



כפר נהר הירדן

Jordan River Village

قرية نهر الأردن

member **seriousfun** children's network
founded by paul newman



Where fun is the best medicine

04/11/2012

“It’s not that children say, ‘thank you for a wonderful time’.
It’s that they say ‘thank you for changing my life’.”
- Paul Newman



ABOUT US

The Jordan River Village is a unique year-round camp in Israel for seriously ill children of all religious, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. The Village offers campers the opportunity to experience the magic of camp while leaving their illness related hardships at the door.

The Village is a member of the SeriousFun Children’s Network, an international association of camps for seriously ill kids founded by Paul Newman.

WHO WE SERVE: The Village provides a free camp experience for the region's diverse populations including Jewish, Muslim, and Christian children (ages 9-18), who suffer from serious and chronic illnesses including: cancer, cerebral palsy, crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, cystic fibrosis, epilepsy, familial dysautonomia, heart/cardiovascular diseases, hemophilia, juvenile diabetes, heart, kidney and liver transplants, neurological disorders, rheumatic diseases, severe asthma, thalassemia, trauma victims, burn victims, and other conditions. No child will ever be turned away because of race, religion, ethnicity, or socio-economic level and no family will ever have to pay for their child to attend the Jordan River Village.

MISSION: The Village helps our campers thrive physically and emotionally in a fun, supportive atmosphere. The Village is a place where seriously ill children can celebrate life — reaching beyond illness to discover joy and confidence while creating lifetime memories. For many, the camp experience is one of the happiest moments of their lives. Since opening, the Village has changed the lives of more than 5,000 campers.

IMPACT: A study by the Yale School of Medicine supports what SeriousFun Camps have known for years — positive experiences strongly affect a child’s recovery. Our campers have improved confidence, higher self-esteem, lower illness-related stress, a greater sense of independence, and increased interest in social activities. In addition, the entire family’s emotional well-being is enhanced by the effects of a camper’s experiences.

THE CAMP: The Village’s 60-acre, wheelchair-accessible campus in the Lower Galilee of Israel is the only camp of its kind in the Middle East. The Village can accommodate up to 64 campers during each session.

The Village has everything expected at a children’s camp: 12 bright, comfortable cabins, dining hall, theater, sports center, arts and crafts building, a specially heated and treated pool, library, retreat building, gymnasium, petting zoo, adventure tower, other recreational facilities, administrative buildings, and staff housing. The Village also has a state-of-the-art, yet unobtrusive 24-hour medical center.

ACTIVITIES: Our campers are first and foremost kids. They leave their illnesses and disabilities at the door and participate in a wide range of camp activities: ceramics, arts and crafts, swimming and water activities, sports and recreational activities, ropes course, zip line and climbing wall, photography, theater, camping, music, horseback riding, and more. In addition, the Village hosts family retreats and holiday programs.

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS: Since there is no cost to families for their sick child to attend the Village, the annual budget is raised through generous donations from our friends across the world, Israeli donors and foundations, as well as the Israeli government.

Leading hospitals and other medical organizations have partnered with the Village, enabling us to receive camper referrals and medical volunteer referrals. These partnerships have also built community awareness and developed new streams of financial support.

HISTORY: This unique endeavor was a dream of its founders Murray and Marilyn Grant (z"l), and spearheaded by Chaim Topol and Sara Lahat. After years of fundraising efforts with international and Israeli donors and foundations, and working with the Israeli government, the Jordan River Village opened in August 2011.

American Friends of Jordan River Village
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