



HINDA  
INSTITUTE

ב"ה

Rosh Hashana 5784

Fall 2023

**Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman, Director**

- 📍 9401 Margail, Des Plaines, IL 60016
- ☎ (847) 334-1770 📠 Fax (847) 296-1823
- ✉ administration@hindahelps.com 🌐 www.hindahelps.com

**THE NEW YEAR IS A TIME TO...  
REINVENT OURSELVES AND RETURN  
TO OUR TRUE ESSENCE AND G-D.**

- ★ The Hinda Institute will be supplying individuals in custody with their needs for the Jewish holidays. We will also be sending our holiday packages to our Hinda Families.
- ★ Please contact us if you know of someone who is in custody and wants a visit or someone who needs a free, welcoming place for the holidays. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer to help.

**FOR THE SINS (AL CHET)**

The period between Rosh Hashana till Yom Kippur is a time to regret, take stock of our lives, but more importantly, to reconnect with G-d and our purpose in this world. A fundamental tenet of Judaism is that there is always an opportunity to repent and to return, regardless of the nature of the sin. On Yom Kippur, Jews say a special prayer called the "Al Chet" prayer 5 times to ask for forgiveness. The prayer lists communal transgressions and the accompanying punishments. Once we confess to G-d, make repairs and Yom Kippur has ended, our slate is automatically cleaned.

It is interesting to note that incarceration is never listed as a form of punishment in the Al Chet prayer. In fact, Judaism never features prison as a form of punishment, even as a deterrent. That is because Judaism considers prison to be dehumanizing. It removes the freedom of choice and denies a person the opportunity to repent and achieve their purpose in the world. The idea of locking someone up is essentially antithetical to the nature of humanity. In conjunction with these principles, the Lubavitcher Rebbe was a progressive visionary and advocate for prison reform before his time.

**WISHING  
YOU A  
VERY  
HAPPY  
AND  
HEALTHY  
SWEET  
NEW  
YEAR!**



He sent his emissaries in the 70s to bring spirituality and hope to Jews and non-Jews isolated in prisons. The Rebbe strongly felt that our responsibility was to help rehabilitate individuals in custody and help them to contribute productively to a moral and just society. Prison should be an opportunity for human beings to reflect on why they were incarcerated, to learn, to improve themselves and to prepare for release. He advocated strongly for deterrents and education over punishment so that when detainees are released, they are able to contribute back to society and not come out with deeper problems.

This holiday season we should remember that all human beings, including those who are detained, are created in the image of G-d and are put on this earth for a purpose. We need to help individuals in custody rehabilitate and live a productive life, creating a more moral and just society. Most importantly, during the high holy days this year, we all need to remember that no one should suffer in a prison, spiritual or otherwise, and that we can all reconnect with our mission, repent, repair the world (tikun olam) and create change. We need to internalize Hinda's mission: 100 % acceptance, 0% recidivism.

## LETTER OF THANKS FROM AN INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY

9 Sivan.

Shalom.



My name is X. I am, as you may recall, incarcerated at XX correctional center. I wanted to write and ask if you could please express my sincere thanks to Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman and Rabbi Schneur Scheiman for the following. 1) Taking the time to visit with me each month and answer my questions. 2) Providing spiritual guidance and addressing my concerns. 3) Writing a letter on my behalf for my clemency petition. 4) For the Peasch package this year. I was able to observe the Seder mitzvah for the first time. Thanks for the Seder plate, Shmurah matza, grape juice, eggs, onions and horseradish. It was so special to be able to perform the Seder and this was the best Pesach yet.

I struggle to be able to observe the festivals and mitzvot and it is taxing to have to fight so often. However, G-d has blessed me with the endurance and guidance I need to face them. His blessings, the Rabbis and the Hinda Institute are so meaningful and special to me. Please allow me to thank you and all the staff at Hinda for all you do for all of us. May Hashem bless you all, your families and your loved ones with good health long lives and financial security.

Shalom XXX

**See our website [www.hindahelps.com](http://www.hindahelps.com) for more information.**

- ★ On August 13, our families and friends had a relaxing time and tea at our Spiritual Spa retreat in Abby's garden.
- ★ Sunday, September 17, Hinda will be hosting a Rosh Hashana shofar blowing and Tashlich for our Hinda Family. Stay tuned for our Sukkah party!
- ★ **Upcoming Courses:** We are very fortunate to have Rabbi Manis Friedman, a renowned speaker, to speak to us about forgiveness, finding our purpose and mission in the world on September 21 and 28.
- ★ In October and November, Professor Dr. Erez will be leading a course on "Victim to Survivor to Offender".



BY OUR SUPERVISING CASEWORKER LAUREN

## An ELUL Report from the Field

I have been honored to step into the role of Hinda's casework supervisor. I came to the agency where I completed my bachelor's in social work and was certified in addiction counseling, mental health rehabilitation, and peer support. I previously worked with women experiencing homelessness through an intensive casework program. Being on the Hinda team and helping the program grow has been an incredible opportunity, and I'm amazed each day by the resilience of our clients and the commitment of our casework staff.

We are thrilled to share this remarkable progress and growth of our casework program over the past year. The impact we have made is a testament to our commitment to transforming lives and creating lasting change in the lives of our clients. **From 2022 to 2023, we are proud to announce a remarkable 40% increase in the number of casework clients we have served.** While this phenomenal growth has put pressure on our resources, this significant expansion speaks volumes about the trust our clients place in our services and the positive outcomes we continue to deliver.

Our journey so far in 2023 has been nothing short of remarkable. We have provided an astounding **3840 hours of services to date**, of which **944 hours** have been dedicated to **casework services**, **197 hours to service and reentry planning**, and **103 hours to workforce training**. These numbers underline our commitment to driving positive change, one hour at a time.

One of the cornerstones of our success lies in our ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of our casework program. We have introduced evidence-based screening and assessment tools that empower us to better monitor casework needs, prioritize services, and track both client and agency progress. We have implemented standardized casework service plans for all clients within the program.

The results have been outstanding, with service delivery continuously improving and clients reporting greater satisfaction with their experience.

We are excited to announce a new addition to our team that has already begun to make a profound difference. Our employment specialist is now partnering with us to provide dedicated employment casework to our clients. This strategic partnership ensures that our clients not only receive holistic support, but also gain access to the tools and guidance necessary to overcome employment-related barriers and embark on a path to financial independence. The challenges faced by our clients upon reentering society after incarceration are substantial, but our dedication to their success is unyielding.

We are proud to state that despite high systemic barriers, we are steadfastly working to ensure successful reintegration. Our holistic approach addresses not only immediate casework needs, but also the broader challenges that can impact a client's journey to rehabilitation.



## OUR MOST CHALLENGING CLIENT -



Is there really still hope?

Hinda boasts a remarkable recidivism rate, yet clients with addiction and mental health issues face daunting challenges. D's case stands out as the most difficult. Having been in and out of correctional institutions since age 19 due to mental health and addiction-related problems, he formed a close bond with Rabbi Scheiman. Despite D's kindness and intelligence when not struggling with addiction, his repeated incarcerations posed a challenge. After multiple attempts, D's latest release in his 50s marked a turning point. Despite comprehensive support, he faced setbacks including a psychotic episode and attempted suicide. Yet, with Rabbi Scheiman's unwavering support, D has been free for nearly 3 years, making substantial progress in employment, recovery, and housing. This ongoing journey underscores the diverse nature of success, the importance of hope, and the commitment of Hinda to second chances.





# HINDA INSTITUTE

The Hinda Institute  
9401 N Margail  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

 <b>@BinyominS</b>	 <b>binyomin.scheiman</b>
 <b>HindaHelps.com</b>	 <b>scheimanbinyomin</b>



We now have the ability to charge your credit card on a one-time or monthly basis!



**Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to help Rabbi Scheiman continue his service to the isolated Jews in prison!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$1000     \$72
- \$360     \$54
- \$180    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [Hindahelps.com/donate](https://Hindahelps.com/donate) to donate using PayPal  or a Credit Card 

**I'd like to make a special gift to the Hinda Institute!**

Charge my credit card:     one time     monthly

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Hinda Institute- 9401 N. Margail, Des Plaines, IL, 60016