



בס"ד כסליו תשע"א
December 2010

Dear Congregation Shomrei Emunah Baltimore,

My name is Leora Branski, and I have been living in Eli with my husband, Yonatan, for the past 15 years. We have 5 children, B"H (4 boys and one girl ☺).

Yonatan is a career officer in the IDF, currently a colonel, and the commander of the Negev Brigade. In previous years, Yonatan used to stay overnight in his base and would come home every second Shabbat, and I'd join him with the children at his base for Shabbatot that he had to stay there. During his current post, he actually comes home nearly every night and doesn't do Shabbatot in the army, however, he gets home at around midnight (!) and leaves the next morning at 6 a.m., so the children don't really see him all week.

Our 2 oldest sons (twins ☺) are in Grade 7 at Talmud Torah Hadar Yosef, and have started learning Gemarah this year. I, of course, cannot help them with their Gemarah studies, so that the only time they can go over their Perek is on Shabbat or Motzei Shabbat, with Yonatan. B"H, their Rav is demanding of their studies, and this once-a-week study at home is often not enough. When I heard from Eliana about the idea to have young men help sons of officers with their studies – it couldn't have come at a better time! I would like them to have the option to go over their Gemarah (and other Limudei Kodesh) more often, and I think they would also enjoy the connection with a young Kollelnik. I am sure there are quite a few families like us in Eli who would benefit from this program.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Leora Branski

Eli

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