

## MASTERS OF GROWTH

**"Daniel"** (not his real name) knew no limits or proper behavior." Michal Klil-Hahoresht, director of the AMIT Stone School for Developmentally Challenged Youth, at Moshav Nechalim near Petach Tikvah, shares the story of an orphan student with anti-social tendencies. "He would often disappear, steal from the local grocery store, and pick fights with the other students."

the school due to learning disabilities, behavioral disorders and emotional problems. Orphans and children of single parent families who have never experienced normal family life in the past constitute the majority of the thirty-five current students.

At AMIT Stone, students break out of past cycles of neglect and receive attentive parenting from their foster families who live on the moshav. Their foster parents,

in turn, receive professional counseling and supervision that enables them to cope with the special parenting demands made upon them.

"Each time Daniel returned home late at night," recalls Klil-Hahoresht, "his foster parents greeted him with a warm welcome. It took

time before he realized that there was indeed someone in his life who genuinely cared for him." During his two-year stay at AMIT Stone, Daniel was tutored scholastically and strengthened emotionally.

At school, classes are divided according to the students' cognitive abilities. A regular class consists of six to seven pupils, taught by a special

education teacher and an assistant.

Curricula are designed for the individual level and pace of the student. Hand in hand with the academic side of schooling, individual and group counseling are provided to benefit the students.

The rich spectrum of extra-curricular activities offered stimulates and promotes each student's potential. Students select from a variety of activities that include drama, sports, singing, arts and crafts, gardening and pet care.

Daniel was evaluated as having high cognitive abilities that would allow him to attend a regular school program. Indeed, he passed the admission exams to the AMIT Kfar Blatt High School and has moved on to a better future. "Daniel always calls before the holidays to wish me and the other Nechalim staff Chag Sameach," Michal recounts affectionately. Appreciative and cognizant of the good work, devotion, love and support he was given, Daniel has gone on to become a bright, confident young man, both socially and academically.



It is thanks to the two social workers, a dance therapist, a pet therapist, a speech therapist, a psychologist and a psychiatrist, who make up the team of specialists at the AMIT Stone School, that students like Daniel and many others receive the best possible care.

AMIT Stone students at Nechalim, aged twelve to eighteen, have been referred to