

# CELEBRATING THE VISION

## YESHIVA OHAVEI TORAH DINNER TO MARK 18 YEARS OF ITS UNIQUE CHINUCH MODEL

If we had to identify a single challenge as the ultimate *nisayon* of our generation, many would say it's the *chinuch* of our children. Our world is faced with many unprecedented challenges. But for the most part, they can be traced to a deficiency in the life skills development of our younger population. Ultimately, it boils down to *chinuch*.

When we consider the fact that *mechanchim* today have a more formal training than any previous generation and have access to better teaching methods and resources than even one generation ago, the phenomenon becomes all the more confounding.

Rabbi Chaim Pechter, Menahel of Yeshiva Ohavei Torah in Riverdale notes that this is not a result of a lack in ability in and of itself. It is far more fundamental. In past generations, our lives were dictated by expectations and responsibilities. The onus of living up to one's obligations was as given. Therefore, a *bochur's* deficiency in a specific skill or skill set was certainly a detriment; but it did not seal his fate or eliminate his prospects for owning up to his shortcomings and going on to fulfill his mission in life.

In today's society, when things don't work out the way someone anticipates, there's an instinct that says "this is not for me; why should I even bother trying?" Our lifestyle revolves so much around the ideal of gratification that if something doesn't come to me *geshmak*, I'm out.

In a world like this, the stakes of lacking proper skills are of a completely differ-

ent proportion. A deficiency in skills today doesn't just mean the *bochur* will be more

This skill set goes far beyond succeeding in Yeshiva or just *aliyah* in *ruchniyus*, per se.

living example of the virtues of *achrayus*, of goal setting, and of overcoming challenges to live up to one's responsibilities.

Eighteen years ago, a vision was conceived. It was a bold and pioneering ambition for a trendsetting *chinuch* institution where *bochurim* would be endowed with the crucial life skills for success in whichever life path they choose to pursue.

The visionaries behind Yeshiva Ohavei Torah set a high bar for themselves. The yeshiva's upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner celebrates the remarkable fulfillment of that vision. But beyond that, it's an opportunity to recognize and appreciate how the fulfillment of this vision goes to the very heart of the *chinuch* challenge of our generation.

In the words of Rabbi Pechter, "we're celebrating more than just a personal achievement; we're celebrating a calling to Klal Yisroel which we are effectively responding to."

The dinner will take place Monday, May 8, 2017 at the Hilton Meadowlands. International Guests of Honor will be Mr. and Mrs. Don and Marina Ghermezian. Mr. and Mrs. Michael and

Ruchie Landau are the Guests of Honor. The Community Achievement Award will be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Reuven and Leah Damski and Mr. and Mrs. Dovid and Yahudis Hershkowitz will be honored as Parents of the Year. The dinner is an opportunity to become a partner in Ohavei Torah's exemplary *chinuch* and to pay tribute to its position as a trendsetter of excellence in *chinuch*.

For information regarding reservations or journal ads, please contact the yeshiva office at 718.432.2600 or email [dinner@ohaveitorah.org](mailto:dinner@ohaveitorah.org).



challenged; it isn't just a lack of opportunity; it means his ability to go through life as an accomplished *ben Torah* will be compromised.

Ultimately, it applies to every arena in his life. The strengths a *bochur* acquires in yeshiva ultimately serve him in every juncture in his life, whether it's relationships, or business, or child rearing, or whatever responsibilities he will have to live up to.

It takes a uniquely skilled *rebbe* to cultivate life skills. It's not something that can simply be conveyed or taught in a classroom. It requires a relationship that connects to the *nafshiyus* of the *talmid* and nurtures the *kochos* from within. It takes a *rebbe* who serves as a role model who *bochurim* naturally aspire to emulate. The *rebbe* then becomes a