic – a lot of music, dancing, and running around. Every week, the children with disabilities arrive at the branches by transportation from their homes and are greeted by their able-bodied peers. A qualified nursing care worker is always on site to provide hygienic assistance (such as help to the washroom etc.).

Since the Jaffa branch welcomes children and youth from all religions, it is important for us to give a stage to the holidays and customs of all. Every holiday is marked, and the members with disabilities and youth counselors celebrating – explain to their peers about the holiday, and sometimes bring something related to the branch to show and share. Moreover, when discussing potentially sensitive subjects in the branch, like Krembo Wings value "I am an Israeli", we make sure to adapt the activities and theme to fit all members of the branch.

Counselor Training

Since before the opening of the branches, our youth counselors, leading team members and adult coordinator have taken part in a variety of training sessions and team building seminars preparing them to work with our members with disabilities. It is apparent that the process was successful – the members of the branch are united, they feel comfortable to express themselves, and were thrilled towards the opening of the branch, and beginning of the activity year.



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A National Youth Movement
for Children with Special Needs



Pre-Army Civic Service Volunteers in Jaffa

Krembo Wings has been authorized by the Ministry of Defense to establish and operate a pre-army civic service program for Krembo Wings alumni youth counselors, who postpone their drafting to the IDF for a year. Thus, a number of our youth counselors are now able to continue volunteering with Krembo Wings for one more year, volunteering in the community. All pre-army service volunteers live in "service houses" which are apartments where they all live and learn together, and one of them is situated in Jaffa.



The pre-army civic service volunteers in the Jaffa group were essential in the establishment of the Jaffa branch, and still coach the leading team, and provide support to the branch. They come to every activity in the branch, help the guidance coordinators to execute the activities, and assist the counselors in dealing with problems that sometimes arise with their special partners. Because they are Krembo Wings alumni, they already know Krembo Wings intimately, ultimately making them the perfect individuals to assist the leading teams in running our branches and train our youth counselors.

Mixed Branches

The establishing of a branch in a mixed Arab-Jewish city is much more difficult than in a solely Jewish location. We had to change attitudes of the parents, and work with them to understand the advantages of operating a mixed Arab-Jewish branch. We held meetings with the parents explaining Krembo Wings values of inclusion and acceptance of all. We also held many in-depth team-building activities with the youth counselors.

Our Jaffa branch is special in the Krembo Wings family, bringing together children and youth of all abilities from different backgrounds who share the same Krembo Wings values and goals.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Fondation Dora for your generous support for the establishment of our Jaffa branch. Your contribution made it possible for us to bring Krembo Wing's life-changing social service to the Jewish and Arab children and youth of this community. Thank you with the deepest appreciation from all of us at Krembo Wings!



Welcome in Hebrew and Arabic