



PROJECT INNOCENT HEART

Dear Aaron Tzvi,

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly evident that we need to develop programs and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect in our community.

When a child is abused, something very basic in our understanding of the world is broken. The shock, outrage and pity we experience comes so naturally to us because we know that things are just not meant to be this way. Not for any anyone. And certainly not for any child.

After all, the hope of any society is its children. A community in which children are abused is a community inflicting wounds on its own future. And if this is true of any community, it rings with a special and bitter irony when the Jewish community is in question.

With this in mind, in the fall of 2006, I founded Project Innocent Heart. PIH a multifaceted program that was designed to address the abuse problem in the Jewish community in four distinct but interrelated arenas:

1. Training teachers and parents to serve as an "early warning system" to recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect.
2. Developing resources, booklets, website and audio CD's to help create an awareness and understanding of the problem.
3. Developing a cadre of Jewish mental health professionals who are specifically trained in the complex field of abuse treatment with the sensitivities of the Jewish community.
4. Offering subsidized, professional treatment for abuse victims who come from families in financial need.

The problem of abuse is, sadly with us in a very significant way that penetrates across sectarian boundaries, across the borders of Jewish denominations, economic class or life-style. I ask you to join me in this sad, but much needed, cause. The victims of child abuse are silently calling out to us in pain. Every dollar can literally save an innocent heart.

Sincerely yours,

Moishe Bak